

ENHANCED

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

Second Parliament
First Regular Session

BTA BILL NO. 121



Introduced by **MP KADIL M. SINOLINDING, JR., MD, DPBO**

“AN ACT CREATING THE BANGSAMORO COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER, PROVIDING POWERS AND MANDATES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

All of us will turn 60 years old and become a senior citizen.

“It was once said that the moral test of the government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

- Inspirational Quotes from Hubert H. Humphrey

“Anyone who recognizes the high status of old people and respects them, God will save him from experiencing the might and fear of the Resurrection Day.”

- Source from Imam Jafar al Sadiq (a.s) lecture

The National Government enacted the law RA 11350 Section 6, also known as the “National Commission of Senior Citizens Act”, shall be under the Office of the President. The Commission is mandated to ensure the full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the government on senior citizens, review and conduct related studies, and recommend policy to Congress and the President. It abolishes the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board created under RA 9994 and transfers related functions from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to National Commission of Senior Citizen.

Further, RA 9994, also known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, stated in Article XIII, Section 11 that “the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children”.

Also, Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution declares that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them.

Thus, this bill seeks the Bangsamoro Government to approve an established mechanism for the beloved senior citizens.

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AND MANDATES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
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 Commission for Senior Citizen Act of 2022”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. As provided in the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, it is declared policy of the State to provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Further, it provides that the State shall promote social justice in all phases of national government, and values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution further declares that it is the duty of the Family to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs and social security.

Section 23, Article IX of Republic Act No.11054, also known as Organic Law of the Bangsamoro Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) mandates the Bangsamoro Government to support and ensure the welfare of senior citizens by upholding their rights and providing the benefits and privileges they presently enjoy.

Towards this end, the Bangsamoro Government shall establish a mechanism for the full implementation of senior citizen laws, policies, and programs of the government on senior citizens, review and recommend such, and conduct relevant activities to ensure that their rights and privileges are protected and enjoyed by them.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - As stated in Republic Act 9994, Senior Citizens or elderly refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

Section 4. Creation of the Bangsamoro Commission for Senior Citizens. In order to carry out the declared policies, it is hereby created a Bangsamoro Commission for Senior Citizens.

Section 5. Objectives and Functions. This Act shall be consistent with the existing principles and objectives of the National Commission of Senior Citizens. The following are the objectives of this Act:

(a) To recognize the rights of senior citizens to take their proper place in society and make it a concern of the family, community, and government;

(b) To give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of the region and Philippine society;

(c) To motivate and encourage the senior citizens to contribute to nation building;

(d) To encourage their families and the communities they live with to reaffirm the valued Filipino tradition of caring for the senior citizens;

(e) To provide a comprehensive health care and rehabilitation system for disabled senior citizens to foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive aging; and

(f) To recognize the important role of the private sector in the improvement of the welfare of senior citizens and to actively seek their partnership.

Section 4.1. In accordance with these objectives, this Act shall:

(1) establish mechanisms whereby the contributions of the senior citizens are maximized;

(2) adopt measures whereby our senior citizens are assisted and appreciated by the community as a whole;

(3) establish a program beneficial to the senior citizens, their families and the rest of the community they serve: and

(4) establish community-based health and rehabilitation programs for senior citizens in every political unit of society.

Section 4.2. The following are the functions of the Commission:

1. Ensure the full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the government pertaining to senior citizens and review thereof and recommend appropriate actions and policies thereon to Bangsamoro Transition Authority and Bangsamoro Government;

2. Formulate and implement policies for the promotion and protection of the rights and wellbeing of senior citizens;

3. Conduct information, education, and communication campaigns to raise awareness on the rights of senior citizens;

4. Establish and maintain cooperation and consultations with local government units and regional government agencies on all matters pertaining to the general welfare of senior citizens;

5. Represent the Bangsamoro Government in international and national functions, fora, or conferences on senior citizens and establish and maintain linkages with the international/national senior citizen or senior citizen-serving institutions or organizations and counterpart government agencies of other regions;

6. Constitute and convene when necessary, an advisory body to be composed of such representatives from the government, non-government organizations, civil society, and the private sector, as the Commission may deem appropriate, to assist in the performance of its functions;

7. Develop appropriate mechanisms and procedures for the selection and nomination of the members of the Commissions for appointment by the Chief Minister; and

8. Perform such other actions and functions for the promotion of the welfare of senior citizens, as may be directed by the Chief Minister.

