

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

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
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Second Parliament
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY

First Regular Session

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Tuesday,
the twentieth day of September, two thousand twenty-two.

OFFICE OF MP ALAMIA
RELEASED: 7/19/22

Private Member Bill No. 20

Principal Author: MP Laisa Masuhud Alamia

Co-Authors: MP Rasol Mitmug Jr., MP Suharto Ambolodto, MP Rasul Ismael,
MP Baintan Ampatuan, MP Amilbahar Mawallil, and MP Don Mustapha Loong

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Latest data from the Mindanao Displacement Dashboard of the UN Refugee Agency showed that over one hundred and four individuals were internally displaced in Mindanao as of July 31, 2022. Around eighty-nine thousand of them were from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). A majority of whom had been displaced for more than five years, following the Marawi siege in May 2017. These figures form part of the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country every year, revealing devastating effects on human development, security, economic growth, and overall societal balance.

There is no universal legally binding instrument that particularly addresses the plight of IDPs. In 1998, however, the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement was adopted to provide guidance to governments, other competent authorities, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations for addressing internal displacement. This normative framework was then widely recognized as the UN and various regional organizations called upon its member states to use and incorporate the Principles into their domestic laws and policies. We came close to realizing such a call when the Congress transmitted a consolidated bill on IDP rights entitled, "An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Providing Penalties therefor and for other Purposes" in 2013. The Bill, which sought to institutionalize a national legal framework on internal displacement, was vetoed by former President Benigno Aquino III who questioned the constitutionality and legality of some of its provisions.


It is the state's duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs within its jurisdiction. Implementing the Guiding Principles, in themselves not binding, into national law is especially important in reaffirming our country's commitment to recognize internal displacement as a humanitarian issue that needs to be addressed.

It is therefore incumbent upon the Bangsamoro Government, in its exercise of autonomy, to bridge any legal gaps and provide immediate response to the Moro IDPs as the largest portion of the internally displaced population in the country. These IDPs continue to face serious vulnerabilities. The burden of displacement is felt not only during and after its occurrence, but also at the crucial time of their return, local integration, or resettlement elsewhere. There is a need to establish short and long-term mechanisms at the regional level to aid the IDPs in getting through these phases, to reduce the risks of these displacements, and to ultimately prevent arbitrary displacements from taking place.

This Bill adopts a majority of its provisions from House Bill No. 714 filed during the 17th Congress sponsored by Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte and Senate Bill No. 3132 by Sen. Teofisto Guingona III in the 16th Congress. The limitedness of its scope, that is the exclusion of provisions on arbitrary internal displacement (AID) and on its penalties as well as on awarding of damages for prohibited acts of AID, is deliberate. This is to give time to the transition process and the progress of the interim Bangsamoro Government in reorganizing and strengthening our institutions such as the Bangsamoro justice system.

This Bill seeks to start the Autonomous Regional Government's work in crafting a comprehensive regional instrument that considers not only international and national laws and standards but also the needs and aspirations of the Bangsamoro People. The protection of citizens, including IDPs, is well prescribed by our Constitution and the Bangsamoro Organic Law. The duties of the Bangsamoro Government to its people are guided by the interests of all of Bangsamoro in pursuit of peace and harmony, and a better quality of life.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD-ALAMIA, RN, CESE, MNSA, LLM
Member of Parliament

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Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Cotabato City

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Private Member Bill No. 20

Principal Author: MP Laisa Masuhud Alamia

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AN ACT
PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS OF THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, PROVIDING
SUPPORT THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in session assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Act”.

Section 2. Declaration of Principles and Policies. — The Bangsamoro Government hereby declares a policy to adopt a rights-based approach to promote and protect the rights of internally displaced Bangsamoro People, consistent with the principles enshrined in the Constitution, the standards set by international humanitarian law and human rights laws, international treaties and conventions adhered to by the Philippines, including the United Nations’ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPID), and the provisions prescribed by Republic Act No. 11054 otherwise known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BOL).

In the event of armed conflict, the parties shall ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of the victims of armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights laws.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

- a. *Clan war* refers to any conflict that may arise between members of different indigenous groups, indigenous cultural communities or clans, or between and among members of the same indigenous group, cultural community or clan;
- b. *Generalized and/or organized violence* refers to the purposeful and systematic use of terror and brutality to control individuals, groups and communities, through the use of overwhelming force, and characterized by widespread, massive or sufficient intensity, causing arbitrary internal displacement of persons or communities. Its methods include causing severe pain and suffering, killing, intimidating, threatening, and, in some cases, destroying a community, ethnic group or political opposition;
- c. *Development aggression* refers to the carrying out of any undertaking or activity aimed at economic or political growth, advancement and expansion that results or may result to arbitrary internal displacement of persons: Provided, That the term does not include legitimate resettlement schemes and/or programs;
- d. *Internally displaced person or group of persons (IDP)* refers to any person or group of persons who has or have been forced to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence within the national borders, as a result of or in order to avoid or minimize the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized and/or organized violence, violations of human rights, development aggression, natural, human-induced and human-made hazards. The term is used, unless otherwise stated, to refer to the Bangsamoro people with homes or places of habitual residence within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) who are displaced under such circumstances and chose to resettle anywhere in the country.
- e. *Internal displacement* refers to the involuntary movement or forced evacuation or expulsion of any person or group of persons who flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, within the national borders, as a result of or in order to avoid or minimize the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized and/or organized violence, violations of human rights, development aggression, natural, human-induced and human-made hazards.

Section 4. *Scope.* — This Act shall primarily provide for the protection of the rights of Bangsamoro People who are internally displaced in situations of armed conflict, generalized and/or organized violence, clan wars, violations of human rights, development aggression, and

natural, human-induced and human-made hazards, during and after displacement, as well as their return, local integration or resettlement elsewhere.

To address the risks involved in natural hazards and the overall impact of climate change and global warming on the rights of those who are internally displaced, due reference shall be made to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the “Climate Change Act of 2009”, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010” and the counterpart laws that may be enacted by the Bangsamoro Government.

Section 5. *Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Management Council.* — A Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Management Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is created to ensure interagency and intergovernmental coordination and cooperation in addressing internal displacement in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Section 6. *Composition.* — The Council shall be headed by the Minister for Social Services as Chairperson with the two (2) Deputy Chief Ministers as Vice Chairpersons. The Council’s members shall be the following:

- a. Ministry of Human Settlement and Development (MHSD);
- b. Ministry of Local Government (MLG);
- c. Ministry of Health (MOH);
- d. Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE);
- e. Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS);
- f. Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW-BARMM);
- g. Police Regional Office in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;
- h. Provincial Governments of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi;
- i. City Governments of Cotabato and Marawi;
- j. One (1) representative from the thirty-six barangays of South Cotabato as part of the BARMM to be elected among themselves;
- k. Four (4) representatives from civil society organizations;

1. One (1) representative from the private sector.

The representatives from civil society organizations and the private sector shall be selected from among their respective ranks based on the criteria and mechanisms to be set for this purpose by the Council.

The interim ministries instituted for the transition period shall assume their membership and responsibilities to the Council as provided by this Act. The Council may recommend adding members, in representation of ministries and sub-offices of the Bangsamoro Government, upon the approval of the majority of its members.

Section 7. Intergovernmental Relations. — National authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs within their jurisdiction. Exercising its autonomy, the Bangsamoro Government, including its constituent LGUs and parties, shall ensure adherence to the principles and policies enshrined by this Act in lieu of an institutionalized national framework, pursuant to the Constitution and international laws.

Provided, that it shall respect the jurisdictions of the National Government and LGUs outside the BARMM. Provided further, that all policies on the IDPs shall be in accordance with existing national laws and be coordinated with National Government Agencies and/or its regional counterparts concerned in their implementation of existing and/or prospective programs for Bangsamoro IDPs. This shall include, but not be limited to, the Department of National Defense (DND) on disaster risk reduction and management programs and Marawi rehabilitation; the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on human rights violations; and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on human development programs.

Section 8. Powers and Functions of the Council. — The Council, being empowered with policy-making, coordination, integration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation functions, shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Develop a Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Management Program which shall provide for a comprehensive approach to internal displacement management in the region;
- b. Review plans, policies, and strategies, as incorporated into the Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Management Program, to be carried out by the concerned ministries and offices, and constituent local government units (LGUs);
- c. Advise the Bangsamoro Parliament on matters of internal displacement, and recommend policies, including appropriation policies, to ensure the protection and promotion of rights of IDPs and the effective management of internal displacement in the region;

- d. Ensure multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination in ensuring the responsiveness of regional policies relating to internal displacement, including the harmonization of all initiatives and responses to issues concerning IDPs;
- e. Monitor the development and enforcement by agencies and organizations of the various laws, guidelines or standards required by this Act;
- f. Coordinate, oversee, and resolve issues on internal displacement management;
- g. Mobilize resources for internal displacement operations;
- h. Develop a capacity development program to strengthen the institutional capacity of regional agencies and LGUs for internal displacement management; and
- i. Task the Internal Displacement Management Office to develop assessment tools and conduct periodic assessment and performance monitoring of the members of the BIDM Council to effectively manage and sustain national efforts on internal displacement management;

Section 9. *Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Coordination and Monitoring Office.*

— There is hereby created a Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Coordination and Monitoring Office (BIDCMO) under the Ministry of Social Services (MSS) designated as the region's institutional focal point for IDPs. As such, the BIDCMO shall have the following functions:

- a. To collect data on the number and documentation of IDPs, leading to a registry that will inform the plans and policies of the Bangsamoro Government regarding issues affecting IDPs;
- b. To monitor IDP conditions through the development of a system to track concerns, actions taken and other relevant information to ensure that IDP rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled in all phases of internal displacement;
- c. To convene and provide secretariat support to the Council to ensure harmonized responses to IDP needs and concerns;
- d. To formulate a regional program on internal displacement (Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Program or BIDP hereafter), to be approved by the Council, to set out plans, policies, and strategies to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of IDPs, in coordination with concerned ministries and constituent local governments units (LGUs);

- e. To develop vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms for a more coherent implementation of the BIDP by the Bangsamoro ministries and constituent LGUs involved;
- f. To monitor the development and enforcement by ministries and organizations of the various laws, guidelines, codes or technical standards required by this Act;
- g. To advise the Chief Minister on the status of its operations, the Council's decisions, and the conditions of the IDPs;
- h. To oversee the implementation of the BIDP including all assistance to the IDPs provided by the Bangsamoro Government;
- i. To assist and coordinate with the national Commission on Human Rights and its regional counterpart, upon its creation, in conducting public inquiries, documenting violations of human rights, assisting IDPs in seeking redress of grievances, and working to ensure an effective response by the concerned authorities;
- j. To set up standards, with non-state actors and/or organizations, on the operations of and mechanisms for humanitarian aid to ensure the aid community's commitment to the Do No Harm Principle;
- k. To formulate, harmonize, and translate into policies a regional agenda for research and data generation on internal displacement; and
- l. To ensure a multi-stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of the BIDP by establishing mechanisms for consultation with local communities and IDPs concerned.

Section 10. *Internal Displacement Regional Program.* — The Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Program shall be formulated by the BIDCMO to be reviewed and approved by the Council. The document shall set out policies, plans, and strategies in addressing the needs and protecting the rights of Bangsamoro IDPs during and after displacement as well as in their return and resettlement elsewhere. The document shall cover a five-year period to be reviewed annually by the Council. The BIDP shall lay down all assistance or support programs to be extended to the Bangsamoro IDPs.

Section 11. *Rights During and After Displacement.* — Pursuant to the provisions of the Bill of Rights under Article III of the Philippine Constitution, the following rights shall be afforded to IDPs during and after displacement, without discrimination of any kind, such as those based on race, color, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national,

ethnic or social origin, legal or social status, age, disability, property, birth or on any other similar criteria:

A. Provision and Access to Basic Necessities. – At the minimum, regardless of the circumstances, and without discrimination, competent authorities shall provide IDPs with and ensure safe access to:

- a. essential and adequate food and nutrition and potable water;
- b. basic shelter and housing;
- c. appropriate clothing; and
- d. essential medical and dental services and sanitation, including psychological and social services, and essential drugs and medicines.

B. Protection Against Criminal Offenses and Other Unlawful Acts. –

- a. It shall be prohibited to commit any of the following acts against IDPs in all circumstances:
 - i. murder;
 - ii. hostage taking;
 - iii. summary or arbitrary execution and enforced disappearance, including abduction or unacknowledged detention threatening or resulting in death; and
 - iv. unlawful confinement.
- b. Attacks or other acts of violence against IDPs who do not or no longer participate in hostilities shall be prohibited in all circumstances, without prejudice to being held liable for any offense committed by them. In particular, IDPs shall be protected against:
 - i. direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence, including the creation of areas wherein attacks on civilians are permitted;
 - ii. starvation as a method of combat;

- iii. their being used to shield military objectives from attack, or to shield, favor or impede the operations of the military, police or any armed group;
 - iv. attacks against any evacuation center, facility, encampment or other settlements; and
 - v. use of anti-personnel landmines;
- c. IDPs, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, shall be protected in particular against:
- i. rape and other outrages upon personal dignity, such as forced prostitution, trafficking of persons, any act of gender-specific violence, or any form of indecent assault;
 - ii. mutilation, torture, cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment;
 - iii. any form of violence against children, such as trafficking, forced labor or sexual exploitation and other violations of children's rights;
 - iv. slavery or any contemporary form of slavery, such as sale into marriage, sexual exploitation or forced labor of children; and
 - v. acts of violence intended to spread terror among IDPs.
Threats and incitement to commit any of the foregoing acts under paragraph (b), subsections (i) and (iii) herein shall be prohibited.
- d. IDPs shall not be interned in or confined in any evacuation center, facility, encampment or other settlements. If, in exceptional circumstances, such interment or confinement is necessary, it shall not last longer than what is required by the circumstances, as may be determined by the Bangsamoro Government, through the Ministry of Social Services, in close coordination and consultations with the military and law enforcement agencies conducting operations, and other concerned offices of the regional government; and
- e. IDPs shall be protected against discriminatory practices of recruitment into the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), law enforcement agencies or any armed group as a result of their displacement. In particular, any cruel, inhumane or degrading practices that compel compliance or punish noncompliance with recruitment shall be prohibited in all circumstances;

C. Freedom of Movement. –

- a. Every IDP has the right to liberty of movement and the right to move freely in and out of any evacuation center, encampment, or other settlements, subject to its existing rules and regulations;
- b. IDPs, whether or not they are living in an evacuation center, encampment or other settlements, shall not be discriminated against in the enjoyment of the following rights:
 - i. to enjoy freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression;
 - ii. to seek freely opportunities for employment and to participate in economic activities;
 - iii. to associate freely and participate equally in community affairs;
 - iv. to vote and participate in governmental and public affairs, including the right to have access to the means necessary to exercise these rights; and
 - v. to communicate in a language they understand.
- c. IDPs have the right to:
 - i. seek safety in another part of the region or country;
 - ii. leave the country;
 - iii. seek asylum in another country; and
 - iv. be protected against forcible return to resettlement in any place where their lives, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk.

D. Recognition, Issuance and Replacement of Documents. – The authorities concerned shall issue to the IDPs all documents necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of the legal rights. In particular, these authorities shall facilitate the issuance of new documents or the documents or the replacement of documents lost in the course of displacement, without imposing unreasonable conditions and without discrimination against men and women, who shall have equal rights to obtain and to be issued the same in their own names;

E. Family Unity and Missing Persons. –

- a. Members of internally displaced families who wish to remain together shall be allowed to do so. Families that are separated by displacement and whose personal liberties have been restricted by internment or confinement in any evacuation center, facility, encampment or other settlements should be reunited immediately, with appropriate measures taken to expedite the reunion, particularly when children are involved;
- b. The State shall be encouraged cooperation among international and local humanitarian organizations engaged in the task of family reunification;
- c. The authorities concerned shall endeavor to establish the fate and whereabouts of IDPs reported missing and cooperate with relevant international organizations engaged in this task. They shall inform the next-of-kin on the progress of the investigation and notify them of any result;
- d. The authorities concerned shall endeavor to collect and identify the mortal remains of the deceased, prevent their despoliation or mutilation and facilitate the return of those remains to the next-of-kin or dispose of them respectfully; and
- e. Grave sites of IDPs shall be protected and respected in all circumstances and shall have the right of access to the grave sites of their deceased relatives;

F. Health and Education. –

- a. Certain IDPs, such as children, especially unaccompanied minors, expectant mothers, mothers with young children, female heads of households, PWDs and elderly persons, shall be entitled to protection and assistance required by their condition and to treatment which takes into account their special needs;
- b. All wounded and sick IDPs as well as those with disabilities shall receive to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention they require, without distinction on any grounds other than medical ones. When necessary, IDPs shall have access to psychological and social services and such other forms of assistance necessary for them;
- c. Special attention shall be paid to the health needs of women, including access to comprehensive female health care services, to be provided whenever feasible by female health care providers, as well as appropriate counseling and other services for victims of sexual and other abuses;

- d. Special attention shall also be given to the prevention of contagious and infectious diseases, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), among IDPs; and
- e. The authorities concerned shall ensure that IDPs, in particular displaced children, receive education which shall be free and compulsory at the primary level. Special efforts shall be made to ensure the full and equal participation of women and girls in educational programs, and that respect for their cultural identity, language and religion, educational and training facilities shall be made available to them as soon as circumstances permit; and
- f. Property and Possessions. - The property and possessions of IDPs shall, in all circumstances, be protected against the following acts:
 - i. Pillage or looting;
 - ii. Direct and indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence;
 - iii. Being used to shield military operations or objectives;
 - iv. Being made the object of reprisal;
 - v. Being destroyed or appropriated as a form of collective punishment; and
 - vi. Destruction, arbitrary and illegal appropriation, occupation or use.

The rights and obligations herein shall not be interpreted as restricting, modifying or impairing the provisions of any international human rights or international humanitarian law or rights granted to persons under domestic law.

Section 12. *Return, Local Integration or Resettlement Elsewhere.* — Competent authorities shall have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions and provide means for Bangsamoro IDPs to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in places of refuge and/or in another part of the country, taking into consideration the right of IDPs to choose a residence.

Said authorities, primarily the BIDCMO, shall likewise ensure prior consultations and the full participation of IDPs during and after the planning and management of their return, local integration or resettlement elsewhere. In cases when Bangsamoro IDPs decide to resettle outside the BARMM, the BIDCMO shall coordinate its interventions with concerned authorities and LGUs where the resettlement is located.

Section 13. Assistance to IDPs. — The Bangsamoro Government, through its ministries and offices, constituent LGUs and local government hospitals, shall have the primary duty to provide immediate relief and humanitarian assistance to IDPs, families and communities. It shall ensure full cooperation and coordination with national authorities, such as the military and law enforcement agencies and national government agencies conducting operations within its jurisdiction.

Humanitarian assistance to IDPs shall not be diverted for any political or military reasons. All authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate the free passage of humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced and ensure rapid, safe and unimpeded access of persons engaged in giving such assistance, their transport and supplies to the displaced communities. They shall not be the objects of attack or other acts of violence. All concerned authorities shall likewise assist the IDPs in the recovery of their property and possessions, and shall provide or assist these persons in obtaining appropriate financial assistance or other forms of just reparation.

In coordination with ministries and regional offices, and constituent LGUs, the BIDCMO shall set up support programs for IDPs. These programs as well as its implementation guidelines shall be laid out in the BIDP to be approved by the BIDCC upon the recommendation of the BIDCMO. These may include financial assistance, livelihood programs, psychosocial interventions, among others. Indigent families, women, and children shall be given special attention and assistance. The BIDCMO shall likewise ensure that all programs and assistance are in accordance with the rights of IDPs as provided by this Act.

Section 14. Bangsamoro Rehabilitation and Transition. — Pursuant to Article XIV of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the Bangsamoro Government shall integrate all plans and policies formulated under this Act to the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) to guide the utilization of the Special Development Fund (SPF) intended for the rebuilding, rehabilitation, and development of its conflict-affected communities, consistent with the goals and principles of Transitional Justice.

Section 15. Mechanisms for International Humanitarian Assistance. — International humanitarian organizations, their local counterparts and other appropriate actors shall have the right to offer their services, including humanitarian assistance, in support of the internally displaced. These acts shall be considered done in good faith and not as unfriendly acts or interference in the internal affairs of the government. Consent thereto shall not be arbitrarily withheld, particularly when authorities concerned are unable or unwilling to provide the required humanitarian assistance.

When providing assistance to IDPs, said organizations shall respect relevant domestic laws, international standards and codes of conduct. They shall give due regard to the protection of the needs and human rights of the IDPs. Said organizations and all parties concerned shall likewise adhere to the Do No Harm (DNH) Principle so as to avoid exposing the affected

populations to additional risks. They shall at all times prevent and mitigate any negative impact of their actions on affected populations.

The importation and donation of food, clothing, medicine and equipment necessary for relief and assistance of IDPs are hereby authorized in accordance with Section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, as regards national internal revenue taxes and import duties of national, regional, and local government agencies.


Section 16. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the concerned ministries, and constituent LGUs through their respective appropriations ordinances. The SDP provided by the National Government to the Bangsamoro Government, amounting to Fifty billion pesos (PhP50,000,000,000.00) at Five billion pesos (PhP5,000,000,000.00) per year for a period of ten (10) years, shall also be tapped as a fund source. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the general appropriations law of the Bangsamoro Government.

Section 17. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the MSS shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

In the formulation of the rules and regulations, the MSS shall take the lead and coordinate with the MHSD, the MLG, the MOH, the MBHTE, the MPOS, the RCBW-BARMM, the Regional Police, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affair, and the Ministry of Finance, and Budget and Management, and consult with the LGUs concerned, civil society organizations and people's organizations.

Section 18. Separability Clause. — If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 19. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of local circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomos Region in Muslim Mindanao.


ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD-ALAMIA, RN, CESE, MNSA, LLM
Member of Parliament