



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

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

BTA Parliament Bill No. 38

RECEIVED

By: NORIA Y. TAHA

Signature: _____

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Authored by: JAMEL “James” D. MACARAYA
Member of the Bangsamoro Parliament

“AN ACT
MODERNIZING THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTORS OF THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
(BARMM), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

Be it enacted by the Parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao assembled:

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the “BARMM Modernization of Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors Act of 2019”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies – It is the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to freely pursue its political, economic, social, and cultural development as provided for in the Bangsamoro Organic Law. The region with its vast lands and rich water resources made agriculture and fisheries sectors (AF Sectors for brevity) its top industry. Thus, the free pursuit of economic development embraces development of the AF Sectors of the region in recognition of its vital role as a key development strategy to promote productivity measures, create economic opportunities for small farmers, landholders and marginalized fisher folks, job creation, and increase revenue generation and modernizing the AF sectors shall further this objective. Carrying out this modernization is in line with the exploration of the Bangsamoro economic potential as integral part of the developmental programs of the BARMM.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms – The words and phrases used in this Act such as:

Fisheries Sector refers to the sector engaged in the production, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing, developing, conserving, and managing of aquatic resources and fisheries area;

Agriculture Sector refers to the sector engaged in the cultivation of the soil planting of crops, growing of fruits trees, raising of livestock, poultry, or fish, including the harvesting and marketing of such farm products, and other farm activities and practices; and

BARMM Modernization of Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors refers to the process of transforming the AF Sectors into one that is dynamic, technologically well-equipped and competitive not only for economic advancement but also for human development, steered by the sound practices of sustainability and guided by the principle of social justice.

SECTION 4. Formation of the Oversight Body. In pursuit of proper implementation of the Modernization Activities of the AF sectors, there shall be an Oversight Body formed chaired by the Chairman of the Statutory Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform of the BTA Parliament while its committee members shall serve as part of the Body. In addition, the following ministries shall form part of the oversight body with respect to their areas of concerns as follows:

1. **Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and Energy;**
2. **Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism;**
3. **Minister of Labor and Employment;**
4. **Minister of Basic, Higher and Technical Education;**
5. **Minister of Science and Technology; and**
6. **Minister of Public Order and Safety.**

The Body shall review, monitor and supervise the programs and activities implementation. It shall also scrutinize whether the policies have been implemented and whether they are having the desired impact and provide financial accountability.

SECTION 5. Setting up of the Bangsamoro Research Board on Modernization of Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors. There shall be established Bangsamoro Research Board of Agriculture and Fisheries sectors attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR). The Board shall serve as an advisory body of MAFAR, whose main area of responsibility is to conduct

study and research, to provide and advise the Minister of MAFAR about viable policies, programs, and projects concerning the modernization of the AF sectors in the region.

The Board shall be composed of five (5) members such as the Minister of MAFAR as Ex Officio Chairman or his Head of Research Unit, two (2) members from the Academe chosen from a shortlist of five (5) nominees of universities and colleges in the BARMM offering agriculture and fisheries courses, and two (2) representatives from the private sectors such as a professional practitioner agriculturist preferably an agricultural engineer and a fisheries practitioner. The members of the Board shall be entitled to an honorarium as prescribed by the existing laws and regulations on the payment of honorarium and other entitlement of the Board members.

To form the Board, the Chief Minister shall issue an Order constituting the Board with its five (5) members after proper evaluation and assessment of the qualifications of the members. The membership may be increased at the discretion of the Chief Minister upon the recommendation of the Minister of the MAFAR or on justifications presented by the majority of the Incumbent Board Members.

SECTION 6. Phase One – The Modernization process shall consist of three (3) phases. The Phase One which shall be fully implemented until second quarter of 2021 shall comprehend the preparatory stage including the following:

A. Identification of possible Agricultural Land Use, Fish Sanctuary and Fishing Ground, and other Aquatic Resources - The land identified as agricultural-based shall be exclusively used for such purpose and for activities geared towards modernization. The land identified shall not be converted into another purpose for a period of thirty (30) years. The Director-General for Agriculture shall be the frontline for the program.

The fish sanctuary, fishing ground, and other aquatic resources shall be properly identified in a mapping conducted for the purpose. The office of the Director-General for Fisheries under MAFAR shall be the lead agency in the activities.

B. Determination of the Suitability for Crop and Fish Species Production – Based on the study and research, the appropriate crops for specific agricultural land shall be applied to ensure increased producible and abundant supplies of the same to the local end-users as well as to the market outside the BARMM region. This activity shall consider major products for every season and climate to maximize the use of the lands. To implement the program, environmental radius that entails risk identification shall be considered to remedy low production rate

of the AF Sectors. This shall further requires risk reduction measures as support system to the program. The radius may also be observed in the fisheries activities in the region to ensure preservation of the marine and aquatic resources. The fingerling dispersal in the bodies of water of the region shall consider the environmental harmony between nature and setting of water and fish species.

- C. Establishment of the Database System** – There shall be established data system mainly for vital information inputs and outputs. These shall be ready and available references for the policy determinations and formulations of activities, programs and projects deemed applicable to the Bangsamoro region’s agricultural land. This envelops weather forecasting guided by the database containing facts and figures on the cycles of the climates in the region which affect the agricultural and fisheries production and activities.
- D. Determination of Appropriate and Adequate Farm Inputs** - The Bangsamoro Government shall determine appropriate and adequate Farm Inputs necessary for the implementation of the identified activities, projects and programs. These comprehends utilization of appropriate technological equipment and tools needful for the maximum utilization of the potentials of AF Sectors.
- E. Study of the Marketing Strategy**- To attain effectiveness and efficiency in pursuing the programs, the Bangsamoro Government through the preceding Board shall conduct and adopt strategies to help the AF sectors find markets for their products domestically as well as international economic market. The autonomous government shall ensure the competitiveness of the AF Sectors of the region. Representation shall be held with the economic players in all levels, regional, national and international.
- F. Implementation of Priority Projects** – To obtain positive results, the MAFAR in coordination with the Board shall implement priority projects in line with the micro-macro development programs of the Chief Minister. These priority projects shall emanate from the Board harnessing the available data and information. To effect high impact is primordial in the implementation.
- G. Conducting a Study and Research** – To attain effective production measures and sustainability programs, the Bangsamoro Research Board shall engage in research on subject matters significant to the facilitation and in ensuring the modernization program of the AF Sectors. Toward this end, it may commission the experts of the Academe from State Universities and Colleges within the BARMM.

- H. Development of Industrialization Programs** – Modernizing AF Sectors shall contemplate on the integration of industrialization process as needful to its realization. This is to ensure that modernization will not prejudice the innate capacities of the AF Sectors. Centered on human resources aspect shall be the foremost value of the modernization processes.
- I. Piloting of New Scheme of Agri-Aqua Program and Projects** – There shall be an identified pilot areas and new scheme for the implementation of agricultural and fisheries programs and projects. Each province shall have at least one (1) municipality to serve as pilot area. The MAFAR with the help of the above-cited Board shall identify projects applicable for pilot purpose in the provinces.
- J. Formulation of an Investment Plan** - The Bangsamoro Government shall invest in rural infrastructure area to establish link between and among the rural market and the national and international market. Investment plan also includes the identification of potential markets of the products of the AF Sectors to ensure market matching and robust trade.
- K. Study and Development of a Sustainability Program** – The autonomous government shall consider studies and development of sustainability programs. Adequate funding and governmental support are inseparable to sustain the devised programs for the modernization of the AF Sectors.
- L. Devising of a Management System and Governance** – Managing modernization activities, programs and projects shall be in accordance with established system by MAFAR. Upon establishment of pertinent rules and regulations by the Board, the MAFAR shall govern processes accordingly.

SECTION 7. Phases Two and Three – The Phase Two shall embrace a semi-full blown implementation of modernization programs and shall commence in the third quarter of 2021.

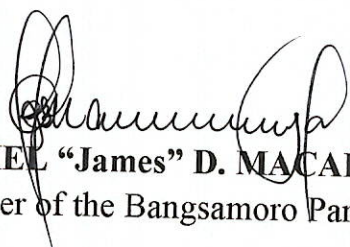
In Phase Three, the Bangsamoro Government shall endeavor to attain a zero-rated idle land under the full-blown implementation of the modernization programs based on the policy and program formulation and strategies in the aforementioned provisions of this Regional Law. This shall be in full-blown implementation on the second quarter of the year 2022.

SECTION 8. Appropriations – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act relative to Phase I shall be charged against the contingency fund of the approved BARMM 2020 Year Budget. An amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (P750,000,000.00) shall be the initial funding for Phase I of the Modernization Process. The Phases II and III funds shall be determined within two months before the completion of Phase I.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions which are not affected hereof and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause – All laws, promulgations, decrees, orders, issuances, local or regional proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the newspaper of general circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.


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