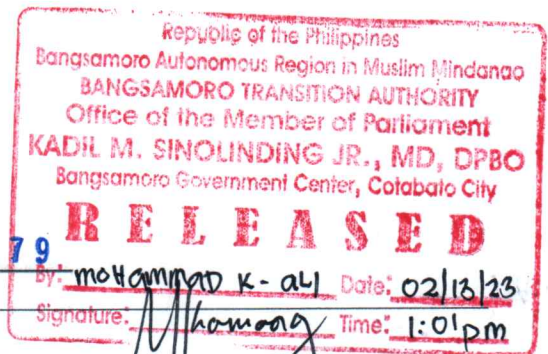


Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY

Second Parliament
First Regular Session

Proposed Resolution No. **179**



Authored by MP KADIL M. SINOLINDING, JR., MD, DPBO

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“A RESOLUTION URGING THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND AGRARIAN REFORM (MAFAR), MINISTRY OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (MBHTE), MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT (MSSD), AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOLDEN RICE PROGRAM AMONG CHILDREN TO REDUCE THE PREVALENCE OF VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY IN BARMM”

WHEREAS, in February 2019, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed into Law the Republic Act 11223, also known as “An Act Instituting Universal Health Care for All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System, and Appropriating Funds Therefor;

In Chapter 1 Section 2 (2a) (2b) thereof, it states the following principles:

“It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall adopt:

“An integrated and comprehensive approach to ensure that all Filipinos are health literate, provided with healthy living conditions, and protected from hazards and risks that could affect their health”.

“A health care model that provides all Filipinos access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective, promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services without causing financial hardship, and prioritizes the needs of the population who cannot afford such services”.



WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11054 otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao” states that:

Section 22, Article IX, *Comprehensive and Integrated Health Service Delivery* - The Bangsamoro Government shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall also uphold the peoples' right to have access to essential goods health, and other social services that promote their well-being;

Section 2, Article XIII, *Equitable and Sustainable Development* - In order to protect and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, the development in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be carefully planned taking into consideration the ecological balance and the natural resources that are available for its use and for the use of future generations; xxx

WHEREAS, Section 2, 3rd par. of RA 8976 also known as the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000 states that the State recognizes that food fortification is vital where there is a demonstrated need to increase the intake of an essential nutrient by one or more population groups, as manifested in dietary, biochemical or clinical evidences of deficiency. Food fortification is considered important in the promotion of optimal health and to compensate for the loss of nutrients due to processing and/or storage of food.

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD) is associated with significant morbidity and mortality from common childhood infections, and is the world’s leading preventable cause of childhood blindness. Vitamin A deficiency also contributes to maternal mortality and other poor outcomes of pregnancy and lactation;

WHEREAS, furthermore, VAD is the most damaging micronutrient deficiencies in the world, and are the consequence of low dietary intake of Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine and Zinc. VAD is most prevalent among the poor households whose diets are based mainly on rice or other carbohydrate-rich, micronutrient-poor calorie sources;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture- Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) had been working in convergence with organizations in the agriculture and nutrition sectors to develop and deploy Golden Rice as a potential new type of rice based approach to improve Vitamin A status in the country;

WHEREAS, In July 2021, the Director of the Philippines Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industries (DA-BPI) signed off on the Commercial Propagation Permit for Golden Rice in the Philippines. For this reason the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) announced that the "Philippines becomes first country to approve nutrient-enriched Golden Rice for planting". That Filipino farmers will become the first in the world to be able to cultivate a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition (*Source: Golden Rice Humanitarian Board*);

WHEREAS, the Golden Rice also known as “Malusog Rice” is a new variety of rice that will provide 30% of beta carotene or provitamin A that sufficiently meet the daily nutritional requirement of small children and pregnant women, unlike the regular rice which does not contain any beta carotene;

WHEREAS, according to DA-PhilRice, Golden rice is safe, certified by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Health Canada, and United States Food and Drug Administration, and affordable rice, which has shown to have clear health benefits, with high content of Beta Carotene, also known as Provitamin A. Aside from good for vision, Vitamin A enhances human immune response to disease and promotes growth and development;

WHEREAS, Golden Rice Program has the potential to complement the existing efforts of the national government to reduce the incidence of preventable blindness and other VAD-induced diseases among under-five children and including pregnant and lactating women;

WHEREAS, the Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS) conducted by the Department of Science and Technology- Food and Nutrition Research Institute revealed that in 2018-2019 approximately 103,000 children under 6-59 months are at risk from Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD) in the three (3) provinces of BARMM which are the Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Basilan with the prevalence rates of 38.1%, 12.7% and 12.7% respectively. These categories are considered to be of moderate to severe public health concern based on 1996 WHO cut-off limit;

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health can promote to utilize the golden rice for its complementary feeding, Ministry of Social Services and Development for its Day Care based Supplemental Feeding Program, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education for its School-Based Feeding Program and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform for promotion and production to ensure availability as part of their Food Security interventions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, this resolution is urging the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, and Ministry of Social Services and Development to support and promote the implementation of the Golden Rice Program among the children to reduce the prevalence of Vitamin A Deficiency in BARMM.

ADOPTED.

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