

RLA BILL NO. 9

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

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Begun and held in Cotabato City, the twenty-seventh day of April, nineteen hundred and ninety two.

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[ MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 14 ]

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF EDUCATION FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, CREATING A REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES".

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

ARTICLE I. - GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the Education Act of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SECTION 2. Applicability. - This Act shall govern the educational system in Muslim Mindanao, public and private schools including the Madaris, existing and operating within the Autonomous Region as well as formal and non-formal education and such schools as may be organized hereafter.

SECTION 3. Declaration of Policy.- It is the declared policy of the Autonomous Region to establish, maintain and support a complete and integrated system of quality education that is meaningful, relevant and responsive to the needs, ideals and aspirations of the





people in Muslim Mindanao. Towards this end, the Regional Government shall accredit the Madaris and shall ensure their integration together with the private schools into the regional system of education which should be at par with national standard.

**SECTION 4. Aims and Purposes.** - The aims and purposes of the regional integrated education system shall be as follows:

- a) To provide a system of education which shall be committed to the total spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, scientific and physical development of man in order to make him God-fearing, peace loving, value conscious and productive citizen;
- b) To ensure that all schools inculcate patriotism and nationalism, appreciate the role of national and the Bangsa Moro regional heroes in the historical development of the country and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, and the cultures of the Muslims and Non-Muslims in order to develop, promote and enhance unity in diversity; and
- c) To promote and strengthen the Madaris as an integral part of the regional education program.

**ARTICLE II. - THE REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS**

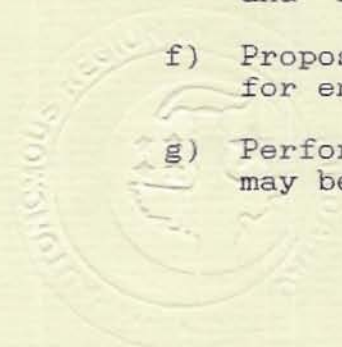
**SECTION 5. Creation.** - In order to carry out the educational policy of the Autonomous Region, there is hereby created a Regional Department of Education, Culture and Sports, hereinafter known as the RDECS, which shall administer the regional education system, supervise and regulate all educational institutions in Muslim Mindanao, including the duly accredited



Madaris; provided, that there is nothing in this Act which shall prejudice the charter of existing state colleges or universities in the Autonomous Region.

**SECTION 6. Powers and Functions.** - The RDECS shall perform the following powers and functions:

- a) Formulate general education objectives and policies and adopt long-range educational plans;
- b) Provide, adopt and effect plans as may be necessary for exigent execution and implementation of programs and projects in the advancement and promotion of education, culture and sports;
- c) Promulgate rules and regulations or such guidelines as may be required for efficient and effective administration, control and supervision and regulation of educational institution including the Madaris, which shall require the compulsory teaching of Arabic to Muslim students;
- d) Adopt and implement programs and projects in coordination with various agencies for the promotion and advancement of both formal and non-formal education;
- e) Establish, promote and foster linkages and conduit with national as well as international academic, research, Islamic-oriented educational establishments and cultural institutions that are pertinent and relevant to educational development;
- f) Propose and recommend measures on education for enactment into laws; and
- g) Perform such other functions and powers as may be provided by law.



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SECTION 7. Composition. - The RDECS shall be headed by a Regional Secretary who shall be assisted by a Regional Undersecretary for Administration and Operation and a Regional Undersecretary for Madaris. The Regional Secretary shall be appointed by the Regional Governor, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments of the Regional Legislative Assembly.

The Regional Secretary shall be a member of the Cabinet with portfolio and his term of office shall be co-terminus with the Regional Governor, unless he is sooner removed, replaced, incapacitated or resigned. The Regional Undersecretaries shall serve as career officers in accordance with Civil Service Law.

SECTION 8. Qualifications. - No person may be appointed Regional Secretary or Regional Undersecretary unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines; a native inhabitant of the Autonomous Region; a registered voter in any province of the Autonomous Region for at least five years prior to appointment; a holder of masteral degree in education or a doctorate degree in Philosophy or its equivalent; at least thirty-five years of age on the day of his appointment; and of proven integrity and honesty. However, the Undersecretary for Madaris may be considered for appointment on the basis of his Islamic studies diploma equivalent to masteral degree.

