



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City  
Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) \* 435-7698 (Board Member) \* 709-0121 (Legislative Division)  
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 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. de la 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. Hope Marey B. Depasucat	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Patricia Paula M. Alonso-Valderrama	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. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SK
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC

On Official Business:

Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member-PCL

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**ORDINANCE NO. 020**  
Series of 2025

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PROVINCIAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AFFAIRS OFFICE (PIPAO) AND THE PROVINCIAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (PIPCC) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, DEFINING THEIR MANDATES, STRUCTURES, AND FUNCTIONS, RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MANDATORY REPRESENTATIVES (IPMRs), ENCOURAGING THE CREATION OF MUNICIPAL AND CITY IP AFFAIRS OFFICES, AND INSTITUTIONALIZING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP) AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA)**

**Authored by: Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao,**  
**Chairperson, SP Committee of Senior Citizens, Indigenous Peoples & PWDs**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, while Section 16 of the same Article mandates that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS**, Section 22, Article II of the 1987 Constitution further provides that the State recognizes and promotes the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) within the framework of national unity and development;

**WHEREAS**, Section 5, Article XII of the Constitution mandates the State to protect the rights of ICCs to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being;





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(Page 2, Ordinance No. 020, series of 2025)

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the “Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA)”, affirms, recognizes, and promotes the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) to self-governance, cultural integrity, ancestral domains, and social justice, and mandates all government instrumentalities to respect and uphold such rights in the formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and projects;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, provides that local government units (LGUs) shall ensure the active participation of people’s organizations, non-governmental organizations, and sectoral representatives in local governance and development, including Indigenous Peoples;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10066, or the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”, recognizes the vital role of Indigenous cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems as integral parts of the national identity, and mandates the safeguarding and documentation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023–2028 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote inclusive development, respect for cultural diversity, and the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples as vital stakeholders in sustainable governance and nation-building;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Negros Occidental is home to diverse Indigenous cultural communities, each possessing distinct languages, traditions, knowledge systems, and governance structures that form part of the living heritage and cultural wealth of the Province;

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental recognizes the need to institutionalize mechanisms that ensure the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in local governance, policy-making, and development processes, consistent with the principles of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) and cultural validation;

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a Provincial Indigenous Peoples Affairs Office (PIPAO) shall provide a dedicated mechanism for the formulation, coordination, and implementation of culturally responsive policies, programs, and projects for the promotion and protection of IP rights and welfare;

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a Provincial Indigenous Peoples Consultative Council (PIPCC) shall ensure that Indigenous elders, women, youth, and IP Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs) are meaningfully represented in policy deliberations, cultural validation, and participatory governance;

**WHEREAS**, institutional collaboration with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is essential for the effective implementation of IPRA, the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs), and the safeguarding of cultural heritage across the Province;

**WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental deems it proper to enact a local legislative measure that will strengthen the institutional framework for Indigenous Peoples affairs, ensuring equity, inclusiveness, and cultural integrity in provincial governance;





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(Page 3, Ordinance No. 020, series of 2025)

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Negros Occidental in its regular session duly assembled that:

**SECTION 1. TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the “Indigenous Peoples Affairs and Participatory Governance Ordinance of Negros Occidental”.

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** It is the policy of the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental to recognize, respect, and promote the rights, welfare, and cultural integrity of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs), in accordance with:

1. Republic Act No. 8371 – Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 • Republic Act No. 7160 – Local Government Code of 1991
2. Republic Act No. 10066 – National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009
3. Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028
4. UN Sustainable Development Goals
5. NCCA’s Philippine Cultural Development Plan

The Province affirms its commitment to culturally responsive governance, inter-agency collaboration, and the institutionalization of Indigenous participation in local development.

**SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT.** There is hereby created a Provincial Indigenous Peoples Affairs Office (PIPAO) under the Office of the Provincial Governor, which shall serve as the lead provincial office for IP-related policy, coordination, and program development.

