and independent provinces to be known as Northern Maguindanao and Southern Maguindanao.

SEC. 3. Composition. — The provinces of Northern Maguindanao and Southern Maguindanao shall be composed of the following municipalities:

(a) Province of Northern Maguindanao

1. Barira;
2. Buldon;
3. Datu Blah Sinsuat;
4. Datu Odin Sinsuat;
5. Kabuntalan;
6. Matanog;
7. Northern Kabuntalan;
8. Parang;
9. North Upi;
10. Sultan Kudarat;
11. Sultan Mastura; and
12. Talitay.

(b) Province of Southern Maguindanao

1. Ampatuan;
2. Buluan;
3. Datu Abdulla Sangki;
4. Datu Anggal Midtimbang;
5. Datu Hoffer Ampatuan;
6. Datu Montawal;
7. Datu Paglas;
8. Datu Piang;

AN ACT DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO INTO TWO (2) PROVINCES, NAMELY: NORTHERN MAGUINDANAO AND SOUTHERN MAGUINDANAO

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Charter of the Provinces of Northern Maguindanao and Southern Maguindanao”.

SECTION 2. Division of the Province of Maguindanao. — The Province of Maguindanao is hereby divided into two (2) distinct
existing administrative supervision over said area or areas until final resolution of the case.

SEC. 5. Capital Towns and Seats of Government. – The capital towns and seats of government of the provinces of Northern Maguindanao and Southern Maguindanao shall be the municipalities of Datu Odin Sinsuat and Buluan, respectively.

SEC. 6. Corporate Powers of the Provinces. – Each province constitutes a political body corporate and as such is endowed with the attributes of perpetual succession and possessed of the powers which pertain to a provincial corporation to be exercised in conformity with the provision of this Charter and Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended. Each province shall have the following corporate powers:

(a) To exercise continuous succession in its corporate name;
(b) To sue and be sued;
(c) To use a corporate seal;
(d) To acquire and convey real or personal property;
(e) To enter into contracts; and
(f) To exercise such other powers granted to corporations, subject to the limitations provided under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and other laws.

SEC. 7. General Powers. – Each province shall have a common seal and may alter the same at its pleasure: Provided, That any change of corporate seal shall be registered with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Each province shall have the power to create its sources of revenue.
and to levy taxes, fees and charges; to close and open roads, streets, alleys, parks, or squares; to take, purchase, receive, hold, lease, convey and dispose of real and personal property for the general interests of the province; to expropriate or condemn private property for public use; to contract and to be contracted with; to sue and be sued; to prosecute and defend to final judgment and execution, suits wherein the province is involved or interested in and to exercise all the powers as are granted to corporations or as hereinafter granted, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended.

SEC. 8. Liability for Damages. — Each province and its officials shall not be exempt from liability for death or injury to persons or damage to property.

SEC. 9. Legislative Districts. — Each province shall have its own legislative district comprising of the municipalities enumerated under Section 3 of this Charter, which shall take effect upon the election and qualification of its representative to be held on the second Monday of May 2022.

For the purpose of this section, the City of Cotabato shall be a part of the Lone Legislative District of the Province of Northern Maguindanao.

The incumbent Representatives of the present Province of Maguindanao shall continue to represent their respective legislative districts until the expiration of their terms of office.

ARTICLE II
PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN GENERAL
sangguniang panlalawigan shall act on the appointments within fifteen (15) days from the day of submission; otherwise, the same shall be deemed confirmed.

SEC. 11. Residence and Office. — The official residence and office of the provincial governor, during the latter's incumbency, shall be in the capital of the province. All elective and appointive provincial officials shall hold office in the provincial capital: Provided, That, upon the resolution of the sangguniang panlalawigan, elective and appointive provincial officials may hold office in any component city or municipality within the province for a period of not more than seven (7) days for any given month.

Elective and appointive provincial officials shall receive such compensation, allowances and other emoluments as may be determined by law or ordinance, subject to the budgetary limitations on personal services prescribed under Section 325 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended: Provided, That no increase in compensation shall take effect until after the expiration of the full term of all the elective officials approving such increase.

ARTICLE III

ELECTIVE PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS

SEC. 12. The Provincial Governor. — (a) The provincial governor, as the chief executive of the provincial government, shall exercise such powers and perform such duties and functions as provided under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and other laws.

(b) For efficient, effective and economical governance, the purpose of which is the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, the provincial governor shall:

(i) Exercise general supervision and control over all programs, projects, services and activities of the provincial government and, in this connection, shall:

(ii) Determine the guidelines of provincial policies and be responsible to the sangguniang panlalawigan for the program of government;

(iii) Direct the formulation of the provincial development plan, with the assistance of the provincial development council, and upon approval thereof by the sangguniang panlalawigan, implement the same;

(iv) Present the program of government and propose policies and projects for the consideration of the sangguniang panlalawigan at the opening of the regular session of the sangguniang panlalawigan every calendar year and as often as may be deemed necessary as the general welfare of the inhabitants and the needs of the provincial government may require;

(v) Initiate and propose legislative measures to the sangguniang panlalawigan and, as often as may be deemed necessary, provide such information and data needed or requested in the performance of its legislative functions;

(vi) Appoint all officials and employees whose salaries and wages are wholly or mainly paid out of provincial funds and whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in this Act, as well as
those that the provincial governor may be authorized by law to
appoint;
(vi) Represent the province in all its business transactions,
and sign in its behalf all bonds, contracts and obligations, and
such other documents upon the authority of the sangguniang
panlalawigan or pursuant to law or ordinance;
(vii) Carry out such emergency measures as may be
necessary during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural
disasters and calamities;
(viii) Determine the time, manner and place of payment of
salaries or wages of the provincial officials and employees, in
accordance with law or ordinance;
(ix) Allocate and assign office space to the provincial and
other officials and employees who, by law or ordinance, are entitled
to such space in the provincial capital and other buildings owned
or leased by the provincial government;
(x) Ensure that all executive officials and employees of
the province faithfully discharge their duties and functions as
provided for by law and the Local Government Code of 1991,
as amended, and cause to be instituted administrative or judicial
proceedings against any official or employee of the province who may
have committed an offense in the performance of official duties;
(xi) Examine the books, records and other documents of all
offices, officials, agents or employees of the province and, in aid of
executive powers and authority, require all national officials and
employees stationed in the province to make available such books,
records and other documents in their custody, except those classified
by law as confidential;
(xii) Furnish copies of executive orders issued by the
governor to the Office of the President within seventy-two (72)
hours after their issuance;
(xiii) Visit component cities and municipalities of the province
at least once every six (6) months to deepen the governor's
understanding of problems and conditions, listen and give
appropriate counsel to local officials and inhabitants, inform the
officials and inhabitants of component cities and municipalities of
general laws and ordinances which especially concern them, and
otherwise conduct visits and inspections to ensure that the
governance of the province will improve the quality of life of the
inhabitants;
(xiv) Act on leave applications of officials and employees and
the commutation of the monetary value of their leave credits in
accordance with law;
(xv) Authorize official trips of provincial officials and
employees outside the province for a period not exceeding thirty
(30) days;
(xvi) Call upon any national official or employee stationed in
or assigned to the province to advise on matters affecting the
province and to make recommendations thereon; coordinate with the
official or employee in the formulation and implementation of plans,
programs and projects; and, when appropriate, initiate an
administrative or judicial action against a national government
official or employee who may have committed an offense in the
performance of official duties while stationed in or assigned to the province;

(xvi) Authorize payment for medical care, necessary transportation, subsistence, hospital or medical fees of provincial officials and employees who are injured while in the performance of their official duties and functions, subject to the availability of funds;

(xvii) Represent the province in inter-provincial or regional sports councils or committees, and coordinate the efforts of component cities or municipalities in the regional or national palaro or sports development activities;

(xix) Conduct an annual palarong pantalawigan, which shall feature traditional sports and disciplines included in national and international games in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd); and

(xx) Submit to the Office of the President the following reports: an annual report containing a summary of all matters pertinent to the management, administration and development of the province and all information and data relative to its political, social and economic conditions; and supplemental reports when unexpected events and situations arise at any time during the year, particularly when man-made or natural disasters or calamities affect the general welfare of the province, the region or the country in general;

(2) Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the governance of the province and the exercise of the appropriate corporate powers provided under Section 22 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended; implement all approved policies, programs, projects, services and activities of the province; and, in addition to the foregoing, shall:

(i) Ensure that the acts of the component cities and municipalities of the province and of its officials and employees are within the scope of their prescribed powers, duties and functions;

(ii) Call conventions, conferences, seminars or meetings of elective and appointive officials of the province and its component cities and municipalities, including national officials and employees stationed in or assigned to the province, at such time and place and on such subject as may be deemed important for the promotion of the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants;

(iii) Issue such executive orders for the faithful and appropriate enforcement and execution of laws and ordinances;

(iv) Be entitled to carry the necessary firearm within the territorial jurisdiction of the province;

(v) In coordination with the mayors of component cities and municipalities and the National Police Commission, formulate the peace and order plan of the province and upon its approval, implement the same in accordance with Republic Act No. 6975, as amended, otherwise known as the “Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990”; and

(vi) Call upon the appropriate national law enforcement agencies to suppress disorder, riot, lawless violence, rebellion or sedition or to apprehend violators of the law when public interest so requires and when the police forces of the component city or
municipality where the disorder or violation is happening are inadequate to cope with the situation or the violators;

(3) Initiate and maximize the generation of resources and revenues, and apply the same to the implementation of development plans, program objectives and priorities as provided under Section 18 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, particularly those resources and revenues programmed for agro-industrial development and countrywide growth and progress and, relative thereto, shall;

(i) Require each head of an office or department to prepare and submit an estimate of appropriations for the ensuing calendar year, in accordance with the budget preparation process under Title V, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(ii) Prepare and submit to the sangguniang pantalawigan for approval the executive and supplemental budgets of the province for the ensuing calendar year in the manner provided under Title V, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(iii) Ensure that all taxes and other revenues of the province are collected, and provincial funds are applied to the payment of expenses, and obligations of the province are settled, in accordance with law or ordinance;

(iv) Issue licenses and permits and suspend or revoke the same for any violation of the conditions upon which said licenses or permits had been issued, pursuant to law or ordinance;

(v) Adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve land, mineral, marine, forest and other resources of the province, in coordination with the mayors of component cities or municipalities;

(vi) Provide efficient and effective property and supply management in the province; and safeguard the funds, accounts receivables, rights and other properties of the province; and

(vii) Institute or cause to be instituted administrative or judicial proceedings for violations of ordinances in the collection of taxes, fees or charges, and for the recovery of funds and property, and cause the province to be defended against all suits to ensure that its interests, resources and rights shall be adequately protected;

(4) Ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended and, in addition thereto, shall:

(i) Ensure that the construction and repair of roads and highways funded by the national government shall be, as far as practicable, carried out in a spatially contiguous manner and in coordination with the construction and repair of the roads and bridges of the province and of its component cities and municipalities; and

(ii) Coordinate the implementation of technical services by national offices for the province and its component cities and municipalities, including public works and infrastructure programs of the provincial government and its component cities and municipalities; and

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

The provincial governor shall receive a minimum monthly compensation as prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758,

SEC. 13. The Provincial Vice Governor. — (a) The provincial vice governor shall:

(1) Be the presiding officer of the sangguniang panlalawigan and sign all warrants drawn on the provincial treasury for all expenditures appropriated for the operation of the sangguniang panlalawigan;

(2) Subject to civil service law, rules and regulations, appoint all officials and employees of the sangguniang panlalawigan, except those whose manner of appointment is specifically provided for under existing laws;

(3) Assume the office of the provincial governor for the unexpired term of the latter in the event of permanent vacancy as provided under Section 44, Book I of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(4) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the provincial governor in case of temporary vacancy as provided under Section 46, Book I of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended; and

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

(b) The provincial vice governor shall receive a monthly compensation as prescribed under the “Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989”, as amended, and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

ARTICLE IV

THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

SEC. 14. Composition. — (a) The sangguniang panlalawigan, the legislative body of the province, shall be composed of the provincial vice governor as the presiding officer, the regular sangguniang panlalawigan members, the president of the provincial chapter of the liga ng mga barangay, the president of the panlalawigang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan, the president of the provincial federation of sanggunian members of municipalities and component cities, and the sectoral representatives, as members.

(b) In addition thereto, there shall be three (3) sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women’s sector; one (1) from the agricultural or industrial worker sector; and one (1) from other sectors, including the urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, or persons with disability.

(c) The regular members of the sangguniang panlalawigan and the sectoral representatives shall be elected in the manner as may be provided by law, and shall receive a monthly compensation as prescribed under the “Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989”, as amended, and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

SEC. 15. Powers, Duties, Functions and Compensation. —

(a) The sangguniang panlalawigan, as the legislative body of the province, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government
Code of 1991, as amended, and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the province as provided under Section 22 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and shall:

(1) Approve all ordinances and pass resolutions necessary for an efficient and effective provincial government and, in this connection, shall:

(i) Review all ordinances approved by the sanggunians of component cities and municipalities and executive orders issued by the mayors of said component units to determine whether these are within the scope of the prescribed powers of the sanggunion and of the mayor;

(ii) Maintain peace and order by enacting measures to prevent and suppress lawlessness, disorder, riot, violence, rebellion or sedition and impose penalties for the violation of said ordinances;

(iii) Approve ordinances imposing a fine not exceeding Five thousand pesos ($5,000.00) or an imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court, for the violation of a provincial ordinance;

(iv) Adopt measures to protect the inhabitants of the province from the harmful effects of man-made or natural disasters and calamities, and provide relief services and assistance to victims during and in the aftermath of said disasters and calamities, and to facilitate their return to productive livelihood following said events;

(v) Enact ordinances intended to prevent, suppress and impose appropriate penalties for habitual drunkenness in public places, vagrancy, mendicancy, prostitution, the establishment and maintenance of houses of ill repute, gambling and other prohibited games of chance, fraudulent devices and ways to obtain money or property, drug addiction, maintenance of drug dens, drug pushing, juvenile delinquency, the printing, distribution or exhibition of obscene or pornographic materials or publication, and such other activities inimical to the welfare and morals of the inhabitants of the province;

(vi) Protect the environment, and impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger the environment, such as dynamite fishing and other forms of destructive fishing, illegal logging and smuggling of logs, smuggling of natural resources products and of endangered species of flora and fauna, slash-and-burn farming, irresponsible disposal of waste, and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration of eutrophication of rivers and lakes, or of ecological imbalance;

(vii) Subject to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and other pertinent laws, determine the powers and duties of officials and employees of the province;

(viii) Determine the positions and salaries, wages, allowances and other emoluments and benefits of officials and employees paid wholly or mainly from provincial funds and provide for expenditures necessary for the proper conduct of programs, projects, services and activities of the provincial government;

(ix) Authorize the payment of compensation to a qualified person not in the government service who fills in a temporary vacancy or grant honorarium to any qualified official or employee
designated to fill a temporary vacancy in a concurrent capacity at the rate authorized by law;

(x) Provide a mechanism and the appropriate funds therefore to ensure the safety and protection of all provincial government property, public documents or records such as those relating to property inventory, land ownership, records of births, marriages, deaths, assessments, taxation, accounts, business permits, and such other records and documents of public interest in the offices and departments of the provincial government; and

(xi) When the finances of the provincial government allow, provide for additional allowances and other benefits to judges, prosecutors, public elementary and high school teachers, and other national government officials stationed or assigned to the province;

(2) Generate and maximize the use of resources and revenues for the development plans, program objectives and priorities of the province as provided under Section 18 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, with particular attention to agro-industrial development and countryside growth and progress and, relative thereto, shall:

(i) Enact the annual and supplemental appropriations of the provincial government and appropriate funds for specific programs, projects, services and activities of the province, or for other purposes not contrary to law, in order to promote the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants;

(ii) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, applicable laws and, upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, enact ordinances levying taxes, fees and charges, prescribing the rates thereof for general and specific purposes and granting tax exemptions, incentives or reliefs;

(iii) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, applicable laws and, upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, authorize the provincial governor to negotiate and contract loans and other forms of indebtedness;

(iv) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and applicable laws and, upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, enact ordinances authorizing the floating of bonds or other instruments of indebtedness, for the purpose of raising funds to finance development projects;

(v) Appropriate funds for the construction and maintenance or the rental of buildings for the use of the province and, upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, authorize the provincial governor to lease to private parties such public buildings held in a proprietary capacity, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;

(vi) Prescribe reasonable limits and restraints on the use of property within the jurisdiction of the province;

(vii) Review the comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances of component cities and municipalities and adopt a comprehensive provincial land use plan, subject to existing laws; and
(viii) Adopt measures to enhance the full implementation of the national agrarian reform program in coordination with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

(3) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, grant franchises, approve the issuance of permits or licenses, or enact ordinances levying taxes, fees and charges upon such conditions and for such purposes intended to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the province and, pursuant to its legislative authority, shall:

(i) Fix and impose reasonable fees and charges for all services rendered by the provincial government to private persons or entities; and

(ii) Regulate and fix the license fees for such activities as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended.

(4) Approve ordinances which shall ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the basic services and facilities as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and, in addition to said services and facilities, shall:

(i) Adopt measures and safeguards against pollution and for the preservation of the natural ecosystem in the province, including the proper collection and disposal of waste, in consonance with approved standards on human settlements and environmental sanitation;

(ii) Subject to applicable laws, facilitate or provide for the establishment and maintenance of a waterworks system or district waterworks for supplying water to inhabitants of component cities and municipalities;

(ii) Subject to the availability of funds and to existing laws, rules and regulations, provide for the establishment and operation of vocational and technical schools and similar post-secondary institutions and, with the approval of the DepEd and subject to existing laws on tuition fees, fix reasonable tuition fees and other school charges in educational institutions supported by the provincial government;

(iv) Establish a scholarship fund for the poor but deserving students in schools located within its jurisdiction or of students residing within the province;

(v) Approve measures and adopt quarantine regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases within its territorial jurisdiction;

(vi) Provide for the care of paupers, the aged, the sick, persons of unsound mind, abandoned minors, abused children, disabled persons, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, and other needy and disadvantaged persons, particularly children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age; subject to the availability of funds, establish and support the operation of centers and facilities for said needy and disadvantaged persons; and facilitate the efforts to promote the welfare of families below the poverty threshold, the disadvantaged and the exploited;

(vii) Establish and provide for the maintenance and improvement of jails and detention centers, institute a sound
jail management program and appropriate funds for the subsistence
of detainees and convicted prisoners in the province;

(viii) Establish a provincial council whose purpose is the
promotion of culture and the arts, coordinate with government
agencies and nongovernmental organizations and, subject to the
availability of funds, appropriate funds for the support and
development of the same; and

(ix) Establish a provincial council for the elderly which
shall formulate policies and adopt measures mutually beneficial
to the elderly and to the province; subject to the availability of
funds, appropriate funds to support programs and projects for
the elderly; and provide incentives for nongovernmental agencies
and entities that shall implement programs and projects for the
elderly; and

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform such other
duties and functions as provided for under the Local Government
Code of 1991, as amended, and as may be prescribed by law or
ordinance.

ARTICLE V

PROCESS OF LEGISLATION

SEC. 16. Internal Rules of Procedure. — (a) On the first
regular session following the election of its members and within
ninety (90) days thereafter, the sangguniang pantalawigan shall
adopt or update its existing rules of procedure.

(b) The rules of procedure shall provide for the following:

(1) The organization of the sanggunian and the election of
its officers as well as the creation of standing committees which
shall include the committees on appropriations, women and
family, human rights, youth and sports development, environmental
protection, peace and order, and cooperatives; the general
jurisdiction of each committee; and the election of the chairman and
members of each committee;

(2) The order and calendar of business for each session;

(3) The legislative process;

(4) The parliamentary procedures which include the conduct
of members during sessions;

(5) The discipline of members on account of disorderly
behavior and absences without justifiable cause for four (4)
consecutive sessions for which they may be censured, reprimanded
or excluded from the session, or suspended for not more than
sixty (60) days, or expelled: Provided, That the penalty of
suspension or expulsion shall require the concurrence of at least
two-thirds (2/3) of all the sanggunian members: Provided, further,
That a member convicted by final judgment to imprisonment
of at least one (1) year for any crime involving moral turpitude
shall be automatically expelled from the sanggunian; and

(6) Such other rules as the sanggunian may adopt.

SEC. 17. Full Disclosure of Financial and Business Interests
of Sangguniang Pantalawigan Members. — (a) Every sangguniang
pantalawigan member shall, upon assumption to office, make a
full disclosure of business and financial interests. The member
shall also disclose any business, financial, professional
relationship or any relation by affinity or consanguinity within
the fourth civil degree, with any person, firm or entity affected
by any ordinance or resolution under consideration by the
sanggunian of which one is a member, which relationship may
result in conflict of interest. Such relationship shall include:

(1) Ownership of stocks or capital, or investment in the
entity or firm to which the ordinance or resolution may apply; and

(2) Contracts or agreement with any person or entity which
the ordinance or resolution under consideration may affect.

In the absence of a specific constitutional or statutory
 provision applicable to this situation, “conflict of interest” refers
in general to a situation where it may be reasonably deduced
that a member of a sangguniang pantalawigan may not be able
to act in the public interest due to some private, pecuniary or
other personal considerations that tend to affect the member’s
judgment to the prejudice of the service or the public.

(b) The above disclosure required under this Act shall be
made in writing and submitted to the secretary of the
sanggunian or the secretary of the committee of membership
of the sanggunian member. The disclosure shall, in all cases,
form part of the record of the proceedings of the meetings and
shall be made in the following manner:

(1) Disclosure shall be made before the member participates
in the deliberations on the ordinance or resolution under
consideration: Provided, That if the member did not participate
during the deliberations, the disclosure shall be made before
voting on the ordinance or resolution on second and third
readings; and

(2) Disclosure shall be made when a member takes a
position or makes a privilege speech on a matter that may
affect the business interest, financial connection or professional
relationship described herein.

SEC. 18. Sessions. — (a) On the first day of session
immediately following the election of its members, the sangguniang
pantalawigan shall, by resolution, fix the day, time and place
of its regular sessions. The minimum number of regular sessions
of the sangguniang pantalawigan shall be once a week.

(b) When the public interest so demands, special sessions
may be called by the provincial governor or by a majority of the
members of the sanggunian.

(c) All sanggunian sessions shall be open to the public
unless a closed-door session is ordered by an affirmative vote
of a majority of the members present, there being a quorum,
in the public interest or for reasons of security, decency or
morality. No two (2) sessions, regular or special, may be held
in a single day.

(d) In the case of special sessions of the sanggunian,
a written notice to the members shall be served personally
at the members’ usual place of residence at least twenty-four (24)
hours before the special session is held.

Unless otherwise concurred in by two-thirds (2/3) vote of
the sanggunian members present, there being a quorum, no other
matters may be considered at a special session except those
stated in the notice.
(e) The _sanggunian_ shall keep a journal and a record of its proceedings which may be published upon resolution of the _sangguniang panlalawigan_.

SEC. 19. Quorum. — (a) A majority of all the members of the _sanggunian_ who have been elected and qualified shall constitute a quorum to transact official business. Should a question of quorum be raised during the session, the presiding officer shall immediately proceed to call the roll of the members and thereafter announce the results.

(b) Where there is no quorum, the presiding officer may declare a recess until such time a quorum is constituted, or a majority of the members present may adjourn from day to day and may compel the immediate attendance of any member absent without justifiable cause by designating a member of the _sanggunian_, to be assisted by a member or members of the police force assigned in the territorial jurisdiction of the province, to arrest the absent member and present the same at the session.

(c) If there is still no quorum despite the enforcement of the immediately preceding subsection, no business shall be transacted. The presiding officer, upon proper motion duly approved by the members present, shall then declare the session adjourned for lack of quorum.

SEC. 20. Approval of Ordinances. — (a) Every ordinance enacted by the _sangguniang panlalawigan_ shall be presented to the provincial governor. The provincial governor shall sign each and every page of the ordinance to signify approval of the same; otherwise, the provincial governor shall veto it and return the same stating therein the reasons for such objection. Thereafter, the _sanggunian_ may proceed to reconsider the same. The _sanggunian_ may override the veto of the provincial governor by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its members, thereby making the ordinance or resolution effective for all legal intents and purposes.

(b) The veto shall be communicated by the provincial governor to the _sangguniang panlalawigan_ within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the ordinance; otherwise, the ordinance shall be deemed approved as if the provincial governor had signed it.

SEC. 21. Veto Power of the Provincial Governor. — (a) The provincial governor may veto any ordinance of the _sangguniang panlalawigan_ on the ground that it is prejudicial to the public welfare, and return the same stating therein the reasons for the disapproval.

(b) The provincial governor shall have the power to veto any particular item or items of an appropriation ordinance, an ordinance or resolution adopting a local development plan and public investment program or an ordinance directing the payment of money or creating liability. In such case, the veto shall not affect the item or items which are not objected to. The vetoed item or items shall not take effect unless the _sangguniang panlalawigan_ overrides the veto in the manner herein provided; otherwise, the item or items in the appropriations ordinance of the previous year corresponding to those vetoed, if any, shall be deemed reenacted.
(c) The provincial governor may veto an ordinance or resolution only once. The sanggunian may override the veto of the provincial governor by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its members, thereby making the ordinance effective even without the approval of the provincial governor.

ARTICLE VI

SUCCESSION FOR ELECTIVE PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS

SEC. 22. Permanent Vacancy in the Office of the Provincial Governor. — (a) If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the provincial governor, the provincial vice governor shall become the provincial governor or, in case of permanent inability, the highest ranking sangguniang pambayan member shall become the provincial governor. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the provincial vice governor, the highest ranking sangguniang pambayan member shall become the provincial vice governor or, in case of permanent inability, the highest ranking sangguniang pambayan member shall become the provincial vice governor. Subsequent vacancies shall be filled automatically by other sanggunian members according to their ranking as defined herein:

(1) For purposes of this Act, a permanent vacancy arises when an elective official fills a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, dies, is removed from office, voluntarily resigns or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of the office;

(2) For purposes of this Act, a permanent vacancy arises when an elective official fills a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, dies, is removed from office, voluntarily resigns or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of the office;

(3) A tie between or among the highest ranking sangguniang pambayan members shall be resolved by drawing of lots;

(4) The successors as defined herein shall serve only the unexpired terms of the predecessors; and

(5) For purposes of succession as provided for in this Act, ranking in the sangguniang pambayan shall be determined on the basis of the proportion of votes obtained by each winning candidate to the total number of registered voters in the province in the immediately preceding local elections.

SEC. 23. Permanent Vacancies in the Sangguniang Pambayan. — (a) Permanent vacancies in the sangguniang pambayan where automatic succession as provided for in this Act does not apply shall be filled by appointment by the President, through the Executive Secretary.

(b) Only the nominee of the political party under which the sanggunian member concerned had been elected and whose elevation to the position next higher in rank created the last vacancy in the sanggunian shall be appointed in the manner herein provided. The appointee shall come from the same political party as that of the sanggunian member who caused the vacancy and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacant office.

In the appointment herein mentioned, a nomination and a certificate of membership of the appointee from the highest official of the political party concerned are conditions
sine qua non, and any appointment without such nomination and certification shall be null and void ab initio and shall be a ground for administrative action against the official responsible therefor.

(c) In case the permanent vacancy is caused by a sanggunian member who does not belong to any political party, the provincial governor shall, upon recommendation of the sangguniang panlalawigan, appoint a qualified person to fill in the vacancy.

(d) In case of vacancy in the representation of the sangguniang kabataan, the sangguniang barangay and the provincial league of councilors in the sangguniang panlalawigan, said vacancy shall be filled in automatically by the next-in-rank official of the organization concerned.

SEC. 24. Temporary Vacancy in the Office of the Provincial Governor. — (a) When the provincial governor is temporarily incapacitated to perform the duties for physical or legal reasons such as leave of absence, travel abroad and suspension from office, the provincial vice governor shall automatically exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the provincial governor, except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees which can only be exercised if the period of temporary incapacity exceeds thirty (30) working days.

(b) Said temporary incapacity shall terminate upon submission to the sangguniang panlalawigan of a written declaration by the provincial governor of having reported back to office. In case where the temporary incapacity is due to legal cause, the provincial governor shall also submit the necessary documents showing that the legal cause no longer exists.

(c) When the provincial governor is traveling within the country but outside the territorial jurisdiction for a period not exceeding three (3) consecutive days, the same may designate in writing the officer-in-charge of the office. Such authorization shall specify the powers and functions that the local official concerned shall exercise in the absence of the provincial governor, except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees.

(d) In the event, however, that the provincial governor fails or refuses to issue such authorization, the provincial vice governor shall have the right to assume the powers, duties and functions of the said office on the fourth (4th) day of absence of the provincial governor, subject to the limitations provided for in subsection (c) hereof.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (c) hereof, the provincial governor shall, in no case, authorize any local official to assume the powers, duties and functions of the office other than the provincial vice governor.

ARTICLE VII
APPOINTED PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS:
THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES

SEC. 25. The Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. —

(a) There shall be a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan
who shall be a career official with the rank and salary equal to a
head of a department or office.

(b) The secretary to the sanggunian must be a citizen of
the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character,
a holder of a college degree preferably in law, commerce or
public administration from a recognized college or university,
and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent.

The appointment of the secretary to the sanggunian is
mandatory.

(c) The secretary to the sanggunian shall take charge of the
office of the sangguniang pantalanawigan, and pursuant thereto,
perform the following:

(1) Attend meetings of the sanggunian and keep a journal of
its proceedings;

(2) Keep the seal of the province and affix the same on all
ordinances, resolutions and other official papers of the
sanggunian, duly signing them before presenting the same to the
presiding officer for the latter's signature;

(3) Forward to the provincial governor, for approval, copies of
ordinances enacted by the sanggunian and duly certified by the
presiding officer, in the manner provided under Section 54 of the
Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(4) Forward to the sangguniang bayan or sangguniang
panlungsod, as the case may be, copies of duly approved ordinances
in the manner provided under Sections 56 and 57 of the Local

(5) Furnish, upon the request of any interested party,
certified copies of records of public character in the secretary's
custody, upon payment to the treasurer of such fees as may be
prescribed by ordinance;

(6) Record in a book kept for the purpose, all ordinances
and resolutions enacted or adopted by the sanggunian, with the
dates of passage and publication thereof;

(7) Keep the office and all nonconfidential records therein
open to the public during usual business hours;

(8) Translate into the dialect used by the majority of the
inhabitants, all ordinances and resolutions immediately after
their approval, and cause the publication of the same together
with the original version in the manner provided under the Local
Government Code of 1991, as amended; and

(9) Take custody of the local archives and, where applicable,
the local library and annually account for the same.

(d) Exercise such powers and perform other duties and
functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance relative to
his or her position.

SEC. 26. The Provincial Treasurer. — (a) The provincial
treasurer shall be appointed by the Secretary of Finance from
a list of at least three (3) ranking eligible recommendees of
the provincial governor, subject to civil service law, rules and
regulations.

The appointment of the provincial treasurer is mandatory.

(b) The provincial treasurer must be a citizen of the
Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character,
a holder of a college degree preferably in commerce, public
administration or law from a recognized college or university,
a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and must
have acquired at least five (5) years experience in treasury or
accounting service.

(c) The provincial treasurer shall be under the administrative
supervision of the provincial governor and shall regularly report
to the provincial governor on the tax collection efforts in the
province.

(d) The provincial treasurer shall take charge of the
treasury office, and perform the duties as provided under Book II
of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and shall:
(1) Advise the provincial governor or the sanggunian,
as the case may be, and other local government and national officials
concerned regarding disposition of local government funds and on
such other matters relative to public finance;
(2) Take custody of and exercise proper management of the
funds of the local government unit concerned;
(3) Take charge of the disbursement of all local government
funds and such other funds, the custody of which may be
entrusted to by law or other competent authority;
(4) Inspect private commercial and industrial establishments
within the jurisdiction of the province in relation to the
implementation of tax ordinances, pursuant to the provisions
under Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
(5) Maintain and update the tax information system of the
local government unit; and

(6) Exercise technical supervision over all treasury offices
of component cities and municipalities.
(e) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties
and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 27. The Provincial Assessor. — (a) The provincial assessor
must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province,
of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably
in civil or mechanical engineering, commerce or any other
related course from a recognized college or university, a duly
registered and licensed real estate service practitioner as
provided under Section 30 of Republic Act No. 9646,
otherwise known as the “Real Estate Service Act of the Philippines”,
a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and must have
acquired at least five (5) years experience in real property
assessment work or in any related field.
The appointment of the provincial assessor is mandatory.
(b) The provincial assessor shall take charge of the
assessor’s office and perform the duties as provided under Book II
of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and shall:
(1) Ensure that all laws and policies governing the appraisal
and assessment of real properties for taxation purposes are properly
executed;
(2) Initiate, review and recommend changes in policies and
objectives, plans and programs, techniques, procedures and practices
in the valuation and assessment of real properties for taxation
purposes;
(3) Establish a systematic method of real property assessment;
(4) Install and maintain a real property identification and accounting system;
(5) Prepare, install and maintain a system of tax mapping, showing graphically all properties subject to assessment and gather all data concerning the same;
(6) Conduct frequent physical surveys to verify and determine whether all real properties within the province are properly listed in the assessment rolls;
(7) Exercise the functions of appraisal and assessment primarily for taxation purposes of all real properties in the province;
(8) Prepare a schedule of the fair market value for the different classes of real properties in accordance with Title II, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
(9) Issue, upon request of any interested party, certified copies of assessment records of real properties and all other records relative to its assessment, upon payment of a service charge or fee to the provincial treasurer;
(10) Submit every semester a report of all assessments, as well as cancellations and modifications of assessments to the provincial governor and the sangguniang panlalawigan; and
(11) Exercise technical supervision and visitatorial functions over all component city and municipal assessors, coordinate with component city or municipal assessors in the conduct of tax mapping operations and all other assessment activities, and provide all forms of assistance therefor: Provided, however,

That, upon full provision by the component city or municipality concerned to its assessor’s office of the minimum personnel, equipment and funding requirements as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Finance, such functions shall be delegated to the said municipal assessor.

(c) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 28. The Provincial Accountant. – (a) The provincial accountant must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a certified public accountant and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in the treasury or accounting service.

The appointment of a provincial accountant is mandatory.

(b) The provincial accountant shall take charge of both the accounting and internal audit services of the province, and shall:

(1) Install and maintain an internal audit system in the province;
(2) Prepare and submit financial statements to the provincial governor and to the sangguniang panlalawigan;
(3) Apprise the sanggunian and other local government officials on the financial condition and operations of the provincial government;
(4) Certify to the availability of budgetary allotment from which expenditures and obligations may be properly charged;
(5) Review supporting documents before the preparation of vouchers to determine completeness of requirements;
(6) Prepare statements of cash advances, liquidations, salaries, allowances, reimbursements and remittances pertaining to the provincial government;
(7) Prepare statements of journal vouchers and liquidations of the same and other adjustments related thereto;
(8) Post individual disbursements to subsidiary ledgers and index cards;
(9) Maintain individual ledgers for officials and employees of the provincial government pertaining to payrolls and deductions;
(10) Record and post in index cards details of purchased furniture, fixtures and equipment, including disposal thereof, if any;
(11) Account for all issued requests for obligations and maintain and keep all records and reports related thereto; and
(12) Prepare journals and the analysis of obligations and maintain and keep all records and reports related thereto.
(c) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be provided by law or ordinance.

SEC. 29. The Provincial Budget Officer. — (a) The provincial budget officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in accounting, economics, public administration or any related course from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in government budgeting or in any related field.

The appointment of the provincial budget officer is mandatory.

(b) The provincial budget officer shall take charge of the budget office, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:
(1) Prepare forms, orders and circulars embodying instructions on budgetary and appropriation matters for the signature of the provincial governor;
(2) Review and consolidate the budget proposals of different departments and offices of the province;
(3) Assist the provincial governor in the preparation of the budget and during the budget hearings;
(4) Study and evaluate budgetary implications of proposed legislation and submit comments and recommendations thereon;
(5) Submit periodic budgetary reports to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
(6) Coordinate with the provincial treasurer, the provincial accountant and the provincial planning and development coordinator for the purpose of budgeting;
(7) Assist the sangguniang pampalawigan in reviewing the approved budgets of the component cities and municipalities; and
(8) Coordinate with the provincial planning and development coordinator in the formulation of the provincial development plan.
(c) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.
(d) The appropriations for personal services of the provincial budget officer provided under the DBM shall, upon the effectivity of this Charter, be transferred to the new province. Thereafter, the appropriations for personal services of the budget
officer shall be provided in full in the budget of the local government unit.

SEC. 30. The Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator.—(a) The provincial planning and development coordinator must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in urban planning, development studies, economics, public administration or in any related course from a recognized college or university, a duly registered and licensed environmental planner, as provided under Section 34 of Republic Act No. 10587 or the “Environmental Planning Act of 2013”, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in development planning or in any related field.

The appointment of a provincial planning and development coordinator is mandatory.

(b) The provincial planning and development coordinator shall take charge of the planning and development office, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(1) Formulate integrated economic, social, physical and other development plans and policies for consideration of the local government development council;

(2) Conduct continuing studies, research and training programs necessary to evolve plans and programs for implementation;

(3) Integrate and coordinate all sectoral plans and studies undertaken by the different functional groups and agencies;

(4) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the different development programs, projects and activities in the province in accordance with the approved development plan;

(5) Prepare comprehensive plans and other development planning documents for the consideration of the provincial development council;

(6) Analyze the income and expenditure patterns, and formulate and recommend fiscal plans and policies for the consideration of the finance committee of the province as provided under Title V, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(7) Promote people’s participation in development planning within the province; and

(8) Exercise supervision and control over the secretariat of the provincial development council.

(c) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 31. The Provincial Engineer.—(a) The provincial engineer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a licensed civil engineer and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in the practice of the civil engineering profession.

The appointment of the provincial engineer is mandatory.

(b) The provincial engineer shall take charge of the engineering office, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(1) Initiate, review and recommend changes in policies and objectives, plans and programs, techniques, procedures and practices
in infrastructure development and public works in general, of the province;

(2) Advise the provincial governor on infrastructure, public works and other engineering matters;

(3) Administer, coordinate, supervise and control the construction, maintenance, improvement and repair of roads, bridges and other engineering and public works projects of the province;

(4) Provide engineering services to the province, including investigations and surveys, engineering designs, feasibility studies and project management; and

(5) Exercise technical supervision over all engineering offices of the component cities and municipalities.

c Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 32. The Provincial Health Officer. — (a) The provincial health officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a licensed medical practitioner and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in the practice of the medical profession.

The appointment of a provincial health officer is mandatory.

(b) The provincial health officer shall perform the following duties and functions:

(1) Formulate and implement policies, plans, programs and projects to promote the health of the people of the province;

(2) Advise the provincial governor and the sanggunian on matters pertaining to health;

(3) Execute and enforce all laws, ordinances and regulations relating to public health;

(4) Recommend to the sanggunian, through the provincial health board, the passage of such ordinances as he or she may deem necessary for the preservation of public health;

(5) Recommend the prosecution of any violation of sanitary laws, ordinances and regulations;

(6) Direct the sanitary inspection of all business establishments selling food items or providing accommodations, such as hotels, motels, lodging houses, pension houses and the like, in accordance with the Sanitation Code of the Philippines;

(7) Conduct health information campaigns and render health intelligence services;

(8) Coordinate with other government agencies and nongovernmental organizations involved in the promotion and delivery of health services;

(9) Exercise general supervision over health offices of component cities and municipalities;

(10) Be in the frontline of the delivery of health services, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or calamities; and

(11) The provincial health officer shall take charge of the office on health services, and shall:

(i) Supervise the personnel and staff of the said office, formulate program implementation guidelines and rules and regulations for the operation of the said office for the approval of the provincial governor in order to assist the latter in the
efficient, effective and economical implementation of health
services programs geared to the implementation of health-related
projects and activities;
(ii) Formulate measures for the consideration of the
sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the
provincial governor in carrying out activities to ensure the delivery
of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities relative
to health services as provided under Section 17 of the Local
Government Code of 1991, as amended; and
(iii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof
by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those
which have to do with health programs and projects which the
provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the
sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government
(12) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and
functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.
SEC. 33. The Provincial Administrator. — (a) The provincial
administrator must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of
the province, of good moral character, a holder of a college
degree preferably in public administration, law or any related course
from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service
eligible or its equivalent and must have acquired at least
five (5) years experience in management and administration work.
The term of the provincial administrator is coterminous with
that of the appointing authority.

(b) The provincial administrator shall take charge of the office
of the administrator, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:
(1) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof
by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those
which have to do with the management and administration-related
programs and projects which the provincial governor is empowered
to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide
under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
(2) Assist in the coordination of work of all officials of the
province under the supervision, direction and control of the
provincial governor and, for this purpose, may convene the chiefs of
offices and other officials of the province;
(3) Establish and maintain a sound personnel program for the
province designed to promote career development and uphold the
merit system in the province;
(4) Conduct a continuing organizational development of the
province with the end in view of instituting effective administrative
reforms;
(5) Be in the frontline of the delivery of administrative
support services, particularly those related to the situations during
and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and
calamities;
(6) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial
governor on all other matters relative to the management and
administration of the province; and
(7) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 34. The Provincial Legal Officer. — (a) The provincial legal officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a member of the Philippine Bar and must have practiced for at least five (5) years the law profession.

The term of the provincial legal officer shall be coterminous with that of the appointing authority.

The appointment of the provincial legal officer is mandatory.

(b) The provincial legal officer, as the chief legal counsel of the province, shall take charge of the office for legal services, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian and provide legal assistance and support to the provincial governor in carrying out the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the programs and projects related to legal services which the provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(3) Represent the province in all civil actions and special proceedings wherein the province or any official thereof, in their official capacity, is a party: Provided, That actions or proceedings where a component city or municipality is a party adverse to the provincial government or to another component city or municipality, a special legal officer may be employed to represent the adverse party;

(4) When required by the provincial governor or the sanggunian, draft ordinances, contracts, bonds, leases and other instruments, involving any interest of the province and provide comments and recommendations on any instrument already drawn;

(5) Render an opinion in writing on any question of law when requested to do so by the provincial governor or the sanggunian;

(6) Investigate or cause to be investigated any provincial official or employee for administrative neglect or misconduct in office and recommend appropriate action to the provincial governor, or the sangguniang panlaban;

(7) Investigate or cause to be investigated any person, firm or corporation holding any franchise or exercising any public privilege for failure to comply with any term or condition in the grant of such franchise or privilege, and recommend appropriate action to the provincial governor or the sanggunian;

(8) When directed by the provincial governor or the sanggunian, initiate and prosecute, in the interest of the province, any civil action on any bond, lease or other contract upon any breach or violation thereof;

(9) Review and submit recommendations on ordinances approved and executive orders issued by the component cities and municipalities;
(10) Recommend measures to the sangguniang pantalawigan and advise the provincial governor on all other matters related to upholding the rule of law;

(11) Be in the frontline of protecting human rights and prosecuting any violation thereof, particularly those which occur during and in the aftermath of man-made or natural disasters and calamities; and

(12) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 35. The Provincial Agriculturist. — (a) The provincial agriculturist must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in agriculture or in any related course from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and must have practiced for at least five (5) years the agriculturist profession or acquired experience in a related field.

The appointment of the provincial agriculturist is mandatory.

(b) The provincial agriculturist shall:

(1) Take charge of the office for agricultural services, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(i) Formulate measures for the approval of the sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the provincial governor in carrying out said measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities relative to agricultural services as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with agricultural programs and projects which the provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Ensure that maximum assistance and access to resources in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural, aqua-cultural and marine products are extended to farmers, fishermen and local entrepreneurs;

(3) Conduct or cause to be conducted location-specific agricultural researches and assist in making available the appropriate technology arising out of and disseminating information on basic research on crops, preventive control of plant diseases and pests, and other agricultural matters which will maximize productivity;

(4) Assist the provincial governor in the establishment and extension services of demonstration farms on aquaculture and marine products;

(5) Enforce rules and regulations relating to agriculture and aquaculture;

(6) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations which promote agricultural productivity through appropriate technology compatible with environmental integrity;

(7) Be in the frontline of the delivery of basic agricultural services, particularly those needed for the survival of the inhabitants during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural
disasters or calamities;
(8) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial governor on all matters related to agriculture and aquaculture which will improve the livelihood and living conditions of the inhabitants; and
(9) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 36. The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer. — (a) The provincial social welfare and development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a duly licensed social worker, or a holder of a college degree preferably in sociology or in any related course from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and must have acquired experience for at least five (5) years in the practice of social work.

The appointment of a provincial social welfare and development officer is mandatory.

(b) The provincial social welfare and development officer shall take charge of the office for social welfare and development services, and shall perform the following functions:
(1) Formulate measures for the approval of the sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities relative to social welfare and development services as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with social welfare programs and projects which the provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
(3) Identify the basic needs of the needy, the disadvantaged and the impoverished and develop and implement appropriate measures to alleviate their problems and improve their living conditions;
(4) Provide relief and appropriate crisis intervention for victims of abuse and exploitation and recommend appropriate measures to deter further abuse and exploitation;
(5) Assist the provincial governor in implementing the barangay level program for the total development and protection of children up to six (6) years of age;
(6) Facilitate the implementation of welfare programs for the disabled, the elderly and victims of drug addiction, the rehabilitation of prisoners and parolees, the prevention of juvenile delinquency and such other activities which would eliminate or minimize the ill-effects of poverty;
(7) Initiate and support welfare programs that will enhance the role of the youth in nation-building;
(8) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations which have for the purpose the promotion and protection of all the needy, disadvantaged, underprivileged or impoverished groups or individuals, particularly those identified to be vulnerable and high-risk to exploitation, abuse, and neglect;
(9) Be in the frontline of service delivery, particularly those
which have to do with the immediate relief and assistance during
and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or
calamities;

(10) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial
governor on all other matters related to social welfare and
development service which will improve the livelihood and living
conditions of the inhabitants; and

(11) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties
and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 37. The Provincial Veterinarian. — (a) The provincial
veterinarian must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident
of the province, of good moral character, a licensed doctor of
veterinary medicine and must have practiced for at least three (3)
years the veterinary profession.

The appointment of a provincial veterinarian is mandatory.

