

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

SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(Second Regular Session)

[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 297]

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday, the twenty-second day of October 2012.

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DEVELOPMENT AMONG FARMERS IN THE AUTONOMOUS
REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

Be it enacted by the Regional Assembly in session assembled:

SECTION. 1. Title – This Act shall be known as “Farmers’ Entrepreneurship Development Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – It shall be the policy of the Autonomous Region to enhance the human and intellectual capital of the government, and ensure substantial development, more efficient and profitable operations of its farmers.

SEC. 3. Objectives- (a) To ensure transformation of farmers into business entrepreneurs; (b) To ensure the proper utilization of marketing investment information for longer-term production, marketing planning, and taking advantage of economic opportunities.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms - The following terms are hereby defined as follows:

1. Entrepreneur – refers to a person who sets up a business taking in financial risks in the hope of profits.
2. Entrepreneurship – refers to capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make profits.

3. Entrepreneurial Development Program- refers to the program which is defined to help a person in strengthening and fulfilling his entrepreneurial motive and in acquiring skill and capacities necessary for play in his entrepreneurial role effectively.
4. Farmer – means any individual whose primary work function involves livestock and agriculture. He takes all the necessary steps to ensure proper nourishment of the items that he raises and then sells the item to purchaser.
5. Fair Trade- is a movement whose goal is to help producer to get fair price for their products so as to reduce poverty, provide for the ethical treatment of worker and farmer and promote environmentally sustainable practices.
6. Cooperative – is a firm owned, controlled, and operated by a group of users for their own benefit. Each Member contributes equity capital and shares in the control of the firm on the basis of one member one-vote principle.
7. Cooperative Bank- refers to a bank that holds deposit, makes loan and provides other financial services to cooperative and member-owned organization.
8. Marketing – is a management process through which goal and services move from concept to the customer. It includes the coordination of four P's of marketing; 1) identification, selection and development of product 2) determination of its prices 3) selection of distribution channel to reach the customer place 4) development and implementation of promotional strategy.
9. Skills – refers to the ability of one's knowledge, practices, aptitudes and others.
10. Technical Skills – refers to the knowledge and abilities that is required for the accomplishment of a specific task.
11. Saving – is a process of setting aside a portion of current income for future use or the flow of resources accumulated.
12. Loan- refers to the arrangement in which a lender gives money or property to borrow.
13. Networking – is an exchange of information or services among individuals, groups or institutions specifically.

SEC. 5. Establishment of Entrepreneurial Program – All cities and municipalities in the Autonomous Region shall prepare an Entrepreneurship Development Program for its farmers in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Department of Trade and Industry of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The Entrepreneurship Development Program shall be designed in such a manner as to help the farmers develop marketing capabilities to help them participate in actual marketing activities and shall introduce to farmers entrepreneurial education programs and entrepreneurial networks.

SEC. 6. Establishment of Farmers' Cooperative and Savings and Loan Associations – All cities and municipalities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall promote and support the establishment of farmers' cooperative with the assistance of the Cooperative Development Authority and savings and loan associations, by recognizing, protecting and upholding the rights of farmers to organize cooperatives and savings and loan associations in their respective areas to generate financial resources and develop farmers' entrepreneurial skills.

SEC. 7. Networking with Government Financial Institutions – The Local Government Unit concerned shall link with existing government financial institutions to provide sources of financing for the entrepreneurial projects of farmers. Experts from the government financial institutions shall be called upon to conduct lectures, workshops and live case studies of successful entrepreneurs. Participants shall be taught to evaluate opportunities for new ventures and to understand how the capital investment process works. All Local Government Units shall set aside funds for this purpose.

SEC. 8. Creation of Coordinating Council on Farmers' Entrepreneurship Development Program – A Coordinating Council on Farmers' Entrepreneurship Development Program, herein referred to as the Council, is hereby created which shall be headed by the Regional Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and composed of, but not limited to, the heads of office of the following: Department of Trade and Industry, Cooperative Development Authority, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, two (2) representatives from the farmers' group, five (5) representatives from the local government units. The Council shall be tasked to prepare a comprehensive plan to develop entrepreneurial capabilities, financial planning and technical skills of farmers in the Autonomous Region, as well as to monitor the implementation of the program.

SEC. 9. Marketing and Technical Assistance – All cities and municipalities shall extend marketing and technical assistance to the farmers within their respective areas.

Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in coordination with the members of the council shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed to implement the provisions of this Act thirty (30) days upon its approval.

Sec. 11. Separability Clause – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Act.

Sec. 12. Repealing Clause – Any provision of regional laws, orders, administrative issuances which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, revoked or modified accordingly.

Sec. 13. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.

(SGD) **RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR.**
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on March 12, 2013.

(SGD) **DATU MAMA M. AMPATUAN**
Secretary-General

APPROVED:

(SGD) **MUJIV S. HATAMAN**

Regional Governor

Date: _____