

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

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**THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 667**

**Introduced by:**

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**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) TO  
ENSURE ACCESSIBLE SNAKEBITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN EACH  
PROVINCE AND THE AVAILABILITY AND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF  
PURIFIED COBRA ANTIVENIN (PCAV) IN THE BANGSAMORO  
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM)**

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares the State's policy to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 11, Articles XIII of the same Constitution also mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development by endeavoring to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at an affordable cost;

WHEREAS, Section 22, Article IX of Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), obliges the Bangsamoro Government to uphold the peoples' right to have access to essential goods, health, and other social services that promote their well-being;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2, Chapter 1, Title V of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code provides that the MOH shall primarily be responsible for formulating, planning, implementing and coordinating policies and programs for health. It shall promote, protect, preserve and restore the health of the people through the provision and delivery of health services through regulation and encouragement of providers of health goods and services;

**WHEREAS**, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Guidelines for the management of snakebites, snakebites are well-known medical emergencies in many parts of the world, especially in rural areas. Agricultural workers and children are the most affected. Rational use of snake anti-venom can substantially reduce mortality and morbidity due to snake bites;

**WHEREAS**, cobras are at home in many types of terrain in the Philippines, from sea level to 1,800 meters elevation with optimum habitat in grasslands, forests, swamps, and cultivated areas in Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago.

**WHEREAS**, Coral snakes and Sea snakes are typically found in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago;

**WHEREAS**, bites venomous snakes can result in a wide range of effects from superficial puncture wounds to life-threatening illness and death;

**WHEREAS**, the BARMM is mainly an agricultural and fishery region where farmers and fisherfolks are at a high risk of snakebites which can cause permanent disability like blindness or restricted mobility, or death if there is no immediate access to healthcare antivenom and effective treatment;

**WHEREAS**, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) houses the Purified Cobra Antivenin (PCAV), the only known effective antidote for snakebites, specifically those caused by the Philippine Cobra (*Naja philippinensis*);

**WHEREAS**, *in* an article published by Manila Bulletin in 2019, deaths by snakebites per year have been estimated to be around 250 persons;

**WHEREAS**, clinical profile of snakebite patients admitted in RITM from July 1995-July 2000 results showed 79 snakebite patients were admitted at RITM; 97.5 percent were discharged improved and 2.5 percent died;

**WHEREAS**, snakebite is a medical emergency that needs hospital management so that the antivenom and emergency medical care can be administered;

**WHEREAS**, testimonies of several snakebite victims have shown that there is no adequate and readily available supply of Purified Cobra Antivenin (PCAV) in the Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, to call on the MOH to ensure accessible snake bite treatment centers in every province and ensure adequate supply of Antivenin in the Region.

ADOPTED, \_\_\_\_\_.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Mustapha A. Loong". The signature is stylized and overlaps the printed name below it.

MP ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD MPSA, CESE  
Member of the Parliament