(b) The provincial veterinarian shall perform the following
duties and functions:

(1) Take charge of the office for veterinary services, and
pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(2) Formulate measures for the consideration of the
sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the
provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the
delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities
pursuant to Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991,
as amended;

(3) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof
by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those
which have to do with veterinary-related activities which the
provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the
sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government
Code of 1991, as amended;

(4) Advise the provincial governor on all matters pertaining
to the slaughter of animals for human consumption and the
regulation of slaughterhouses;

(5) Regulate the keeping of domestic animals;

(6) Regulate and inspect poultry, milk and dairy products for
public consumption;

(7) Enforce all laws and regulations for the prevention of
cruelty to animals;

(8) Take the necessary measures to eradicate, prevent or cure
all forms of animal diseases;

(9) Be in the frontline of veterinary-related activities, such as
in the outbreak of highly contagious and deadly diseases and in
situations resulting in the depletion of animals for work and for
human consumption, particularly those arising from and in the
aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or calamities;

(10) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial
governor on all other matters relative to veterinary services which
will increase the number and improve the quality of livestock,
poultry and other domestic animals used for work or for human
consumption; and

(11) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and
functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 38. The Provincial General Services Officer. — (a) The
provincial general services officer must be a citizen of the
Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a
holder of a college degree in public administration, business
administration or management from a recognized college or
university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent and
must have acquired at least five (5) years experience in general
services, including the management of supply, property, solid waste
disposal and general sanitation.

The appointment of a provincial general services officer is
mandatory.

(b) The provincial general services officer shall perform the
following duties and functions:

(1) Take charge of the office of general services, and pursuant
thereto, perform the following:

(i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the
sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to
the provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the
delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities
pursuant to Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991,
as amended, and which require general services expertise and
technical support services; and

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof
by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those
which have to do with general services supportive to the welfare of
the inhabitants which the provincial governor is empowered to
implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide
under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Take custody of and be accountable for all properties, real
or personal, owned by the provincial government and those granted
to it in the form of donation, reparation, assistance, and counterpart
of joint projects;

(3) With the approval of the provincial governor, assign
building or land space to provincial officials or other public officials
who, by law, are entitled to such space;

(4) Recommend to the provincial governor, the reasonable
rental rates for local government properties, whether real or
personal, which will be leased to public or private entities by the
provincial government;

(5) Recommend to the provincial governor, the reasonable
rental rates of private properties which may be leased for the official
use of the provincial government;

(6) Maintain and supervise janitorial, security, landscaping,
and other related services on all local government public buildings
and other real property, whether owned or leased by the provincial
government;

(7) Collate and disseminate information regarding prices,
shipping and other costs of supplies and other items commonly used
by the provincial government;
(8) Perform archival and record management with respect to records of offices and departments of the province;

(9) Perform all other functions pertaining to supply and property management heretofore performed by the local government treasurer and to enforce policies on records creation, maintenance and disposal;

(10) Be in the frontline of general services-related activities, such as the possible or imminent destruction or damage to records, supplies, properties and structures and the orderly and sanitary clearing up of waste materials or debris, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or calamities;

(11) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial governor on matters relative to general services; and

(12) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 39. The Provincial Architect. — (a) The provincial architect must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a duly licensed architect and must have practiced the architectural profession for at least five (5) years.

The appointment of a provincial architect is optional.

(b) The provincial architect shall perform the following duties and functions:

(i) Take charge of the office for architectural planning and design, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(ii) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities relative to architectural planning and design as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended; and

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with architectural planning and design programs and projects which the provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Prepare and recommend for consideration of the sanggunian the architectural plan and design for the province or a part thereof, including the renewal of slums and blighted areas, land reclamation activities, the greening of land and the appropriate planning of marine and foreshore areas;

(3) Review and recommend for appropriate action of the sanggunian and the provincial governor, the architectural plan and design submitted by governmental and nongovernmental entities or individuals, particularly those for undeveloped, underdeveloped and poorly-designed areas;

(4) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental entities and individuals involved in the aesthetics and the maximum utilization of the land and water within the jurisdiction of the province, compatible with environmental integrity and ecological balance;

(5) Be in the frontline of the delivery of basic services involving architectural planning and design, particularly those related to redesigning of spatial distribution of basic facilities and...
physical structures during and in the aftermath of man-made and
natural disasters and calamities;

(6) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial
governor on all other matters related to architectural
planning and design as it relates to the total socioeconomic
development of the province; and

(7) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and
functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 40. The Provincial Population Officer. — (a) The
provincial population officer must be a citizen of the Philippines,
a resident of the province, of good moral character, a holder of a
college degree with specialized training in population development
from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service
candidate or its equivalent and must have acquired at least
five (5) years experience in the implementation of programs on
population development or responsible parenthood.

The appointment of a provincial population officer is optional.
(b) The provincial population officer shall perform the
following duties and functions:

(1) Take charge of the office for population development, and
pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the
sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the
provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery
of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities relative to
the integration of the population development principles and in
providing access to said services and facilities; and

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof
by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those
which have to do with the integration of population development
principles and methods in programs and projects which the
provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the
sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government
Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Assist the provincial governor in the implementation of the
constitutional provisions relative to population development and the
promotion of responsible parenthood;

(3) Establish and maintain an updated data bank for program
operations, development planning and an educational program to
ensure the people's participation in and undertaking of population
development;

(4) Implement appropriate training programs responsive to
the cultural heritage of the inhabitants; and

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and
functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 41. The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources
Officer. — (a) The provincial environment and natural resources
officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the
province, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree
preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture or any related
course from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil
service candidate or its equivalent and must have acquired at least five
(5) years experience in environmental and natural resources management, conservation and utilization.

The appointment of a provincial environment and natural resources officer is optional.

(b) The provincial environment and natural resources officer shall perform the following duties and functions:

(1) Take charge of the office for environment and natural resources, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities relative to environment and natural resources services as provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended; and

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with environment and natural resources programs and projects which the provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Establish, maintain, protect and preserve communal forests, watersheds, tree parks, mangroves, greenbelts, commercial forests and similar forest projects like industrial tree farms and agro-forestry projects;

(3) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and technical, financial and infrastructure assistance;

(4) Manage and maintain seed banks and produce seedlings for forests and tree parks;

(5) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and render assistance for natural resources-related conservation and utilization activities consistent with ecological balance;

(6) Promote small-scale mining and utilization of mineral resources, particularly the mining of gold;

(7) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the implementation of measures to prevent and control land, air and water pollution with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

(8) Be in the frontline of the delivery of services concerning environment and natural resources, particularly in the renewal and rehabilitation of the environment during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or calamities;

(9) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial governor on all matters relative to the protection, conservation, maximum utilization, application of appropriate technology and other matters related to the environment and natural resources; and

(10) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 42. The Provincial Cooperatives Officer. — (a) The provincial cooperatives officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the province, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in business administration with special training in cooperatives or any related course from a recognized
college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its

equivalent and must have acquired at least five (5) years experience
in cooperatives organization and management.

The appointment of a provincial cooperatives officer is
optional.

(b) The provincial cooperatives officer shall perform the
following duties and functions:

(1) Take charge of the office for the development of
cooperatives, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the
sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the
provincial governor in carrying out measures to ensure the
delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities
through the development of cooperatives, and in providing access
to such services and facilities; and

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof
by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those
which have to do with the integration of cooperatives principles
and methods in programs which the provincial governor is
empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered
to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Assist in the organization of cooperatives;

(3) Provide technical and other forms of assistance to existing
cooperatives to enhance their viability as an economic enterprise
and social organization;

(4) Assist cooperatives in establishing linkages with
government agencies and nongovernmental organizations involved
in the promotion and integration of the concept of cooperatives in the
livelihood of the people and other community activities;

(5) Be in the frontline of cooperatives organization,
rehabilitation or viability enhancement, particularly during and in
the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or calamities, to
aid in their survival and, if necessary, subsequent rehabilitation;

(6) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial
governor on all other matters relative to cooperatives development
and viability enhancement which will improve the livelihood and the
quality of life of the inhabitants; and

(7) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and
functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 43. The Provincial Information Officer. – (a) The
provincial information officer must be a citizen of the Philippines,
a resident of the province, of good moral character, a holder of a
college degree preferably in journalism, mass communication or any
related course from a recognized college or university, a first grade
civil service eligible or its equivalent and must have acquired at
least three (3) years experience in writing articles and research
papers, or in writing for print, television or broadcast media.

The term of the provincial information officer is coterminous
with that of the appointing authority.

The appointment of a provincial information officer is optional.

(b) The provincial information officer is optional.

The following duties and functions:
(1) Take charge of the office for public information, and pursuant thereto, perform the following:

(i) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the provincial governor in providing the information and research data required for the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities so that the public becomes aware of the said service and may fully avail of the same; and

(ii) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the provincial governor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with public information and research data to support the programs and projects which the provincial governor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(2) Provide relevant, adequate and timely information to the provincial government and its inhabitants;

(3) Maintain effective liaison with various sectors of the community on matters and issues that affect the livelihood and quality of life of the inhabitants and encourage support for programs of the local and national government; and

(4) Furnish information and data on the province to government agencies or offices as may be required by law or ordinance and nongovernmental organizations to be furnished to said agencies and organizations;

(5) Be in the frontline of providing information during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters or calamities, with special attention to the victims thereof, to help minimize injuries and casualties during and after emergency, and accelerate relief and rehabilitation;

(6) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the provincial governor on all other matters relative to public information and research data as it relates to the total socioeconomic development of the province; and

(7) Exercise such other powers and perform other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE VIII


SEC. 44. The Provincial Fire Station Service. — (a) There shall be established in the province at least five (5) fire stations with adequate personnel, firefighting facilities and equipment by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), at least five (5) months upon the commencement of the corporate existence of the new province. The provincial government shall provide the site where the provincial fire stations shall be located.

(b) The provincial fire station service shall be headed by a provincial fire marshal whose qualifications shall be as those provided under Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, otherwise known as the "Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004".

(c) The provincial fire stations shall provide various emergency services such as the rescue and evacuation of injured people at fire-related incidents and, in general, fire prevention and
suppression measures to secure the safety of life and property of the
citizenry.

SEC. 45. The Provincial Jail Service. — (a) The DILG shall,
at least five (5) months from the commencement of the corporate
existence of the new province, establish and maintain a secured,
clean, adequately equipped and sanitary jail facility for the
custody and safekeeping of prisoners, any fugitive from justice,
or person detained awaiting investigation or trial and/or transfer
to the national penitentiary, or a violent mentally ill person who
may endanger oneself or the safety of others, as duly certified by
the proper medical health officer, prior to the transfer of such
person to a mental institution.

(b) The provincial jail service shall be headed by a provincial
jail warden whose qualifications shall be as those provided for
under Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, otherwise known as the
"Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management
and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004". The provincial jail
warden shall assist in the immediate rehabilitation of individuals
or detention of prisoners. Great care must be exercised so that
human rights of these prisoners are respected and protected, and
their spiritual and physical well-being are properly and promptly
attended to.

SEC. 46. The Provincial Schools Division. — (a) The DepEd
shall, within two (2) months from the commencement of the
corporate existence of the province herein created, establish and
maintain a separate schools division in the province whose
jurisdiction shall cover all the municipalities of the new province.

(b) The provincial schools division shall be headed by a
division superintendent who must possess the necessary
qualifications required by the DepEd.

SEC. 47. The Provincial Prosecution Service. — (a) The
Department of Justice (DOJ) shall, within two (2) months from
the commencement of the corporate existence of the province
herein created, establish and maintain a prosecution service.
It shall be headed by a provincial prosecutor who shall be
assisted by such number of assistant prosecutors as may be
necessary, and whose qualifications, manner of appointment,
rank, salary and benefits shall be governed by existing laws covering
prosecutors in the DOJ. The Provincial Prosecution Service shall be
organizationally part of the DOJ, and under the supervision and
control of the Secretary of the DOJ.

(b) The provincial prosecutor shall handle the prosecution of
criminal cases in the municipal trial courts in the province, as well
as in the regional trial courts for criminal cases originating in the
territory of the new province and shall render to and for the province
such other services as are required by law or regulation of the DOJ.

ARTICLE IX
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 48. Plebiscite. — The provinces of Northern Maguindanao
and Southern Maguindanao shall be created as provided for in
this Charter upon approval by the majority of the votes cast by
the voters of the affected areas in a plebiscite to be conducted and
supervised by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) within
sixty (60) days from the date of the effectivity of this Act.
The expenses for the conduct of the plebiscite shall be borne by
the present Province of Maguindanao.

SEC. 49. Commencement of Corporate Existence. – The
corporate existence of the provinces of Northern Maguindanao
and Southern Maguindanao shall commence upon the composition,
qualification and assumption of the provincial governors, provincial
vice governors and majority of the members of the sangguniang
panlalawigan.

SEC. 50. Officials of the Newly Created Provinces. – (a) The
elective officials of the newly created provinces shall be elected
on the second Monday of May 2022 national and local elections:
Provided, however, That, if this Act is approved and ratified
within one (1) year or more prior to the 2022 national and local
elections, the vice governor and the next ranking elective member
of the sangguniang panlalawigan of the present Province of
Maguindanao, who are residents of the new province of Northern
Maguindanao shall assume as its acting governor and acting
vice governor respectively, and both shall continue to serve in
office until their successors shall have been elected and qualified
in the 2022 national and local elections;

(b) The other members of the sangguniang panlalawigan
shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the
Philippines from among the qualified residents of the new province
of Northern Maguindanao upon the recommendation of the
acting provincial governor and the incumbent Representative
of the First Legislative District of the present Province of
Maguindanao, in consultation with, and with the consensus of the
local elders, and political leaders: Provided, That the incumbent
elected members of the sangguniang panlalawigan from the First
Legislative District of the Province of Maguindanao shall have the
right to retain their respective positions and finish their term of
office in the new province of Northern Maguindanao without need of
appointment;

(c) The rule of succession under Title II, Chapter 2, Section 44
of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended by Republic
Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao” shall be
applied in filling up vacant elective provincial positions in the
Province of Southern Maguindanao arising as a consequence
of the approval of this Act: Provided, That additional and new
members of the sangguniang panlalawigan shall be appointed
by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from among
the qualified residents of the province upon the recommendation
of the provincial governor, and the incumbent Representative of
the Second Legislative District of the Province of Maguindanao,
in consultation with, and with the consensus of the local elders
and political leaders, and, they shall continue to serve in office
until their successors shall have been elected and qualified in
the 2022 national and local elections;

(d) The incumbent governor of the present Province of
Maguindanao shall remain as governor of the Province of Southern
Maguindanao.

SEC. 51. Organization of the Provincial Government. – All
provincial appointive positions in the newly created provinces shall
be filled within sixty (60) days upon commencement of its corporate existence.

SEC. 52. Suspension of Increase in the Rates of Local Taxes. — No increase in the rates of local taxes shall be imposed by the new province within a period of five (5) years from its acquisition of corporate existence.

SEC. 53. Present Provincial Assets and Properties. — Upon the effectivity of this Act, the ownership of real properties and infrastructure projects of each local government unit situated in the present Province of Maguindanao shall belong to the province where it is situated.

SEC. 54. Provincial Obligations, Debts and Assets. — Following the plebiscite and creation of the provinces, obligations, debts and assets of all kinds of the present Province of Maguindanao shall be shared or paid equally by the provinces of Northern Maguindanao and Southern Maguindanao.

Transitory projects and activities such as land acquisition, office building construction, furnishing of offices; purchase of furniture, fixture and equipment; assignment of present properties; assignment of employees, hiring of new personnel, education and training of officials, employees and personnel; and all other projects and activities that will ensure the full and complete management, operations and service delivery of the provinces upon the commencement of their corporate existence, shall be financed by the present Province of Maguindanao.

SEC. 55. Applicability of Laws. — The provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, the "Organic Law for the