Section 6. Site of the Office. The Bangsamoro Government shall provide the official office of the Commission and the office building shall be through the Ministry of Public Works.

Section 7. Organization Structure. The office shall be headed by a Regional Director (SG 26) who shall be appointed by the Chief Minister.

In carrying out its objectives and functions as the implementing arm of the region, the Regional Director shall be supported by the following:

1. One (1) Executive Assistant II - Salary Grade 17
2. One (2) Administrative Officer V - Salary Grade 18

3. One (1) Accountant II - Salary Grade 16
4. One (2) Senior Administrative Assistant 1- Salary Grade 15
5. One (1) Administrative Officer II - Salary Grade 11
6. Two (3) Administrative Aide VI - Salary Grade 6
7. Two (2) Administrative Aide IV - Salary Grade 4

Section 8. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Regional Director. The Regional Director shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

1. Lead implementation of senior citizen laws, policies, and programs of the government pertaining to senior citizens; review and conduct studies on the same; and recommend appropriate actions thereon to Bangsamoro transition Authority and Bangsamoro Government;
2. Lead the formulation of policies for the promotion and protection of the rights and wellbeing of senior citizens;
3. Spearhead the conduct of information, education, and communication campaigns to raise awareness on the rights of senior citizens;
4. Coordinate the establishment and maintain cooperation and consultations with local government units and other regional government agencies on all matters pertaining to the general welfare of senior citizens;
5. Represent the Bangsamoro Government in international and national functions, fora, or conferences on senior citizens and establish and maintain linkages with the international/national senior citizen or senior citizen-serving institutions or organizations and counterpart government agencies of other regions;
6. Preside and convene when necessary, an advisory body to be composed of such representatives from the government, non-government organizations, civil society, and the private sector, as the Commission may deem appropriate, to assist in the performance of its functions;
7. Develop appropriate mechanisms and procedures for the selection and nomination of the members of the Commissions for appointment by the Chief Minister; and
8. Perform such other actions and functions for the promotion of the welfare of senior citizens, as may be directed by the Chief Minister.

Section 9. Office Personnel. All positions declared to be highly technical, policy determining, or primarily confidential and shall be subject to the Civil Service rules and regulations. Further, All positions shall be consistent with the existing budgeting, organization, staffing, position classification, and compensation policies, guidelines and standards provided by national and local law

Section 10. Core Programs Under the Bangsamoro Commission. In order to ensure the mandates, policies, and regulations, there shall be enabling programs and activities within the context of human rights, gender equality and existing cultural norms and religious convictions of the people.

1. **Bangsamoro Social Pension** - other national programs shall be incorporated during the formulation of IRR.

Mandatory Monthly Pension of Senior Citizens under Republic Act (RA) 11916 - Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens.

The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with other stakeholders, review and, when necessary, adjust the amount of the social pension every two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, taking into account the present consumer price index as published by the PSA and relevant economic indicators, as reported and published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.

2. **Centenarian Benefits**

Provides incentives to senior citizens who will reach 100 years old. The centenarian shall receive from the national government a Letter of Felicitation signed by the President and Centenarians Gift of PHP100,000.00 to the living centenarian in recognition of his or her longevity. A posthumous Plaque of Recognition shall be awarded to the deceased centenarian by the DSWD to be received by the centenarian's nearest surviving relative as stated in *RA 10868 Rule V Article 5.1.*

3. Bangsamoro Social Safety Nets

Social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economic shocks, disasters and calamities shall be available for senior citizens. The social safety assistance which shall include food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile repair, shall be sourced from the disaster/calamity funds of LGUs where the senior citizens reside, subject to the guidelines issued by the National Commission of Senior Citizens.

Section 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Development, jointly with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

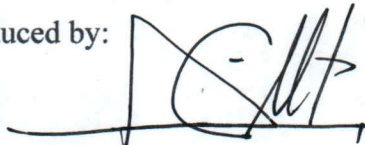
Section 12. Appropriation. The Bangsamoro Government shall appropriate a regular budget for the operation of the office and its activities, provided that all national programs under this Act shall be funded by the national government, as may be necessary, to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Section 13. Separability Clause. The provisions of this Act are hereby declared separable, and in the event one or more such provisions or part thereof are declared unconstitutional, such declaration of unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

Section. 14 - Repealing Clause. All regional laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and / or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

Section. 15 - Effectivity. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the region.

Introduced by:



KADIL JOJO M. SINOLINDING JR., MD, DBPO
Member of Parliament

Certified Correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary General

Attested by:

HON. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker