

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY 2
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BTA PARLIAMENT
BTA Resolution No. 430



Introduced by
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RESOLUTION

URGING THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (MENRE) TO APPRISE THE BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT ON THE UPDATED FOREST COVER AND WATER SOURCES OF THE BANGSAMORO REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM)

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article V of Republic Act No. 11054, or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), categorically states that within its territorial jurisdiction, the Bangsamoro Government shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, **enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology**, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among its residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of its inhabitants;

WHEREAS, the same provision states that the Bangsamoro Government shall exercise the power expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare;

WHEREAS, Section 8, Article XIII of the BOL provides that, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bangsamoro Government shall have the power, authority, and right to explore, develop, and utilize the natural resources, including surface and subsurface rights, inland waters, coastal waters, and renewable and nonrenewable resources in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

WHEREAS, the same provision provides that the protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and development of forests, coastal, and marine resources, including the adoption of programs and projects, to ensure the maintenance of ecological balance and biodiversity shall be given priority;

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XIII of the BOL states that the Bangsamoro Government shall develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable development through the proper conservation, utilization, and development through the proper conservation, utilization, and development of the natural resources, which shall guide it in adopting program and policy mechanisms that focus on the environment dimensions of social and economic interventions;

WHEREAS, by definition, forest cover refers to the extent and area of land that is covered by forests, typically measured as a percentage or in hectares¹;

WHEREAS, data provided by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority revealed the forest cover of BARMM at 45 percent or 299,195 hectares of the region's total land area of 1,293,552 hectares²;

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is home to various water sources such as rivers, lakes, groundwater, and other water bodies, that play a crucial role in supporting the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region's ecosystems and communities;

WHEREAS, forest cover and water sources are integral components of the BARMM's natural environment in providing vital ecological services and contributing to the livelihood of the Bangsamoro people;

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), one of the ministries and agencies created by virtue of the BOL, is mandated to be the primary agency responsible for the exploration, utilization, management, conservation, protection and sustainable development of the region's environment, natural resources and potential energy sources³;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study on forest covers and water sources in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region would provide valuable data, insights, and

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/forest-cover>

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1107035>

³ <https://menre.bangsamoro.gov.ph/agencys-mandate-vision-mission-and-list-of-officials/>

recommendations to guide policymakers and stakeholders in policy formulation and decision-making process;

WHEREAS, this comprehensive study will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, land managers, and other stakeholders in formulating effective strategies, policies, and interventions for the conservation and sustainable management of forest cover and water sources in BARMM;


WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Bangsamoro Parliament, as the interim government and policy-making body of BARMM, to be equipped with updated and crucial information about forest cover and water sources in BARMM which can support in its policy-formulation and decision-making related to sustainable management, conservation and utilization of both forest cover and water sources in BARMM; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy should share the result of the study to the Bangsamoro Parliament to inform policy-making.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Bangsamoro Parliament to pass and approve this Resolution urging the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy to apprise the Bangsamoro Parliament on the updated forest cover and water sources of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, for information and appropriate action.

Adopted,


ENGR. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN, MNSA
Author