

[**DOJ, November 24, 1993**]

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON CHILDREN OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Pursuant to Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7610 ("An Act Providing For Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation And Discrimination, Providing Penalties For Its Violation And For Other Purposes"), the following Rules and Regulations are hereby promulgated concerning children of indigenous cultural communities:

SECTION 1. Objectives. - These Rules and Regulations seek to provide children of indigenous cultural communities with basic health, nutrition and other basic social services to ensure their protection, survival and development consistent with the customs and traditions of their respective communities.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. - As used in these Rules, unless the context requires otherwise -

- a) **indigenous cultural community** refers to a native community whose members are bound by a common ethnic origin, language, culture, or religion or beliefs and whose existence as a distinct community with its own particular characteristics should be preserved;
- b) **child** refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age who is a member of an indigenous cultural community;
- c) **DECS** refers to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports;
- d) **DOH** refers to the Department of Health;
- e) **DSWD** refers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development or similar agency of a local government unit; and
- f) **NGO** refers to non-government organizations.

SECTION 3. Access to Education. - The DECS shall ensure that a child is provided with the opportunity to obtain an education and to develop his skills.

SECTION 4. Basic Education. - The DECS, in coordination with the Office for Northern Cultural Communities, Office for Southern Cultural Communities, Office on Muslim Affairs and concerned NGO's shall develop and/or strengthen programs that will enable a child to attend a school offering elementary and secondary education programs.

SECTION 5. Alternative Education. - Consistent with the expressed desire or