

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

**BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY**

Proposed Resolution No. 260

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Introduced by BTA Member **Atty. Maisara Cudia Dandamun-Latiph**

Co-Authors: **MP Abdulla A. Ahang, MP Abdulmuhmin A. Mujahid, MP Hatimil E. Hassan, MP Abdullah B. Hashim, MP Jamel D. Macaraya**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGENTLY DIRECTING MINISTER MOHAGHER IQBAL, MINISTRY OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO RENDER AN ASSESSMENT OR REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRESENT TO THE BTA ITS LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN TOWARDS THE SHIFT TO A NEW NORMAL THIS SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021.**

**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The novel coronavirus has caused severe pneumonia in several cases in China and has been exported to a range of countries and cities.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, last February 12, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the novel disease is officially called Coronavirus Disease 19 or COVID-19, and the virus infecting it is referred to as COVID-19 virus.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, last 31 December 2019, a clustering of pneumonia cases of unknown etiology in Wuhan, China was reported to the WHO Country Office. The outbreak was later determined to be caused by a new coronavirus strain that has not been previously identified in humans.<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, On 30 January 2020, the Philippine Department of Health reported the first case of COVID-19 in the country with a 38-year-old female Chinese national. On 7 March, the first local transmission of COVID-19 was confirmed. WHO is working closely with the Department of Health in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> www.doh.gov.ph

<sup>2</sup> id

<sup>3</sup> id

<sup>4</sup> www.who.int

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

**RECEIVED**

By: NORIA Y. TAHA

Date: 7-9-20

Signature: 

Time: 8:07



**WHEREAS**, President Rodrigo R. Duterte and the Department of Education declared that there will be no face-to-face learning until a vaccine against Covid-19.<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, School opening will be on August 24, 2020 for basic education, while for Higher Education will open not later than September 1, 2020.<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the UP experts also said that the "physical" opening of classes might increase the transmission of COVID-19;<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, as provided in Republic Act No. 10533, schools and learning institutions shall continue to deliver education services that are “relevant to the needs of the people, the country and society-at-large” in a manner that is appropriate, feasible and compliant to the minimum health and safety standards and directive from IATF-EID, BARMM-IATF, MOH and other proper authorities;

**WHEREAS**, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) issued Memorandum Order No. 204 on formulation of Technical Working Group and conducted series of meetings and consultation with education officials, partners, learners and parents to formulate adaptive strategies for Basic, Madaris, Higher and Technical Education amidst Covid-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education issued Memorandum Order No. 205 on the guidelines for education continuity plan for SY 2020-2021 stating that; education stakeholders, parents, community leaders, and local government units shall be involved in planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of activities and interventions relative to the continuity of education service delivery and home-based or distance learning shall be preferred modality.

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that “no Bangsamoro child will be left behind” in transitioning to the ‘new normal’ amid Covid-19, the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE-BARMM) will be using multi-platform communication system in implementing its Learning Continuity Plan (LCP). Thus, MBHTE Minister Mohagher Iqbal launched on Monday, June 15, 2020 the ministry’s Balik Eskwela Program and LCP for school year 2020-2021.

**WHEREAS**, UNESCO has recommended that countries “adopt a variety of hi-tech, low-tech and no tech solutions to assure the continuity of learning.” Although much focus has turned to online learning platforms, many public schools are not set up to use them or don’t have functioning internet access to support this. And neither do all students. Public schools in many, if not most, of

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<sup>5</sup> [www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net) dated May 27, 2020

<sup>6</sup> id

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/260921-iatf-says-start-classes-college-based-delivery-mode>



the countries affected largely operate offline, particularly in low-income countries where the bulk of public schools are desperately under-resourced.<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Minister Mohagher Iqbal during Senate hearing on Senate Resolution No. 392 stated that “internet penetration rate in the region—comprised of Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi provinces, Cotabato City, and 63 barangays—is only 20%.”<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Internet and ICT rights advocacy organization Democracy.Net.PH founder Pierre Tito Galla said the 20% could even be an optimistic estimate. “Our current average estimates of the BARMM [internet] penetration is around 5% to 7% only,” Galla said.<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, with this grim scenario of lack or no internet connectivity thousands of learners, parent, and teachers and other stakeholders will be affected by the shift to new normal in education and it is but proper to identify the issues and challenges facing the MBHTE and stakeholders as they formulate and implement adaptive policies and strategies towards an educational system that is resilient and responsive to the needs of the learners and teachers.

**WHEREAS**, now is the time to build back better, to make education systems more inclusive and better prepared to face and overcome possible crisis in the future, including climate-related ones. And more than ever, this is a time to protect education – and education budgets - from the socio-economic fallout of the pandemic.<sup>11</sup>

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority:

**URGENTLY DIRECTING MINISTER MOGAHGER IQBAL, MINISTRY OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO RENDER AN ASSESSMENT OR REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRESENT TO BTA ITS LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN TOWARDS THE SHIFT TO A NEW NORMAL THIS SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021.**

Adopted,

  
**Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph**

Member of the Parliament - Bangsamoro Transition Authority

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/19/pandemic-shakes-worlds-education-systems>

<sup>9</sup> [www.gmanetwork.com](http://www.gmanetwork.com)

<sup>10</sup> id

<sup>11</sup> [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)