

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

*Third Regular Session*

**BTA PARLIAMENT**  
**BTA Resolution No. 591**



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**Introduced by:**

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY (GOTD) THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (MOTC) TO ENSURE THE UPGRADING OF THE SANGA-SANGA PORT IN THE PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, port development and productivity play vital roles in economic development and regional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is one of the most dynamic economies in East Asia and the Pacific region. It is an archipelago with a total land area of approximately 300,000 square kilometers. Due to the nature of its archipelago, the maritime industry in the Philippines is a vital component in achieving socio-economic progress. Shipping is a major means by which islands are linked and through which movements of goods and people is achieved;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, based on the February 2020 report of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the challenges that the Philippines face relative to port development and productivity enhancement are: 1) planning, 2) management and operation, and 3) investment and financing;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1, Chapter 1, Title XV of Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 13, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Administrative Code states that the Bangsamoro Government is committed to the promotion, maintenance, and expansion of viable, efficient, fast, safe, and dependable transportation and communications systems as effective instruments for regional development and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Port%20development%20-%20Fulltext.pdf>

economic progress. It shall not compete as a matter of policy with private enterprise and shall operate transportation and communications facilities only in those areas where private initiatives are inadequate or non-existent;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of the same law mandates the Ministry of Transportation and Communications shall be the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, implementing, regulating, and administrative entity of the Bangsamoro Government in the promotion, development, and regulation of dependable and coordinated networks of transportation and communications systems, as well as fast, safe, efficient and reliable transportation and communications services;

**WHEREAS**, the current infrastructure issues facing the four (4) major ports of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region including Tawi-Tawi ports were reviewed during the time of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) based on the analysis made in the 2016 JICA-assisted BDP-2.

In essence, all the four major ports required physical improvements. Although some upgrading were already done by the ARMM and the Provincial LGUs, the ports still need more upgrading and expanding with state-of-the-art facilities to cater large cargo vessels and to accommodate more number of vessels to load and unload cargoes;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to improve the existing ports in the province of Tawi-Tawi particularly the Sanga-Sanga port by putting up state-of-the-art facilities to catch up with other progressive ports of neighboring ASEAN countries.

State of the art facilities shall include Large Warehouses with cold storage, Solar Power, Internet Connectivity, 24/7 Security Personnel and CCTV;

**WHEREAS**, the existing facility of the Bongao port, Tawi-Tawi is considered as operating beyond its capacity. To mitigate the situation, an expansion plan of the port is prepared which would cost about USD 3.59 Million. But ultimately, the plan of the Provincial Government is to construct a new port with an eco-zone located in Barangay Malasa (Sanga-Sanga Island) in the northeast. This new port will cost about USD 10.70 Million;

**WHEREAS**, today large cargo vessels are using the ports of Indonesia and Malaysia over Tawi-Tawi ports because of its state-of-the-art facilities;

**WHEREAS**, improving the Sanga-Sanga port of Tawi-Tawi by investing on good facilities will help increase import and export activities therein, which will lead to generating more income of the port;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Bangsamoro Parliament to pass and approve this Resolution urging the Bangsamoro Government of the Day (GOTD) through the Ministry of

Transportation and Communications (MOTC) to ensure the upgrading of the Sanga-Sanga Port in the province of Tawi-Tawi with state-of-the-art facilities.

Adopted,

  
**MP ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA**