

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1833



Introduced By: REPRESENTATIVES SHERNEE A. TAN-TAMBU

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY (BTA), INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ON-GOING PROGRAMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, AND TO LOOK INTO THE ACCOUNTING AND DISBURSEMENT OF ALL FUNDS RELEASED TO THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM), SPECIFICALLY THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, THE ANNUAL BLOCK GRANT, AND SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021 IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FUNDS RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ARE PROPERLY UTILIZED FOR PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE INTENDED, AND TO INSTITUTE LEGISLATIVE MECHANISM FOR AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE GREAT BENEFIT OF THE BANGSAMORO PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the Constitution mandates Congress to enact an organic act for the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao, and in pursuance thereto Republic Act No. 6734, entitled, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ORGANIC FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO" was passed in 1989, barely two (2) years after the ratification of the new Constitution in 1987;

WHEREAS, twelve (12) years later or in 2001, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9054 to strengthen and expand the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in view of the persistent clamor then of some sectors in the ARMM that the original law did not effectively address the needs of the Bangsamoro people;

WHEREAS, the strengthening and expansion of the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao appeared to be insufficient to appease the discontentment of the Bangsamoro people due to the perceived lack of financial resources, and genuine political autonomy, that seventeen years later or in 2018, another law, Republic Act No. 11054 was passed, which expressly repealed Republic Act No. 6734, as amended by Republic Act No. 9054;

WHEREAS, the passage of Republic Act No. 11054 otherwise known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was expected to usher in a new era of efficient and effective regional governance as it specifically addressed the clarion call for genuine political autonomy with sufficient financial resources in order to really attain the most elusive dream of having peace, development and self-determination in some areas in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, under Organic Law for the BARMM, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) is the interim regional government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, which is primarily responsible to implement programs and projects that will effectively address the primordial concerns of the Bangsamoro people and the development of the entire region with vast powers and enormous funds from the national government if only to ensure that the present leadership of the BARMM will not fail in its noble mission for which they were sworn to serve to the best of their abilities;

WHEREAS, a close perusal of Republic Act No. 11465 otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 2020 reveals a total allocation for the BARMM of Seventy five billion and six hundred million pesos (P75.6 Billion) itemized as P7 billion as annual appropriations, P63.6 billion as annual Block Grant and P5 billion as Special Development Fund;

WHEREAS, the BARMM allocation for Fiscal Year 2020 was increased under the 2021 General Appropriations Act as follows: annual appropriation of P8.6 billion; Annual Block Grant of P71.6 billion; and a Special Development Fund of P5 billion;

WHEREAS, only two (2) years after the official turnover of the ARMM to the BARMM or on February 26, 2019, the purpose for which the new Organic Law for the BARMM was enacted, appears not to be attainable with the growing division within the BARMM with some local government officials supporting it while some others are opposing it;

WHEREAS, the observations made by the Commission on Audit (COA) for the speedy implementation of projects under the Bangsamoro Regional Inclusive Development for Growth and Empowerment or BRIGDE Program involving P2.34 billion shelter projects for the construction of 6,650 units of permanent shelters in the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Basilan, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur that had already been awarded in 2018 to certain construction firms but remain unfinished on the date as specified in the contracts are serious concerns that must be looked into to prevent wastage of scarce resources;

WHEREAS, considering the massive funding released to the BARMM, yet there is little progress or development in its area of jurisdiction, coupled with slow progress on the armed front like the decommissioning process where only minimal figures of combatants or 13,500 of the estimated 40,000 MILF fighters were decommissioned, may put in serious doubt the performance of the leadership of the BARMM;

WHEREAS, the foregoing factors may be contributory to the possible loss of confidence in the leadership of the BTA in the management, and the handling of public funds that necessitate a midterm review of performance and scrutiny of expenditures as these have serious repercussions on its proposed extension of the transition period: ***Now therefore, be it***

Resolved by the House of Representatives, To direct the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and the Committee on Local Government to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the performance of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), including the implementation of on-going programs and infrastructure projects, and to look into the accounting and disbursement of all funds released to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), specifically the annual appropriations, the Annual Block Grant, and Special Development Fund for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 in order to determine whether the funds released by the national government are properly utilized for purposes for which they were intended, and to institute legislative mechanism for an efficient and effective local governance for the great benefit of the Bangsamoro people.

Adopted,


SHERNEE A. TAN-TAMBUT
Representative
Kusug Tausug Party List