



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

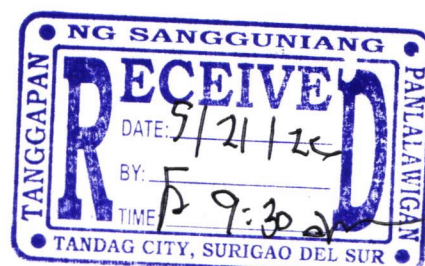
Refer To: Committee on Indigenous Peoples/Laws and Justice and Human Rights

Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples

19 May 2026

HON. MANUEL O. ALAMEDA, SR.

Vice Governor
Office of the Provincial Council
Surigao del Sur
Tandag City
ossp@surigaodelsur.gov.ph



SUBJECT: Receipt of Resolution No. 960-26

Dear Vice Governor Alameda:

The Committee acknowledges receipt of Resolution No. 960-26 expressing the strong sentiments of the 21st Sangguniang Panlalawigan and the different indigenous communities of Surigao del Sur that the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) is still the law that is mandated to protect the interest of the indigenous peoples and that the latter is against any amendment to the IPRA.

Your position statement will form part of the documents that the Committee will take into consideration when we deliberate on the following legislative proposals:

1. HB 621, entitled: AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ADMINISTRATION AND ADJUDICATION PROCESS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS ACT OF 1997", by Rep. Jurdiin Jesus M. Romualdo;
2. HR 655, entitled: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS ACT OF 1997," WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS, ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION GAPS, AND RECOMMENDING NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFORMS, by Rep. Nathaniel M. Oducado;
3. HR 899, entitled: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MANDATE TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE AND GENUINE CONSULTATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BEFORE REVISING THE 2012

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PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR
Office of the Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

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OSSP-26-05870

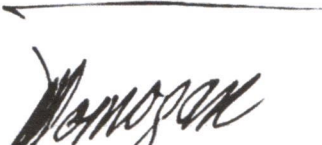
FREE PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) GUIDELINES, by Rep. Dadah Kiram Ismula, et al.; and

4. HB 5044, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, by Rep. Mauricio G. Domogan

Please expect our invitation to join us in a meeting when the above measures will be deliberated in the Committee.

Our warmest regards.

Very truly yours,



REP. MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN
Chairperson

Republika ng Pilipinas
LALAWIGAN NG SURIGAO DEL SUR
TANDAG CITY

Tanggapan ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan
(Office of the Provincial Council)

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 35TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 21ST SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF SURIGAO DEL SUR HELD AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, CAPITOL HILLS, TELAJE, TANDAG CITY, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR ON MARCH 24, 2026

PRESENT:

Hon. Manuel O. Alameda, Sr. - Vice Governor
(Presiding Officer)

Regular Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members:

District I

Hon. Ruel D. Momo
Hon. Henrich M. Pimentel
Hon. Jose Dumagan, Jr.
Hon. Antonio C. Azarcon
Hon. Valerio T. Montesclaros, Jr.

District II

Hon. Joey S. Pama
Hon. Gines Ricky J. Sayawan, Sr.
Hon. Margarita G. Garay
Hon. Anthony Joseph P. Cañedo
Hon. Raul K. Salazar

Ex – Officio Members:

Hon. Melanie Joy M. Guno - President, Provincial Chapter of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas
Hon. Jimmy I. Guinsod - Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative, Surigao del Sur
Hon. Yuri Art Eufy R. Sanchez - President, Panlalawigang Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan

On Special Privilege Leave:

Hon. John Paul C. Pimentel - President, Philippine Councilors' League, Surigao del Sur Chapter

RESOLUTION NO. 960-26
(Series of 2026)

EXPRESSING THE STRONG SENTIMENTS OF THE 21ST SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN AND THE DIFFERENT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF SURIGAO DEL SUR THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS ACT (IPRA) IS STILL THE LAW THAT IS MANDATED TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THAT THE LATTER IS AGAINST ANY AMENDMENT ON THE IPRA LAW

AUTHOR

HON. JOSE DUMAGAN, JR.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA), is a landmark legislation that recognizes, protects, and promotes the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) to their ancestral domains, self-governance and empowerment, social justice and human rights, and cultural integrity, and was enacted to correct historical injustices committed against Indigenous Peoples since the Spanish colonial period while affirming the doctrine in *Cariño vs. Insular Government* that ancestral domains and lands are private property of ICCs/IPs and have never been part of the public domain;

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 621, entitled "Rationalizing the Ancestral Lands Administration and Adjudication Process," is currently pending before the House Committee on Government Reorganization, proposing to transfer the Ancestral Domains Office from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and to create an Ancestral Lands Administration and Adjudication Board under the Office of the President. Said rationalization is perceived as weakening the NCIP, curtailing the rights and jurisdiction of ICCs/IPs over their ancestral domains, and reverting to pre-IPRA frameworks that undermine indigenous ownership and self-determination;

WHEREAS, the Indigenous Peoples of Surigao del Sur, through their representatives in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan who belong to the Manobo, Mandaya, and other ICCs/IPs, firmly believe that IPRA remains responsive, effective, and sufficient in addressing the concerns and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS, any amendment that would diminish the powers of the NCIP or clip the bundles of rights granted under IPRA is viewed as detrimental to the interest and welfare of the Indigenous Cultural Communities in the province;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, and on motion of Hon. Jose Dumagan, Jr. and jointly seconded by Hon. Henrich M. Pimentel and Hon. Joey S. Pama.

NOW THEREFORE

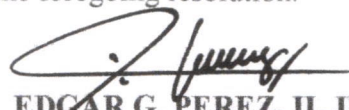
BE IT RESOLVED by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Surigao del Sur to express the strong sentiments of the 21st Sangguniang Panlalawigan and the different Indigenous Communities of Surigao del Sur that the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) is still the law mandated to protect the interests of the Indigenous Peoples and that the latter is against any amendment on the IPRA Law.

RESOLVED FINALLY: That copies of this resolution be furnished to Hon. Faustino G. Dy III, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, Room SW-401, Batasang Pambansa Complex, IBP Road, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, 1126 Metro Manila, Philippines, and Hon. Salvador A. Pleyto, Chairperson of the House Committee on Government Reorganization, Room SWA-307, IBP Road, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, 1126 Metro Manila, Philippines, for their information and favorable appropriate action.

ADOPTED this 24th day of March 2026, at the City of Tandag, Province of Surigao del Sur by a majority vote of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members present.

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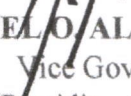
I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.



EDGAR G. PEREZ, II, JD.
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

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**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ADOPTED:**



MANUEL O. ALAMEDA, SR.
Vice Governor
(Presiding Officer)