

Bangsamoro Transition Authority Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

EMPOWERING VOICES

Quarterly Newsletter of the Office of Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph



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IDEAS FOR FOOD SUFFICIENT NEW NORMAL BEGINNINGS IN THE **BANGSAMORO**



The CoViD-19 pandemic all caught us by surprise. No one was ever ready to take on an invisible enemy that is highly mobile and contagious. Everyone-- except the key government officials and staff, frontline health workers and peace and order personnel-- stopped going to work. All schools stopped operation, malls and parks closed, all social events were cancelled. Manufacturing firms and small and medium businesses suffered losses alike. Millions of workers lost jobs. (Continued on page 3)



C) ditorial

MP MAISARA DANDAMUN-LATIPH

Since our last quarterly newsletter publication a lot has changed. With the Covid-19 pandemic, Life as we know it has ended and a new or better normal is now in order.

I say better normal because we can build back a better society that is more equitable, inclusive, greener, safer and fairer.

However, the challenges of Covid-19 as well as the region's multifarious and complex education, health, economic, social, and peace and order problems no doubt hinders this aspiration for a better future.

The Bangsamoro Region today is in a unique point in history. Building of a new government that draws its strength from the foundation of Moral Governance led by Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority meant that Business as Usual is not acceptable anymore. Corruption, Weak Governance, Lack of Accountability must be stopped and eradicated. The laying of new systems, processes and procedures for better governance grounded on transparency, accountability and competence must be the new normal for the Bangsamoro.

Nowhere will this new normal in governance be felt than in the field of education, health and social services as well as economic activity in the Bangsamoro. If we manage to establish effective and accountable systems in social services and also create a stable economy in Bangsamoro, the people will slowly realize that indeed peace has arrived in the Bangsamoro.

Quality, Accessible and Inclusive Education plays a vital role in providing a well-educated and enlightened citizenry that can provide the manpower requirements of a modern and progressive Bangsamoro. The CoViD-19 Pandemic has posed a huge burden for the Bangsamoro whose internet connectivity is estimated at less than 20 percent. How then do we educate our children in this new normal?

In the area of Health, we say that a healthy body and a healthy mind are necessary for the Bangsamoro people particularly where you have more than 65% of the population in the poverty line. We need to establish accessible, safe and affordable quality health care in the Bangsamoro. If there is anything this pandemic has taught us, it is the sorry state of our health care in the Bangsamoro with only one identified level 2 hospital for the entire Bangsamoro Region with a population of around 4 Million and a limited number of ventilators and ICU wards. Indeed, if we do not improve the health care system there is a real danger that in this pandemic the poorest region in the entire country will suffer the most.

In the field of social services, much has to be done for distribution of the social welfare assistance to the most affected and at-risk and vulnerable in the region. Data shows that in the entire country Bangsamoro Region has the lowest number of beneficiaries of the Social Amelioration Program and Cash Subsidy under the Bayanihan Heal as One Act. This is ironic, considering that according to the latest Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data BARMM is the poorest among the regions in the Philippines with its population at 65% in the poverty line. How come we have the lowest number of beneficiaries of SAP? Thus, there must be a good and accurate way to identify the beneficiaries of government assistance during pandemic and calamities. I filed BTA Bill No. 54 or an "Act instituting a credible and responsive system in determining eligible beneficiaries affected by pandemic in Bangsamoro." This bill is in response to the several complaints during the height of successive lockdowns from the months of March to May 2020 that they were not included in the SAP or Cash Subsidy and did not know why even if they are most affected and belong to the most vulnerable sector.

Our Office has provided several webinars on Food Security and Sovereignty, Education in New Normal with Usec. Diosdado San Antonio of DepEd, MBHTE, Superintendents of Lanao, Parent Representative and Local Government Representative, and also New Normal for Young People. Also, we have 6,859 total beneficiaries for our Tabang for Vulnerable for Covid-19 Pandemic in Aid of Legislation, our Women of the Year 2020 in honor of Women in the fields of Community, Youth and Government Service in celebration

of Women's Month last March. As well as Poster Making in honor of Frontliners, Farmers for Backyard Gardening, and VLog contest for Tourism.

As a direct result of the Tabang for Vulnerable in Aid of Legislation we filed BTA Bill No. 54 as well as seven (7) other Proposed Resolutions. The latest one on PR No. 251 expressing serious concerns on the constitutionality of the Anti-Terrorism Bill of 2020.

For the rest of the 3rd Quarter we hope to update you again on our work in the Parliament particularly on the priority legislations like the Administrative Code, Education Code, Civil Service Code, Electoral Code, Local Government Code and Revenue Code as well as our Budget for 2021. It is important to include the voices of the marginalized and vulnerable in these legislations.

Until then, Stay Healthy and Stay Safe!

EMPOWERING VOICES

Quarterly Publication of the Office of Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph Bangsamoro Transition Authority Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

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..CONTINUED FROM NEW NORMAL BEGINNINGS FROM PAGE 1

According to Inquirer.Net, citing the National Socio-Economic Planning office, the country has already lost around 2.2 trillion pesos. From this amount, 1.919 trillion or 87 percent are losses in profit and wages. We are facing a "double pandemic." says the World Food Program early in May. Global Hunger is expected to rise especially in poorer nations that are less resilient to the ill effects of the downward trend in the world's economies

As it is really not in our nature to suffer and do nothing, the office of MP Maisara has began looking into some ways that can help us survive through the pandemic and triumph over the new limitations of living in the New Normal.

Food First

In late December, when CoViD-19 still felt distant, the Office of MP Maisara reached out to the women in Butig. Lanao del Sur who voiced out their need for sources of food and livelihood. They are mostly the widows of men who sacrificed their lives so that we can have what we are enjoying right now -- fuller autonomy and the chance to make things better in the Bangsamoro. Under the Women Empowerment and Livelihood Initiative for Peace (WeLiveforPeace) program, the war widows participated in the vegetable garden growing seminar organized by the office. The seminar taught 32 women widows, solo parents, and youth the various techniques to growing vegetables quickly and maintaining them, as well as livelihood alternatives for rural women.

