



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 433-4894 \* 707-8075

***EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 2025***

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Vice Governor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Hon. Laurence Marxlen J. Dela Cruz	Member - 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Hon. Arthur Christopher D. Marañon	Member - 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Hope Marey B. Depasucat	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Patricia Paula M. Alonso-Valderrama	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Hadji P. Trojillo	Member - 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Genaro G. Alvarez IV	Member - 6 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SK Rep.
<b>ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:</b>	
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member - PCL Rep

**ORDINANCE NO. 017**  
**Series of 2025**

***AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF  
"INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MONTH" IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL,  
DECLARING OCTOBER AS THE OFFICIAL MONTH OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,  
AFFIRMING THE CELEBRATION OF "IP YOUTH DAY" AND THE "INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES," ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS  
FOR PARTICIPATION, FUNDING, AND PROGRAMMATIC IMPLEMENTATION, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES***

**Authored By:**  
**Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao**  
**Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan**  
**Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo**  
**Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola,**  
**Hon. Arthur Christopher D. Marañon**

***WHEREAS***, Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities within the framework of national unity and development”;

***WHEREAS***, Article XIV, Section 17 of the Constitution mandates the State to recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions;





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**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 8371, or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, recognizes, protects, and promotes the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), including the right to cultural integrity, ancestral domain, self-governance, and social justice;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10689 officially declares August 9 as National Indigenous Peoples Day, aligning with the United Nations' International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and calls for the recognition and celebration of IPs' contributions to society;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 547, Series of 2006 and Proclamation No. 1906, Series of 2009 declare October as National Indigenous Peoples Month, directing all levels of government to support activities that honor indigenous heritage, with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) designated as the lead agency for planning and coordination;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7356, which created the NCCA, affirms the right of all cultural communities to preserve and enrich their cultural traditions, and mandates the promotion of a pluralistic and inclusive cultural identity;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, specifically Sections 16 and 17, empowers Local Government Units (LGUs) to exercise powers essential to the promotion of general welfare, including the preservation of cultural heritage and support for marginalized communities such as Indigenous Peoples;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted in 2007 and supported by the Philippines, provides a global framework for respecting the distinct status, rights, and traditions of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to cultural celebration, education, and intergenerational transmission of knowledge;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Negros Occidental acknowledges the continued presence, identity, and contributions of Indigenous Cultural Communities, including but not limited to the Ata, Ati, and Bukidnon/Bukignon ethnolinguistic groups, and commits to the advancement of their rights, especially the empowerment of Indigenous youth, women, elders, and culture-bearers;

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Negros Occidental in Regular Session duly assembled to enact this ordinance to wit:

**SECTION 1. TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known as the Indigenous Peoples Month of Negros Occidental.





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## **SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY**

It is the policy of the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental to:

- Promote cultural pride and identity among IPs and the broader public;
- Protect and support the preservation, development, and transmission of IP culture, language, and traditional knowledge;
- Institutionalize inclusive programs that promote IP youth leadership, cultural education, and sustainable development;
- Align provincial cultural development with national and international policies on Indigenous Peoples rights and heritage protection.

## **SECTION 3. SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

This Ordinance shall cover all recognized Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) within the Province of Negros Occidental, including their sub-groups, accredited organizations, youth councils, cultural elders, and traditional leaders. It applies to all provincial activities, programs, and partnerships conducted in observance of Indigenous Peoples Month and other declared IP celebrations.

## **SECTION 4. OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS AND OBSERVANCES**

### **a. Indigenous Peoples Month (October)**

A month-long celebration featuring activities that promote awareness, cultural pride, and solidarity with IP communities, such as:

- Rituals, storytelling, and intergenerational dialogues
- Cultural exhibits and traditional craft fairs
- School- and community-based programs
- Faith-based and ecumenical celebrations rooted in IP traditions
- Policy consultations and workshops with IP leaders
- Recognition of IP elders, youth leaders, and cultural bearers

### **b. IP Youth Day (Every second Friday of October and every year thereafter)**

A special observance recognizing the leadership, talents, and voices of Indigenous youth. Activities may include youth summits, creative showcases, leadership awards, and advocacy training

### **c. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9)**

In alignment with national and global observance, this day shall be celebrated with educational forums, cultural performances, and ceremonial acts of solidarity across the province

3.



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**SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Implementation shall be led by the Provincial Indigenous Peoples Focal Office (PIPFO) under the Office of the Governor, in coordination with:

a. National Agencies:

- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
- Department of Education (DepEd)
- Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
- Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

b. Local Government Units:

- Provincial, city, municipal, and barangay LGUs
- IP Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs)
- Local Culture and Arts Councils

c. Civil Society, IP Councils, and Faith-Based Institutions:

- Accredited IP organizations and elders councils
- Indigenous youth councils and SK federations
- CIPOSNO and similar networks
- Religious and interfaith IP ministries

d. Academic Institutions:

- State and private universities
- TVET and ALS institutions
- Public and private basic education schools
- Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs)

**SECTION 6. FUNDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

An initial annual amount of Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P600,000.00), shall be allocated by the Province of Negros Occidental to support Indigenous Peoples Month programming. Said amount shall be included in the Annual Investment Program (AIP) of the province.

Supplemental funds may be sourced from:

- Grants from national cultural agencies (e.g., NCCA, NCIP)
- Partnerships with NGOs, INGOs, and development agencies
- Contributions from private sponsors, LGUs, and cultural partners
- In-kind support from communities and civic groups

All disbursements shall be subject to applicable auditing and budgeting laws.





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## **SECTION 7. PLANNING, MONITORING, AND REPORTING**

A Provincial Steering Committee on Indigenous Peoples Month shall be formed, chaired by the Provincial IP Focal Person, and composed of representatives from implementing and partner agencies.

Functions include:

- Preparation of the Annual Work and Financial Plan
- Coordination of activities across sectors
- Monitoring and evaluation of outputs and impacts
- Submission of a Consolidated Activity and Financial Report to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan through the Committee on IPs and Cultural Communities within 30 days after October

## **SECTION 8. RECOGNITION AND ACCREDITATION**

The Provincial IP Focal Office shall maintain a registry of accredited IP organizations, youth councils, elders' assemblies, and cultural groups. Recognition shall follow NCIP protocols and provincial guidelines ensuring legitimacy, participation, and inclusivity

## **SECTION 9. DOCUMENTATION, PUBLICATION, AND ARCHIVING**

The Province shall support the respectful documentation of Indigenous Peoples Month activities, guided by the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), cultural integrity, and intellectual property rights as mandated by Republic Act No. 8371, NCIP protocols, and international standards such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

All documentation shall:

- Be co-designed with Indigenous elders, youth councils, and cultural bearers to ensure cultural accuracy, sensitivity, and community authorship.
- Require documented FPIC for photography, video recording, audio interviews, and the use of traditional expressions, designs, oral histories, and ceremonial acts.
- Include archiving of multimedia content (photos, videos, oral accounts), annotated with source, community consent, and cultural context.
- Support the creation of educational toolkits, digital exhibits, and visual materials that are non commercial, community-endorsed, and aligned with the cultural values of participating ICCs/IPs.
- Produce provincial publications (e.g., coffee table books, IP heritage narratives) only with shared editorial control, attribution mechanisms, and visibility for contributors from ICCs/ IPs.
- Utilize community-managed digital platforms, co-operated with IP youth networks, with protocols for content moderation, data sovereignty, and community accessibility.



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- Explicitly prohibit unauthorized use, commodification, or misrepresentation of IP cultural artifacts, expressions, knowledge systems, and ceremonial traditions in any format.

The Provincial Indigenous Peoples Focal Office shall maintain a Documentation Registry detailing consents, contributors, publication history, and usage permissions to ensure transparency, legitimacy, and traceability.

#### **SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

#### **SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE**


All ordinances, resolutions, executive issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

#### **SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after posting in at least three (3) conspicuous public places within the Province of Negros Occidental.

***ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.***

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
**HON. JOSE BENITO A. ALONSO**  
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

  
**ATTY. MARI ANGEL O. ASCALON**  
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:

  
**HON. EUGENIO JOSE V. LACSON**  
Provincial Governor

SEP 08 2025