SECTION 9. Salaries, Allowances and Other Incentives. - The Regional Secretary and the Regional Undersecretaries shall receive an annual compensation, monthly representation and transportation allowance, other benefits and incentives as may be provided for by laws.

SECTION 10. Powers and Duties of the Regional Secretary. - The Regional Secretary shall exercise and perform the following powers and duties:

- a) Advise and update the Regional Governor on the status of the regional educational system in terms of progress, needs and priorities as well as its problems and





requirements and recommend measures to resolve the same;

- b) Promulgate and issue educational guidelines, policies, instructions, administrative orders, circulars or memoranda;
- c) Prepare and submit the Annual Accomplishment Report and the annual budget proposals of the department to the Regional Governor and the Regional Legislative Assembly;
- d) Appoint and for cause, terminate or suspend the personnel of the department in accordance with Civil Service Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
- e) Approve and sign payroll, voucher, check, and such other related financial documents or disbursements as may be necessary, subject to accounting, auditing and budgeting rules and regulations;
- f) Negotiate, sign and enter into contract, memorandum of agreement, and other similar documents pertinent and relevant to the RDECS operation; and
- g) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

In the exercise of such powers and duties, the Regional Undersecretary for Administration and Operation shall assist the Regional Secretary. The Regional Undersecretary shall, in the absence of the Regional Secretary, act as Officer-In-Charge of the department to perform routinary functions.

The Regional Undersecretary for Madaris shall, for and in behalf of the Regional Secretary, administer the activities and programs of the department for the Madaris or Arabic curricular requirements. He shall administer funding assistance and grants for the Madaris from the Islamic countries and other international donors. He shall coordinate the activities of the Madaris with the other agencies of the government.



SECTION 11. Staff Support. - The staff support organization of the department shall consist of the Office of the Secretary, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration and Operations, Office of the Undersecretary for Madaris, Administrative and Financial Management Services, Planning, Reference and Research Services, Curricula and Instruction Services, Medical and Dental Services, and Legal Services.

The support services shall each be headed by a Director III who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon the recommendation of the Regional Secretary, subject to Civil Service rules and regulations.

SECTION 12. Bureaus and Field Offices. - Apart from the department proper, the RDECS shall likewise consist of the Bureau of Higher Education; Bureau of Secondary Education, Bureau of Elementary Education, Bureau of Madrasah Education, Bureau of Physical Education and Sports Development, Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education, Bureau of Non-Formal and Special Education, and the divisions of schools and other field offices.

### ARTICLE III. - THE BUREAUS AND FIELD OFFICES

SECTION 13. Bureau of Higher Education. - This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon the recommendation of the Regional Secretary, subject to Civil Service rules and regulation. It shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate, adopt and evaluate plans, programs, projects, educational standards, and curricular designs;
- b) Initiate and encourage institutional development and improvement through technical assistance to related programs and projects;

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- c) Compile, analyze and evaluate data on higher education including masteral and doctoral courses and studies; and
- d) Conduct periodic supervision and inspection of colleges and universities to ensure that proper educational standards for higher education are being met and complied with.
- e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of higher education program in the region.

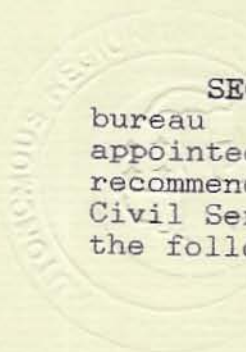
**SECTION 14. Bureau of Secondary Education. -**

This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon the recommendation of the Regional Secretary, subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. It shall perform the following functions:

- a) Adopt, implement and evaluate plans, programs, projects, educational standards and curricular designs, as well as instructional materials;
- b) Provide and devise effective methods of teaching through crash courses for secondary teachers;
- c) Conduct periodic supervision and inspection of secondary educational institutions to ensure that educational standards are met and complied with; and
- d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of secondary education program in the region.

**SECTION 15. Bureau of Elementary Education. -**

This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon the recommendation of the Regional Secretary, subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. It shall perform the following functions:

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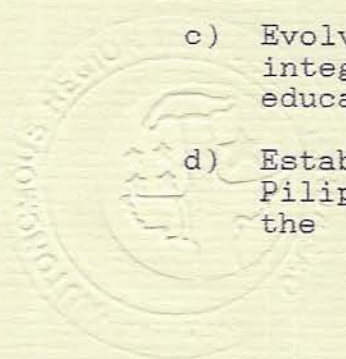


- a) Formulate, develop and evaluate plans, educational standards, curricular designs and instructional materials, including Arabic reading and writing, and basic Islamic moral values and character education;
- b) Provide and impart effective methods of teaching;
- c) Prepare and devise training programs for elementary school teachers; and
- d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of elementary education program in the region.