**SECTION 4. MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS.** The PIPAO shall:

1. Formulate, implement, and monitor provincial policies, programs, and projects for IPs/ ICCs in coordination with NCIP, NCCA, LGUs, and IP leaders;
2. Integrate IP concerns into local development plans, education, health, livelihood, and cultural preservation;
3. Provide technical assistance to municipalities and cities in establishing their own IP Affairs Offices;
4. Serve as liaison between IP communities and provincial/inter-agency bodies;
5. Document and safeguard Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs), in partnership with NCIP and NCCA;
6. Promote youth participation and intergenerational leadership in IP governance;
7. Maintain a provincial IP database and cultural registry;
8. Support the nomination and protection of IP-related cultural properties and heritage zones.

**SECTION 5. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.** The PIPAO shall be headed by a Provincial IP Affairs Officer, preferably an Indigenous Person, appointed by the Provincial Governor with confirmation from the PIPCC.

The office shall be composed of technical, administrative, and field personnel, subject to civil service rules and budgetary appropriations. Provided, however, that individuals who have previously held elective political office or have filed candidacy for any elective position shall not be eligible for appointment to the PIPAO, in order to preserve its non-partisan and culturally grounded nature.



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(Page 4, Ordinance No. 020, series of 2025)

**SECTION 6. ESTABLISHMENT.** There is hereby created a Provincial Indigenous Peoples Consultative Council (PIPCC) to serve as the official advisory, validation, and participatory body for all IP-related governance, cultural, and development matters in Negros Occidental.

**SECTION 7. COMPOSITION AND LEADERSHIP.** The PIPCC shall be composed of:

1. Recognized IP leaders, elders, and traditional authorities from each ICC/IP group in the province;
2. IP youth, women, and sectoral representatives;
3. Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs) at the municipal/city and provincial levels;
4. Representatives from NCIP and NCCA (as permanent resource institutions);
5. Representatives from relevant provincial offices (e.g., planning, education, health, culture, agriculture).

Members shall be selected through community validation and confirmed by NCIP in accordance with customary protocols. Provided, however, that individuals who have previously held elective political office or have filed candidacy for any elective position shall not be eligible for selection to the PIPCC, in order to safeguard the non-partisan and culturally grounded nature of Indigenous representation.

Leadership Structure:

1. The Chairperson shall be a recognized Indigenous elder or traditional leader, selected through community consensus and confirmed by NCIP;
2. In multi-tribal contexts, the Chairpersonship may rotate every two (2) to three (3) years among ethnolinguistic groups;
3. Vice Chairpersons shall include one IP youth representative, one IP woman leader, and one IPMR (ex-officio);
4. The PIPAO shall serve as Secretariat, with NCIP and NCCA as permanent resource institutions

**SECTION 8. FUNCTIONS.** The PIPCC shall:

1. Advise the PIPAO and the Provincial Government on IP-related policies, programs, and cultural matters;
2. Validate IP representation, cultural protocols, and development priorities;
3. Participate in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of IP programs;
4. Endorse appointments, declarations, and cultural recognitions involving IPs;
5. Serve as a provincial forum for intergenerational dialogue and consensus-building.

**SECTION 9. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION.** In accordance with Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8371 (IPRA), NCIP Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2021 (as amended by CEB Resolution No. 2023-09-07-063), and local funding mandates such as Resolution No. 508, Series of 2024, Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs) shall be formally recognized as key institutional partners in the creation, operationalization, and governance of the Provincial Indigenous Peoples Affairs Office (PIPAO) and the Provincial Indigenous Peoples Consultative Council (PIPCC).





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(Page 5, Ordinance No. 020, series of 2025)

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental shall:

1. Ensure full compliance with the Revised National Guidelines for IPMR Selection and Affirmation, including community validation, genealogical qualification, and issuance of Certificate of Affirmation (COA) by NCIP;
2. Institutionalize the rotational representation of IPMRs among ethnolinguistic groups, respecting customary laws and inclusive participation, especially in multi-tribal contexts;
3. Mandate the allocation of honoraria and operational support for IPMRs in the annual budget of the Provincial Government and encourage similar provisions at the municipal and barangay levels;
4. Recognize IPMRs as ex-officio members of the PIPCC, with full voting rights and participatory roles in agenda-setting, policy validation, and cultural recognition;
5. Support transitional mechanisms, including holdover provisions and succession planning, to ensure continuity of IPMR representation during periods of nomination or revalidation.

**SECTION 10. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** The IPMRs shall:

1. Endorse and participate in the passage of ordinances and resolutions related to IP governance and cultural integrity;
2. Ensure that all appointments, representations, and engagements with IP communities are culturally validated and consistent with customary laws;
3. Participate in the monitoring and evaluation of PIPAO programs;
4. Facilitate coordination between the PIPAO and municipal/city IPMRs to encourage the creation of MIPAOs/CIPAOs;
5. Serve as ex-officio members of the PIPCC, with voting rights and participatory roles in agenda-setting and consensus-building.

**SECTION 11. ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL IP OFFICES.** The Provincial Government shall encourage all municipalities and component cities in Negros Occidental to establish their own Municipal/City Indigenous Peoples Affairs Offices (MIPAOs/ CIPAOs) and Municipal/City IP Consultative Councils (MIPCCs/CIPCCs).

The PIPAO shall provide technical assistance, model ordinances, and capacity-building support for their creation and institutionalization.

**SECTION 12. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH NCIP AND NCCA.** The PIPAO and PIPCC shall institutionalize formal, sustained collaboration with the following national agencies:

- a. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP):
  - Confirm IP representation and ancestral domain concerns in accordance with IPRA and NCIP guidelines;
  - Oversee Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes and ensure compliance with customary law and national policy;
  - Provide technical assistance in IPMR affirmation, rotational representation, and community validation;
  - Serve as a permanent resource institution in all major PIPAO and PIPCC activities.



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(Page 6, Ordinance No. 020, series of 2025)

- b. National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA):
- Support cultural mapping, heritage documentation, and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
  - Provide grants, technical assistance, and programming aligned with the Philippine Cultural Development Plan;
  - Assist in the nomination and protection of IP-related cultural properties and heritage zones;
  - Serve as a permanent resource institution in all major PIPAO and PIPCC activities.
- c. Other Agencies and Institutions: The Provincial Government may enter into formal partnerships with academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international bodies for research, capacity-building, and cultural exchange, subject to NCIP validation and IP community consent.

**SECTION 13. PARTICIPATORY, NON-PARTISAN, AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE.** All offices and councils created under this Ordinance shall uphold the principles of:

1. Meaningful participation of IP elders, youth, women, and traditional leaders;
2. Cultural validation and community endorsement in all engagements, appointments, and recognitions;
3. Non-partisanship, ensuring that IP structures remain free from political influence and electoral interests;
4. Transparency and accountability, with regular reporting to IP communities and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;
5. Safeguarding Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) through ethical documentation and community-led protocols.

**SECTION 14. FUNDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.** Initial funding for the PIPAO and PIPCC shall be charged against the Provincial Government's annual budget. Subsequent appropriations shall be included in the regular budget cycle. Municipal and City LGUs are likewise encouraged to allocate funds for their respective IP structures, including MIPAOs, CIPAOs, MIPCCs, and CIPCCs.

The Provincial Government may also:

1. Access national grants and special funds through NCIP, NCCA, and other agencies;
2. Mobilize external resources through partnerships, subject to FPIC and cultural safeguards;
3. Establish a Provincial IP Cultural Fund, managed jointly by PIPAO and PIPCC, for heritage protection, youth programs, and emergency response in IP communities.

**SECTION 15. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.





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(Page 7, Ordinance No. 020, series of 2025)

**SECTION 16. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All ordinances, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 17. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its posting in accordance with existing laws.

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY,** (October 28, 2025)

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
**HON. JOSE BENITO A. ALONSO**  
Vice Governor

ATTESTED:

  
**APTY. MAKI ANGEL O. ASCALON**  
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:

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

Date: NOV 17 2025