

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY 2
Cotabato City

First Regular Session

BTA PARLIAMENT
BTA Parliament Bill No. 03

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament

BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION

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Name: ADELPHI DIMPUN Signature: 
Date: SEP 19 2022 Time: 2:45 PM

Introduced by:

MP Baintan Adil-Ampatuan, MNSA

Co-authored by:

MP Amir S. Mawallil, MPSA; MP Atty. Rasol Mitmug, Jr., CESE; MP Atty. Laisa M. Alamia, MNSA; MP Atty. Suharto Ambolodto, MNSA; MP Engr. Don Mustapha A. Loong, MPSA; and MP Rasul E. Ismael

AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMFORT ROOMS WITH EFFICIENT WATER AND CLEANLINESS SYSTEMS IN EVERY SCHOOL, DEFINING ITS SCOPE AND COVERAGE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.”

This is also reiterated in Section 13, Article IX of Republic Act No. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), which states that the “Bangsamoro Government shall recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, and nationalism, encourage involvement in public and civic affairs, and promote mental and physical fitness through sports.”

Toilets are very important health facilities in every school. Based on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in School (WinS) monitoring data for SY 2018-2019, about 72.9% of all schools have at least one (1) functional toilet, while 55.5% are within the ratio of one (1) toilet bowl for every 50 students. The 2019 National School Building Inventory shows that for each specified use of toilet according to gender, the ratio of

toilet bowl to student is 1:85 for female and 1:105 for male, which is still beyond the acceptable standard of 1:50 for female and 1:100 for male. ¹

In a 2016 news report by Inquirer, it stated that while the Philippines had a “relatively good” national toilet-to-pupil ratio of 1:39 (one toilet is to 39 students), some areas are being missed. For example, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had a ratio of one toilet to more than 100 people. ²

Section 22, Article IX of the BOL provides that “[t]he Bangsamoro Government shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall also uphold the peoples' right to have access to essential goods health, and other social services that promote their well-being.”

Comfort rooms are very important spaces in schools. They are important in the everyday lives of the students. The lack of access to proper and clean toilets in schools poses a huge barrier to education. The lack of toilets can impact the student’s ability to learn and can threaten their education due to poor health which will subsequently lead to absenteeism and reduced concentration. Investing in good comfort rooms can help maintain their dignity.

In particular, the schools have crucial role in imparting to students the importance of sanitation and health care. Since the academic performance of students mainly depend on their health conditions.

In furtherance of the Government’s primordial duty as *parens patriae* or the guardian of the rights of the people, it is necessary to prioritize the needs of the students. This includes provision of a safe and healthy environment for learning and to normalize the toilet to pupil ratio by establishing comfort rooms in every school.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA

¹ https://authdocs.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FINAL-01-Health-Requirements-for-Safe-Return-to-School-Infra_0912110-20210908.pdf

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/775412/thousands-of-public-schools-lack-clean-water-toilets-deped-reveals>

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RECEIVED
Name: ADELPHI DIPATUN Signature: 
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AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMFORT ROOMS WITH
EFFICIENT WATER AND CLEANLINESS SYSTEMS IN EVERY SCHOOL,
DEFINING ITS SCOPE AND COVERAGE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao assembled:

Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Bangsamoro Sanitation Act of 2022*”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the Government to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall also uphold the people’s right to have access to essential goods, health, and other social services that promote their well-being. It is then the responsibility of the Government to regulate the basic facilities for health and convenience of its people. There is a need to establish adequate comfort rooms to cater to the personal comfort and needs of the Bangsamoro students.

Section 3. Objectives. – This Act generally aims to establish comfort rooms for students to experience convenience and comfort when inside the school premises. Specifically, it has the following objectives:

- a) Sustainable improvement to the access to sanitation, environmental health and hygiene behavior;
- b) To promote health and personal hygiene awareness among the students;

- c) To give convenience to students by giving a better a facility; and
- d) To have a healthy population and an environment appropriate for the students.

Section 4. Establishment of Comfort Rooms. - The Bangsamoro Government shall establish in every school three (3) sets of comfort rooms: one for gentlemen, one for ladies and another one for persons with disabilities or with special needs. The comfort room must be sufficient, accessible, private, secure, clean and culturally appropriate.

- a) **Toilet Sufficiency.** - The number of toilets and urinals required for each school depends on the number of children and staff;
- b) **Toilet Separation.** - Male and female facilities should be separated by solid walls and should have separate entrances. Doors should reach down to floor level.
- c) **Access for children with disabilities.** - At least one toilet should be accessible for children with disabilities. This includes wide door and sufficient space inside for a wheelchair user or helper to maneuver, and the provision of support structures such as handrails and a special toilet seat.
- d) **Toilet location.** - Toilets should be as close as possible to classrooms and playing areas, to ensure that they can be used conveniently and safely. Entrances should be positioned to provide maximum privacy in entering and leaving.
- e) **Hygienic to use and easy to clean.** - Toilets should be designed and built so that they are hygienic to use and do not become centers for transmission.
- f) **Handwashing facilities.** - The comfort room should have a handwashing stand with soap, water and adequate drainage. All comfort room designs should include convenient handwashing facility so that handwashing after using the toilet becomes a routine activity for students and teachers.

Section 5. Sanitation. - Students should be encouraged to always use the comfort room. The comfort rooms should provide the following:

- a) **Privacy and Dignity.** - Pupils and students should not have to worry that someone is watching while you pee or defecate;
- b) **Comfort.** - Pupils and students should not have to worry of feeling the need to pee or defecate even when in school; and
- c) **Prestige.** - The presence of a comfort room in the school shows that the school officials are well-informed of its importance and understand its value.

Section 6. Cleaning and Maintenance. - A cleaning and maintenance routine must be in operation, and ensures that clean and functioning toilets are available at all times. The school shall be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the comfort rooms established.

Section 7. Coverage. - This Act shall cover all the schools operating within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

Section 8. Supervision. - The construction of the comfort rooms within the Bangsamoro Region shall be under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW).

Section 9. Prohibition. - It is expressly prohibited for any school, local government unit, organization or individual to charge or collect any fee or amount from the users or beneficiaries of the comfort rooms.

Section 10. Appropriations. - The funds necessary for the establishment of comfort rooms shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

Section 11. Separability Clause. - If for any cause, any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or contrary to the provisions of Bangsamoro Organic Law, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

Section 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its full publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Adopted,


MP ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA