

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. 14
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CALL TO ORDER

At 1:46 p.m., the Presiding Officer, Deputy Speaker Lanang T. Ali, Jr., called the session to order.

INVOCATION

MP Abdulwahab M. Pak 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. Suharto M. Ambolodto
10. Hon. Baintan A. Ampatuan
11. Hon. Susana S. Anayatin
12. Hon. Mohammad Kelie U. Antao
13. Hon. Dan S. Asnawie
14. Hon. Ali Montaha D. Babao
15. Hon. Hashemi N. Dilangalen
16. Hon. Sha Elijah B. Dumama-Alba

17. Hon. Abdullah E. Gayak
18. Hon. Abdullah B. Hashim
19. Hon. Hatimil E. Hassan
20. Hon. Rasul E. Ismael
21. Hon. Muslimin A. Jakilan
22. Hon. Benjamin T. Loong
23. Hon. Don Mustapha A. Loong
24. Hon. Amroussi A. Macatanong
25. Hon. Tarhata M. Maglangit
26. Hon. Hamid U. Malik
27. Hon. Baileng S. Mantawil
28. Hon. Ishak V. Mastura
29. Hon. Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam
30. Hon. Amilbahar S. Mawallil
31. Hon. Froilyn T. Mendoza
32. Hon. Tawakal B. Midtimbang
33. Hon. NurRedha I. Misuari
34. Hon. Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr.
35. Hon. Hussein P. Muñoz
36. Hon. Suwaib L. Oranon
37. Hon. Abdulwahab M. Pak
38. Hon. Randolph C. Parcasio
39. Hon. Ali O. Salik
40. Hon. Omar Yasser C. Sem
41. Hon. Romeo K. Sema
42. Hon. Said M. Sheik
43. Hon. Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr.
44. Hon. Adzfar H. Usman
45. Hon. Bassir D. Utto
46. Hon. Sittie Fahanie S. Uy-Oyod
47. 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. Hon. Diamila D. Ramos
4. Hon. Ramon A. Piang, Sr.
5. Hon. Nabila Margarita P. Pangandaman

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

1. Hon. Khalid M. Hadji Abdullah
2. Hon. Michael E. Midtimbang
3. Hon. Paisalin P. Tago
4. 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. Abdulaziz M. Amenoden

2. Hon. Mary Ann M. Arnado
3. Hon. Anna Tarhata S. Basman
4. Hon. Suharto S. Esmael
5. Hon. Matarul M. Estino
6. Hon. Eduard U. Guerra
7. Hon. Mohagher M. Iqbal
8. Hon. Raissa H. Jajurie
9. Hon. Albakil D. Jikiri
10. Hon. Denmartin A. Kahalan
11. Hon. Faizal G. Karon
12. Hon. John Anthony L. Lim
13. Hon. Jose I. Lorena
14. Hon. Abdulraof A. Macacua
15. Hon. Abdullah G. Macapaar
16. Hon. Marjanie S. Macasalong
17. Hon. Abdulkarim E. Misuari
18. Hon. Ubaida C. Pacasem
19. Hon. Salendab Z. Said
20. Hon. Ali B. Sangki
21. Hon. Ali B. Solaiman
22. Hon. Aida M. Silongan

With fifty-two (52) Members of the Parliament present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 13

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. 13 dated January 16, 2023 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 authors 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. 57, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE POSSIBLE PROCUREMENT AND ACQUISITION OF LOW COST HIGH EFFICIENT OXYGEN GENERATOR AMONG THE 27 HOSPITALS OF BARMM

Author: MP Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr.

To the Committee on Health

2. Proposed Resolution No. 59, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE INTERIM CHIEF MINISTER TO CREATE AN AD-HOC TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE DECLINING PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION IN MAGUINDANAO, BASILAN AND SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Author: MP Romeo K. Sema

Co-authors: MPs Hatimil E. Hassan, Suwaib L. Oranon, Muslimin A. Jakilan, Sittie Fahanie S. Uy- Oyod, Mohammad Kelie U. Antao, Mosber E. Alauddin, and Adzfar H. Usman

To the Committee on Peace, Order, and Safety

3. Proposed Resolution No. 104, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO TO EXEMPT PRACTICING MUSLIM STUDENTS FROM JOINING TASKS WITH PROHIBITED ACTS IN ISLAM IN THEIR PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES AND ASSIGN DIFFERENT TASKS INSTEAD

Author: MP Abdullah B. Hashim

Co-authors: MPs Bai Maleiha B. Candao, Michael E. Midtimbang, Susana S. Anayatin, Don Mustapha A. Loong, Aida M. Silongan, Hatimil E. Hassan, Tawakal B. Midtimbang, Abdulkarim T. Misuari, Suharto S. Esmael, Marjanie S. Macasalong, Abdulazis M. Amenoden, Mosber E. Alauddin, Abdullah G. Macapaar, Bassir D. Utto, and Basit S. Abbas

To the Committee on Basic, Higher and Technical Education

PROPOSED SIMPLE RESOLUTION

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the title and the name of authors of Proposed Resolution No. 139, which, in turn, on motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, was treated as simple resolution, entitled:

RESOLUTION OF THE BTA PARLIAMENT FOR COMMENDATION, RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF DR. TANAKA AKIHIKO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)

Authors: MPs Pangalian M. Balindong, Omar Yasser C. Sema, Abdulkarim T. Misuari, Hatimil E. Hassan, Lanang T. Ali, Jr., Nabil A. Tan, Laisa M. Alamia, Paisalin P. Tago, and Benjamin T. Loong

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF MP SEMA (OY)

In sponsoring Proposed Resolution No. 139, MP Sema (OY) stated that he wanted to follow the lines of MP Mawallil the previous day. He said that it has been their tradition in the last four (4) years to give commendation and recognition to people who have extended assistance to the Bangsamoro. He explained that the intent of the proposed resolution is to recognize a particular person who has made a significant contribution to the autonomous region. He emphasized that he was not only referring to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao but also to the previous Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao under the Republic Act 9054.

MP Sema (OY) described Dr. Tanaka Akihiko as a well-educated person from Japan, the President of Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) from 2012 to 2015. He informed the Body that one of the last places visited by Dr. Akihiko in 2015 was the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where he had really helped in leadership development in the region, especially in the context of peace building. He also informed the Body that currently Dr. Tanaka Akihiko has been reappointed as President of JICA and the first place he would want visit again is the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, stressing that Dr. Tanaka Akihiko has really made a space for Bangsamoro in his heart and in his service. Thus, he stated that it is but appropriate for the Parliament recognize Dr. Tanaka Akihiko for his service and support to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

OPENING OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the period of interpellations was opened.

MANIFESTATION OF MP AMPATUAN

MP Ampatuan manifested that she would propose some amendments to emphasize the contributions of Dr. Tanaka Akihiko during his two terms as president of the JICA.

MANIFESTATION OF MP LOONG (DM)

MP Loong (DM) manifested his full support to the proposed resolution and his intent to propose an additional whereas clause during the period of amendments to emphasize the important and vital contribution of JICA to the region even if it is just mentioning the programs that JICA had implemented in the Bangsamoro. He stressed that they are grateful to the JICA's contributions to the Bangsamoro Region.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of interpellations.

OPENING OF PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body opened the period of amendments.

AMENDMENTS OF MP AMPATUAN

MP Ampatuan introduced the following amendments:

1. To replace the word "our" with "BANGSAMORO" and delete "and its people" in the first whereas;
2. To amend the second whereas clause to be read as:

WHEREAS, DR. TANAKA AKIHIKO IS THE RE-APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) FROM APRIL 1, 2022 TO DATE, AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF JICA FROM 2012 to 2015;

3. To insert after the second whereas clause the following whereas clause:

WHEREAS, JICA HAS WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION SINCE THE DEFUNCT AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM) UP TO THE CURRENT BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION;

4. To amend the title to be read as:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, RECOGNITION AND COMMENDATION TO DR. TANAKA AKIHIKO, THE PRESIDENT OF JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)

The foregoing amendments of MP Ampatuan were accepted by the proponent, MP Sema (OY).

AMENDMENT OF MP LOONG (DM)

MP Loong (DM) introduced amendment to the title by inserting the words “FOR HIS IMPACTFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BANGSAMORO” after the word JICA, so that the title of the resolution would read as follows:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, RECOGNITION AND COMMENDATION TO DR. TANAKA AKIHIKO, THE PRESIDENT OF JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) FOR HIS IMPACTFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BANGSAMORO PEOPLE

The foregoing amendment of MP Loong (DM) was accepted by the proponent.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 139

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, Proposed Resolution No. 139 was approved, subject to style.

PROPOSED SIMPLE RESOLUTION NO. 140

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the title and the name of author of Proposed Resolution No. 140, which, in turn, on motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, was treated as simple resolution, entitled:

RESOLUTION BY THE BTA PARLIAMENT FOR COMMENDATION AND
RECOGNITION OF THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
AGENCY (JICA) FOR ITS SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

Author: MP Omar Yasser C. Sema

AUTHORSHIP SPEECH OF MP SEMA (OY)

In sponsoring Proposed Resolution No. 140, MP Sema (OY) delivered the following authorship speech:

Honorable Speaker, colleagues in the Parliament, guests, to our viewers online, ladies and gentlemen: *assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu*.

Honorable Speaker, today is a day of gratitude: a day where we formally express our thanks, our commendation, and our utmost appreciation to a partner who served our people even prior to the formal establishment of this Parliament.

Your honors, JICA has been in the service of our people since the advent of the now-defunct ARMM. Furthermore, they were among the stakeholders whose support significantly yielded the success of the peace process. Hence, allowing us, and our people, to enjoy its gains at present.

From the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro up to this day, JICA continuously extended assistance to the region: be it in the field of governance, public service and community, and as far as economic development. As of last year, they even expanded their projects in the Bangsamoro region to include support for the normalization process.

Honorable Speaker, colleagues: as an infant region, the Bangsamoro Government needs all that is there to build its stronghold foundations. And as the duly-appointed leaders, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge, commend, and give thanks to those who help us in shaping the future of the Bangsamoro.

Since it has been a common practice in the halls of this Parliament to recognize, commend and appreciate our partners, both local and International, through resolutions; I am privileged to submit the same and call for your support, my colleagues, to join me in the adoption of the resolution recognizing, commending, and appreciating JICA for the services they render to the Bangsamoro.

With the long-standing relationship between JICA and the Bangsamoro people, it is only fitting that this Parliament finally, and formally acknowledges their relentless services to our people.

Ultimately, to JICA: with the extended Bangsamoro Transition, we look forward to a more fruitful partnership with you.

Thank you very much.

OPENING OF PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body opened the period of interpellations.

INTERPELLATION OF MP AMPATUAN

MP Ampatuan asked if the author believed that similar development partners need also this kind of recognition, to which MP Sema (OY) replied in the affirmative.

MP Ampatuan also asked if they could have the same commendation to other development partners that are helping Bangsamoro in the succeeding plenary session, to which MP Sema (OY) answered in the affirmative. He emphasized that it is appropriate for the Body to begin acknowledging and recognizing all their development partners who have contributed to the current transition process.

CLARIFICATION OF MP TAN

MP Tan sought clarification if Proposed Resolution No. 140 is not redundant with Proposed Resolution No. 139, to which MP Sema (OY) responded that there was no redundancy, explaining that JICA has a separate and distinct personality from its president.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations.

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the period of amendments.

AMENDMENT OF MP AMPATUAN

As proposed by MP Ampatuan, accepted by the sponsor and there being no objection, the title of the proposed resolution was amended to read as follows:

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE JAPAN
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) FOR ITS SUPPORT
AND ASSISTANCE TO THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO

INCLUSION OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT AS CO-AUTHORS

On motion of MP Sema (OY), duly seconded and there being no objection, all the Members of Parliament present were included as co-authors of Proposed Resolution No. 140.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the period of amendments was terminated.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 140

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body approved Proposed Resolution No. 140, subject to style.

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. 39 on Second Reading, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BANGSAMORO AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES TRAINING INSTITUTE

Author: The Government of the Day

AUTHORSHIP SPEECH OF MP YACOB ON BTA- PARLIAMENT BILL NO. 39

In sponsoring BTA-Parliament Bill No. 39, MP Yacob delivered the following authorship speech:

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Ladies and gentlemen of this Parliament, this pandemic has truly made me realize the truth about a lot of things. Since the start of this pandemic, we have learned to be thankful for our front liners, our doctors, nurses, hospital staff, our farmers, and fisherfolks, the unsung front liner who brings us food to our table. Most importantly we have learned that working together can achieve a lot of things. Since the start of this pandemic, we have learned that government response and support are vital to address and solving a crisis. The members gathered today here have an immediate impact on the daily lives of our constituents. Today I am here to present to you also a crisis, and a solution. Beyond our gated walls, many go to sleep hungry. Many wake up and do not know if they will have food on their table. Hunger is a global crisis and our farmers and fisherfolk are our frontlines. They are our first wall of defense against hunger and malnutrition.

I am here before you as a member of the BTA and also the Minister of MAFAR. My reality in the field is that every day, our farmers and fisherfolk brave their hardships, plant their seeds and sow for the opportunity to create fruits and food that feed our table. Without these frontliners, we have no food on our table. Their plight is our plight, their problems are our problems. Our farmers and fisherfolk deserve every bit of attention as our doctors, nurses, and hospital staff in our goal to achieve food sufficiency.

However, the situation in the field is very far from our current goal, our Bangsamoro farmers and fisherfolks are not very well trained with the current literature and scientific progress of farming and fishing either due to the lack of opportunity, or the lack of awareness of how vital it is to their livelihood. During my field visits, I have encountered numerous farmers who do not even know how to use the very basic calendar planning to properly schedule their crops for the incoming dry and rainy season. This lack of planning and training has led, too, and will continually lead to the poverty of our front liners.

The good news is that this is an issue that can be solved. This is a crisis that can be averted with government intervention. This is a crisis that deserves the full merit of attention and investment by the government. Ladies and gentlemen, I am here to present to you the bill for Bangsamoro Agriculture and Fisheries Training Institute with this bill a full office of well-versed trainers from all over the country, and In Shaa Allah internationally trained, will be necessary for the accomplishment of well-trained farmers and fisherfolk.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are not unaware that we have a declining number of farmers and fisherfolks in our country. Our frontliners are scarcer by the decade, they are now elderly and their youth are seeking greener pastures. Let us invest in Agriculture and Fisheries so that this vital enterprise will be profitable. Let us train our frontliners so that farming and fishing will become viable business enterprises to encourage new blood. Let us give them our support so that our country can achieve its goal of being Food sufficient. BAFTI's role is to spearhead the planning, monitoring, and implementation of the provision of training and other extension services to Bangsamoro farmers and fisherfolks. BAFTI shall then be assisted by state universities, colleges, local government units, and even non-governmental organizations in providing skills training and knowledge acquisition appropriate to the farmers and fisherfolk. Not only that, but together with the Bangsamoro Cooperative Development Authority as a key partner in disseminating information and MAFAR as a ministry, cultural and proper training would be delivered to our constituents. BAFTI shall be the lead component together with the Technical Education and Skills Authority or TESDA BARMM for the creation of short courses relating to agriculture and fisheries. Connected to this, BAFTI shall prioritize its research, innovation, and science and technology, and Halal development for the advancement of not only our farmers and fishermen but also agriculture and fisheries as a growing industry. Lastly, BAFTI shall recognize the invaluable contribution and participation of the private sector in the development of irrigation services throughout the Bangsamoro area. I am calling on Members of my agency, the MAFAR, the Cooperative and Social Enterprise Authority, and our Local Government Unit counterparts to work to arm our frontliners with the necessary tools and knowledge to make possible our goal of food sufficiency.

Ladies and gentlemen of this Parliament. I am hoping that we take the correct step today to have a brighter future tomorrow. Together let us give our front liners the proper attention, assistance, and investment that they deserve

REFERRAL OF BTA-PARLIAMENT BILL NO. 39 TO COMMITTEE

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the Body referred BTA- Parliament No. 39 to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of MP Dumama-Alba, duly seconded and there being no objection, the session was adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

It was 2:44 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General