

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

BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY PARLIAMENT 2022-2025
First Regular Session

Journal No. 06
Rabi Al-Awwal 2, 1444 | September 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

At 1:42 p.m., the Presiding Officer, Deputy Speaker Laisa M. Alamia, called the session to order.

INVOCATION

MP Ibrahim D. Ali led the invocation.

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND THE BANGSAMORO HYMN

The Body sang the national anthem and the Bangsamoro Hymn.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General, Prof. Raby B. Angkal, called the Roll and the following Members of the Parliament, who were physically present in the Session Hall, responded to the call:

1. Hon. Akmad I. Abas
2. Hon. Haron M. Abas
3. Hon. Mudjib C. Abu
4. Hon. Laisa M. Alamia
5. Hon. Ibrahim D. Ali
6. Hon. Eddie M. Alih
7. Hon. Abdulaziz M. Amenoden
8. Hon. Baintan A. Ampatuan
9. Hon. Susana S. Anayatin
10. Hon. Mohammad Kelie U. Antao
11. Hon. Mary Ann M. Arnado
12. Hon. Ali Montaha D. Babao
13. Hon. Pangalian M. Balindong
14. Hon. Anna Tarhata S. Basman
15. Hon. Hashemi N. Dilangalen
16. Hon. Matarul M. Estino
17. Hon. Abdullah E. Gayak
18. Hon. Khalid Maamor M. Hadji Abdullah

19. Hon. Rasul E. Ismael
20. Hon. Muslimin A. Jakilan
21. Hon. Faizal G. Karon
22. Hon. Jose I. Lorena
23. Hon. Amroussi A. Macatanong
24. Hon. Tarhata M. Maglangit
25. Hon. Hamid U. Malik
26. Hon. Baileng S. Mantawil
27. Hon. Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam
28. Hon. Amilbahar S. Mawallil
29. Hon. Froilyn T. Mendoza
30. Hon. Michael E. Midtimbang
31. Hon. Tawakal B. Midtimbang
32. Hon. Abdulkarim E. Misuari
33. Hon. NurRedha I. Misuari
34. Hon. Hussein P. Muñoz
35. Hon. Suwaib L. Oranon
36. Hon. Ubaida C. Pacasem
37. Hon. Abdulwahab M. Pak
38. Hon. Randolph C. Parcasio
39. Hon. Salendab Z. Said
40. Hon. Ali O. Salik
41. Hon. Ali B. Sangki
42. Hon. Omar Yasser C. Sema
43. Hon. Said M. Sheik
44. Hon. Aida M. Silongan
45. Hon. Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr.
46. Hon. Ali B. Solaiman
47. Hon. Paisalin P. Tago
48. Hon. Nabil A. Tan
49. Hon. Adzfar H. Usman
50. Hon. Bassir D. Utto
51. Hon. Sittie Fahanie S. Uy-Oyod

The following Members of the Parliament, who were virtually present, also responded to the call:

1. Hon. Bai Maleiha B. Candao
2. Hon. Diamila D. Ramos
3. Hon. Denmartin A. Kahalan
4. Hon. Nabila Margarita P. Pangandaman

The following Members of the Parliament virtually appeared after the roll call:

1. Hon. Don Mustapha A Loong
2. Hon. Hatimil E. Hassan
3. Hon. John Anthony L. Lim

The Member of the Parliament who were on official business:

1. Hon. Ahod B. Ebrahim

The following Members of the Parliament were absent:

1. Hon. Basit S. Abbas
2. Hon. Mosber E. Alauddin
3. Hon. Suharto M. Ambolodto

4. Hon. Lanang T. Ali, Jr.
5. Hon. Dan S. Asnawie
6. Hon. Sha Elijah B. Dumama-Alba
7. Hon. Suharto S. Esmael
8. Hon. Eduard U. Guerra
9. Hon. Abdullah B. Hashim
10. Hon. Mohagher M. Iqbal
11. Hon. Raissa H. Jajurie
12. Hon. Albakil D. Jikiri
13. Hon. Benjamin T. Loong
14. Hon. Abdulraof A. Macacua
15. Hon. Abdullah G. Macapaar
16. Hon. Marjanie S. Macasalong
17. Hon. Ishak V. Mastura
18. Hon. Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr.
19. Hon. Ramon A. Piang, Sr.
20. Hon. Romeo K. Sema
21. Hon. Mohammad S. Yacob

With fifty-five (55) Members of the Parliament present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION

Upon motion of Deputy Majority Floor Leader, MP Basman, duly seconded and there being no objection, the reading of journal of the previous session, Journal No. 5 dated September 27, 2022, was dispensed with and the same was approved.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

MP Basman acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the following guests of the BTA Parliament from the Save the Children-Philippines:

1. Ms. Luz Frances Chua
2. Mr. Praje Pacion

BILL ON FIRST READING

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the title and the name of author of BTA-Parliament Bill No. 54 on First Reading:

1. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 54, entitled:

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Author: The Government of the Day

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the titles and the names of authors and co-authors of the following BTA-Parliament Bills on First Reading:

1. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 22, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS FOR BANGSAMORO VETERAN MUJAHIDEEN AND MUJAHIDAT AND THEIR FAMILIES, ESTABLISHING THE BANGSAMORO MUJAHIDEEN/MUJAHIDAT BENEFITS SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Author: MP Laisa M. Alamia

Co-authors: MPs Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasul E. Ismael, Baintan A. Ampatuan, Amilbahar S. Mawallil, and Don Mustapha A. Loong

2. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 23, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REPARATION AND BENEFIT INITIATIVES FOR ORPHANS OF WAR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Author: MP Laisa M. Alamia

Co-authors: MPs Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasul E. Ismael, Baintan A. Ampatuan, Amilbahar S. Mawallil, and Don Mustapha A. Loong

3. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 24, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BANGSAMORO HEALTH CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Author: MP Laisa M. Alamia

Co-authors: MPs Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasul E. Ismael, Baintan A. Ampatuan, Amilbahar S. Mawallil, and Don Mustapha A. Loong

4. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 25, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM, CREATING THE REGIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR THE BANGSAMORO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Author: MP Laisa M. Alamia

Co-authors: MPs Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasul E. Ismael, Baintan A. Ampatuan, Amilbahar S. Mawallil, and Don Mustapha A. Loong

5. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 26, entitled:

AN ACT CREATING THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS IN THE BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND COMPOSITION

Author: MP Laisa M. Alamia

Co-authors: MPs Baintan A. Ampatuan, Susana S. Anayatin, Nabila Margarita P. Pangandaman, Aida M. Silongan, Diamila D. Ramos, Bai Maleiha B. Candao, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Don Mustapha A. Loong, Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasul E. Ismael, Nabil A. Tan, Jose I. Lorena, and Paisalin P. Tago

6. BTA-Parliament Bill No. 27, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Authors: MPs Laisa M. Alamia, Mohammad S. Yacob, Mohagher M. Iqbal, and Lanang T. Ali, Jr.

Co-authors: MPs Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasul E. Ismael, Baintan A. Ampatuan, Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Don Mustapha A. Loong, Abdullah E. Gayak, and Omar Yasser C. Sema

MP Basman informed the Body that the foregoing bills are private member bills.

READING AND REFERRAL OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the titles and the names of the authors and co-authors of the following proposed resolutions which, in turn, on separate motions of MP Basman, duly seconded and there being no objection, were referred to the appropriate committees:

1. Proposed Resolution No. 07, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE BANGSAMORO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BPDA) TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ONLINE DATABASE OF THE BANGSAMORO PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Author: MP Baintan A. Ampatuan

Co-authors: MPs Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Laisa M. Alamia, Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Don Mustapha A. Loong, and Rasul E. Ismael

To the Committee on Rules

2. Proposed Resolution No. 21, entitled:

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATIONALIZE THE BANGSAMORO REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FINANCE (BLGF) IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION

Author: MP Baintan A. Ampatuan

Co-authors: MPs Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Laisa M. Alamia, Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Don Mustapha A. Loong, and Rasul E. Ismael

To the Committee on Finance, Budget, and Management

3. Proposed Resolution No. 33, entitled:

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT THROUGH MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY AND BANGMORO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO FORMALLY CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION PERTAINING TO THE ALLEGED SERIES OF KILLINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PIKIT ESPECIALLY AREAS UNDER BARMMS SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA BARANGAYS AND TERRITORY

Authors: MPs Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr. and Mohammad Kelie U. Antao

To the Committee on Public Order and Safety

BILL ON SECOND READING

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the title and the name of the author of BTA-Parliament Bill No. 43 on Second Reading, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL OF THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Author: Government of the Day

AUTHORSHIP SPEECH OF MP PACASEM

In behalf of the Government of the Day, MP Pacasem delivered the following authorship speech on BTA-Parliament Bill No. 43:

To the Honorable Speaker of the Bangsamoro Parliament and esteemed colleagues in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, *assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh*.

From the 18th up to the 21st century, the world has seen the rise of new capitals. Exemplified by the likes of Washington, D.C., Brasilia, New Delhi, Putrajaya, and

Canberra, these capital cities were planned, designed and built solely to serve as seats of power and establish symbolisms for national identity.

One of the more prominent purpose-built capitals is Washington D.C. in the United States of America. Until after the Revolutionary War in the USA, the city of Philadelphia, which at that time was the central political hub of the country, had been its original capital. In 1790, however, the call for building a permanent capital in an undeveloped area was heeded, hence the rise of the current capital of USA, Washington D.C.

In Pakistan, Islamabad was built as a planned city in the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital, which at that time was developing in direct proportions with the country. The rationale behind transferring the seat of capital was to distribute development efforts evenly.

In Malaysia, the establishment of Putrajaya, a new administrative capital built from a practically blank slate, served as an emblem of the government's agenda and ambitions of progressivity. Aside from symbolizing national ideologies and aspirations, Putrajaya was an escape from congested central areas, allowing for convenient travel and ample space to build urban landscapes, without getting too far from the previous seat of the government.

Mr. Speaker and dear colleagues, I do not wish to bore you with heavy albeit interesting and significant facts. Rather, I hope to point out how capital cities shape a nation's identity and how as such, there is pressure surrounding the decision to choose or establish capital cities, a decision which presents itself often at the time of a nation's independence and unification, or a period of establishing an identity for the nation.

Moreover, with such examples, I hope to share to this body the parallels found between these capitals and our context here in the Autonomous Region. At the onset, the creation of the BARMM signified an independence found anew with the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law; and as the Bangsamoro Government enters the second half of the transition, we see this as an opportune time to strengthen our regional identity as a developing, multicultural and multiethnic autonomous region.

Largely inspired by the success of these planned capital cities, the authors of Parliament Bill No. 43 hope to emulate the notable feats of capitals around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is thus a great honor to submit this Bill: An Act Establishing the Administrative Capital of the Bangsamoro Government in the Municipality of Parang, Province of Maguindanao, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purpose, for the consideration of the Parliament.

With this bill, the Municipality of Parang in the Province of Maguindanao is sought to be established as the seat of the Bangsamoro Government where its Administrative Center shall be located.

As one of the 1st class municipalities in the autonomous region, Parang is a promising administrative capital considering its social, geopolitical, and economic environments.

Representing 2.34% of the overall population of the BARMM, this municipality is home to almost 103,000 moros belonging to the Iranun, Maguindanaon, Maranao, Tausug and other equally-significant tribes and origins; and non-moros of diverse faiths and cultures¹. Being one of the original municipalities of the then Cotabato Province,

Parang has had a rich background owing to the fact that in the 1960s, the municipality included the former municipal districts of Bugasan (Matanog), Buldon, Barira, and Bongo Island.

Likewise, its history is marked with several significant events, the first of which dates back to when the missionary Sharif Kabungsuwan first set foot in the island of Mindanao. It has also served as naval and military bases under different regimes, before settlers began taking root therein.

The Municipality of Parang ranks among the least dense municipalities and cities in the autonomous region, with a population density of 121 inhabitants per square kilometer. This holds significance, as in the case of most planned capital cities, where overcrowding and congestion are factors considered in choosing capitals.

Parang covers a land area of over 850 square kilometers, constituting 8.53% of Maguindanao's total area. Production land use in the municipality is both agricultural and industrial. It offers both its coast and its vast lands for livelihood and trade. Because it is at the junction between northern and southern parts of the mainland provinces in BARMM and through its port, it is accessible to constituents from all over the autonomous region; and thus conducive for the exercise of authority, and the effective and efficient delivery of services by the Bangsamoro Government.

But most importantly, the Municipality of Parang has great economic potential. If it was placed at the forefront of regional economic development, as any capital should be, it would be emblematic of the Bangsamoro Government's priority agenda on revenue generation and economic comparative advantage.

The Polloc freeport and economic zone located at the southern coast of the Municipality of Parang sets a strong climate for investment, trade and employment generation, thus paving the way for economic growth and urban development. The municipality also has the potential to boost tourism and trade through the construction of an international airport.

Mr. Speaker, it is the firm belief of the authors of this Bill that the Municipality of Parang represents our identity and aspirations as a region—a developing and self-sufficient Bangsamoro. Moreover, it presents countless economic opportunities, serving as a springboard for genuine development and nation building.

This proposal to establish the administrative capital is not without legal imprimatur. Espoused in the Bangsamoro Organic Law is the authority of the Parliament to create, divide, merge, abolish, or substantially alter boundaries of municipalities or barangays within the autonomous region, particularly under Section 10, Article VI of the BOL. Such power is provided for as well in the Constitution.

Likewise, it is consistent with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region's right to self-governance, which in the exercise thereof may create offices and organize its own bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker and dear colleagues, with your support, we wish to transform the potentials of the Municipality of Parang into reality for the betterment of the Bangsamoro. Through this Bill, we envision an administrative capital that symbolizes growth centered on the principles moral governance and unity amidst diversity.

Thank you very much. *Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.*

REFERRAL OF BTA-PARLIAMENT BILL NO. 43 TO COMMITTEE

On motion of MP Basman, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body referred BTA-Parliament Bill No. 43 to the Committee on Rules.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of MP Basman, duly seconded and there being no objection, the session was adjourned until the following day, September 29, 2022 at one o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 2:13 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General