



Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
BARMM Compound, Cotabato City

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 76

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MEMBERS OF THE
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY (BTA) TO UTILIZE
THEIR RESPECTIVE MAINTENANCE AND OTHER
OPERATING EXPENSES (MOOE's) IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE
TO THE BANGSAMORO CONSTITUENTS DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, Section 22, Article IX of the Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao” provides, among others, that the Bangsamoro Government shall assist and cooperate with the National Government in the provision of quarantine services for the prevention and control of epidemic and other communicable diseases;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as the “Bayanihan To Heal As One Act” empowered the President of the Philippines to ensure that all Local Government Units are acting within the spirit and letter of all the rules and regulations and directives of the National Government pursuant to such act, allowing them to continue exercising their autonomy in matters undefined by the National Government or are within the parameters it has set, and are fully cooperating towards a unified, cohesive and orderly implementation of the national policy to address COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Section 4, (v), (9) of Republic Act no. 11469 provides that notwithstanding any law to the contrary, direct the discontinuance of appropriated programs, projects or activities (P/A/P) in the FYs 2019 and 2020 General Appropriation Act (GAA), whether released and unreleased, the allotments for which remain unobligated, and utilize the savings generated there from to augment the allocation for any item directly related to support operations and response measures, which are necessary or beneficial in order to address the COVID-19 emergency, consistent with the declared national policy and the item in the budget which is under allocations to Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be prioritized for augmentation.

WHEREAS, Section 4, (v) last paragraph further provides that notwithstanding the provision of this Act, the discontinued program, activity, or project may be revived at any time after national emergency has ceased.

WHEREAS, the aforementioned law declared a national policy that “there is an urgent need to: a) mitigate, if not contain, the transmission of COVID-19; b) immediately mobilize assistance in the provision of basic necessities to families and individuals affected by the imposition of Community Quarantine; c) undertake measures that will prevent the overburdening of the healthcare system; and d) ensure that there is sufficient, adequate and readily available funding to undertake the foregoing,” among others;

WHEREAS, Section 4, Paragraph (g), Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054 empowers the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to legislate on matters that may be necessary for the protection and promotion of the general welfare of the constituents of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

WHEREAS, to date, drugs are still being tested in clinical trials to see if they are effective against COVID-19;

WHEREAS, considering the number of the members of the BTA and the funds allocated for their respective MOOEs, those who will voluntarily choose to spend such fund in providing assistance to the Bangsamoro constituents affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic can make a substantial contribution thereof;

WHEREAS, according to the latest data dated February 2020 from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the BARMM region has the highest incidence of poverty in the Philippines at the rate of 61% or roughly around 2.5 million of the population unable to earn enough for food and non-food needs in 2018. This translates to 2.5 million Filipinos in the region living below the poverty threshold pegged at P11,482.00 on average for a family of five per month;

WHEREAS, the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) of COVID-19 Pandemic, BARMM Region ranked the highest in unemployment rate at 29.8% in the entire country;

WHEREAS, according to a data from the Ministry of Social Services and Development, BARMM had only been allocated 506,954 beneficiaries for Emergency Cash Subsidy for COVID-19 pandemic under the Bayanihan To Heal as One Act. The BARMM region has the lowest number of allocation for Emergency Cash Subsidy in the country despite the fact that BARMM has the highest number of poverty incidence and highest unemployment rate in the entire Philippines;

WHEREAS, by reason of the successive lockdowns and community quarantines imposed by both local and national government due to COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals and families experienced untold hunger and hardships due to lack of income, access to food and limited movement, which includes the most vulnerable and at-risk sectors such as senior citizens, women, youth, internally displaced population (IDP), solo parents, low-income earners, stranded individuals and students in various schools and universities;

WHEREAS, in our June 2020 Survey Research, 28% of respondents stated that they were not able to receive any form of support from the government, 29% received support only once, and the remaining 43% received support more than once;

WHEREAS, in the same survey research, 90% of respondents said their sources of income were affected. Those who were affected are the daily wage earners such as the small and medium vendors, store owners, transport sectors and contractual workers. Mostly regular government worker's income was not affected by the pandemic;

WHEREAS, relative to the mandate of R.A. No.11054 to assist and cooperate with the National Government in its declared policy under Republic Act No.11469 to ensure that there is sufficient, adequate and readily available funding, there is a need to correspondingly exhaust all available funds in order to maximize the efforts of the Bangsamoro Government in providing service and assistance to the Bangsamoro people;

WHEREAS, authorizing the members of the BTA to use their respective funds allocated for the MOOEs in providing various assistance as response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects can contribute to the collective efforts of the National Government, various Bangsamoro Ministries, and constituent Local Government Units in alleviating the plight of the Bangsamoro people severely affected by the crisis in terms of health and/or income.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it,

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, to authorize the Members of the BTA to utilize their respective MOOEs in providing support operations and response measures which are necessary or beneficial in order to address the COVID-19 emergency, consistent with the declared national policy as provided in Section 4 (v), (9) of Republic Act no. 11469.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the office of the Speaker shall provide the guidelines in the execution of this Resolution in consultation with the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Accounts.

Adopted, June 25, 2020.

Certified Correct:


PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

Attested:


ATTY. AI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker

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