



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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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Know the proposed legislations the MP Maisara and her team worked on from July to September 2020, page 3



## MAMBABATAS

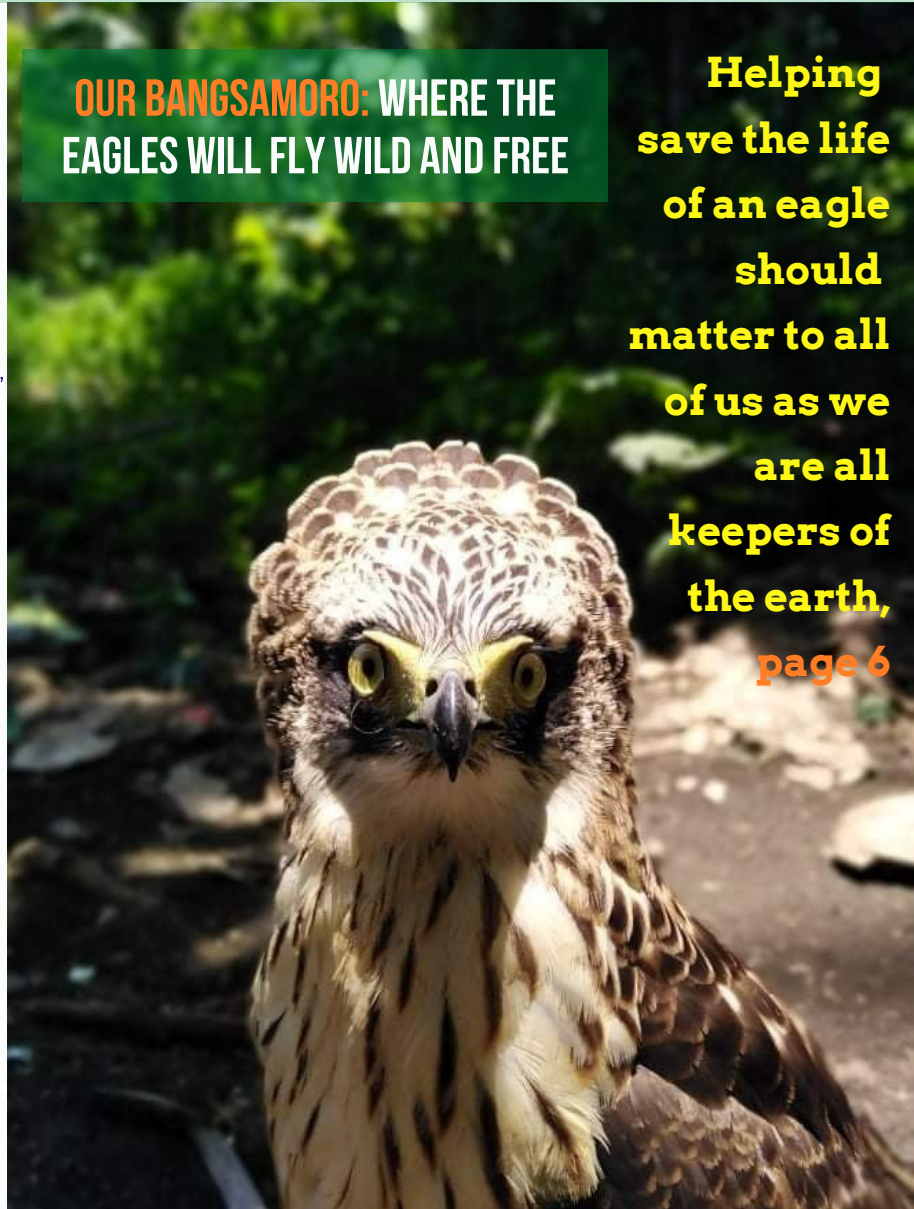
Nais naming ibahagi sa inyo ang siping karanasan ng isang mambabatas sa loob ng ating Bangsamoro Parliament, page 7

## EQUITY FOR THE MADRASA

While most of us prepare for and try to address challenges in the new form of learning, our Education Sectoral Representative reminds us to also focus on the needs of the Madarasa, page 16

**OUR BANGSAMORO: WHERE THE  
EAGLES WILL FLY WILD AND FREE**

**Helping  
save the life  
of an eagle  
should  
matter to all  
of us as we  
are all  
keepers of  
the earth,  
page 6**





# Editorial

It has been six months since the new **Corona Virus 2019 pandemic stuck the country**. It radically altered our way of life which negatively affected the most vulnerable sectors of our society in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Mental health problems are also on the rise brought about by anxiety and stress over the future. Our economy has also been worse hit with the slowing down of consumer spending. The transition period that began in March 29, 2019 was significantly affected. There is marked slowing down of delivery of basic service like health, social service and even education.

The opening of school year was moved from August 5, 2020 to October 5, 2020 which also coincides with the end of our celebration of World Teacher's Day. We recently had a contest on Best Practices by Teachers for learning continuity during Covid-19 pandemic this is our way of recognizing the great contributions of our teachers to continue education.

In response to Resolution No. 260 on the Status of Continuity of Learning amidst Covid-19 pandemic that I filed last August 2020 and by adopted by the Parliament, Minister Mohagher Iqbal has reported that only 68% of learners or 626,253 from 915,339 enrollees (in the basic education sector and higher education sector, including private and public schools) have enrolled.

An estimated 32% of learners will not have access to learning opportunities this S.Y. 2020-2021. Coupled with the dismal 80% of teachers in the Bangsamoro that are not ready to shift towards distance learning modalities and worrisome internet situation of at the household level, of only 4.5% access there is a huge possibility that we are seeing high percentage of drop-outs and out of school children and youth in the Bangsamoro which will have negative "ripple effect" in the future.

Thus, there is a need during this pandemic to deploy massive resources and technological support to the education sector by the BARMM Government as well legislations or policies from BTA Parliament in order to solve this situation. A whole of government approach must be done from the Barangay level to the top most level of governance. The private sector can also be tapped to help solve this problem of internet connectivity. Our teachers must also be equipped and supported towards shifting their mindset to the new normal. The students and parents must also be given the support they need to succeed in this huge shift to home-based learning. It is our duty in the BTA during transition period to ensure that the welfare and well-being of students, parents, teachers and all stakeholders in education. The 32% percent school leavers has to be prevented. All efforts must be exerted for the 289,086 students to have access to learning. And we have to do it fast. The MBHTE cannot do it alone. We in the BTA and BARMM Cabinet must help in solving this looming education crisis.

"Our teachers must also be equipped and supported towards shifting their mindset to the new normal."

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Muslim Mindanao

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



By Atty. Alexine Bangcola

Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph has filed a total number of thirty (30) resolutions and one (1) bill during the period of July to September 2020 alone.

The Bangsamoro Region, along with the rest of the nation and the world was besieged with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite being forced to stay in Quezon City and attend Parliament Sessions remotely in order to comply with Social Distancing protocols, MP Atty. Maisara refused to let it deter her. She has been consistent in undertaking her responsibility as a representative of the people, and fully utilizing the Bangsamoro Transition Authority's (BTA) legislative and oversight powers.

Most of her resolutions were on the subject of pandemic measures which would allow the Bangsamoro Region to adapt, and mobilizing the different Bangsamoro agencies to provide excellent services to our constituents despite the constraints.

Proposed Resolutions 231 seeks to prompt the exercise of the oversight function in order to discover and rectify any anomalies in the distribution of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) cash grants.

She also filed PR No. 244 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.

On the matter of online distance learning and improving the education system in the Bangsamoro to cope up with the pandemic in order that the education of the children will not suffer, she filed PR Nos. 300 and 301. PR 300 directs the MSSD and MBHTE to increase and strengthen the educational assistance program.

Meanwhile, the Proposed Resolution 260 which she filed was immediately adopted as Resolution 81 requesting from the Honorable Minister Mohagher Iqbal and the MBHTE to render an assessment report on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the schools in the Bangsamoro Region. The assessment report has been created and cascaded by the MBHTE.

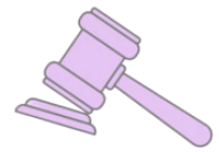


# ...LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

She has also sought for the setting up of public infrastructure through PR Nos. 233 and 249. PR No. 233 directs the appropriate ministry to ensure that all cities and municipalities are equipped with COVID 19-ready quarantine facilities, while PR 249 calls for the establishment of a provincial quarantine facility in Lanao del Sur and accreditation of the Provincial Hospital as a COVID-19 testing facility.

PR No. 265 was filed which directed the Ministry of Health to administer the COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test to all the members and staff of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, while PR No. 311 directs the same agency to develop and distribute COVID-19 information and communication materials in the major local languages of the Bangsamoro Region.

Despite the hardships during this time of pandemic, MP Atty. Maisara or MP Mai as she sometimes likes to be called, has never forgotten the most vulnerable. MP Maisara hails from Marawi City so she would never have forgotten the plight of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have been seeking for justice for three years now, and will continue to do so.



Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph has filed a total number of thirty (30) resolutions and one (1) bill during the period of July to September 2020 alone.

**MP ATTY. MAISARA C. DANDAMUN-LATIPH**  
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY - BTRM

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 299

Introduced by MP Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph

**"CALLING FOR STRICTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9275, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE CLEAN WATER ACT OF 2004 IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION"**

RECEIVED  
GUAMILA H. HASMIM  
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY  
Cotabato City

BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY  
Second Regular Session  
Proposed Resolution No. 299  
Introduced by BTA Member Atty. Maisara Codia Dandamun-Latiph

**RESOLUTION**

**CALLING FOR STRICTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9275, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE CLEAN WATER ACT OF 2004 IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 22, Article XIII of R.A. No. 11054 provides that the Bangsamoro Government shall have exclusive powers over inland waters, including lakes, marshes, rivers, and tributaries within its territorial jurisdiction;

**WHEREAS**, Section 3, Article III of R.A. No. 11054 provides that inland waters such as lakes, rivers, river systems, and streams within its territorial jurisdiction shall form part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9275) aims to protect the country's water bodies from pollution from land-based sources (industries and commercial establishments, agriculture and community/household activities);

**WHEREAS**, the same law provides for a comprehensive and integrated strategy to prevent and minimize pollution through multi-sectoral and participatory approach involving all the stakeholders;

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned law provides for the management of water quality based on watershed, river basin or water resources region;

**WHEREAS**, the management is localized and consists of multi-sectoral governing boards established to manage water quality issues within their jurisdiction and composed of representatives of mayors and governors as well as local government units, representatives of relevant national government agencies, duly registered non-government organizations, the concerned water utility sector and the business sector;



When there was news on the mass deportation of Bangsamoro Constituents from Sabah, as well as the tragic news in Sulu, MP Atty. Maisara immediately filed PR Nos. 270 and 290, standing in solidarity with the victims and urgently calling for assistance to be given to them.

MP Atty. Maisara has also filed various resolutions in the sectors of Education, Economy, Environment, Security, Social Services, and Institution-Building, by utilizing the data from her sectoral representatives on Education, Environment, Orphans and Children, Youth, Women, and IDPs.

Included in the matrix on next page are her list of filed resolution on Ground Zero and attaining justice for the IDPs and victims of the Marawi Siege.



Proposed Bill No.	<b>Bill filed by MP Maisara within July to September 2020</b> <b>TITLE and co- author/s</b>
63	<i>An Act Creating the Bureau of Information and Communications Technology under the Ministry of Transportation and Communication</i>

Proposed Resolution No.	<b>Proposed resolutions filed by MP Maisara within July to September 2020</b> <b>TITLE and co- author/s</b>
231	<i>Resolution 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 View of Crafting Necessary Measures to Prevent Irregularities in The Implementation of Programs of The Same Nature</i>
232	<i>A Resolution Declaring All Masjid At the Ground Zero of The Islamic City of Marawi As Bangsamoro Cultural Heritage Site and Appropriating Funds for The Conservation, Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, Repair, Rebuilding, and Reconstruction of Masjid In the Ground Zero of The Islamic City of Marawi</i> Co-Authors: MPs Eddie Alih, Abduladzis Esmael, Mohammad Yacob, Narciso Yu Ekey, and Modayao Sacar
233	<i>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 The Constituent Local Government Units Taking into Consideration the Probable Impact of The Balik Probinsya Program</i> Co-Authors: MPs Narciso Co Yu Ekey, Mohammad Yacob, and Modayao Sacar
244	<i>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 View of Crafting A Measure That Will Complement President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's National Connectivity Program Giving Utmost Consideration to Educational Requirements Amid Pandemic</i>
249	<i>Resolution Expressing the Sense of The Bangsamoro Parliament that the Establishment of a Quarantine 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</i> Co-Authors: MPs Narciso C. Yu Ekey, Mohammad Yacob, and Modayao Sacar
251	<i>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</i>
260	<i>Resolution Urgently Directing Minister Mohagher Iqbal, Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education to Render an Assessment or Report on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Public and Private Schools and Higher Education Institutions and Present to the BTA Its Learning Continuity Plan Towards the Shift to a New Normal this School Year 2020-2021.</i> Co-Authors: MPs Abdullah A. Ahang, Abdulmuhmin A. Mujahid, Hatimil E. Hassan, Abdullah B. Hashim, Jamel D. Macaraya, Basit Abbas, Mujib Abu, Eddie Alih, Narciso C. Yu Ekey, and Modayao Sacar
261	<i>Resolution Expressing the Sense of The Bangsamoro Parliament That the Role of Ministry of Public Order and Safety in Rido Settlement Is Essential and Must Be Strengthened by Increasing Its Budget Allocation Thus Maximizing Its Capacity to Lay Down the Foundations That Will Enhance Peace and Order in The Bangsamoro Region</i> Co-Authors: MPs Eddie M. Alih, Mohammad S. Yacob, Bai Maleiha B. Candao, Marjanie S. Macasalang, Abdullah B. Hashim, Bai Sittie Shahara I. Mastura, Basit S. Abbas, Abdulla A. Ahang, Romeo C. Saliga, Mudjib C. Abu, Ibrahim D. Ali, Abdulmuhmin A. Mujahid, Susana S. Anayatin, Jamel D. Macaraya, Abduladzis Esmael, Abdullah Gayak, Narciso Yu Ekey, and Modayao Sacar



<b>Proposed Resolution No.</b>	<b>Proposed resolutions filed by MP Maisara within July to September 2020 TITLE and co- author/s</b>
265	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Health to Administer COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test to all the Members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority as well as their Immediate Staffs Resolution Directing the Ministry of Health to Administer COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test to all the Members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority as well as their Immediate Staffs</i>
270	<i>A Resolution Directing the Bangsamoro Parliament Committees on Social Services and Development, And Interior and Local Government to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, Into the Recent Mass Deportation of Bangsamoro Constituents from Sabah</i> Co-authors: MPs Amilbahar Mawallil, Susana Anayatin, Eddie Alih, Aida Silongan, Melanio Ulama, Rasol Mitmug, Jr., Ibrahim Ali, Haron Abas, Modayao Sacar, Diamila Ramos, and Mohammad Zainoden Bato
277	<i>Resolution Directing the Committee on Trade, Investment, And Tourism, To Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, On the Feasibility of Designing A Program Providing Regular Capacity-Building Trainings for Start-Up Social Enterprises in Coordination with The Bureau of Cooperative and Social Enterprises</i>
278	<i>Resolution Calling for The Appropriate Ministry, In Coordination with The Bureau of Madaris Education, To Assist Traditional Madaris In Obtaining Government Accreditation and To Institutionalize A Support System for their Development</i>
279	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) With the Assistance of The Ministry of Interior and Local Government to Begin the Process of Accreditation of Orphanages Located in The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao</i>
280	<i>Resolution Directing the Bangsamoro Economic and Development Council (BEDC) To Render an Assessment on The Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on The Development Goals of The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) And Formulate A Comprehensive Post-COVID 19 Economic Recovery Plan and Present It to The BTA Parliament</i>
281	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) In Coordination with The Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) To Develop A Comprehensive Plan for The Out of School Youth and Children (OSYC) In the Bangsamoro Region and To Report on Its Status to The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament</i>
282	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG) In Coordination with The Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC) To Assess the Functionality of Every Barangay VAW Desk within the BARMM Region and to Make A Report on Their Status</i>
283	<i>Resolution Urging the Appropriate Parliament Committee to Craft the Bangsamoro Islamic And Banking Finance Framework</i>
285	<i>Resolution for The Bangsamoro Transition Authority to Appeal to the 18th Congress for The Immediate Passage of House Bill No. 709 Entitled an Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and Penalizing the Acts of Arbitrary Internal Displacement</i> Co-Authors: MPs Ziaur-Rahman A. Adiong, Haron M. Abas, Engr. Aida M. Silongan, Eddie M. Alih, Mp Mohammad S. Yacob, Hamid Aminoddin D. Barra, Abdullah B. Hashim, Mohammad Zainoden P. Bato, and Punduma B. Sani
290	<i>Resolution Expressing that the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament Is Standing in Solidarity with The Families and Victims of The Tragedy in Sulu And for Relevant Ministries and Agencies to Provide Appropriate, Timely and Effective Assistance and Intervention to Address Their Needs</i>
295	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, And Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) To Adopt Programs That Will Establish A Link Between the Farmers and Purchasers with The End View of Improving the Former's Sales</i>
296	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Basic and Higher, Technical Education (MBHTE) To Include Its Programs the Establishment of Special Education (SPED) Centers for Children Who Needs Special Education</i>
297	<i>Resolution Calling for The Concerned Ministry to Include Among Those to Be Prioritized in Giving Assistance to The Victims of Marawi Siege the Families of Those Considered Missing and/or Dead with The End View of Recommending A System and Procedure in Providing Such Assistance</i>
298	<i>Resolution Expressing the Sense of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority That There Is A Need to Create an Inter-Agency Coordination and Strategic Collective Leadership to Look into The Concerns of The Traditional Madrasah</i>
299	<i>Resolution Calling for Stricter Implementation of The Provisions of Republic Act No. 9275, Otherwise Known as The Philippine Clean Water Act Of 2004 in The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region</i>
300	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) In Collaboration with The Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) To Increase and Strengthen the Educational Assistance Program That Is Inclusive to The Disadvantaged Children and Other Needy Families in The Region</i>
301	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) To Provide Assistance by Distributing equipment's Essential to Modular Distance Learning to Schools in The Bangsamoro Region, Giving Priority to Those in Areas with Weak to No Internet Access</i>
303	<i>Resolution Directing the Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC) In Coordination with The Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) To Conduct A Comprehensive Census and Assessment Report on The Situation of Widows in The Bangsamoro Region</i>
311	<i>Resolution Directing the Ministry of Health (MOH) To Develop Information and Communication Materials, Such as Infographics, Webinars, And Commercials, Among Others, On Covid-19 In the Major Local Languages of The Bangsamoro Region</i>
313	<i>Resolution Recommending to The Interim Chief Minister the Constitution of The Council of Leaders Pursuant to Section 9, Article VI of The Bangsamoro Organic Law</i> Co-Authors: MPs Dr. Susana Salvador Anayatin, Ibrahim D. Ali, Abdulawahab M. Pak, Engr. Aida M. Silongan, Eddie M. Alih, Al-Syed A. Sali, Ustad Abdulmuhmin A. Mujahid, Ustad Mohammad Zainoden P. Bato, Diamila D. Ramos, Mudjib C. Abu, Mohammad S. Yacob, Dr. Marjanie S. Macasalong, Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr., Basit S. Abbas, Musa K.S. Diamla, Abdullah B. Hashim, Modayao M. Sacar, and Alzad T. Sattar
317	<i>Resolution Expressing the Sense of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority on The Importance of Ensuring That Schools' Learning Continuity Plans Have Strengthened Mental Health Component with Corresponding Guidelines Due to Increasing Reported Cases of Suicide</i>

# MAMBABATAS

Atty. Jabbar Guro, Chief of Staff

Sa likod ng bawat batas ay isang mambabatas na sumusulong para sa ikabubuti ng taong bayan. Kaagapay naman ng pagsasabatas ay sari-saring suliranin na kinakaharap ng sambayanan at ibat-ibang pagsubok na kailangan tahakin ng may akda upang tugunan ang pangangailangan ng mamamayan.

Lingid sa kaalaman ng nakakarami, ang proseso ng pagsasabatas ay sadyang komplikado at hindi madali. Sa loob ng plenaryo ay iba't ibang tao na may kanya-kanyang nasasakupan. Ang mga mambabatas ay may kanya-kanyang opinyon, paniniwala, paningin, at ideolohiya at ang lahat ng ito ay nagtatagpo at nagkakabanggaan sa loob ng plenaryo. Isa ito sa maraming hamon na dapat harapin ng bawat mambabatas. Isa rin ito sa mga biyaya ng demokrasya kung saan ang mga decision ay dumadaan sa masusing diskusyon at debate. Kaya naman, hindi maiwasan na maging palaisipan para sa ilan nating mga kababayan ang bagal at bilis ng pag-usad ng pagpasa ng mga batas.

Ngayong panahon ng pandemiya, bukod sa mga batas na binigyan ng pinakamataas na prioridad sa Bangsamoro, tulad ng pagpasa ng Bangsamoro Administrative Code at mga batas na sagot sa mga pangangailangan ng mga taong lubos na naapektuhan ng CoViD-19, tiniyak at sinigurado ng Opisina ni MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph na hindi mapag-iiwanan ang sector ng edukasyon, kabataan, mga ulila, kababaihan, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), kalikasan, Madaris, at ng mga Bangsamoro na nakatira sa loob at labas Autonomous Region.



Sari-saring bills at resolusyon (batas) ang naisulat at nai-file ni MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph upang tugunan ang pangangailangan ng bawat sector na nabanggit at maitaguyod ang mga institusyon at sistema na makakatulong sa kanilang pag-unlad.

Ilan sa mga mahahalagang proseso na pinagdadaan ng bawat batas na nanggagaling sa opisina ni MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph ay ang pag-konsulta sa mga namumuno o may ekspertong kaalaman sa bawat sektors o isyu. Nangyayari ito sa pamamagitan ng pag-organisa ng pagdinig (hearings), consultations, at Round Table Discussions (RTD). Ang pamamaraang ito ay ginagamit upang makasiguro na ang mga batas ay diretsong nakaayon sa pangangailangan ng mga tao. Ito rin ay nagbibigay buhay sa adboksiya na isinusulong ni MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph na “Empowering Voices” kung saan tiniyak na ang boses ng mga mamamayan ay naririnig at naisasaalang-alang sa loob ng plenaryo.

Sa patuloy na paglalakbay ng mga membro ng Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) pasan ang mabigat na responsibilidad na makamit ang matagal na hinahangad na pagbabago at pag-unlad ng Bangsamoro; kooperasyon, pag-unawa, moral na supporta at mataim-tim na panalangin kay Allah (S.W.T) ay kailangan upang maging matagumpay ang kanilang pagganap sa kanilang tungkulin.



# A YOUNG EAGLE WILL FLY HIGH SOON

by Jamael Sarip

In Malabang Lanao del Sur, a child saw a Philippine Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis holospilus*) in their home. The Philippine Serpent Eagle is endemic to the Philippines. Found in forest clearings, open woodlands, cultivated lands with scattered trees, this Philippine Eagle is an endangered species because of massive loss of habitat brought about by deforestation and agricultural land expansion.

There are two concerned citizens namely Hanin S. Balindong a Fireman Officer and a Social Worker named Sukarno T. Gabriel who saw the eagle with the child. The child's father did not know how and where to surrender the eagle.

FO Balindong, was aware of the law on the proper conservation, preservation, and management, took the eagle into their care.

"I am a Fire Officer. It is inculcated in me to save lives and property, and by life, it is not only limited to human beings' life. I really have the heart for birds," FO Balindong explained." Since August 18, he began to take care for the eagle while searching where to turnover long-term care.



Through the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph, FO Balindong was linked to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENRE) – Lanao del Sur Officer-in-charge Mr. Asnawi Dataman. In turn, on August 26 his staff, Mr. Sadad A. Enter, transported the young eagle from Malabang, Lanao del Sur to the MENRE Provincial Office in Marawi City.

This is not the first time that they have received eagles. There were also some concerned citizens from Marawi City, and Maguing municipality who have been surrendering eagles.

On August 27, Mr. Asnawi Dataman formally turn-over the Eagle to the National Power Corporation-Watershed Management Division.

Why are we encountering more eagles? It is heartwarming to encounter an eagle especially when they are young but it is very alarming. More eagles leaving their safety to go to humans is a warning sign that their life in their habitats are interrupted, forcing them to fly even to human areas to hunt food. The eagles are telling us that we must strengthen our awareness and campaign for conservation, preservation, and protect our natural resources like the forest. Our core message here is that ultimately, saving the human race and ensuring sustainable living in the Bangsamoro crucially involves protecting the forests and wildlife, too.

# WE ARE KEEPERS OF THE EARTH

**BUT** the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said that the biodiversity on earth is “on the brink” and “crashing.” The advent of the industrial revolution brought us humans the comforts and excitements of global mobility and interconnectedness. Modern technologies make the lands yield more rice, the ponds more fish, trees more fruit, poultry bigger and meatier, and vegetables more resistant to pests.

However, along with these gains, came the side effects and consequences that sometimes steal the limelight from the good things that humans have been achieving.

To make way for progress, forests, grasslands and marshlands have to be cleared and exploited for economic benefits. Ecosystems are interrupted, altered or halted altogether. Globally, WWF warned that “75% of the Earth’s ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered, most of the oceans are polluted, and more than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost.” Around “500,000 animals and plants and 500,000 insects” or a million species are doomed for extinction. .



**“Do not be wise in words, be wise in deeds. Because when deeds speak, words are nothing”**



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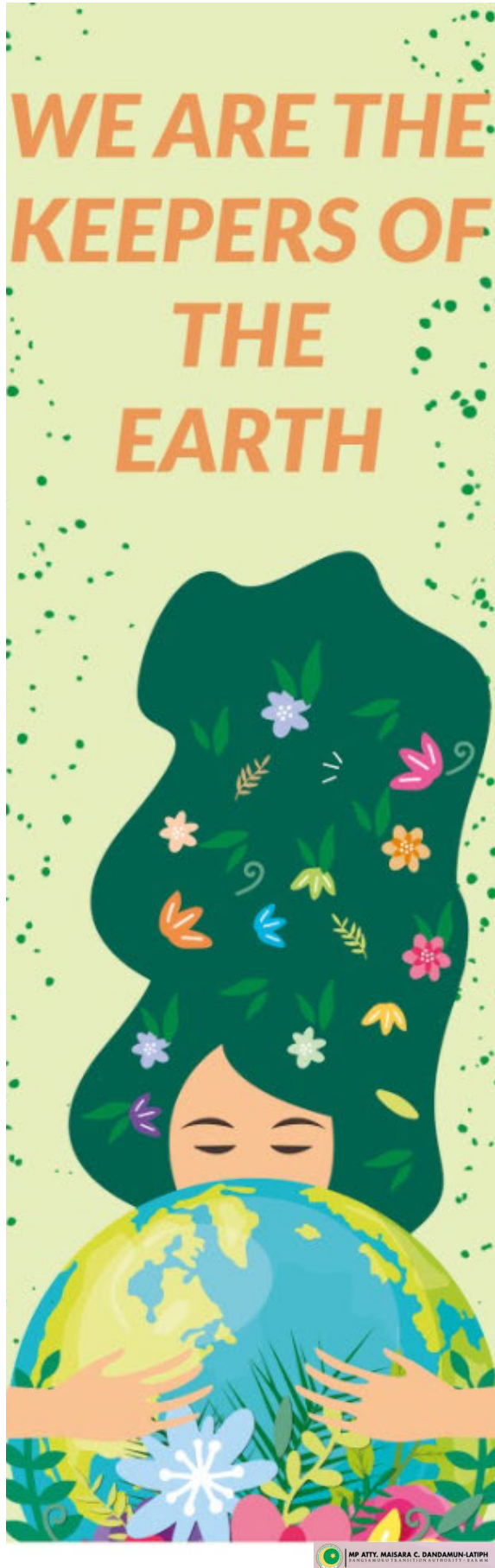
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Empowering Voices

How do we reverse this, let us stop converting forest lands to agricultural fields. Work on sustainably maximizing the yields of what we have. Let us not overfish and respect the natural way the fish grow by not using dynamites, cyanide and other poisonous substances or electricity to fish. Do not catch fish when they are small. Allow them to grow and yield more young so we do not run out of big fish to catch.

Keeping our population stable is also important. It benefits the meal table and the environment. It allows nature to keep pace with our food, water and shelter needs by gaining more time for edible plants and animals to grow and reproduce. The remaining forests then will not have to be cleared for more agricultural lands or to supply the timber needs for building more houses and buildings. The ecosystem maintains balance.





The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority stated that the "forest cover of the Bangsamoro Region is at 45 percent."

This area is equivalent to 299,195 hectares from the total Bangsamoro land area of 1,293,552 hectares. The Forest Management Bureau-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (FMB-DENR) 2018 Edition of the Philippine Forestry Statistics, stated that "84,469 hectares are closed forest, 162,958 hectares are open forest, and 52,412 hectares are mangrove." Mangrove forests are still mostly intact in BARMM, unlike other regions in the country where mangroves have been destroyed.

Conserved and protected areas declared by the national and regional government are still aplenty. Lake Lanao, is a rich haven of biodiversity, one of the best lakes in the world. Sadly, continuing logging and pollution is destroying the volume and quality of its waters. According to Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), the existing declared watersheds and protected areas in BARMM are Lake Lanao Watershed in Lanao del Sur with a total area of 180,460 hectares, Dimapatoy Watershed Watershed with 3,765 hectares, Kabulnan Watershed with 4,726 hectares, and South Upi Watershed in Maguindanao with 1,894 hectares.

"Considered as an important biodiversity site in the Philippines, it is one of the priority sites for conservation. The lake is home to 18 species of freshwater fish and supports a large number of waterfowls." In a survey conducted during the preparation of the Integrated Development Plan of the Watershed, "a total of 27 species of trees, shrubs and vines were observed. More importantly, 41 medicinal plant species naturally occur in the forests." (Jonathan L. Mayuga, 2019)



Another richly biodiverse area in the region is Ligawasan Marsh in Maguindanao. However, despite being a catch basin of water from almost half of Mindanao, the marsh has become vulnerable to biodiversity loss, partly due to global warming.

The marsh has began to undergo longer periods of dry season, lasting several months. Logging, siltation, diversion and obstruction of river flows have also affected the marsh. Fish and crop harvests have declined as a result. As a consequence, communities and families dependent living around the marsh suffer.

“Although the terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the region is still considered rich, there are habitats which are threatened by exploitation and degradation.” (1st Bangsamoro Development Plan 2020-2022, p.306).

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*The Bangsamoro region still has around 45% of its forest areas intact.*

### Here are some upstream and downstream environmental risks and the impacts of industrialization and urbanization in BARMM: (BDP, 2020-22)

- a) Forest/land conversion and loss of natural habitats and biodiversity;
- b) Overfishing and loss of marine resources;
- c) Soil degradation and erosion;
- d) Lower water availability;
- e) Water pollution (application of fertilizers and agrochemicals);
- f) Waste management;
- g) Health impacts from exposure to agrochemicals and other pollutants; and,
- h) Pollution (point sources such as emission to air and discharge of effluent).

# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

Written by Lainisah M. Sumpingan

People these days are used to an easy life. We prefer convenience to do things faster. We prefer fast food, instant noodles, canned goods, and ready-to-consume products packaged in non-biodegradable materials. We consume these instantly not mindful of how our behavior will affect the environment. The land, water, and air are polluted. The pollution affects the both the environment and our health.

Waste management is one of the country's priority agenda. Given the fast-increasing population and consumers, the urgency to address environmental issues becomes more imminent. The government have been trying to address the solid waste issue in the country through Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Act of 2000. It is the responsibility of every Filipino citizen to actively participate in implementing this law to help clean up the environment.

To help address the persistent problem on solid waste management, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph conducted a Blended Round Table Discussion on Solid Waste Management last August 31, 2020. This was held at Mindanao State University Commercial Center in Marawi City. Invited resource persons were from Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau Region 10 (DENR-EMB 10) represented by Cluster Supervisor Rasul C. Guro, and Cluster Assistant Supervisor Engineer Mohammad Mustapha, City Environment and Natural Resources Office Marawi represented by CENRO Jamael U. Mande, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy-Lanao Del Sur (MENRE-LDS) represented by PENREO Asnawi Dataman, Ranao Youth Tanggol Kalikasan (RYTK) represented by Alnor R. Umpar, and members of the Technical Working Group - Bangsamoro Solid Waste Management Commission TWG-BSWMC.

*This bill will be entitled, "An Act of Establishing and Creation of the Bangsamoro Ecological Solid Waste Management Commission, Defining Its Powers, Functions, Responsibilities, and Appropriating Funds Therefor and other Purposes."*

This blended Round Table Discussion on Solid Waste Management promoted unity, cooperation and active participation of the local leaders as well as the communities in thinking of doable solutions on various issues, including the operational inefficiencies of services, limited utilization of recycling activities, poor enforcement of ordinances, improper communication among residents and leaders/implementers, and lack of public information on ESWM system.

From this blended program, a bill will be drafted and filed at the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. This bill will be entitled, "An Act of Establishing and Creation of the Bangsamoro Ecological Solid Waste Management Commission, Defining Its Powers, Functions, Responsibilities, and Appropriating Funds Therefor and other Purposes."

"In the Bangsamoro Region, the waste generated per day for two years interval is increasing up to 32.14 metric tons from 2014 to 2024," Dr. Anisah P. Hadji Ali, an environment advocate, said. This emphasizes that if the issue on solid waste such as the improper garbage disposal is not properly addressed, "there will also be a high risk of harm to human health," she added.

"The success of Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) lies in the barangay and the individual households. The first person who must lead in promoting and implementing the system of ESWM is the Barangay Chairman." Forester Asnawi A. Dataman added, the Provincial Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Officer (PENREO) of Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) - Lanao del Sur.

# GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE

Written by Sahanee M. Panolong

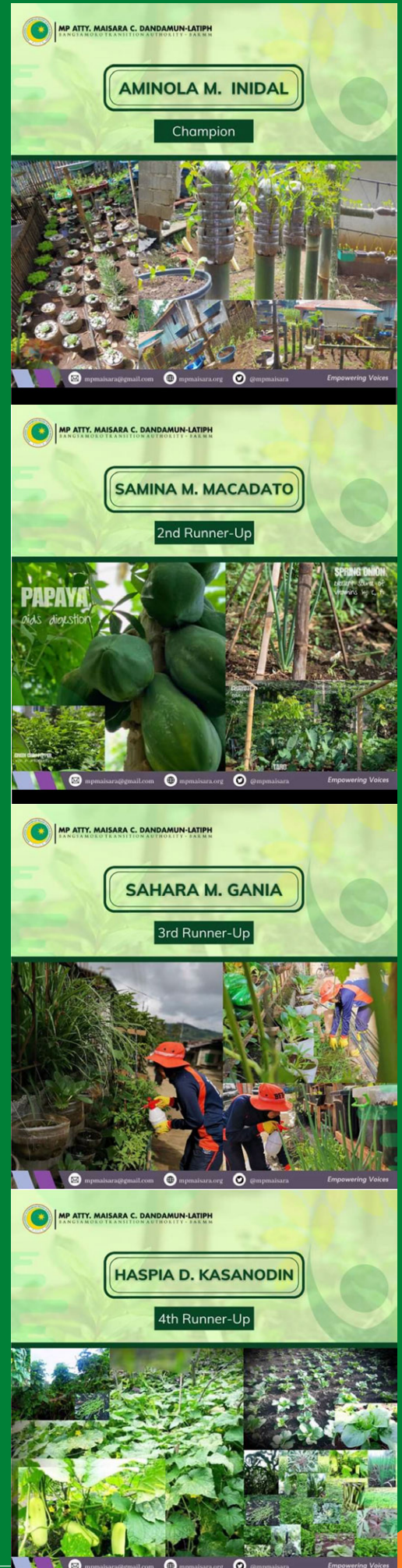
The COVID-19 pandemic brought so many challenges in our daily lives, e. Access to supermarkets and stores is difficult especially whenever we are under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). This made us realize that securing food should always be part of our priorities as we become more uncertain of what tomorrow may bring us.

People also need to be physically and mentally healthy. This where food gardening plays a significant role. "A small study from Wageningen University comparing the stress-relieving impact of reading with that of gardening found that gardening had a physiologically soothing effect on 30 adult participants." (Harrison Mayotte). Therefore, it is timely to promote backyard gardening in the province of Lanao del Sur and in the Bangsamoro as a whole so that people will be physically and mentally fit.

"Growing Seeds of Hope" was launched on 9 July 2020. It is a campaign on food security that hopes to enlighten everyone to grow their own food because it will not just bring food on their table but also will bring HOPE to everyone. A hope which will instill in our minds that regardless of how big the challenges we face, there can always be something good that awaits us.

Aminola M. Inidal, a former Barangay Chairman of Brgy. Padila, Balindong, Lanao del Sur, is an enthusiast when it comes to gardening. His enthusiasm led him to win and become the champion in our Online Contest "Growing Seeds of Hope" with the theme "My Backyard Garden as Source of Hope." According to him, his garden was inspired by the episode he watched in Discovery Channel. The beautiful garden shown in the channel inspired him to start making his own. "Sii ko kiya-lockdown tano na da ako dn mambo pliyo-liyo. Kiyambantayan akn sa TV, sii sa Discovery channel a miyakapiyapiya e bontal a garden na miyapikir akn a ba ako dn mambo pag garden ka madidi pman e pkhabaliyan so kapag-steady ta sa walay." (During the lockdown, I never went to places away from my home. When I was watching in Discovery Channel, I saw a beautiful garden flashing in the television and that's when I thought that I should also make my own garden so at least I can be more productive while staying at home.)

Because of the positive impact of the Online Contest "Growing Seeds of Hope", Version 2.0 was again posted on 25 September 2020 and open its 2nd batch of garden entries but this time, it was divided into two (2) categories: a) Agricultural Crops; and b) Ornamental Garden. The contest gives recognition to those who love gardening, including those who are just starting to make their garden because of the pandemic.





# PARENTS AS CO- FRONTLINERS IN EDUCATION

By Laarnie B. Racman, PhD

Education in the Bangsamoro region faces many challenges including slow internet connection or sometimes no connection at all in some areas. While most of the country is connected to the internet and there are roughly 80 million Facebook users, there are still some provinces that do not have any connection to a mobile network. We all know that without internet connection, the learning process of young students will be disrupted. With the prolonged quarantine period, some learners might suffer “learning loss” or simply lose interest in learning and study.

The Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) will be using the blended learning approach for the school year 2020-2021. This approach combines online and distance learning, printed modules and other learning materials.


How can we help ensure that the education in the Bangsamoro region will encounter less impediments?

Parents will play a vital role in their children’s emotional and intellectual development. They serve as their children’s first teachers, and give them the stepping stones they need to adapt to life in school. As the pandemic hinders the face-to-face, parents are becoming the frontliners of education.

Parents now have the important task of ensuring that their children receive quality education without compromising their safety. Although education takes a major hit as classrooms are forced to close their doors to classes and students, countless parents are stepping up to support their children who are adjusting to the new set-up for the incoming school year.

Parents will then guide their children so that they can complete their lessons at home. This is the learning option parents should choose for the safety of the children. Aside from seeing this as a way to keep the children safe, this is also an opportunity for parents to form an even stronger bond with their children. Capable siblings also play an important role by also helping the younger ones with their school work.





# MGA DAPAT GAWIN SA EDUKASYON

## Mag-aaral

Makilahok sa modular na klase at iba pang pamamaraan ng pagkatuto.

Sumunod sa mga bilin ng guro.

Balansehin ang pag-aaral at gawaing bahay.

Pamalagiing nasa mabuting estado ang sarili lalo na ang katawan.

Panatilihin ang pagkakaroon ng mataas na marka.

Gawin ang mga suliraning ibinigay ng guro.

Maging positibo sa mga bagay na kinakaharap.

Maglaan ng oras sa pag-ehersisyo upang manatiling malusog ang pangangatawan.

## Guro

Magbigay ng emosyonal na suporta sa mag-aaral.

Magbigay ng mga praktikal na pamamaraan ng pagkatoto sa new normal.

Maging instrumento sa pamamahagi ng tamang impormasyon at angkop na kilos sa social media.

Pagpamanin ang mga stratehiya sa pagtuturo.

## Pinuno ng paaralan

Tiyaking kumpleto ang lahat ng pangangailangan ng mga guro sa pagpapatupad ng edukasyon.

Magbigay ng saktong skedyul.

Tiyakin ang pagkakanayan ng mga materyales sa pagkatoto.

Magkaroon ng sapat na suporta sa mga guro at magulang.

Magkaroon ng malinaw na patakaran at sundin ang mga ito.

## Magulang

Maging mabuting ihemplo sa mga anak.

Suportahan ang anak sa anumang adhikain sa kanyang pag-aaral.

Magbigay ng wastong oras na masuri ang lagay ng pag-aaral ng anak.

Gabayan ang anak sa paggamit ng teknolohiya lalo na sa mga nabibilang sa mababang antas.

Makipag-ugnayan sa mga guro at paaralan.

Panatilihin ang pagiging positibo tungkol sa mga guro o sa paaralan.

Siguraduhing may sapat na mga gamit pang-eskwela ang mga anak.

Magpakita ng interes at pag-intindi sa pag-aaral ng anak.

Pagtuunan ng pansin ang mga nararamdaman ng anak.

Maging mapanuri sa mga pag-aanunsyo ng mga guro lalo na sa mga panahon kung kailan, saan, paano maaaring maibigay ng mga guro ang alituntunin ng bawat mag-aaral.

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## EQUITY FOR THE MADRASA



By Shanemah U. Latiph

The Philippine Constitution provides that the state shall establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

The Bangsamoro government's mandate and one top priority is to make education integrated, inclusive and equitable for all Bangsamoro People. The Bangsamoro Organic Law provides that the Bangsamoro Government shall establish, maintain, and supervise Madaris education in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. This ensures that the interests, ideals and aspirations of our people are being served according to their needs. Having our own well-functioning Madrasa education system has always been a dream for many Bangsamoros — to include Islamic teachings in the mainstream education in BARMM.

There have been several studies, plans, proposal and programs regarding the status, gaps and action plans of the government on the Madrasah. The question is if these studies, plans and programs are being considered and included as a priority agenda of the national government as well as the Bangsamoro government. Islamic education is very important in all aspects of Muslim life. Islam is a complete way of life that guides the human being. Islam leads us to the right path, away from corruption and injustice.

There are four kinds of Madrasah education in the country. These are the following:

- 1) The Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) in public schools ALIVE, a program intended for Muslim Filipinos;
- 2) The integrated or private madaris registered with DepEd to implement the ulama-developed and government-prescribed Standard Madrasah Curriculum (SMC) or the Revised Standard Madrasah Curriculum (RSMC);
- 3) The Tahdiriyyah Program, which is a preschool program for those five years and younger. It was developed by the UNICEF, Tarbiyyah Committee, and Bangsamoro Development Agency, targeting the traditional Madaris under the MILF-covered areas;
- 4) The traditional Madaris, which constitutes the bulk of all Madaris in the Philippines.

There are at least 1,534 traditional Madaris in the Bangsamoro region. The traditional madaris is a sector that remains underserved, excluded and left to fend for themselves for so many years. In 2019, the Bureau of Madaris Education (BME) was able to issue 135 Permit to Operate (PTOs) and successfully subsidized 60 Standard Madrasa Curriculum – Balanced Education (SMC-BE). If we look at the numbers, the Madrasa schools that are being served by the government are less than the Madrasa schools not served.

An inclusive and integrated education for both western and Islamic education should be balanced. The appropriate agencies shall pave the way and ease the inclusion of Madrasa education to BARMM's mainstream education. Those incentives given and received by the DepEd teachers should be equal to what our Arabic teachers receive. Government should also provide regular support for the maintenance, quality service and capital outlay for Madaris schools. This way, education in the Bangsamoro becomes more equitable.

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## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

By Jamael M. Sarip

### "Tabang for Vulnerable Sector"

Brgy. Boganga, Lake View Temporary Shelter  
Division 7, Marawi City  
July 09, 2020 (Thursday)

On June 9, 2020, one hundred seventy (170) families residing in temporary shelters in Boganga Division 7 who were affected by a mud-flood due to heavy rain fall received food packs from the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph through its IDP Sectoral Representative Sittie Johara M. Pacalondo. Each of the food packs contains (5) kilogram of rice, assorted vegetables, spices, dried fish, and oil. They were given after an inspection and assessment conducted in the area.

### "Tabang Project"

Covid-19 Relief Assistance Distribution of 25 Kilos of Rice Per Family in Tugaya Lanao del Sur  
July 19, 2020 (Sunday)

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph hosted the "Tabang Project" which is a program under the Office of the Interim Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim. Twenty-five (25) kilos of rice were distributed in every household in the Municipality of Tugaya, Lanao del Sur. In total, 3,700 sacks of rice were successfully received by the beneficiaries with the active participation of the local government unit officials headed by Municipal Mayor Hon. Al-Fattah Balindong, Local MILF leaders represented by Dr. Bashary A. Latiph, Youth Volunteers from Coalition of Moro Youth Movement (CMYM), Sugod-1 Islamic Youth Movement (SIYM), Tugaya Youth Volunteers (TYV) and the Office of MP Dr. Marjanie Mimbantas. The program was also graced by the presence of some of Lanao BTA-Members such as Hon. Zainuddin Bato, MP Jannati Mimbantas and the staffs of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph.

# PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## “Vlog: What’s-up...Watch-up...Lanao”

“The Hidden Treasure of Ranaw”

June 03, to July 10, 2020

Lanao del Sur

A Vlog competition was organized to showcase the beauty and bounty of BARMM’s natural resources as well as its rich culture. It also aims to promote the potential tourist spots in the province of Lanao del Sur in consideration of Republic Act. No. 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009.” With the program, various young Vloggers participated in the competition by submitting their entries to the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph. The videos were shared online and are available for viewing in the Office’s Facebook Page and Official Website.

## Bangsamoro Short Film Festival 2020

June 30 to July 25, 2020

Nationwide

The BSFF-2020 is an opportunity for young Moro artists in the BARMM by showcasing their skills in directing a short film, boost their confidence and talent in acting as well as skills in videography. As part of the call for entries, a series of webinars were conducted. 1) Film Talk, 2) Video Editing Workshop, 3) Bangsamoro Film Talk, and 4) Creating the Future Through Art. This BSFF-2020 is in partnership with the Embassy of the Czech Republic, British Council, Fringe Manila, Para sa Sining, Save the Children, Bangsamoro Culture Heritage, and APFI. The Awarding ceremony of BSFF-2020 for the thirty-three (33) film entries was conducted on August 15, 2020, via live streaming. All the 33 film entries mirror the aspirations of the younger generation, including the hope that there is always light at the end of darkness.

## Band of Honor

Modern-Day Heroes Poster Making  
Online Contest

BARMM Wide

June 08 to July 07, 2020

Poster Makers from different municipalities and cities of BARMM have inspired individuals by showcasing their talent on poster making through online and social media platforms. In July 2020, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph conducted the online awarding program for the poster-making contest, recognizing and expressing appreciation for the great contributions of our frontliners in battling against CoViD-19. Ninety-eight (98) posters were submitted for judging. The online poster making contest gained 459,149 total shares and 35,838 total reactions, showing that the Bangsamoro youth's vibrant creativity and zealous participation in the good advocacies for the region.



*The online poster making contest gained 459,149 total shares and 35,838 total reactions*





## ...PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Backyard Gardening (Grow Your Own Food) Online Competition

May 19, 2020 to June 1, 2020, Lanao del Sur

In this time of crisis, people need to be physically and mentally healthy. A study from Wageningen University which compared the stress-relieving impact of reading with that of gardening showed that gardening had a physiologically soothing effect on (30) adult participants. With this in mind, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph promoted backyard gardening by organizing an Online Backyard Gardening Contest thus encouraging BARMM constituents to engage themselves in gardening and/or farming. The activity will is also aimed at promoting food security with the region.

### Provision of Teachers Personal Protection Kit

September 02, 03 and 04, 2020

Marawi City and Lanao del Sur

In order to strengthen the awareness on personal protection against CoVid-19 pandemic and also to extend assistance, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph gave Personal Protection Kits to (500) private teachers in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur I and II. The kits were distributed on September 2, 4, and 9, 2020. Each kit contains 250(ml) antiseptic/disinfectant, (20) pieces face mask, hand soap, and a face shield.

**Presented by**  
OFFICE OF MP ATTY. MAISARA C. DANDAMUN-LATIPH  
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY - BARMM

**Give Us Your Best Shots!**

# Growing Seed OF HOPE 2020

**THEME** "My Backyard Garden as Source of Hope"

In celebration of the Philippines Environment Month this June 2020, the Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph is inviting all interested residents of Lanao del Sur to join "GROWING SEED OF HOPE PHOTO CONTEST" online photo competition with the theme "MY BACKYARD GARDEN AS SOURCE OF HOPE".

### Guidelines

- \* The competition is open to all resident of Lanao Del Sur
- \* The participants shall take a photo of his/her backyard garden at least four (4) to (5) photos.
- \* Write (2) to (3) paragraph description either Filipino or English about your garden that focuses on theme "My Backyard Garden as source of Hope"
- \* All entry shall be screened by three(3) agriculture experts

### Criteria

* Backyard Garden Creativity	20%
* Description/Explanation	30%
* Sustainability of Backyard Garden	25%
* Garden skills	25%
	100%

**Entries Close JUNE 25**

SEND YOUR ENTRIES VIA GMAIL AT [ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com](mailto:ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com)  
With the subject "Garden\_(Your name)\_(Municipality)"  
Ex: Garden\_Sahane M. Panolog\_Butig

mpmaisara@gmail.com @mpmaisara mpmmaisara.org Empowering Voices

### 1st Round Table Discussion on Ecological Solid Waste Management System

August 31, 2020

Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur

A Round Table Discussion was organized by the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph in furtherance of her Office's environment advocacy. With the intention of gathering information that can shed light into the status of solid waste management in BARMM and to explore possibility of coming up with a legislation that could directly address issues affecting the environment, various experts and stakeholders were invited which included concerned officials from concerned government agencies such as the local government units, DENR and MENRE. Among the subjects discussed are with respect to the following: 1) Operational inefficiencies of services; 2) limited utilization of recycling activities; 3) poor enforcement of ordinances; 4) improper communication among residents and leaders; and 5) lack of public information on ESWM system.

In observance of government health protocols, the RTD was conducted through face-to-face discussion with limited participants and via teleconferencing for those participants outside Lanao del Sur.





## ...PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### “Tabang Project”

#### Covid-19 Relief Assistance Distribution of Rice

September 03, 04 and 05, 2020

Marantao, Tugaya, Masiu and Marawi City

The Office of MP Abdulraof A. Macacua gave 500 sacks (25 kilos each) of rice to the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph. The rice assistance is intended for the BARMM constituents affected by the CoVid-19 pandemic. With dispatch, the Office of MP Maisara distributed the rice to those who belong to the vulnerable sectors who are adversely affected by the crisis

In coordination with the local leaders, the rice has been distributed in the Municipality of Marantao, Tugaya, Masiu, and Marawi City.

### Medical Assistance to people in need

August and September 2020

Lanao del Sur

One of the assistance provided by the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph amidst the pandemic is extending financial support to BARMM constituents in response to their medical needs. The Office has given financial aid to an IDP mother who gave birth via caesarean; IDP mother who underwent medical operation because of Myoma, and a child suffering from hydrocephalus. The assistance is in furtherance of the promotion of the advocacy on good health and well-being of individuals.



# PROTECTION FOR TEACHERS IN TRYING TIMES

By Jamael M. Sarip

Affected by the economic repercussions of CoViD-19 pandemic, many among low income private school teachers do not have enough money to buy personal protection kits. Sometimes supplies are limited, demand is high and prices are too costly. These teachers are already faced with the new challenges in teaching for the academic year 2020-2021 but remain dedicated to teach quality education.

To strength awareness on the need for personal protection for teachers from the pandemic, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph provided Personal Protection Kits to 500 private school teachers in Lanao del Sur, in both Districts I and II. The distribution activities were conducted on September 2, 4 and 9. Each kit consists of 250 ml antiseptic disinfectant, 20 pieces face mask, hand soap and face shield.

The table below shows the recipient schools and the number of beneficiary-teachers.

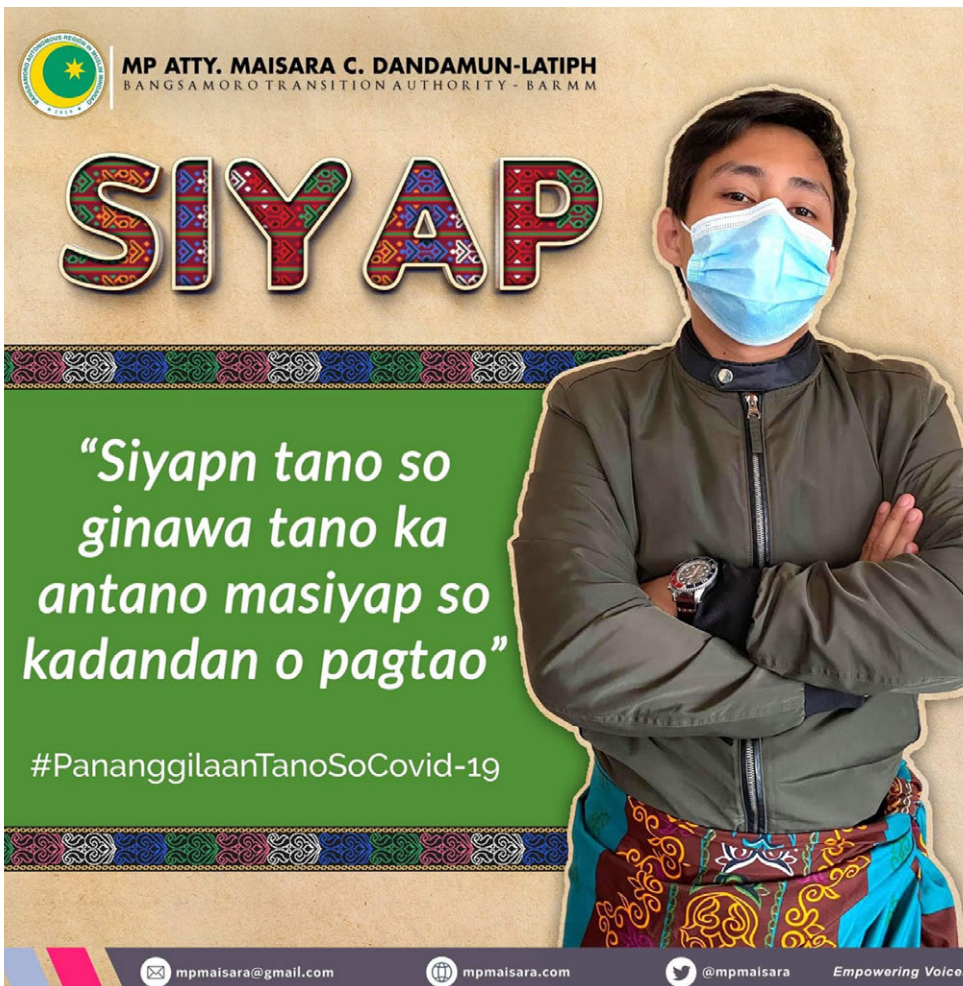
No.	Name of School	No. of Recipient Teachers
1.	Philippine Engineering and Industrial (PEACI)	23
2.	Philippine Integrated College Academy Foundation	20
3.	Lanao Islamic Paramedical College Foundation	35
4.	Jamiatul Philippine Al-Islamia	34
5.	Khadija Mohammad Islamic Academy	30
6.	Marawi Integrated College	30
7.	Al-farabj International Academy (AFIA)	15
8.	Jamiatul Muslim Mindanao (JMM)	37
9.	Islamic Endowment Foundation	51
10.	Senator Ninoy Aquino College Foundation	24
11.	Dianaton Naim Learning Institute	13
12.	Masiu Pathfinder Integrated Academy	20
13.	Philippine Integrated School - Tugaya	15
14.	Marawi Boundary Academy	12
15.	Mahad Al-Irshad Al-Islamie Pilot Madrasah	15
16.	Our Lady of Peace High School	52
17.	San Isidro High School	30
18.	Soar High Academy	15
19.	Dansalan College	30

During the distribution of the Teacher’s Personal Protection Kit, the recipients expressed deep gratitude. “We are very thankful because this is the first time that we received help from the Bangsamoro Government,” said Ms. Normin B. Ambolodto School Administrator at Lanao Islamic Paramedical College Foundation (LIPCIFI).

“BARMM government is where no one will be left behind” because “every little action gives [us] hope and inspiration to carry-on what life bring us in trying times,” the administrator added.







MP ATTY. MAISARA C. DANDAMUN-LATIPH  
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY - BTRM

# SIYAP

*"Siyapn tano so ginawa tano ka antano masiyap so kadandan o pagtao"*

#PananggilaanTanoSoCovid-19

mpmaisara@gmail.com mpmaisara.com @mpmaisara Empowering Voices

Some studies show the CoViD-19 could be 10 times higher than the death rate from flu.  
-MEEDAN.org

## CAN COVID-19 LEAD TO LETHAL THROMBOSIS?

"Infection with the new coronavirus can alter the way blood flows, making it stickier and more likely to clot in some patients with CoViD-19. Blood clots (thrombus) have been found in the lungs, hearts, brains and limbs and have been attributed as the cause of death in some CoViD-19 patients when the clots cut off the blood supply to major organs.

The widespread nature of CoViD-19 is becoming apparent, with disease of the blood and blood vessels now being studied in affected patients, but it's still unclear why some people suffer problems related to blood clots while others suffer different or milder versions of the disease."

LIFTED FROM:

Dr. Seema Yasmin  
MEEDAN FOUNDATION  
Meedan.com  
learnaboutcovid19.org

## SOME COVID-19 QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### ARE YOU AS LIKELY TO DIE FROM A COMMON COLD AS COVID-19?

"The common cold is generally not lethal, with some rare exceptions. The flu, which is deadlier than the common cold, killed 0.1% of the people who contracted it in 2019. It is still too early to discern accurate global death estimates for people who have contracted COVID-19, but estimates have ranged from 1% to 25% of all cases, depending on the country.

Even conservative COVID-19 death rates (around 1% ) would mean that the novel coronavirus is at least 10 times as deadly as the flu, and significantly more lethal than the common cold."



# 3 YEARS AFTER MARAWI SIEGE



By: Sittie Joharah M. Pacalundo

Marawi siege has brought so much agony and depression to the long time brave people of the lake, the Meranao. Marawi City will always be remembered with rich in culture, strong traditional structure and the center of Islamic values. Long before the Spaniards and Americans colonization, the Datu and Sultan like the great warrior Amai Pakpak fought hard against them in defending the beloved Dansalan (old name of Marawi City). One historic event of the Meranao is the 1935 Dansalan Declaration, where our forefathers demand to the US government their right to self-determination, respect to their norms, beliefs, religion and their way of life.

It has been almost three (3) years now since President Duterte declared the ruined city as liberated but the fate of the displaced people remained scattered in the different temporary shelters and home-based communities. Certainly, the Marawi crisis is far from over. Indeed, the battle against the ISIS-inspired terrorist group has been won but another warfare has been born after the Marawi Siege. It is the war of the displaced people against poverty, discrimination, and social justice. The continuous suffering of the people up to this date can be seen in the report of the different NGOs and CSOs, testimonial stories of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the different public hearing and consultations.

Issues raised:

- (1) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) Facilities;
- (2) Livelihood Assistance;
- (3) Shelters;
- (4) Education in New Normal;
- (5) Proper Waste Disposal;
- (6) Health especially in this time of Pandemic;
- (7) Assistance for the families of Missing and Dead; and,
- (8) The right to return home.

The truth will always hunt the different actors of Marawi. It is important for them to note that the problem in Marawi is not only the delayed rehabilitation but also the IDPs demand in claiming their right to justice as mandated to the Government by the Philippine Constitution and the right of the IDPs under the International Humanitarian Law. The rebuilding of Marawi is not only about constructing huge dubai-like infrastructures but social healing. Giving consideration to the emotion and psychological well-being of the IDPs is the root and strong foundation of Marawi Rehabilitation.

The Meranao people in general do not deserve the pain and agony that they are experiencing right now. Thus, the right of the IDPs to return back immediately to the Most Affected Area (MAA) is a must. The IDPs are not pursuing this right because they just want it rather because it is a vital need.

Being displaced for over 3 years is really a huge burden. The sufferings they feel cannot be compensated by the ongoing construction of the different project inside the Most Affected Area (MAA) rather by allowing them to have access to their property. Giving them a chance to see and visit their houses is one way closer to heal their shattered dreams and aspirations.

The Government must remember that, "Displacement shall not be carried out in a manner that violates the right to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected." – United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPID)

# Bangsamoro Short-Film Festival

WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO YOU WINNERS OF THE FESTIVAL WHO RECEIVED TROPHIES, GIFT PACKS, CASH AND CERTIFICATES.

ALL PARTICIPATING FILMMAKERS WERE GIVEN CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION SIGNED BY MP MAISARA AND THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR.



This film was awarded the Best Film in the Bangsamoro Short Film Festival 2020. The film is about poet and songwriter RKJun, a well-known local rap artist in Zamboanga City. His story is one of hope and not giving up. He lives in Sta. Barbara, the 'ground zero' of Zamboanga Siege in 2013. His rap songs tell of survival amid hardships and conflict. He lost copies of his compositions during the Siege but no one can take away the rhythms in his heart. The Bangsamoro artist prevails.



This film was given the Jury's Choice Award in the Bangsamoro Short Film Festival (BSFF) 2020. A documentary about the lives of the displaced Teduray people in South Upi, Maguindanao, "Funan Meuyag" breaks the silence on the struggles of this indigenous minority. They may be fewer but their wisdom on the sacredness of the land, the need for peace with nature and among all human beings, and respect for the values and beliefs handed down by ancestors echo loud in this documentary.



This film was given the Audience Choice Award in the Bangsamoro Short Film Festival 2020. Spoken entirely in Chavacano, this film is a truly heart-warming story about a teenage girl who has been longing for a mother's love. This film triggers emotions from start to finish. On her 16th birthday, Rose is visited by a mysterious 16-year old girl who encourages her about life. Walking back home, Rose decides to open the paper box prepared for her by her mother a long time ago. What she discovers shocked her. Her mother never left after all.



This film received the Best Director and Gender/Children's Rights Awards in the Bangsamoro Short Film Festival 2020. Although categorized as fiction, this film reflects the real hardships being faced by the sea-dwelling Moros especially around the Sulu sea. The entry is fiction but the issues are real. Shot entirely in a sea-dwelling community built of houses on stilts, "Pusaka" tells the story of a girl who asks her parents to send her to school. Being poor and faced with diminishing sea resources around them, the father strives to save money for his daughter's education. Local sea pirates rob all the father's little savings and kill him, too.





Along with "Pusaka," the short film "Kambayok" was given the Children's Rights Award. The story is a glimpse of the musical talent of a blind 10-year old child, a master chanter is embodied in Kasanor. For Kasanor's mother, treatment for Kasanor's eyes is what she has been hoping for. However, for Kasanor, Kambayok and the wisdom he shares are what matters more.



"Mujahid" received the Best Editing Award for its best use of words, sounds and images to tell a story through film. The message is also the bravest for it hits at the core of why wars should be ended. The voice of the Mujahid portrays noble aspirations and sacrifice but also shows that war destroys families. When families break, we all lose.



This film received the Best Actress Award in the Bangsamoro Short Film Festival 2020. The story revolves around a vegetable seller whose kind heart and good intentions are eventually rewarded. The lead actress, Shamra Hussain, shines in her role, at par with the professional actors we see in the movies and national television. Watch and marvel at just one of the talents we have in the Bangsamoro.



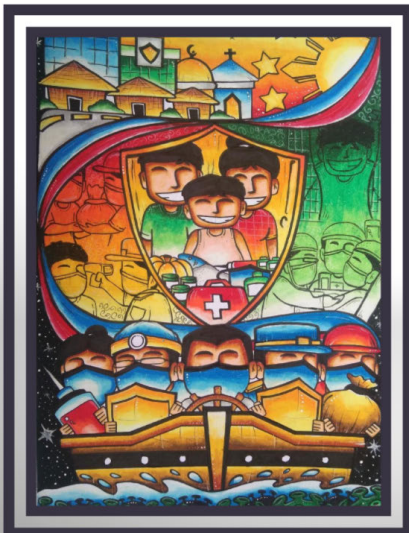
The film revolves around the story of childhood friends Jalil and Hadjir. Their way of bonding is playing "Teks" (Gaming Cards). Growing up, Hadjir's family faces extreme poverty because his father left their family for a mistress abroad and stopped sending support. The two friends go into drug dealing to earn quick money but later on face the consequences of their actions. The story of these two friends reflects the hardships and struggles of young people today. What saves us from deep misery? It is strong faith in ALLAH S.W.T. and turning our backs from actions that eventually will harm us back in the end.

IN JUNE 2020, the Office of MP Maisara opened an opportunity to extend the Bangsamoro people's gratitude to the various actors who play significant roles in the survival of our nation from the CoViD-19 pandemic.

# A TRIBUTE TO THE HEROES OF THE PANDEMIC

It was also an opportunity for every individual who is an art enthusiast to share their perspective on how members of a society can help one another. Thus, a poster-making contest was created.

## Poster-Making Winners



### Jury's Choice Award

**LEUWYN JAYS CADANO**  
Cotabato City

We are all in one boat so we are all in this together! With the Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte leading and all of us doing our part, the family which the basic foundation of the Filipino society is shielded from any harm. Philippine society is steered towards progress.



### Office of MP Maisara's Choice

**SYAMSIR MARSUKI**  
Sulu

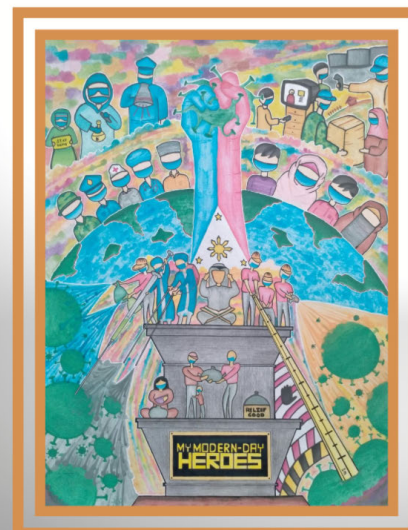
The poster is a sombre depiction of the devastation brought about by COVID-19 pandemic. It also describes sacrifices and heroism of our frontliners. The artist choice of colors and skillfull drawing of each and every expression are elements make this work truly outstanding.



### 1st Runner Up

**NAHIDAH O. HADJI SOBAIR**  
Malabang, Lanao del Sur

The poster depicts the doctors and other health workers standing with the police and armed forces. Containing and eliminating the virus is possible through a well functioning health system, cooperative and heroic citizens and strong and God-fearing families.



### 2nd Runner Up

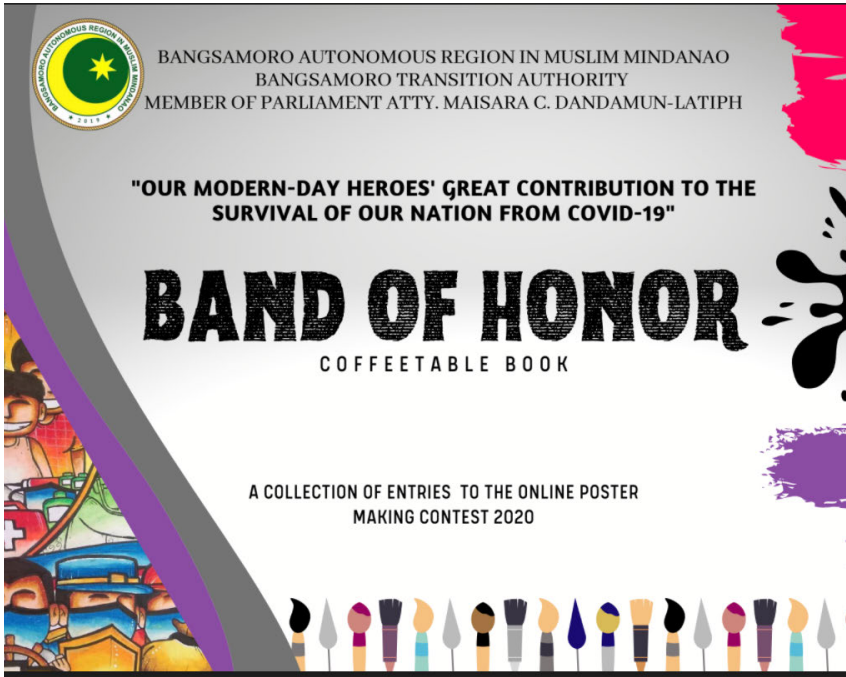
**HOSNI TAHA**  
Marawi City

The poster shows the Philippine nation crushing the virus through the united efforts of everyone like the scientists, media, armed forces, religious leaders, health workers, checkpoints personnel, and people who give food aid to those in need.

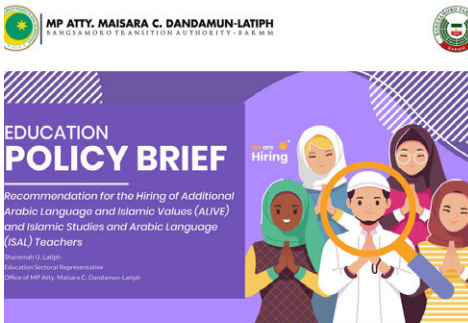


# Publications

the Office of MP Maisara is also functions as a publication house that brings up opportunities for collaboration among Bangsamoro actors and partners in the full transition to BARM government while also making more visible and audible the realities and aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. You can find pdf copies of the publications at the website [www.mpmmaisara.com](http://www.mpmmaisara.com)



In our eyes, all entries to the poster-making contest are winners so we decided to gather all the posters into a coffeetable book to celebrate the rich artistry in the Bangsamoro and present all the participating Bangsamoro artists and their works.



The integration of Madrasah education in different private and public schools is vital to the Muslims and Non-Muslim learners in the Philippines particularly in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and the bulk of Muslim communities which are concentrated in the region. Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society. As mandated further in the ISAL, Section 18, the Bangsamoro Government shall ensure the integration in the elementary and high school education curricula the teaching of Islamic and Arabic studies for Muslim pupils and students in public school. For this purpose, the Bangsamoro Parliament shall enact legislation to develop and strengthen the Madrasah education system in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Islamic Values (ALIVE) is a program for Muslim students who are enrolled in public schools nationwide. Based on data, there is a total of 2,647 schools, which requires approximately 1,433 ALIVE/ISAL teachers. However, in 2018, only 568 teachers were deployed.

Last 30 July 2020, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) issued Memorandum Order no. 437 on announcing the hiring of ALIVE/ISAL teachers in the whole region. Based on the hiring guidelines, the number of ALIVE/ISAL teachers per school and ALIVE/ISAL teacher per school and would be distributed to the 2,157 public elementary schools and 353 public Junior High Schools in BARMM with total number of 2,647 schools. However, hiring one teacher per school would not suffice for the need for the quality of teaching and learning process. This is due to the number of grade levels and students that a teacher will handle. Every public elementary school has 6-8 grade level and the public Junior High School has Grade 7-10 year level with each grade level composed of approximately 20 learners, thus one teacher per school is not enough. In 2018, the number of ALIVE/ISAL teachers deployed to HRF was far from the needed number of approximately 3,453 ALIVE/ISAL teachers. Our teachers must have right time and schedule to render their services during class hour and their tasks both in time and subject should not exceed what a person can do daily. Therefore, if we seek to produce more students who are well-equipped with the basic learnings of Arabic and Islam then the following related suggestions or concerns shall be resolved. Our students are the future hope of this society, affecting deep plan and implementation will make the region better and flourish.

The region has a total of approximately 16,237 grade levels that should be taken into consideration. Only 6.6% of 16,237 will be covered by the released memorandum of the MBHTE to be implemented. Thus, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) is urged to adjust the following recommendations: (1) An additional number of ALIVE/ISAL teachers to be hired, and, (2) Hire more than three or more teachers per school. These recommendations aim to ensure the objectives of the ALIVE program for students in the elementary and junior high school level. This initiative of MBHTE is good because Alavith will bring more incentives to receive and some of our students will be offered and taught by the basic teachings of Islam, but it will become even better if they will enhance it based on the recommendations enumerated here. Offering Islamic subjects in public schools should not be limited for a short period of time of teaching because it will lead to a low quality of education. This will happen once the number of grade levels that they will be assigned to are more than the number of teachers. Therefore, there is a need for additional ALIVE/ISAL teachers in the Bangsamoro Region, with this can be achieved through the recommendations provided – implemented by the MBHTE, together with the Bureau of Muslim Education (BME), as the responsible agencies. The MBHTE is tasked to establish, maintain, and support a complete and integrated system of quality education in the Bangsamoro and their mission is to provide integrated, balanced, and quality education that is reflective of the aspirations of the people in the Bangsamoro. By these workings, and in order to achieve quality education, the MBHTE and BME are encouraged to consider the said recommendation.

Section 2, Article XIV, 1987 Philippine Constitution (2020 August 23). Retrieved from <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/issuances/1987-constitution/>

Section 18, Education, Article 18, Basic Rights, Bangsamoro Organic Law, Republic Act 11054 (2020 August 23). Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/issuances/2020-08-23/ra11054/>

Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) Official Facebook Page. 1 July 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/mbhteofficial/>

Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority. 2020. 1st Bangsamoro Development Plan 2020-2022 (pp.216). Cotabato City, Philippines.

Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) Official Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/mbhteofficial/>



**KEY MESSAGES**

SECTION 12, ARTICLE VI OF R.A. 11054  
 Ensures the protection of the rights of the BCobar with the government providing them assistance to enhance their economic, social and cultural development in coordination with Local Government Units and appropriate national government agencies.

PAGSAPANG D, SECTION 9, ARTICLES VI OF R.A. 11054  
 Likewise mandates the representation of BCobar in the Council of Leaders that advises the Chief Minister, mechanism of representation and number of representatives will be determined by the Parliament.

THE BCobar FEDERATION  
 Representing a constituency of 1 million Moro outside BARMM has registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to serve as an arena and forum to crystallize and coordinate their issues & concerns in offering help to the Bangsamoro Government.

A PROPOSED BTB BILL NO. 15  
 Creating the BCobar Office has passed the 2nd Reading by an overwhelming majority support of the Members of the Parliament.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Request the Chief Minister Ali Hajji-Muhammad Ibrahim to certify Urgent the BTB Bill No. 15.
- To ask the Bangsamoro Parliament to create a Committee on BCobar Affairs as one of its standing committees.
- To request the Bangsamoro Government to grant BCobar Federation Accreditation and Representation under Article 15 on Inter-governmental Relations, and;
- To question the appointment of representative from the BCobar Federation to the Council of Leaders pursuant to paragraph D, Section 9 of Article VI of R.A. 11054.



**MESSAGE NATIONAL HEROES DAY**

y, we honor the historical heroes but also the era-day heroes who deserve to be cared for, scied and recognized for their courage and face in this time of Covid-19 pandemic. These era-day heroes I am referring to are, firstly, the healthcare workers who have been sacrificing their own time with family so they can attend to the D-19 patients and other people with illness to many lives. They work long hours, enduring us, physical and even psychological stress,ing hazards that include prolonged exposure to pathogens, while also bearing with stigma and, rtunately sometimes, physical and psychological nce.

si po matatawaran ang lahat ng mga piyong inyong ginawa at patuloy na ginagawa sa buong sambayanan. Kayo po ang aming mga ni at palagi po kayong nasa aming mga dasal.

Secondly, our pandemic heroes also include non-medical workers who many among us never thought of before as important to our nation's survival. The essential government and civil workers, police and armed forces who keep peace, barangay and community workers, the pri and finance sectors, the food producers and fac workers, the drivers who transport food and eser goods, the market sellers and food vendors, many other formal and informal workers who cn liveable conditions for all of us—they, too, are he we salute on this day.

I also enjoy everyone to recognize the most sisters, aunts, daughters, solo parents, kasambahay who are mostly our homemakers home managers. Staying home more often and longer periods hopefully made us all realize that cannot survive, with or without pandemic, with them.

The modern-day heroes have become more visibl we go through trying times. As we continue to inspired by our medical and non-mec modern-day heroes, I challenge everyone of u become heroes for each other. Let us help each o push and move on, day by day, until we reach i sweet moment where we can all sigh and claim victory over the pandemic.

Sa lahat ng mga makabagong-bayani ng a panahon, lalo na sa panahon ng pande maraming-maraming salamat at mabuhay po ka

MP ATTY. MAISARA DANDAMUN-LATIPH  
 Member of Parliament  
 Bangsamoro Transition Authority

The Office of MP Maisara has been working on policy briefs that amplify the concerned voices of the Bangsamoro people. Visit [www.mpmmaisara.org](http://www.mpmmaisara.org) for copies of policy briefs and other publications.

# CALL FOR BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGES

By Hana T. Yusoph

**“The story of our children is the story of our future”**

**This is a story of a child roaming on the streets because he does not have any place to stay.**

**A child without parental care, living with a relative or a neighbor who cannot provide enough care.**

**A child who is forced to work to earn a living so he could provide for his family.**

**A child left uncared for, finding radicalization and co-option by violent extremist groups as his only salvation.**

**A child unreached by government basic services on education and health services.**



For a child who has lost a parent, life is filled with hardships. In the absence of early child development support, the orphaned child is one of the most vulnerable to poverty, radicalization and criminality. They may grow up believing that their problems can be solved by violence. They could die of starvation or suffer malnutrition. They could end up recruited by armed and extremist groups. Instead of making the world a brighter place, they could do harm to others and impact the world in a negative way.

Orphaned children who are more fortunate are supported by their relatives or institutions that are sustained by Sadaqah (voluntary giving or charity) or zakat (tithing). However, most orphaned children receive support from their extended family members for the first year. The support declines after two (2) or three (3) years. The number of orphans that can be supported by institutions are few because of limited resources.

There are orphans but no orphanages.

According to the study of The Asia Foundation (2020) there are no orphanages or shelters in the Bangsamoro that are accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Instead, many Muslim orphans taken in by DSWD in Mindanao are often sent to orphanages in Manila. Other private charitable organizations focusing on children and orphans from the BARMM have been set up in areas with a sizeable Muslim diaspora, such as Maharlika Village in Taguig, Culiati in Quezon City, Quiapo in Manila, and Baguio City. These places are used as educational hubs, not only by ethnic Bangsamoros, but also those considered Balik-Islam, or reverts to Islam.



## ...BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGES

There are instances when orphans are perceived as additional burden, particularly when they are taken in by distant relatives. This can lead to discrimination or abuses when it is not the choice of the relative to take care of the orphan but do so only by obligation to cultural and religious norms. Some foster-parent relatives send their biological children to school but do not extend the same right to the orphans, blaming limited financial resources. Others offer employment to orphans but these are either without pay or extremely low-paying, or even involves unpleasant tasks such as digging ditches, latrines or graves.

### ORPHAN CARE CENTER

Every child deserves a chance to survive and develop to the fullest. Here are some recommendations we gathered so far.

Explore appropriate models for orphanage centers per town to cater orphans with no guardians for in-house care, including 'village' type settlements where orphans and widows can be together, and training of personnel to provide appropriate care. Education is a primary need, incentive, and goal for most respondents, alongside access to jobs.

Five common needs and aspirations of orphans that should be addressed by a comprehensive support program: (The Asia Foundation, 2020)

- (i) Physical safety and security;
- (ii) Socio-economic needs;
- (iii) Educational needs;
- (iv) Emotional and spiritual needs; and,
- (v) Access to justice.

Building orphanage centers (Baytul Yatim) will help alleviate the condition of every orphan. Orphans are often sent to this institution as a way of relieving a family with very little income or limited capacity to meet the needs of the child. Orphans in orphanages should be given a safe environment to grow, with a good place to sleep, adequate food and proper schooling, and also be visited their families often.

By building orphanages that are supported by the Bangsamoro Government, we will have more impact on the lives of the orphaned children and support institution in providing quality care.

When we help raise orphaned children in a healthy and loving environment, they grow up to be responsible individuals. Our children are our most valuable resource and best hope for the future. We need to guide and mold them in their early years to help them become the best version of themselves. Our children's future is worth every sacrifice. By helping them, we are helping our future.

References:

The Asia Foundation (2020). Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao. Retrieved from <https://asiafoundation.org/publication/children-of-war-a-rapid-needs-assessment-of-orphans-in-muslim-mindanao/>