


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

Second Regular Session

BTA PARLIAMENT
BTA Parliament Bill No. 254

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
RECEIVED
Name: AEELAH AMPATUAN Signature: 
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Introduced by
MP ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "BRIGADA ESKWELA PROGRAM" IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

Section I, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Section 16, Article IX of Republic Act No. 11054, or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), provides that it shall be a top priority of the Bangsamoro Government to establish, maintain, and support a complete and integrated system of quality education, which shall be a subsystem of the national education system. The Bangsamoro Government shall develop an educational framework relevant and responsive to the needs, ideals, and aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. For this purpose, the Bangsamoro Government shall conform to the minimum standards set by the National Government.

Pursuant to DepEd Order (DO) 24, s. 2008, or the Institutionalizing of the *Brigada Eskwela* Program, all public schools are directed to "engage all stakeholders to contribute their time, efforts, and resources in ensuring that public schools are all set in time for class opening". The program appeals


to the spirit of *Bayanihan* within private institutions, private individuals, government, and non-government organizations to work hand in hand to ensure that the Department of Education (DepEd) will realize its mission of protecting and promoting the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, culture-based, and complete basic education.

Brigada Eskwela is a school maintenance program conducted nationwide that engages all education stakeholders to contribute their time, efforts, and resources in ensuring that public schools are all set in time for class opening. It is a week-long event where local communities, parents, alumni, civic groups, local businesses, NGOs, private individuals and even teachers and students volunteer their time, skills to do minor to medium repairs and other maintenance work in schools. Volunteers are often motivated to perform such acts by values such as justice, equality, and freedom as expressed in the United Nations Charter. By and large, a society which supports and encourages different forms of volunteering is likely to be a society which also promotes the well-being of its citizens.¹

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) advocates the power of volunteerism. People all over the world over engage in volunteerism for a great variety of reasons: to help to eliminate poverty and to improve basic health and education, to tackle environmental issues, to reduce the risk of disasters or to combat social exclusion and violent conflict. In all of these fields, volunteerism makes a specific contribution by generating well-being for people and their communities. Volunteers are motivated by values like those of justice, equality and freedom as expressed in the United Nations Charter. A society which supports and encourages different forms of volunteering is likely to be a society which also promotes the well-being of its citizens.²

This bill, which aims to strengthen and institutionalize *Brigada Eskawela* Program in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, can help foster understanding to all the sectors of our society that the education of the youth is not only the sole responsibility of the government but, it is the responsibility of everyone. The cooperation of everyone, through inculcating a sense of shared responsibility, is vital to the developing success of every Bangsamoro youth. A mandate of everyone's participation in the implementation of this program can inevitably help provide the pupils and students with a not only a maintained and prepared classroom, but also a clean and conducive learning environment just in time for their first day of classes.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


ENGR. BANTAN ADH-AMPATUAN, MNSA
Author

¹ https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/DO_s2008_024.pdf

² <https://www.unv.org/node/1845/pdf>

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Brigada Eskwela Program Act of 2023*".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the declared policy of the Bangsamoro Government to establish, maintain, and support a complete and integrated system of quality basic education relevant and responsive to the needs, ideals, and aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. Towards this end, the Bangsamoro Government shall mandate all the schools operating within the Bangsamoro Region to participate in the *Brigada Eskwela Program* in order to ensure that schools are adequately prepared for the upcoming school year.

Section 3. Brigada Eskwela Program. - There is hereby created and institutionalized in all public schools, a *Brigada Eskwela Program*, herein referred to as the Program. It shall be the streamlined and central approach in engaging all the

education stakeholders to contribute their time, efforts, and resources in ensuring that all public schools in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region are all set and ready for the class opening.

The program to be mandated at all public schools operating within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall include the following:

- a) Conduct of orientation activities for school heads;
- b) Assessment of the needs of the school;
- c) Implementation of the maintenance and repair activities;
- d) Monitor accomplishments of the identified needs of the school through submission of accomplishment report; and
- e) Conduct of trainings and other relevant seminars to fully sustain the Program.

The program shall be enforced yearly and scheduled two (2) to three (3) weeks prior to the opening of classes without awaiting the release of annual Memorandum or Order from the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE).

Section 4. Brigada Eskwela Committee. - There is hereby created a Committee, which shall plan, provide guidance, and monitor all the public schools operating within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region to comply with the *Brigada Eskwela* Program.

The Committee shall be headed by the Minister of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education. The following shall be its members:

- a) Minister, Ministry of the Interior and Local Government;
- b) Minister, Ministry of Social Services and Development;
- c) Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Youth Commission; and
- d) Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Women Commission.

The Committee shall create a framework that will serve as the blueprint in the implementation of the *Brigada Eskwela* Program.

Section 5. Functions of the Committee. - The Committee shall have the following functions:

- a) Formulate the *Brigada Eskwela* Program;
- b) Create a framework that will serve as a blueprint in the implementation of the *Brigada Eskwela* Program;
- c) Increase public awareness, education, and information on the benefits of the *Brigada Eskwela* Program; and
- d) Prepare an accomplishment report of the Program to be submitted yearly to the Parliament.

Section 6. Implementation and Coordination. - The MBHTE shall have the primary responsibility in the administration and implementation of the *Brigada Eskwela* Program. To ensure the successful implementation of the Program, the following shall also be responsible of the following tasks:

- a) The Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG) shall encourage the support of the local government units (LGU) as partners of MBHTE in the implementation of the Program;
- b) The Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) shall support the MBHTE in the implementation of the Program. It shall support community activities through its food for work or cash for work program;
- c) The Bangsamoro Youth Commission (BYC) shall encourage, advocate, and mobilize the youth to take part in the implementation of the Program; and
- d) The Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC) shall encourage women or parents in the implementation of the Program.

Section 7. Annual Report to the Parliament. - The Committee shall submit a Report to the Parliament within one year from the implementation of this Act, and every year thereafter, on the progress of the program.

Section 8. Coverage of the Program. - This Act shall cover all the public schools operating within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

Public schools shall refer to primary and secondary educational institutions established and administered by the government as defined in Section 26 of Batas Pambansa (BP) Bilang 232. All other schools are to be considered private schools.

Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulation. - Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provision shall be formulated by the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE).

Section 10. Appropriations. - The funds necessary for the strengthening and institutionalizing of the *Brigada Eskwela* Program in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and submitted to the Parliament for its approval.

Section 11. Separability Clause. - If for any cause, any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or contrary to the provisions of Bangsamoro Organic Law, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

Section 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Adopted,


MP ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA
Author