

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

**[ MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 299 ]**

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ARMM REGIONAL MERIT AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO INDIVIDUALS OR PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS FOR ATTAINING EXEMPLARY EXCELLENCE IN THEIR FIELD OF UNDERTAKINGS OR SERVICES RENDERED.

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known and cited as the "*ARMM Regional Merit and Achievement Award Act.*"

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a declared policy of the autonomous regional government to devote its resources to the improvement of the well-being of all its constituents, particularly the marginalized, deprived, disadvantaged, underprivileged, disabled, and the elderly.

Promote peace, development, industrialization and humanitarian services through services and efforts of individuals and organizations. Towards this end, the Regional Government shall encourage all sectors of the region to aim for optimum effort and Endeavour thus recognizing their contribution to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. Thus, the Region shall endeavor to:

- (a) Help motivate individual or organizations to improve quality and productivity for the pride of recognition while obtaining a competitive edge through improved performance or business results;
- (b) Recognize the achievements of those persons, individuals and organizations which improve the quality of their services and provide examples to others;
- (c) Establish guidelines and criteria that can be used by industrial, commercial, governmental and other organizations in evaluating their own performance and efforts; and
- (d) Provide specific policy for other organizations in the autonomous region that shall handle meritorious and exemplary services through available relevant information by organizations and individuals who have achieved excellence in their field of work.

Sec. 3. *Purpose.* -The two-fold purposes of this Act are as follows:

- (a) To provide for the establishment and conduct of a Regional Merit Improvement System under which awards are given to selected organizations and individuals that have rendered services or undertakings effectively. As a result, this shall contribute to significant improvements and set an example in improving the lives of the Bangsamoro people; and

(b) To generate and obtain useful information about successful strategies, programs and practices for the development of the region which can be disseminated to other Local Government Units, Governments and private institutions.

*Sec. 4. Establishment of the Regional Merit and Achievement Award System.* - There is hereby established the ARMM Regional Merit and Achievement Award, which shall be evidenced by a Plaque bearing the ARMM Seal, RLA logo, and the inscriptions "*ARMM Merit and Achievement Award or Performance Excellence.*" The plaque shall be of such design and materials and bear such additional inscriptions as the Regional Merit and Achievement Award Committee may prescribe.

*Sec. 5. Regional Merit and Achievement Award Committee.* - The Regional Governor shall appoint a Regional Merit and Achievement Award Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "*Committee*", consisting of the Regional Secretaries of the following agencies: Office of the Vice-Governor, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and Privileges of the Regional Legislative Assembly, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the ARMM Development Academy, the Regional Budget and Management Office, and Five (5) representatives from the private sector who shall come from the Five Component provinces of the Region.

The Office of the Vice-Governor shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee with the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and Privileges of the Regional Legislative Assembly as co-chairperson and the ARMM Development Academy as vice-chairperson.

The Bureau of Information or Office of the Media Group of the Office of the Regional Governor shall be invited to participate as member of the Merit and Achievement Committee. This Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary to review and improve the award system.

*Sec. 6. Making and Presentation of Award.* - The Regional Governor, on the basis of recommendations received from the Award Manager, shall periodically grant the award to persons and organizations which in the judgment of the Award Manager have substantially benefited the economic or social well-being of the constituents of the Autonomous Region through meritorious and exemplary services and undertakings and which as a consequence are deserving of special recognition.

The conferment of the award shall be made by the Regional Governor personally in accordance with such ceremonies as may be prescribed by the rules and regulations to be promulgated hereinafter.

A person, institution or an organization to which an award is granted, and which agrees to help other institution, person or province, may publicize its receipt of such award and use the award in its promotional activities.

*Sec. 7. The Sharief Kabungsuwan Merit Award for Exemplary Performance* - This Award shall be conferred annually to qualified persons or organization in the private and public sectors which have demonstrated the highest level of performance, excellence, and humanitarian services for the benefit of the Autonomous Region. The person or institution should have demonstrated exemplary excellence by which it serves as a regional model.

Sec. 8. *Recognition Levels.* - Three (3) levels of recognition shall likewise be conferred annually to person or institution in the private and public sectors that applied for but failed to qualify for the Sharief Kabungsuwan Award while achieving some degree of superior performance, namely:

(1) *Recognition for Educational Merit Award or Sharief Ul-Makhdum Award*

The person or institution should have demonstrated, through its efforts, endeavor or undertakings and achievements, superior results clearly linked to the educational system of the Region. He or She should exhibit practices, which other persons can learn from and should serve as role model for other in the region.

