



(FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 214

RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO PRIORITIZE THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4840 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 3405 CREATING THE PROVINCES OF WESTERN MAGUINDANAO AND MAGUINDANAO NORTH, RESPECTIVELY.

WHEREAS, in 1967, Republic Act No. 4849 divided the province of Cotabato, creating thereof the provinces of Cotabato and South Cotabato and on November 22, 1973, Presidential Decree No. 341 further divided the province of Cotabato, creating thereof the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat;

WHEREAS, In 2017, the then Deputy Speaker Hon. Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema filed before the Seventeenth Congress the House Bill No. 5185, entitled: An Act Creating the Province of Maguindanao North, which sought to re-create, with certain modifications, the short-lived province of Shariff Kabunsuan;

WHEREAS, the then province of Shariff Kabunsuan was created by the will of the people of Muslim Mindanao pursuant to their autonomy as recognized by the 1987 Constitution and their legislative power under the Republic Act. No. 9054, however, the said creation was subsequently declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the Philippines on the ground that the power to create provinces is vested only to the Congress as provided for under the Constitution;

WHEREAS, currently, House Bill No. 4840 creating the Province of Western Mindanao and House Bill No. 3405 creating the Province of Maguindanao North that were filed by 1st District of Maguindanao Representative Hon. Datu Roonie Q. Sinsuat and 2nd District of Maguindanao Representative Hon. Esmael "Toto" G. Mangudadatu, respectively are still pending before the Eighteenth Congress;

WHEREAS, On February 11, 2020 committee hearing, the Committee on Local Government of the Eighteenth Congress approved the above-mentioned bills and directed the Secretariat of the Congress to prepare a Substitute Bill for the said bills and its corresponding committee report;

WHEREAS, RA No. 7160, also known as "The Local Government Code of 1991", increased the responsibilities and resources of the local government units in order to speed up the promotion of development, equitable share of wealth or internal revenue allotment and growth in the local level, and presently, the issue is ready and recommended for deliberation and voting in the plenary of the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, Section 10, Article VI, of Republic Act. No. 11054, otherwise known as Bangsamoro Organic Law, provides:

"SEC. 10. Bangsamoro Government and its Constituent Local Government Units.- xxx xxx xxx

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

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Signature: _____
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The Parliament may create, divide, merge, abolish, or substantially alter boundaries of municipalities or barangays created, divided, merged, or whose boundaries are substantially altered, shall be entitled to their appropriate share in the national taxes on Internal Revenue Allotment: Provided, That the criteria laid down in the Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, and other national laws shall be satisfied: Provided, further, That it shall be approved by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite in the political units directly affected.

When such acts require the creation of a legislative district, the Bangsamoro Government shall cooperate and coordinate with the National Government through the Philippine Congress – Bangsamoro Parliament Forum to prioritize the deliberations on the creation of a legislative district.
(Emphasis supplied)

xxx xxx xxx”

WHEREAS, the creation of the Provinces of Western Maguindanao and Maguindanao North would result in more political stability as well as economic and social growth through the further distribution of political power and by greatly increasing the efficiency and effectivity of the delivery of public service to the Bangsamoro people since the projects, programs and aid from the national government, as well as from private organizations, will be localized and that the same will cater the people who will need it the most.

WHEREAS, there is a transcendental importance and paramount urgency and immediacy in the need to implement these projects, programs, and aid for the benefit and general welfare the Bangsamoro people as well as the Bangsamoro government, and that the passage of the House Bills creating the Provinces of Western Maguindanao and Maguindanao North will pave way to said implementation.

Now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, as it is hereby resolved, To urge the House Of Representatives of the Philippines to prioritize the immediate passage of House Bill No. 4840 and House Bill No. 3405 creating the provinces of Western Maguindanao and Maguindanao North, respectively.

Adopted, _____.

Authors:


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HON. ATTY. LANANG T. ALI, JR.
Majority Floor Leader