

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

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
Parliament  
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION

**RECEIVED**

Name: Abdul Al-Barry H. Dipatuan Signature: [Signature]  
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**SECOND PARLIAMENT**  
Second Regular Session

Parliament Bill No. 239

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Introduced by  
**MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL**

Co-authored by  
**MPs LAISA M. ALAMIA, BANTAN A. AMPATUAN, RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR.,  
DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, SUHARTO M. AMBOLODITO, RASUL E. ISMAEL,  
HASHEMI N. DILANGALEN, HAMID U. MALIK**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR-POWERED WATER  
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS  
REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is an area of the Philippines that has long been grappling with water scarcity and inadequate water distribution infrastructure. The region's predominantly rural and remote communities face significant challenges in accessing safe and potable water, which affects the overall health, well-being, and economic opportunities of its residents.

The purpose of this legislation is to formulate a three-year program for the construction of solar-powered water distribution systems in every barangay throughout the region. These systems will utilize solar energy as the primary power source to pump and distribute water to communities, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and minimizing the environmental impact.

This legislation mandates the Bangsamoro Government to facilitate the installation of solar-powered water distribution systems in identified areas with limited access to clean water. Aside from this, the legislation encourages partnerships between the regional government, relevant agencies, constituent LGUs, and local communities to ensure efficient implementation and management of solar-powered water distribution systems. It promotes community participation, capacity building, and the empowerment of local stakeholders.

The passage of this legislative measure will have several significant benefits. First and foremost, it will improve the quality of life for residents in the BARMM by providing reliable and sustainable access to clean water, reducing waterborne diseases, and enhancing hygiene

Bangsamoro Transition Authority  
**OFFICE OF MP AMIR S. MAWALLIL**  
**RELEASE**

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practices. Moreover, the use of solar power will contribute to the region's overall energy sustainability, reduce carbon emissions, and promote the utilization of renewable energy sources.

By providing a sustainable solution to the water crisis while promoting renewable energy, this legislation aims to uplift the living conditions of the residents and contribute to the region's development.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL**  
Member of the Parliament

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

**Section 1. Title.** This act shall be known as the "*Bangsamoro Solar-Powered Water Distribution Systems Act of 2023.*"

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It hereby declared the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall likewise uphold the peoples' right to have access to essential goods, health, and other social services that promote their well-being including, but not limited to, the provision of adequate potable water supply system to Bangsamoro communities across the autonomous region. It shall achieve this by supporting the promotion of sustainable water services through the use of renewable energies, such as solar technologies, which provide reliable and affordable energy.

Towards this end, the Bangsamoro Government shall mandate the construction of solar-powered water distribution systems to service and supplement the daily water demand of communities, especially in rural areas, thereby securing the basic human right to safe drinking water based on availability, acceptability, accessibility, and affordability.

**Section 3. Lead Agency.** – The Ministry of Science and Technology, in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Interior and Local



Government, and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall formulate a three-year program for the construction of solar-powered water distribution systems in every barangay throughout the region. The program shall give priority to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, taking into consideration population, area served, project cost, and other economic, social, and environmental factors.

**Section 4. Program Guidelines.** – The three-year program shall include targets with specific timelines according to the following guidelines:

- a. Priority shall be given to the construction of communal solar-powered water supply systems;
- b. The water supply system must be equitably distributed among the constituent LGUs, giving priority to those municipalities having an inadequate supply of potable water;
- c. The concerned LGU shall participate in the project planning, identification, design, construction, and monitoring;
- d. The water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the LGU concerned;
- e. The water supply system shall be constructed with the end view of ensuring universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, increasing water-use efficiency, ensuring sustainable withdrawals and supply, and substantially reducing the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

**Section 5. Construction of Water Supply Systems from Traditional Sources.** – The Local Government Unit of the area where the water supply system is located shall ensure that it is conserved and its quality maintained by formulating policies that are not in contravention to customary or religious practices associated with that particular traditional water source.

**Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act, the Ministry of Science and Technology, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

**Section 7. Appropriations.** – Pursuant to Section 37, Article XIII of Republic Act No. 11054, the amount necessary to fund the construction and maintenance of water supply and services in the region shall be included in the proposals of the Bangsamoro Government to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the inclusion in the latter's budget, which shall be submitted to Congress of the Philippines for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act of the national government.

**Section 8. Separability Clause.** If any section or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 9. Repealing Clause.** All ordinances, executive orders, administrative orders, or other rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Section 10. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the region.

Approved,

Author/s:



**AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL**  
*Member of the Parliament*

Certified correct:

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

Attested by:

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