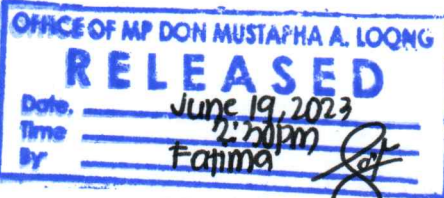


1 Republic of the Philippines  
2 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
3 BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY  
4 Cotabato City



BTA PARLIAMENT  
Second Regular Session

Parliament Bill No. 219



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, and Muslimin A. Jakilan

23  
24  
25 AN ACT  
26 ESTABLISHING A REGIONWIDE GEO-TAGGING SYSTEM FOR  
27 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS  
28 REGION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

29  
30  
31 EXPLANATORY NOTE

32  
33 This bill aims to make it a legacy of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority under  
34 the leadership of Chief Minister Ahod "Al Haj Murad" Ebrahim and Parliament Speaker  
35 Ali Pangalian Balindong to institutionalize Moral Governance through legislation of a  
36 geo-tagging system for all infrastructure projects.

37  
38 During his January 21, 2021, speech, Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim stated in his  
39 report:

40  
41 *"The level of transparency in our infrastructure work has been manifested with the*  
42 *Expanded Bangsamoro Advanced Road Mapping and Management (E-BARMM) System*  
43 *- an online repository of the Ministry of Public Works - BARMM projects. Using*

1 *geotagged photos for data validation, the core goals of the E-BARMM System are*  
2 *transparency and efficiency in project monitoring."*  
3

4 While geo-tagging is currently in place for the Ministry of Public Works, the  
5 system may in the future no longer be continued. Thus, the best practice may, in the  
6 future, be lost. In order to safeguard the best practice as being done by the present  
7 BARMM, its institutionalization through law is sought. Moreover, this will  
8 institutionalize geo-tagging not only in the MPW but in all the various agencies and  
9 instrumentalities of Bangsamoro that are implementing infrastructure projects. This will  
10 allow for a development reference that includes all sectors and improve the planning and  
11 programming for an integrated long-term anti-poverty and improved access to social  
12 services program.  
13

14 Under the second Bangsamoro Transition Authority, the priority of the  
15 *Government of the Day* is to instill and maintain transparency, accountability, and  
16 efficiency in the delivery of government services which can be achieved through the use  
17 of information technology and institutionalizing systems which will be a legacy of the  
18 Bangsamoro Transition Authority to the next regular parliaments.  
19

20 The geo-tagging of all infrastructure projects in the Bangsamoro Autonomous  
21 Region will allow for more effective policymaking by the regional government agencies  
22 as well as National and local government units, improve the planning and programming  
23 of development projects, determine the location of geographically isolated and  
24 disadvantaged areas (GIDA) based on the cumulative location of development projects,  
25 and track and monitor the progress of government 59 projects.  
26

27 The Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 acknowledges geo-tagging  
28 as a means for transparency and better planning and programming. President Duterte's  
29 "Build Build Build" programs have specific implementation reforms, which include the  
30 mandatory geo-tagging of projects.  
31

32 Geo-tagging is an efficient way of tracking the existence and progress of  
33 government projects, as it allows government officials and the citizenry alike to check  
34 and follow up on projects as they are being carried out in real time.  
35

36 With the use of a GPS-enabled phone, anyone can easily learn to take geo-tagged  
37 photos and upload them to the web-based platforms of various government agencies.  
38

39 Geo-tagging is a revolutionary and inexpensive approach to using Information  
40 and Communication Technology (ICT) and Global Positioning System (GPS) applications  
41 for accurate visualization of projects.  
42

43 One of the benefits of geo-tagging is that it is very cost-effective and safe as it  
44 allows for easier monitoring of progress on the ground and in communities without



1 having to undergo the security risks as well as the logistics costs. This will also provide  
2 easy reference for development partners and implementing agencies as to the location of  
3 current development works in order to better plan for other development interventions.  
4 This also serves as a transparency mechanism that allows the citizens to monitor  
5 development in their communities, avoid duplication and overlapping of infrastructure  
6 projects, and eliminate fictitious projects as well as false reporting of data. This will also  
7 allow the government agencies to determine which areas are receiving development  
8 projects and which areas are lagging in terms of infrastructural development.

9  
10 Moreover, this will become a regional integrated spatial development database  
11 that will be vital for regional development planning.

12  
13 As early as 2013, the National Economic Development Authority hailed and  
14 awarded the Mindanao Rural Development Authority with the 'Good Practice Award'  
15 for applying geo-tagging technology for good governance and transparency.

16  
17 In 2020, National DPWH has required mandatory geo-tagging of all infrastructure  
18 projects, regardless of cost, infrastructure type, or fund source, in the four stages of the  
19 project: before project implementation, upon mobilization, during the monthly progress,  
20 and upon completion. This is to improve efficiency in planning, budgeting, project  
21 monitoring, and contract management processes.

22  
23 In the National Government, geo-tagging technology has already been  
24 institutionalized in several executive agencies. Geo-tagging is already institutionalized in  
25 the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Agriculture, and the  
26 Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The National agencies have used  
27 geo-tagging to build up their database and strengthen development planning and  
28 implementation.

29  
30 In April 2019, RA 11315 was signed by former President Rodrigo Duterte, which  
31 established a community-based monitoring system (CBMS). It is "an organized  
32 technology-based system of collecting, processing, and validating necessary  
33 disaggregated data for monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to  
34 participate in the process." The CBMS utilizes geo-tagging technology together with other  
35 data collection methodologies of the National Government and local governments. The  
36 lead agency is the Philippine Statistics Authority.

37  
38 Likewise, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assured that transparency and  
39 accountability would be the cornerstones of governance and policies, especially as his  
40 administration ramps up significant projects, including digitalization and infrastructure.

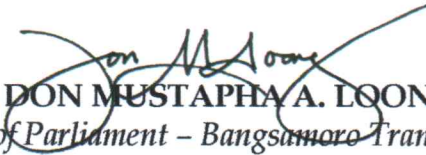
41  
42 The current administration has prioritized Moral Governance, which includes  
43 transparency. This bill will provide our citizenry the transparency they seek and ensure  
44 their taxes are being used for the improvement of the welfare of Bangsamoro.

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The adoption of this policy on transparency will redound in increased public trust in the Government of the Bangsamoro and institutionalize a legacy of Moral Governance, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness for the Bangsamoro Government.

This legacy bill will pave the way for the institutionalization of the right project for the right location at the right time for the right people and will promote people's empowerment and reduce poverty.

In line with this, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
HON. ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, MPSA, CESE  
*Member of Parliament - Bangsamoro Transition Authority*



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28 REGION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "*Regional Infrastructure Geo-*  
33 *tagging Act of 2023*".

34  
35 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to adopt and implement  
36 a policy of full public disclosure, subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, and  
37 to recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. Further,  
38 the Bangsamoro Government adopts Moral Governance as its guiding principle in the  
39 pursuit of genuine and meaningful autonomy and ensures the necessary conditions for  
40 sustained socio-economic development by improving accountability of physical and  
41 financial outcomes of government infrastructure projects, eliminating corruption, and  
42 ensuring multi-stakeholder participation.

1 Pursuant to these policies, the Regional Government recognizes the importance of  
2 transparency and efficiency in project monitoring and data-based planning and  
3 programming for equity in development.

4  
5 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:  
6

- 7 a) *Geo-tagging* - is the process of adding metadata and geographical information,  
8 usually in the form of latitude and longitude, to the physical site or location of  
9 government infrastructure projects and uploading them to a web-based  
10 application. It shall also include the name of the project, the location, and the cost  
11 of the project to allow the government, the citizenry, and other stakeholders to  
12 check the progress of projects in real-time.
- 13  
14 b) *Online Portal* - is a specially designed website where relevant information, images,  
15 and map visualization on all government infrastructure projects collected before,  
16 during, and after its implementation in the areas of the Bangsamoro Autonomous  
17 Region are uploaded, organized, regularly updated, and accessible to the public  
18 through various platforms.
- 19  
20 c) *Infrastructure Projects* - infrastructure projects and facilities being constructed by  
21 the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, including roads, bridges, ports, flood  
22 control, water supply, schools, multipurpose buildings, government buildings,  
23 hospitals, and other health facilities, barangay and municipal halls, centers,  
24 housing, and other similar horizontal and vertical projects.
- 25  
26 d) *Implementing Agency* - refers to any ministry, bureau, office, commission, or  
27 authority in the Executive Department of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region,  
28 including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), which have  
29 capital outlay allocated for infrastructure projects.

30  
31 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Agencies.*** - Ministries and offices that have capital outlay  
32 allocation for infrastructure projects shall implement the provisions of this Act. These  
33 shall include, among others, the following:  
34

- 35 a. Ministry of Public Works (MPW);
- 36 b. Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE);
- 37 c. Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE);
- 38 d. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR);
- 39 e. Ministry of Health (MOH);
- 40 f. Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG);
- 41 g. Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC);
- 42 h. Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT);
- 43 i. Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD); and
- 44 j. Office of the Chief Minister (OCM).



1  
2 **SECTION 5. *Geo-tagging in the Various Stages of the Project.*** - In line with the thrust of  
3 the Bangsamoro Government to improve the efficiency in planning, budgeting, and  
4 project monitoring, geo-tagged photos shall be taken in the following four (4) stages of  
5 the project:

- 6 A. Before Project Implementation;
- 7 B. Upon Mobilization;
- 8 C. During the Monthly Progress; and
- 9 D. Upon the Completion of the Project.

10  
11 The uploaded data shall provide information on the name of the project, its cost, the  
12 location, the name of the contractor or implementing agency, and such other relevant  
13 information as required in the Implementing Guidelines provided in the succeeding  
14 section.

15  
16 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Guidelines.*** - Each concerned Head of the Agency or Office  
17 shall develop the corresponding guidelines within ninety (90) days from the effectivity  
18 of this Act, which may be updated annually to ensure that the geotagging procedure and  
19 processes, rules, and standards are in accordance with recent progress and technology.  
20 The guidelines define the responsibilities of each of the units and divisions involved in  
21 the implementation of the infrastructure projects in the Agency.

22  
23 **SECTION 7. *Regionwide Geo-tagging.*** - Upon the effectivity of this Act, all infrastructure  
24 projects to be implemented by the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be geo-tagged  
25 in all stages of the project implementation by means of a Global Positioning System  
26 (GPS)-enabled phone or other GPS and image capturing devices, which shall be uploaded  
27 to the regional online portal created by virtue of this Act.

28  
29 **SECTION 8. *Agency Online Portal.*** - All the Implementing Agencies shall include in  
30 their official website an online portal where information pertinent to the specified  
31 location of a project can be accessed. The geo-tagged projects shall be reflected in the  
32 respective official websites of the Implementing Agencies, along with the status of each  
33 project. The agencies will ensure the appropriation of funds for the setting up of a  
34 specialized website portal where the geo-tagged photos can be accessed by the public.  
35 The web portal shall also have a system of receiving queries and feedback from the public  
36 which must be appropriately responded to by the concerned Ministries.

37  
38 **SECTION 9. *Information and Education Campaign.*** - The Implementing Agencies shall  
39 also conduct information dissemination programs that will inform the public of the  
40 existence, availability, and online accessibility of such transparency mechanisms. These  
41 mechanisms shall be instituted to inform the public and shall also serve as their public  
42 feedbacking mechanism for issues and concerns regarding the programs of the Ministry.



1 **SECTION 10. *Access, Website, and Geo-Tagging Regional Portal.*** - The Office of the  
2 Chief Minister, Ministry of Public Works (MPW), and the Bangsamoro Information and  
3 Communications Technology Office (BICTO), in coordination with the Bangsamoro  
4 Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) and other Implementing Agencies, shall  
5 set up an online portal to create a Regional Geo-tagging Databank of the geo-tagged  
6 projects to show all the infrastructure projects in geographical areas in the BARMM. The  
7 MPW and the BICTO shall ensure that the data is updated and synchronized with the  
8 Implementing Agency updates. It shall also regularly coordinate and monitor the  
9 Regional Portal as well as the Agency Online Portals to ensure that these are accessible to  
10 the public. It shall also facilitate institutional arrangements for data sharing. The Office  
11 of the Chief Minister, BICTO, and the BPDA shall conduct a quarterly review and  
12 assessment of the compliance of the Ministries to the requirement of having Ministry  
13 portals containing updated geo-tagged photos accessible to the public with the criteria of  
14 completeness, timeliness, responsiveness and compliance to the relevant transparency  
15 criteria.

16  
17 **SECTION 11. *Periodicity of Data Update and Cybersecurity Measures*** - Regular and  
18 synchronized updating of data shall be conducted by all the Implementing Agencies,  
19 especially the MPW, including BICTO, every quarter of the year. The Implementing  
20 Agencies and the BICTO shall ensure that backup data is stored to ensure the cumulative  
21 data of geo-tagged projects remains available cumulatively every year.

22  
23 **SECTION 12. *Capacity-Building.*** - The Implementing Agency shall undertake and  
24 establish capacity-building measures for its concerned personnel from the regional level  
25 to its provincial and district levels to develop their respective skills in uploading and  
26 generating data and information on various infrastructure projects and skills necessary  
27 in maintaining an online portal.

28  
29 **SECTION 13. *Appropriations.*** - An initial amount of Twenty Million Pesos (Php  
30 20,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated and shall be made available to the MPW, BICT, and  
31 the other Ministries to establish the online Regional Infrastructure Portal for public access  
32 as well as assist and conduct capacity building for the establishment of the online portal  
33 in the respective official websites of the Implementing Agencies. Thereafter, each  
34 Implementing Agency shall include in their regular budget the needed funds for the  
35 implementation of this Act.

36  
37 **SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of the Act is declared  
38 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall  
39 remain in full force and effect.

40  
41 **SECTION 15. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, parts of laws, issuances, proclamations,  
42 orders, ordinances, and administrative regulations in conflict with the provisions of this  
43 Act are hereby amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.



1 SECTION 16. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
2 publication in the Bangsamoro Gazette or in a newspaper of regional circulation.  
3

4  
5 **APPROVED,**  
6

7  
8 Author:

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11   
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Certified Correct:

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

Attested:

31 HON. ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG  
32 *Speaker*