**SECTION 16. Bureau of Madrasah Education.** - This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who must be a holder of a Bachelor degree in Islamic and Arabic studies. He shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon recommendation of the Regional Secretary.

This bureau shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate, adopt and evaluate plans, programs, educational standards and curricular designs related to Islamic philosophy, sociology, economics, culture, moral values and political science, and other related Islamic instructional materials;
- b) Work for and establish linkages with Islamic educational institutions and cultural centers here and abroad.
- c) Evolve a system of accreditation and integration of the Madaris into the educational system;
- d) Establish learning programs in Arabic, Pilipino and English supportive of the Madrasah instructional system;



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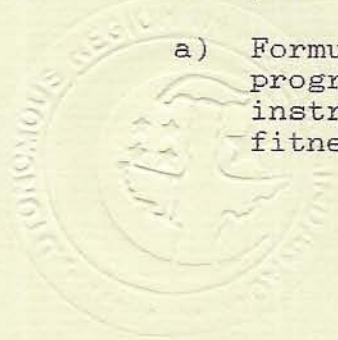


- e) Strengthen the Arabic faculty development scheme based on the priority needs of the Madaris through short, medium and long range scholarship grants;
- f) Initiate scholarship programs to deserving Madrasah students;
- g) Initiate programs for the establishment of Madrasah school buildings and other basic educational facilities to duly accredited Madaris;
- h) Prepare the annual budget proposals of the bureau as well as its Annual Accomplishments Report; and
- i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of the Madrasah educational program in the region.

In order to carry out its functions, the bureau is hereby provided with a staff support divisions, such as: Administrative and Finance Division, Planning, Research and Training Division, Instructions and Curriculums Divisions, and Islamic Educational Library.

**SECTION 17. Bureau of Physical Education and Sports Development.** - This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon recommendation of the Regional Secretary, subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. It shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate, develop and evaluate plans, programs, curricular designs and instructional materials for physical fitness and sports development;



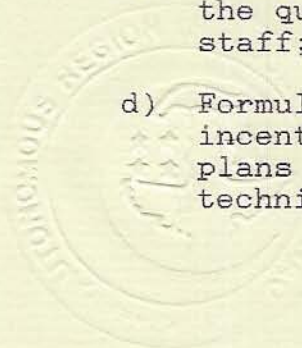
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- b) Provide, devise and update training programs and courses for physical education teachers;
- c) Coordinate with the other agencies of the government on their physical fitness and sports development programs; and
- d) Propose and initiate the implementation of plans to set up sport centers and facilities, including the procurement of athletic equipment, and
- e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of physical fitness and sports development program in the region.

SECTION 18. Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education. - This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon recommendation of the Regional Secretary, subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. It shall perform the following functions:

- a) Develop, evaluate and recommend post-secondary technical vocational programs as well as pertinent educational standards and criteria, curricular designs and instructional materials;
- b) Coordinate and collaborate with concerned agencies regarding the formulation and implementation of manpower development plans;
- c) Provide and evaluate programs to improve the quality of teaching and non-teaching staff; and
- d) Formulate guidelines and propose incentives for the improvement of physical plans and equipment of post secondary technical-vocational schools; and



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- e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of technical and vocational program in the region.

SECTION 19. Bureau of Non-Formal and Special

Education. - This bureau shall be headed by a Director V who shall be appointed by the Regional Governor upon the recommendation of the Regional Secretary subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. It shall perform the following functions:

- a) Provide non-formal education aimed at attaining specific learning objectives for a particular clientele, especially the unschooled and/or illiterates and the out-of-school youths and adults.
- b) Provide special education for persons who are physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and culturally different from normal individuals, who need modified school teaching methods to develop their mental capacity to the maximum; and
- c) Provide a program to raise the level of literacy of the population in order to achieve greater employment opportunities and develop their proper values; and
- d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient implementation of non-formal and special educational program in the region.

SECTION 20. School Divisions/Field Offices.- The four (4) divisions of schools, their district offices and other subsidiaries devolved to the Autonomous Region by the national government are hereby absorbed into the RDECS including their budgets, personnel, assets and liabilities; Provided, That nothing in this Act shall result in the diminution of the existing salaries of the officials, teachers and other personnel of the aforementioned school divisions and offices.





Budget and properties transferred to the Autonomous Region out of the allocations from the appropriations of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports are hereby placed under the respective control, accounts and responsibilities of the school divisions or field offices concerned to ensure the continuity of their operations.

The division superintendents of schools, district supervisors, principals, head teachers, classroom teachers and other personnel shall continue to enjoy their seniority rights on matters of assignment, reappointment and promotion in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

#### ARTICLE IV. - SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

SECTION 21. Specific Objectives. - the RDECS, as established, shall endeavor to attain the following objectives:

- a) Provide a comprehensive regional education system which shall assist every individual in the community to attain his fullest potential as a human being, promote and enhance the range and quality of individual and group participation in the basic functions of society, and acquire the essential educational foundations for his optimum development into humane, just, righteous, productive, versatile, self-reliant, innovative, creative, discipline and law-abiding citizen;
- b) Achieve and strengthen national understanding and unity, and develop, preserve, promote and maintain desirable spiritual, social, cultural, and moral values;
- c) Train the region's manpower in all levels of scientific, technological and vocational skills to achieve and maintain accelerating rate of economic development and social progress required for regional and national development;



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- d) Develop the professions that are essential to the development of quality leadership and the advancement of knowledge to improve the quality of human life;
- e) Promote the Madaris and other Islamic institutional system as an integral part of the regional educational process;
- f) Undertake special and school - based educational programs for the underprivileged, unemployed, underemployed, disadvantaged, displaced and handicapped elements of the society to enable them to share the blessings of life with meaningful, useful and productive participation and involvement; and
- g) Respond readily to the ever-changing needs and conditions of the region and the nation through a sound and realistic educational planning, development and evaluation.

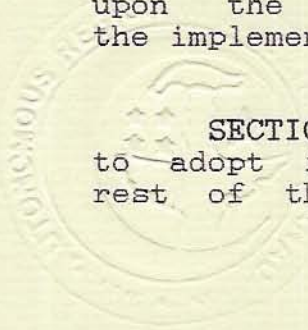
**SECTION 22. Accreditation/Integration of Madaris.-**

The accreditation and integration of the Madaris into the educational system shall form part of the major thrust of the regional educational system in the Autonomous Region and the RDECS shall provide a continuing system within the organization to ensure the attainment of this objective.

**ARTICLE V.- MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 23. Implementing Guidelines. -** The Regional Secretary shall, within thirty (30) days upon the organization of the department, promulgate the implementing guidelines of this Act.

**SECTION 24. Logo. -** The RDECS is hereby authorized to adopt its own logo to distinguish itself from the rest of the agencies of the Regional Government.





SECTION 25. Appropriations. - For the initial funding requirements of the department, such amount as maybe necessary are hereby appropriated from the funds of the Office of the Regional Governor. Funding for the succeeding fiscal years is hereby authorized to be incorporated in the ARMM Annual Budget.

SECTION 26. Specific Policy. - Nothing herein shall preclude the Regional Legislative Assembly from adopting such measures as may be necessary to strengthen the Regional Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

SECTION 27. Separability Clause. - In the event that any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other parts not so declared shall remain valid and effective.

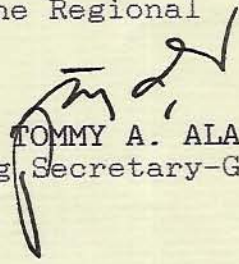
SECTION 28. Repealing Clause. - Any provision of regional law, orders and administrative circulars as are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions and/or purposes of this Act are hereby repealed, revoked or modified accordingly.

SECTION 29. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Autonomous Region.

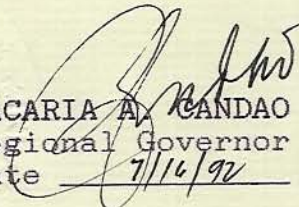
APPROVED:

  
ALI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG  
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on July 15, 1992.

  
TOMMY A. ALA  
Acting Secretary-General

APPROVED:

  
ZACARIA A. CANDAO  
Regional Governor  
Date 7/16/92

