

1 RA BILL NO. 55

2  
3 Republic of the Philippines  
4 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
5 **REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
6 Cotabato City  
7

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9  
10 **SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
11 (Third Regular Session)  
12

13 **[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 280]**  
14

15 Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday, the twenty-six day of October, two  
16 Thousand and eight.

17  
18 **AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**  
19 **CODE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM**  
20 **MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**  
21

22 Be it enacted by the Regional Assembly in session assembled:  
23

24  
25 **CHAPTER I**  
26 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
27

28 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as “The ARMM GAD Code.”  
29

30 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Principles and Policies.** - The Autonomous Regional  
31 Government of Muslim Mindanao adheres to the Islamic way of life and endeavors to establish  
32 and implement Shari’ah inspired legislations.  
33

34 To achieve these ends, the Autonomous Regional Government shall formulate and  
35 develop mechanisms to strengthen existing structures promoting equity and equality, and to  
36 address issues on discrimination, marginalization and inequality in the economic, political, social  
37 or cultural life of women and men as well as boys and girls in the Autonomous Region.  
38

39 **Guiding Principles**  
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41 The following guiding principles shall serve as directional indicators in the interpretation  
42 and implementation of this Code:  
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- 44 A. Islamic Principles on Gender and Development under the Glorious Qur'an  
45 particularly Surah Al-Nisa' (4:1), Surah Al-Isra' (17:70), Surah Luqman (31:14),  
46 Surah Al-Nahl (16:72), Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:32), Surah Al-Ahzab (33:35), Surah  
47 Al-Tawbah (9:71), and Surah Al-Rum (30:21).  
48  
49 B. Relevant Principles in the Hadith and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Mohammad.  
50  
51 C. Relevant Christian principles on Gender and Development enshrined in the Holy  
52 Bible.  
53  
54 D. Principles under various International Agreements, Treaties and United Nations (UN)  
55 Declarations particularly, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
56 Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child  
57 (CRC), Resolution No. 1325, UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against  
58 Women (1993) and Beijing +5 Platform for Women.  
59  
60 E. Principles embodied in the applicable provisions of the Philippine Constitution and  
61 Special Laws, such as: The ARMM Organic Act (RA 9054), Code of Muslim  
62 Personal Law (PD 1083), Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), Women in  
63 Development and Nation Building Act (RA 7192), Anti-Rape Law of 1997 (RA  
64 8353), Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (RA 9208), Anti-Violence Against  
65 Women and Children Act of 2004 (RA 9262) and Sustainable Forest Management  
66 Act (MMA Act 161).  
67

### 68 **Policies**

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70 It is hereby the declared policy of the Autonomous Regional Government to:  
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- 72 1. Uphold and protect the fundamental rights of women, men and children regardless of  
73 race, gender, faith, status, creed, including the right of women to engage in lawful  
74 productive employment, and for them to be protected from all forms of exploitation,  
75 violence, trafficking and discrimination;  
76
- 77 2. Affirm the role of women in nation-building and ensure the substantive equality of  
78 women and men as well as boys and girls;  
79
- 80 3. Promote empowerment of women and pursue equal opportunities for women and men  
81 as well as boys and girls;  
82
- 83 4. Provide equal access to resources and development inputs, outputs and results; and  
84
- 85 5. Ensure equality of men and women as well as boys and girls through social structures  
86 and practices that nurture their full development.  
87

88 **Sec. 3. Construction and Interpretation.** - *In the construction and interpretation of the*  
89 *provisions of this Code, nothing herein shall be construed in violation of any religion, and belief*

90 or faith. The local customs, traditions and ordinances are hereby recognized and shall be given  
91 effect in so far as they are consistent with the Organic Act or the Constitution.

92  
93 **CHAPTER II**  
94 **DEFINITION OF TERMS**  
95

96 **Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Code, the following terms shall mean:  
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98 1. **Amanah** - is an Arabic term for trust and it refers to man’s stewardship of Allah’s  
99 creations.

100 2. **Arranged Marriage** - is basically a marriage arranged by someone other than the  
101 couples getting married. This is usually decided by the parents or an older family member.

102 3. **ARMM** - refers to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

103 4. **Bangsamoro** –refers to those citizens of the Philippines who are believers of Islam  
104 and who have retained some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political  
105 institutions.

106 5. **Children** - refers to those persons who are below eighteen (18) years of age or over  
107 but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty,  
108 exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.  
109

110 6. **Civil Society Organization** - refers to the autonomous membership-based, cause-  
111 oriented, or service-oriented organization, which share a common defining identity - social  
112 solidarity with the people in the society it serves or represents.  
113

114 7. **Darul-Ifa** - refers to the collegial body of ulama and experts that renders legal  
115 opinion on a given issue or question. The legal opinion (ifta’) must be based on the primary  
116 sources of law (i.e., the Glorious Qur’an, the Hadith, Ijma and Qiyas) and the accepted views of  
117 the classical jurists and legal luminaries and experts.  
118

119 8. **Differently-Abled Person** - refers to a person suffering from restriction or different  
120 abilities, as a result of a mental, physical, or sensory impairment to perform an activity in the  
121 manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.  
122

123 9. **Discrimination Against Women** - refers to any gender-based distinction, exclusion,  
124 or restriction which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition,  
125 enjoyment, or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of  
126 men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social,  
127 cultural, civil, or any other field. It includes any act or omission, including by law, policy,  
128 administrative measure, or practice, that directly or indirectly excludes or restricts women in the  
129 recognition and promotion of their rights and their access to and enjoyment of opportunities,  
130 benefits, or privileges, and when a measure or practice of general application fails to provide for  
131 mechanisms to offset or address sex or gender-based disadvantages or limitations as a result of

132 which women are denied or restricted in the recognition and protection of their rights and their  
133 access to and enjoyment of opportunities, benefits, or privileges. It includes also discrimination  
134 compounded by or intersecting with other grounds, status, or condition, such as ethnicity,  
135 age, poverty, or religion.

136  
137 **10. Early Marriage** – refers to all marriages contracted by the parties whose ages are  
138 below eighteen (18) years old.

139  
140 **11. Fatwa** - refers to the legal opinion rendered by the body of ulama and experts on a  
141 given issue.

142  
143 **12. Forced Marriage** - refers to the kind of marriage where the consent of either or both  
144 parties was obtained through the use of force, violence, threat or intimidation.

145  
146 **13. GAD** - is the acronym for **Gender and Development** which refers to the  
147 development perspective and process that are participatory and empowering, equitable,  
148 sustainable, free from violence, respectful of human rights, supportive of self-determination and  
149 actualization of human potentials. It seeks to achieve gender equality as a fundamental value  
150 that should be reflected in development choices; seeks to transform society’s social, economic,  
151 and political structures and questions the validity of the gender roles they ascribed to women and  
152 men, boys and girls; contends that women and girls are active agents of development and not just  
153 passive recipients of development assistance; and stresses the need of women and children to  
154 organize themselves and participate in political processes to strengthen their legal rights.

155  
156 **14. Gender Equality** - refers to the principle asserting the equality of men and women to  
157 enjoy equal conditions for realizing their full human potentials and benefit from the results of  
158 development and with the State recognizing that all human beings are free and equal in dignity  
159 and rights.

160  
161 **15. Gender Equity** - refers to the policies, instruments, programs, services and actions  
162 that address the disadvantaged position of women in the society by providing preferential  
163 treatments and affirmative actions aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and  
164 women.

165  
166 **16. Gender-Fair** - refers to any practice, policy or procedure giving equal treatment to an  
167 individual or a group.

168  
169 **17. Gender Mainstreaming** - refers to the strategy for making women and girl’s as well  
170 as men and boy’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation,  
171 monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal  
172 spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. It is the  
173 process of assessing the implications for women and men, boys and girls of any planned action,  
174 including legislation, policies, or programs in all areas and at all levels.

175

176 18. **Gender Responsive** - refers to that laws, policies and procedures made that should be  
177 accommodating to people regardless of race, class, sex, religious affiliation and cultural status  
178 and ethnicity.

179  
180 19. **Guidance and Counseling** - is the process of helping individuals discover and  
181 develop their educational, vocational, and psychological potentialities and thereby to achieve an  
182 optimal level of personal happiness and social usefulness. The conduct of guidance and  
183 counseling in ARMM is not only limited to emotional counseling but also include spiritual  
184 counseling.

185  
186 20. **Gynecology** - refers to women's health care, especially the diagnosis and treatment of  
187 disorders affecting the female reproductive organs including breast, menstrual disorders,  
188 menopause, infectious diseases and maldevelopment of the reproductive organs, disturbances of  
189 the hormones, benign and malignant tumor formulation, and the prescription of contraceptive  
190 devices.

191  
192 21. **Hadith** - refers to the sayings and actions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)  
193 and the actions of his venerable companions which he approved. It is the second primary source  
194 of conventions and declarations.

195  
196 22. **Halal** - is an Arabic term which means permissible. It refers to something allowed  
197 by Islamic doctrines (Qur'an, Hadith and Fatwa).

198  
199 23. **Halaw** is a Malay term which refers to Filipino refugees or illegal migrants deported  
200 by the Malaysian immigration authorities and made to board in any vessel bound for the  
201 Southern Philippine Islands regardless of their point of disembarkation.

202  
203 24. **Haram** - is an Arabic term which means anything that is strictly forbidden in Islam  
204 or something that is not allowed by Islamic doctrines (Qur'an, Hadith and Fatwa).

205  
206 25. **Hijab** - refers to the dress code (not too tight to reveal the contours of the body, the  
207 clothing material should not be transparent, and not too attractive to catch the attention of  
208 onlookers) required for Muslim women and girls covering the whole body except the face, the  
209 hands and feet.

210  
211 26. **Indigenous People** - refers to a group of people or homogenous societies identified  
212 by self-ascription and ascription by other, who have continuously lived as organized community  
213 on communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since  
214 time immemorial, occupied, possessed customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or  
215 who have, through resistance to political, social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-  
216 indigenous religions and culture, became historically differentiated from the majority of  
217 Filipinos. They shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of  
218 their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or  
219 colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the  
220 establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their own social, economic,

221 cultural, and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional  
222 domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains as defined under the law.  
223

224 27. **Khilafah** - is an Arabic term for vicegerency which refers to the  
225 responsibility of man in serving as Allah's trustee and steward of His creations.  
226

227 28. **Madrasah** - is an Arabic word for any type of school, secular or religious (of any  
228 religion). In common usage, it has been taken to refer to an Islamic religious school.  
229

230 29. **Mahr** - is an Arabic term which refers to any gift or present which a groom is  
231 required to give to the bride. It is a requirement under Islamic law considered as personal  
232 right of the bride. The bride's right over the Mahr is imprescriptible and inalienable.  
233

234 30. **Mahram** - refers to male employee who can serve as an escort and with whom a  
235 woman can never marry at any time in her life such as a brother, a father, a son, an uncle; or her  
236 own husband.  
237

238 31. **Marginalization** - refers to a condition where a whole category of people is  
239 excluded from useful and meaningful participation in political, economic, social, and cultural  
240 life.  
241

242 32. **Migrant Workers** - are those who are to be engaged, are engaged, or have been  
243 engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which they are not legal residents, whether  
244 documented or undocumented.  
245

246 33. **Moro** - refers to native people who have historically inhabited Mindanao,  
247 Palawan, and Sulu, and who are largely of Islamic faith.  
248

249 34. **Non-Government Organization** - refers to intermediate agency or institution  
250 that tend to operate with a full time staff complement and provide a wide range of services and  
251 programs and are non-profit.  
252

253 35. **Parental Authority** - refers to the ensemble of rights and power that the law accords  
254 to the father and the mother with respect to the person and the goods of their unemancipated  
255 minor children, to the end of their accomplishing the duties of protection, education, and support  
256 that are incumbent on them.  
257

258 36. **Peoples Organization** - refers to grassroots organization, union, community  
259 association or primary cooperative that serve as primary group coming together largely on a  
260 voluntary basis.  
261

262 37. **Perpetrator** - refers to a person who performs or commits a crime or wrong doing.  
263

264 38. **Polygyny** - refers to a custom of being married to more than one wife at the same  
265 time.  
266

267 39. **Proxy Marriage** - is a marital union that follows after the approval of offer and  
268 acceptance to marry between parents and elders of the contracting parties wherein one or both  
269 the parties to be married are not present during the marriage ceremony.

270  
271 40. **Reproductive Health** - refers to a state of complete physical, mental and  
272 social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity in all matters  
273 relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes.

274  
275 41. **Senior Citizen** - refers to a person sixty (60) years of age and above.

276  
277 42. **Sexual Harassment** - refers to a form of misconduct involving an act or series of  
278 unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical behavior of a  
279 sexual nature which is made directly or indirectly.

280  
281 43. **Shari’ah** or **Sharia** - refers to the body of Islamic law which serves as the legal  
282 framework within which the public and private aspects of life are regulated for those living in a  
283 legal system based on Islamic principles and jurisprudence, and for Muslims living outside the  
284 domain. It deals with many aspects of day-to-day life, including politics, economics, banking,  
285 business, contracts, family, sexuality, hygiene and social issues.

286  
287 44. **Social Protection** - refers to policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and  
288 vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of women, especially the  
289 marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against  
290 hazards and sudden loss of income, and improving people’s capacity to manage risks. Its  
291 components are labor market programs, social insurance, social welfare, and social safety nets.

292  
293 45. **Solo Parent** - refers to a any person who fall under the category of a solo parent  
294 defined under Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the “Solo Parents Welfare Act of  
295 2000.”

296  
297 46. **Substantive Equality** - refers to the full and equal enjoyment of rights and freedom  
298 contemplated under this Act.

299  
300 47. **Sunnah** - refers to the oral traditions relating to the words and deeds of Prophet  
301 Mohammad (Peace be Upon Him) and is one of the main sources of Islamic Law (second in  
302 authority to the Qur’an). It is also a collection of writings that documented the sayings and  
303 actions of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

304  
305 48. **Temporary Special Measure** - refers to a variety of legislative, executive,  
306 administrative and regulatory instruments, policies, and practices aimed at accelerating equality  
307 of women in specific areas.

308  
309 49. **Urban Poor** - refers to those residing in urban and urbanizable slum or blighted  
310 areas, with or without the benefit of security of abode, where the income of the head of the

311 family cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide for the family's basic needs of food,  
312 health, education, housing, and other essential amenities in life.

313  
314 **50. Urology** - refers to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the urinary tract and  
315 urogenital system.

316  
317 **51. Violence Against Women** - refers to any act of gender-based violence that results  
318 in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women,  
319 including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in  
320 public or in private life. It shall be understood to encompass physical, sexual, psychological,  
321 and economic violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female  
322 children in the household, marital rape, and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-  
323 spousal violence, and violence related to exploitation; physical, sexual, and psychological  
324 violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual  
325 harassment, and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in  
326 women and children, and prostitution; and physical, sexual, and psychological violence  
327 wherever it occurs.

328  
329 **52. Voyeurism** - refers to the compulsion to seek sexual gratification by secretly  
330 looking at sexual objects or acts.

331  
332 **53. Waqf** - is an Arabic term which literally means to stop, contain, or to preserve. In  
333 Shariah, it refers to a voluntary, permanent, irrevocable dedication of a portion of one's wealth  
334 – in cash or kind – to Allah.

335  
336 **54. Wives in Subsequent Marriages** - refer to those married women whose marriage  
337 had been contracted after the first or succeeding marriages of the husband.

338  
339 **55. Women and Children's Protection Desk** - refers to designated personnel who attend  
340 to the needs and concerns of abused women and children lodged at the Philippine National  
341 Police (PNP).

342  
343 **56. Women Empowerment** - refers to the provision, availability, and accessibility of  
344 opportunities, services and observance of human rights which enable women to actively  
345 participate and contribute to the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the  
346 nation as well as those which shall provide them equal access to ownership, management, and  
347 control of production, and of material and informational resources and benefits in the family,  
348 community, and society.

349  
350 **57. Women Executives** - refers to women employed in the government and private  
351 having  
352 administrative or managerial authority occupying third level positions or its equivalent, and  
353 elective positions.

354  
355 **58. Women in the Military and Police Service** - refers to women employed in the  
356 Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, both in the major and



357 technical services, who are performing combat or non-combat functions, providing security to the  
358 state, and protecting the people from various forms of threat. It also includes women trainees in  
359 all military training institutions.

360

361 **59. Young Adult** - refers to man or woman regardless of marital status whose age  
362 ranges from 18 to 35 years old.

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365

### 366 **CHAPTER III** 367 **ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS**

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369 **Sec. 5. Role of the Autonomous Regional Government.** - The Autonomous Regional  
370 Government shall uphold and protect the fundamental rights of men, women, boys and girls  
371 including the rights of women to engage in lawful employment, protect women and children  
372 especially orphans of tender age from all forms of exploitation, discrimination and violence, and  
373 strive to promote the essence of equality and justice.

374

375 The promotion of gender and development in the Autonomous Region shall include, but  
376 not limited to, the following:

377

378 1. Organization and mobilization of awareness campaign on the mainstreaming of gender  
379 and development at all levels of government;

380

381 2. Increase in the participation of women in social, economic, cultural, political activities  
382 at all levels, in decision-making and policy-making endeavors through the implementation of  
383 capacity -building programs and projects;

384

385 3. Formulation of programs and strategies that shall ensure the dissemination of the  
386 Fatwah of the Dar-ul Ifta on reproductive health and family planning;

387

388 4. Strengthening of programs which shall provide assistance to women towards self-  
389 reliance, expansion of access to opportunities through Islamic financing, grants and waqf  
390 (endowment) and ensure equal availment of government and private sector programs and  
391 resources; and

392

393 5. Encouragement, support and expansion of the participation of grassroots women in the  
394 planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programs and projects.

395

396 **Sec. 6. Role of the Shari'ah Courts.** - The Shari'ah Courts vested with the judicial  
397 power created under existing laws shall have jurisdiction over cases specified therein.

398

399 The Shari'ah Courts through the Agama Arbitration Councils within the areas of the  
400 Autonomous Region shall take direct role to ensure the following:

401

402 a. The protection of women and children against abuses in the practice of polygyny,  
unwarranted divorces, violence and discrimination;

- 403  
404           b. The consent of the parties to marriage, especially that of the woman, must be freely  
405 given;  
406  
407           c. The parties entering into a contract of marriage, regardless of age, shall undergo a pre-  
408 marriage counseling; and  
409  
410           d. The divorcees awarded their support in accordance with the Qur'an and the Code of  
411 Muslim Personal Law ( P.D. 1083).

412  
413           **Sec. 7. Role of the Local Government Units (LGUs).** - The Local Government Units in  
414 the Autonomous Region shall provide political and institutional support to the promotion of  
415 gender and development, and increase the participation and access of women to expression and  
416 decision-making. They shall undertake plans and strategies for the advancement in information  
417 technology in order to facilitate the empowerment and development of women, reduction of the  
418 continuous negative projection and degrading images of women in media and in some other  
419 forms. The LGUs shall, likewise, initiate actions and strategies to involve the media in effecting  
420 changes in the bad perception and demeaning projection of women in their respective areas.

421  
422           The LGUs shall discourage, document and monitor gender issues, and establish data  
423 banks on said issues such as early marriages, forced and arranged marriages, proxy marriages,  
424 abuses in polygyny practices, maternal/child mortality and morbidity, and the detrimental effects  
425 of such practices. They shall engage in programs and activities that would diminish the  
426 incidence of discrimination to both men and women as well as their children.

427  
428           The officials of the LGUs shall exercise their powers, functions and responsibilities, as  
429 may be appropriate, for the effective and efficient implementation of the mainstreaming of  
430 gender and development in the local plans that shall include, among others, the following:

- 431  
432           1. Agricultural and Agrarian Reform;  
433           2. Environment and Natural Resources Management;  
434           3. Education;  
435           4. Infrastructure;  
436           5. Health and Nutrition;  
437           6. Information and Communication Technologies;  
438           7. Housing and Settlement;  
439           8. Special Programs in Conflict-Affected Areas  
440           9. Justice;  
441           10. Enterprise Development ; and  
442           11. Private Sector Development.

443  
444           **Sec. 8. Role of Peoples, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations.** - The  
445 Autonomous Regional Government and the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall promote the  
446 establishment of peoples, non-governmental and civil society organizations to serve as active  
447 partners for gender- responsive development.  
448

449 Such organizations that may be established shall carry-out the following:

450

451 1. Mobilization of grassroots communities, poor and marginalized peoples, particularly  
452 women, to assert and exercise their rights;

453

454 2. Monitoring of government and donor policies and practices;

455

456 3. Providing of knowledge, research, advocacy and alternative policies;

457

458 4. Delivery of services and innovative development programming;

459

460 5. Building coalitions and networks for greater civil society coordination and impact;

461

462 6. Mobilization of financial and human resources in partnership with funding agencies;

463

464 7. Building of stable, viable and autonomous organizations;

465

466 8. Organization of disadvantaged sectors and committees toward greater self-reliance  
467 and empowerment;

468

469 9. Providing support functions and professional services;

470

471 10. Providing access to resources (organizations, technical, logistic and managerial);

472

473 11. Conduct of advocacy campaign against discrimination of women;

474

475 12. Delivery of certain basic services;

476

477 13. Conduct of capability-building and livelihood services;

478

479 14. Development of local enterprises designed to improve productivity and income;

480

481 15. Encouragement of industrialization; and

482

483 16. Promotion of ecological balance and enhancement of economic and social well-being  
484 of the people.

485

486 **Sec. 9. Role of the Private Sector.** – The Autonomous Regional Government and the

487 Local Government Units (LGUs) in the Region shall create and maintain a favorable business

488 climate in order to reinforce the social benefits of the private sector activities as catalyst for

489 sustainable growth and better living conditions. The participation of the private sector shall be

490 encouraged to drive economic growth, generate income by creating new jobs that may lead to

491 sustained poverty reduction, awareness and advocacy campaigns, widened women's

492 participation in economic activities, and the promotion of religious and culturally-appropriate

493 gender and development programs with the end-goal of achieving protection and promotion of

494 women's rights and empowerment.

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**Sec. 10. The Role of the Educational Institutions.** - The Autonomous Regional Government through the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the other concerned agencies and proper educational bodies shall monitor the compliance of the regional educational sub-system with the national policies, standards and regulations. The following shall be guaranteed and adopted:

a) **Preservation and Promotion of Culture, Mores, Customs and Traditions.** The culture, mores, customs and traditions of Muslim, Christian and Indigenous peoples which are not discriminatory to women and children shall be preserved, protected and developed.

b) **Strengthening of the Madaris and Public Schools.** The Madaris and public schools in the Autonomous Region shall be strengthened and developed to become the primary vehicles for the preservation, protection and promotion of non-discriminatory cultures, mores, customs and traditions.

c) **Perpetuation of Filipino and Islamic Values.** The regional educational sub-system shall perpetuate Filipino and Islamic values, ideals, aspirations and orientations. It shall develop the total spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, scientific, and physical aspects of the inhabitants of the Autonomous Region.

d) **Optional Religious Instruction.** Religious instruction in public schools shall be optional, with the written consent of the parents or guardians, and should be taught by the authorities of the religion to which the students belong. The teaching of religion subject must be in accordance with national policies and shall not involve additional costs to the government.

e) **Inculcation of Patriotism and Nationalism.** To develop, promote and enhance unity in diversity, all schools in the Autonomous Region shall inculcate into the minds of their students the values of patriotism and nationalism, appreciation of the role of national and regional heroes in the historical development of the country and the region, foster love of humanity, as well as respect for human rights and women’s rights.

f) **Education Centers.** All state colleges and universities in the Autonomous Region shall serve as regional centers for tertiary and post graduate education in the respective areas of competence.

g) **Tribal University System.** The Autonomous Regional Government through the Regional Assembly shall facilitate the establishment and creation of a tribal university system within the Autonomous Region in order to address the higher educational needs of the indigenous cultural communities in the region.

h) **Madrasah Education.** The Department of Education (DepEd) shall supervise accredited Madaris in the Autonomous Region. The educational policies shall consider the basic teachings from the Qur’an on the respect for the duly constituted authorities. The DepEd shall

540 conduct a periodic review and supervision of the Madaris Educational System. It shall render  
541 monthly report to the recipient agencies as provided by law.

542  
543 **i) Madrasah Educational System with Arabic as Medium of Instruction.** The  
544 Regional Assembly shall enact legislations for the strengthening and development of the  
545 Madrasah Educational System in the Autonomous Region. As provided by law, Arabic shall be  
546 recognized as a medium of instruction in existing madaris and madaris ulya (schools and other  
547 Islamic institutions) which are parts of the regional educational system.

548  
549 **j) Science and Technology.** The science and technology shall be recognized as essential  
550 to national and regional progress and development.

551  
552 **k) Alternative Learning System.** The Department of Education (DepEd) shall  
553 institutionalize the Alternative Learning System. It shall include literacy, numeracy and intensive  
554 skills training of the youth and adults, which shall have due recognition of the educational  
555 disparities between men and women as reflected in human development indices, as well as the  
556 promotion of strategies for the bridging of the identified gaps.

557  
558 **l) Scholarship Programs.** The Autonomous Regional Government shall provide  
559 scholarships to poor but deserving students in all levels and forms of education. It shall  
560 appropriate at least fifteen percent (15%) of its regular budget for education to support the  
561 regional scholarship program. It shall also take initiatives and activities that will generate  
562 additional funds for the scholarship program. In the implementation of the scholarship program,  
563 a specific quota shall be provided for the qualified and deserving Moro and Indigenous People  
564 (IP) marginalized women and girls.

565  
566 The scholarship program contemplated herein shall be administered by the Department of  
567 Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and  
568 Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

569  
570 The educational institutions shall develop gender-sensitive curricula and policies.

571  
572 **Sec. 11. Role of the Media.** - The Autonomous Regional Government and Local  
573 Government Units (LGUs) shall reaffirm their commitment to undertake plans and strategies for  
574 the advancement in information technology in order to facilitate the empowerment and  
575 development of women, and reduction of the continuous negative and degrading images of  
576 women in electronic, print and broadcast media. It shall initiate programs gearing towards the  
577 involvement of media in women empowerment and development.

578  
579 The role of the media in the promotion of gender and development shall include the  
580 following:

581  
582 1. Adoption of mechanisms to increase the participation and access of women to  
583 expression and decision-making at all levels including the observance of a gender-  
584 balance appointment of women in media's workforce.

585

- 586 2. Promotion and portrayal of the various positive role played by women.  
587  
588 3. Adoption and development of codes of conduct, professional guidelines and other  
589 self-regulatory policies to remove gender stereotypes and to promote balanced  
590 portrayals of women and men.  
591  
592 4. Development of programs that will support women's ability to create access and  
593 networking through the use of new information and communication technologies.  
594  
595 5. Establishment of programs and policies on changing stereotypical attitudes and  
596 behaviors concerning gender roles and responsibilities with the purpose of promoting  
597 gender equality as well as positive attitudes and behaviors.  
598  
599 6. Strengthening of gender-awareness campaigns and gender equality training among  
600 women and men, girls and boys, to eliminate the persistence of harmful stereotypes.  
601

602 **Sec. 12. Role of the Religious Sector.** - The Autonomous Regional Government and the  
603 Local Government Units (LGUs) shall promote the active participation of the Assembly of the  
604 Dar-ul Ifta of the Philippines, Jurisconsult and other recognized religious groups in the rendition  
605 of Fatwah on contentious issues, as follows:  
606

- 607 1. Gender Justice in the Context of Islam  
608 2. Leadership and Political Rights  
609 3. Gender Equity in Relation to Women's Rights to Inheritance and Economic Rights  
610 4. Early and Arranged Marriages of Persons Below Eighteen (18) Years of Age  
611 5. Forced Marriages and Proxy Marriages  
612 6. Pre-Marriage Counseling as Requirement for Registration of Marriage Contracts  
613 7. Rights to Alimony and Support to Dependent Wife and Children  
614 8. Women's Rights to Pursue and Practice Profession  
615 9. Determination of Appropriate Marrying Age for Men and Women  
616 10. Abuses in the Practice of Polygyny and Their Impact on Women and Children  
617 11. Violence Against Women and Children  
  
618 12. Rights and Obligations of Men and Women in Marriage

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#### CHAPTER IV NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND NON-DEROGATORY PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN MEDIA AND FILM

**Sec. 13. Prohibition of Printing, Publication, Display and Distribution of Pornographic Scenes on Movie/TV Trailers/Shows, Internets, Cellular Phones, Posters, Billboards and Other Similar Literature.** - The Autonomous Regional Government and Local Government Units (LGUs) shall exercise vigilance in the unwarranted printing, publication and display of pornographic and sensationalized scenes offensive to human sensitivities.

630  
631 It shall be unlawful for any person, entity, firm or establishment to reproduce or  
632 distribute, or cause its reproduction or distribution, pornographic scenes and materials from  
633 movies, trailers, shows, billboards, cellphones, internet, video tapes, Compact Discs (CDs),  
634 Digital Video Discs (DVDs) and other electronic devices that treat women as sex objects and  
635 commodities including derogatory portrayals considered haram and contrary to public morals.

636  
637 Nude shows or other provocative gestures which further project and exhibit women as  
638 sex objects are considered haram.

639  
640 Any person, agency or establishment that engages in shows depicting women as sex  
641 objects in private or public places or under scandalous circumstances shall be liable for violation  
642 of women's rights and shall be penalized in accordance with this Code and other applicable laws.

643  
644 **Sec. 14. Anti-Voyeurism.** – It shall be considered unlawful for any person to commit the  
645 act of voyeurism including the use of all forms of electronic devices which tend to violate the  
646 rights of women and men to privacy.

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649 **CHAPTER V**  
650 **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN**

651  
652 **Sec. 15. Battering, Sexual Harassment, Prostitution and Human Trafficking.** -  
653 Battering, sexual harassment, prostitution and human trafficking constitute violations of the  
654 rights of women and children and shall be considered unlawful or illegal under this Act. Any  
655 person, entity or establishment found guilty of committing any of the aforementioned acts shall  
656 be prosecuted and penalized in accordance with existing laws.

657  
658 The Autonomous Regional Government shall provide appropriate services through its  
659 concerned agencies to women and children subject of human trafficking. It shall ensure the  
660 prosecution and punishment of the traffickers in accordance with applicable existing laws.

661  
662 The Autonomous Regional Government and the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall  
663 undertake intensive and comprehensive policies and programs to counter the prevalence of any  
664 violation against women and their children. They shall not in any manner cause the legalization  
665 of any form of prostitution. All Local Government Units (LGUs) in the Autonomous Region  
666 shall not issue any permit to individuals, groups or establishments that will tend to establish  
667 entertainment facilities allowing, attracting or enticing prostitution or any act preparatory,  
668 connected with, or leading to prostitution.

669  
670 **Sec. 16. Comprehensive Support to Survivors of Violence.** - All Local Government  
671 Units (LGUs) in the Autonomous Region shall provide comprehensive support to survivors of  
672 violence irrespective of gender, age, religion, affiliation or ethnicity. Women in Especially  
673 Difficult Circumstances (WEDCs) shall be provided with the necessary services and  
674 interventions, such as, but not limited, to the following:

675

- 676 1. Temporary and Protective Custody;  
677 2. Medical and Dental Services;  
678 3. Psychological Evaluation;  
679 4. Guidance and Counseling;  
680 5. Psychiatric Evaluation;  
681 6. Legal Services;  
682 7. Productivity Skills Capability Building;  
683 8. Livelihood Assistance;  
684 9. Job Placement;  
685 10. Financial Assistance.

686  
687 There shall be organized a local Inter-Agency Committees on Anti-Trafficking and  
688 Violence Against Women and their Children (IAC-ATVAWC) in all levels to respond to issues  
689 and concerns related to violence against women and their children as well as the issues on  
690 trafficking. Supportive interventions shall consist of, but not limited to, the following:

- 691  
692 a) Immediate conduct of an intervention by concerned assisting agencies/entities within  
693 24 hours;  
694  
695 b) Providing counseling and medical services;  
696  
697 c) Speeding-up evidence-based data for immediate arrest and prosecution of the  
698 offenders;  
699  
700 d) Providing legal services;  
701  
702 e) Engagement of gender-sensitive and culturally-perceptive investigation officers,  
703 examining physicians, social workers, lawyers and other service providers to handle  
704 survivors of violence;  
705  
706 f) Establishment of temporary shelter or crisis intervention units under the management  
707 of a licensed and competent Social Welfare Officer of the Department of Social  
708 Welfare and Development (DSWD);  
709  
710 g) Providing support services to trafficking and Violence Against Women and their  
711 Children (VAWC) survivors which shall be in accordance with the performance  
712 standards for anti-trafficking and anti-VAWC services as mandated by Department of  
713 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department  
714 of Justice (DOJ), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and  
715 Philippine National Police (PNP);  
716  
717 h) Conduct of orientations on the pertinent provisions of Republic Acts (RAs) 9262,  
718 9208, 8353, 7877, 7610 and other relevant laws and policies on women and children  
719 by government offices, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), private  
720 establishments, educational Institutions and religious leaders of all faiths , in  
721 coordination with concerned agencies of the government; and



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i) Conduct of in-depth investigations and researches, in coordination with the academe, research institutions and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in the Autonomous Region, on the following:

- 1) gender issues such as early marriages and its impact on men and women;
- 2) abuses in the practice of polygyny and its effects on Muslim families;
- 3) forced and arranged marriages and the detrimental effects of such practices;
- 4) the halaw phenomenon with respect to trafficking of women and children and human rights violations; and
- 5) the issue on stateless children of Moro ancestry in Sabah, Malaysia.

The researches shall contribute to the local scholarship program and shall serve as part of the bases in advocacy and policy reforms of the Autonomous Regional Government in its combat against trafficking and human rights violations.

The facilities providing necessary interventions to survivors of violence as well as programs directly benefiting the clients shall be legally recognized and encouraged by the Autonomous Regional Government. These facilities will include Crisis Intervention Units (CIUs) and Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) Centers by Department of Social Welfare and Development/ Local Government Units (DSWD/LGU), the Women and Children’s Protection Desks (WCPD) by Philippine National Police (PNP), Legal Assistance Desk (LAD) by Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Women and Children Protection Units (WCPUs) by Department of Health (DOH).

Relevant programs of partner-agencies which involve the provision of psychosocial services, investigatory services or procedures, medical or hospital-based services, legal prosecution services and other anti-VAW services at the barangay, municipal, city and provincial levels shall be further enhanced, strengthened and supported.

The concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) shall document, monitor and establish data banks on cases of early marriages and abuses against women and their effects.

**Sec. 17. Women and Children's Protection Desks (WCPDs).** - The Autonomous Regional Government through the ARMM Regional Police Office shall establish and maintain Women and Children’s Protection Desks (WCPDs) to specifically handle concerns of women and children. They shall be manned by gender-sensitive women police officers. There shall be a separate WCPD area in all police stations to safeguard the confidentiality of information divulged by the victims and to ensure the latter’s protection from any harm or danger.

**Sec. 18. Protection of Service Providers in Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) and Trafficking Cases.** - Service providers assisting Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) and trafficking cases shall be accorded protection from imminent threat and danger while in the exercise of their official functions.

767 **Sec. 19. Community-Based Rehabilitation for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence. -**

768 There shall be a program using various treatments, approaches and interventions to restore  
769 perpetrators' social functioning as an individual and as members of the family and community.  
770 Its implementation details shall contain:

- 771  
772 a.) Social Preparation;  
773 b.) Capability Building;  
774 c.) Implementation of Rehabilitation Strategies;  
775 d.) Monitoring;  
776 e.) Documentation and Reporting; and  
777 f.) Evaluation.  
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780 **CHAPTER VI**  
781 **POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN**  
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783 **Sec. 20. Equal Rights of Women and Men in Political and Public Sphere. -** The  
784 Autonomous Regional Government shall undertake special measures to accelerate the  
785 participation of women in all spheres of society particularly in the decision-making and policy-  
786 making processes in government and in private entities in order for them to satisfy their role as  
787 khalifah or vicegerents of God.  
788

789 **Sec. 21. Appointment of Mahram of Women Executives. -** The women executives of  
790 the Autonomous Region shall be entitled to a mahram.  
791

792 **Sec. 22. Women's Involvement and Representation in Regional and Local Special**  
793 **Bodies. -** The Autonomous Regional Government shall institute affirmative action mechanisms  
794 so that women can participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies,  
795 plans, and programs for regional and local developments, such as the following:  
796

- 797 a) Development Councils and Planning Bodies. As far as practicable, forty percent  
798 (40%) of the membership of all development councils from the regional, provincial,  
799 municipal down to barangay levels shall be composed of women;  
800  
801 b) Other Policy and Decision-Making Bodies. Women's groups shall also be  
802 represented in international, national and local decision-making or special bodies,  
803 peace negotiating panel; and  
804  
805 c) Private Sector. The Autonomous Regional Government shall adopt measures to  
806 encourage women leadership in the private sector.  
807

808 **Sec. 23. Celebration of Special Events. -** The Autonomous Regional Government shall  
809 promote the observance of the celebration of special events relative to the promotion and  
810 protection of women and children's rights, such as, but not limited to, the following: a)  
811 Declaration of the month of March as Women's Month; b) Every March 8 as International  
812 Women's Day; c) Every March 18 as Bangsamoro Women's Day; d) Last week of September

813 as Family Week; e) Month of October as National Children's Month; and f) November 25-  
814 December 12 as 18-Day Campaign on Violence Against Women. The conduct of critical  
815 consciousness raising activities relevant to the events by the line agencies of the Autonomous  
816 Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall also be  
817 encouraged.

818

819 A report on the implementation of this Act shall be presented during these events.

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## 822 CHAPTER VII 823 CULTURAL IDENTITY OF WOMEN

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825 **Sec. 24. Preservation of Cultural Identity.** - The beliefs, customs and traditions of the  
826 people in the Autonomous Region and the free exercise of their respective faiths are hereby  
827 recognized, protected and guaranteed.

828

829 The Regional Assembly shall adopt measures to ensure mutual respect and protection of  
830 the cultural identity of the people in the area of autonomy.

831

832 The Autonomous Regional Government shall adopt policies and measures to ensure the  
833 continued preservation and promotion of traditions, culture and literatures.

834

835 **Sec. 25. Wearing of Hijab Among Muslim Women.** - The public and private  
836 institutions such as schools, hospitals, offices and other institutions within the Autonomous  
837 Region shall respect and allow Muslim women to wear hijab.

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839

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## 840 CHAPTER VIII 841 INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

842

843 **Sec. 26. Recognition of Rights.** - The Autonomous Regional Government recognizes  
844 and promotes the rights of indigenous women and children as embodied in the international laws,  
845 United Nation (UN) Declarations, Philippine Constitution and existing special laws.

846

847 **Sec. 27. Equal Rights and Opportunities.** - The indigenous women shall enjoy equal  
848 rights and opportunities with men in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres of the  
849 society. The participation of indigenous women in the decision-making processes as well as in  
850 the development of the society shall be promoted, respected and recognized.

851

852 **Sec. 28. Access to Basic Services.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall  
853 provide full access to education, maternal and child care, health and nutrition and other basic  
854 services to indigenous women and children.

855

856 Technical, professional and other forms of training shall be provided to enable the  
857 concerned women to fully participate in all aspects of social life.

858

859           **Sec. 29. Youth and Children.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall recognize  
860 the vital role of indigenous youth and children in region-building. It shall promote and protect  
861 their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being by providing programs and  
862 projects for the development of indigenous youth and children.

863  
864           **Sec. 30. Protection of Indigenous Culture, Traditions and Institutions.** - The  
865 Autonomous Regional Government shall respect, recognize and protect the rights of the  
866 indigenous cultural communities to preserve and protect their culture, traditions and institutions.  
867 Provided, this does not discriminate against women and children and provided further, this does  
868 not violate existing national laws. It shall also consider these rights in the formulation and  
869 application of regional plans and policies.

870  
871           **Sec. 31. Promotion and Marketing of Indigenous People (IP) Cultural Products.** –  
872 The Autonomous Regional Government shall provide support services in the promotion and  
873 marketing of Indigenous People (IP) cultural products.

874  
875           **Sec. 32. Integration of Indigenous People Culture and Traditions in the ARMM**  
876 **Educational Curriculum.** - The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher  
877 Education (CHED) in coordination with the Office for Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC)  
878 shall cause the preparation of appropriate monographs and materials for the integration of  
879 indigenous people culture and traditions in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
880 (ARMM) educational curriculum.

881  
882           The DepEd and CHED shall pursue the institutionalization and full implementation of the  
883 integration in the areas of indigenous communities.

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## 886           **CHAPTER IX** 887           **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATIONS**

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889           **Sec. 33. Marriage and Family Relations.** - Marriages and family relations, including  
890 property relations, succession and settlement of estate of deceased person shall be governed by  
891 the Shari’ah, Code of Muslim Personal Laws (PD 1083), New Family Code, in suppletory  
892 character, and this Code.

893  
894           **Sec. 34. Solemnization of Marriage.** - Notwithstanding the applicable provisions of the  
895 Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines, it shall be the duty of the solemnizing officer  
896 or wali to obtain and publicly declare the consent of the woman to the marriage. However,  
897 should the woman, for valid reason, refuse to give her consent, the solemnizing officer shall not  
898 solemnize the marriage.

899  
900           **Sec. 35. Pre-Nuptial Agreement.** A pre-nuptial agreement shall be considered part of  
901 the marriage settlement of the contracting parties only when it is in accordance with Islamic  
902 Law. It must be in writing and attached to the certificate of marriage, and duly registered with  
903 the Shari’ah Registry Office.

904

905 **Sec. 36. Advocacy Discouraging Child Marriages.** - Child or early marriages shall be  
906 discouraged. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) agencies, non-  
907 government and civil society organizations shall conduct strong advocacy campaign against  
908 child or early marriages.

909  
910 **Sec. 37. Pre-Marriage Counseling.** - Individuals seeking to enter into a contract of  
911 marriage shall undergo pre-marriage counseling. The Department of Social Welfare and  
912 Development (DSWD) and all Local Government Units (LGUs) shall establish a pre-marriage  
913 counseling desk and conduct pre-marriage counseling seminar to would-be couples. They shall  
914 also issue a pre-marriage counseling certificate as a requirement for the solemnization of  
915 marriage. For this purpose, the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall employ a competent  
916 Muslim religious leader to discuss about marriage in Islamic perspective during the seminar. The  
917 concerned agencies or offices shall develop a pre-marriage counseling module in the context of  
918 Islam to serve as one of the references of discussions in the seminar.

919  
920 **Sec. 38. Divorce.** - Divorce shall be valid and effective only after the exhaustion of all  
921 possible means of reconciliation as provided in the Holy Qur'an and pursuant to the provisions  
922 of PD 1083, and upon judicial confirmation or issuance of decree of divorce, or confirmation by  
923 a competent Aleem or Imam in case of extra- judicial divorces which confirmation shall be  
924 recognized by the Shariah Court.

925  
926 **Sec. 39. Financial Support.** - Any divorced woman shall be entitled to financial support  
927 as provided for by the Code of Muslim Personal Laws (PD 1083). The support herein provided  
928 shall be based on the means of the divorced husband. Children of divorced parents shall  
929 continuously be given support.

930  
931 **Sec. 40. Subsequent Marriages.** - Notwithstanding the rule on polygamy, no Muslim  
932 man shall be allowed to contract subsequent marriage unless the following requirements are  
933 complied with to the satisfaction of the court: a) physical and economic capability of the man;  
934 b) capability of the husband to equal treatment; c) the subsequent marriage must be under  
935 exceptional circumstances; and d) the contracting parties of the subsequent marriage should have  
936 undergone pre-marriage counseling.

937  
938 **Section 41. Protection of Wives in Subsequent Marriages.** No wife shall be deprived  
939 of the benefits due her and her children upon death or retirement of her husband.

940  
941 **Section 42. Marriages and Family Relations of Non-Muslims.** Marriages and family  
942 relations of non-Muslims shall be governed by existing laws.

943  
944 **Section 43. Mixed Marriages.** Marriages between Muslims and non-Muslims shall be  
945 governed by the law under which the marriage is celebrated.

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948 **CHAPTER X**  
949 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES**  
950

951           **Sec. 44. Community-Based Primary Health Care Service.** – The Autonomous  
952 Regional Government shall provide, at all times, an equitable, accessible and community-based  
953 comprehensive primary health care services. These health programs and services shall be  
954 culture-sensitive and gender-responsive covering all stages of human’s life cycle. The programs  
955 shall also address the major causes of mortality and morbidity among men and women of all ages  
956 including that of the unborn child. The provision of comprehensive health services must be  
957 parallel to the Islamic beliefs and cultural practices which are non-discriminatory to women.  
958 The rights of the spouses to establish a family in accordance with their personal convictions and  
959 demands of responsible parenthood, as well as the rights of women to protection from hazardous  
960 practices, drugs, devices, interventions and substances, shall be thereto respected.

961  
962           The community-based primary health care services shall consist of, but not limited to, the  
963 following:

- 964           1. Maternal care to include pre and post natal care and infant health and nutrition;
- 965  
966           2. Birthing facilities to assure facility-based delivery by a professional and skilled  
967 birth attendant;
- 968  
969           3. Responsible parenthood education and access to family planning programs and  
970 services for couples;
- 971  
972           4. Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding to infants from 0 to 6 months and  
973 complementary feeding to infants 6 months onwards;
- 974  
975           5. Youth sexuality education without prejudice to the primary right and duty of  
976 parents to educate their children;
- 977  
978           6. Prevention and management of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI), including  
979 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV)  
980 and Acquired Immune - Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);
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982           7. Prevention and management of reproductive tract cancers like breast, cervical,  
983 and other gynecological disorders;
- 984  
985           8. Prevention and management of abortion and its complications;
- 986  
987           9. Prevention and management of infertility and sexual dysfunction pursuant to  
988 ethical and Islamic norms, and medical standards;
- 989  
990           10. Care for elderly women including elderly men and persons with disabilities; and
- 991  
992           11. Management and treatment of mental health problems of women, men, boys and  
993 girls; and
- 994  
995           12. Prevention, treatment and management of contagious and emerging diseases such  
996

997 as dengue fever, AH1N1, flu virus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS),  
998 bird flu, meningococemia and similar others .  
999

1000 **Sec. 45. Reproductive Health Services.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall  
1001 ensure the availability and accessibility of methods, techniques and services that contribute to  
1002 reproductive health and individual's well-being. The elements of reproductive health care shall  
1003 include the following:

- 1004 a) Islam and Reproductive Health;
- 1005 b) Islam and Birth Spacing;
- 1006 c) Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition;
- 1007 d) Prevention of Abortion;
- 1008 e) Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC);
- 1009 f) Men's Reproductive Health and their Involvement;
- 1010 g) Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH);
- 1011 h) Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs), Sexually Transmitted Infections(STIs),  
1012 Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency  
1013 Syndrome (AIDS);
- 1014 i) Infertility; and
- 1015 j) Post Reproductive Health and Other Reproductive Health Concerns.

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1027 **Sec. 46. Health Care Financing Mechanisms** - The Autonomous Regional Government  
1028 shall set-up appropriate health care financing mechanisms through health insurance coverage. It  
1029 shall enter into agreement with the provincial and municipal governments, Philippine Health  
1030 Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and its Department of Health (DOH) for the enrollment of  
1031 indigents especially women and children to any available health care packages such as  
1032 hospitalization, maternal and child care, TB and other contagious diseases treatment packages.

1033  
1034 **Sec. 47. Access to Family Planning Management.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1035 Government shall ensure access to responsible, ethical, legal, safe and effective family planning  
1036 methods that are consistent with Islamic principles.

1037  
1038 **Sec. 48. Contraceptive Self-Reliance Program.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1039 Government shall guarantee the implementation of the contraceptive self-reliance program by  
1040 the Local Government Units (LGUs) in their respective areas in order to ensure the availability  
1041 and affordability of family planning services and methodologies.  
1042

1043           **Sec. 49. Partnership in Family Planning Services.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1044 Government shall encourage and promote partnership on family planning and reproductive  
1045 health program implementation with other stakeholders such as the academe, Local Government  
1046 Units (LGUs), Muslim Religious Leaders (MRLs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-  
1047 Government Organizations (NGOs), Peoples Organizations (POs) and private sector.  
1048

1049  
1050           **Sec. 50. Institutionalization of the Fatwa on Family Planning and Reproductive**  
1051 **Health.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall encourage the inclusion of fatwa on  
1052 family planning and reproductive health issued by the Assembly of the Daru'l Ifta in health  
1053 programs.  
1054

1055           **Sec. 51. Mobile Health Care Delivery Services.** - There shall be a mobile health care  
1056 delivery service through a mobile health clinic in the municipalities of the Autonomous Region  
1057 for their constituents particularly to the indigents. To effectively carry out this program, each  
1058 municipality in the mainland shall be provided with a van and motorized boat for the island  
1059 municipality to promptly attend to the needing patients. The operation and maintenance of the  
1060 mobile health clinics shall be funded under the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).  
1061 The Department of health (DOH), in coordination with the Integrated Provincial Health Offices  
1062 (IPHOs), shall provide the human resource requirement of the program. The concerned Local  
1063 Government Units (LGUs) shall be responsible for the maintenance and sustainability of the  
1064 program in their respective jurisdictions.  
1065

1066           **Sec. 52. Conduct of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality and Morbidity Review.** – All  
1067 Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be enjoined to formulate their respective ordinances for  
1068 the regular reporting of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity indices. Annual maternal  
1069 and infant death review shall be conducted which shall be attended by the concerned agencies  
1070 such as Department of Health (DOH), Population Commission (POPCOM), Department of  
1071 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Interior and Local Government  
1072 (DILG), National Statistics Office (NSO), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP),  
1073 Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs), Municipal Local Government Units (MLGUs),  
1074 and provincial governments with the purpose of formulating plans, programs and projects to  
1075 immediately decrease maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.  
1076

1077           **Sec. 53. Leave Benefits.** - In addition to those provided under existing laws, any  
1078 employee who have rendered continuous aggregate employment service of at least six (6)  
1079 months for the last twelve (12) months shall be entitled to a special leave benefit of fifteen (15)  
1080 days for the treatment of gynecological problem for women and urological for men. Employees  
1081 undergoing gynecological, urological or prostatic gland procedures shall be entitled to two (2)  
1082 months leave with full pay.  
1083

1084           **Sec. 54. Comprehensive Community-Based Primary Health Care Information and**  
1085 **Education Campaign.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall provide women in the  
1086 Region appropriate, complete, accurate and community-based information and education on all  
1087 aspects of women's health especially those on the most vulnerable ages giving more emphasis on  
1088 family planning, reproductive health, maternal and child health, and nutrition.



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**Sec. 55. Establishment of Women and Children Protection Units in All Hospitals in ARMM.** - In cases of violence against women and children, victims and survivors of conflict-afflicted areas shall be provided with comprehensive health services that include psychosocial, medical and legal interventions. There shall be Women and Children Protection Units (WCPUs) in all hospitals in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to immediately respond to the needs of women and children.

**CHAPTER XI  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**Sec. 56. Provision of Quality Education.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall establish, maintain and support, as top priority, a complete and integrated system of quality education. It shall adopt an educational framework that is meaningful, relevant and responsive to the needs, ideals and aspirations of the people in the Autonomous Region.

All schools, colleges and universities in the Autonomous Region, including such other schools and institutions that may be established thereat, shall be deemed integral components of the regional educational system. The Autonomous Regional Government shall ensure accessibility of children, adolescents and young adults to quality education.

The Autonomous Regional Government shall adopt the following:

- (1) Recognition of the participation of private institutions and Madaris in providing quality education to the people in the Autonomous Region;
- (2) Adherence to basic national structure of education in accordance with existing governing laws;
- (3) Promotion and use of gender sensitive language and removal of sexist words and contexts in school textbooks and materials; and
- (4) Incorporation of Islamic values in social studies subjects or their equivalents in appropriate grade levels as well as in the secondary and tertiary levels of education.

**Sec. 57. Distance Learning Program.** - The Department of Education (DepEd) shall institutionalize and encourage distance learning program both in elementary and secondary levels in the remote communities of the Autonomous Region.

**Sec. 58. Health and Nutrition Development Program in Curriculum.** - The educational institutions shall incorporate in their respective curricula offerings and course syllabi the women, adolescent, and youth health and nutrition development program.

**Sec. 59. Mechanism for Monitoring Educational Materials.** - The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in partnership with other educational institutions in the Autonomous Region shall develop, formulate and provide

1135 effective mechanisms for monitoring and reporting of educational materials that stereotype and  
1136 discriminate women and men.

1137  
1138 **Sec. 60. Scholarship Programs.** - Educational institutions through their respective  
1139 extension service programs shall forge partnership with Department of Education (DepEd),  
1140 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical and Skills Development Authority  
1141 (TESDA), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and other stakeholders for the  
1142 provision of scholarship grants especially for technical education and livelihood skills  
1143 development training for women and out of school youths.

1144  
1145

## 1146 CHAPTER XII 1147 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONCERNS 1148

1149 **Sec. 61. Equal Access to Employment and Promotion.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1150 Government shall ensure equal employment opportunities and meritorious promotion to all labor  
1151 force of the Autonomous Region regardless of sex, organization, tribe, religious beliefs or  
1152 political affiliations.

1153  
1154 **Sec. 62. Employment of Children.** - No child below fifteen (15) years of age shall be  
1155 employed except when he or she works under the direct supervision of his or her parents or  
1156 guardian subject to the conditions and requirements prescribed by the Labor Code of the  
1157 Philippines.

1158  
1159 **Sec. 63. Salaries, Wages and Financial Benefits.** – Salaries, wages or financial benefits  
1160 of employees shall be given in the form of money or valid check. No employer shall be allowed  
1161 to pay by means of notes, bonds, vouchers, coupons, tokens, tickets, chits or any similar objects,  
1162 even when expressly requested by the employee.

1163  
1164 Every employer shall comply with the minimum wage set by the Regional Wages and  
1165 Productivity Board (RWPB) of the Autonomous Region. In the same manner, all employers  
1166 shall be required to grant benefits to all workers such as, but not limited to, maternity or paternity  
1167 leave, sick leave, vacation leave, medical services and other similar services, subject to the  
1168 limitations provided under the applicable laws.

1169  
1170 **Sec. 64. Facilities for Women in Buildings and Other Infrastructures.** - The  
1171 Autonomous Regional Government shall establish policy standards for health and occupational  
1172 safety that will ensure the security, safety and health of men or women workers of the private  
1173 sector in the Autonomous Region.

1174  
1175 **Sec. 65. Insurance of Occupational Safety and Health Standards.** - The Autonomous  
1176 Regional Government shall set and enforce mandatory occupational safety and health standards  
1177 to eliminate or reduce occupational safety and health hazards in all workplaces. It shall institute  
1178 comprehensive programs to ensure safe and healthful working conditions in all places of work.

1179



1226 that will advance the interest of differently-abled persons for them to become productive  
1227 partners to development. These supportive interventions shall consist of, but not limited to, the  
1228 following:

- 1229
- 1230 a) Special education school for differently-abled persons which shall offer  
1231 appropriate technology curricula;
- 1232
- 1233 b) Creative employment opportunities for differently-abled persons recognizing  
1234 their differentiated conditions and full potentials as human beings;
- 1235
- 1236 c) Creation of committee on differently-abled persons under the provincial,  
1237 municipal and city development councils to advance their interest;
- 1238
- 1239 d) Medical missions and sports development activities for differently-abled persons;
- 1240
- 1241 e) Regular monitoring and reporting of cases of harassment committed against  
1242 differently-abled persons; and
- 1243
- 1244 f) Establishment of database as basis for planning and designing programs and  
1245 projects intended to differently-abled persons.
- 1246

1247 **Sec. 74. Advocacy on Differently-Abled Person's Rights.** – The Department of Social  
1248 Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Autonomous Region in Muslim  
1249 Mindanao (ARMM), Local Government Units (LGUs) and Department of Health (DOH), shall  
1250 conduct active advocacy on the rights of differently-abled persons in the Autonomous Region.

1251

1252 **Sec. 75. Organization of Senior Citizen Associations.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1253 Government shall support the organization and strengthening of senior citizen associations to  
1254 advance the interests of this special group of citizens.

1255

1256 **Sec. 76. Compliance with the Law on Senior Citizen's Discount.** - The Autonomous  
1257 Regional Government, through the Local Government Units (LGUs), shall monitor the  
1258 compliance of establishments, companies, institutions and business entities within the  
1259 Autonomous Region to the provisions of the Senior Citizen's Law on the grant of discounts in  
1260 transportation fares, hospitalization costs, medicines and others to senior citizens.

1261

1262 **Sec. 77. Support Funds for the Senior Citizens.** – The Department of Social Welfare  
1263 and Development (DSWD) shall allocate funds for livelihood assistance, routine physical  
1264 check-up, social group work programs and other appropriate socio-economic activities for  
1265 senior citizens.

1266

1267 **Sec. 78. Rights of Women Inmates.** – The rights of women inmates shall be protected.  
1268 It shall be the responsibility of the Autonomous Regional Government to ensure the following:

- 1269
- 1270 a) Speedy disposition of cases of women inmates;
- 1271

- 1272 b) Appropriate programs designed to respond to women inmates' needs and problems;  
1273  
1274 c) Establishment of separate structure and space for detention and rehabilitation of  
1275 women inmates; and  
1276  
1277 d) Assignment of women jail guards to women inmates.  
1278

1279 **Sec. 79. Support to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their Families.** – The  
1280 Autonomous Regional Government, through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration  
1281 (OWWA), shall conduct a survey of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The results thereof  
1282 shall serve as basis for the special support to women OFWs and their children. It shall also  
1283 conduct special courses on overseas Filipino workers primarily to educate women on the issues  
1284 and concerns relative to migration. The Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who have  
1285 undergone such special course shall be issued with a certification by the OWWA-ARMM.  
1286

1287 **Sec. 80. Support to Solo Parents.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall  
1288 ensure that the welfares of solo parents are given proper attention. Support interventions,  
1289 programs and services for solo parents shall be implemented through the Department of Social  
1290 Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other concerned agencies in Autonomous Region in  
1291 Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Solo parents shall have the privilege to avail of the solo parent  
1292 leave subject to Civil Service Rules and Law.  
1293

1294 **Sec. 81. Assistance to Individuals in Need of Special Protection.** - The Local  
1295 Government Units (LGUs) shall provide necessary assistance to individuals in need of special  
1296 protection such as those mentally ill, substance dependents, alcoholic, rehabilitated hansenites  
1297 and released prisoners.  
1298

1299

1300 **CHAPTER XIV**  
1301 **WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT**  
1302

1303 **Sec. 82. Protection of Women and Children Affected by Armed Conflict.** - The  
1304 Autonomous Regional Government shall ensure the protection and security of women, elderly  
1305 and children in situations of armed conflict and militarization. It shall provide gender-  
1306 responsive humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the affected internally displaced persons.  
1307

1308 The Autonomous Regional Government shall prohibit the recruitment of youth and  
1309 children in the armed forces, revolutionary groups and their involvement in the conflict whether  
1310 as couriers, spies, and others.  
1311

1312 **Sec. 83. Psychosocial Support for Women.** - The Autonomous Regional Government  
1313 shall establish mental health and psychosocial support team that will cater to the needs of women  
1314 experiencing critical incidents such as armed conflict and natural disasters. Psychosocial  
1315 sessions shall be initiated and spearheaded by the Department of Health (DOH) and Department  
1316 of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in partnership with trained debriefers coming from

1317 Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) within the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
1318 (ARMM).

1319  
1320 Early recovery plan shall be implemented in conflict affected communities. The  
1321 Department of Health (DOH) shall submit on a regular basis a post debriefing report to the  
1322 Office of the Regional Governor (ORG) to determine indicators of program implementation.

1323  
1324 **Sec. 84. Post-Conflict Rehabilitation.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall  
1325 ensure that women’s and children’s needs are properly addressed and prioritized during post  
1326 conflict rehabilitation. It shall provide programs, projects and support systems that may enable  
1327 women to speedily recover from debilitating effects of the conflict.

1328  
1329

1330 **CHAPTER XV**  
1331 **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

1332  
1333 **Sec. 85. Women’s Participation in the Implementation of Programs and Projects on**  
1334 **Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Management.** – The Autonomous Regional  
1335 Government shall encourage the participation of women in the implementation of programs and  
1336 projects pertaining to Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) management. It shall  
1337 inculcate the principles of Al-Khilafah (stewardship) and Al-Amanah (trust) in the management  
1338 of the environment and natural resources. It shall likewise recognize the active role of women in  
1339 the conservation, protection, constructive utilization, management and development of  
1340 environment and natural resources especially on the following:

1341  
1342 a) **Watershed Management.** The women’s role in promoting effective watershed  
1343 management shall be recognized. The Autonomous Regional Government, in  
1344 partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs) and local communities, shall  
1345 ensure sustainable and continuous supply of water for domestic, irrigation, power,  
1346 industrial and commercial use.

1347  
1348 b) **Protection of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) as Priority**  
1349 **Concern.** The protection of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)  
1350 especially in protected areas as enumerated and described under the National  
1351 Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Law (RA No. 7586) and other  
1352 pertinent laws shall be given priority concern to ensure moral accountability,  
1353 social responsibility, environmental stability, enhanced biodiversity and increased  
1354 productivity.

1355  
1356 c) **Community–Based Environment National Resources (ENR) Interventions.**  
1357 The active participation of women shall be encouraged in promoting equal rights  
1358 to access and responsibilities that are vested upon local communities of the  
1359 Region to promote sustainable management and development of natural  
1360 resources.

1361  
1362

1363 **CHAPTER XVI**

1364 **GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

1365  
1366 **Sec. 86. Gender and Development Advocacy.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1367 Government and the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall formulate gender and development  
1368 advocacy plan to encourage all duty bearers to affirm the role of women in regional autonomy.  
1369 They shall ensure espousal of gender and development principles and objectives, as well as  
1370 mobilization of advocacy activities to widen the participation and empowerment of indigenous  
1371 and Muslim women.

1372  
1373 **Sec. 87. Mainstreaming of Gender and Development (GAD) in Local Government**  
1374 **Units.** - All Local Governments Units (LGUs) within the Autonomous Region shall  
1375 operationalize the principles and policies provided under this Code.

1376  
1377 **Sec. 88. Gender Sensitivity Orientation and Training.** - The Autonomous Regional  
1378 Government and the Local Governments Units (LGUs) shall cause the conduct of Islamic  
1379 gender-sensitivity orientation and training for their employees, stakeholders and other duty  
1380 bearers.

1381  
1382 **Sec. 89. Preparation of Annual Gender and Development (GAD) Plan and Budget.**  
1383 **-The** Autonomous Regional Government and the Local Governments Units (LGUs) shall  
1384 annually formulate their respective Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budget, and shall  
1385 submit the same along with their accomplishment reports to the Office of the Regional Governor  
1386 (ORG) through the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW) and concerned  
1387 recipient agencies.

1388  
1389 **Sec. 90. Utilization of the Five (5) Percent Gender and Development (GAD) Funds**  
1390 **and Budget.** – In line with the requirements set by RA 7192 for 5% fund allocation to support  
1391 Gender and Development (GAD) concerns, the Autonomous Regional Government and the  
1392 Local Governments Units (LGUs) shall strictly implement their respective GAD plans and  
1393 budgets. With said apportionment, they shall address gender inequality issues and support  
1394 programs and projects for women.

1395  
1396 The Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW), in partnership with the  
1397 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Commission on Audit (COA) and  
1398 Commission on Human Rights (CHR), shall be tasked to monitor the implementation and  
1399 utilization of GAD plans and budget in the different Local Governments Units (LGUs).

1400  
1401 **Sec. 91. Establishment of Gender-Sensitive Management Information Database.-**  
1402 The Autonomous Regional Government and the Local Governments Units (LGUs) shall  
1403 institutionalize the establishment of gender-sensitive management information database which  
1404 will serve as repository of data. The data that may be gathered shall be accessible to local  
1405 planners in pursuit of development.

1406  
1407 **Sec. 92. Mainstreaming of Gender and Development (GAD) Programs in the Local**  
1408 **Development Plans.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall formulate policies and

1409 programs directing the Local Governments Units (LGUs) to strategically incorporate Gender and  
1410 Development (GAD) programs in their year-round local development plans and activities.

1411  
1412 The Local Governments Units (LGUs) shall exercise such powers, functions and  
1413 responsibilities that are appropriate for the effective and efficient implementation of Gender and  
1414 Development (GAD) mainstreaming plan and budget.

1415  
1416 The mainstreaming of GAD in the local plans shall include the following:

- 1417  
1418 1. Agriculture and Agrarian Reform;  
1419 2. Environment and Natural Resources Management;  
1420 3. Education;  
1421 4. Infrastructure;  
1422 5. Health;  
1423 6. Information and Communication Technologies;  
1424 7. Housing and Settlement;  
1425 8. Women in Conflict Affected & Conflict Vulnerable Areas;  
1426 9. Justice;  
1427 10. Enterprise Development; and  
1428 11. Private Sector Development.

1429  
1430 **Sec. 93. Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW).** – The Regional  
1431 Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW) shall be the primary policy making and  
1432 coordinating body for women and gender equality concerns in the Autonomous Region in  
1433 Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). It shall facilitate the monitoring of the effective implementation of  
1434 this Code, collect and consolidate reports and make recommendations thereon.

1435  
1436 In addition to its existing duties and functions, the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro  
1437 Women (RCBW) shall also perform the following:

- 1438  
1439 1. Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to:  
1440  
1441 a. Prohibit, seize and confiscate all materials that violate existing laws and moral  
1442 precepts including materials used or produced out of voyeurism;  
1443  
1444 b. Prohibit the printing, publication or distribution or pornographic scenes and  
1445 materials from movies, trailers, shows, posters, billboards, tarpaulin, literature and other  
1446 visual materials that treat women as sex objects which are considered haram and contrary  
1447 to public morals; and  
1448  
1449 c. Prohibit the exhibition of materials, movies, print, broadcast and multimedia  
1450 that degrade women and violate their rights.

1451



1452 2. Coordinate with concerned agencies for the provision of free legal assistance, security  
1453 and protection of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) survivors, trafficking and  
1454 other forms of violence, and recommend actions thereof.

1455  
1456 3. Serve as the repository of data on gender and development for public use.  
1457

1458 To effectively and efficiently perform its functions, the Regional Commission on  
1459 Bangsamoro Women (RCBW) may revise its existing structure and staffing pattern.  
1460

1461  
1462 **CHAPTER XVII**  
1463 **PENAL PROVISIONS**  
1464

1465 **Sec. 94. Penalties.** - Any violation of this Code shall be dealt with in accordance with  
1466 existing laws, rules and regulations.  
1467

1468  
1469 **CHAPTER XVIII**  
1470 **FINAL PROVISIONS**  
1471

1472 **Sec. 95. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within One Hundred Eighty  
1473 (180) days following the effectivity of this Code, the Regional Sub-Committee on Gender and  
1474 Development (RSCGAD) and in consultation with the concerned regional line agencies and  
1475 LGUs shall have completed the formulation of the implementing rules and regulations  
1476 necessary for the effective implementation of this Code.  
1477

1478 **Sec. 96. Compliance Report.** - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Code  
1479 and every six (6) months thereafter, the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW),  
1480 in coordination with regional line agencies, shall submit to the Office of the Regional Governor  
1481 (ORG) through the Regional Sub-Committee on Gender and Development (RSCGAD) regular  
1482 reports on the progress of the implementation of this Code highlighting thereof the impact on the  
1483 status of women. The report shall include an assessment of the effectiveness of this Code.  
1484

1485 **Sec. 97. Appropriations.** - The Autonomous Regional Government shall appropriate  
1486 necessary funds for the effective implementation of this Code. The regional line agencies shall  
1487 allocate at least five percent (5%) of their total budget to GAD and for the implementation of the  
1488 provisions of this Code.  
1489

1490 **Sec. 98. Supplementary Clause.** - On matters not provided for in this Code, any existing  
1491 applicable laws, executive orders, rules and regulations shall apply in supplemental manner.  
1492

1493 **Sec. 99. Separability Clause.** - Should any section, provision, part or portion of this  
1494 Code be declared unconstitutional or invalid by competent court, the other sections, provisions,  
1495 parts or portions not affected thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect.  
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Republic of the Philippines  
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
**REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
Cotabato City

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December 6, 2010

**HON. ANSARUDDIN A. ADIONG**  
Acting Regional Governor  
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
Cotabato City

**Sir:**

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9054, I have the honor to forward the herewith attached copy of **RLA Bill No. 55**, which was passed by the Regional Assembly, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao during its regular session on December 6, 2010, entitled:

**“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”**

for His Honor’s appropriate action.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

**DATU MAMA M. AMPATUAN**  
Secretary-General