

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. 01

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
RECEIVED
Name: ADELAH DIMPATAN Signature: 
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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
DECLARING COTABATO CITY AS THE PERMANENT SEAT OF THE
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS
REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

Section 1, Article VII of the Bangsamoro Organic Law provides that “[t]he Parliament shall fix by law the permanent seat of the Bangsamoro Government anywhere within the territorial jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region taking into consideration accessibility and efficiency in which its mandate may be carried out under this Organic Law.”

Moreover, Section 9, Chapter 2, Book I of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code that the seat of the Bangsamoro Government shall be in Cotabato City, unless otherwise provided by the Bangsamoro Parliament in the subsequent law.

The Bangsamoro Government Center located in Cotabato City hosts various key infrastructures that are significant, historic and symbolic of the Bangsamoro struggle. This includes the Office of the Chief Minister (formerly Office of the Regional Commissioner [ORC]), the Shariff Kabungsuwan Cultural Complex (SKCC) with the Bangsamoro Museum and Regional Library, Bangsamoro Parliament building, and various offices.

Akin to the history of Cotabato City is the regional government center that has existed since the late 1970s, from the *Lupon Tagapagpaganap ng Pook (LTP)* moving to the Office of the Regional Commissioner, to the Office of the Regional Governor (ORG), and now the Office of the Chief Minister (OCM). Various Bangsamoro leaders

have held their offices in the Cotabato City seat of the government, who welcomed several Philippine presidents from the late President Corazon Aquino, the late President Fidel V. Ramos, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the late President Benigno S. Aquino, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and now, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr. Several dignitaries of the multilateral organizations and diplomatic corps have set foot in the Cotabato City seat of government, who have witnessed peace and development undertakings in the autonomous government.

These are part of the historical narrative of the seat of the autonomous government in Cotabato City that we cannot undo nor ignore. It must be reinforced, promoted and developed in order to preserved and advanced the rich historical dimensions of the Bangsamoro in the Southern Philippines.

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


MP BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA

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REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO 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 Permanent Seat Act of 2022*”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is a declared policy of the Bangsamoro to strengthen governance systems to ensure people's participation.

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region is free to pursue its political, economic, social, and cultural development as provided for in the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Also, the Bangsamoro Government shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare.

Section 3. Permanent Seat of Bangsamoro Government. – The permanent seat of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be Cotabato City, located in the heart of Central Mindanao, Philippines. Cotabato City is also the existing temporary seat of government of the Bangsamoro Government.

Section 4. Preservation and Improvement of Existing Structures. - The infrastructure buildings in the existing government center shall be preserved and improved in order to sustain their historical value.

Section 5. No Additional Major Infrastructure in Existing Government Center. - There shall be no more additional major infrastructure constructed inside the existing government center that will need additional lot space for the new building. Existing buildings may be renovated and improved, but in no case, an expansion of building is allowed.

Section 6. Securing the Existing Bangsamoro Government Center. - The existing property of the Bangsamoro Government shall be secured through perimeter fencing. The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) shall conduct a survey of the metes and bounds of the property, and shall be the subject of perimeter fencing.

Section 7. Private Individuals Not Allowed to Reside Inside the Government Center. - No individual or family shall be allowed to reside inside the Bangsamoro Government Center in order to maintain and safeguard the assets and properties therein.

Section 8. Displacements in the Event of Securing the Property. - The Bangsamoro Government shall ensure that any displacements that may be caused by securing the area and the perimeter fencing shall be compensated according to existing laws, rules and regulations.

Section 7. Insurance of the Existing Infrastructure. - All ministries and offices with infrastructure buildings inside the Bangsamoro Government Center shall ensure the safety of their properties, including valuable fixtures and equipment in their compound, and these properties shall be insured in a government insurance system.

Section 8. Creation of Annex Bangsamoro Government Center (BGC). - The Office of the Chief Minister (OCM) is hereby authorized to establish Annex Bangsamoro Government Center within Cotabato City, provided that frontline ministries and offices shall be given priority in the Annex BGC.

Section 9. Government Center Administrator. - The Office of the Chief Minister is hereby authorized to organize an office of the BGC Administrator attached to the OCM.

Section 10. Separability Clause. - If for any cause, any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or contrary to the provisions of R.A. 11054, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

Section 11. 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 12. 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