

RLA BILL NO. 25

**Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Cotabato City**

**FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(Fourth Regular Session)**

[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 174]

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday, the twenty eighth day of October, two thousand three.

AN ACT DIVIDING THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SULU INTO SCHOOLS DIVISION ONE AND TWO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Regional Legislative Assembly in session assembled:

SECTION 1. – Statement of Policies. – In accordance with the basic State Policy on Education, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall institute the following policies and principles;

- 1) The system of education in the Autonomous Region is committed to the total spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, scientific and physical development of man;**
- 2) All schools in the Autonomous Region shall promote patriotism and nationalism, appreciation of national and regional heroes in the historical development of the nation and region, foster love of humanity and work-oriented citizen of the region;**
- 3) All school officials, professors, instructors and teachers shall treat school children and students fairly and equally regardless of tribe, religion and economic status;**
- 4) Administration of vocational, non-formal and special education be supported and made relevant to the manpower needs of the region;**
- 5) Scholarship programs, grants, student loans, subsidies and other incentive shall be made available whenever possible to poor but deserving students; and**

- 6) Provide program to establish schools in areas where needed and feasible to accommodate any children of school age for easy access to education.

SEC. 2. – Purposes and objectives. – In order to carry-out the policies and principles enumerated in the preceding section, the purposes and objectives of this Act are the following;

- 1) To increase the Participation Rate (PR) and Cohort Survival Rate (CSR) of the province;
- 2) To provide closer management and supervision of schools in far-flung and remote areas in all the island municipalities or communities;
- 3) To provide additional opportunities for employment; and
- 4) To enable the people of Sulu avail of the educational program of the Autonomous Regional Government that can improve their way of life, socially, economically and politically.

SEC. 3. – Establishment of two (2) School Divisions. – In line with the declared policies and purposes, the Schools Division of Sulu is hereby divided into Schools Division I and Division II under the immediate control and supervision of the DepED-ARMM which shall provide for the maintenance and operational expenses of the newly created schools division to be taken from its local fund, without prejudice to any technical and financial assistance from the National Government, which shall start in School Year 2005-2006.

SEC. 4. – Offices and Coverage. – The Office of the Schools Division I shall be located at the Poblacion of the Municipality of Jolo, which shall cover all the municipalities in the First Legislative District of Sulu. While Schools Division II shall have its office at the Poblacion of the Municipality of Luuk, Sulu that shall cover all the municipalities of Sulu in the Second Legislative District.

SEC. 5. – Functions. – Both Schools Divisions shall operate according to standard operational system delineated to any schools division whether by the National Government or Regional Government.

SEC. 6. – Composition. – The Schools Division I shall retain such number of staff and teachers as may be necessary without prejudice to any staff and teachers who may be transferred to the School Division II as may be agreed upon by the two (2) schools division superintendents. As such, any qualified applicants from the Second District of Sulu

shall be given preference for designation by DepED-ARMM Secretary to serve as Acting Superintendent of Schools Division II for its initial organization. Thereafter, the required plantilla of personnel shall be provided by DepED-ARMM for approval by appropriate authority.

SEC.7. - Assets and Liabilities. – The assets and liabilities of the Schools Division of Sulu shall be divided equitably between the two (2) school divisions, including balance in current appropriations, released or unreleased, for accounts payable or receivable.

SEC.8. – This Act shall be implemented by the DepED-ARMM Secretary as provided in Section 3 hereof.

SEC. 9. – Repealing Clause. – All regional laws, orders, memoranda or instructions inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, cancelled or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. – Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from date of publication in newspaper of regional circulation.

APPROVED.

(SGD) HATIMIL E. HASSAN
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on December 16, 2004.

(SGD) ALFHADAR J. PAJIJI
Secretary General

APPROVED:

(SGD) PAROUK S. HUSSIN
Regional Governor
Date: _____