



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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 328

Introduced by **MP PAISALIN P.D. TAGO**

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A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) TO EXERCISE UTMOST CAUTION AND PRUDENCE IN ISSUING STATEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON THE INSTITUTION OF THE MADARIS, WHICH MIGHT FURTHER ALIENATE THE MUSLIMS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO DELETERIOUS PERCEPTIONS

WHEREAS, Madrasah system of education is a quintessence of the Islamic faith professed by Muslims all over the world, and the teachings thereon are based on the primary sources of Islamic Law, foremost of which is the Holy Qurán and the authentic sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, which today is adhered to, and continues to bring comfort to more than 1.8 billion people or roughly more than one in every four persons on the face of the earth;

WHEREAS, Today, Madaris are scattered nationwide, with the majority found in Central and Western Mindanao. It is estimated that there are between 1,000 and 2,000 madaris in Mindanao with a total student population of between 100,000 and 150,000. Provinces with over 100 madaris each are Lanao del Sur, Basilan and Maguindanao.

WHEREAS, The development and institutionalization of madrasah education as well as the standard curriculum for elementary public schools and private madaris was approved and prescribed by the Department of Education under DepED Order No. 51, s. 2004 to counter the radicalization in the country as one of its primary purpose. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) had adopted the national standard curriculum by virtue of ARMM RG Executive Order No. 13-A, s. 2004. With these issuances, the madrasah educational system has now been upgraded as a vital component of the national educational system, similar to the mainstream school system.

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2020, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Gilbert Gapay on a virtual media forum organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) declared that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is looking into possible involvement of some Madrasah or Islamic Schools in the country in the radicalization and alleged recruitment of suicide bombers. In the words of Gen. Gapay, stressing this point:

“You know, the Madrasas and other schools in Sulu, we are monitoring them really, where we suspected there is some sort of radicalization activities going on.”

“We are looking now, coordinating with DepEd, looking into different schools, particularly in Sulu and other parts of Mindanao because it is one of the institutions or areas where recruitment is occurring, particularly in the youth (sector);

WHEREAS, these statements, which can be categorized as sweeping and general with undue degree of conclusiveness, only serve to foment distrust and resentment among the Muslim population, particularly the youth, who are effectively placed under surveillance and restrictions that further alienate them from the mainstream society;

WHEREAS, these statements evoke much concern especially when viewed in the context following the passage of the Republic Act No. 11479 also known as the “Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020,” which sowed fear for purportedly opening the way for arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement and malicious prosecution of innocent people;

WHEREAS, while we recognize and support the inherent need to quell terroristic activities pursuant to the sworn duty of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to protect and preserve the peace and the sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines, the manner and method, including their pronouncements, must be carefully drawn to avoid further escalation of support to lawless groups by feeding fuel into their propaganda machine;

WHEREAS, utmost caution must be exercised in labeling a delicate aspect of the way of life of a people who had been through the ashes of armed confrontation for decades, hence if the AFP, through their Chief of Staff, is certain, definitive proof of the alleged involvement of Madrasahs in the recruitment of terrorist must be shown in the proper venue and proceedings, before public statements are issued;

WHEREAS, while we commend the effort of the AFP to protect us from enemies inside and outside, we strongly remind the AFP leadership that prejudicial statements that may be considered in the realm of “red tagging” or witch-hunting that would further alienate the Muslims in the Philippines to deleterious perceptions, be prudently refrained without irrefutable proof;

WHEREFORE, it is **RESOLVED**, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Bangsamoro Transition Authority - Parliament adopts **A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) TO EXERCISE UTMOST CAUTION AND PRUDENCE IN ISSUING SWEEPING AND GENERALIZE STATEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON THE INSTITUTIONS OF MADARIS, WHICH MIGHT FURTHER ALIENATE THE MUSLIMS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO DELETERIOUS PERCEPTIONS**

RESOLVED, further, to furnish copy of this resolution to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for his information and guidance.

Adopted _____



ATTY. PAISALIN P.D. TAGO, CPA
Member of the Parliament