

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

BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY PARLIAMENT

Fourth Regular Session

BTA Bill No. 140

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
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AN ACT
CREATING BANGSAMORO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament in session assembled:

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "Bangsamoro Scholarship Act of 2022".

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate funding and such other mechanisms to increase the participation rate among all socioeconomic classes in Tertiary Education, especially the poor but academically able and highly motivated students.

Likewise, it shall be a top priority of the Bangsamoro Government to establish, maintain, and support a complete and integrated system of quality education, which shall be a subsystem of the national education system. The Bangsamoro Government shall develop an educational framework relevant and responsive to the needs, ideals, and aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. For this purpose, the Bangsamoro Government shall conform to the minimum standards set by the National Government.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms shall be defined conceptually as they are used throughout the statute:

- (a) “Applicant” refers to a student applying under the Bangsamoro Scholarship Program who is a resident of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a graduate from senior high school in any accredited private or public school in BARMM, and qualified for enrollment to higher education institutions;
- (b) “Bachelor degree” refers to any program awarded by HEI or SUC leading to a completion of course by three to five years either under semestral or trimestral pattern as may be authorized and recognized by the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE);
- (c) “BARMM Priority Programs” shall refer to the list of recognized degree programs offered by HEIs identified by the MBHTE in coordination and consultation with other ministries, agencies, and offices of the Bangsamoro Government as well as with the academic institutions and the industries operating in the region. The identification of the BARMM Priority Programs shall be in accordance with the human resource needs and developmental goals and priorities of the region.
- (d) “Higher education institution” or “HEI” refers to an education institution authorized and recognized by the MBHTE or state university or college created by law to offer bachelor's degree or graduate courses; and
- (e) “Scholar” refers to a student who had entered into contract with MBHTE under the Bangsamoro Scholarship Program.

Section 4. *Bangsamoro Scholarship Program.* – There shall be created a Bangsamoro Scholarship Program for bachelor degrees for Filipino citizens who are residents of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), a graduate of senior high school from recognized private or public schools in the BARMM, and whose family income is not sufficient to support his or her bachelor degree.

Section 5. *Scope of Scholarship.* – A scholar under this Act is entitled to:

- (a) Free tuition and other school fees;
- (b) Allowance for prescribed books, supplies, and equipment;
- (c) Clothing or uniform allowance;
- (d) Monthly living allowance, which may be subject to increase every four years based on the inflation rate and as recommended by the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Management;
- (e) Reasonable transportation allowance;
- (f) Financial assistance for research work and internships; and
- (g) Other education-related miscellaneous subsistence or allowance.

Section 6. *Conditions for Scholarship.* - For the duration of the scholarship, a scholar shall:

- (a) Be admitted to an HIE or SUC identified by the MBHTE where the applicant intends to enroll;
- (b) Maintains a general weighted average grade of no less than eighty percent (80%) without any failing grade in any subject;
- (c) Enrolls full unit load for each semestral or trimestral as prescribed in the bachelor degree curriculum; and
- (d) Completes the bachelor degree within the regular duration of the curriculum unless a delay is justified.

Section 7. *Contract of Scholarship.* - In no case shall a grantee to a scholarship under this Act be awarded without a contract entered into between the latter and the MBHTE providing for the terms and conditions of the scholarship and mandatory return service as provided in the immediate section.

Section 8. *Termination of Scholarship.* - At any time during the duration of the scholarship and subject to notice, the scholarship may be terminated by the MBHTE for violation of the terms and conditions of the contract.

Section 9. *Mandatory Return Service.* - After graduating and obtaining the bachelor degree, the scholar shall render mandatory return service for three (3) years in any private or public institution in the BARMM. Any scholar who fails or refuses to comply with the mandatory return service obligation imposed under this Act shall reimburse the Bangsamoro Government equivalent to the cost of scholarship without prejudice of court action that may be taken by the MBHTE.

Section 10. *Integration of All Bangsamoro Funded Scholarship Programs.* - Upon the effectivity of this Act, all Bangsamoro Funded Scholarship Programs for Tertiary Education shall be harmonized, rationalized, and consolidated by the MBHTE.

Section 11. *Implementing Agency.* - The MBHTE shall be the implementing agency of this Act. It shall be responsible for evaluating, awarding, entering into a scholarship contract to the scholar, and monitoring the scholarship. It shall ensure the timely release of the benefits and entitlements of the scholars and coordinate with the SUCs and PHEIs to achieve the objectives of this Act.

Section 12. *Bangsamoro Scholarship Coordinating Council.* - There is hereby created a Bangsamoro Scholarship Coordinating Council which shall be the venue for coordination and consultation between the MBHTE and other ministries, agencies, and offices of the Bangsamoro Government in the implementation of the Bangsamoro Scholarship Program. It shall work on the formulation and adoption of the BARMM Priority Programs. It shall be headed by the MBHTE with members coming from the following: Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs, Bangsamoro Youth

Commission, Bangsamoro Women Commission, and such other ministries, agencies, and offices that have relevant developmental goals and priorities or concern with the development of human resources and industries in the region.

Section 13. *Complementation of the Scholarships and Financial Benefits Provided by the National Government and HEIs.* - The MBHTE shall work with Commission on Higher Education and HEIs to ensure that there is no duplication of scholarship and that those unserved by the scholarship and financial benefit programs of the national government as well as the HEIs will be prioritized in the implementation of this Act. The MBHTE shall also ensure to provide equitable opportunities and special eligibilities for the stakeholders of the peace process such as the combatants, their children, and members of the communities of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front so they can also pursue higher education.

Section 14. *Bangsamoro Scholarship Portal and Information System.* - The MBHTE shall develop a web-based portal and information system for the Bangsamoro Scholarship Program where the Ministry can process the application and submission of requirements as well as maintain the database and profiles of scholars and applicants, including their financial, academic, and other records. It shall also be platform where the scholars can access academic and other support services.

Section 15. *Scholarship Support Services.* - The MBHTE shall develop and implement support services for the scholars including, but not limited to, assistance on the establishment of scholars' associations and communities of practice, research and internship programs, as well as active citizenship, leadership, management, and skills enhancement programs to ensure their wholistic development as globally competitive human resources and as responsible and contributing members of the Bangsamoro communities. *

Section 16. *Review and Monitoring.* - After the end of each year, the MBHTE shall report to the Bangsamoro Parliament regarding the implementation of this Act and submit its recommendations.

Section 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the MBHTE shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 18. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to effectively carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the funds of MBHTE. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual Appropriations Act of BARM.


Section 19. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

Section 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 21. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Bangsamoro Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved, _____, 2022.

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