

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

Second Regular Session

BTA PARLIAMENT
BTA Bill No.: 276

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
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Introduced by:

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MPs Ali Montaha D. Babao, Rasul E. Ismael, Tarhata M. Maglangit, Abdulwahab M. Pak

**AN ACT GRANTING FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF MORAL RECOVERY LEAVE TO
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Moral Governance is one of the guiding tenets of the Bangsamoro Government. It has been the rallying call of the leadership in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), in carrying government service, and in shaping the Bangsamoro community its people have long aspired for.

Moral Governance is inscribed in the letters of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code. It institutionalizes a government that is driven by the moral principles of utmost dedication, devotion, honesty, justice, and integrity. It pushes for an administration that is completely devoid of all evils of graft and corruption.

As the BARMM progresses in its pursuit of genuine and meaningful autonomy, it is imperative that we also explore other avenues to further strengthen moral governance. And thus, the submission of this bill.

The Moral Recovery Leave Act aims to supplement the inculcation of moral governance among government officials and employees on a personal and spiritual level. The Moral Recovery Leave Act will provide leave benefits for government officials and employees who wish to fulfill their religious obligations or perform faith-based or spiritual activities, that enhance a renewed sense of moral uprightness. This bill also finds ground in the nationally implemented Moral Recovery Program of the Philippine Government, which espouses ideals that are *Maka-Diyos, Maka-Tao, Maka-Bayan at Maka-Kalikasan*.

The Moral Recovery Leave Act does not intend to favor any particular group or religion in its implementation. Rather, this will also be an accommodation for government officials and employees with diverse belief systems and practices to exercise their religious freedoms.


DR. HASHEMI N. DILANGALEN
Member of the Parliament

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Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Moral Recovery Leave Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to:

1. Ensure and support the general welfare of its people and to improve the public morals of society. It is the primary thrust of the Bangsamoro government to inculcate moral governance among its officials and employees as they render their services to their constituents and
2. Maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and to take effective measures against graft and corruption.

Likewise, pursuant to the Moral Recovery Program, it is the policy of the national government to strengthen the moral resources of the Filipino people rooted in the Filipino culture, values, and ideals that are *Maka-Diyos, Maka-Tao, Maka-Bayan* and *Maka-Kalikasan*, in pursuit of a Filipino nation that is God-centered, people-empowered, prosperous national community living in unity, justice, freedom, love, and peace.

Section 3. Definition. Moral Recovery Leave is the leave benefit granted to all officials and regular and casual employees who subscribe to a religion or belong to a faith or spiritual group.

Section 4. Intent and Purpose. Moral Recovery Leave shall enable entitled employees to take part, observe, or practice religious, faith-based, and/or spiritual traditions and activities deemed to invigorate moral uprightness.

For its purposes, these traditions and activities include but are not limited to pilgrimages, multi-day congregations, and spiritual retreats, such as the *Umrah* or *Hajj* pilgrimage for Muslims, and the pilgrimage to Jerusalem City or Vatican City for Christians.

Section 5. Period and Duration. The Bangsamoro government, as the employer, shall grant a government official or its casual or regular employee a maximum of fifteen (15) calendar days of Moral Recovery Leave. This privilege may be availed of only once in the entire length of service of the concerned official or employee.

Section 6. Non-monetization of the Moral Recovery Leave. The Moral Recovery Leave benefit, if unused, shall not be monetized.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Civil Service Commission shall issue such rules and regulations necessary for the successful implementation of this act within sixty (60) days upon its effectivity.

Section 8. *Non-Diminution of Benefits.* Nothing in this Act shall be construed to reduce any existing benefits of any form granted under existing laws, decrees, executive orders, or collective bargaining agreement or policy between the employer and employee.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain enforceable.

Section 10. *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