

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

Second Regular Session

BTA PARLIAMENT
BTA Parliament Bill No. 249

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION

RECEIVED

Name: Abdul Al-Barry H. Dipatuan Signature: 
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Introduced by:

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**AN ACT AUGMENTING THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY
VETERINARY OFFICES IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM) AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The BARMM Veterinary Services Enhancement Act aims to bolster the programs and services provided by veterinary offices within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Recognizing the crucial role of animal health in public health, food safety, and community well-being, this legislation seeks to provide the necessary resources to elevate veterinary services to a higher standard.

The primary goal of this proposed legislation is to improve the quality and reach of veterinary programs in the BARMM tailored to cater the unique cultural and geographical context which it necessitates to address animal health and welfare, zoonotic disease prevention, and livestock management.

The Act proposes the allocation of additional funds to the veterinary offices under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR). These funds will be utilized to augment various aspects of veterinary services, including:

1. **Enhanced staffing:** Increasing the number of qualified veterinarians, animal health technicians, and administrative personnel to strengthen the delivery of veterinary services across the region.
2. **Continuous Training and Capacity Building:** Regularly updating the knowledge and skills of veterinary personnel through training and capacity-building

programs. This will ensure that professionals remain current with the latest practices in animal care, disease control, and food safety.

3. **Disease Prevention and Control:** Establishing comprehensive vaccination programs for domestic animals and strengthening disease surveillance systems to prevent and control the outbreak of diseases that can affect both animals and humans.

4. **Animal Welfare Initiatives:** Promoting the humane treatment of animals through initiatives such as rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption programs, reflecting a commitment to compassion and responsible pet ownership.

5. **Mobile Veterinary Clinics:** Extending veterinary services to underserved and remote areas through mobile clinics, addressing the lack of accessibility to veterinary care in certain communities.

6. **Livestock Health Monitoring:** Implementing efficient systems for monitoring the health of livestock and poultry, ensuring the early detection and mitigation of disease outbreaks that could have significant economic and health consequences.

7. **Public Education:** Developing public education campaigns that raise awareness about responsible pet ownership, animal health, and the prevention of zoonotic diseases.

By enacting the BARMM Veterinary Services Enhancement Act, the BTA Parliament unequivocally demonstrates its resolute commitment to safeguarding not only public health but also ensuring unwavering food safety standards. Beyond that, this act serves as a testament to our dedication to promoting the holistic welfare of animals and the very communities that rely on them for sustenance and companionship.

At its core, this legislation is not just about enhancing veterinary programs; it's about taking a momentous stride towards creating a future that is inherently healthier, inherently safer, and inherently more compassionate for all residents of the BARMM. By investing in the augmentation of veterinary services, we take an essential step towards fortifying the health of our animals, which, in turn, directly impacts the health of our communities.

This act isn't merely a set of provisions on paper—it's a tangible embodiment of our unwavering commitment to aligning the BARMM with global exemplars in veterinary care and animal welfare. It reflects our aspiration to build a region that stands at the forefront of progress, embracing best practices that prioritize the well-being of our furry companions and, by extension, the entire populace.

In light of these transformative implications, we extend a sincere appeal to our esteemed colleagues. Let us come together to support the passage of this pivotal bill. Through its implementation, we have the remarkable opportunity to usher in a new era—an era marked by healthier animals, a more secure food supply, and a more harmonious relationship between humans and the creatures we share our lives with.

Let us not only acknowledge the extraordinary potential of this legislation but also recognize the profound impact it holds for our region's animal and human populations alike. By uniting in support of this bill, we pave the way for a brighter future—one where

compassion, health, and progress intersect to create a BARMM that we can all be immensely proud of.



DR. HASHEMI N. DILANGALEN
Author

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**AN ACT AUGMENTING THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY
VETERINARY OFFICES IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM) AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim
Mindanao assembled

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "*BARMM Veterinary
Services Enhancement Act of 2023*".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the Bangsamoro Autonomous
Region in Muslim Mindanao to promote and ensure the health and welfare of animals, as
well as to strengthen the veterinary services and programs available to its residents.

SECTION 3. Augmentation of Veterinary Programs and Services. The veterinary
offices in the BARMM, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and
Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), shall enhance and expand their programs and services aimed
at safeguarding the health and welfare of animals, ensuring food safety, and preventing
the spread of zoonotic diseases.

SECTION 4. Programs and Services Enhancement. The veterinary offices shall
utilize the additional funds provided by this Act to:

- a. Increase Staffing: Hire additional qualified veterinarians, animal health
technicians, and administrative personnel to improve the delivery of veterinary
services.

- b. **Training and Capacity Building:** Conduct regular training and capacity-building programs for veterinary personnel to ensure updated knowledge and skills in animal care, disease control, and food safety.
- c. **Vaccination and Disease Control:** Implement comprehensive vaccination programs for domestic animals to prevent the outbreak of diseases and control zoonotic diseases.
- d. **Animal Welfare Initiatives:** Establish and support initiatives that promote the humane treatment of animals, including animal rescue, rehabilitation, population control, and adoption programs.
- e. **Mobile Veterinary Clinics:** Set up mobile veterinary clinics to reach remote areas and provide essential veterinary services to underserved communities.
- f. **Livestock Health Monitoring:** Enhance disease surveillance and monitoring systems for livestock and poultry farms to ensure the early detection and prevention of outbreaks.
- g. **Public Education:** Develop and implement public education campaigns on responsible pet ownership, animal health, and zoonotic disease prevention.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the 2023 appropriations of the MAFAR including any available funds in the Bangsamoro Treasury that may be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the sum needed for the operation and maintenance of the Council shall be included in the annual budget of the MAFAR.

SECTION 6. Reporting and Accountability. The MAFAR shall submit an annual report to the Parliament, detailing the utilization of funds, accomplishments, and challenges faced in the implementation of the programs and services provided under this Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The MAFAR shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within 90 days from its enactment.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Approved,

AUTHOR:


DR. HASHEMI N. DILANGALEN
Member of the Parliament

Certified Correct:

PROF. RABY ANGKAL
Secretary General

Attested by:

ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker