

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

BANSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
PARLIAMENT
(First Regular Session)

Journal No. 6

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

At 1:17 P.M., the Presiding Officer, Hon. MP Atty. Paisalin Tago, called the session to order.

INVOCATION

Upon request of the Chair, Hon. MP Abdulwahab Pak led the invocation.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Subsequently, the singing of the National Anthem followed.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretariat called the Roll and the members of the BTA Parliament were present:

1. Hon. Abas, Haron M.
2. Hon. Abas, Zul Qarneyn M.
3. Hon. Abbas, Basit S.
4. Hon. Alamia, Laisa M.
5. Hon. Alauddin, Faiz S.
6. Hon. Ali, Ibrahim D.
7. Hon. Lanang, Ali Jr., T.
8. Hon. Alih, Eddie M.
9. Hon. Alil, Zesar H.
10. Hon. Ambolodto, Suharto M.
11. Hon. Ampatuan, Baintan M.
12. Hon. Asmawil, Muslima A.
13. Hon. Balindong, Ali Pangalian M.
14. Hon. Barra, Hamid Aminoddin D.
15. Hon. Bato, Mohammad Zainuden P.
16. Hon. Burahan, Abraham T.
17. Hon. Candao, Maleiha B.
18. Hon. Dandamun-Latiph, Maisarah C.
19. Hon. Dataya, Abdul, Sr. M.
20. Hon. Diamla, Musa K.
21. Hon. Ekey, Narciso U.
22. Hon. Esmael, Hadji Abdulazi M.
23. Hon. Gayak, Abdullah E.
24. Hon. Guerra, Eduard U.

25. Hon. Hantian, Ronie A.
26. Hon. Hasan, Hatimil E.
27. Hon. Ismael, Rasul E.
28. Hon. Jajurie, Raissa H.
29. Hon. Jakilan, Muslimin A.
30. Hon. Karon, Bainon G.
31. Hon. Lidasan, Mussolini S.
32. Hon. Loong, Don Mustapha A.
33. Hon. Lorena, Jose I.
34. Hon. Macacua, Abdulrauf A.
35. Hon. Macaraya, Jamel D.
36. Hon. Macasalong, Marjanie S.
37. Hon. Mangudadatu, Khadafeh G.
38. Hon. Mastura, Toco O.
39. Hon. Mastura, Sittie Shahara I.
40. Hon. Mawallil, Amilbahr S.
41. Hon. Midtimbang, Mibpantao M.
42. Hon. Mujahid, Abdulmuhmin A.
43. Hon. Oranon, Suwaib L.
44. Hon. Pacasem, Ubaida C.
45. Hon. Pak, Abdulwahab M.
46. Hon. Pangandaman, Nabila Margarita P.
47. Hon. Rimbang, Edrieza Nasser H.
48. Hon. Sacar, Modayao M.
49. Hon. Sahrin, Abdul R.
50. Hon. Salendab, Said Z.
51. Hon. Sali, Al-Syed
52. Hon. Saliga, Romeo C.
53. Hon. Sali, Salik O.
54. Hon. Sani, Punduma B.
55. Hon. Sattar, Alzad T.
56. Hon. Sema, Omar Yasser C.
57. Hon. Sema, Romeo K.
58. Hon. Shiek, Said M.
59. Hon. Silongan, Aida M.
60. Hon. Solaiman, Ali B.
61. Hon. Tago, Paisalin P.
62. Hon. Tan, Nabil A.
63. Hon. Tillah, Irene P.
64. Hon. Udjah, Sahie S.
65. Hon. Ulama, Melanio U.
66. Hon. Usman, Adzfar H.
67. Hon. Yacob, Mohammad S.

