

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

Second Regular Session

BTA Bill No. 85

Introduced by **MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL**
Co-Authored by **MP ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD ALAMIA, MP ENGR. DON
MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, MP ENGR. BAIN TAIN A. AMPATUAN, CSEE, MP
RASUL E. ISMAEL, MP ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLOD TO, MP EDDIE M. ALIH**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BARTER TRADE IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS
REGION, PROMOTING ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSTITUTING
THE BANGSAMORO BARTER TRADE BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"Sell gold for gold and silver for silver, wheat for wheat, barley for barley, dates for dates and salt for salt, of the same kind for the same kind, of the same quantity for the same quantity, and the same quality from hand to hand, and if they differ from each other in quality, sell them as you like but from hand to hand." ¹

Barter has found its way into many languages as a term for the earliest form of exchange, which means the exchange of goods for goods without the medium of cash payments. The early trading methods were reciprocal, and the bilateral relationship was based upon personal ties and mutual trust, benefit, and balance.

The domestic barter trade policy has been recognized by the present administration by virtue of Executive Order No. 64 issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on October 29, 2018. No less than the President of the Republic of the Philippines acknowledged barter trading as an ancient commercial practice among the Filipino people in the Southern Philippines, and its revival will not only create jobs and business opportunities but also strengthen trade and commerce between and among member-states of the Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP EAGA).

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

RECEIVED

¹ Al-Syd Sabq, Fiqh Al-Sunnah

It is a tradition that bonafide Filipino resident traders in the Sulu Archipelago and the Bangsamoro region, by reason of geographical proximity, historical and social ties, are from time immemorial engaged in commercial intercourse with these neighboring islands. The region became a major barter trading site long before the Spaniards came, with the Tausug establishing ties with their Southeast Asian neighbors and Chinese and European traders. The majority of the people living in those areas depend upon such trade as their principal means of livelihood and source of income.

Trade, through the barter system, flourished in the Sulu Sultanate, which used to include the islands that are now the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan. Merchants of Sulu and nearby areas traded with neighboring sultanates. Moreover, it was chronicled that there already existed a vibrant exchange of goods between lowland and upland communities, as well as between islands and regions. This bill seeks to revive the barter trade which will not only strengthen trade and commerce but also help our *Bangsa* in their plight against poverty.

In order to attain the foregoing objectives, it is necessary to liberalize the procedure for entrance and clearance of cargoes and vessels of bona fide Filipino residents who are engaged in such trade. Thus, these links will be revived, premised on the old ties that merely need reviving, jumping off from efforts to restart these two decades ago under the BIMP EAGA.

Economic development and growth in these areas will ensure long-term stability and order, as the people will feel the benefits in terms of jobs, income, and a better life for themselves and their families. It is also what will consolidate the peace process in Mindanao.

The barter trade as previously practiced has weaknesses, such as the absence of border agreements that make border patrols problematic, and the problem of transshipment of goods outside barter trade zones which the bill seeks to address. These weaknesses, however, are outweighed by the opportunity given to local traders to engage in profitable business activity. It will also benefit hundreds of workers, such as support workers, dock handlers, stevedores, and supports trucking firms, restaurants, and domestic tourism.

In the hopes of the swift passage of this bill, the principal rule on trading which was introduced by the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet (PBUH) of an understanding among Muslims must be highlighted and serve as a guiding principle to us all - that the morality of business is one of the factors in trading characteristics. It is clear from the verses of the Holy Qur'an which provided: "Give just measure and cause no loss (to others by fraud). And weigh with scales true and upright. And withhold not things justly due to men, nor do evil in the land working mischief."

The initiative to promote the development of this region, including the parts of Indonesia, Malaysia (Sabah), and Brunei close to it through the BIMP-EAGA can be promising if carried out. This used to be an economically vibrant region and can be again, with Mindanao, and subsequently the BARMM, benefitting from the renewal of historical trading ties, the joint exploitation of the area's vast marine resources, and economic cooperation.

