

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

Third Regular Session

BTA Bill No. 116



Introduced by **AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL, ENGR. BANTAN A. AMPATUAN, CSEE, ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR.**

Co-authored by **ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD ALAMIA, ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLODITO, RASUL E. ISMAEL, SITIE SHAHARA "DIMPLE" I. MASTURA, ABRAHAM T. BURAHAN**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BANGSAMORO SATELLITE COORDINATING OFFICES,
DEFINING ITS COVERAGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Geographically, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region encompasses the provinces of Basilan (except Isabela City), Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, as well as Marawi City, Lamitan City, Cotabato City, and the sixty-three barangays in Cotabato. The coordination between these areas as well as the different levels of government in the region is essential to ensuring the protection and promotion of the general welfare of the Bangsamoro people.

Close cooperation and continuous dialogue between these regional actors, will enable the Bangsamoro Government make informed policy decisions and crucial changes in its implementation, if needed, and ultimately lead to responsiveness and efficiency.

Overlapping government mandates and unclear distinctions in agency responsibilities will make policy formulation and implementation difficult and may create gaps in oversight and enforcement. In addition, competing areas of jurisdiction in various aspects of regional and local governance can produce operational inefficiencies.

In the absence of a strong coordinating mechanism between the programs and policies initiated by the regional government and those of its LGUs may lead to operational gaps. Changes in political leadership exacerbate the issue by disrupting the ability of policymakers to build on previous successes, and retain the lessons learned from their predecessors. Without an effective mechanism for coordination between the region and its component LGUs, the overlapping mandates and competing priorities of regional and local government units will hinder the achievement of shared long-term goals.

This measure aims to strengthen the partnership, coordination, management, and communication of government programs formulated and imitated by the regional government and those of its component LGUs. A more targeted approach such as the one introduced in this measure can increase the efficiency of the government in how resources are being used by regional and local government agencies.

The synergy of measures in tackling various regional and local issues in the autonomous region will assist the government to directly address various issues and concerns across all-encompassing jurisdictions within the region. Thus, strengthening the Bangsamoro Satellite Coordinating Office of the various sub-regions in BARMM can increase operational effectiveness and reinforce the efficient implementation of the programs of the government.

Encouraging consistent dialogue between the Bangsamoro Government and its component local government units will ensure that the region can maintain its autonomous status while still synchronizing its sustainability efforts compared to other neighboring regions. The efforts to strengthen the Bangsamoro Satellite Coordinating Offices in each of the BARMM sub-regions can facilitate the much-needed cooperation between the Bangsamoro Government and its component LGUs if given enough resources and prioritization.

Working together throughout the levels of government and across sectors will lend itself to efficient resource use and optimizes response capabilities. If enacted, this will strengthen one of the most effective mechanisms available to the region to synergize regional government operations with local government policies and plans, bringing about the creation of a more robust and efficient government.

By adopting this proactive and unified approach, the Bangsamoro Government can contribute significantly to the future stability of the region.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BANGSAMORO SATELLITE COORDINATING OFFICES,
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Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the “Bangsamoro Satellite Coordinating Office Act of 2021.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to promote enabling policies and programs that ensure the full and effective participation of all BARMM sub-regions for the mainland and island provinces in the planning, programming, coordination, and implementation of regional programs, activities, and projects within their respective territorial jurisdictions in pursuance of good governance and local autonomy.

Pursuant to this policy, the Office of the Chief Minister shall cooperate and closely coordinate with all BARMM constituent local government units, through its Deputy Chief Ministers, to coordinate and harmonize regional programs and activities through regular consultation and continuing dialogue, towards the enhancement of economic prosperity and promotion of the general welfare of the Bangsamoro people.

Section 3. Purposes. This Act shall have the following purposes:

- (a) To establish the administrative and organizational structure of the Bangsamoro Satellite Coordinating Offices for each of the three (3) BARMM sub-regions;

- (b) To determine the coverage of each BARMM sub-region;
- (c) To establish a platform that will encourage all BARMM constituent local government units to strengthen its partnership with the Bangsamoro Government in the planning, programming, coordination, and implementation of regional programs, activities, and projects within their respective territorial jurisdictions; and
- (d) To strengthen the culture of cooperation and improve coordination between the Bangsamoro Government and BARMM constituent local government units.

Section 4. *Bangsamoro Satellite Coordinating Office.* There is hereby created the Bangsamoro Satellite Coordinating Office, hereinafter referred to as “BASCO”, for each of the BARMM sub-regions, namely: South Western Mindanao, North Central Mindanao, and South Central Mindanao, all within the Bangsamoro territorial jurisdiction.

The BASCO shall serve as coordinating offices of the Chief Minister, and is represented by the Deputy Chief Ministers in the other two sub-regions different from that of the Chief Minister. It shall likewise provide advisory or consultative services to the Chief Minister on matters concerning their respective sub-regions.

The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Ministers shall each be assisted by five (5) support staff appointed to the BASCOs, who shall be residents of the represented sub-region where the BASCO is situated.

Section 5. *Powers and Functions.* The BASCO shall be vested with the following powers and functions:

- a. To coordinate, integrate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of all regional programs, activities, and projects in the represented sub-regions, particularly those that enhance economic prosperity, promote health and safety, and preserve and enrich the culture of the Bangsamoro;
- b. To mandate the submission by the constituent local government units in the represented sub-region of their respective recent or up to date and comprehensive local development plans, in close coordination with the concerned Local Planning and Development Officer and Local Development Council of each BARMM constituent LGU;
- c. To establish linkage/network with the other BARMM LGUs within the represented sub-region for program development and coordination;
- d. To recommend the enactment of local ordinances and the enhanced implementation of local programs, consistent with the requirements of this Act;

- e. To coordinate and assist in the implementation of all cross-border regional projects along and within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region; and
- f. To promulgate rules and regulations and perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary, appropriate, or incidental to this Act.

Section 6. *Management.* The management of each BASCO and the general conduct of its operations shall be vested in the Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Chief Minister, upon recommendation of the Deputy Chief Minister of the represented sub-region.

The Executive Director shall be of proven probity and integrity, a bona fide resident of the represented sub-region, and a degree holder in any of the following fields: economics, business, public administration, law, accounting, the management or their equivalent, and with at least two (2) years relevant working experience, preferably in the field of financial and legal management or public administration and with civil service eligibility, or its equivalent.

Section 7. *Coverage of each Sub-Region.* The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall have three (3) sub-regions, which shall be constituted to cover the following Bangsamoro territories:

- a. South Western Mindanao: Provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan, including the City of Lamitan.
- b. North Central Mindanao: Province of Lanao del Sur, including the City of Marawi.
- c. South Central Mindanao: Province of Maguindanao, including the City of Cotabati and the Special Geographic Areas in North Cotabato.

The BASCOs may thereafter be established in each of the sub-regions for purposes of regional coordination and cooperation and shall maintain a principal office at the most strategically located place in each of the sub-regions for the proper conduct of its operations.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as restricting the right of the Bangsamoro Government to establish other satellite offices in specified areas in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, pursuant to relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 8. *Report to the Parliament.* Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act and every three years thereafter, the Executive Directors of each BASCO shall present a report to the Parliament detailing a comprehensive plan for each of the BARMM sub-regions, resulting from its continuing dialogue, close coordination, and cooperation with BARMM component local government units.

Section 9. *Meetings.* Each BASCO shall hold and conduct meetings with local chief executives of each BARMM constituent LGU within their respective sub-regions once every quarter or as necessary to ensure the continuous integration of regional and local programs and activities.

Section 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Office of the Chief Minister, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Ministers and the Ministry of Interior and Local Government, shall issue rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 11. *Separability Clause.* If any section or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12. *Repealing Clause.* All ordinances, executive orders, administrative orders, or other rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication.

Adopted,

AUTHOR/S:



HON. AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL

Member of the Parliament

Certified correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL

Secretary-General

Attested by:

HON. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG

Speaker