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Republic of the Philippines  
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
**BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY**  
Cotabato City

*Third Regular Session*

BTA Bill No. 113

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
Parliament  
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION  
**RECEIVED**  
Name: Sonuya Balindong Signature: [Signature]  
Date: June 21, 2021 Time: 4:17 PM

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Introduced by

MP ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, CESE,  
MP ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN, CSEE,  
MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL,  
MP ATTY. LAISA M. ALAMIA, RN, CESE,  
MP ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR., CESE  
MP ATTY. SUAHRTO M. AMBOLOD TO, CSEE, MNSA,  
AND MP RASUL E. ISMAEL

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONWIDE GEO-TAGGING SYSTEM FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill aims to make it a legacy of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority under the leadership of Chief Minister Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim and Parliament Speaker Ali Pangalian Balindong to institutionalize Moral Governance through legislation of a geo-tagging system for all infrastructure projects.

During his January 21, 2021 speech, Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim stated in his report:

“The level of transparency in our infrastructure work has been manifested with the Expanded Bangsamoro Advanced Road Mapping and Management (E-BARMM) System – an online repository of the Ministry of Public Works – BARMM projects. Using geotagged photos for data validation, the core goals of the E-BARMM System are transparency and efficiency in project monitoring.”

While geo-tagging is currently in place for the Ministry of Public Works, the system may in the future no longer be continued. Thus, the best practice may in the future be lost. In order to safeguard the best practice as being done by the present BARMM, its institutionalization through a law is sought. Moreover, this will institutionalize geo-tagging not only in the MPW but in all the various agencies and instrumentalities of the Bangsamoro that are implementing infrastructure projects. This will allow for a development reference that include all sectors and improve the planning and programming for an integrated long term anti-poverty and improved access to social services program.

The geo-tagging of all infrastructure projects in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region will allow for more effective policymaking by the regional government agencies as well as National and local government units, improve the planning and programming of development projects, determine the location of geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) based on the

58 cumulative location of development projects, and track and monitor the progress of government  
59 projects.

60  
61 The Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 acknowledges geo-tagging as a  
62 means for transparency and better planning and programming. The President Duterte “Build Build  
63 Build” programs have specific implementation reforms which include the mandatory geo-tagging  
64 of projects.

65  
66 Geo-tagging is an efficient way of tracking the existence and progress of government  
67 projects as it allows government officials and the citizenry alike to check and follow up projects  
68 as they are being carried out in real time.

69  
70 With the use of a GPS-enabled phone, anyone can easily learn to take geo-tagged photos  
71 and upload to the web-based platforms of the various government agencies.

72  
73 Geo-tagging is a revolutionary and inexpensive approach to using Information and  
74 Communication Technology (ICT) and Global Positioning System (GPS) applications for accurate  
75 visualization of projects.

76  
77 One of the benefits of geo-tagging is that it is very cost-effective and safe as it allows for  
78 easier monitoring of progress on the ground and communities without having to undergo the  
79 security risks as well as the logistics costs. This will also provide easy reference for development  
80 partners and implementing agencies as to the location of current development works in order to  
81 better plan for other development interventions. This also serves as a transparency mechanism that  
82 allows the citizens to monitor development in their communities, avoid duplication and  
83 overlapping of infrastructure projects, and eliminate fictitious projects as well as false reporting of  
84 data. This will also allow the government agencies to determine which areas are receiving  
85 development projects and which areas are lagging in terms of infrastructural development.

86  
87 Moreover, this will become a regional integrated spatial development database that will be  
88 vital regional development planning.

89  
90 As early as 2013, the National Economic Development Authority hailed and awarded the  
91 Mindanao Rural Development Authority for the ‘Good Practice Award’ for applying geo-tagging  
92 technology for good governance and transparency.

93  
94 In 2020, National DPWH has required mandatory geo-tagging of all infrastructure projects  
95 regardless of cost, infrastructure type or fund source, in the four stages of the project: before project  
96 implementation, upon mobilization, during the monthly progress and upon completion. This is to  
97 improve efficiency in planning, budgeting, project monitoring, and contract management  
98 processes.

99  
100 In the National Government, the geo-tagging technology has already been institutionalized  
101 in several executive agencies. Geo-tagging is already institutionalized in the Department of Public  
102 Works and Highways, Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural  
103 Resources. The National agencies have used geo-tagging to build up their database and strengthen  
104 development planning and implementation.

105  
106 In April 2019, RA 11315 was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte which establishes  
107 community-based monitoring system (CBMS). It is “an organized technology-based system of  
108 collecting, processing, and validating necessary disaggregated data for monitoring at the local level  
109 while empowering communities to participate in the process.” The CBMS utilizes geo-tagging  
110 technology together with other data collection methodologies of the National Government and  
111 local governments. The lead agency is the Philippine Statistics Authority.


112

113 The current administration has prioritized Moral Governance which includes transparency.  
114 This bill will provide our citizenry the transparency they seek and ensure their taxes are being used  
115 for the improvement of the welfare of the Bangsamoro.  
116

117 The adoption of this policy on transparency will redound to an increased public trust on  
118 the Government of the Bangsamoro and institutionalize a legacy of Moral Governance,  
119 transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness for the Bangsamoro Government.  
120

121 This legacy bill will pave the way for institutionalization of the right project for the right  
122 location at the right time for the right people and will promote people empowerment and reduce  
123 poverty.  
124

125 In line with this, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.  
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131 ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, CESE  
132 Member of Parliament  
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170 Republic of the Philippines  
171 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
172 **BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY**  
173 Cotabato City  
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176 *Third Regular Session*  
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179 BTA Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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183 Introduced by

184  
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191 AND MP RASUL E. ISMAEL  
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194 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONWIDE GEO-TAGGING SYSTEM FOR**  
195 **INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION**  
196 **AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**  
197

198 Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Parliament assembled:  
199

200 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Regional Infrastructure Geo-*  
201 *tagging Act of 2021*”.  
202

203 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to adopt and implement a  
204 policy of full public disclosure, subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, and to  
205 recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. Further, the  
206 Bangsamoro Government adopts Moral Governance as its guiding principle in the pursuit of  
207 genuine and meaningful autonomy and ensures the necessary conditions for sustained socio-  
208 economic development by improving accountability of physical and financial outcomes of  
209 government infrastructure projects, eliminating corruption, and ensuring multi-stakeholder  
210 participation.  
211

212 Pursuant to these policies, the Regional Government recognizes the importance of  
213 transparency and efficiency project monitoring and data-based planning and programming for  
214 equity in development.  
215

216 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:  
217

218 (a) **Geo-tagging** – is the process of adding metadata and geographical information, usually  
219 in the form of latitude and longitude, to the physical site or location of government  
220 infrastructure projects and of uploading them to a web-based application. It shall also  
221 include the name of the project, the location and the cost of the project to allow the  
222 government, the citizenry, and other stakeholders to check the progress of projects in  
223 real time.  
224

225 (b) **Online Portal** – is a specially designed website where relevant information, images, and  
226 map visualization on all government infrastructure projects collected before, during

227 and after its implementation in the areas of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region are  
228 uploaded, organized, regularly updated, and accessible to the public through various  
229 platforms.  
230

231 (c) Infrastructure projects –infrastructure projects and facilities being constructed by the  
232 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region including roads, bridges, ports, flood control, water  
233 supply, schools, multi-purpose buildings, government buildings, hospitals, and other  
234 health facilities, barangay and municipal halls, centers, housing and other similar  
235 horizontal and vertical projects.  
236

237 (d) Implementing Agency – refers to any ministry, bureau, office, commission, authority  
238 in the Executive Department of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, including  
239 government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), which have capital outlay  
240 allocated for infrastructure projects.  
241

242 **Section 4. *Implementing Agencies.*** – Ministries and offices that have capital outlay  
243 allocation for infrastructure projects shall implement the provisions of this Act. These shall  
244 include among others the following:  
245

- 246 a. Ministry of Public Works (MPW);
- 247 b. Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE);
- 248 c. Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE);
- 249 d. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR);
- 250 e. Ministry of Health (MOH);
- 251 f. Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG);
- 252 g. Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC);
- 253 h. Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT);
- 254 i. Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD), and
- 255 j. Office of the Chief Minister (OCM).  
256

257 **Section 5. *Geo-tagging in the various stages of the Project.*** – In line with the thrust of the  
258 Bangsamoro Government to improve the efficiency in planning, budgeting, and project  
259 monitoring, geo-tagged photos shall be taken in the following four (4) stages of the project:  
260

- 261 a. Before Project Implementation;
- 262 b. Upon Mobilization;
- 263 c. During the Monthly Progress; and
- 264 d. Upon the Completion of the Project.  
265

266 The uploaded data shall provide information of the name of the project, its cost, the  
267 location, the name of the contractor or implementing agency, and such other relevant information  
268 as required in the Implementing Guidelines provided in the succeeding section.  
269

270 **Section 6. *Implementing Guidelines.*** – Each concerned Head of the Agency or Office shall  
271 develop the corresponding guidelines within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act which  
272 may be updated annually to ensure that the geotagging procedure and processes, rules and  
273 standards are kept abreast with recent progress and technology. The guidelines define the  
274 responsibilities of each of the units and divisions involved in the implementation of the  
275 infrastructure projects in the Agency.  
276

277 **Section 7. *Regionwide Geo-tagging.*** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, all infrastructure  
278 projects to be implemented by the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be geo-tagged in all  
279 stages of the project implementation by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled  
280 phone or other GPS and image capturing devices, which shall be uploaded to the regional online  
281 portal created by virtue of this Act.  
282

283 **Section 8. Agency Online Portal.** – All the Implementing Agencies shall include in their  
284 official website an online portal where information pertinent to the specified location of a project  
285 can be accessed. The geo-tagged projects shall be reflected in the respective official websites of  
286 the Implementing Agencies along with the status of each project.

287  
288 **Section 9. Information and Education Campaign.** - The Implementing Agencies shall also  
289 conduct information dissemination programs that will inform the public of the existence,  
290 availability, and online accessibility of such transparency mechanisms.

291  
292 **Section 10. Access, Website and Geo-Tagging Regional Portal–** The Office of the Chief  
293 Minister, Bangsamoro Information and Communications Technology Office (BICTO), in  
294 coordination with the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) and other  
295 Implementing Agencies, shall set up an online portal to create a Regional Geo-tagging Databank  
296 of the geo-tagged projects to show all the infrastructure projects in geographical areas in the  
297 BARMM. The BICTO shall ensure that the data is updated and synchronized with the  
298 Implementing Agency updates. It shall also regularly coordinate and monitor the Regional Portal  
299 as well as the Agency Online Portals to ensure that these are accessible to the public. It shall also  
300 facilitate institutional arrangements on data sharing.

301  
302 **Section 11. Periodicity of Data Update and Back up of Data.** – Regular and synchronized  
303 updating of data shall be conducted by all the Implementing Agencies including BICTO every  
304 quarter of the year. The Implementing Agencies and the BICTO shall ensure that back-up data is  
305 stored to ensure the cumulative data of geo-tagged projects remain available cumulatively every  
306 year.

307  
308 **Section 13. Capacity-building.** – The Implementing Agency shall undertake and establish  
309 capacity-building measures for its concerned personnel from the regional level to its provincial  
310 and district levels to develop their respective skills in uploading and generating data and  
311 information on various infrastructure projects, and skills necessary in maintaining an online portal.

312  
313 **Section 14. Appropriations.** – An initial amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00)  
314 is hereby appropriated and shall be made available to the BICTO to establish the online Regional  
315 Infrastructure Portal for public access as well as assist and conduct capacity building for the  
316 establishment of the online portal in the respective official websites of the Implementing Agencies.  
317 Thereafter, each Implementing Agency shall include in their regular budget the needed funds for  
318 the implementation of this Act.

319  
320 **Section 15. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of the Act is declared  
321 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
322 full force and effect.

323  
324 **Section 16. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, parts of laws, issuances, proclamations, orders,  
325 ordinances, and administrative regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
326 amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.


327  
328 **Section 17. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
329 publication in a newspaper of regional circulation.

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332 Adopted,

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