

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

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**BTA Parliament Bill No. 17**

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**“AN ACT CREATING THE BANGSAMORO PILGRIMAGE AUTHORITY IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELEVANT PURPOSES.”**

***Be it enacted by the Parliament of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority assembled:***

**Section 1. *Title.***—This Act shall be known as the “**Bangsamoro Pilgrimage Authority in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Act of 2019**”.


**Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.***—As stated in Section 42, Article VII of Republic Act 11054, otherwise known as Bangsamoro Organic Law that “The Parliament may create other offices such as for the youth, women, settler communities, disaster risk reduction and management, and planning and development, including a Bangsamoro Pilgrimage Authority which shall exercise jurisdiction over *Haj and Umrah* matters affecting pilgrims from within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

**Section 3. *Creation of the Bangsamoro Pilgrimage Authority.***—There is hereby created, under the Office of the Chief Minister, an agency to be called as Bangsamoro Pilgrimage Authority, hereinafter referred to as Authority, which shall be organized, staffed, operated, and maintained, structurally and functionally, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the general principles led down in Republic Act 11054, otherwise known as “Bangsamoro Organic Law.”

**Section 4. *Composition of the Authority.***—The Authority herein created shall be composed of a Chairman whose appointment, tenure and qualifications shall be determined by the Chief Minister, and four (4) members consisting of the representatives of the Ministers of Finance, Social Work and Development, Interior and Local Governments, and Mindanao Development Authority.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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By: NORIA Y. TAHA Date: 9-19-19  
Signature:  Time: 12:05

**Section 5. Powers, Functions and Duties.**—The Authority shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

(a) To initiate, plan, integrate, execute, implement, coordinate, manage, supervise, and administer all aspects and phases of programs, projects and activities, relevant to the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, of pilgrims coming from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Devising ways, means, methods and measures to encourage all Muslims from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region to save money to enable them to undertake the pilgrimage;
2. Pre-departure processing of pilgrim applicants at convenient designated places;
3. Ferry of pilgrim participants from home provinces to designated point of departure;
4. Arrangement for transport from the Philippines to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and return, including charter or contract, whether by ship or airplane;
5. Administration and assistance to the pilgrims abroad or airplane to and fro and while at Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
6. Deprocessing of pilgrims upon return to the Philippines at designated point of arrival;
7. Ferry of pilgrims from point of arrival to home provinces; and
8. General administration, to include funding of the programs, projects and activities necessary for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Government participation in the pilgrimage;

(b) To coordinate with and obtain assistance, support and cooperation from other offices, agencies, branches, or instrumentalities of National Government, as well as from the private sectors whenever necessary to ensure the success of every pilgrimage;

(c) To formulate and submit programs, plans and recommendations for carrying out the pilgrimage, including funding requirements to the Chief Minister, not later than January 15 of each year; and to submit to the Chief Minister reports on the progress of the pilgrimage programs, plans, projects, and activities, including a final report on the completion of the pilgrimage;

(e) To appoint and administer, subject to pertinent budgetary, accounting and auditing and civil service rules and regulations, such numbers of subordinate officials and employees necessary for the efficient and effective functioning of the Authority;

(f) To accept and receive grants, donations or gifts in whatever form and from whatever sources, Provided, That, said grants, donations or gifts shall be administered, obligated and disbursed in accordance with the terms thereof, or in the absence of such terms, in such a manner at the Authority may, in the exercise of sound discretion, determine, Provided, further, That, said grants, donations or gifts shall be subject only to such limitations as the grantor, donor or giver may impose; Provided, Finally, That the

acceptance or receipt of such grants, donations or gifts shall not be prejudicial to the national interests and security, or contrary to Philippine laws and Shari'ah;

(g) To engage in any commercial, industrial, agricultural, fishing, mining or other profitable business enter[prises for the purpose of making the Authority self-sufficient and self-sustaining; and for the same purpose, to invest in or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, operate, sell, assign, transfer, exchange, mortgage, pledge, lease, develop or otherwise deal in, real estate and other natural resources projects or any interest therein, and in personal property of every kind and description, including shares of stock,, bonds, debentures, notes, evidence of indebtedness, and other securities or obligations of other corporations or associations, domestic or foreign and acquire, lease or hold private and public lands of any classification, notwithstanding the prohibition in, or in excess of the area, permitted by laws of the Philippines, to enter into contracts and other transactions in connection with the foregoing subject to the tenets of Islamic law and jurisprudence, and with the prior approval of the Chief Minister, to incur obligations or indebtedness to generate the necessary capitalization to fund the activities authorized in this provision;

(h) To exercise such other powers of administration necessary for the operation of the authority, including, but not limited to the promulgation of rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

(i) To perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Section 5. **Executive Director.**—The Authority shall be administered, operated and maintained by the Executive Director, to be appointed by the Chief Minister, upon recommendation of the Chairman of the Authority, as the chief executive officer of the Authority.

Section 6. **Hajj Attaché.**—The Chief Minister shall appoint a Hajj Attache. The Hajj Attache shall possess related academic degree and must be able to read, write and speak fluently the Arabic language. The Hajj Attache shall coordinate with his counterpart in the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and the Ministry of Hajj of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on all matters pertaining to the conduct of the annual Hajj. The Hajj Attache shall enjoy the same rank, salary, and privileges comparable to those Attaches of the national government.

Section 7. **Amirul Hajj.** The Chief Minister shall appoint the Executive Director of Bureau Pilgrimage Authority as the Amirul Hajj and head of Bangsamoro pilgrimage delegation to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and shall serve as the representative of the Chief Minister in the annual hajj.

Section 8. **Salaries, benefits, bonuses, and remunerations.**—The salaries, benefits and remunerations of the Chairman, executive director and other subordinate officials and employees of the Authority shall be determined by the Authority, subject to the

limitations prescribed by laws and civil service rules and regulations. The *ex-officio* members of the Authority shall receive allowances to be determined by the Authority.

Section 9. **Coordination with NCMF.**--The Authority shall actively cooperate and coordinate with National Commission on Muslim Filipinos on pilgrimage matters, and other relevant plans, programs, and projects of the President of the Republic of the Philippines on the matter.

Section 10. **Appropriation.**—The sum of Fifty Million (Php50, 000, 000.00) pesos is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the funds coming from the Annual Block Grant provided for under Section 15, Article XII of R. A. 11054, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Section 11. **Repealing Clause.**—All regional laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 12. **Effectivity.**—This Act shall take effect upon approval and publication in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with existing laws.

Done in the City of Cotabato, BARMM, 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of September 2019.