The Member of the BTA Parliament who appeared after the Roll Call:

1. Hon. Ahang, Abdulla A.

The Member of the BTA who was on official business:

1. Hon. Ebrahim, Ahod B.

The following Members of the BTA were noted absent:

2. Hon. Abas, Akmad I.
3. Hon. Adion, Ziaur-Rahman A.
4. Hon. Ajaha, Nur-Mahadil K.
5. Hon. Amiril, Sidik S.

6. Hon. Anayatin, Susana S.
7. Hon. Anni, Rudjia H.
8. Hon. Asarul, Haber A.
9. Hon. Basman, Anna Tarhata S.
10. Hon. Bawasanta, Rodolfo A.
11. Hon. Burahan, Nedra S.
12. Hon. Daud, Nashrupe T.
13. Hon. Dipatuan, Saffrullah M.
14. Hon. Ibay, Cahar P.
15. Hon. Iqbal, Mohagher M.
16. Hon. Ismael, Ahmad Ali S.
17. Hon. Macapaar, Abdullah G.
18. Hon. Macarambon, Rolan Abdul Rashid A.
19. Hon. Macarambon, Farouk, Jr. A.
20. Hon. Mantawil, Malik A.
21. Hon. Menor, Alexander B.M.
22. Hon. Munoz, Hussein P.
23. Hon. Padate, Abol Alam A.
24. Hon. Piang, Pearl Joy L.
25. Hon. Sinsuat, Roonie Q.
26. Hon. Sumagayan, Amenodin U.
27. Hon. Tingkahan, Rizal, Jr. A.
28. Hon. Tomawis, Harold D.
29. Hon. Tulawie, Hanibal H.

With sixty-seven (67) Members of the BTA Parliament present including the Speaker, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION

Thereafter, on motion of the Majority Floor Leader, Hon. MP Atty. Lanang T. Ali, Jr., the reading of the Journal of the previous session, Journal No. 05 dated May 20, 2019, was dispensed with and the same was approved subject to style.

SUSPENSION OF CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

At this juncture, on motion of the Majority Floor Leader duly seconded, and there being no objection, the confirmation of members of the following Ad Hoc committees was suspended, viz:

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Administrative Code;
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Civil Service Code;
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Electoral Code;
4. Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Local Government Code;
5. Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Internal Revenue Code;
6. Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Education Code;
7. Ad Hoc Committee on Indigenous People's Law in the Bangsamoro; and
8. Ad Hoc Committee on Creation of Offices

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 5

Subsequently, the body proceeded to consider Proposed Resolution No. 5, entitled:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PARLIAMENTARY RULES,
PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES OF THE BANGSAMORO
TRANSITION AUTHORITY OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO.

MOTION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

Thereupon, the Majority Floor Leader, when recognized, moved that the Parliamentary Rules, Procedures and Practices of the BTA be approved subject to the enhancement and improvement by the Committee on Rules so that the proposal and recommendations of other Members of the Parliament would be included in the discussion of the Committee on Rules.

AMENDMENT OF MOTION BY THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader, Hon. MP Atty. Laisa Alamia manifested that she had no objection to the motion of the Majority Floor Leader, except on the terminologies used. Thus, she moved that the motion of the Majority Floor Leader be amended as follows: that the Parliamentary Rules, Procedures and Practices of the BTA be approved, subject to amendments to be submitted by the Members of the Parliament to the Committee on Rules.

The foregoing amendment of motion was accepted by the Majority Floor Leader.

APPROVAL OF THE MOTION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

Thereafter, the motion of the Majority Floor Leader to approve the Parliamentary Rules, Procedures and Practices of the BTA, having been duly seconded, and there being no objection, was declared by the Chair approved, amended.

QUERY OF HON. MP IRENE TILLAH

When recognized, Hon. MP Irene Tillah asked the date of the meeting of the Committee on Rules so that the Members of the Parliament could also submit their amendments.

RESPONSE OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the query of Hon. MP Irene Tillah, the Majority Floor Leader informed the body that he would convene the Committee on Rules as soon as possible.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP IRENE TILLAH

When recognized, Hon. MP Tillah manifested that she had already prepared her amendments and that she was ready to submit the same.

REQUEST OF THE CHAIR

Whereupon, the Chair requested Hon. MP Irene Tillah to submit her amendments to the Office of the Secretary General.

POINT OF CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ATTY. NABIL TAN

When recognized, Hon. MP Atty. Nabil Tan clarified from the Majority Floor Leader if the Committee on Rules would submit the amendments to Parliamentary Rules, Procedures and Practices to the BTA for approval in plenary. He emphasized that the amendments to the Parliamentary Rules, Procedures and Practices should be approved by the BTA in the plenary.

RESPONSE OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the clarification of Hon. MP Atty. Nabil Tan, the Majority Floor Leader affirmed that the Parliamentary Rules, Procedures and Practices of the BTA approved by the Committee on Rules would be subject to the approval of the BTA in the Plenary.

INFORMATION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

At this juncture, the Majority Floor Leader informed the body that he had already the copy of the list of membership of the Ad Hoc Committees.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of the Majority Floor Leader, the Chair declared a five-minute suspension of session at 1:38 P.M.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:50 PM, the session resumed.

MOTION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

Considering that there were Members of the Parliament who were not able to signify their interest in the membership of the Ad Hoc committees in the previous day

and that they have just submitted their membership on that day, the Majority Floor Leader moved that the confirmation of the memberships of the Ad Hoc Committees be deferred. He reminded the body that under the Rules, no Member of the Parliament shall be a member of more than four committees.

POINT OF CLARIFICATION OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader clarified from the Majority Floor Leader if the Rule on maximum of four memberships in committees is applicable to the Ad Hoc Committees for the drafting of the different codes considering that the Ad Hoc Committees are similar to a Technical Working Group that would draft the codes.

RESPONSE OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the clarification of the Minority Floor Leader, the Majority Floor Leader stated that [being a member of the committee, when they discoursed if his memories served him right, during] their discussion in the Committee on Rules, they agreed that the Rule on four committee memberships should apply to the Ad Hoc Committees, explaining that there would be a time when the committees would work on the same day, the other committee would not have a quorum.

INFORMATION OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

Subsequently, the Minority Floor Leader informed the body pertaining to the Section 8 of the rules on the nomination and affirmation of officers and members of the committees, although pertaining to the regular statutory and the parliamentary committees, a member of the BTA may be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or member of more than one committee, but with a maximum of four committees.

She explained that under Section 12 of the Rules of the BTA, Ad Hoc committee is defined as a temporary committee set up to consider specific issues that necessitate immediate action from the BTA. She stressed that it has relatively short time to carry out its works and that the moment the Ad Hoc Committee is done with its works, it will automatically come to an end.

The Minority Floor Leader further explained that there is confusion whether Section 8 of the Rules also applies to Section 12. She emphasized that Section 8 only applies to the regular and permanent committees and not to the Ad Hoc Committees. She mentioned that limiting the membership of the Members of the BTA to the Ad Hoc Committees will deprive them of the opportunity to take part in the drafting of the 7 codes which is the primary mandate and function of the BTA under the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP ATTY. JOSE LORENA

When recognized, Hon. MP Lorena stated that while the membership of the committees maybe limited, it does not limit the participation of all Members of the BTA. The law is very clear that the drafting of the Codes will be done by the BTA. He stressed stated that the limitation of membership the committee is without prejudice to the participation of all members of the BTA in the drafting of the codes.

He explained that the Members of the BTA can participate in the committees and submit important their proposals without necessarily being members of the committee. He stated that if all Members of the BTA are allowed to become members of a committee, then the BTA might as well be converted into a committee as a whole.

He further stated that while the membership in the committee is important, it is also equally important that all Members of BTA should work on the drafting the 7 codes without being members of a committee. He said that if he could be a member of only one committee then he could just submit a legislation by substitution or an amendment by substitution which will substitute the whole draft of the Committee Report if such report is not satisfying. According to him, the issue on the committee membership would just be glorifying but as far as the participation is concerned, it will be determined by the member's ability and capacity to submit proposal to the committee.

Lastly, Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena said that the interpretation of membership was not included in the deliberation of the Rules on Ad Hoc committees, saying that the

Rules must be interpreted based on the intrinsic aid which cannot go beyond such interpretation as it was already approved and adopted unless the Rules are amended.

MANIFESTATION OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader thanked Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena for the clarification, saying that several members of the BTA were inquiring if the Rules on limitation of committee membership to four committees only are applicable to the Ad Hoc Committees. She expressed hope that it was already to the rest of the Members of the BTA that the four memberships in the committees are applicable to the Ad Hoc Committees and that all Members of the BTA may participate in the Ad Hoc committee deliberations and submission of proposed provisions per code. in view thereof, she rested her case.

COMMENT OF THE CHAIR

Whereupon, the Chair commented that the Rules of the BTA clearly states that every Member of the BTA though not a member of the committee is allowed to participate in the committee deliberations but has no right to vote.

MOTION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

Thereafter, the Majority Floor Leader, when recognized, moved for the confirmation of membership of the eight (8) Ad Hoc Committees.

CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ABDULMUHMIN MUJAHID

When recognized, Hon. MP Abdulmuhmin Mujahid clarified from the Majority Floor Leader whether the list of the membership to be approved includes the list of names submitted on that day or only the list submitted in the previous day, to which the Majority Floor responded that the list to be approved includes both the list submitted that day and the list submitted in the previous day.

APPROVAL OF THE MOTION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

The motion to confirm the membership of the Ad Hoc Committees, having been duly seconded, and their being no objection was declared by the Chair approved.

ACTIVATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

At this juncture, the body proceeded to the activation of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management also known as the Committee on Appropriation.

INFORMATION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Majority Floor Leader informed the body that there is an urgent need to activate the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management, so that it can discuss the budget proposal for 2020 for the Bangsamoro Transition Authority where the block grants supposedly be implemented in the BARMM.

MOTION OF HON. MP EDUARD GUERRA

When recognized, Hon. MP Eduard Guerra moved that the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management be activated. He informed the body that it is very timely and appropriate to activate and organize the said committee as the 2020 budgeting time has already commenced in the national government. He stated that budgeting time should also be already commenced in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. He stressed that there are that the Ministry of Finance could not do the budget call as there are some issues as to who will call the budget call and who will prepare the budget. He stated that the body has already on the table the activation of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management for the 2020 budget operation of the BTA, explaining that BTA means the whole government of the BARMM.

In view of the foregoing and considering that there were already names listed as to who would be members of the committee, Hon. MP Eduard Guerra moved that the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management be activated.

POINT OF CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLODITO

Subsequently, Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto, when recognized, sought clarification from the Majority Floor Leader whether the BTA refers only to the Parliament or to the entire government of the Bangsamoro.

RESPONSE OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the clarification of Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto, the Majority Floor Leader, when recognized, stated that the motion of MP Guerra was for the activation of the statutory Committee on Finance, Budget, and Management to exercise its jurisdiction as provided in the Rules and preparation for the 2020 budget of the BTA. He also clarified that the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management that was created and activated before was limited only to the discussion of the Transition Fund and Local Funds of 2019.

COMMENT OF THE CHAIR

Thereupon, the Chair commented that there is a need to activate the Committee on Finance, Budget, and Management because as explained earlier by Hon. MP Eduard Guerra that the budget call for 2020 has already commenced in the national government. Thus, he said that the BTA should also commence the budget call or budget preparation, so that upon the release of the block grant, the body will be ready for the passage of the regional appropriations act.

FURTHER QUERY OF HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLODITO

Subsequently, Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto inquired further from the Majority Floor Leader whether the Bangsamoro Transition Authority refers only to Parliament or to the entire BARMM government.

RESPONSE OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the query of Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto, the Majority Floor Leader answered that the budget preparation is for the entire BARMM which is the Regional Appropriation Act just like the General Appropriation Act of the national government. He said that the deliberation and the discussion on the budget of the BTA for 2020 would require a technical working group, rigorous studies and research of all the members of the committee as well as some technical persons.

CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ATTY. OMAR YASSER SEMA

When recognized, MP Sema clarified if the BARMM includes the Local Government Units in the area. He stated that they were only speaking of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority which is the interim Bangsamoro Government and all the agencies it encompasses.

POINT OF CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ATTY. JOSE LORENA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena first clarified from the Majority Floor Leader whether the BARMM pertains only to the regional government or it includes the Local Government Units (LGUs), explaining that the LGUs are receiving their own IRA. Secondly, he stressed that when they talk of the committee, they talk of the totality of committee as a whole, not only the Ad Hoc Committees. Thirdly, he emphasized that the reason for the activation of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management is the release of the block grant which is estimated to be P105 Billion. He also explained that there is a need to submit the development funds to the Department of Interior and Local Government and to the Department of Budget and Management, explaining that the BTA is no longer treated as part of the executive budget but rather treated as similar to the LGUs.

He further said that under the provisions of the law, there are many budgets that are addressed to the National Government such as the budget for the programs which are built in the Central Government Units but for implementation in the BARMM, like the programs of the DSWD and the bridge program of the DPWH and the DepEd. He emphasized that there is a need to activate the Committee Finance to address the transfer of all government agencies which are currently based in Cotabato City.

QUERY OF THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair inquired on the status of the P1.2 Billion funds.

REQUEST OF HON. MP EDUARD GUERRA

In response to the query of the Chair, Hon. MP Eduard Guerra explained that the Ad Hoc Committee on Finance, Budget and Management had already finished its work and had submitted the necessary requirements for the approval of the proposed budget by the DBM to the office of the Speaker and the office of the Secretary General. With respect to the status of the papers, he requested the Secretary General to answer the query of the Chair.

RESPONSE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General responded that the Ad Hoc Committee on Finance, Budget and Management successfully came up with the Programs and Expenditures for the Year 2019 Transition Fund. He informed the body that the Speaker already signed that morning the endorsement to the office of the Interim Chief Minister through the office of the Executive Secretary.

PROPOSAL OF HON. MP KHADAFEH MANGUDADATU

When recognized, Hon. MP Khadafeh Mangudadatu proposed that the office of the Speaker and the office of the Chief Minister should join together to lobby before the DBM so that the DBM could easily come up with a proposal on the funds allocated for the BTA. He also proposed that the Speaker could delegate to Hon. MP Atty. Paisalin Tago being the former Speaker of the Regional Legislative Assembly as well as other members coming from the office of the Chief Minister to go to the DBM and ask the status of the funds allocated to the BTA.

AMENDMENT OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader manifested that she partly agreed to the proposal of Hon. MP Khadafeh Mangudadatu. Thus, she proposed amendment to the proposal to first submit the BTA resolution with attached budget proposal to the DBM, saying that there is nothing to lobby if the proposal is not received by the DBM. She then proposed to fast track the official submission of the budget proposal to the DBM either that day or as soon as possible and thereafter send a delegation from the BTA headed by the Minister of Finance to the DBM to follow up the approval of the budget proposal.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP KHADAFEH MANGUDADATU

Subsequently, Hon. MP Khadafeh Mangudadatu, upon recognition by the Chair, manifested that he agreed to proposal of the Minority Floor leader, saying that it is a matter of time to submit the documents needed before the DBM, considering that there was no figure of the budget yet to be discussed.

COMMENT OF THE CHAIR

Subsequently, the Chair commented that there is already a figure approved by the Ad Hoc Committee and that the BTA has already approved a resolution regarding the P1.5 Billion proposal of the Ministry of Finance. He stressed that the only concern was to fast track the submission of the documents by the Office of the Chief Minister to the DBM.

QUERY OF HON. MP KHADAFEH MANGUDADATU

Thereupon, Hon. MP Khadafeh Mangudadatu inquired from the Majority Floor Leader on the activation of other committees, since the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management was already activated.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP ATTY. OMAR YASSER SEMA

At this point, Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema, when recognized, stated that they have to look at the hierarchy of the officers in the BTA. He stressed that the Chief Minister being the head of the BTA is the only proper authority who can make representations in the DBM and he can authorize the Minister of Finance to follow up the resolution and the proposal with the DBM

SUGGESTION OF HON. MP KHADAFEH MANGUDADATU

When recognized, Hon. MP Khadafeh Mangudadatu suggested that in the absence of the Chief Minister, he could authorize someone from his office to represent his office. He also emphasized, for the record, that the Head of the BTA is no less than the Interim Chief Minister Al Hadj Murad as well as the Speaker of the BTA.

MANIFESTATION OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader stated that under the Rules of the BTA and established operating procedures in the ARMM and in the BARMM, the representative of the BARMM is the Chief Minister, inferring that it is the Chief Minister who has the authority to submit the proposal with the resolution of the BTA to the DBM which according to her is the first step. She added that the second step is lobbying for the approval of the BTA budget proposal where the Chief Minister can delegate to either the

Minister of Finance or the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Management of the BTA to follow up with the DBM.

CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ATTY. NABIL TAN

At this juncture, Hon. MP Atty. Nabil Tan, when recognized, clarified whether the Secretary General is ready with all the resolutions approved by the BTA. He said that copies of the approved resolutions should be made readily available and accessible to any Member of the BTA for significant legal purposes.

Hon. MP Atty. Nabil stressed that it just cropped out that the urgency of the transition fund was diminished by way of delay. In view thereof, he stated that it behooves the Members of the BTA to check every now and then whether or not the Office of the Secretary General is able to cope up with its works, adding that maybe the Office of the Secretary General needs additional personnel, or additional training, or additional support. He stated that they could not wait forever, as the delay has been over a month. He emphasized that no government employees and officials, not even the President, or any cabinet member in the national government will continue to work without salaries.

Hon. MP Atty. Nabil Tan stated that their salaries in the BTA have been delayed for almost three months. He added that they have received is MOOE from the Local Funds which cannot be used for all purposes because there are limitations, unlike their salaries which they can use the way they want. He informed the body that the body that their salaries will be charged to the Transition Fund.

He suggested that the Majority and the Minority Floor Leaders should closely collaborate or coordinate with the Secretary General to monitor the progress of the work of the BTA, especially availability of the copies of the resolutions to any Member of the BTA after their approval.

DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

Thereafter, the Chair directed the Secretariat to confer with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader regarding the concern of Hon. MP Nabil Tan.

UPDATE OF HON. MP EDUARD GUERRA

Subsequently, Hon. MP Eduard Guerra gave the body the latest update on the budget of the Parliament. He informed the body that they a meeting with Secretary Galvez that morning to discuss the budgetary requirements of the Parliament and that Hon. MP Jose Lorena, the Majority Floor Leader and the Minority Floor Leader were also present in the said meeting. He also informed the body that the P1.2 Billion Transition Fund is already in the hands of the OPAPP and what they need is only for the DBM to approve their proposed budget. He further informed the body that the OPAPP agreed to shoulder the monthly office rentals of the Members of the Parliament while waiting for the approval of the budget by the DBM.

POINT OF CLARIFICATION OF HON. MP ATTY. OMAR YASSER SEMA

When recognized, Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema clarified whether the P1.2 Billion is a fund allocated to the OPPAP or to the BTA, to which Hon. MP Eduard Guerra responded that the Transition Fund is under the office of OPPAP.

As to whether the fund is not allocated for the BTA, Hon. MP Eduard Guerra replied that the Transition Fund is for the BTA.

When Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema stated that the body passed a resolution in the previous session authorizing the Chief Minister to represent the BTA in the release of the Transition Fund to the BTA and not to any other offices, Hon. MP Eduard Guerra d that the Transition Fund of the BTA is already in the hands of the OPPAP.

MOTION OF HON. MP ATTY. OMAR YASSER SEMA

At this point, Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema moved that, subject to verification with the OPAPP, the body pass a resolution asking the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) to release the transition funds allocated for the BTA.

INQUIRY OF HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLODITO

Whereupon, Hon. MP Atty. Suahrto Ambolodto inquired as to whether the information is certain that the transition fund for the BTA was transferred to the OPAPP.

COMMENT OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

Thereafter, the Majority Floor Leader, when recognized, commented that before passing a resolution on the issue, they should first inquire on the status of the transition fund from the Office of the Chief Minister as well as the Secretary of the OPAPP.

SUGGESTION OF HON. SPEAKER ALI PANGALIAN BALINDONG

When recognized, Hon. Speaker Ali Pangalian Balindong suggested that the better part of judgment is to validate the statement of the Minister of Finance, saying that it is premature to pass a resolution asking the OPPAP to release the P1.2 Billion transition fund to the BTA. He stated that the body can validate such statement through the Minister of Finance.

RESTATEMENT OF SUGGESTION BY THE CHAIR

Thereupon, the Chair restated the suggestion of Hon. Speaker Ali Pangalian Balindong to validate the statement regarding the P1.2 Billion before the action on the motion of Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema.

EXPLANATION OF HON. MP ATTY. OMAR YASSER SEMA

Whereupon, Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema, upon recognition by the Chair, explained that his motion is subject to clarification with the OPAPP.

QUERY OF THE CHAIR

At this juncture, the Chair inquired from Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema, if he was withdrawing his motion.

RESPONDED OF HON. MP ATTY. OMAR YASSER SEMA

In response to the query of the Chair, Hon. MP Atty. Omar Yasser Sema stated that he was not withdrawing his motion. He suggested that the Minister of Finance can immediately clarify with the OPPAP as to whether the statement of the Secretary of OPPAP is true, so that the body can a resolution the next day.

MOTION OF HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLOD TO

When recognized, MP Ambolodto moved that the Hon. MP Eduard Guerra be authorized by the Speaker to inquire into the status of the Transition Fund and update the BTA in the next day session.

COMMENT OF HON. MP KHADAFEH MNGUDADATU

When recognized, Hon. MP Khadafeh Mangudadatu commented that there is no point in passing any resolution authorizing Hon. MP Eduard Guerra to inquire from DBM the status of the transition fund. He explained that it is a ministerial decision on the part of the Speaker as well as the Interim Chief Minister to ask the DBM as well as the Secretary of OPAPP on the status of the P1.2 Billion Transition Fund of the BTA.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP ATTY. MAISARAH DANDAMUN-LATIPH

At this point, Hon. MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph, when recognized, pointed out that it is stated in Resolution No. 10 dated April 04, 2019 that the Chief Minister had received for guidance a letter from DBM on the utilization of the P1.2 Billion. She explained that it means there has already been a prior communication between the Offices of the Interim Chief Minister and the DBM on the utilization of the P1.2 Billion fund. She added that in response to the said resolution, the DBM stated, in a letter dated April 15, 2019 to BARMM Interim Chief Minister, that the guidance is already available for the utilization of the P1.2 billion. She informed the body that in compliance to the guidance issued by the DBM, the Ad Hoc Committee on Finance has come up with the expenditure program which was attached to the record distributed to the Members of the BTA in the previous day, adding that the said expenditure program is already in the custody of the DBM. She concluded her manifestation by informing the body that she was confused why the body is asking if where the money is, considering that the DBM has already admitted that the transition fund is ready for release upon submission of the expenditure program.

RESTATEMENT OF MOTION BY HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLODITO

Subsequently, Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto restated his motion to authorize the Speaker to designate MP Eduard Guerra to inquire on the status of the transition fund.

The foregoing motion, having been duly seconded, and there being no objection, was declared by the Chair approved.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP ATTY. JOSE LORENA

When recognized, Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena stated that his manifestation pertains to a subject matter which is critical to the existence of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, specifically the waters in the and the Moro Gulf. He explained that under Section 18, Article XIII of RA 11054 clearly provides that an *ad hoc* Joint Body shall be organized within thirty days after the ratification of the Organic Law to establish the coordinates of the Bangsamoro territorial jurisdiction, including the Bangsamoro Waters. He stressed that the said joint body has not yet been organized. He informed the body that the National Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has been granting franchises to fishermen operating in the body for three years, saying that that it has defied BARMM of its jurisdictional capacity to monitor and regulate the said bodies of water under the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

In view thereof, he moved that the body pass a resolution asking the national government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to constitute the Joint Body on Waters to immediately determine the coordinates of the body of waters of the Bangsamoro, and at the same time asking the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to stop issuing long term franchises to the prejudice of the BARMM.

CLARIFICATION OF THE CHAIR

Whereupon, the Chair clarified from Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena that he submitted two motions, the first is to constitute the joint Ad Hoc body to define the coordinates of the body of waters of the Bangsamoro; and the second is to ask the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries National to stop issuing franchises in the conduct of fishing in the bodies of waters within the Bangsamoro areas.

PROPOSAL OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader proposed that the two resolutions introduced by Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena should go through the process of approval by referring them to the Committee on Rules before they will be presented to the plenary for debate.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP ATTY. JOSE LORENA

Thereupon, Hon. MP Atty. Jose Lorena manifested that he agreed to the proposal of the Minority Floor Leader, and that he will submit the resolutions to the Committee on Rules.

