

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

5 **BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY PARLIAMENT**

6 *Second Regular Session*

7 BTA Bill No. 202



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18 **AN ACT**

19 **PROVIDING FOR RECOGNITION AND INCENTIVES TO BANGSAMORO**  
20 **TOPNOTCHERS, SPORTS ACHIEVERS, AND OTHER EXCEPTIONAL**  
21 **INDIVIDUALS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

22 *BE IT ENACTED by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament in session*  
23 *assembled:*

24 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Bangsamoro**  
25 **Achievers Act of 2023.**”

26 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The Bangsamoro Government hereby  
27 recognizes the vital role of Bangsamoro professionals, athletes, and other exceptional  
28 individuals in contributing to nation-building and the overall growth and development  
29 of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). It shall  
30 therefore promote and sustain their development, providing them with proper  
31 recognition, support, and incentives. This includes acknowledging and rewarding

32 topnotchers in professional licensure examinations, those who excel in sports  
33 competitions both at the national and international levels, and those who achieve  
34 exceptional accomplishments in various fields of endeavor such as arts, culture, or  
35 community service. These actions are seen as efforts that bring pride and honor to the  
36 Bangsamoro people and contribute to their upliftment and societal growth.

37 The Bangsamoro Government affirms the importance of providing a nurturing  
38 environment for these individuals to further excel in their respective fields, thereby  
39 enabling them to become role models for the Bangsamoro youth, children, and future  
40 generations. The Bangsamoro Government commits to providing these individuals with  
41 the resources they need to succeed, including but not limited to monetary incentives,  
42 scholarships for further education, career development opportunities, and access to  
43 facilities and resources.

44 Furthermore, the Bangsamoro Government acknowledges the role of educational  
45 institutions, training centers, and organizations in producing these outstanding  
46 individuals and commits to provide them with the necessary support to continue  
47 producing and nurturing topnotchers, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals.

48 It is also the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to create a platform for these  
49 achievers to be recognized and applauded for their contributions. This will be facilitated  
50 through mechanisms such as the establishment of a Bangsamoro Wall of Achievers and  
51 the publication of their achievements on official websites and social media pages of the  
52 Bangsamoro Government.

53 Ultimately, the Bangsamoro Government endeavors to create a culture of excellence,  
54 hard work, and achievement among the Bangsamoro people, thereby encouraging every  
55 individual to strive for excellence and contribute to the development of BARMM and  
56 the nation as a whole.

57 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - The following terms are defined as:

58 a. “*Bar examinations*” refers to the examinations conducted by the Supreme Court  
59 for the admission of qualified persons to practice law and membership in the Integrated  
60 Bar of the Philippines;

61 b. “*Board examinations*” refers to the examinations given Professional Regulation  
62 Commission (PRC) to qualified persons to determine whether they shall be issued with  
63 a license to practice their professions;

64 c. "Topnotchers" refers to bar or board examinees who are among the ten  
65 examinees who obtained the highest ratings;

66 d. "Sports Achievers" refers to Bangsamoro athletes who have won medals at  
67 national or international sports competitions, including *e-sports*, recognized by the  
68 Bangsamoro Sports Commission;

69 e. "Exceptional Individuals" refers to Bangsamoro individuals who have shown  
70 exceptional achievements in international competitions, including Qur'an Reading, and  
71 in other fields such as arts, culture, or community service, as recognized by the relevant  
72 Bangsamoro Government bodies;

73 f. "Bangsamoro Achievers" refers to Bangsamoro individuals who have excelled  
74 as topnotchers, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals and achieved outstanding  
75 success and recognition in their respective fields;

76 g. "Natives" as used in this Act refers to individuals who are considered indigenous  
77 or belonging to the original inhabitants of the Bangsamoro region. It implies a  
78 connection to the ancestral heritage, cultural identity, and historical roots of the  
79 Bangsamoro people as provided in the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

80 **SECTION 4. Recognition of Bangsamoro Achievers.** - The Bangsamoro  
81 topnotchers, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals, including those from  
82 communities outside the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, referred to in this Act are  
83 hereby declared to be entitled to recognition by the Bangsamoro Government under the  
84 guidelines provided for in this Act.

85 **SECTION 5. Forms of Recognition and Incentives.** - The Bangsamoro  
86 Government shall give the topnotchers, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals the  
87 following forms of recognition and incentives:

88 a. **Citations** signed by the Chief Minister and Speaker which shall be awarded and  
89 received by the topnotchers, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals in a ceremony  
90 before the Parliament and in the presence of the Wali;

91 b. **Inscription** in the *Bangsamoro Book of Achievers* of the names of the  
92 topnotcher, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals. The *Bangsamoro Book of*  
93 *Achievers* is therefore hereby established;

94 c. **Monetary incentives** under the following terms:

95 i. Topnotchers in bar and board examinations who attain the first rank, as well as  
96 athletes who are awarded gold medals, shall be awarded a monetary incentive of One  
97 Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00).

98 ii. Those who rank from the second to the fifth position in the bar and board  
99 examinations, as well as athletes who are awarded silver medals, shall be awarded a  
100 monetary incentive of Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos (Php75,000.00).

101 iii. For individuals who attain a rank between the sixth and the tenth positions in the  
102 bar and board examinations, as well as athletes who are awarded bronze medals, shall  
103 be awarded a monetary incentive of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00).

104 iv. Other exceptional individuals shall also be eligible for monetary incentives. The  
105 specific amounts of these incentives will be determined by the relevant Bangsamoro  
106 Government bodies conferring awards for their exceptional achievements in fields such  
107 as arts, culture, or community service.

108 d. **Full scholarship grant** to the Bangsamoro Achievers if they decide to pursue  
109 undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate degrees or other fields of specialization as  
110 provided by the implementing guidelines of the implementing agencies. *Provided*, That  
111 the implementing agency may impose reasonable terms and conditions of availment.  
112 *Provided further*, That the grantee shall contribute to the development of the  
113 Bangsamoro region by rendering return service as employee, contractual, contract of  
114 service, or job order, to the Bangsamoro Government equivalent to at least half the  
115 length of the scholarship period.

116 In exceptional cases where a grantee is unable to fulfill the return service  
117 obligation due to valid reasons such as severe illness, disability, or other unforeseen  
118 circumstances, the implementing agency shall review and determine appropriate  
119 alternatives or waivers, considering the individual's circumstances and ensuring fairness  
120 and compassion.

121 e. **Career development opportunities and access to appropriate training facilities,**  
122 **programs, and resources** for both topnotchers and sports achievers;

123 f. Specific support and recognition mechanisms for exceptional individuals, as  
124 determined by the relevant Bangsamoro Government bodies.

125 **SECTION 6. Requirements.** - For a topnotcher, sports achiever, or exceptional  
126 individual to be entitled to the incentives under this Act, he or she shall submit the  
127 following minimum documentary requirements:

- 128 a. For topnotchers, a certification or document by the Supreme Court Bar  
129 Confidant or the Philippine Regulatory Commission showing proof that he or she  
130 belongs to the Top Ten Examinees;
- 131 b. For sports achievers, a certificate from the Bangsamoro Sports Commission  
132 confirming their achievement;
- 133 c. For exceptional individuals, a certificate from the relevant Bangsamoro  
134 Government body confirming their achievement; and
- 135 d. Common documentary requirements for all Bangsamoro Achievers:
- 136 i. Authenticated Certificate of Live Birth issued by Philippine Statistics  
137 Authority;
- 138 ii. A valid identification (ID) card;
- 139 iii. Barangay Certificate on the residency of the topnotcher, sports achiever, or  
140 exceptional individual; and
- 141 iv. Such other documents or competent proof as the implementing agency deems  
142 acceptable and appropriate.

143 **SECTION 7. *Publication.*** – The Bangsamoro examinees who are declared  
144 topnotchers, sports achievers, and exceptional individuals shall be given due recognition  
145 for bringing pride and honor to the Bangsamoro through publication and posting of their  
146 achievements in the Bangsamoro Government official websites and pages for  
147 information and dissemination.

148 **SECTION 8. *Non-Prejudicial Clause.*** - The topnotchers, sports achievers, and  
149 exceptional individuals shall not be precluded from receiving the recognition provided  
150 in this Act on account that they have received awards, recognitions, incentives, and/or  
151 scholarships from other institutions.

152 **SECTION 9. *Implementing Agencies.*** - The Ministry of Basic, Higher, and  
153 Technical Education (MBHTE), the Bangsamoro Sports Commission (BSC), and other  
154 Bangsamoro Government bodies with recognition and incentive awards for exceptional  
155 individuals shall be the implementing agencies responsible for the effective  
156 implementation of this Act. They shall adopt their respective implementation guidelines

157 and program proposals, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, necessary to ensure  
158 the smooth execution of the recognition and incentive programs outlined in this Act.

159 The MBHTE, in coordination with relevant bodies, shall oversee the recognition  
160 of Bangsamoro achievers in professional licensure examinations. It shall establish  
161 procedures to validate and verify the achievements of topnotchers and ensure the  
162 provision of monetary incentives and other forms of recognition as stipulated in this Act.  
163 The MBHTE shall also coordinate with educational institutions to provide scholarship  
164 grants and facilitate the career development of topnotchers who opt to pursue graduate  
165 or postgraduate degrees.

166 The BSC, on the other hand, shall be responsible for recognizing Bangsamoro  
167 athletes who have excelled in national and international sports competitions, including  
168 e-sports, as specified in this Act. It shall develop the necessary mechanisms to identify  
169 sports achievers, award them with monetary incentives, provide career development  
170 opportunities, and grant them access to high-level training facilities and resources. The  
171 Bangsamoro Sports Commission shall collaborate with relevant sports organizations to  
172 ensure the proper assessment and recognition of sports achievements.

173 Furthermore, other Bangsamoro Government bodies with recognition and  
174 incentive awards for exceptional individuals, including among others the Bangsamoro  
175 Women Commission (BWC), Bangsamoro Youth Commission (BYC), Bangsamoro  
176 Commission for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (BCPCH), Office for Other  
177 Bangsamoro Communities (OOBC), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and  
178 Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS) shall actively participate in the  
179 implementation of this Act. These bodies shall provide recognition, incentives, and  
180 support to exceptional individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in  
181 arts, culture, community service, and other relevant fields, including international  
182 competitions. They shall determine the specific amounts of monetary incentives and  
183 other forms of support for exceptional individuals based on their respective fields of  
184 achievement.

185 The implementing agencies shall document and assess the impact of this Act on  
186 the development and recognition of Bangsamoro achievers. They shall gather feedback  
187 and conduct evaluations to identify areas for improvement, propose necessary  
188 amendments or modifications, and enhance the effectiveness of the recognition and  
189 incentive programs. The implementing agencies shall coordinate and collaborate with  
190 the Office of the Chief Minister and other relevant bodies and organizations to ensure  
191 the effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this Act.

192                   **SECTION 10. *Supervision and Coordination.*** - The Office of the Chief  
193 Minister (OCM) shall supervise and coordinate the implementation of this Act. The  
194 Chief Minister shall exercise oversight, ensure the proper execution of the recognition  
195 and incentive programs, monitor the progress and impact of this Act, and provide  
196 necessary guidance and support to the implementing agencies. As such, the OCM shall  
197 issue directives and guidelines to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the  
198 provisions of this Act, as well as facilitate coordination among the implementing  
199 agencies for seamless implementation.

200                   **SECTION 11. *Coordinating Council for Recognition of Bangsamoro***  
201 ***Achievers.*** The Coordinating Council for Recognition of Bangsamoro Achievers  
202 (CCRBA) is hereby established. The CCRBA shall serve as the central coordinating  
203 body responsible for the effective implementation and coordination of the recognition  
204 and incentive programs outlined in this Act.

205 (a) It shall be composed of the following members:

- 206                   (1) Chief Minister, as Chairperson
- 207                   (2) Minister of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, as Vice Chairperson
- 208                   (3) Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Sports Commission, as Vice Chairperson
- 209                   (4) Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Women Commission, as Member
- 210                   (5) Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Youth Commission, as Member
- 211                   (6) Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Commission for the Preservation of  
212 Cultural Heritage, as Member
- 213                   (7) Executive Director of the Office for Other Bangsamoro Communities, as  
214 Member
- 215                   (8) Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, as Member
- 216                   (9) Minister of the Ministry of Public Order and Safety, as Member
- 217                   (10) Heads of such other ministries, offices, and agencies with recognition and  
218 incentive programs for Bangsamoro Achievers, as Members

219 (b) It shall, among others, have the following functions and responsibilities:

- 220                   (1) Develop and recommend policies, guidelines, and procedures for the  
221 implementation of the recognition and incentive programs under this Act;
- 222                   (2) Coordinate and collaborate with the implementing agencies to ensure the  
223 smooth execution of the recognition and incentive programs;
- 224                   (3) Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the recognition and incentive  
225 programs and recommend necessary amendments or modifications to enhance  
226 their efficiency and effectiveness; and
- 227                   (4) Undertake other functions and responsibilities necessary to achieve the  
228 objectives of this Act.

229                   **SECTION 12. *Conferment of Recognition.*** The implementing agency shall  
230 endorse the conferment of recognition of the Bangsamoro Achievers to the Bangsamoro  
231 Parliament.

232                   Upon receipt of the endorsement or on its own initiative, the Bangsamoro  
233 Parliament may extend a formal invitation to the Bangsamoro Achiever to attend a  
234 plenary session. The Parliament may suspend its rules for the presentation and  
235 acknowledgment of the Achiever's contributions.

236                   The concerned implementing agency shall facilitate the logistics of the  
237 Achiever's participation, including accommodation and transportation. The necessary  
238 arrangements shall be made to ensure the smooth and dignified involvement of the  
239 Achiever in the plenary session.

240                   **SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days  
241 after the effectivity of this Act, the OCM, in collaboration with the implementing  
242 agencies and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary  
243 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

244                   **SECTION 14. *Periodic Review.*** - The MBHTE, Bangsamoro Sports  
245 Commission, and other relevant Bangsamoro Government bodies shall review **every**  
246 three (3) years or as they may deem necessary the implementation and effectiveness of  
247 this Act. Based on the findings of the review, they shall propose necessary amendments  
248 or modifications to improve the effectiveness of this Act and better serve the needs,  
249 ideals, and aspirations of the Bangsamoro people.

250                   **SECTION 15. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to initially carry out the  
251 provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund, subject to the  
252 availability of funds as certified by the Ministry of Finance and Budget and Management  
253 (MFBM). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation  
254 of this Act shall be included in the corresponding budgets of the implementing agencies  
255 in the General Appropriations Act for the Bangsamoro (GAAB).

256                   **SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
257 regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this  
258 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

259                   **SECTION 17. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, any section or provision  
260 of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof  
261 which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.



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**SECTION 18. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Bangsamoro Gazette or in a newspaper of general or regional circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

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*Approved.*

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