

1 Republic of the Philippines  
2 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
3 **BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY**  
4 Cotabato City  
5  
6

7 *Third Regular Session*

8  
9  
10 BTA Bill No. 120  
11



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13  
14 Introduced by

15  
16 MP ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, CESE,  
17 MP ENGR. BANTAN A. AMPATUAN, CSEE,  
18 MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL,  
19 MP ATTY. LAISA M. ALAMIA, RN, CESE,  
20 MP ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR., CESE  
21 MP ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLODITO, CSEE, MNSA,  
22 AND MP RASUL E. ISMAEL  
23

24 Co-authored by: MP ATTY. JOSE I. LORENA  
25

26 **AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT AND**  
27 **ARCHIVAL RECORDS OF THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT,**  
28 **ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OFFICE OF THE**  
29 **BANGSAMORO REGIONAL ARCHIVES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
30 **THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**  
31

32  
33 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**  
34

35 The Bangsamoro is a nation with rich culture and very long history, enough  
36 to consider us among the First Nation of this country. Unfortunately, until the advent  
37 of social media and the internet, our very limited way of preserving our cultural  
38 memory and history is through story telling. In Tausog, we call it "kissa", an Arabic  
39 word that literary means "story". It's no wonder that except for recent documents  
40 and records, what we only have are references to the original.

41 Lately, some of our writers and intellectuals succeeded in reducing into  
42 writing our history and traditions. These writings, nevertheless, are scattered in  
43 various libraries and personal collections.  
44

45 The maintenance of our own archival records is one of the important tasks of  
46 the Bangsamoro Regional Government that should be advanced to preserve our  
47 collective identity and history. The initiative to strengthen the system of  
48 management and archival records of the Bangsamoro Government through the  
49 establishment of the Office of the Bangsamoro Regional Archives complements the

50 existing and noble purposes of the Bangsamoro Museum, Bangsamoro Library and  
51 Archives, and the Bangsamoro Commission for the Preservation of Cultural  
52 Heritage.

53

54 Through these efforts, we could help preserve our history, educate and allow  
55 others to understand our diversity, and provide tangible reminders of the sacrifices  
56 of our martyrs, the ingenuity of our intellectuals, the determination of our leaders  
57 and that of our resiliency and unwavering commitment to the dream of governing  
58 our own territory.

59

60 We are at the height of making a difference for the Bangsamoro People and  
61 at the most appropriate time to preserve and make known our identity and history.  
62 Our timing is right. Let us therefore build a home for our narratives to bridge us to  
63 our posterity. Let us create the OBRA.

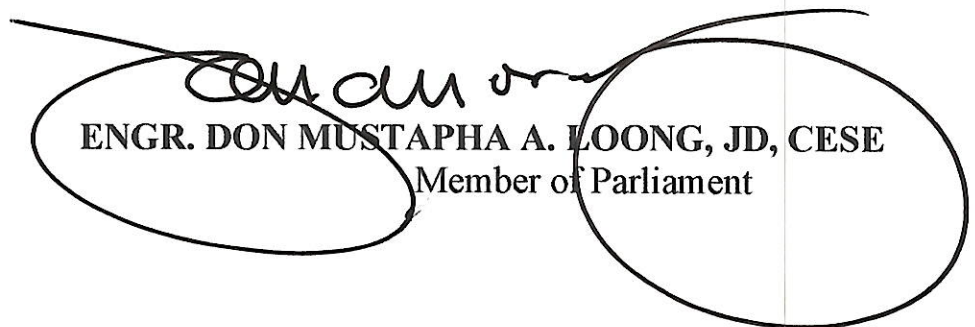
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ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, CESE  
Member of Parliament

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128 **THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**  
129

130 Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Parliament assembled:  
131

132 **ARTICLE I**  
133

134 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
135

136 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Bangsamoro Regional  
137 Archives Act of 2021“.

138  
139 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** –  
140

- 141 a. It is the policy of the State to conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s  
142 historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.  
143  
144 b. All the country’s artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure  
145 of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate  
146 its disposition.  
147

148 c. Pursuant thereto, the Bangsamoro Government shall preserve the history,  
149 culture, arts traditions, and the rich cultural heritage of the Bangsamoro people  
150 and their Sultanates, such as those of Sulu, Maguindanao, Kabuntalan,  
151 Buayan, the Royal House of Ranao and of the Iranun, and the non-Moro  
152 indigenous peoples of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

153  
154 d. Further, the Bangsamoro Regional Government shall ensure and support,  
155 among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture.

156  
157 e. Towards this end, all public records with enduring value, held by Bangsamoro  
158 government offices shall be transferred to an official, permanent, and regional  
159 repository for proper management, control, and regulation of record  
160 disposition.

161  
162 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following definition  
163 of terms are hereby adopted:

164  
165 (a) Archival Value – refers to the value attached to records that remain useful  
166 for the Bangsamoro Government, its people, and the general public  
167 because those records make government accountable to its citizens;  
168 provide evidence about public policies and programs; protect or verify  
169 individuals’ rights and entitlements; and provide information about the  
170 important people, issues, places, and events that make up the story of  
171 Bangsamoro history;

172  
173 (b) Archives – shall refer to:

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175  
176 1. Public records, papers, periodicals, books or other items, articles or  
177 materials, whether in the form of electronic, audio-visual or print,  
178 which by their nature and characteristics have enduring value, that have  
179 been selected for permanent preservation;

180  
181 2. The place (building/room/storage area) where archival materials are  
182 kept and preserved; and

183  
184 3. An organization (or part of an organization) whose main function is to  
185 select, collect and preserve archival records and make such records  
186 available for public use.

187  
188 (c) Disposal – refers to the act of selling, burning, or any other way of  
189 discarding valueless records in accordance with the provisions of this Act  
190 and other existing laws.

191  
192 (d) Disposition – refers to the systematic sorting out of records in the office  
193 storage whereby those classified as valuable records are permanently  
194 preserved and those which are classified as valueless are disposed of.

195

- 196 (e) Document – refers to recorded information regardless of medium  
197 or characteristics. Frequently used interchangeably with “records”;  
198
- 199 (f) Inventory – refers to a descriptive listing of the records holding by records  
200 series indicating its specific location, inclusive dates and volume in cubic  
201 meters; conduct of related activities to locate, identify, describe, count, and  
202 measure all records in the office and storage areas including all loose and  
203 bound papers, microforms, optical disks, and magnetic tapes and disks;  
204
- 205 (g) Private Archives/Collections – refers to records belonging to private  
206 individuals and/or entities which are of archival value;  
207
- 208 (h) Public Records – refers to records or classes of records, in any form, in  
209 whole or in part, created or received, whether before or after the effectivity  
210 of this Act, by a Bangsamoro government office or agency in the conduct  
211 of its affairs, and have been retained by that government agency or its  
212 successors as evidence or because of the information contained therein;  
213
- 214 (i) Records – refers to information, whether in its original form or otherwise,  
215 including documents, signatures, seals, texts, images, sounds, speeches, or  
216 data compiled, recorded, or stored, as the case may be:  
217
- 218 (1) in written form on any material; or  
219
- 220 (2) on film, negative, tape, or other medium so as to be capable of being  
221 reproduced; or
- 222 (j) Records Officer – refers to the employee responsible for overseeing the  
223 records management program and providing guidance on adequate and  
224 proper recordkeeping.

225 **Section 4. Objectives.** This Act is primarily aimed at:  
226

- 227 (a) Organizing and establishing the system of management and administration  
228 of the Bangsamoro Government archival records;  
229
- 230 (b) Ensuring that full and accurate records of the affairs of the Bangsamoro  
231 Regional Government are maintained and preserved;  
232
- 233 (c) Increasing public confidence in the integrity of public records keeping and  
234 management;  
235
- 236 (d) Ensuring accessibility of public records relevant to the promotion and  
237 preservation of Bangsamoro cultural heritage;  
238
- 239 (e) Supporting the safekeeping of private records.  
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244 **ARTICLE II**  
245 **OFFICE OF THE BANGSAMORO REGIONAL ARCHIVES**

246 **Section 5.** *Office of the Bangsamoro Regional Archives.* – The Office of the  
247 Bangsamoro Regional Archives, hereinafter referred to as OBRA, is hereby created  
248 and organized, structurally and functionally, in accordance with the provisions of  
249 this Act. It shall be under the Office of the Chief Minister.

250  
251 The OBRA shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of the  
252 objectives and provisions of this Act. It shall plan, develop, prescribe, disseminate  
253 and enforce policies, rules and regulations, and coordinate programs governing the  
254 creation, general protection, use, storage and disposition of public records including  
255 the acquisition, storage and preservation of public archives and providing facilities  
256 for reference, research or other purposes.

257  
258 **Section 6.** *Powers and Functions.* – In pursuit of its mandate, the OBRA shall have  
259 the following powers and functions:

- 260  
261 (a) Act as the official repository of all agreements, laws, public records,  
262 bulletin, books, gazettes, thesis, publications, exhibitions, audio-recording,  
263 video-recording or images and any other writings or documentations,  
264 relating to or involving the struggle of the Bangsamoro and the history,  
265 culture, tradition and practices of the Bangsamoro, the Non-Moro  
266 Indigenous People, and the settler communities;  
267  
268 (b) Conduct an inventory of the above writings and documentations that are  
269 already existing and under the custody of the Bangsamoro Government;  
270  
271 (c) Maintain a registry of all public records under the custody and control of  
272 the Bangsamoro Government which shall be made available for public  
273 inspection;  
274  
275 (d) Implement a records management and archival administration system for  
276 the efficient maintenance, preservation, retention, and utilization of public  
277 records of the Bangsamoro Government;  
278  
279 (e) Adopt security measures and protection of the public records of the  
280 Bangsamoro Government;  
281  
282 (f) Obtain, recover, and take custody and management of all public archives  
283 that are not in the custody of the Bangsamoro Government;  
284  
285 (g) Accept, store, and preserve any public archive transferred or donated to the  
286 Bangsamoro Government;  
287  
288 (h) Facilitate the acquisition of public records and private archives that possess  
289 archival value through transfer, donation, purchase, or any other legal  
290 means;  
291

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