QUERY OF HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLODITO

Subsequently, Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto inquired if when Hon. MP Eduard Guerra will get his designation pertaining to the approved motion.

RESPONSE OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the query of Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto, the Majority Floor Leader that the matter raised by the former maybe resolved by the Speaker, Hon. Ali Pangalian Balindong.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP DON MUSTAPHA LOONG

When recognized, Hon. MP Don Mustapha Loong stated that the statement mentioned by Hon. MP Atty. Nabil Tan is serious. He asked if how can the body seriously work for the welfare of others if they cannot even they are effective enough in ensuring that their organization is working. He stressed that the situation where a resolution has not been acted upon one month after its passage is a clear indication that the system is not put in place. He emphasized that when things are working together, it is very important to delineate who is responsible to do work; who is accountable in case of; and who must be consulted and informed.

He further stated that the delay in the funds of the BTA including the salaries of its workers is due to the reason that there is no completed staff work and no one is responsible or accountable for the task. He also added that it is not necessary to appoint the designation just to ask the DBM because while the Chief Minister has the full authority to represent the BTA, the Members are not deprived from doing horizontal communication with the DBM. If the BTA would establish another dialogue with the DBM then the process would take longer.

Hon. MP Don Mustapha Loong pointed out that the resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Committee on Finance to inquire on the status of the fund is a minor

authority, explaining that the outcome should be to ensure that the Members of the BTA will be paid with their salaries. He also explained that while the Chief Minister has the full authority to represent the BTA, it does not prevent the body from having horizontal communication with the DBM.

In view of the foregoing, Hon. MP Don Mustpha Lonng moved that the BTA be specific in giving responsibilities to individual Members of the Parliament who should be responsible and accountable to ensure that the Members of the BTA will receive their salaries in the next two months and the staff of the BTA Members will also be appointed in the same period. In view of the foregoing, he proposed for the creation of a joint Committee of the BTA composed of the Majority and Minority members who have experience in the government to have a dialogue with the DBM in order to address the matter properly.

COMMENT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair then commented that the statement of Hon. MP Don Mustapha Loong was duly noted.

REMINDER OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

At this juncture, the Majority Floor Leader reminded the body to shorten the discussion considering that they have limited time.

REQUEST OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

When recognized, the Minority Floor Leader requested MP Don Mustapha Loong to put the issue which he raised into motion, explaining that it is an actionable issue and not just a matter of instructing people to do a specific thing but it is rather a matter of accountability in requiring the persons accountable to produce an output.

CLARIFICATION OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

In response to the request of the Minority Floor Leader, the Majority Floor Leader clarified that there is already an approved motion which designated MP Eduard Guerra to inquire the status of the budget and other matters with respect to the transition fund.

COMMENT OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

Whereupon, the Minority Floor Leader, when recognized, stated that the point of Hon. MP Don Mustapha Loong is not just to inquire and follow up, it includes the complete staff work and that the output is the establishment of the BTA structure within two months; the Members of the BTA will receive their salaries; and the staff of the BTA are appointed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 3:15 P.M. the Chair *moto proprio* declared a one-minute suspension of session.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:16 P.M., the session resumed.

MOTION OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

Subsequently, the Minority Floor Leader, when recognized, moved that the Minister of Finance, Budget and Management be authorized to inquire on the status of the transition fund and to ensure the establishment of the BTA structure with funding and the release of the fund by the DBM.

MANIFESTATION OF HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO AMBOLODITO

When recognized, Hon. MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto manifested that he concurred with the motion of the Minority Floor leader.

APPROVAL OF MOTION OF THE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

Thereupon, the motion of the Minority Floor Leader to authorize the Minister of Finance, Budget and Management to inquire on the status of the transition fund and to ensure the establishment of the BTA structure with funding and the release of the fund by the DBM, having been duly seconded, and there being no objection, was declared by the Chair approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of the Majority Floor Leader duly seconded, and there being no objection, the session adjourned until May 22, 2019 at ten o'clock in the morning.

It was 3:25 PM.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary General