

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



11 **BTA PARLIAMENT**  
12 *Second Regular Session*  
13 Parliament Resolution No. 329



20 Introduced by  
21 **MP Engr. Don Mustapha A. Loong, JD, MPSA, CESE**

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

30 **RESOLUTION**  
31 **URGING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) TO ESTABLISH A MENTAL**  
32 **HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE IN THE BANGSAMORO REGION**

33 **WHEREAS**, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution guarantees the protection and  
34 promotion of *“the right to health of the people”* and mandates the State to *“instill health*  
35 *consciousness among them”*;

36 **WHEREAS**, in symmetry therewith, Section 22, Article IX of Republic Act No. 11054,  
37 otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), provides that *“[t]he Bangsamoro*  
38 *Government shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health*  
39 *consciousness among them. It shall also uphold the peoples' right to have access to essential goods,*  
40 *health, and other social services that promote their well-being”*;

41 **WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the “Mental Health  
42 Act,” reaffirms the State’s recognition of *“the basic right of all Filipinos to mental health as*  
43 *well as the fundamental rights of people who require mental health services”*;

44 **WHEREAS**, among the objectives of the Mental Health Act is to *“develop and establish a*  
45 *comprehensive, integrated effective and efficient national mental health care system responsive to*  
46 *the psychiatric, neurologic, and psychosocial needs of the Filipino people; strengthen information*  
47 *systems, evidence and research for mental health; and to promote mental health in educational*  
48 *institutions, the workplace, and in communities”*;

49 **WHEREAS**, according to the research conducted by the World Health Organization  
50 (WHO)-Philippines Special Initiative for Mental Health in the early part of 2020, at least  
51 3.6 million Filipinos suffer from one kind of mental, neurological, and substance use  
52 disorder;



1 **WHEREAS**, studies of the WHO show that recurring armed conflicts in conflicted areas  
2 have negative impacts on the mental well-being of individuals, especially those who were  
3 displaced, which might lead to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the International Committee of the Red Cross, after observing some of the  
6 victims of the Marawi Siege, published an article on its official website on June 2021,  
7 stating that *“people affected by conflict suffer from invisible wounds that hinder their ability to*  
8 *recover from trauma”* and concluded that *“mental health must not be an afterthought in armed*  
9 *conflicts and emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic”*;  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, based on the reports made by the Department of Health (DOH), six months  
12 after being infected with the virus, one out of every three Covid-19 patients developed  
13 neuropsychiatric disorders;  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, this is exacerbated by exposure to digital media, the irresponsible or  
16 excessive use of which can bring about depression, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm, and  
17 even suicidal thoughts, as social media may promote negative experiences such as  
18 inadequacy about one’s life or appearance;  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, a United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) study found that 10.9 percent  
21 of ARMM participants reported suicidal thoughts in the Bangsamoro region;  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 42 of the Mental Health Act, there is created in the DOH  
24 *“a Mental Health Division, staffed by qualified mental health specialists and supported with an*  
25 *adequate yearly budget,” “that shall implement the National Mental Health Program”*;  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Section 21 of the Mental Health Act requires the setting-up or strengthening  
28 of a *“twenty-four seven (24/7) hotlines, to provide assistance to individuals with mental health*  
29 *conditions, especially individuals at risk of committing suicide, xxx”*;  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the DOH has already implemented the provision of this law by establishing  
32 a Mental Health Crisis Hotline under the tagline: *“Kumusta ka? Tara, usap tayo”*;  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, although this Crisis Hotline can also cater to residents of the Bangsamoro,  
35 the total devolution of powers over health services to the Region and the language or  
36 cultural barriers may hinder our residents from seeking assistance from the National  
37 Helpline, thus necessitating the setting up of our own Regional Mental Health Crisis  
38 Helpline;  
39

40 **NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, by the Bangsamoro  
41 Transition Authority, to **URGE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) TO ESTABLISH**  
42 **A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE IN THE BANGSAMORO REGION**;  
43

44 **RESOLVED, FINALLY**, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Ministry of  
45 Basic, Higher, and Technical Education and the Ministry of Health for information and  
46 appropriate consideration.  
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49 **ADOPTED**,

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52 Author:  
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3 HON. MP ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, MPSA, CESE  
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5 Co-authors:

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7 HON. MP ATTY. LAISA A. ALAMIA

8  
9 HON. MP ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN

10  
11 HON. MP ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG

12  
13 HON. MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL

14  
15 HON. MP ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLOD TO

16  
17 HON. MP RASOL E. ISMAEL

18  
19 HON. MP BENJAMIN T. LOONG

20  
21 HON. MP JAAFAR APOLLO MIKHAIL L. MATALAM

22  
23 HON. MP ABDULKARIM T. MISUARI

24  
25 HON. MP ATTY. JOSE I. LORENA

26  
27 HON. MP ABDULAZIZ M. AMENODEN

28  
29 HON. MP DIAMILA D. RAMOS

30  
31 HON. MP ADZ FAR H. USMAN

32  
33 HON. MP MOHAMMAD KELIE U. ANTAO

34  
35 HON. MP EDDIE M. ALIH

36  
37 HON. MP TAWAKAL B. MIDTIMBANG

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39 HON. MP MUDJIB C. ABU

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41 HON. MP SUWAIB L. ORANON

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43 HON. MP BASSIR D. UTTO

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45 HON. MP BAI MALEIHA B. CANDAO

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47 HON. MP MICHAEL E. MIDTIMBANG

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49 HON. MP BASIT S. ABBAS

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51 HON. MP MUSLIMIN A. JAKILAN

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53 HON. MP DR. SUSANA S. ANAYATIN  
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Certified Correct:

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

Attested:

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