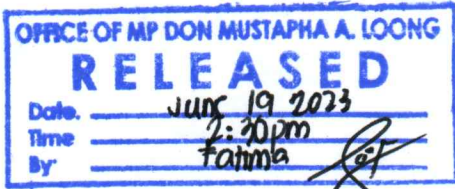


1 Republic of the Philippines  
2 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
3 BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY  
4 Cotabato City



BTA PARLIAMENT  
Second Regular Session

Parliament Bill No. 214



11  
12 Introduced by  
13 MP Engr. Don Mustapha A. Loong, JD, MPSA, CESE

14  
15 Co-authored by  
16 MPs Atty. Laisa A. Alamia, Engr. Baintan A. Ampatuan, Atty. Rasol Y. Mitmug,  
17 Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Atty. Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasol E. Ismael, Benjamin T.  
18 Loong, Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam, Abdulkarim T. Misuari, Atty. Jose I.  
19 Lorena, Abdulaziz M. Amenoden, Diamila D. Ramos, Adzfar H. Usman, Mohammad  
20 Kelie U. Antao, Eddie M. Alih, Tawakal B. Midtimbang, Mudjib C. Abu, Suwaib L.  
21 Oranon, Bassir D. Utto, Bai Maleiha B. Candao, Michael E. Midtimbang, Basit S.  
22 Abbas, Muslimin A. Jakilan, Albakil D. Jikiri, and Dr. Susana S. Anayatin

23  
24  
25 AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT AND ARCHIVAL  
26 RECORDS OF THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISHING FOR THE  
27 PURPOSE THE OFFICE OF THE BANGSAMORO REGIONAL ARCHIVES,  
28 APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

29  
30  
31 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

32  
33 The Bangsamoro has a rich and flourishing culture with a very long history,  
34 enough to consider it among the primordial communes of this country. Unfortunately,  
35 until the advent of social media and the internet, our limited way of preserving our  
36 cultural memory and history is through word of mouth and story-telling from our elders.  
37 In Tausug, we call it "kissa," an Arabic word that literally means "story". It's no wonder  
38 that, except for recent documents and records, we only have verbal references to serve as  
39 our historical data.

40  
41 Lately, some of our writers and intellectuals succeeded in reducing into writing  
42 our history and traditions. These writings, nevertheless, are scattered in various libraries  
43 and personal collections.  
44

1 The maintenance of our own archival records is one of the important tasks of the  
2 Bangsamoro Regional Government that should be advanced to preserve our collective  
3 identity and history. The initiative to strengthen the system of management and archival  
4 records of the Bangsamoro Government through the establishment of the Office of the  
5 Bangsamoro Regional Archives complements the existing and noble purposes of the  
6 Bangsamoro Museum, Bangsamoro Library and Archives, and the Bangsamoro  
7 Commission for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

8  
9 Through these efforts, we could help preserve our history, educate and allow  
10 others to understand our diversity, and provide tangible reminders of the sacrifices of  
11 our martyrs, the ingenuity of our intellectuals, the determination of our leaders, and our  
12 resiliency and unwavering commitment to the dream of governing our own territory.

13  
14 We are at the height of making a difference for the Bangsamoro People and at the  
15 most appropriate time to preserve and make known our identity and history. Our timing  
16 is right. Let us, therefore, build a home for our narratives to bridge us to our posterity.  
17 Let us create the OBRA.

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
  
HON. ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, MPSA, CESE  
*Member of Parliament – Bangsamoro Transition Authority*

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2 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
3 BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY  
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26 RECORDS OF THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISHING FOR THE  
27 PURPOSE THE OFFICE OF THE BANGSAMORO REGIONAL ARCHIVES,  
28 APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

29  
30 *BE IT ENACTED by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in Parliament assembled:*

31  
32 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Bangsamoro Regional Archives*  
33 *Act of 2023*".

34  
35 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -

- 36  
37 a. It is the policy of the State to conserve, promote, and popularize the Bangsamoro's  
38 historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.  
39  
40 b. All the Bangsamoro's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure  
41 of the region and shall be under the protection of the Regional Government, which  
42 may regulate its disposition.  
43

- 1 c. The Bangsamoro Government shall preserve the history, culture, art traditions,  
2 and rich cultural heritage of the Bangsamoro people and their Sultanates, such as  
3 those of but not limited to, Sulu, Maguindanao, Kabuntalan, Buayan, the Royal  
4 House of Ranao and of the Iranun, and the non-Moro indigenous peoples of the  
5 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.  
6
- 7 d. Further, the Bangsamoro Regional Government shall ensure and support, among  
8 other things, the preservation and enrichment of the Bangsamoro heritage and  
9 culture.  
10
- 11 e. Towards this end, all public records with the historical value held by Bangsamoro  
12 government offices shall be transferred to an official, permanent, and regional  
13 repository for proper management, control, regulation, and preservation of record  
14 disposition.  
15

16 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the following definition of  
17 terms are hereby adopted:  
18

- 19 a) Archival Value - refers to the value attached to records that hold notoriety for the  
20 Bangsamoro Government, its people, and the general public because those records  
21 make the government accountable to its citizens; provide evidence about public  
22 policies and programs; protect or verify individuals' rights and entitlements; and  
23 provide information about the important people, issues, places, and events that  
24 make up the story of Bangsamoro;  
25
- 26 b) Archives - shall refer to:  
27
- 28 1. Public records, papers, periodicals, books or other items, articles, or  
29 materials, whether in the form of electronic, audiovisual, or print, which by  
30 their nature and characteristics have historical and cultural value, that have  
31 been selected for permanent preservation;  
32
  - 33 2. The place (building/room/storage area) where archival materials are kept  
34 and preserved; and  
35
  - 36 3. An organization (or part of an organization) whose main function is to  
37 select, collect and preserve archival records and make such records  
38 available for public use.  
39
- 40 c) Disposal refers to the act of selling, burning, or any other way of discarding  
41 valueless records in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other existing  
42 laws.  
43

- 1 d) Disposition - refers to the systematic sorting out of records in the office storage,  
2 whereby those classified as valuable records are permanently preserved, and those  
3 which are classified as valueless are disposed of.  
4
- 5 e) Document - refers to recorded information regardless of medium or  
6 characteristics. Frequently used interchangeably with "records";  
7
- 8 f) Inventory - refers to a descriptive listing of the records held by records series  
9 indicating its specific location, inclusive dates and volume in cubic meters;  
10 conduct of related activities to locate, identify, describe, count, and measure all  
11 records in the office and storage areas including all loose and bound papers,  
12 microforms, optical disks, and magnetic tapes and disks;  
13
- 14 g) Private Archives/Collections - refers to records belonging to private individuals  
15 and/or entities that are of archival value;  
16
- 17 h) Public Records - refers to records or classes of records, in any form, in whole or in  
18 part, created or received, whether before or after the effectivity of this Act, by a  
19 Bangsamoro government office or agency in the conduct of its affairs and have  
20 been retained by that government agency or its successors as evidence or because  
21 of the information contained therein;  
22
- 23 i) Records - refers to information, whether in its original form or otherwise,  
24 including documents, signatures, seals, texts, images, sounds, speeches, or data  
25 compiled, recorded, or stored, as the case may be:  
26
- 27 1. in written form on any material; or  
28
- 29 2. on film, negative, tape, or other medium to be capable of being reproduced  
30
- 31 j) Records Officer - refers to the employee responsible for overseeing the record's  
32 management program and providing guidance on adequate and proper record  
33 keeping.  
34

35 **SECTION 4. Objectives.** This Act is primarily aimed at:  
36

- 37 A. Organizing and establishing the system of management and administration of the  
38 Bangsamoro Government archival records;  
39
- 40 B. Ensuring that full and accurate records of the affairs of the Bangsamoro Regional  
41 Government are maintained and preserved;  
42
- 43 C. Increasing public confidence in the integrity of public records keeping and  
44 management;

1  
2 D. Ensuring accessibility of public records relevant to the promotion and  
3 preservation of Bangsamoro cultural heritage; and

4  
5 E. Supporting the safekeeping of private records.  
6

7  
8 **ARTICLE II**

9  
10 **OFFICE OF THE BANGSAMORO REGIONAL ARCHIVES**

11  
12 **SECTION 5. *Office of the Bangsamoro Regional Archives.*** - The Office of the  
13 Bangsamoro Regional Archives, hereinafter referred to as OBRA, is hereby created and  
14 organized, structurally and functionally, in accordance with the provisions of this Act. It  
15 shall be under the Office of the Chief Minister.  
16

17 The OBRA shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of the objectives and  
18 provisions of this Act. It shall plan, develop, prescribe, disseminate, and enforce policies,  
19 rules, and regulations and coordinate programs governing the creation, general  
20 protection, use, storage, and disposition of public records, including the acquisition,  
21 storage, and preservation of public archives and providing facilities for reference,  
22 research or other purposes.  
23

24 **SECTION 6. *Powers and Functions.*** - In pursuit of its mandate, the OBRA shall have the  
25 following powers and functions:  
26

- 27 a) Act as the official repository of all agreements, laws, public records, bulletins,  
28 books, gazettes, thesis, publications, exhibitions, audio-recording, video-  
29 recording or images, and any other writings or documentation, relating to or  
30 involving the struggle of the Bangsamoro and the history, culture, tradition, and  
31 practices of the Bangsamoro, the Non-Moro Indigenous People, and the settler  
32 communities;  
33  
34 b) Conduct an inventory of the above writings and documentation that already exist  
35 and under the custody of the Bangsamoro Government;  
36  
37 c) Maintain a registry of all public records under the custody and control of the  
38 Bangsamoro Government, which shall be made available for public inspection;  
39  
40 d) Implement a records management and archival administration system for the  
41 efficient maintenance, preservation, retention, and utilization of public records of  
42 the Bangsamoro Government;  
43

- 1 e) Adopt security measures and protection of the public records of the Bangsamoro  
2 Government;  
3  
4 f) Obtain, recover, and take custody and management of all public archives that are  
5 not in the custody of the Bangsamoro Government;  
6  
7 g) Accept, store, and preserve any public archive transferred or donated to the  
8 Bangsamoro Government; and  
9  
10 h) Facilitate the acquisition of public records and private archives that possess  
11 archival value through transfer, donation, purchase, or any other legal means.  
12

13 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** - The amount of ten million pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) shall  
14 be appropriated for the implementation of this Act and shall be sourced from the  
15 Bangsamoro Appropriations Act of the year following the approval of this act.  
16

17 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of the Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall  
19 remain in full force and effect.  
20

21 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, parts of laws, issuances, proclamations, orders,  
22 ordinances, and administrative regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Act are  
23 hereby amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.  
24

25 **SECTION 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
26 publication in a newspaper of regional circulation.  
27

28  
29 **APPROVED,**  
30

31  
32 Author:

33  
34   
35 HON. MP ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, MPSA, CESE  
36  
37

38 Co-authors:

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- 39 HON. MP BASIT S. ABBAS



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HON. MP MUSLIMIN A. JAKILAN

HON. MP ALBAKIL D. JIKIRI

HON. MP DR. SUSANA S. ANAYATIN

Certified Correct:

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

Attested:

**HON. ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG**

*Speaker*