(2) *Recognition for Proficiency in Governance or Sharief Ul-Hashim Award*

The person or individuals should have demonstrated, through implementation of exemplary effort or services or have undertake significant progress in building sound, dynamic and notable processes in the field of administrative and good governance. It should have a documented and solid approach to such Endeavour and has been implementing such practices in the improvement of local development plans and procedures in governance.

(3) *Recognition for Commitment to Peace and Order, and extraordinary performance of Bravery or Sultan Qudarat Award*

The person, individuals or institution should have demonstrated its serious commitment to peace and order, have set exemplary performance of bravery. It should have planted the standards and seeds of quality service and is working towards reaping long term benefits of its efforts.

Sec. 9. *Eligibility Categories for the Grant of the Award.* - Awards shall be made to qualifying persons, individuals and institutions in each of the following categories:

- (a) Members of the Academe including the Ulama and Islamic Teachers
- (b) Those in the Business and Labor Sector
- (c) Military personnel and other law enforcement personnel;
- (d) Agricultural and industrial persons and individuals that provides interest for economy and investments
- (e) Offices, agencies, bureaus of the Regional Government, and any of its subdivisions, including government-owned and -controlled corporations and local government units and other institutions and individuals in the country.

The Committee may at any time expand, subdivide, or otherwise modify the list of categories above enumerated and may establish separate awards for other organizations upon a determination that the objectives of this Act would be better served thereby; except that any such expansion, subdivision, modification, or establishment shall not be effective unless and until thirty (30) days after the Committee has published a detailed description thereof.

The ARMM Regional Merit and Achievement Award for performance Excellence shall be given to all applicant organizations that garnered the qualifying conditions per year. No award shall be granted within any of the four levels if there is no person, individuals or institution qualifying in that level.

Sec. 10. *Criteria for Qualification.* – A person, individual or institution may qualify for an award under this Act only if it:

- (a) Prepares an application and submits this to the Award Manager
- (b) Permits a rigorous evaluation of the means in which its efforts, endeavors, and undertakings contributed to welfare and betterment of the entire Autonomous Region; and
- (C) meets such requirements and specification, as the Committee may deem appropriate.

In applying the provisions of subparagraph (c) with respect to any person, individuals ,organization, the Committee shall rely upon an intensive evaluation by a competent pool of assessors which shall review the evidence provided by the person or institution to be awarded, through an actual ocular visit, verify the accuracy of the evidences claimed. The examinations should encompass all aspects of the criteria of the awards.

Sec. 11. *Award Manager and Award Administrators.* - The Office of the Vice-Governor shall be the Award Manager with the Office of the Chairperson on the Committee on Rules and Privileges as its implementing agency. The Regional Governor shall appoint two (2) administrators representing the public and private sectors from the list of nominees prepared by the Regional Legislative Assembly through the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Privileges. They shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

Sec. 12. *Information and Technology Transfer Program.* - The Committee shall ensure that all award applicants receive the results of evaluation of their application as well as detailed explanations of all suggestions for improvements. The Committee shall disseminate information about the awards and the successful quality improvement strategies of the award-winning organization/s.

Sec. 13. *Funding.* - The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Office of the Regional Governor in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The Committee may recognize and appoint or create a foundation to manage an endowment fund for the Award system which shall be assisted by the Committee in soliciting grants, subsidies, donations or contributions, request for gifts, in cash or in kind, from corporations, trusts, foundations, associations and other sources from any private office, corporation or entity in the Philippines or abroad: *Provided*, That the cash receipts and proceeds from the sale of donated commodities shall be deemed automatically appropriated for purposes specified by the donor.

Sec. 14. *Registration Fees and Charges.* - The Committee may impose Registration fees upon the organizations applying for the award in amounts sufficient to cover the costs of examinations under Section 9 hereof: *Provided*, That said fee shall accrue to the Committee to subsidize its operational expenses.

Sec. 15. *Report.* - The Chairman shall prepare and submit to the Regional Governor and the Regional Legislative Assembly each year, a report on the award activities and the progress of the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Committee shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 18. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.

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

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2013.

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

APPROVED:

**(SGD) MUJIV S. HATAMAN**

Regional Governor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_