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

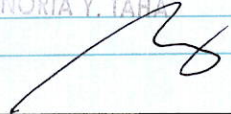
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Second Regular Session

BTA Bill No. 05

By: NORIA Y. TANA Date: MARCH 9, 2021
Signature:  Time: 1:45 PM

Introduced by **MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL**
Co-Authored by **MP ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD ALAMIA, MP ENGR. DON
MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, MP ENGR. BAIN TAIN A. AMPATUAN, CSEE, MP
RASUL E. ISMAEL, MP ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLOD TO, MP EDDIE M. ALIH**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BARTER TRADE IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS
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CHAPTER I
PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES; ESTABLISHMENT
AND NATURE OF BARTER TRADE ZONES

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Barter Trade Act of 2021*”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy and Principles. – The State shall pursue a trade policy that serves the general welfare and utilizes all forms and arrangements of exchange on the basis of equality and reciprocity to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth, equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth as a key to raising the quality life for all, especially the underprivileged.

To this end, the Bangsamoro Government shall promote domestic trade preference for goods produced and materials sourced from within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and adopt measures to increase their competitiveness. The Bangsamoro Government shall also ensure that Bangsamoro products and services gain considerable access to the markets of its trading partners. Particular attention shall also be given to the markets of its trading partners who have historic and cultural ties to the Bangsamoro people.

Moreover, it shall regulate traditional barter trade with the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Member States and countertrade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. The goods or items that are trade with the said countries shall not be sold elsewhere in the country without the payment of appropriate customs or import duties in accordance with existing national laws.

Section 3. *Purposes, Intents, and Objectives.* – It is the purpose, intent, and objectives of this Act:

- a. To establish the legal framework and mechanisms for the integration, coordination, planning, and monitoring of barter trade zones in the Bangsamoro region;
- b. To transform the barter trade zones into highly developed agro-industrial, industrial, commercial trade centers, where an efficient exchange of goods and/or services will be available to individuals and commercial enterprises;
- c. To promote the flow of barter traders, into identified barter trade zones which will generate economic, commercial, and financially viable opportunities;
- d. To stimulate the legitimization of capital by providing an attractive climate and incentives for barter trading activities; and
- e. To promote financial and economic cooperation between the BIMP-EAGA Member States through efficient barter trade practices that will promote the development in the region and improve the engagement of local traders in profitable business activities by practicing trade through the barter system;

Section 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) ATIGA – means the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) which aims to achieve free flow of goods in the region resulting in less trade barriers and deeper economic linkages among Member States, lower business costs, increased trade, and a larger market and economies of scale for businesses.
- (b) Barter – the trading of goods or services directly for other goods or services, without using money or any other similar unit of account or medium of exchange.
- (c) Barter Trade Zones – areas within the Bangsamoro region where the barter of goods by individuals and enterprises have zero tariffs, few non-tariff barriers, and trade facilitation as provided for in the various Free Trade Agreements to which the Philippines is a member of and all other existing laws.
- (d) BIMP-EAGA – means the Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), a sub-regional economic cooperation designed to spur economic development in the lagging sub-economies which covers the underdeveloped and geographically remote areas in the four-member countries, particularly the entire sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, nine provinces in Kalimantan,

Sulawesi, the island chain of Maluku, and Papua (Indonesia); the federal states of Sabah and Sarawak, and the federal territory of Labuan (Malaysia); and Mindanao (26 provinces) and the province of Palawan (Philippines).

(e) CEPT Scheme – means the Comprehensive Effective Preferential Tariff which is an agreed effective tariff, preferential to ASEAN, to be applied to goods originating from ASEAN Member States, and which have been identified for inclusion in the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme in accordance with the obligations under Article 19 (Reduction or Elimination of Import Duties) and 21 (Issuance of Legal Enactments) of the ATIGA.

Section 5. *Establishment of Barter Trade Zones.* – To ensure the viability and geographic dispersal of Barter Trade Zones, the following areas are initially identified as Barter Trade Zones:

- a. Jolo and other potential areas in the Province of Sulu;
- b. Bongao and other potential areas in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;
- c. Lamitan and other potential areas in the Province of Basilan;
- d. Polloc and other potential areas in the Province of Maguindanao; and
- e. Picong and other potential areas in the Province of Lanao del Sur.

The metes and bounds of each Barter Trade Zone are to be delineated and more particularly described in a proclamation to be issued by the Interim Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority of BARMM, upon recommendation of the Bangsamoro Barter Trade Board (BBTB), which shall be established under this Act, in coordination with the municipal and/or city council.

Section 6. *Barter Trade Zone to be a Commercial/Trading, Agro-Industrial Investment Center.* – Within the framework of the constitution, Barter Trade Zones shall be developed, as much as possible, into a commercial/trading, agro-industrial investment center. Each Barter Trade Zone shall be provided with facilities needed to generate linkage with industries and assist local traders to engage in profitable business barter trading activities.

The BBTB through its principal agent, the Chairperson or any of its Commissioners, may establish mutually beneficial economic relations and enter into economic agreements with other entities within the country, or, subject to the administrative guidance of the Chief Minister and/or Minister of Trade, Investment, and Tourism, as authorized by the Chief Minister, with foreign countries or entities, in fulfillment of Section 26, Article XIII of Republic Act No. 11054.

Each Barter Trade Zone shall implement the zero-tariff benefits under the CEPT Scheme in accordance with the obligations under Article 19 and Article 21 of the ATIGA. In the event any subsequent changes are made in the basic Philippine rate of duty on any of the articles listed in the Annexes shall automatically be accorded the corresponding reduced duty.

Chapter II **GOVERNING STRUCTURE**

Section 7. *Creation and Mandate.* – The Bangsamoro Barter Trade Board (BBTB) is hereby established to supervise, coordinate, and harmonize policies, programs, and activities on barter trade in the Bangsamoro region. To this end, it shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Facilitate the establishment of an enabling environment conducive to the growth and development of barter trade in the Bangsamoro region;
- (b) Formulate and issue rules and regulations on the registration or accreditation of qualified traders authorized to engage in barter trading within the Barter Trade Zones to be established pursuant hereto, including the imposition of reasonable registration fees and facilitation of all documentary requirements necessary for them to avail of the zero-tariff benefits under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA);
- (c) Issue comprehensive guidelines governing barter trading, including, but not limited to, a mechanism for the valuation of barter goods, a list of allowable barter goods, and measures to prevent smuggling and circumvention of customs laws;
- (d) Set the general policies on the establishment and operations of Barter Trade Zones;
- (e) Review proposals for the establishment of Barter Trade Zones. Thereafter, it shall facilitate and assist in the organization of the said entities;
- (f) Review existing policies, rules, and regulations of government agencies that affect all aspects of barter, and submit recommendations to the Chief Minister and the Bangsamoro Parliament;
- (g) Gather relevant data on barter trading and render annual reports to the Chief Minister and the Bangsamoro Parliament, including its actual contribution to the economy and the lives of the residents in areas where it is practiced; and
- (g) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the BARMM Chief Minister.

The BBTB shall be attached to the Bangsamoro Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT) for policy and program coordination.

Section 8. *Composition of the Board.* – The Board shall be composed of (a) BARMM Minister of the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism as Chairperson, and the following as members; the BARMM Ministers of the (b) Ministry of Interior and Local Government, (c) the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy, (d) the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Agrarian Reform, (e) Minister of Finance, Budget and Management, (f) the Chairman of the Bangsamoro Economic Development Council, and (g) one (1) representative from the investors/business sector in the Barter Trade Zone to be appointed by the Chief Minister.

Members of the Board shall receive a per diem of not less than the amount equivalent to the representation and transportation allowances of the members of the Board and/or as may be determined by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Management.

In case urgent action is needed or in the exigency of the service, the Executive Director may convene or call in executive session or meeting a majority of the members of the Board. The decisions taken in the executive session or meeting shall stand unless revoked by the regular Board. The members of the Board who are BARMM Ministers except for the Chairman, may designate their permanent representatives in case of absence or unavailability.

Section 9. *Executive Director to the Board* – The Board shall have an executive director who shall be appointed by the Chief Minister upon recommendation of the Minister of Trade, Investment, and Tourism-BARMM, to serve in a co-terminus capacity with the Chief Minister, unless sooner removed for cause, with provision for re-appointment. In case of removal for cause, the replacement shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term. The executive director shall be of proven probity and integrity, and a degree holder in any of the following fields: economics, business, public administration, law, accounting, management or their equivalent, and with at least eight (8) years relevant working experience, preferably in the field of financial and legal management or public administration and with civil service eligibility, or its equivalent.

The executive director shall be assisted by three (3) deputy directors each for policy and planning, administration, and operation, who shall be appointed by the Chief Minister, upon recommendation of the BBTB. The deputy directors will serve in a co-terminus capacity with the appointing authority unless sooner removed for a cause. The deputy directors shall be of proven probity and integrity, and a degree holder in any of the following fields: economics, business, public administration, law, accounting, management or their equivalent, and with at least five (5) years relevant working experience, and with civil service eligibility.

Section 10. *Powers and Functions of the Executive Director*. – The executive director shall be the overall coordinator of the policies, plans, and programs of all Barter Trade Zones. As such, he shall provide overall supervision over and general direction to the development and operations of these Barter Trade Zones. He shall determine the structure and staffing pattern and personnel complement of the BBTB and establish provincial offices, when necessary, subject to the approval of the BBTB.

In addition, he shall have the following specific powers and responsibilities:

- a. To ensure that all revenues of all Barter Trade Zones are collected and applied in accordance with its budget;
- b. To ensure that the employees of all Barter Trade Zones are properly discharging their respective duties;
- c. To give such information and recommend such measures to the Board, as he shall deem advantageous to any or all Barter Trade Zones;

- d. To represent all Barter Trade Zones in all its business matters and sign on its behalf after approval of the Board;
- e. To acquire jurisdiction, as he may deem proper, over the protests, complaints, and claims of the barter traders and enterprises in all Barter Trade Zones concerning administrative matters;
- f. To accept any local or foreign investment, business or enterprise in all Barter Trade Zones, subject to such rules and regulations to be promulgated by the BBTB;
- g. To perform such other duties and exercises such powers as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 11. Administration of Barter Trade Zones – Each Barter Trade Zone shall be organized, administered, and managed by the Barter Trade Zone executive committee composed of the following:

- a. The executive director of the BBTB or any of his deputy directors.
- b. The administrator, who shall be appointed by the BBTB upon recommendation of the executive director, and who shall be responsible for the day to day operations of all Barter Trade Zones.
- c. One (1) deputy administrator to be appointed by the BBTB, upon recommendation of the executive director.

The administrator and deputy administrator shall be of proven probity and integrity, and a degree holder in any of the following fields: economics, business, public administration, law, accounting, management or their equivalent, and with at least four (4) years relevant working experience, and with civil service eligibility. The residents of the area where the Barter Trade Zone is located and/or those with graduate-level degrees, such as Masters in Public Administration, or professional board passers shall be given priority in hiring.

A Barter Trade Zone advisory body shall be created with the following members:

- 1. The president of the association of the barter traders in each Barter Trade Zone;
- 2. The governor of the province where the Barter Trade Zone is located, who shall be the Chairman of the body;
- 3. The mayor/s of the municipality/ies or city/ies where the Barter Trade Zone is located; and
- 4. A representative of the BBTB.

The Barter Trade Zone advisory body shall have the following functions:

- a. Advise their respective Barter Trade Zone executive committees on matters pertaining to policy initiatives; and

- b. Assist their respective Barter Trade Zone executive committees in settling problems arising between barter traders;

Chapter III REGISTRATION AND INCENTIVES

Section 12. *Shipping and Shipping Register.* – Private shipping and related business including private container terminals shall be subject to minimum reasonable regulations which the BBTB may prescribe.

The BBTB shall, in coordination with the Ministry of Transportation-BARMM and the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism-BARMM, maintain a shipping register for each Barter Trade Zone as a business register of convenience for ocean-going vessels and issue related certification.

Ships of all sizes and descriptions shall enjoy access to the ports of the Barter Trade Zones, subject only to such reasonable requirements as may be prescribed by the BBTB in coordination with the appropriate agencies of BARMM.

Non-convention sized ships shall be the standard mode of transportation in the cross-border trading in the ASEAN region.

Section 13. *Registration of Barter Traders* – Individuals and business enterprises engaged in barter trading within a designated Barter Trade Zone, including wholesalers, retailers, and shippers, shall register with the BBTB to avail of all incentives and benefits as may be provided for by the BBTB.

Section 14. *Incentives to Registered Barter Traders* – All registered barter traders shall be granted the following incentives:

- (a) Simplification of Customs Procedure – Customs procedures for the importation of raw and processed materials and supplies, and exports of processed products by registered barter traders shall be simplified pursuant to existing rules and regulations issued by the Bureau of Customs and other relevant and related laws.
- (b) Tax Credit for Taxes and Duties on Raw Materials. — Every registered barter trader shall enjoy a tax credit equivalent to the National Internal Revenue taxes and Customs duties paid on the supplies, raw materials, and semi-manufactured products used in the manufacture, processing, or production of its export products and forming part thereof, exported directly or indirectly by the registered enterprise: Provided, however, that the taxes on the supplies, raw materials, and semi-manufactured products domestically purchased are indicated as a separate item in the sales invoice.
- (c) Access to Bonded Manufacturing/Trading Warehouse System. — Registered barter traders shall have access to the utilization of the bonded warehousing system in all barter trading zones subject to such guidelines as may be issued by the Board upon prior consultation with the Bureau of Customs.
- (d) Exemption from Taxes and Duties on Imported Supplies. — Importation of required supplies for consigned equipment or those imported tax and duty-free by a registered

enterprise with a bonded manufacturing warehouse shall be exempt from customs duties and national internal revenue taxes payable thereon, Provided, However, That at least seventy percent (70%) of production is exported; Provided, further, that such supplies are not locally available at reasonable prices, sufficient quantity, and comparable quality; Provided, finally, That all such supplies shall be used only in the bonded manufacturing warehouse of the registered barter trader under such requirements as the Bureau of Customs may impose.

- (e) Exemption from Wharfage Dues and any Export Tax, Duty, Impost, and Fee. — The provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, exports by a registered barter trader of its non- traditional export products shall be exempted from any wharfage dues, and any export tax, duty, impost, and fee.

A registered barter trader shall only be allowed to import barter goods for a maximum amount of one (1) million pesos value of goods per trip twice a month to avail of the incentives. Any amount in excess of this limit or any trip or importation beyond this allowable frequency shall be treated as a regular importation and be subjected to applicable tariffs.

Section 15. Allowable Barter Goods. – Goods traded under the barter system shall enter the Philippine territory only through the Barter Trade Zones established for the purpose. Products enjoying tariff protections and/or quantitative restrictions such as rice, corn, sugar, gas, oil, and other petroleum products as well as products requiring special import permits and/or subject to standard requirements, shall remain to be regulated by applicable laws, rules and regulations and shall not be traded under the barter trading system.

All barter goods imported into the country under the barter trade system established under this Act shall be sold only in BARMM Areas in Barter Centers to be established by the BBTB, in coordination with the concerned LGUs. Existing barter centers outside BARMM shall continue to operate provided that these retail centers purchase their barter goods from registered barter traders either directly from Barter Trade Zones or from designated Barter Centers established within BARMM.

Qualified traders of allowable barter goods shall import or export only after securing the required goods declaration or export declaration, clearances, licenses, and any other requirements prescribed under existing laws. In the case of importation, submission of requirements after the arrival of goods but prior to release from customs custody shall be governed by relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

Chapter IV **MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 16. Disbursement of Funds. – No money shall be paid out of the funds of any Barter Trade Zone except in pursuance of the budget as formulated and approved by the BBTB.

Section 17. Applicability of Existing Laws. – Notwithstanding the free entry of goods within the framework of the ATIGA, mechanisms established under existing laws on

countertrade, prosecution of dumping protests, as well as countervailing measures, safeguards, and other trade remedies, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 18. *Investigation and Inquiries.* – Upon a written formal complaint made under oath, the BBTB or the administrator of the Barter Trade Zone concerned shall have the power to inquire into the conduct of individuals and enterprises engaged in barter trading within the Barter Trade Zone and to conduct investigations and for that purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and compel the production of books, papers, and other pieces of evidence: Provided, That to arrive at the truth, he may grant immunity from prosecution to any person whose testimony or whose possession of documents or other pieces of evidence is necessary to determine the truth in any investigation conducted by him or under the authority of the BBTB or the administrator of the Barter Trade Zone concerned.

Section 19. *Penal Provisions* – The following acts or omissions affecting registered barter traders are hereby prohibited:

1. Direct or indirect interference or intervention by any public official or employee into the internal affairs of the registered barter trader, such as but not limited to the following:
 - (a) Requiring prior clearance for any registered barter transaction by the registered barter trader;
 - (b) Requesting, demanding, or recommending for the transfer or removal of a registered barter trader in a specified barter trade zone;
 - (c) Any other acts inimical or adverse to the rights of registered barter traders.

In case of violation of any provisions of this subsection, the individual or individuals, and in the case of organizations, its officers and directors shall, upon conviction by a court, each suffer a penalty of not less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years imprisonment or a fine in the amount of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both at the discretion of the court.

2. Any violation of any provision of this Act for which no penalty is imposed shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both at the discretion of the court.

CHAPTER V

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Section 20. *Appropriation.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, such sum as may be necessary for its Capital Outlay, Maintenance, Operating and Other Expenses (MOOE) and Personnel Services (PS) shall be provided in the submission of the BARMM Budget to the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Management for inclusion in the block grant, to be treated as an equity of the Bangsamoro Government.

Additional funding shall come from the following:

- a. The annual subsidies, appropriations from the local funds of BARMM;
- b. The proceeds from the fees, charges, and other revenue-generating instruments which the BBTB is authorized to impose and collect under this Act;

Section 21. *Transitory Mechanisms for the Initial Organization of the BBTB.* – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism – BARMM shall organize the BBTB as an attached agency to it, by drafting and submitting the necessary Capital Outlay, Maintenance, Operating and Other Expenses (MOOE) and Personnel Services of the BBTB for inclusion in the BARMM Budget for the succeeding year, as provided in Section 19 of this Act.

Within a period of one (1) year from the approval of this Act, while the BBTB is being organized by the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism-BARMM as an attached agency to it, and until such time as the regular budget of the BBTB is approved by the Bangsamoro Parliament, it shall exercise the powers and functions of the BBTB, as provided for in this Act. As such, the Chief Minister may task to it to organize Barter Trade Zones and issue proclamations for the establishment of Barter Trade Zones within the Bangsamoro region. All line agencies and other government instrumentalities under BARMM shall give priority assistance to the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism-BARMM for the establishment of Barter Trade Zones within the Bangsamoro region.

Section 22. *Separability Clause.* – The provisions of this Act are hereby declared separable, and in the event, one or more such provisions or part thereof are declared unconstitutional, such declaration of unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

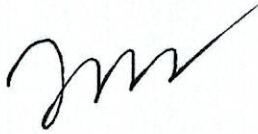
Section 23. *Repealing Clause.* – All regional laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and/or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

Section 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism-BARMM, during the interim period, while the BBTB is being organized as an attached agency to it, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act. Upon the organization of the BBTB, the Council may adopt such Implementing Rules and Regulations or amend it with two-thirds or more of its members voting in favor.

Section 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of regional or national circulation.

Adopted,

AUTHOR:



HON. AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL

Member of the Parliament

Certified correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL

Secretary General

Attested by:

HON. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG

Speaker