

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

BTA PARLIAMENT
First Regular Session

BILL NO. 178

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
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Date: MAY 17 2023 Time: 1:07 PM

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AN ACT
MANDATING A TEN-MINUTE PRAYER BREAK IN BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS
REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the **Ten-Minute Prayer (*Salah*) Break Act**”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to develop the moral character and personal discipline of the people. Towards this end, it shall encourage certain activities in the exercise of religious freedom upon the condition that all religious sects shall be accorded the same privileges and opportunities.

The **Constitution, Article III, Section V** provides that "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed."

Pursuant Section V, Article XI of RA 11054 known as Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao states that “The Bangsamoro Government shall guarantee religious freedom and the free exercise thereof pursuant to the Constitution, national laws, and principles of international law. The Bangsamoro Government shall protect all persons from harassment or any undue pressure, coercion, and violence on account of religion. Any establishment and institution shall be free to implement policies and undertake activities pursuant to their respective religious beliefs and values.”

Sec. 3. Definition of Term. - For purposes of this act, the term religious freedom means the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference.

Sec. 4. Free Exercise Rights Protected. -All private and government institutions shall mandate a ten (10) minute prayer break during noon from 12:00 hours to 13:00 hours and in the afternoon from 15:00 hours to 15:30 hours, provided that the prayer break during noontime is necessarily included in the lunch break and is not prejudicial to 'No Noon Break Policy' as mandated by Section 8 (e) of Republic Act No. 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. The said law provides that "each office or agency which render frontline services shall adopt appropriate working schedules to ensure that all attended to and served even during lunch break and after regular working hours".

The Civil Service of the Bangsamoro Region and the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) shall ensure the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.


Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. - Any regional laws, issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation not contrary to or inconsistent with this Act's provisions is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


SUHARTO S. ESMAEL, MSc
Member-BTA Parliament

ABDULLAH B. HASHIM
Member-BTA Parliament


MATARUL M. ESTINO
Member-BTA Parliament


EDDIE M. ALJH
Member-BTA Parliament