

# Republic of the Philippines Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY PARLIAMENT



## Bangsamoro Government Center, Cotabato City

#### SECOND REGULAR SESSION

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 418**

RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE LEADERSHIP OF BOTH THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO PRIORITIZE THE CREATION OF THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR THE BANGSAMORO, AND FOR HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT FERDINAND "BONGBONG" MARCOS, JR., TO CERTIFY THE BILL AS URGENT

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples in their ancestral homeland in Mindanao, the Sulu Archipelago, and Palawan have been enduring a recurring history of conflict, displacement, and struggle for self-determination;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2014, the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), which includes, among others, the Annex on Normalization that mandates the establishment of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) to investigate and document the legitimate grievances, historical injustices, human rights abuses, and marginalization faced by the Bangsamoro and Indigenous Peoples, to make recommendations aimed at resolving these issues, and to devise a mechanism for their implementation;

**WHEREAS**, the TJRC presented its report on March 15, 2016, in Cotabato City and on March 16, 2016, in Manila, containing a list of recommendations directed towards a national healing process from the decades-long armed conflict in Mindanao and addressing deep-rooted prejudices between our peoples;

**WHEREAS**, despite recent progress in the implementation of the CAB, delays and challenges persist in the realization of transitional justice within and outside the BARMM;

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Cabinet Cluster Mechanism on Normalization (ICCMN) was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 79, s. 2019 to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made by the TJRC in its report, the core of which are the adoption and implementation of a Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Program (TJRP) and the creation of the National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Bangsamoro (NTJRCB) for this purpose;

**WHEREAS**, it has been seven (7) years since the TJRC report was published, and neither the recommendation for the adoption of a TJRP nor that of the creation of the NTJRCB has been realized, which could greatly affect the undertaking of an exit agreement under the CAB;

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the NTJRCB shall serve as a platform for the victims and its TJRP as a mechanism to seek redress for the legitimate grievances, historical injustices, and human rights violations, to guarantee the non-recurrence of past injustices, and finally, for healing and reconciliation, a necessary step towards the comprehensive implementation of transitional justice measures;

WHEREAS, the National Government, carries the mandate to enact mechanisms that promote justice, peace, and development in all territories of the Philippines, making the support of the President

and the Philippine Congress invaluable and indispensable in establishing a TJRP and the creation of NTJRCB;

**WHEREAS**, the implementation by the Philippine Government of the TJRP and the creation of NTJRCB are vital to the advancement of the peace and development framework in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro people are fortunate to have champions in the Senate and the House of Representatives (HOR) who have taken the cudgels for the establishment of a TJRP and the NTJRCB;

WHEREAS, the legislators that introduced bills on the establishment of a TJRP and the creation of the NTJRCB for the purpose, include: 1) Representative Jose Christopher Belmonte, who filed House Bill No. (HBN) 5669 in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress; 2) Former Anak Mindanao Representative Amihilda J. Sangcopan, who joined Representative Jose Christopher Belmonte in filing HBN 4003 in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress; 3) Representatives Ziaur-Rahman "Zia" Alonto Adiong and Yasser Alonto Balindong, who filed HBN 2975 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress; 4) Representative Mujiv S. Hataman, who filed HBN 4330 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress; 5) Senator Risa Hontiveros, who filed Senate Bill No. (SBN) 1913 in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress and SBN 2043 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress; and 6) Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino, who filed SBN 2392 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress;

**WHEREAS**, HBN 2975 and 4330, and SBN 2043 and 2392 are still pending in the appropriate committees of the HOR and the Senate, respectively;

WHEREAS, the BTA Parliament and the Bangsamoro people are immensely grateful to the aforementioned former and incumbent members of Congress who have devoted their time, expertise, and resources to advocating for the creation of the NTJRCB, which is crucial in furthering the cause for peace, justice, and reconciliation in the Bangsamoro, and ultimately for the completion of the CAB;

WHEREAS, the path towards healing and reconciliation is a long and arduous one that necessitates a nation's commitment, collective action, and deep-rooted understanding for the cause against injustices and tyranny:

### NOW, THEREFORE, be it

**RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, To respectfully urge the leadership of the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives of the Philippines to prioritize the creation of the National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Bangsamoro and for His Excellency, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., to certify the bill as urgent.

**RESOLVED, FURTHER,** To forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of the President, Office of the Senate President, and Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as a manifestation of the gratitude and unity of the Bangsamoro people towards enduring peace and justice.

ADOPTED, Jumada Al-Awwal 06, 1445/November 20, 2023.

PROF. RAI

Attested:

ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDON

Speaker

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