In this program, the rich clay loam soil and eager willingness of women made it possible for participants to start harvesting their vegetables early. Within two (2) to four (4) months after planting, [no.] participants harvested squash, okra, snow cabbage, string beans and other varieties. With plenty of vegetables available just around the house, families of participants are eating healthier. "When fish is not available or we do not have money to buy it, we have a variety of vegetables" to mix and match, says Nanay Saripa (Mother Saripa), a seminar participant. She adds that the pandemic has not affected them so much during the enhanced community quaratine because they had a food source within their own backyard.





EOUIPPING PEOPLE TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD

In December 2019, the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that the poorest provinces in the nation in 2018 were Sulu with a poverty incidence* of 81.8 percent followed by Basilan with 72.8 percent and Lanao del Sur with 71.2 percent. The national average was at 16.6 percent.

This means that for Lanao del Sur, an estimated population of 1,045,429 (based on the 2015 population census) will turn in 747,345 living below the poverty threshold. The population estimate for 2020 for the province is 1.225.700. As the CoViD-19 pandemic continues, measures to avoid further spiralling down poverty lane should be prioritized. Equipping people to grow their own food is one of the most effective and direct ways that local governments can invest in people's survival capacity through local policy that appropriates funds and personnel to support the food production of local communities.

*According to the PSA: "Poverty incidence (PI) is the proportion of families/individuals with per capita income/expenditure less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of families/individuals." Plainly speaking, the proportion of poor Filipinos whose income is not sufficient to meet their basic food and non-food



"Eating healthier...We have a variety of vegetables to mix and match."

What we gained in WELiveforPeace is solid evidence that going back to the old normal of the "Bahay Kubo" with all sorts of vegetables all around the home is a strategic new beginning for the New Normal.

Combined with a well-motivated people and an enabling government, the time to act for food sufficiency is always now. In practical terms, legislation at the parliament and local legislative councils, and policy from the ministries and local chief executives can ensure that people are led to hopeful new normal beginnings by supplying abundant seeds, gardening skills and implements, and sustainable vegetable-growing supplies.

Increasing rice production

How about rice, which is our staple food? Going around the communities in the province of Lanao del Sur, we are reminded of our rich heritage. The Ranao (Lake Lanao) is abundant with water, surrounded by fertile soil where almost anything can grow-vegetables, corn, coconut, rice; livestock thrive; and, fish aplenty.

In our technical working group prior to the filing of MP Maisara's "Ranao Development Authority" bill in the Bangsamoro Parliament, we learned how the water drawn down from lake power the other regions of Mindanao. While the lake waters benefit the communities below, we ask how about those above? There were many questions and answers at that time. But one thing for sure, the Lake People are not compensated for the use of waters from their Lake.

PSA data for the second quarter of 2019 shows that much of Palay production in the region are composed of rain-fed farms at 68.45 percent and irrigated farms at 31.55 percent. With a yield of 102,118.54 metric tons, an increase of 23.66 percent from 82,582.00 metric tons in the same period in 2018, the top rice producers were Maguindanao with 64.12 percent of the yield and Lanao del Sur with 35.77 percent.

In Lanao del Sur where water from the Ranao still runs plenty, will it benefit the province if the regional government, with sufficient feasibility study, begin bringing irrigation to a portion of the rainfed farms?

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform in Lanao del Sur (MAFAR-LDS) data indicates 15,000 hectares of rain-fed rice farms and around 5,000 to 6,000 hectares irrigated. Poona Bayabao municipality yields the biggest rice yield in the province. In this municipality, almost all rice farms are irrigated.

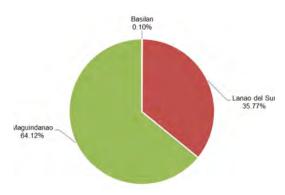


Ricefield in Butig, Lanao del Sur

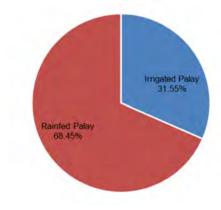


Local chief executives can ensure that people are led to hopeful new normal beginnings by providing abundant seeds, gardening skills training and implements, and sustainable vegetable-growing supplies.

Percent distribution of Palay Production in the region 2019, PSA



Percent distribution of Palay Production in the region by Farmtype, 2nd Quarter 2019, PSA





Will it benefit the province if we begin bringing more irrigation to the rain-fed farms?

10 STEPS TO A UEGGIE GARDEN

- 1. <u>Choose the right location-plenty</u> of sun, ample space and close proximity to your hose or water source. Find a level area to help prevent erosion.
- 3. <u>Prepare the soil.</u> Mix compost and natural fertilizers into your garden to condition the soil for your plants. Garden-supply stores can test the acidity of your soil and recommend supplements, or you can simply purchase specially made soil in bulk.
- 4. <u>Check planting dates of seeds</u>- Growing conditions and ripening cycles are different depending on the plant and the season. Planting dates can be found on seed packets
- 5. <u>Plant the seeds.</u> Place your seeds or plants into the soil, following the depth and spacing directions carefully.
- 6. <u>Water.</u> Gently spray the garden with water to keep the soil evenly moist throughout the growing season. Purchase a spray nozzle for your hose so you can create a gentle rain-like mist for your garden.

7. Keep the weeds out.

- 8. Give your plants room to grow. Remove crowded seedlings right away.
- 9. <u>Fertilize as needed.</u> Lightly till the soil by hand and add fertilizer to keep it rich. You can purchase prepared garden fertilizer or make your own from items like eggshells and kitchen compost.
- 10. <u>Harvest vegetables when they're young and tender</u>—but only pick them when you plan to use them. <u>Pull root crops as soon as they reach edible size</u>. Collect leaf crops by cutting them to within 2 inches of the ground. Enjoy!

Source: National Gardening Association www.garden.org

Community Gardens - the more the merrier

Especially in communities where there is no local transmission, barangay officials and *purok* leaders can lead the cultivation of community gardens where members of the community take turns in tending to the garden. Community harvests complement the backyard garden yields. More food means less worries for local leaders in supplying the food needs of their constituents.

Community markets - bring back the Talipapa

The older generations will remember the days before the shopping malls occupied our imaginations of what happiness is. Back in the earlier days, the *talipapa*, a small wet market situated right within the community was the go-to place for buying vegetables, fish, poultry and meat. It opens in the early morning at lasts only up to early afternoon. Now that we prefer to stay and move within the safety of our own communities, the setting up of community markets is a timely intervention that local officials can wisely invest in. Residents will not have to go to the *poblacion* or the nearest city because they can find their fresh food to cook just within the neighborhood.

TO IRRIGATE OR NOT

In a 1998 study entitled "Bridging the Rice Yield Gap in the Philippines," conducted by Leocadio S. Sebastian, Pedro A. Alviola, and Sergio R. Francisco under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (URL:http://www.fao.org/3/x6905e/x6905e0b.htm), it was recommended that expanding the Irrigated areas for rice production is one way to increase output. "With the favourable crop environment afforded by irrigated areas, not only cropping intensity is doubled, but also yield."

Culling from historical data, the researchers found that "irrigated ecosystem has a yield advantage of more than one ton per hectare compared to rain-fed areas yields." The study shows that a previously rain-fed farm can increase yield up to around 60 percent when irrigated. Irrigation should always be combined with improving maintenance, timely delivery of the required inputs of production such as, quality seeds and sustainable fertilizer.

The researchers also cited the need to "strengthen further the existing extension systems in the country. Without an efficient extension system, technologies generated will not find their own way to the farmers."

This study was 22 years ago. How much of the researchers' recommendations can be held true now?

A related study, "Benefit-cost Analysis of the Resurgent Irrigation System Program of the Philippines," by Roehlano M. Briones conducted in 2008, (URL: https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1 847.pdf) cautions against putting in too much costs into irrigation such that "costs of irrigation investment are too large in comparison with expected benefits." The researchers proposed approaching irrigation projects with caution and to make "credible projections concerning future crop and non-crop benefits of proposed irrigation projects."

Barter

Without being told, online barters have become one of the must fun happening in the New Normal. Online or physical (with distancing and masks, of course), food and other needs, including the non-basic items, are now being traded, without the need for money. One of the roles of government, the local officials especially, can be to provide guidelines and services to ensure the safety and protection of everyone.

Social Enterprises now more than ever

Social Enterprises (SEs) have the critical role to play in sustainably maximizing the use of local resources such as food and raw materials and generating income for the community. The palapa, which grows plenty in Lanao del Sur, is continually gaining recognition as a quality condiment, reaching new markets. What other food and non-food raw produce can become SE products for selling within and outside of the province?

Community food sufficiency projects address food supply inequity but are usually underfunded, For the New Normal, let's encourage local policy makers and political leaders give more resources into this effective strategic poverty-reduction approach.

ANALYSIS OF THE MBHTE GUIDELINES FOR THE EDUCATION CONTINUITY PLAN FOR SY 2020-2021

by Laarnie B. Racman, Ph.D.

With great passion, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) conducted a series of meetings and consultations with education officials, partners, learners and parents and formulated adaptive strategies for Basic, Madaris, Higher, and Technical Education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

After comprehensive and thorough discussions, and in consideration of existing policies, the Ministry adopted the following principles in determining and implementing appropriate measures during the pandemic:

- The principle of Moral Governance in which the Ministry will perform its mandate and execute its policies, plans, programs, projects, services, and activities.
- Stay at Home, Stay Learning.
- The Ministry will prioritize the safety and well-being of all learners, education personnel, and other education stakeholders.
- The schools and learning institutions will continue to deliver education services that are "relevant to the needs of the people, the country and the society-at-large" in a manner that is appropriate, feasible and compliant to the minimum health and safety standards and directives from BARMM-IATF. MOH and other proper authorities.
- Education stakeholders, parents, community leaders, and local government units will be involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities and interventions relative to the continuity of education service delivery.
- Given the current context and until the situation improves, home-based or distance learning shall be the preferred modality. However, face-to-face learning in school and other training centers maybe employed if and when local situation and public health measures allow.
- Schools and other learning institutions shall continue to function as learning hubs where learners can access facilities and other learning equipment and materials that may not be available at home such as libraries, playgrounds, laboratories, internet connectivity, technical and vocational workshops, and training facilities.

In the implementation of this Education Continuity Plan, the Ministry will ensure provision of technical, logistics, financial, and other necessary support to its schools, Madaris, division offices, district offices, Guidelines on Technical Education and Skills Development (TESD) training centers and provincial offices, and higher education institutions.

During implementation of these guidelines, the Ministry will consider the responsibilities, duties, and workloads of its teaching and non-teaching personnel at the schools, Madaris, division offices, district offices, TESD training centers and provincial offices, and higher education institutions. Republic Act No. 11032 also known as Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 shall be adhered.

There are also prepared sectoral education continuity plan guidelines for strict compliance and guidance these are the, Guidelines for Basic Education, Guidelines for Madaris Education, for Technical Education, and Guidelines Guidelines for Higher Education.

- a. For the Guidelines on Basic Education, all corners were deeply planned and prepared like enrolment, pre-opening of the classes, formal opening of the school year 2020-2021, teachers and personnel development arrangements, teaching and learning processes, education for learner in difficult circumstances, curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities, safety and well-being measures, Parents and stakeholder engagements, and closing of the school year 2020-2021.
- b. For the Guidelines on Madaris Education and Islamic studies, it involves the enrolment, the opening of classes for school year 2020-2021, the modalities that will be used, the traditional Madrasah and Islamic Learning Centers, the Alive/Isal teachers/Asaatidz, and the closing of the school year 2020-2021.
- c. For the TESD, it focuses on enrolment, start of classes, training delivery, flexible learning in TVET, completion of training, administrative protocols. and communication channel in the new normal. Indeed all are very important to look up to.
- d. For the Guidelines on Higher Education, it includes objective, scope and coverage, completion of academic year 2019-2020 and the conduct of 2020 summer classes, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) learning continuity plans, enrolment and opening of classes for ay 2020-21, health and safety protocols of HEIs, alternative or flexible learning systems, capacity development and readiness of HEIs, and HEI's work arrangements.

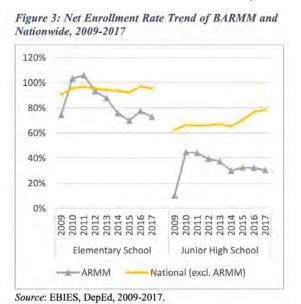
NOTES RELEVANT TO EDUCATION IN BARMM

As of 22 June 2020, the MBHTE stated that there are 329,215 students enrolled for School Year 2020-2021. Compared to last year, which had 890,985, the enrolment this year is 63% lower. To reflect further, here are notes from research and government data that can be considered by legislators and policy makers, local chief executives, school administrators and teachers. Implementing distance/online learning until a vaccine becomes available is an additional concern to the challenges we were already facing previously. As we see here, the region already had low enrolment and high drop out rates in the past years. How will the Learning Continuity Plan increase enrolment and decrease dropout? What policies and mechanisms will we need? Online learning is also a challenge as many of our areas are not well connected even with medium speed internet. Here are some facts:

• "Only 1 out of every 10 students who began primary education in BARMM would eventually graduate from lower secondary education on time. If there were 10 children living in BARMM, at best eight out of those 10 children would enter Grade 1 on time, but only five would complete Grade six.. Two out of the four children who graduate from elementary school would enroll in Junior High School. Only one (1) child out of that 10-child cohort would complete Grade 10 on time. This leaves nine children for every 10 who are out of school without completing the full basic education cycle." -"Unlocking the Potential of the Bangsamoro People through the Alternative Learning System" The World Bank Report, 11 October 2019

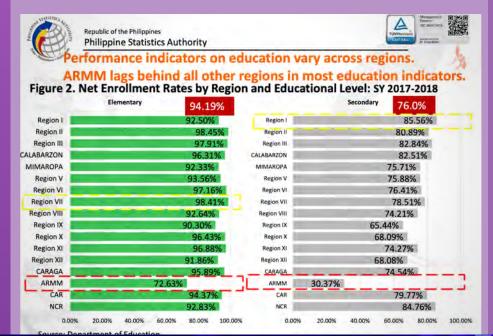
- We consistently ranked lowest among the regions in the annual National Achievement Test for elementary and high school students, largely attributing it to the region's unstable peace and order problem. -Department Education, 2018
- · We consistently had the lowest primary and secondary enrolment rates for both female and male students (for the past many years). -Philippine Statistics Authority, data as of latest School Year 2017-2018
- · By region, the percentage of women who have completed secondary school or more is highest in NCR (80%), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) (74%), and CALABARZON (73%). Women in BARMM (37%) and Zamboanga Peninsula (48%) are least likely to have completed secondary school or higher. -National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) 2017

Screenshots from The World Bank Report, 2019, using data from the Department of Education





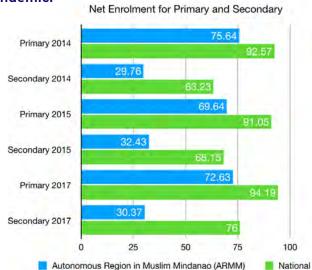
Source: EBIES, DepEd, 2009-2017.

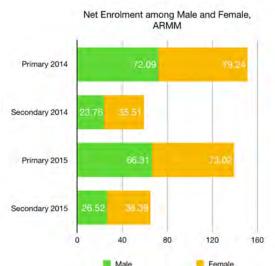


A screenshot of the presentation by Patricia Anne R. San Buenaventura, **Chief Statistical Specialist, Statistical** Standards Division, Standards Service, Philippine Statistics Authority, International Workshop on Data Disaggregation for the Sustainable Development Goals; 30 January 2019. Notice that while the net enrolment for elementary at the national is at 94.19%, the rate for ARMM was at 72.63%. At the secondary level, net enrolment for that national was at 76 % while it was at 30.37 % for ARMM.

maisaralatiph

As the graphs from the NDHS 2017 show, net enrolment was lowest in our region compared to national averages. Within the region, secondary schooling had significantly lower net enrolment compared to primary. Males had lower net enrolment percentage compared to females. Expect secondary school enrolment rate to go down further unless we address the problems, in addition to the ill-effects of the pandemic.



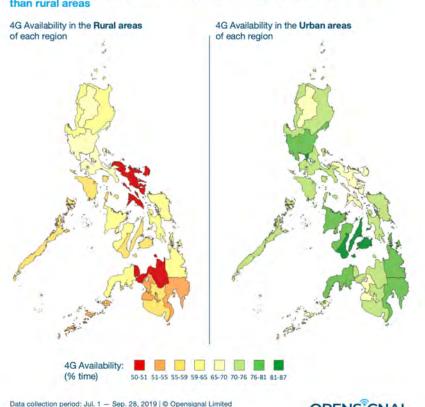


Recommended download speed per one user for online activities

from the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) 2012 report, United States URL: https://elearningindustry.com/bandwidth-schools-bandwidth-need

Activity	Recommended Download Speed (Average for a single user)		
Email and web browsing	500 Kbps		
Download a 1 MB digital book in 5.3 seconds	1.5 Mbps		
Online learning	250 Kbps		
HD-quality video streaming	4 Mbps		
Skype-group video session (7-10 people)	8 Mbps		
Download a 6144 movie in 8 minutes	100 Mbps		
Current generation multiple choice assessment	64 Kbps/student		

Regional 4G Availability is on average 14 percentage points higher in urban than rural areas



There are 73 million users of Internet in the Philippines (January 2020) but what generation of mobile technology do we need for online learning? By experience, we need at least 3G for individual learning. Teachers who will conduct online classes and create and send data and video should, ideally, have 4G connection.

Generations and Internet speeds

1G -Simple telephony service without the data 2G - Digital signal up to 250Kbps speed, you can do voice, text and (slow) data services 3G - With 200Kbps up to 3Mbps speed, you can have medium speed and download video 4G - You can get up 100Mbps for mobile access, up to 1Gbps for wireless access 4G LTE - LTE (Long Term Evolution) is one of the two standards offered within 4G, and WiMax being the second one. The specification calls for downlink speed of up to 300Mbps and uplink speed of up to 75Mbps.

The map on the left shows the BARMM rural areas rural areas with 4G Availability at 55% and less, and urban areas with up to 70 percent and less.

@mpmaisara

Urban-rural definitions from Philippines Statisti

ANG PAG-AARAL NG ISANG BATANG BAKWIT SA PANAHON NG NEW NORMAL

Ni Sittie Joharah M. Pacalundo

Ang pag-aaral ay isang pundasyon para sa magandang buhay ng ating mga kabataan. Isang kalidad edukasyon ang maaaring na maging susi laban sa kahirapan na pangunahing problema ngayon ng ating bansa.

kasagsagan ng Noong Marawi Siege, libo-libong bata ang napilitang tumigil sa kanilang pag-aaral dala ng pangyayaring ito. Makalipas ang tatlong taon, pandemya ulit pumukaw sa agam-agam ng mga mag-aaral na bakwit. Maraming mga magulang ang nag-aalala na baka matigil ulit ang pag-aaral ng kanilang mga anak dahil walang sapat na kapasidad ang ordinaryong bakwit isang makipagsabayan sinasabi sa nilang new normal.

Si Ombak ay isang batang IDPs na mula sa Ground Zero. Ang tanging ikinabubuhay ng kanilang pamilya ay pagtitinda ng mga sari-saring kakanin tulad ng bicho-bicho, maroya, banana-que at iba pa tuwing umaga at hapon. Sa isang araw, nakakabenta sila ng 200 pesos, at kapag sineswerte naman ay 300 pesos ang benta nila na siyang tanging pinaghuhugutan nila ng gastusin sa pang arawaraw.



Pangarap ni Naif, 8 taong gulang, na makapag-aral bilang nars. Grade 3 na sana siya sa pasukan subalit kailangan niyang bumalik sa Grade 2 dahil sa palipat-lipat bilang bakwit. Ang kanyang tatay ay traysikel drayber at di sapat ang kita upang maka-adjust kung sakaling mangailangan ng gadgets at Internet connection bilang bahagi ng New Normal learning.

Ang pamilya ni Ombak ay isa lamang sa libo-libong pamilya ng bakwit na hanggang ngayon ay nakikipag sapalaran sa iba't ibang temporary shelters. Ang iba naman ay patuloy na umuupa or nakikitira pa rin sa kanilang mga kamag-anak. Gustohin man nilang makapag-aral ng maayos ang kanilang mga anak, wala silang ibang choices kundi ang maghintay sa kung ano man ang concrete plan sa kanila ng gobyerno dahil kung ang mangyayari ay ang sinasabi nilang online classes o ang pag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng makabagong teknolohiya, marahil na libo-libong bata ulit ang mapipilitang tumigil muna mag-aral dahil hindi nila kakayanin ang gastusin sa ating new normal, maliban lamang kung may suporta na ibibigay sa kanila ang ating gobyerno tulad ng gadgets at internet connection.

Ang epekto ng Marawi Siege ay patuloy na narararamdaman ng karamihan sa mga IDPs at ngayon na may panibagong sakuna ang yumanig sa kanila, saan at paano pa kaya sila makakabangon? Patuloy silang nagdadasal na sana'y matapos na lahat ng pagsubok na ito sa kanila upang sa ganun ay makatotohanan na silang makakabangon mula sa bangungot ng Marawi Siege at Covid-19.

Tulad ng isang ordinaryong bata, ang isang batang bakwit ay may karapatan din na makapag-aral ng maayos, saan mang lugar siya naroroon. Karapatan din niyang mangarap na balang araw ay mabibigyan din niya ng magandang buhay ang kanyang pamilya.

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO IN THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC?*



Help stop the spread. Follow the quarantine guidelines in your community. Promote the right information. Correct any misinformation right away.



Think of ways to help your family and community can cope and adjust to the New Normal way of living, e.g., help someone in need, volunteer for support online, join an online barter group, grow in faith.



Plan your day or week. Set the days and time of the things you would like to do, This can be similar to your school class schedules.



Read a book or learn online. There are so many free learning courses online. Can you list here some of the courses you would like to study?



Use your knowledge and talents to inspire others.

Write a book, poem or song. Make a film. You can share quotes or even an entire book that is relevant and interesting to others. With guidance from your parents/guardian when under 18 years old, find ways to earn income safely. Others create digital artwork or greeting cards



CANVA.COM IMAGES

Share in the house and care work. Both males and females should help clean the house, wash the dishes, take care of the elderly or younger brother or sister. Help in the home garden.

*Taken from the online Facebook live discussion of the MP Maisara

HOW SMART ARE WE?

Lifted from the findings of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), study released in 2018 where regions in the Philippines except BARMM participated showed the country lagging behind other countries.

Reading Literacy

- Filipino students obtained an average score of 340 points in Overall Reading Literacy, which was significantly lower than the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average of 487 points.
- In the Philippines, female students performed significantly better than male students in Overall Reading Literacy with a 27-point difference.
- Majority of male students (84.82%) and female students (76.90%) did not obtain the minimum proficiency level (Level 2) in Overall Reading Literacy.
- Filipino students from private schools averaged 390 points, which was significantly higher than public school students who averaged 328 points.
- The mean Reading Literacy score of students residing in urban communities (355 points) was significantly higher than the mean score of those living in rural communities (313 points).

Mathematical Literacy

- Filipino students achieved an average score of 353 points in Mathematical Literacy, which was significantly lower than the OECD average of 489 points.
- Among the participating ASEAN countries, Filipino students performed closest to but significantly behind Indonesian students by 26 points in Mathematical Literacy.
- The average Mathematical Literacy score of female students (358 points) was significantly higher than that of male students (346 points).

- The average Mathematical Literacy score of students in private schools (395 points) was significantly higher than the average score of those in public schools (343 points).
- The National Capital Region (NCR) achieved the highest Mathematical Literacy average score across all the administrative regions with 385 points.
- The mean Mathematical Literacy score of students in urban areas (365 points) was significantly higher than that of students in rural areas (329 points).

Scientific Literacy

- Filipino students attained an average score of 357 points in Scientific Literacy, which was significantly lower than the OECD average of 489 points.
- Female students obtained an average score of 359 points for Scientific Literacy, which was slightly higher but not significantly different from the average score of male students (355 points).
- Students from private schools scored an average of 399 points in Scientific Literacy, which was significantly higher than that of public school students who averaged at 347 points.
- The National Capital Region (NCR) achieved the highest Scientific Literacy scores across all the administrative regions included in the study.



Filipino students
attained an average
score of 357 points in
Scientific Literacy,
which was significantly
lower than the OECD
average of 489 points.

MP Maisara's Women of the Year





by Lainisah Maruhom Sumpingan

On Wednesday, June 24, 2020, awardees were three women gathered for their awarding ceremony dubbed as, "Search for the Women of the year 2020 in Lanao del Sur". This program is an initiative of the Office of MP Atty. Dandamun-Latiph celebration of the National Women's Month last March 2020.

This program aims to showcase the role of women by recognizing their great The contributions in society. women nominees were assessed based on their leadership. community commitment. educational accomplishment. engagement in volunteer works.

The Woman in Youth Service award was given to Jalilah H. Sapiin, the Woman in Community Service award to Sohailah Balt, and the Woman in Government Service award to Soraida Sarigala.

Chosen from among other equally inspiring nominees, the winners were selected for their demonstrated commitment— sharing their time and talent in many ways that benefit the community.

They delivered exceptional achievements in civic endeavors outside their professional obligations. They also demonstrated commitment to life-long learning expansion of their own personal professional resources. They have a "sense of volunteerism" both in work and community service as seen in their willingness to lend free services to the people.

Jalilah H. Sapiin is a teacher by profession. Her husband is a policeman. She and her family conduct relief operations and other assistance to support people who need help. Since the quarantines, Jalilah has been doing work-from-home.

"It is harder to work from home because of the scarcity of technology sometimes. We have difficulty getting internet connection," Jal said. Amidst the pandemic, Jalilah started helping 40 families within her own neighborhood and then conducted a series of relief operations. "The first ones we helped were our neighbors during the lockdowns. Government is conducting numerous relief operations. However, our neighbours were not reach by relief operations."

Jalilah believes that being soft-hearted is one of the strengths of women . "Women should use their hearts. When we know someone is hurting or suffering, let us help them. It is not about gender but about who is willing to help."

in Lanad del Sur 2020 Winners





Johaila Balt is a district supervisor in Butig municipality. The pandemic brought many changes in her life but she sees the pandemic has advantages disadvantages. She believes that despite the limitations that the people have been enduring, there are always positive things in life to expect such as having closer family ties, which people have been ignoring before the pandemic. The pandemic also gave time for people to spend more time praying.

Johaila believes that women nowadays are more determined than before. They have been exposed to idea that women can be in the home, office or out in the field for community engagement. Problems are not hindrances but a chance for us to help the community.

Her message to other women: "We need to exercise leadership not just for others but for our own selves as well. If we do not strive, we will lose in the fight against the pandemic. We have to act and move on so we can cope with our losses." Johaila also encourages women to enjoy everything and engage themselves in gardening, sewing or make use of any resources around us as a habit.

Soraida Sarigala is a media anchor by profession. She is a "Sumbungan ng Bayan," discussing issues and attending to listeners' concerns. In March 2020, when she saw vendors who cannot afford face masks, she started partnerships with concerned groups and friends to help provide for people's needs.

Soraida believes that women have the ability to empathize with those who are most affected by the pandemic. Women understand the needs of other women and children, especially those who have less in life.

"Habang may buhay may pag-asa. Huwag mawalan ng pag-asa and keep going. At ang pinaka importante ay ang ating connection sa Allah." (As long as we are alive, there is hope. Do not lose hope and just keep going, Most important of all is our connection to Allah.)

> If we do not strive. we will lose in the fight against the pandemic. We have to act and move on so we can cope with our losses

TABANG PROGRAM CONTINUES

REPORT (MAY 2020) Office of MP Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph TABANG FOR VULNERABLE "A Response Project To Covid-19 Outbreak in Aid Of Legislation" HATID-FOOD PACKS **ESTUDYANTE** 6,246 STUDENTS (Senior citizens, widows, IDPs, drivers, & vendors) (including 20 out-of-school-youth) MADARIS STUDENTS

In April and May 2020, the Office of MP Maisara continued its Tabang program in April bringing 6,859 the May, to total beneficiaries reached by the office.

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

In April and May, the relief packs of the Tabang program reached families, schools and individuals in Sultan sa Mastura in Maguindanao; Matungao in Lanao del Norte; Saguiran, Tugaya, Malabang, Marantao, Masiu and Binidayan in Lanao del Sur; Barangays Pantaon Shelter and Papandayan, and Boganga Temporary Shelter in Marawi Opol in Misamis Oriental as a Bangsamoro Community Outside of BARMM (BCO-BARMM).

MP Maisara continues to extend help to vulnerable families and sectors, providing any form of assistance as requested by its beneficiaries.

The forms of assistance include food relief, medical, cash, and transportation assistance. Beneficiaries of this Tabang Internally Program were Displaced Persons. ustadhz. drivers, widows, vendors, senior citizens, and stranded Morit, students and orphans.

Photos below show the Marawi-based staff of MP Maisara equipped with their surgical masks as they went to communities, working with local partners, to distribute food and other relief packs to families, delivered within the neighborhood or right at the doorstep.





When the lockdown started in March, the Office of MP Maisara immediately started its program on "Tabang for Vulnerable," a COVID-19 Response Project giving relief assistance to our fellow Bangsamoro within and outside BARMM in Aid of Legislation. The Office has reached more than 6,500 beneficiaries including senior citizens, widows, solo parents, IDPs, PWDs, pedicab divers, vendors, stranded students, orphans, and Madaris students.

Along the relief journey of the Office, the Office of the Interim Chief Minister (ICM) Ahod B. Ebrahim shared the same sentiments and vision for the Bangsamoro people. The Office of ICM initiated a program entitled "Rice Assistance for BARMM constituents affected by COVID-19." His Office handed 16,000 sacks of 50kg rice to the (80) members of parliament. Each MP received 10,000kg of rice equivalent to 200 sacks of 50kg to be distributed to those who belong to the vulnerable sectors or persons who are adversely affected by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In the coordination with the Office of MP Dr. Marjanie Macasalong, the Office received the 200 sacks of 50kg rice. Since the Office is also championing the Environment Sector, it decided to use an eco-friendly bag printed on it the Office of ICM and the Office of MP Maisara. It is also a special tribute to ICM for entrusting the Office the delivery of rice assistance to the most-in-need Bangsamoro constituents.

The moment the rice sacks were received, the staff of MP Maisara, together with the volunteers from Sugod Islamic Youth Movement (SIYM) of Tugaya immediately repacked and produced 650 packs of 5kg and 675 packs of 10kg for the Vulnerable and At-Risk Families in Marawi City and Municipalities of Lanao del Sur. The Office has produced a total of 1,325 rice packs. The list of beneficiaries was produced by the staff and submitted to the Office of MP Macasalong before the distribution.

With the help of the staff and volunteers who tirelessly worked even under the heat of the sun, the Office has reached a total of 1,325 beneficiaries from the Municipalities of Bacolod Kalawi, Marantao, Butig, Bubong, Taraka, Marawi City, Tugaya, Lumbatan, Pualas, and Masiu, Lanao del Sur.

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph extended sincerest gratitude to the Interim Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim, MP Dr. Marjanie Macasalong, and to all the staff and the volunteers for making this program possible.

The Office may not have reached all the vulnerable sectors and at-risk families. but it will continue to reach out to other and within outside Bangsamoro Region.

--Laarnie Racman, Ph.D.

THE OFFICE OF MP MAISARA THANKS ICM FOR THE 10,000 KG RICE **ASSISTANCE**





Photos below show MP Maisara's staff distributing packs to communities

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 10,000 KG RICE DISTRIBUTION

Date	Area	Kilos of Rice	No. of Beneficiari es	Total Kilos of Rice
May 15, 2020	Bacolod Kalawi, Lanao del Sur	5 Kg/pack	200	1,000
May 19, 2020	Marantao, Lanao del Sur	10 Kg/pack	75	750
	Butig , Lanao del Sur	10 Kg/pack	100	1,000
May 20, 2020	Bubong, Lanao del Sur	10 Kg/pack	75	750
	Taraka, Lanao del Sur	5 Kg/pack	100	500
May 21, 2020	Marawi City	10 Kg/pack	125	1,250
	Marawi Temporary Shelters	5 Kg/pack	50	250
	Tugaya, Lanao del Sur	10 Kg/pack	75	750
	Lumbatan, Lanao del Sur	5 Kg/pack	50	250
May 23, 2020	Tugaya, Lanao del Sur	5 Kg/pack	250	1,250
May 26, 2020	Pualas, Lano del Sur	10 Kg/pack	75	750
May 27, 2020	Masiu, Lanao del Sur	10 Kg/pack	150	1,500
TOTAL			1,325	10,000

A GLIMPSE AT A MODERN-DAY HERO

by Hana T. Yusoph

Let us take a look at our 'Modern-Day Heroes' who selflessly perform their jobs during the CoViD-19 pandemic despite the hardships and health risks.

Meet Shahanie B. Baulo, or "Shanie" for short, 22 years old, a field staff nurse. She is a member of the CoViD-19 Surveillance Team - City Health Office (CHO) Marawi City. She just passed the licensure exam last year, 2019, and went straight for a job at the CHO because she wants to serve the Bangsamoro people especially those in the periphery, the poor and the needy.

She faces the everyday challenges of a health frontliner - physically and mentally exhausted, experiencing the feelings of fear, anger, anguish, panic and anxiety. The fear for what will happen next, the anger over the unseen enemy taking away innocent lives, the sadness over the rapidly increasing mortality and morbidity rates, the panic attacks felt every time the 'what ifs' anxiety comes. Shanie confides that every night before sleep is a struggle to find peace and calm.

perseverance, Shanie overcomes challenges through prayer and motivation from her family. "Continue to chase your passion and dreams with a purpose. Do it for yourself and for the people who need you. Always give a hand without expectations. Be a role model for the people. In that way you will be remembered," Shanie says

As long as her family supports her choice to work in the frontlines, Shanie continue to feel inspired. She also knows that it is through her work that she will be able to protect her family and all the communities in Marawi City and Lanao del Sur.

Shanie on field duty



Photo above was taken during the turnover of 100 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) by Team MP Maisara to Amai Pakpak Medical Hospital (APMC) of Marawi City on May 8, 2020.

Health workers are at the frontlines in the fight against the new Corona Virus. They carry enormous tasks at work and face the fear of bringing the virus home to their families. So our ability to help the helpers is our main significant contribution for them.

We need a whole-of-society resolve that we will not let our frontline health soldiers become patients.

Team MP Maisara is one with supporting and recognizing the heroism of our healthcare workers, supporting them with adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and masks. We need to be determined to explore every avenue to ensure all the possible support for the health workers.

Corona Virus is our common enemy and we should help one another to fight this unseen enemy. By following the minimum guidelines from the officials in order to protect ourselves such as wash our hands well and often, stay at home and only go outside when it's necessary, maintain social distance by avoiding crowded and public spaces and contact medical services if there's symptoms of the virus, will help our heroes to combat this common enemy.

--Lainisah Sumpingan



"You have to fight in order to survive. The moment you surrender, the enemy wins."

-Shahanie B. Baulo, R.N.

BANGSAMORO

The Bangsamoro Short Film Festival (BSFF) is an opportunity for young Moro artists in the Bangsamoro region to hone and showcase their skills in short filmmaking as they become their own directors, videographers, video editors, sound designers and actors.

BSFF also promotes awareness on the Bangsamoro stories that illustrate the challenges and successes especially amid the CoViD-19 pandemic. Through the film entries, young people will be able to tell how they are coping with the pandemic.

The Objectives of the Film Festival:

- 1. To reinforce the existing personal skills, talent, and knowledge in film making of the Bangsamoro youth.
- 2.Discover new artists that will strengthen and widen the camaraderie of the Bangsamoro people from provinces of BARMM.
- 3.Create a platform for the Bangsamoro youth to entertain audiences and provide more information on how they handle the global problem on CoViD-

4. Sustain networking activities of the Bangsamoro young film artists.

According to MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph, the BSFF "will also promote awareness on the Bangsamoro stories that illustrate our rich heritage as well as our unique identity as a Bangsamoro. The Bangsamoro has its very unique identity and this uniqueness needs to be shared to the whole nation. Our aim is to discover aspiring young film makers in the Bangsamoro who can contribute to building just and inclusive society and communities. Through this Festival, we hope to provide the platform for our aspiring artists to show their talents and skills in short film-making."

The film festival also serves as a psychosocial intervention amid the New Normal by giving an opportunity for the talented young generation to unearth their talents in filmmaking and be empowered as articulate and vibrant voices in the region.



BSFF is presented by the Office of MP Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with the Czech Embassy in Manila, Department of Foreign Affairs, British Council, FRINGE MNL, Para Sa Sining and Asia Pacific Film Institute.

Rhadem Musawah said..

Watch the films and witness how the young Moros turn their phones and cameras into tools for telling stories of strength and hope, making sure the Bangsamoro stories are heard and live on.

ENTRIES

It should be one (1) to five (5) minutes running time (RT) of video, which already includes the credits. You can use for your professional camera or smartphone. This is an online edition film festival so the entries will be screened via Facebook and Youtube.

You may submit thru our official BSFF Email:

<bangsamoroshortfilmfestival@gmail.com>

For walk-in, you can drop it off at our satellite office at:

The Office of MP Maisara C. Dandamun-

2nd floor, IPDM Bulding Mindanao State University (MSU) Marawi

Marawi City, Lanao del Sur province

To be qualified, at least one of the filmmakers or member of the production team should have a rootedness in the Bangsamoro or is a Moro anywhere around the Philippines.

Deadline for submission of entries is at 11:59 PM of July 25, 2020.

--Queenie Comadug

BTA Member Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph

What's UP?

Let these infographics tell what the office of MP Maisara has been up to recently: A film festival coming soon and competitions on tourism video log (vlog), backyard garden photography and CoViD-19 heroes postermaking. Folllow MP Maisara to waatch the films and see the winning entries!



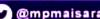




@mpmaisara

MP Maisara Dandamun-Latip







VIDEO RECORDINGS ON ONLINE LEARNING SESSIONS

We invite you to check out recordings of our live Facebook learning sessions.

BACKYARD GARDENING:

Webinar **Backyard** Gardening, organized by Hampaslupa, rich discussion on making vour high-yield vegetable garden within your own backyard. Do not miss this webinar if you want to grow your own produce and sufficient!

NEW NORMAL/NEW DISTANCE EDUCATION:

This webinar presents a clearer picture of what the New Normal in education in BARMM looks like and our educational leaders implement and articulate normal modalities for our children's well-being and safety. The main speaker Undersecretary Diosdado San Antonio said the curriculum and instruction will be delivered modalities nut different there will be face to no instructions until a vaccine is ready. Other speakers were Atty. Haron Meling, Chief of Staff of Minister Mohagher Iqbal, Ministry of Basic, **Education**: Higher and Techyoc Board Member and **Parent** representative Atty. Allan Panolong Lanao del Sur: OIC Superintendent Pharida Sansarona OIC (Marawi City Division); Superintendent Dr. Rhubyna М. Macabunar (LDS II, Division); and, Ms. Adeilada Mangata-Noor (LDS 1 Division)







uce corruption and curtall bureaucratic red tape to avert fraudulent transactions and misrepresentations. Towards this end, a resilient verification system shall be implemented to secure the data collected and ensure that the people's right to privacy, confidentiality and other basic rights are at all times upheld and protected.

RESOLUTIONS FILED

- PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 244 "Resolution calling on the appropriate parliament committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the status and adequacy of the Internet connection in the Bangsamoro region, with the end of view of crafting a measure that will complement President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's National Connectivity Program giving giving utmost consideration to educational requirements amid pandemic"
- PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 249 "Resolution expressing the sense of the Bangsamoro Parliament that the establishment of a quaratine facility in Lanao del Sur and the giving of assistance to appropriate medical hospital in the same province for accreditation as COVID-19 (PCR) testing center is urgent"
- PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 251 "Resolution expressing serious concern of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority over Senate Bill No. 1083 and House Bill No. 6875 otherwise known as the Anti-Terrorism Bill and appealing to the Philippine Congress to reconsider certain provisions thereof among others, granting power to the Anti-Terrorism Council to detain or arrest any person without judicial authorization"

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 232 "Resolution declaring all Masajid at the ground zero of the Islamic City of Marawi as Bangsamoro Cultural Heritage Site appropriating funds for the conservation, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, repair, rebuilding, and reconstruction of Masajid in the Ground Zero of the Islamic City of Marawi"

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 233 "Resolution directing the appropriate ministry to ensure that all cities and municipalities within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are equipped with quarantine facilities by coordinating with its constituent Local Government Units taking into consideration the probable impact of the Balik Probinsiya Program"

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 231 "Directing the Committee on Local Government to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged anomalies in the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) Cash Aid in the Bangsamoro region, with the end in view of crafting necessary measures to prevent irregularities the in implementation of programs of the same nature"

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 230 "Resolution directing Committee on Social Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged anomalies in the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program Aid (SAP) Cash in Bangsamoro region, with the end in view of crafting necessary measures to prevent irregularities in the implementation of the same nature"

> MP MAISARA WELCOMES FEEDBACK, COMMENTS AND OTHER CONCERNS RELEVANT TO **LEGISLATION IN THE** BANGSAMORO. <MPMAISARA@GMAIL.COM> OR VISIT HER FACEBOOK PAGE: MAISARALATIPH