

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY 2
Cotabato City

First Regular Session

BTA PARLIAMENT
BTA Parliament Bill No 151

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
RECEIVED
Name: DARIN, LAWANAN Signature: 
Date: FEB 27 2023 Time: 1:21pm

Introduced by
MP Engr. Baintan Adil-Ampatuan, MNSA

Co-Authored by:
MP Atty. Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr, CESE; MP Amilbahar S. Mawallil, MPSA; MP Atty. Laisa M. Alamia, MNSA; MP Atty. Suharto M. Ambolodto, MNSA; MP Don Mustapha A. Loong, MPSA; MP Rasul E. Ismael; MP Khalid Ma-Amor Hadji Abdullah; MP Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam; MP Bassir D. Utto; and MP Tawakal B. Midtimbang

AN ACT
IMPROVING CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION THROUGH THE CREATION OF SPECIAL HELP DESKS FOR THEM IN ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

One of the declared policies of the State, as provided in the 1987 Constitution, is to promote a just and dynamic social order that ensures the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life. Sections 10-11, Article II of the Constitution also declares that the State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. Section 4, Article XV of the Constitution further 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.

Section 2(r) of R. A. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law states that the Bangsamoro Government shall exercise its authority over the development programs and laws for women, labor, youth, the elderly, the differently-abled, and indigenous peoples.

Based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), of the 92.1 million household population in the country, 1.44 million persons or 1.57 percent have disability. The recorded figure of persons with disability (PWDs) in the 2000 CPH was 935,551 persons, which is 1.23 percent of the household population.¹

In 2020, the PSA reported that Filipinos who are 60 years of age and older comprised 8.5 percent of the population or 9.2 million. This figure is double the country's aging citizens' number from 2000, when the percentage was just 5.9 percent of the national population or 4.5 million.²

As a Bangsamoro, we give our utmost respect to our families' elderly members and those with disabilities. We give due consideration to their needs by taking all necessary measures that provide them ease and convenience. Consequently, it is then the duty of the Bangsamoro Government to give consideration to the elderly and PWDs. The Government has the responsibility to act as the guardian of its citizens and look after the well-being of its people, especially those who have special needs and requirements. Thus, the Government shall assure the prioritization of the elderly and PWDs in the delivery of government services. One way of promoting their general welfare is through the creation of a help desk that can cater their needs.

As proposed in this measure, the creation of a special help desk dedicated to senior citizens and PWDs seeks to cater to their needs by offering them assistance and a venue where they can raise their inquiries, with the end goal of the promotion of their interests and protection of their rights and overall well-being. The special help desk shall cater to their complaints and help them in finding proper solutions. This can ensure that their immediate concerns are addressed in a proper and timely manner.

The creation of the special help desk is in pursuance of the objectives of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, which is to recognize the right of senior citizens to take their proper place in society and make it a concern of the family, community, and government, and to adopt measures where our senior citizens are assisted and appreciated by the community as a whole. The mandate of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs is only for the availing of support services, benefits, and privileges accorded to seniors. There is no mandated senior citizen's desk in every office that will give them additional protection and assistance.

The establishment of the special help desk is also in pursuance of Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons in which the state is mandated to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of disabled persons and to ensure that they are given the same rights and privileges as a Filipino without prejudice to their disability.

¹<https://psa.gov.ph/tags/persons-disability#:~:text=Of%20the%2092.1%20million%20household,percent%20of%20the%20household%20population.>

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1181314>

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA

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BTA Parliament Bill No. **151**

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION

RECEIVED

Name: MPA 12, RAHMATULLAH Signature: [Signature]
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AN ACT

IMPROVING CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION THROUGH THE CREATION OF SPECIAL HELP DESKS FOR THEM IN ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, PROVIDING 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 Senior Citizen and PWDs' Act of 2023**".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the declared policy of the Bangsamoro Government to value the dignity of senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) and thereby guarantee full respect for human rights. Towards this end, the Bangsamoro government shall give full support and assistance to the improvement of their total well-being by enacting measures for their special considerations through the implementation of programs that can ensure easy access to government services and to fully integrate them into mainstream society.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

- a) **Senior Citizen** – This refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old as defined under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2010.”
- b) **Persons with Disabilities (PWD)** – This includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, as defined under Republic Act No. 10754.³

Section 4. Establishment of Special Help Desks. – There is hereby established special help desks for senior citizens and PWDs in all government offices and local government units (LGUs) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

It shall be designated as the desk where the senior citizens and PWDs may make inquiries, ask for any form of assistance, and lodge any complaints. It shall attend to, provide assistance, and address their concerns or problems.

Section 5. The Role of Local Chief Executives. – The Provincial Governors, City and Municipal Mayors as the guardian of their respective LGUs, must fill the gap in protecting and overseeing the welfare of the senior citizens and PWDs in their areas of responsibilities.

All LGUs shall advocate the rights and welfare of senior citizens and PWDs, and shall take a proactive stance in the dissemination of information regarding their benefits and privileges.

Section 6. Coverage. – This Act shall cover all the government offices and local government units within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulation. – Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act shall be prepared by the Ministry of Social Services and Development in consultation with Ministry of Interior and Local Government.

Section 8. Appropriations. – The funds necessary for the establishment of special help desks for senior citizens and PWDs in all government offices and LGUs shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and submitted to the Parliament for its approval.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – If, for any cause, any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or contrary to the provisions of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

³ <https://www.ncda.gov.ph/disability-laws/implementing-rules-and-regulations-irr/irr-of-ra-10754-an-act-expanding-the-benefits-and-privileges-of-persons-with-disability-pwd/>

Section 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Adopted,


MP ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA