

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

Bangsamoro Transition Authority
OFFICE OF MP AMIR S. MAWALLIL
RELEASE

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament

SECOND PARLIAMENT
First Regular Session

Date: 11/04/22

Time: 2:20 PM

Signature: [Signature]

Name: ADFLAN DIPAUN Signature: [Signature]
Date: NOV 04 2022 Time: 10:20 AM

Parliament Bill No. 117

Introduced by
MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL

Co-authored by
**ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD ALAMIA, ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLODITO,
ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR., MP ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN,
ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, RASUL E. ISMAEL**

AN ACT
**INSTITUTIONALIZING A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO QUALIFIED
CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS IN
THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

The principles of social justice - ensuring every Bangsamoro the provision of basic necessities and equal opportunities in life - have been among the core principles advocated by the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Translating these principles into legislative measures is a key policy framework that should be continuously pursued by the Bangsamoro Government aimed at improving the living conditions of all the inhabitants in the BARMM. Specific interventions must be made to tackle the glaring inequalities in health, education, and social protection services in the region.

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region is an agricultural region with its economy mainly driven by agriculture. To ensure continuous support for small farmers and fisherfolks, the government must initiate new strategies to remove them from poverty.

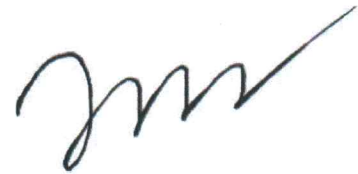
Hence, this measure seeks to provide opportunities for children and dependents of farmers and fisherfolk within the BARMM to have quality education by extending to them a full scholarship from all academic levels: from basic education until their completion of tertiary education.

The proposed benefits shall include all expenses for education, whether in public or private school, such as, but not limited to, tuition fees, miscellaneous and other fees, board and lodging, transportation expenses, allowance for books, clothing, and food, and other similar expenses.

Likewise, the measure provides for the creation of a Special Fund in the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) which shall be perpetually maintained and used exclusively for the benefit of children and dependents of small farmers and fisherfolks in BARMM.

When legislated, this Act will not only allow us to somehow help the lives of the key stakeholders of our economy, albeit disadvantaged sectors of our society, but also to free them from the bondage of poverty and ensure that a wide array of opportunities are opened to them and their families. The sponsor of this measure reiterates the principle behind this measure – that education is an effective and valuable tool to address poverty and enhance economic improvement.

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




AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

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

SECOND PARLIAMENT
First Regular Session

Parliament Bill No. 117

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
RECEIVED
Name: ADELAH DIXTUM Signature: 
Date: NOV 04 2022 Time: 10:57 AM

Introduced by
MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Co-authored by
ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD ALAMIA, ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLODITO,
ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR., MP ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN,
ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, RASUL E. ISMAEL

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO QUALIFIED
CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS IN
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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Parliament in session:

Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the “Small Farmer and Fisherfolk Scholarship Act of 2022.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. In the crafting of regional policies, the Bangsamoro Government shall provide, maintain, and ensure access to basic and responsive programs, including the delivery of quality education, to all the inhabitants of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, especially to the poor and disadvantaged.

Towards this end, it shall provide opportunities for children and dependents of farmers and fisherfolk within the BARMM to have quality education by extending to them a full scholarship from all academic levels. In doing so, the Bangsamoro Government will not only develop competent Bangsamoro graduates, but this will also be supportive and relevant to the human resource requirements of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Small Farmer – refers to a natural person dependent on small-scale subsistence farming or fishing activity as a primary source of income, i.e., those who (a) own or are still amortizing lands that are not more than three (3) hectares, tenants, leaseholders, and stewards; or (b) engaged in backyard livestock and poultry raising defined by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as engaged in: (a) livestock raising not exceeding

any of the following: (i) 20 head of adults and zero young, (ii) 40 head of young animals, (iii) 10 head of adults and 22 head of young animals; and (b) poultry raising not exceeding: (i) 500 layers or 1,000 broilers, (ii) 100 layers and 100 broilers if raised in combination, (iii) 100 heads of duck.

- b. Small Fisherfolk – refers to those directly or indirectly engaged in taking, culturing, or processing fishery or aquatic resources, specifically: (a) those engaged in fishing using gears that do not require boats or boats less than three (3) tons, in municipal waters, coastal and marine areas; (b) workers in commercial fishing and aquaculture; (c) vendors and small-scale processors of fish and coastal products; (d) subsistence producers such as shell-gatherers, managers, and producers of mangrove resources, and other related producers.

Section 4. Full Scholarship for Children and Dependents of Small Farmers and Fisherfolks. Children and dependents of small farmers and fisherfolks situated within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao registered/enrolled in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) shall be entitled to a full scholarship from basic education until their completion of tertiary education, subject to the rules and regulations as mandated by this Act.

The benefits shall include all expenses for education, whether in public or private school, such as, but not limited to, tuition fees, miscellaneous and other fees, board and lodging, transportation expenses, allowance for books, clothing and food, and other similar expenses.

Small farmers and fisherfolks who are not registered under the RSBSA shall be required to enroll through the Department of Agriculture Inclusion Protocol, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR).

Section 5. Special Fund for Educational Benefits. In order to carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby established a Special Fund in the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00). Such fund shall be perpetually maintained and used exclusively for the benefit of children and dependents of small farmers and fisherfolks in BARMM; Provided, that not more than 5% of the fund shall be used for the administration of the Special Fund.

Section 6. Small Farmers and Fisherfolk Education Benefits Board. There shall be created an inter-agency Small Farmers and Fisherfolk Education Benefits Board, or the Board, composed of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform, as Chairperson; the Minister of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, as Vice-Chairperson; five (5) representatives from the small farmers and fisherfolks sector representing each of the five (5) BARMM provinces; and one (1) reserved seat each for Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples, Settler Communities, and Women, who shall all be ex-officio members.

The Board shall have the primary responsibility of managing and supervising the Special Fund. It shall also formulate policies, implement rules and regulations, guidelines, and other related functions to oversee, manage, and supervise the operations of the Special Fund.

Section 7. Scholarship Program Secretariat. The management of the Board and the general conduct of its operations shall be vested in the Secretariat. As such, he/she shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Execute and administer the policies, plans, programs and projects approved by the Board;
- b. Direct and supervise the operation and internal administration of the Board;
- c. Submit quarterly and annual reports to the Board, and such other reports as may be required;
- d. Represent the Board in all dealings with other offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government and with all persons and entities, public or private; and
- e. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board.

The Secretariat shall be appointed by the Chief Minister, upon recommendation of the Board, for a term of three (3) years and may be re-appointed once for another term.

Section 8. *Qualifications of the Secretariat.* The Secretariat shall be a citizen of the Philippines and a bona fide resident of the BARMM for at least five (5) years before the appointment. He or she shall have demonstrated unquestioned integrity, good moral character, and proven probity, with executive competence and experience in the field of law, public administration, and economic planning.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the MAFAR, in consultation with the MBHTE, shall issue rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 10. *Separability Clause.* If any section or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* All ordinances, executive orders, administrative orders, or other rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of regional circulation.

Approved,

AUTHOR:



AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

Certified correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

Attested by:

ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker