

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

**BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY PARLIAMENT 2022-2025**

First Regular Session

**Journal No. 13**

Jumada Al- Akhirah 23, 1444 | January 16, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

*At 1:45 p.m.*, the Presiding Officer, Deputy Speaker Omar Yasser C. Sema, called the session to order.

INVOCATION

MP Ibrahim D. Ali led the invocation.

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND THE BANGSAMORO HYMN

The Body sang the national anthem and the Bangsamoro Hymn.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General, Prof. Raby B. Angkal, called the Roll and the following Members of the Parliament, who were physically present in the Session Hall, responded to the call:

1. Hon. Akmad I. Abas
2. Hon. Haron M. Abas
3. Hon. Basit S. Abbas
4. Hon. Mudjib C. Abu
5. Hon. Mosber E. Alauddin
6. Hon. Ibrahim D. Ali
7. Hon. Lanang T. Ali, Jr.
8. Hon. Eddie M. Alih
9. Hon. Baintan A. Ampatuan
10. Hon. Susana S. Anayatin
11. Hon. Mohammad Kelie U. Antao
12. Hon. Mary Ann M. Arnado
13. Hon. Dan S. Asnawie
14. Hon. Ali Montaha D. Babao
15. Hon. Anna Tarhata S. Basman
16. Hon. Sha Elijah B. Dumama-Alba

17. Hon. Matarul M. Estino
18. Hon. Abdullah E. Gayak
19. Hon. Khalid M. Hadji Abdullah
20. Hon. Abdullah B. Hashim
21. Hon. Hatimil E. Hassan
22. Hon. Rasul E. Ismael
23. Hon. Muslimin A. Jakilan
24. Hon. John Anthony L. Lim
25. Hon. Benjamin T. Loong
26. Hon. Don Mustapha A. Loong
27. Hon. Amroussi A. Macatanong
28. Hon. Ishak V. Mastura
29. Hon. Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam
30. Hon. Amilbahar S. Mawallil
31. Hon. Froilyn T. Mendoza
32. Hon. Michael E. Midtimbang
33. Hon. Tawakal B. Midtimbang
34. Hon. Abdulkarim E. Misuari
35. Hon. NurRedha I. Misuari
36. Hon. Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr.
37. Hon. Hussein P. Muñoz
38. Hon. Suwaib L. Oranon
39. Hon. Ubaida C. Pacasem
40. Hon. Abdulwahab M. Pak
41. Hon. Ali O. Salik
42. Hon. Omar Yasser C. Sema
43. Hon. Romeo K. Sema
44. Hon. Said M. Sheik
45. Hon. Aida M. Silongan
46. Hon. Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr.
47. Hon. Adzfar H. Usman
48. Hon. Bassir D. Utto
49. Hon. Sittie Fahanie S. Uy-Oyod
50. Hon. Mohammad S. Yacob

The following Members of the Parliament, who were virtually present, also responded to the call:

1. Hon. Laisa M. Alamia
2. Hon. Bai Maleiha B. Candao
3. MP Nabila Margarita P. Pangandaman

The following Members of the Parliament virtually appeared after the roll call:

1. Hon. Baileng S. Mantawil
2. Hon. Diamila D. Ramos
3. Hon. Nabil A. Tan

The following Members of the Parliament were on official business:

1. Hon. Ahod B. Ebrahim
2. Hon. Pangalian M. Balindong

The following Members of the Parliament were absent:

1. Hon. Suharto M. Ambolodto
2. Hon. Abdulaziz M. Amenoden
3. Hon. Hashemi N. Dilangalen
4. Hon. Suharto S. Esmael
5. Hon. Eduard U. Guerra
6. Hon. Mohagher M. Iqbal
7. Hon. Raissa H. Jajurie
8. Hon. Albakil D. Jikiri
9. MP Denmartin A. Kahalan
10. Hon. Faizal G. Karon
11. Hon. Jose I. Lorena
12. Hon. Abdulraof A. Macacua
13. Hon. Abdullah G. Macapaar
14. Hon. Marjanie S. Macasalong
15. Hon. Tarhata M. Maglangit
16. Hon. Hamid U. Malik
17. Hon. Randolph C. Parcasio
18. Hon. Ramon A. Piang, Sr
19. Hon. Salendab Z. Said
20. Hon. Ali B. Sangki
21. Hon. Ali B. Solaiman
22. Hon. Paisalin P. Tago

With fifty-three (53 ) Members of the Parliament present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

#### SPEECH OF SPEAKER BALINDONG

*At this time*, the Presiding Officer, Deputy Speaker Sema (OY), informed the Body that the Speaker of the Parliament, Hon. Speaker Pangalian M. Balindong, has committed to open the 2023 first plenary session, however there was an abrupt call for him to attend to. Thus, he said that the Speaker would not be able to attend that day's session. In view thereof, he also informed the Body that the Speaker tasked him to deliver his short message for all the Members of the Parliament as follows:

*Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*

First of all, let me welcome all of you to the opening of our Parliament's first regular session for 2023. I know that many of us are still reeling from the post-holiday euphoria, but there is much work to be done and we are duty-bound to fulfill them in the soonest possible time. I am hopeful though that since the holidays have somehow energized and rejuvenated us, we will be equipped with fresher and newer ideas that will be invaluable as we go about our tasks and duties for the remainder of our terms.

Ladies and gentlemen, our remaining tasks have not changed. But our timelines have. In other words, we are now working on a shorter time frame, although our priority

legislative agenda are still halfway through from completion. Thus, I encourage every one of you to speed things up. Time is of the essence, my dear colleagues, and it would be apt to remind ourselves that we are only here until 2025. We cannot afford to cram things at the last minute. We need an extra time after we have completed our tasks to enable us to fine-tune or revise its end-results, if and when such modification is warranted.

But my earnest plea to everyone to act with dispatch is not equivalent to act with undue haste. While we aspire for speed and promptness in our work, we cannot sacrifice its quality and excellence. We should always ensure that our priority legislative agenda will be a by-product of comprehensive consultations and deliberations with our primary stakeholders - technical experts, partners in the public and private sectors, our constituents and various local government units. We have to reach out to all sectors, even those who opposed the transition government, because even the harshest of our critics has something to contribute for the benefit of the Bangsamoro. We cannot exclude them because they are a part of the diversity of our homeland.

The diversity within our organization is not much of a problem because of the prevailing harmony among us. We are bonded by a common desire to help our people and achieve their dreams and aspirations. I have observed and seen you worked in recent months and I am very satisfied and delighted on how you were able to work together even if you have differences in opinions and perspectives.

The orientation of our neophyte members also help to foster harmony among us because it did not only allow them to be acquainted with the intricacies of their tasks, but more importantly, it gave them the chance to know and be friends with their colleagues. So, this say to you- continue to act with love and respect and in unison with your colleagues. And, if you embrace it by heart, there is no task that we cannot achieve, no matter how difficult it is; there is no dream that we cannot reach, no matter how farfetch it is; there is no obstacle that we cannot hurdle, no matter how high it is.

For some of us who are already in the twilight of our ages, whose physical stamina is waning on a daily basis, we no longer aspire for anything except that we leave a lasting legacy of genuine peace and development to the Bangsamoro people. But we cannot do it alone. It is up to you, the succeeding generation of Bangsamoro parliamentarians, to help us fulfill that noble legacy.

Be proud and regale yourself with the thought that you are about to be a part of such history. You and me are chosen here for a reason, thru Allah's (SWT) grand design. It is a sin to squander that opportunity. The only way that we can show our gratitude to The Almighty is to ensure that every Bangsamoro be given his due that he rightfully deserves.

Again, good afternoon and *mabuhay po tayong lahat*.

#### READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 11

On motion of the Majority Floor Leader, MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of the previous session, Journal No. 11 dated December 20, 2022, and approved the same subject to style.

## READING AND REFERRAL OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the titles and the names of the author and co-authors of the following proposed resolutions, which, in turn, on successive motions of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, were referred to the appropriate committees:

1. Proposed Resolution No. 05, entitled:

A RESOLUTION DEFINING THE REPRESENTATION OF OTHER SECTORS IN THE COUNCIL OF LEADERS AS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS BODY, AS PROVIDED UNDER THE BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW (BOL)

Author: MP Baintan A. Ampatuan

Co-authors: MPs Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Laisa M. Alamia, Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Don Mustapha A. Loong, and Rasul E. Ismael

To the Committee on Rules

2. Proposed Resolution No. 127, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY TO CONSTITUTE AND OPERATIONALIZE THE COUNCIL OF LEADERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 9, ARTICLE VI OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF

Author: MP Susana S. Anayatin

Co-authors: MPs Don Mustapha A. Loong, Mohammad Kelie U. Antao, Suharto M. Ambolodto, Hatimil E. Hassan, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam, Tawakal B. Midtimbang, and Khalid M. Hadji Abdullah

To the Committee on Rules

## PROPOSED SIMPLE RESOLUTIONS

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the titles and the names of authors of the following proposed resolutions which, in turn, on motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, were consolidated and treated by the Body as simple resolution:

1. Proposed Resolution No. 141, entitled:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE UTMOST APPRECIATION OF THE BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT

FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS, JR. FOR APPOINTING THE  
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND  
UNIFICATION GENERAL CARLITO GUANCING GALVEZ, JR. AFP  
(RET) AS THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Authors: MPs Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Laisa M. Alamia, Suharto M.  
Ambolodto, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Baintan A. Ampatuan, Don Mustapha A.  
Loong, and Rasul E. Ismael

2. Proposed Resolution No. 143, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING SECRETARY CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR.  
FOR HIS APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF  
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Author: MP Romeo K. Sema

AUTHORSHIP SPEECH OF MP MAWALLIL

In his sponsorship speech, MP Mawallil asked the following questions: “How do we measure a man’s integrity and competence?” He said that they do it through his work, his actions and his words when one truly fulfills his promises to build a progressive community and a dignified society healed of the chaos of war and filled finally with peace.

MP Mawallil stated that the appointment of Secretary Galvez as head of the Department of National Defense is a powerful testament to his and the President's success in the peace process. He added that Secretary Galvez has displayed great competence in his roles as a former military official, public servant, and a long time peace advocate. Thus, in appreciation of his appointment by President Marcos, he respectfully urged his dear colleagues to support the passage of the consolidated proposed resolutions.

OMNIBUS MOTION OF MP DUMAMA-ALBA

On omnibus motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the periods of interpellations and amendments.

## APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the consolidated proposed resolution was approved, subject to style and condition that all the Members of Parliament present that day be included as authors.

## READING OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 144

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the title and the names of authors of Proposed Resolution No. 144, which, in turn, on motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, was treated as simple resolution, entitled:

### RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CALENDAR OF SESSION OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT

Authors: MPs Sha Elijah B. Dumama-Alba, Raissa H. Jajurie, Laisa M. Alamia, Mosber E. Alauddin, Eddie M. Alih, Baintan A. Ampatuan, Susana S. Anayatin, Mary Ann M. Arnado, Anna Tarhata S. Basman, Suharto S. Esmael, Matarul M. Estino, Eduard U. Guerra, Abdullah B. Hashim, Mohagher M. Iqbal, Faisal G. Karon, John Anthony L. Lim, Jose I. Lorena, Abdulraof A. Macacua, Marjanie S. Macasalong, Amroussi A. Macatanong, Baileng S. Mantawil, Tawakal B. Midtimbang, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Ubaida C. Pacasem, Randolph C. Parcasio, Ramon A. Piang, Sr., Romeo K. Sema, Said M. Shiek, Aida M. Silongan, Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr., Adzfar H. Usman, Bassir D. Utto, Tarhata M. Maglangit, Pangalian M. Balindong, Lanang T. Ali, Jr., Hatimil E. Hassan, Benjamin T. Loong, Abdulkarim T. Misuari, Omar Yasser C. Sema, Paisalin P. Tago, and Nabil A. Tan

## OMNIBUS MOTION OF MP DUMAMA-ALBA

On omnibus motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the periods of interpellations and amendments.

## APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 144

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Proposed Resolution No.144 was approved, subject to style.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 2:14 p.m., the Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session.

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:15 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Ali (L), Jr. as Presiding Officer.

## BILL ON SECOND READING

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the title and the name of author of BTA-Parliament Bill No. 37 on Second Reading, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BANGSAMORO SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Author: The Government of the Day

## AUTHORSHIP SPEECH OF MP SILONGAN

In sponsoring BTA-Parliament Bill No. 37, MP Silongan delivered the following authorship speech:

*Azubillahi minash shaytanir rajeem, bismilla hirrahman nirraheem alhamdulillah wassalatu wassalamu ala rasulullah wa 'ala alihi wasahbihi ajma'in amma ba'ad:*

The Interim Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, Honorable Ahod “Al hadj Murad” Ebrahim, Honorable Speaker, Atty. Pangalian Balindong, the Floor Leader, Atty. Sha Elijah Dumama-Alba, Deputy Speakers, Deputy Floor Leaders, my esteemed colleagues of this august body, guests, ladies and gentlemen, *asalamu alaikum warahmatullahi taala wabarakatuh* and good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, the enactment of Parliament Bill No.37, which aims to establish a regional science high school in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is a pioneering initiative that gives primary importance to improving the state of science education in the region.

To better understand the state of our country’s science education, Mr. Speaker, it would be better for us to take into account the current realities facing this sector. In the 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, or TIMSS, our country lags behind other nations.

The TIMSS is an international assessment instrument designed to provide reliable and timely data on mathematics and science achievement of more than 70 participating countries worldwide. The assessment is usually conducted every four years by the International Association for the Assessment of Academic Achievement (IEA) since 1995.

In 2015, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) released a report which showed that among the 725,183 students enrolled in Teacher Education Institutions (TEI’s), only 7% or 6,978 are specializing in science. That figure has not improved significantly since then.



In the 2020 DOST Scholarship Performance Report, BARMM has the lowest number of passers compared to other regions of the country. Unfortunately, our region obtained only 1.15% out of 4,397 passers.

Adding insult to injury, Mr. Speaker, BARMM does not have a Philippine Science High School Campus compared to other regions across the country.

In Mindanao alone, there are Science High School Campuses in the regions of Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Mindanao, Southern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN and Caraga.

If this unfortunate situation continues and is not fully addressed by the government, its impact would be insurmountable, not only on the state of our science education in the region but the future of our Bangsamoro learners as well. I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can still reverse the trend if we start investing in science education now.

At this juncture, Mr. Speaker, it must be emphasized that the Bangsamoro Organic Law regards science and technology as essential to national and regional progress. It also mandates the Bangsamoro Government to prioritize science, research, inventions, technology education and their development.

Thus, it is timely and urgent to appropriate funds for science education by establishing a regional science high school that is not only at par with the standards of current Philippine Science High Schools System in the country but also integrates values education in the overall curriculum. Through this model, we will be able to strengthen the foundation of both science and faith in the lives of our Bangsamoro learners in the region.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of values education in the proposed Bangsamoro science highschool curriculum respects our beliefs in the region as provided in the Bangsamoro Organic Law. Here, we also inculcate among the learners the principle of Moral Governance.

The aim is to simultaneously develop the learners' character while elevating their secular education. Mr. Speaker, we envision a pool of Bangsamoro youth equipped with scientific knowledge and moral values. We envision producing Bangsamoro Scientists who value our natural resources and guard the sustainability of our environment because they are conscious that it is our collective responsibility before the Almighty. *In shaa Allah* Mr. Speaker, we will raise Bangsamoro Scientists that are morally upright. This is the beauty and peculiarity of our own Bangsamoro Science High School System.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I humbly appeal to the honorable members of this august body to seriously consider the plight of our Bangsamoro learners who will enormously benefit from the establishment of a science high school in the region and become our future scientists, engineers, and technologists *In sha Allah*.

In connection with this, I am urging this August body to hasten the passage of this Bill.

Before I end my speech, please join me as I show to you a 3-minute video of the perspective of the proposed Bangsamoro Science High School.

Thank you and *wassalamu alaikum warahmatullahi taala wabarakatuhu*.

VIDEO PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED BANGSAMORO SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL.

*At this juncture*, a 3-minute video of the proposed Bangsamoro Science High School was presented.

REFERRAL OF BILL TO COMMITTEES

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body referred BTA-Parliament Bill No. 37 to the Committee on Science and Technology and Committee on Finance, Budget and Management.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the session was adjourned until Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

*It was 2:29 p.m.*

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

**PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL**  
Secretary-General