

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering Voices

Office of the Member of Parliament
Atty. MAISARA C. DANDAMUN-LATIPH

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Bangsamoro Transition Authority



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Foreword

ATTY. MAISARA C. DANDAMUN-LATIPH

Member of Parliament, Bangsamoro Transition Authority



2020 will always be remembered as the year of resilience, grit and courage to cope with the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Philippines one of the most badly hit in the world, experienced unprecedented recession and unemployment. The pandemic not only affected the health of the people but also their physical, mental, emotional and socio-economic status.

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) the poorest region in the country whose stability is marred by conflict and poverty suffered the most. In an instant, almost everyone's income was reduced, mostly from the informal sectors which comprise 75% of the BARMM economy.

School drop-out in BARMM was at its highest at 30%. Half of households experienced school dropouts among children due to lack of finances, gadgets, internet connection, and fear of infection.

Covid-19 pandemic made us all realize the importance of good governance to provide crucial services and support needed by the Bangsamoro people during our transition from peace to stability. Moral governance and the ability of the BARMM government to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 crisis was duly tested this pandemic. If not for the aid and assistance for food, medicine and healthcare, our most vulnerable sector would have not survived this crisis.

Cognizant of all these various challenges, our office transformed to Digital work in delivering the mandates of our office. We vigorously pursued our mission to deliver excellent services to the most vulnerable sectors.

This Annual report is a testament to the heroism of all our team members and partners who delivered the necessary aid and assistance to the Bangsamoro people both inside and outside BARMM. It contains the story of our love, dedication and commitment to serve.

Our shared vision, mission and values made the difference in accomplishing our objectives. We were motivated to work harder and better to rise up against the challenges of the pandemic.

In behalf of Team MP Maisara, may our people's voices inspire you and give you hope. We also thank you for supporting us and showing that together no one will be left behind.

We hope that 2021 will be a year better year for us all, Insha Allah.

Wassalam. 15 January 2021, Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur, Philippines

Our Vision, Mission, and Values Statement

Our Vision

"A PEOPLE- CENTERED, PEACEFUL AND PROGRESSIVE
BANGSAMORO."

Our Mission

"TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES TO THE VULNERABLE
SECTORS OF THE BANGSAMORO."

Values Statement

We are services driven through the lens of the vulnerable sectors.

We support one another in reaching our full potentials, both
professionally and personally.

We give our best in all we do.

We recognize the value of team work and inspire innovation,
cooperation and care.

We promote a culture of peace and belongingness where everyone's voice
is heard.

We are fair and transparent in fulfilling our duties.

We hold ourselves accountable for the results of our work.

LEGISLATIONS

Committee Memberships:

	RULES
	FINANCE, BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
	LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
	SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT
	TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM
	SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MARAWI REHABILITATION
	CHAIRMAN OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By the end of 2020, the Office of MP Maisara D. Latiph has submitted the following documents:

Document Type	Bill	Resolutions
Authored:	6 Bills	58 Resolutions
Co-Authored:	37 Bills	18 Resolutions
TOTAL	43 Bills	76 Resolutions

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Laws Co-Authored

- **Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 1**
"An Act Adopting An Official Logo For The Parliament Of The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao."
- **Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 2**
"An Act Establishing A Bangsamoro Economic Planning And Development Structure, Providing Funds Therefor, And For Other Purposes."

Bills Authored

- **BTA Bill No. 5**
"An Act Creating The Office Of The Bangsamoro Director-General For Madaris Education In The Ministry Of Education And To Strengthen And Institutionalize Madaris Education And Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes."
- **BTA Bill No. 15**
"An Act Creating The Office Of The Bangsamoro Communities Outside Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Defining Its Powers, Functions And Responsibilities And Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes."
- **BTA Bill No. 32**
"An Act Creating The Ranao Development Authority Prescribing Its Powers And Functions And Appropriating Funds Therefor."
- **BTA Bill No. 52**
"An Act Instituting A Credible And Responsive System In Determining Eligible Beneficiaries Affected By The Pandemic In The Bangsamoro."
- **BTA Bill No. 63**
"An Act Creating The Bureau Of Information And Communications Technology Under The Ministry Of Transportation And Communication."
- **BTA Bill No. 71**
"An Act Institutionalizing Support To The Welfare And Care For Orphans By Establishing Bangsamoro Orphanages In The Region, And Providing Funds Thereof."

Resolutions Authored

- **Proposed Resolution No. 21**
Resolution Commending The Senate And House Of Representatives For The Passage Of House Bill No. 8281 Entitled, "An Act Providing For The Regulation And Organization Of Islamic Banks," Adopted In Toto By Senate, And Urging President Rodrigo Roa Duterte To Sign House Bill No. 8281 Into Law
- **Proposed Resolution No. 22**
Resolution For The BTA To Include The Creation Of Lake Lanao Development Authority Among The Priority Legislations In The Transition Plan And For The BTA To Enact A Legislation Creating The Said Agency For The Protection, Development And Promotion Of Lake Lanao And Its Watersheds
- **Proposed Resolution No. 23**
Calling For The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Strengthen The Secretary General's Office By Adopting A Responsive Organizational Structure And Instituting A Merit Based Recruitment, Promotion And Hiring Of Its Officials And Personnel
- **Proposed Resolution No. 24**
Resolution Calling For The Creation Of An Oversight Committee On Marawi City Siege Rehabilitation
- **Proposed Resolution No. 25**
"Resolution Calling For The Creation Of Sub Regional Office For Northern Mindanao Region Headed By The Deputy Chief Minister From Ranao."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 26**
"Resolution Calling For The Creation By The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Of The Office Of Bangsamoro Pilgrimage Authority Providing For Its Organizational Structure And Staffing Requirements As Priority Legislation In The Transitional Plan."

- Proposed Resolution No. 36**

"A Resolution Integrating Republic Act No. 11054, Otherwise Known As Organic Law For The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindandao In The Curriculum Of Public, Private And Madaris Higher Education Institutions, As Well As Public, Private And Mandaris Senior And Junior High School In The BARMM Territories."
- Proposed Resolution No. 47**

"Resolution Creating A Special Committee To Look Into The Status Of The Marawi Recovery, Reconstruction, And Rehabilitation Efforts."
- Proposed Resolution No. 60**

"Requesting All Interim Ministries Of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Provide Data, Budget Allocation, Status Of Children In Their Service Constituency As Well As Current, Proposed And Potential Policies And Programs To Preserve, Protect And Promote The Rights Of Children In The BARMM In Aid Of Legislation."
- Proposed Resolution No. 86**

"Resolution Amending Rule VII Of Resolution No. 6, Otherwise Known As The Parliamentary Rules, Procedures, And Practices Of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Of The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao, Redefining The Quorum Requirement For Committee Meetings And Hearings."
- Proposed Resolution No. 87**

"Resolution Amending Rules XV And XVIII Of Resolution No. 6, Otherwise Known As The Parliamentary Rules, Procedures, And Practices Of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Of The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao, Providing For A Chief Minister's Hour And For Other Purposes."
- Proposed Resolution No. 88**

"A Resolution Providing For The Election Of A Deputy Majority Floor Leader And A Deputy Minority Floor Leader In The Bangsamoro Parliament, Thereby Amending Resolution No. 06, Or The Parliamentary Rules, Procedures, And Practices Of The BTA."
- Proposed Resolution No. 93**

"A Resolution Respectfully Requesting The Chief Minister To Make Representation To The Bureau Of Corrections Through The Department Of Justice And Other Concerned Agencies To Transfer Women Muslim Inmates To A Similar Facility In The BARMM."
- Proposed Resolution No. 108**

"A Resolution Calling For The Urgent Establishment And Maintenance Of An Official Website For The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Be Maintained By Its Own Information And Communication Technology Unit As An Instrument To Inform The Public Of The Recent Developments In The Parliament And To Provide An Official Online Source Of Information, Consistent With The Full Disclosure Policy Of The National Government, Transparency, And Good Governance."
- Proposed Resolution No. 112**

"Resolution Constituting A Special Committee To Look Into The Status Of The Marawi Recovery, Reconstruction, And Rehabilitation Efforts."
- Proposed Resolution No. 144**

"A Resolution Creating The Statutory Committee On Bangsamoro Justice System In The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament (BTA Parliament), Amending The Parliamentary Rules, Procedure And Practices Of The BTA Parliament To Include The Committee On Bangsamoro Justice System As One Of The Statutory Committees Of The BTA Parliament."
- Proposed Resolution No. 146**

"Resolution Calling For The Creation Of The National Transitional Justice And Reconciliation Commission For The Bangsamoro And The Formulation And National Implementation Of A Transitional Justice And Reconciliation Program For The Bangsamoro."
- Proposed Resolution No. 151**

"Resolution For The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Move The Plenary Parliament Sessions To Second And Third Week For The Month Of December 2019."



Photo screenshot of the virtual BTA Plenary Session

- **Proposed Resolution No. 152**

"A Resolution For The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Effectuate And Subsequently Recognize The Official Turn-Over Of Sixty Three (63) Barangays To The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao Government."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 153**

"Resolution For The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Call For An Inquiry In Aid Of Legislation Concerning The Delay In The Release Of Funds For Marawi Rehabilitation."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 163**

"A Resolution Requesting The Chief Minister, Hon. Ahod Balawag Ebrahim To Bring The Issue Of Displaced Workers Of Al Sahar Agri-Ventures, Inc. (Asavi) In Talayan, Maguindanao Before President Rodrigo Roa Duterte For Possible Intervention."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 230**

"Resolution Directing The Committee On Social Services 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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 231**

"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 232**

"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."

- **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 The Constituent Local Government Units Taking Into Consideration The Probable Impact Of The Balik Probinsya Program."

- **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 View Of Crafting A Measure That Will Complement President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's National Connectivity Program 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 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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 251**

"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. 260**

"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 Educational Institutions And Present To The BTA Its Learning Continuity Plan Towards The Shift To A New Normal This School Year 2020-2021."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 290**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 261**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 265**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 270**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 277**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 278**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 279**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 280**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 281**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 282**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 283**
"Resolution Urging The Appropriate Parliament Committee To Craft The Bangsamoro Islamic And Banking Finance Framework."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 285**
"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 295**

"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 296**

"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 297**

"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."

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- **Proposed Resolution No. 298**

"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 299**

"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 300**

"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."

- **Proposed Resolution No. 301**
"Resolution Directing The Ministry Of Basic, Higher And Technical Education (MBHTE) To Provide Assistance By Distributing equipment Essential To Modular Distance Learning To Schools In The Bangsamoro Region, Giving Priority To Those In Areas With Weak To No Internet Access."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 303**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 311**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 313**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 317**
"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."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 323**
"Resolution Directing The Committee On Basic, Higher, And Technical Education To Conduct An Inquiry In Aid Of Legislation Into The Concerns Of Various Stakeholders In The Education Sector In Relation To The Opening Of Classes Amidst Pandemic."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 342**
"Resolution Directing The Committee On Health To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, In The Alarming Increase Of Covid-19 Cases Among Frontliners At The Datu Halun Sakilan Memorial Hospital (DHSMH) With The End View Of Crafting Immediate And Long-Term Measures To Prevent Or Mitigate The Occurrence Of Similar Incidents."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 338**
"Resolution Institutionalizing Through The Ministry Of Social Services And Development (MSSD) A Framework Of Representation And Participation For Differently-abled Persons, Including The Deaf Community, In The Bangsamoro Region."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 362**
"A Resolution Affirming The Jurisdiction And Functions Of The Committee On Finance, Budget, And Management Enshrined In The Parliament Rules, Procedures, And Practices Of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Of The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 363**
"A Resolution Requesting The Ministry Of Basic And Higher Technical Education To Integrate Mandatory Curricula On The History Of Bangsamoro Struggle And Human Rights Education In The Draft Bangsamoro Education Code As A Transitional Justice Approach Towards Healing And Reconciliation In The Bangsamoro."
- **Proposed Resolution No. 368**
"Resolution Calling For The Immediate Constitution Of The Bangsamoro Economic Zone Authority, Bangsamoro Halal Board, And The Barter Trade Council."



LEGISLATION UPDATE: PRIORITY CODES

Bangsamoro Administrative Code

Among the functions and priorities of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority under R.A. No. 11054 (BOL) is to ensure the enactment of the priority legislations such as the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, Bangsamoro Revenue Code, Bangsamoro Electoral Code, Bangsamoro Local Government Code, and Bangsamoro Education Code, and the Bangsamoro Civil Service Code during the transition period.

On July 22, Cabinet Bill No. 60, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, was filed and subsequently introduced in the plenary. A corresponding panel was also constituted by the Committee on Rules which conducted a series of public consultations from August 14 onwards.

MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph was among the members of the Panel. During the initial consultations, she raised fundamental questions on certain provisions of the proposed Cabinet Bill No. 60 particularly on the strict adherence to the basic percept of a Parliamentary Government such that the organizational structure must reflect the proper distribution of powers and authority among the different branches of the government in observance of the foundation of a parliamentary government obtaining in different jurisdictions.

Also, she raised a question on a provision which speaks of granting primary authority to legislate to the Government of the Day elaborating on the point that private bills should also have equal weight and individual members should have equal authority in legislative matters. This resulted in the refinement of the subject provisions.



Photo of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph

On October 27, the Committee report of the Committee on Rules was introduced to the plenary for interpellation and amendments. MP Maisara proposed several provisions during the period of amendments which included the creation of the Bureau for Special Education, the inclusion of Orphanage Institutions among the welfare facilities to be established and operationalized by the Ministry of Social Services and Development. Moreover, she amended the proposed date in celebrating Bangsamoro Foundation Day. Originally, Bill No. 60 considers as foundation day the date when the BTA Members took their oath of office at the Malacanan Palace.

However, MP Maisara argued that it is day of the plebiscite, when the people exercised their right to suffrage and participated in the electoral process that must be considered as the Bangsamoro Foundation Day to give emphasis on our democratic processes. After a lengthy legal and political debate, the proposal of MP Maisara received a majority vote. Hence, January 21 has been proclaimed as the Bangsamoro Foundation Day and declared as a non-working holiday in celebration of the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. Finally, she introduced provisions to strengthen the social enterprise, access to fund by the Bangsamoro Commissions, made clear the definition of the Non-Moro indigenous people, and has submitted series of amendments for the enhancement of the Code.

The Bangsamoro Administrative Code will define the structural, functional, and procedural principles and rules of governance of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Fifty-eight (58) Members of the Parliament (MP) voted for the passage of the Cabinet Bill No. 60 on October 28, 2020 and the same was subsequently signed into law by the Interim Chief Minister Ahod Balawag Ebrahim, Al Haj.

Bangsamoro Civil Service Code

In observance of the procedure adopted during the passage of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, a series of consultations, physical and online, have been conducted by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to hear the proposals of the stakeholders, experts, and other government agencies.

They were asked to submit their respective position papers with respect to the provisions that affect their respective sector and/or advocacies.

During the deliberations at the Committee Level, MP Maisara asked several questions particularly on the contentious issues presented by the proponents of the Bangsamoro Civil Service Code.

Among them were the application of the third eligibility to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, the possibility of conducting issue on granting equivalency to the Bangsamoro who obtained a degree from Madaris whether from abroad or Philippines.

MP Maisara introduced her amendments during the committee deliberations to enhance the proposed Bangsamoro Civil Service Code and submitted a copy thereof consisting of fifty-one (51) pages. The amendments included both formal and substantial amendments.

Bangsamoro Education Code

The proponents of the Bangsamoro Education Code are likewise conducting public consultations all over the region to hear the proposals of all the stakeholders.

In November, consultations were conducted in Island Provinces and Lanao del Sur simultaneously using online-teleconference. MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph is a member of the panel for the Lanao del Sur consultation wherein she invited experts from both the public and private sectors. She also invited representatives of Madaris and Shariah to shed light on the relevant proposal of their respective sectors.

The deliberations have been suspended to give way to the deliberations on the 2021 Bangsamoro Expenditure Program. In preparation for the future Committee deliberations, MP Maisara organized an Education Board to study the provisions of the proposed code and was able to submit amendments consisting of (64) pages.

—J.Guro



Photo of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph

BUDGET HEARING

The grueling process of budget hearings took the whole month of December to conclude.

On November 27, 2020, Chief Minister Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim filed the BARMM’s Php75-billion budget for fiscal year 2021 or the proposed BTA-Cabinet Bill No. 73, entitled “An Act Appropriating funds for the Operation of the Bangsamoro Government from January One to December Thirty-One, Two Thousand and Twenty-One, and for Other Purposes.”

The respective proposed budgets of each Ministry and Agency were strictly scrutinized by the Members of Parliament through the Sub-Committee, before it was scrutinized and approved by the Mother Committee.

Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph was a member of Sub-Committee B under the Committee on Finance, Budget, and Management. Sub-Committee B was presided by MP Abduraof Macacua.

On December 1, the sub-committee conducted a committee hearing regarding the proposed expenditure program of the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority.

On December 2, it deliberated upon the proposed budget of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and the Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS).

On December 8, the Committee of Finance, Budget and Management, of which MP Maisara is a part of, deliberated on the proposed budgets of the Office of Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (OBHRC), Bangsamoro Youth Commission (BYC), Office of the Chief Minister (OCM), and Office of the Wali.

On December 9, it deliberated upon the proposed budgets of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MIPA).

On December 10, it deliberated on the proposed budget of the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD).

On December 11, the Committee tackled the report of Sub-Committee B detailing the proposed budgets of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), and the Bangsamoro, Planning and Development Authority (BPDA). MP Maisara proposed an increased in the budget of the MPW for important infrastructure projects. The increase was approved by the mother committee.

On December 14, the Committee of Finance, Budget and Management continued with the deliberation on the proposed budgets of the Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS), the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism (MTIT), and the Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC). All of the budgets of the mentioned Ministries and Commission were approved in the same day. The following day, December 15, the Committee tackled the proposed budget of the MBHTE. The deliberations on the MBHTE's budget continued until December 16.



Block Grant: Photo taken during the presentation by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Management at the mother committee level.

On December 9, it deliberated upon the proposed budgets of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MIPA).

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On December 17, the budgets of the Ministry of Human Settlement and Development (MHSD) and Bangsamoro Attorney General's Office (BAGO) were also deliberated upon and approved on the same day.

On December 18, the Committee tackled the proposed budgets of the Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG) and the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE).

Issues on good governance and measures to protect our environment were raised by MP Maisara. All throughout, MP Maisara was active in the deliberations. She would pose a question during every hearing making sure to leave no stone unturned. She would propose increases where it would benefit not only the Ministry or Agency, but also the Bangsamoro People.

Finally, the hard work of all of the Members of the Committee culminated on December 21, 2020. At this point, All the Sub-Committees presented their respective committee reports and the mother committee was at the final stage which included reviewing the final report to be presented before the plenary.

Hearings by the Committee on Basic, Higher, and Technical Education on the Bangsamoro Education Code

On November 18, 2020, the call for position papers for BTA Bill No. 70 was opened.

On November 23, 2020, the BTA started the first of the series of 'public consultations' on BTA Cabinet Bill No. 70 or the proposed Bangsamoro Education Code with the presence of various education stakeholders throughout the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

MP Maisara was also a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the Education Code, led by MP Atty. Rasol Y. Mitmug, Jr, who led the public consultations in behalf of Panel Chair and Minister of the Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE), MP Mohagher Iqbal. MP Maisara belonged to the Lanao del Sur cluster along with fellow MPs, MP Ziaur-Rahman A. Adiong, and MP Marjanie M. Macasalong. The three led and moderated the consultations with Lanao del Sur stakeholders.

On November 27, 2020, the BTA gave a platform to speak to the academe sector in the province of Lanao del Sur during its third series of public consultations on the Education Code. It continued its panel consultations on December 7, this time with Local Government Units.

On December 9, the Committee made sure to reach out to the vulnerable sectors including the Madaris, Traditional Madaris, Integrated Madaris, ALIVE teachers & Toril sectors in order to hear their specific concerns.

On the same day, it also heard out the sectors of: ALS, SPED, TESDA, Tribal Universities, Association of Tribal, DepEd Coordinators, Deans, VPs for Academic Affairs, and Tribal Leaders.



Photo of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph

Inclusive education is among the fiercest advocacies of MP Maisara. She was relentless in making sure provisions on SPED and ALS were included in the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, and pursues the same advocacy of inclusive education in the Bangsamoro Education Code.

Finally, on December 21, 2020, the BTA Committee on Basic, Higher, and Technical Education presented the Panel Reports on the public consultations conducted and position papers received for Cabinet Bill No 70 or the Proposed Bangsamoro Education Code.

MP Maisara delivered the report of the Lanao del Sur cluster in front of the whole committee and before Minister Iqbal, via Zoom.

Hearings by the Committee on Rules on the Bangsamoro Civil Service Code

MP Maisara also actively participated on the public consultation and hearings on the proposed Bangsamoro Civil Service Code.

On November 9, 2020, the panel consultations for the proposed Bangsamoro Civil Service Code or BTA Cabinet Bill No. 59 began. The three-day consultation ended on November 11.

The Committee on Rules, presided by Majority Floor Leader Atty. Lanang Ali resumed deliberations on November 25, 2020.

MP Maisara, along with fellow MPs, submitted a position paper containing her proposed amendments to the Bangsamoro Civil Service Code. Her proposed amendments were included in the matrix of amendments presented by MP Atty. Raissa Jajurie who led the panel.

She had substantial amendments for nearly every provision of the proposed code, tackling issues on equivalency, the status of Madaris teachers and Mujahedin and Mujahidat, among others.

PLENARY

Active Participation during Plenary Sessions

From the period of October to December, the following BTA Parliament plenary sessions were held: Second Regular Session No. 44 on November 17, 2020, Second Regular Session No. 45 on November 25 to November 26, Special Session No. 7 on December 10, Second Regular Session No. 46 on December 16, and Second Regular Session No. 47 on December 17.



Photo of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph

During the Second Regular Session No. 44, the Ceremonial Signing of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code was held. Proposed Resolutions 312 and 318 on the Rape-Slay of a Minor Girl-Child in Kabacan, North Cotabato were defended and thereafter consolidated. MP Maisara was a co-author of PR No. 312. PR No. 332 urging the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines to extend the BARMM Transition Period, authored by MP Jose Lorena and other MPs, was also included in the order of business and discussed.

During the Second Regular Session No. 44, Committee Report No. 40 which discusses the Proposed Bill No. 36 also known as an “Act to Institutionalize Policies for Bangsamoro Overseas Employment and to Establish Protection and Promotion for their welfare was deliberated upon by the Parliament” was presented before the plenary.

Committee Report No. 42 regarding the BTA Organizational Structure was also presented and deliberated upon.

MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph interpolated the author of the Committee Report No. 42 regarding the similarity of the BTA-Parliamentary Structure with the Senate and the Congress of the Philippines, structure outside of the Philippine’s model and the definition of the Secretary General.

A Special Session was called on December 10 to tackle the proposed resolutions on extending the phase-out plan for accountable officials and employees of the BTA, and approving the organizational structure of the BTA Parliament.

December 15 marked the official turn-over of Cotabato City and the 63 barangays in North Cotabato to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. During the Second Regular Session No. 46, the plenary approved the BTA Parliament Organizational Structure.

(8) of all the proposed resolutions filed by MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph were referred to the appropriate committees such as the committees on education, health, and social services.

Pursuant to her advocacy of empowering the vulnerable, her proposed resolutions tackled issues such as educational assistance program for the disadvantaged children and families, assistance on schools’ modular distance learning essentials equipment, conduct of comprehensive census and report on women, developing information and communication materials on Covid-19 in major local language, among others.

She also proposed amendments to Proposed Resolution No. 349, entitled: Resolution Approving the Organizational Structure of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament which was later on approved. She also delivered a manifestation pertaining to Section 4, Rule No. 7 of the BTA Rules regarding the Committee on Accounts.

On the very next day, during Second Regular Session No. 46, (4) of MP Maisara’s filed resolutions were referred to the appropriate committees. Her resolutions tackled social enterprises, Madaris Education, orphanages, and out-of-school youths (OSY).

One resolution was on the problem of the lack of orphanages in BARMM. The corresponding bill, BTA-Parliament Bill No. 71 concerning the establishment of the Bangsamoro orphanages in the region, has been considered for first reading during the same session. Many MPs were included as co-authors after they had signified their intent to be included as such.

—A. Bangcola

Messages

MESSAGE ON MARAWI LIBERATION DAY

It has been 1,096 days since Marawi was declared liberated from the hands of those who held it and its people hostage. However, the effects of the crisis brought by the siege are far from over. For three (3) years, more than a hundred thousand Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are still without homes.

They are displaced and forced to stay in different temporary shelters and home-based communities.

The battle may have been won, but the war is not yet over. The struggle of IDPs against poverty, discrimination, and exploitation started with the end of the Marawi siege, with seemingly no end in sight.

The call for social justice remains strong even if other forces would seek to extinguish it.

The scars left by the Marawi siege are still fresh in the hearts and minds of the families of the missing and dead. They are akin to open wounds constantly reminding the ones left behind of their pain and loss, especially when it seems to them that they have no one to turn to and that their pleas for help continue to go unheard.

Meanwhile, the center of Marawi, also known as the Most Affected Area (MAA) is still a no-man's land controlled by soldiers. This raises the question which still remains unanswered: Is Marawi really liberated?

Liberation means freedom, to set free, or a process of freeing something that is in control. Marawi may have been liberated, but its inhabitants have not been set free, even until now.

One can see proof of this form of imprisonment in the restriction given to them by not allowing them to have unconditional access to their property in MAA.

It is our hope that the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) will respond to the clamor of the IDPs. The efforts of the TFBM in uplifting the status of the IDPs through their different interventions and assistance are appreciated, as well as the full swing rehabilitation now in the MAA.

However, the call of the IDPs has remained the same as the first time they were forced away from their homes. They want to rebuild whatever remains from their wrecked lives and go back to normal.



<https://sa.kapamilya.com/absnews/abschnnews/media/2019/reuters/05/22/marawi-siege-anniversary-rtr-1.jpg>

The true essence of liberation cannot be felt only in remembering what happened to Marawi or “kapananadem”, but requires listening with pure hearts and giving immediate action to what the IDPs want: let us, the people of Marawi, come home.

Let them rebuild their homes and their lives. Giving consideration to the emotional and psychological well-being of the IDPs should be the root and strong foundation of the Marawi Rehabilitation. The IDPs are still bleeding. The nightmares that plague their waking and sleeping hours cannot be healed through the mere construction of grand buildings, but needs social healing.

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What the people need is understanding and consideration. Their human rights are mandated under the Constitution and International Law. They crave for justice and peace, the chance to finally sleep quietly at night.

What keeps them holding on is their hope and strong faith in Allah (SWT), and their prayers that one day the Government represented by the TFBM will finally listen to their plea, that soon, by the mercy of Allah, the silence of the dead and missing during the siege will be given justice. As Paulo Freire mentioned in his book Pedagogy of the Oppressed, “Leaders who do not act dialogically, but insist on imposing their decisions, do not organize the people-- they manipulate them. They do not liberate, nor are they liberated: they oppress.”

Let us be liberators in the truest sense of the word – liberating not only buildings, or a location on the map, but people.



<https://sa.kapamilya.com/absnews/abschnnews/media/2019/reuters/05/22/marawi-siege-anniversary-rtr-12.jpg>

MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In supporting and participating in this historical event let us celebrate the triumph of International Women's Day with the theme “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights”.

We are able to practice the equality and equal opportunities that given to us. I always heard that “women are the nourishing power of the universe” which is very true, without us who will be able to bear a child and that's part of the important major responsibilities of woman who can never do by a man.

We make the world come alive and give make the world colorful. Woman is the pillar of strength to many around us and the centrifugal force of our own little world which is called family.

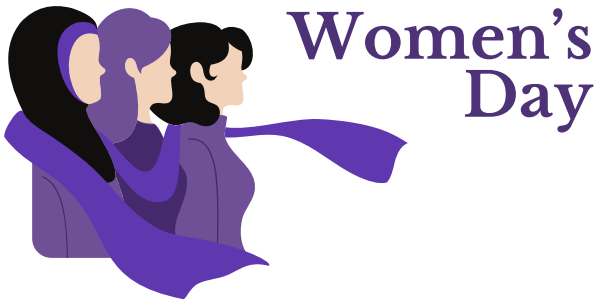
What always keeps me going is seeing women and girls living through the worst, the best and even in the most hardest situation but their courage and confidence to work is very strong and that's also motivate me to strive more to attain this peaceful lives and having a brighter future for today and in the next generation.

When women and girls have access to full participation in power, structure and decision-making the result is different because women can also build nation.

Their desire to have a long lasting silver lining is so much more because they have the full potential to achieve it and often dynamic leaders of change, galvanizing women to get involved, claim their rights, and strengthen their communities and by protecting the planet.

Our participation is fundamental to democratic governance and we have the right to equal participation, once in leadership roles, we can make a difference that benefits the whole societies.

Today, people around the world are celebrating International Women's Day.



This special day is an opportunity for every woman and girls to recognize the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in the world. Women continue to face significant challenges in pursuing careers, enabling women and girls to freely choose their path is essential to gender equality.

In Philippines, we are fortunate enough to live in a society that champions and advocates for gender quality and by considering and realizing the women's rights.

In this world, full of misery, barriers including discrimination, violent against women (VAW), stereotyping and bias treatment are something that we should to illuminate or something we must work to amend.

Over many decades, women achieved tremendous progress in many areas of life either in good and bad but they handle it into careful and successful result, one of the best examples for that is the four Greatest women of Islam: Khadijah, Fatimah, Aisah and asiah (May Allah Please with them) they are the women who are wiser, stronger, more intelligent, and more responsible than other man during their time.

Let us continue to draw inspiration from those who carried the torch of progress forward and, by their light, march onward as a nation committed to equality, equal opportunity for every one of us. Together, let us always make ourselves as the empowered woman that will serve the nation for the betterment of life.

It is my sincere hope that together we can inspire this generation and the next generation to be part of decision-making and catalyst of change. I invite women in the world to celebrate this special day (March 8, 2020) let us continue to work hard toward Gender equality around the world.

To all strong women who battle their various circumstances, the hurdles, the sacrifices and the compromises they make, I wish them all inner strength and happy International Women's Day!

SUPPORT STATEMENT TO VAWC AND CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriages unfortunately remain very rampant in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). It is a practice which some justify as being part of culture and traditional practices. Some would even dare to justify it by citing freedom of religion.

However, as a child is not yet at the age of consent, child marriages are basically forced marriages which are doomed to be unsuccessful. Worse, these 'marriages' will eventually end up prejudicing the family, and more importantly, the child and her future.

From an Islamic Perspective, forced marriages are impermissible and not valid. They are haram. According to the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the consent of a bride is a prerequisite to the validity of the marital contract.

In Sura 7, Verse 189 the Qur'an states that: "It is He Who created you from a single person, and made his mate of like nature, in order that he might dwell with her (in love)".

In Sura 30, Verse 21 the Qur'an states that: "Among His Signs is this, that He created from you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are Signs for those who reflect."

In line with the above excerpts from the Qur'an, we can see that the equality of men and women is recognized and promoted by Islam in marriage.

The objectives of marriages should be love, mercy, mutual respect, justice, emotional well-being and spiritual harmony.

MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

None of these objectives may be achieved in accordance with Islam in child marriages. Even the Darul Ifta, or the Islamic Advisory Council of the BARMM has stated that the preferred age of marriage for women should be when they reach twenty (20) years old and for men when they reach twenty-one (21) years old.

Thus, there is no society, religion, or context which accepts and promotes child marriages. There is no justification for the same. Child marriages are human rights violations that we, collectively, must end. The more voices that are raised in this fight, the more traction can be created in order to create a better world for our children.

According to the UNICEF's study about the situation analysis of Children in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the factors of Early Marriage or union include the following: large family sizes, cultural practice/norms, and poverty. Some parents would opt to marry off their children so they have less people to worry about in terms of division of resources in normal and emergency settings.

Child marriage is a serious societal problem. Child brides face huge challenges such as restricted resources, limited knowledge and risks of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth. They are also likelier to face Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) upon their persons as they entered the marriage already with an unequal standing.

They are deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety. With little access to education and economic opportunities, they and their families are more likely to live in poverty. Rather than serve as a solution, they end up trapped in a cycle of poverty and exploitation. What hurts more is that they are being exploited by their loved ones.

As part of the BARMM's mandate of moral governance, and in accordance with the tenets and principles of Islam which have the aim of a just and humane society, it is our duty to end this abhorrent practice of Child Marriages and VAWC. Our children deserve to enjoy their childhood to the fullest and reach their full potential. They deserve to have this time to be children and not forced to grow up too soon.

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph is one with the world in having celebrated the International Girl's Day, with the theme "My Voice, Our Equal Future".

The contributions of the girl child continuously increase all over the world. Young girls and women are at the forefront of social movements and change, and are shaking up the status quo. They are no longer content to settle.

They demand more, as is their right: access to quality education, equal opportunities, the eradication of Violence Against Women and Children - a world which is kind to and full of possibility for girls and women wherever they may be. Girls will not wait for the world to be ready for them. In various areas and fields, such as in STEM, leadership, business, and many others, girls will make their mark. They raise their voices to be heard, louder than hatred, discrimination, or insecurity.

They raise their voices for not only their world, but our world - for a future where girls and boys are no longer beholden to harmful gender stereotypes. This celebration amidst Covid-19 highlights the possibilities of a better world inspired by women.

**"MY VOICE,
OUR EQUAL
FUTURE"**





Girl's Day

Together, let us all create a better place for a better future. Let us all grow, adopt and support our girls in using their voices to create our equal future.

Let us all listen, learn, and honor the ideas of our girls, our future innovators, scientists, doctors, nurses, teachers, mothers, leaders, and change-makers. There is no limit to what or who a girl can be.

Happy International Girl's Day!

MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Today, December 10, marks the world's celebration of Human Rights Day. I would like to share a passage from the book "Freedom: Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" which seems apt to share on this auspicious day.

Why are our Human Rights so crucial? "It is because they have grown out of humankind's greatest instinct for what is right. We are all born free, as the Declaration says. We are made for goodness and for justice; we are not created for greedy, selfish and cruel behavior, nor to be enslaved to the whims of others.

The proof of the inherent morality of the universe is that we are all appalled when we encounter abuses—when for example, we see long lines of refugees [or internally displaced persons] fleeing from atrocities. And we all know true goodness, true compassion, when we encounter it, because it shines out, often in the most humble surroundings."

Such a message resounds all across the Bangsamoro Government which has pledged itself to govern under the mandate of moral governance.

We realize the importance of Human Rights especially when faced with tragedy and injustice.

Even now we do not forget the plight of our IDPs of the Marawi Siege and all other IDPs, while supporting their rights such as their right to a humane standard of living, right to security, right to sanitation and proper facilities, right to integrate, and right to return, among others.

Their rights and all human rights for that matter, are inherent and inalienable. Our human rights have been with us since the beginning, and no one can ever take them away from us.

Even before there was a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they were already within us. Despite this fundamental truth, human rights abuses continue to happen every day.

Thus, it is of great importance that we continuously reinforce the rule of law and the human rights regime, hence the symbolic significance of this day, where all around the world, we are united in celebrating the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

With that said, I once again wish everyone a Happy Human Rights Day!

HUMAN RIGHTS



MESSAGE ON THE WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph is one with the nation in the observance of the National Consciousness Day for the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) that is observed annually from November 26 to December 12 as mandated by Proclamation 1172 s. 2006 to raise awareness among all stakeholders that Violence Against Women (VAW) is a public issue of national concern.

This year's campaign adopts the theme "VAW-free Community Starts with Me". This campaign supports the Philippine government's goal of protecting the human rights of women and girls by upholding its commitment to address all forms of gender-based violence as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.

In support of this worldwide campaign in the Philippines and in the Bangsamoro region, I am encouraging everyone to support and fight for the Elimination of Violence Against Women all over the country, to raise greater public awareness on the issues faced by women and girls, and to push for measures that will protect them from any form of harassment or discrimination.

It is important to give emphasis to this campaign by having functional mechanisms that are operated by competent and capable duty-bearers with a sense of responsibility and accountability in addressing Violence Against Women (VAW) under the theme "VAW-free Community Starts with Me."

This 2020 Campaign is considered as another turning point in VAW advocacy as it comes at a time when the country is reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic which has aggravated underlying gender issues and affected marginalized and vulnerable sectors, including women and girls.

This year's campaign is a fitting time for duty-bearers and advocates to reflect. The reality is that even now, women and girls may be experiencing different forms of VAW while locked down in their homes.



Freedom from VAW is everyone's concern. Be a firm advocate and partner in ending Violence Against Women (VAW) and support efforts whether they be within in your community, schools, or workplace to eliminate VAW and achieve our vision of "VAW-free Community Starts with Me". This vision can only be realized through meaningful actions and ongoing commitments within ourselves.

Stakeholders at the national, regional and local level are encouraged to highlight this campaign and make their efforts available through their official communication channels.

This year's campaign emphasizes positive advocacy messaging by giving emphasis to everyone's commitment and contributions in ending VAW and our collaborative pursuit of our common vision of a VAW-free Community.

I pray to Almighty God that all women and girls who suffer from domestic violence, trafficking and other forms of violence are granted strength to stand up against all forms of violence. May they have the courage to break their silence, find their protection, healing, justice, and empowerment. May their cause never be forgotten and may they find support in their allies.

May everything we do be done with love and respect for our fellow humans regardless of age, sex, class, culture, ethnicity, or ability and may we all be bestowed with the capacity to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of women and girls. Spread the word and God bless!

MESSAGE ON UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2020



Peace is the condition of the finest respect for humanity, where the social, economic, political, security, and care for environment is working for all. This is not just the absence of war or conflict but rather the existence of conditions where an individual and everyone in the community can live with dignity.

Today, peace faces a new danger, the Covid-19 Pandemic, a global health crisis that threatens our health, our livelihoods, and our lives. This crisis multiplied human suffering, weakened the global economy, and ended the lives of almost a million of people around the globe.

Only by working together as one can we survive and make our only planet a peaceful, prosperous, and safe for us and future generations. This time, we go hand in hand to combat this test given to us.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has it as a 24-hour period of non-violence and cease-fire. The 2020 theme is “Shaping Peace Together.”

This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other’s enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security, and very way of life. That is why UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for a global ceasefire. But there is also more to peace than putting aside arms.

True peace depends on societies being inclusive, healthy, and economically stable. It requires a predictable climate, an unpolluted environment, and solidarity across community lines. In this new era of social distancing, we may not be able to stand together physically. But there are still things you can do from home to promote the ideals of the International Day of Peace.

On this International Day of Peace, I wish all of you to start peace within yourself, look at the things around you with positivity, harmony and serenity, and embrace Bayanihan in fighting against this crisis.

Once again, Happy International Day of Peace 2020!

MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

I believe in the power of the youth to make a difference. They are capable of making positive changes. They are resilient, resourceful and peace-builders.

Through our sectoral legislations like women, youth, orphans Marawi IDPs and environment, we aim to change the status quo by highlighting the need for more inclusive policies that address the core of the problem of inequality, poverty and corruption in all forms.

Engaging our youth in the political process will result to better policies and laws for our people, not only in raw but the entire Bangsamoro region.

SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD PROGRAM LAUNCHING MESSAGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has massively disrupted our lives. What we knew as normal and ordinary may be no more. It has wrecked havoc and devastation on all sectors of society, including the education sector.

We call this the 'new' normal, however it is not enough that we are forced only to react to our uncontrollable surroundings. What we can control is our actions, and we have to work harder together to create a 'better' normal.

No matter how old one gets or even if he or she has become a professional, true wisdom is knowing that there is still more to learn. As our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has stated, "Seek knowledge from cradle to grave."

I would like to think that we have been learning from the struggles, gaps, challenges, and concerns of our stakeholders, primarily our learners, teachers, and parents.

Another lesson from the Qur'an on knowledge: Whoever leaves behind beneficial knowledge will get rewards as long as people are still getting benefits from his or her knowledge.

Through the efforts of everyone involved in Siyap ko Kapaganad, the beneficial knowledge that has started from the foundations which were set up a long time ago will continue for the foreseeable future.

From our great love and support for education, the SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD Program, which literally means Care for Education, was born.

The purpose of this program is to help learners, parents, and teachers in Lanao del Sur through lessons which are made accessible and easy to understand since the modules uploaded are mostly in the Mother Tongue.

The objective is for the KAPAGANAD website to become a repository of knowledge on K to 12 Education, and to ensure the availability of educational resources such as modules, instructional videos and links essentials for learning for all.

These modules will not only benefit those learners who had attended school before the onset of the pandemic.

It would also benefit learners in difficult circumstances, such as those who were prevented in the past from attending physically because of natural or man-made disasters and conflict.

The website can also be of aid for learners of alternative learning systems and special education. When we made a promise that No Bangsamoro Learner should be Left Behind, we wanted to follow through with that promise.

With the launching of the SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD Program today, it is with great hope that this program will play a big role and contribute to the achievement of quality and accessible education for our dear children not just in this time of pandemic but also in the future.

Your participation and strong commitment has made sure that this program could properly take off. Thank you very much for taking part in this good cause for the sake of our children, our future engineers, nurses, teachers, foresters, lawyers, leaders, ustadh, and future successful individuals.

Again thank you very much and welcome to the launching of the SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD Program.

Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.



PAHAYAG UKOL SA ANTI-TERRORISM BILL

Kaisa po ako sa Kongreso na tahasan kumukondena sa anumang anyo ng terorismo. Ngunit sa aking palagay ay ano mang batas para sugpuin ito ay dapat mayroong sapat na garantiya at proteksyon sa mga inosenteng sibilyan na maaring maging biktama ng pangaabuso, panghuhuli at pagkakulong.

Ang panukalang batas na Anti-Terrorism Bill ay naglalaman ng mga probisyon na di naka-ayon sa 1987 Constitution. Ang batas ay nagbigay nang malawig na kapangyarihan na dakpin at huliin ang sinumang suspect o pinahihinalang terorista na hindi na kailangan dumaan pa sa korte. Para sa panukalang batas na ito, sapat na ang “suspicion” para dakpin o ikulong.

Ayon sa 1987 Constitution, ang pag-aresto o pagkulong sa sinuman ay dapat mag mula sa utos na binalangkas ng korte sa pamamagitan ng Warrant of Arrest. Dahil po ang korte lang ang may kapangyarihan sa interpretasyon ng batas ayon sa ating 1987 Constitution na hindi pwedeng ipaubaya sa ibang sangay ng gobyerno.

Sa Anti-Terrorism Bill, ang Anti-Terrorism Council ay binigyan ng kapangyarihan mag-utos na ilagay sa kustodia at arestuhin ang sinuman pinag susupetsahang terorista kahit walang kaso hanggang 24 na araw. Ito po ay pwedeng maabuso at ito rin po ay labag sa 1987 Constitution. Isa lamang po ito sa maraming mga probisyon na hindi nakaayon sa 1987 Constitution.



Sa loob ng mahigit na 50 taon, ang aming lugar ay puno ng digmaan at gyera. At dahil sa kahirapan, karahasan, at kawalan ng kaunlaran nagsimula noong taong 1990s ang pagkakaroon ng grupo ng terorista na magpahanggang ngayon ay naghahasik ng karahasan at ang aming mamayan rin po ang nagiging biktima nito.

Ito ay nagpatuloy sa kasalukayan at nagkaroon pa nga ng Marawi Siege noong May 2017 na kung saan mahigit sa 300,000 pamilya ang naapektuhan. Hanggang ngayon, hindi pa nakabalik ang mga sibilyan sa Ground Zero ng Marawi City.

Habang may karahasan sa aming lugar, maraming na rin pong na-report na illegal na pag-aresto, pagkulong, paglikas ng tahanan, at dahas ang mga inosenteng sibilyan na walang kinalaman sa terorismo.

Maraming inosenteng sibilyan ang nadadamay sa amin katulad po ng dalawang batang sibilyan na namatay noong Eid'l Fitr May 2020.

Wala po kaming makita sa Anti-Terrorism Bill na sapat na proteksyon sa mga inosenteng sibilyan na Bangsamoro kong sila ay maging biktima, pagkulong, pagaresto, at enforced disappearance.

Ako ay naninwala na pagsugpo ng terorismo ay isang prosesong na kong saan kailangan nating ugatin ang puno't dulo nito at ang balangkas ng batas na naayon sa 1987 Constitution ay isa lamang sa solusyon. Ang kahirapan, korapsyon, edukasyon, kawalan ng trabaho at kaunlaran ay dapat din bigyan ng pansin at lunasan para masugpo ang terorismo at tuluyang magkaroon ng kaginhawaan at kapayapaan ang bansa ng pangmatagalan.

Sa kadahilanan na nailahad dito, ang aking pong opisina ay umaapela at nanawagan sa Kongreso at Pangulo sa hindi pagsasabatas ng Anti-Terrorism Bill.

Hunyo 2020

MP Maisara's Explanatory Vote of Yes on the 2021 Bangsamoro Appropriations Act (BAA)

BTA Regular Session No. 48
(December 23, 2020)

"Mr. Speaker, my vote is YES. Parliaments are established partly to scrutinize the development strategies through the budgets prepared by the executive branch and to give their approval to expenditure and revenue raising plans.

In the last few weeks that we deliberated and debated on the 2021 budget at a committee level, we tried very hard to include the ordinary Bangsamoro citizens' voices in government spending.

We learned the issues and problems, confronting not just the ministries but also our constituencies.

The ministers were candid and honest in relating what they have been doing with the mandates of their office as well as amidst the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, kapwa ko Bangsamoro, napakalaki pong pasasalamat ko sa ating gobyerno (Government of the Day) dahil sa aking nasaksihan na sa gitna ng pandemya, tayo ay may daan-daang libong natulongan na pamilya, mga indibidwal na lubhang naapektohan ng kawalan ng trabaho at sa pagbagal ng ating ekonomiya.

Sila po ay binigyan ng libreng bigas, financial assistance, medical assistance, pati po mga magsasaka, mangingingisda ay narating natin.

Hindi lang po ito pati narin ang ating mga Morit sa madrasa, mga Ustadh, mga balo, mga may kapansanan, mga batang naulila na nangangailangan ng ating kalinga ng ayudang medical, sila po ay nakinabang sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon dahil po sa ating gobyernong naitayo.

Para sa akin po, napakalaki pong tulong na naipamalas ng ating Government of the Day na sa panahong kinakailangan nila tayo, sa kanilang pinakamababang oras, nanjan po tayo at nanindigan para sa kanila.

Katunayan po meron po tayong nasinop na 35 Billion na unspent amount, ang ating kaban ng bayan ay intact at inalagaan po yan ng ating Ministry of Finance.

Tama po ang obserbasyon, na tayo po ang pinakamalaking savings sa buong bansa, diba dapat tayo ay maging proud tayo dahil sa ating pagsisinop. Sa pandemyang 50% lamang ang pinapayagan ng IATF, ang ating opisina ay hindi po sinamantala ang kalakihan ng ating Block Grant at bagkos sininop ito.

Nanjan po ang 35 Billion at intact po kaya po tayo ngayon ay mayroong extension na tinatawag na BTA Bill No. 76 extending the 2020 budget. Sa Madrasa naman po sa taong ito nagkakahalaga ng pinakamalaking alokasyon sa history ng BARMM 1.3 Billion ang binigay ng ating Ministry of Education sa pag-aaral ng ating mga Morit at Ustadh.

Para po sa Social Services may 33.5 Billion, dahil po tayo ang may pinakamahirap sa buong bansa. Para po sa ating Human Capital Development dahil tayo po ang pinaka huli, binigyan po ng 40 Billion ng ating gobyerno. Para po sa infrastruktura dahil ang ating road to human density ay nasa less than 5%, meron po tayong 17 Billion.

Para sa Economic Development merong 9.3 Billion. Sa aking pong taya, ng ating Bangsamoro budget ay sa ating buong bansa ay may isang pinakamalaking pagpapahalaga sa Human Rights at Social Development. Laking pasasalamat ko po sa Government of the Day sa kanilang pagpupunyagi na maitayo ang ganitong klaseng budget.

Maraming Salamat po at nawa'y tulongan po tayo ng Allah na sabay-sabay natin itong maitawid ang ating budget at nagpapasalamat po ako kay Chief Minister.

Maraming Salamat po!

BANGSAMORO APPROPRIATIONS ACT



Legislating for Women in the Bangsamoro: My experience as a first-time Legislator

Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No.8, entitled, “An act creating the Bangsamoro Women Commission of the BARMM, Providing for its Powers, Functions and Composition and Appropriating Funds Therefor” is one of the first legislation for women that I have co-authored, lobbied, and participated fully in all levels of legislation.

From the drafting of the bill to the consultations on the ground to its 1st Reading until the very end, I made sure that my participation was substantial. The law was overwhelmingly passed with zero abstentions and zero negative votes by the BTA Parliament on 31 January 2020. This law symbolizes the struggle of many women in the Bangsamoro; their hopes, dreams and aspirations. It recognized the vital role of women in building a just and humane society and participation in all levels of governance, peace-building and women’s right to be protected from all forms of exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Ultimately, the law recognized women’s rights as human rights.

As a first-time woman legislator working with fellow human rights and women advocates had been a dream come true for me. I never imagined in my wildest dream that I would be part of the 1st Bangsamoro Parliament and thereafter be given a huge opportunity and responsibility to legislate on the creation of an office that will promote and protect the rights of women and work towards a just and equitable Bangsamoro society.

I was given a chance to defend our bill at the plenary, answer the interpellators and even debate on the wisdom and propriety of each and every provision. Those days were the one the most memorable days for me as a woman and as an advocate. The strength was not just from me but from the fellow members of the parliament who were there. Beginning with the Chairperson MP Bainon Karon principal author of the bill, from MNLF, a soft-spoken and gentle woman leader who stood mightily with her wisdom and years of experience on women’s issues and struggle is my inspiration.



“Our strength and capacities as women come from our ability to cooperate with each other”

Minister Raissa Jajurie the deputy majority floor leader from MILF of Social Services and Development who represented the Government of the Day. Her mental acuity and handle of human rights and women’s rights had been my source of confidence. There were other women MPs who were at my side during the deliberations and interpellations; MP Dr. Susana Anayatin a Christian Settler leader who had been very supportive and made sure that there will be representation from her sector, MP Diamila Disimban Ramos who introduced amendments to improve the draft bill, and MP Atty. Anna Tarhata Basman our young member who gave clever ideas during the debates. And of course, our male members of the Parliament supported the passage and introduced amendments to make the bill better. Incidentally out of 80, only 13 are women members of the BTA Parliament.

As a newbie in legislation, my experience in the passage of this very important law for women in the Bangsamoro has taught me a valuable lesson: that our strength and capacities as women is from our ability to cooperate with each other and pool our resources together to succeed in our goal. That we should engage our men counterparts and get their commitment and understanding that women’s equality and gender justice in the Bangsamoro shall forever be protected and respected. That day was indeed a celebration and affirmation of women’s rights in the Bangsamoro. I am both happy and proud to be part of the passage of the law.

—MP Maisara

Commitment to Women's Rights

Human rights are both for men and women. Women should be valued for their contribution to society, no matter what role they play. Women have to trust themselves that they are capable and can become more than what roles society has set for them.

To enrich our understanding of women's issues, we participated in a three-day summit celebrating the National Women's Summit from March 4 to 6, 2020 at Miriam College in Quezon City. Worldwide, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day. At the Summit, around 400 women from various women's organizations in the Philippines gathered to celebrate and also discuss the 25 Years of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) from the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in 1995. The Keynote Speaker was Patricia B. Licuanan, the former Chairperson of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). Her speech, "Beijing on My Mind," reflected on the accomplishments of the FWCW, women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, power and decision making, mechanism for the advancement of women, human right of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl-child. According to Dr. Licuanan, the FWCW:

- a) Elevated the issue violence against women to the level of public policy,
- b) Broadened the definition of violence against women,
- c) Acknowledged women's unremunerated work,
- d) brought women's sexual rights within parameters of human rights, and
- e) Affirmed the rights of the girl-child. However, Dr. Licuanan added that there are:
 - Persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
 - Inequalities and inadequacies in access to education and training;
 - Inequalities and inadequacies in access to health care and related services;
 - Physical, sexual, and psychological abuse experienced by women and girls across income, class, and culture;
 - Effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women including those living under foreign occupation;

"We should strive for legislation and policy that strengthen Bangsamoro women's empowerment... generating ground data to understand the various realities that women face."

- Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all form of productive activities and in access to resources;
- Inequality between women and men in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;
- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
- Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women;
- Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems especially in the media;
- Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment; and,
- Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl-child.

Dr. Licuanan's insights make us reflect on our own situation in BARMM.

We are thankful for the respect that officials and staff at the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) give to women colleagues. MP Maisara feels that equal voice and equitable footing whenever she delivers a talk, shares her insights and proposes or discusses a piece of legislation.

However, we also realize that while we are in transition and "the iron is still hot and malleable," we should strive for legislation and policy that strengthen Bangsamoro women's empowerment through holistic education, access to reproductive health services, participation in regional and local governance, development programs and peace-building.

We also see the importance of generating ground data to understand the various realities that women face, especially those living below the poverty line. We hope that when the transition ends in 2022, Bangsamoro women are, at least, beginning to have an equal voice and decision in the home, community, places of education and work, governance, media and governance. MP Maisara and her team commit to these goals for the women in the Bangsamoro

—L.Racman

MAMBABATAS

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

Lingid sa kaalamanng nakakarami, ang proseso ng pagsasabatas ay sadyangkomplikadoat hindi madali. Sa loob ng plenaryo ayiba't ibang tao na may kanya-kanyangnasasakupan.

Ang mga mambabatas ay maykanya-kanyang opinyon, paniniwala, paningin, at ideolohiya atang lahat ng ito ay nagtatagpoatnagkakabanggaan 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 bagalat bilis ng pag-usad ng pagpasa ng mga batas.

Ngayong panahonng pandemiya, bukodsa mga batas na binigyannng pinakamataas na prioridadsa Bangsamoro, tuladng pagpasa ng Bangsamoro Administrative Code at mga batasna sagot sa mga pangangailangan ng mga taong lubos na naapektuhanng CoViD-19, tiniyakat 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 Bangsamorona nakatira sa loob at labas Autonomous Region.

Sari-saring bills at resolusyon (batas) angnaisulat atnai- 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 mahahalagangproseso na pinagdadaan ng bawat batas na nanggagaling sa opisina ni MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph ay ang pag-konsulta sa mga namumunoo may ekspertong kaalaman sa bawat sektors o isyu. Nangyayari ito sa pamamagitanng 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 buhaysa adboksiya na isinusulong ni MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph na “Empowering Voices” kung saan tinitiyak na ang bosesng mga mamamayan ay naririnig at naisasaalang-alang sa loob ng plenaryo. Sa patuloy na paglalakbay ng mga membrong Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) pasan angmabigat na responsibilidad na makamit ang matagal na hinahangad na pagbabago at pag-unladng Bangsamoro; kooperasyon, pag-unawa,moral na supporta atmataim- tim na panalangin kay Allah (S.W.T) ay kailangan upangmaging matagumpay ang kanilangpagganapsa kanilang tungkulin .

—J.Guro





Meeting with the Philippine President on the Rehabilitation of Marawi

Member of the Bangsamoro Parliament Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph was invited to the Malacanan Palace on March 5, 2020 to discuss with His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Senators Ronald Dela Rosa, Bong Go, Imee Marcos and Francis Tolentino the rehabilitation of Marawi City. In the meeting, she raised and emphasized the following concerns:

1. Unconditional Return of Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) to their respective houses in the Most Affected Area (MAA);
2. Restoration of water and electricity supply and construction of roads;
3. Revocation of the proclamation declaring parts of Marawi City as Military Reservation;
4. Opposition to the establishment of a Military Camp;
5. Establishment of a Commission to study the emotional and psychological healing of the people more than the physical infrastructure;
6. BARM's commitment to support the President in rebuilding Marawi;
7. Repair of Masajids destroyed in MAA; and,
8. Declaration of Marawi as Cultural Heritage site.

The incumbent Mayor of Marawi City, Majul Gandamra, BTA-Member Diamila Ramos- Disimban, Heads and Representatives of Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM), Provincial Board Member Atty. Allan Panolong and CSO leaders from Marawi City were also present. The meeting was called to address the demand of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to have unrestricted access to their respective houses and lots inside the (MAA); the issue on the establishment of a military camp in Marawi City;

and, the challenges in the rehabilitation of the Most Affected Area in general.

The President made an assurance that he will closely monitor the rehabilitation by regularly visiting Marawi City. He also instructed the officials of Department of Budget and Management to expedite the release of funds to prevent further delays. On the issue of returning home, the President signified his intention to join the IDPs in making possible that their demand to return to their respective houses at the MAA will be acted upon promptly.

Thus, he ordered the immediate completion of facilities that will cater to the basic needs of the IDPs such as water, electricity, and roads. On the issue of the establishment of a military camp, he explained that a technical working group has been organized to study and review the proposal of the Philippine Army.

A military camp could still be established but, should such proposal prosper, its size will be smaller than the area contained in the first proposal as a respect to the Bangsamoro People's unanimous sentiment. —Q. Comadug

“Unconditional right to return home... restoration of light, water and electricity... freeing the lands from military reservation... emotional and psychological healing... repair of Mosques... declaration of Marawi as Cultural Heritage site... BARM's commitment to support the President in rebuilding Marawi”

CALL FOR BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGES

“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.

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.

—H.Yusoph

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/>

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.

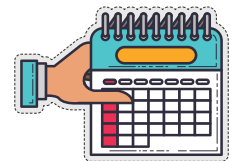
Plan your day or week. Set the days and time of the things you would like to do, This can be similar to your school class schedules.

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.

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 MP Maisara*



PARENTS AS CO-FRONTLINERS IN EDUCATION

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 studying.

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 face-to-face learning, 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.

—L.Racman



DEALING WITH THE NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

An extreme change has come to exhaust the entire world lately. People around the globe have an experience to share on the pandemic brought to us by COVID 19. Many things have changed from the normal nature of work, the pace of economy and even to the new way of education. The concern is: how can people deal with education system in this new normal?

Nothing is difficult for a person that is much willing to bend for the sake of the many.

Education in a new normal setting in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is at stake without the equal cooperation of the teachers, parents, and learners. Full-cooperation of the teachers and learners without the parents may not guarantee quality education. Everyone must have a role to play and must take it seriously.

Parents' primary goals are to monitor, to motivate, and to guide their children even in their simple ways. Providing their children better opportunities to explore things by themselves in their "class-home" is now considered as a must-have.

Is the new normal education fair to those economically-challenged learners? The BARMM-Ministry of Education came up with a solution to cater the learners' needs according to whatever status they are at present.

The Ministry adopted the most appropriate blended learning approach wherein learners are given the equal opportunity to choose their preferred learning modality.

Does this require parents to spend extra money? Not much. Does this require the learners to be 24/7 online?

No, time management works best though. Does this require learners to exert extra effort? Yes, as usual and expected being learners. Does this require learners to be responsible for their learning? Yes, definitely!

More options. If learners learn best visually, then Television-Based Instruction (TV BI) learning is for them.

If they are good listeners, Radio-Based Instruction (RBI) would surely work for them. If they are fond of the internet and have unlimited fast access to the internet, might as well the online learning works for them. And if learners are more comfortable with printed learning materials, then the Self Learning Modules (SLM) would perfectly fit their needs.

You see, today's education is to all and for all. It's comfortable and compatible. Although it's laborious yet gracious. No one is left behind, together we heal and stand.

—L.Racman

Analysis of the MBHTE Guidelines for the Education Continuity Plan for SY 2020-2021

Pursuant to its mandate, 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, Guidelines for Technical Education, and 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 and work 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 A.Y. 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.

—L.Racman

Inclusive Madrasah Education for the Bangsamoro

MP Maisara fully supports the realisation of Madrasah Education in BARMM that is inclusive, balanced, faith-based, and with timely curriculum, pedagogy and Islamic education system.

She hopes to have an enhanced education system with the best interests of the morit or students, asaatidh, and schools, which reflect Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Live Together, Learning to Be and Learning to Become.

We must produce students who are well-equipped both in Islamic and Western education, not merely as knowledge bearers but also as nation-builders.

Our 'Asaatidh' (teachers) will educate our young ones within the standards of Islam and the integration of teachings in the West.

Our schools will provide safe and conducive learning environments that support and facilitates learning.

In Shaa Allah, people in our community will prevail together economically and spirituality.

Our Madrasah school has always been the producers of eloquent professionals worldwide.

Ibn Siena, Al Khwarizmi, and Al-Farabi were some of the most well-known Muslim scientists and mathematicians whose studies and findings were utilized, applied and became the basis of modern education today around the globe.

Our mission is to provide excellent services to vulnerable sectors to the Bangsamoro people. In line with this, we consider our Madrasah as one of

the vulnerable sectors in our community that really needs enough attention and provision particularly on its school facilities and equipments.

Earlier in 2020, the office of MP Maisara visited and validated some of the Madrasah schools in Lanao del Sur and found out the following issues:

1. Lack of school facilities and equipments;
2. Low compensatation of Asaatidh;
3. Increasing number of students but not enough space; and
4. Socio-economic background of students is low.

Thereafter, the team together with the authorized personnel of some of the Madrasah identified their most needed equipment or materials and provided it to them for supplemental needs of the school as a whole.

Its impact is much greater than the team expected, as one of the principals said, *"Before your team came, we are in a state of hopelessness to the point that we felt our spirit of volunteerism of teaching and managing our Madrasah is getting low but Alhamdulillah In Allah's Mercy, you are here today telling to each one of us not to stop the good things we started, encouraging not to lose hope, showing that there are some people who really care for us considering that our place is in a far-flung area. Thank you."*

We see light and hope on the face of the stakeholders of the Madrasah every time we visit them.

—S. Latiph

“Madrasah schools produce students who are well-equipped both in Islamic and western education, not merely knowledge bearers but also nation-builders.”

Equity for the Madrasa

There are four (4) 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.

—S.Latiph

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.

REFERENCES: Section 2, Article XIV Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture, and Sports, 1987 Constitution, <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/1987-constitution/> Section 18, Article IX. R.A. 11045. (2020 August 31). Retrieved from https://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2018/ra_11054_2018.html Institute for Autonomy and Governance. (2019). Research on Traditional Madaris in ARMM and Adjacent Region (pp. 14). Cotabato City, Philippines. Retrieved from <https://www.iag.gov.ph/> 1st Bangsamoro Development Plan 2020-2022

Ang Pag-aaral Ng Isang Batang Bakwit Sa Panahon Ng New Normal



Pangarap ni Naif, 8 taong gulang, namakapag-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 pag-aaral ay isang pundasyon para sa magandang buhay ng ating mga kabataan. Isang kalidad na edukasyon ang maaaring maging susi laban sa kahirapan na pangunahing problema ngayon ng ating bansa. Noong kasagsagan ng Marawi Siege, libo-libong bata ang napilitang tumigil sa kanilang pag-aaral dala ng pangyayaring ito. Makalipas ang tatlong taon, isang pandemiya ulit ang 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 sa walang sapat na kapasidad ang isang ordinaryong bakwit na makipagsabayan sa sinabi nilang new normal.

Si Ombak ay isang batang IDP na mula sa Ground Zero. Ang tanging ikinabubuhay ng kanilang pamilya ay pagtitinda ng mga sari-saring kakanin tulad ng bichobicho, 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 gastusinsa pang araw-araw.

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 nararamdaman 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.

—S.J.Pacalundo

Education, My Only Hope

“During the Marawi Siege, we lost our home and small sari-sari store, and with it our only earnings. After the Marawi Siege, we lost our Father who has been terribly sick because of paralysis and the trauma brought by the siege. His sickness was only exacerbated by the pandemic. I couldn’t afford to lose my education too,” narrated by Sittie, another survivor of the Marawi Siege.

Hopeful as she is, Sittie emphasizes how important her education is to her, “Education is my only hope. We lost everything during the Marawi Siege and now I need to finish my studies to support my family.”

In this time of pandemic, we are experiencing a global crisis. As much as students want to continue with their schooling, however due to a lack of financial resources and capacity to meet the new normal requirements, most of them are being forced to stop.

“It has been more than three (3) years since the Marawi Siege happened, however we still remain in this temporary shelter. My mother is old and sick, and she has no job. I, together with my five (5) siblings, are just supported by generous relatives and sometimes through sadaqah (voluntary giving) from our neighbor,” Sittie said.



It seems like the coronavirus pandemic has been exposing the sad reality that education ‘is only’ for those who can afford it. It is one of the problems of the Government that needs to be resolved, how to make education accessible to all under any circumstance.

“Education was my top priority since it was my father’s dream. However due to our current circumstances, though it is painful for me, I need to stop schooling for a while and start looking for a job instead so that I could pay bills and support my family,” she added.

While we recognize the importance of continued learning, the Government must address the issues, gaps and challenges brought about by the new normal education, explore appropriate models necessary to resolve the status quo, and make long-term solutions to ensure that our education is accessible by anyone under any circumstance, under the mandate of “No Bangsamoro Child left behind” in our region.

—H.Yusoph

A Glimpse at a Modern-Day Hero

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.

With perseverance, Shahanie overcomes the 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 said. As long as her family supports her choice to work in the frontlines, Shanie continues 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.



Shahanie on the field



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, we will help our heroes to combat this common enemy.

—H.Yusoph

**"You have to fight in order to survive. The moment you surrender, the enemy wins."
-Shahanie B. Baulo, RN.**

2019 Bootcamp gave birth to (4) SEs

MP Maisara congratulated the four (4) social enterprise organizations formed from our bootcamp held on 2019. These organizations are based in Lanao del Sur.

The bootcamp is in line with the 8th priority agenda of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on job generation.

“We saw the relevance of Social Enterprise. Pushing for economic growth, as we found in a research, is very important. Youth Social Enterprise is business with a heart. Meaning, you have a social mission or social purpose. You're not doing it for profit. SE is a very effective tool for economic growth. People are finding solutions to their problems. Social enterprise is used to sustain peace not profit”, says MP Maisara.

The newly formed social enterprises are:

1. MAMIS SA RANAW

Marawi Youth Resilience Organization

Mamis Sa Ranaw is a Social Enterprise that aims to promote Meranao sweet delicacies. “The youth are talented, they say. We were trained on how to make sweets such as ‘browa’. An entrepreneur does not focus on one product so what we did is that we innovated three Meranaw sweet products namely: ‘Browa’ with toppings, Regular ‘Browa’, and ‘Lokates. Our social enterprise will benefit the residents of Datu Saber. We will also have livelihood coaching (paper bag making) for the youth there,” says Ms. Inshera Asama.

“Youth Social Enterprise is business with a heart. Meaning, you have a social mission or social purpose.”



Photo of the participants during the conduct of Social Enterprise Boot Camp 2019.



Photo of Bangkala Product from Social Hub for Education.

2. BAGSAKAN (Community Market)

Moro Friendly Consumers

Bagsakan Community Market is an agricultural enterprise that aims to provide a marketing system in Marantao Lanao del Sur. “Through this Bagsakan, residents of Marantao can easily buy vegetables at a low price. This will also help patronize the crops of the Marantao farmers. The duration of ‘bagsakan’ is every weeked. Among our prospected partners are the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform offices,” says Ms. Johana Agor.

3. BANGKALA

Social Hub for Education

Bangkala is a social enterprise that will give hope to the IDP weavers in Tugaya Lanao del Sur and the IDP children in Boganga temporary shelter through the pre-loved and customized coat production. “Bangkala” will help the IDP women and children in the evacuation center. “We will buy the products of the IDP women (weaving products) and improve it.” says Ms. Noreen D. Datu

4. PLASTICAN

Ranaw Youth Tanggol Kalikasan

Plastican is a social enterprise that will promote environmental care through the conduct of seminars and competitions on plastic innovation. Hamedia Sumndad said that among the problems/ issues they want to address are:

- (1) The need to unify people’s cooperation and participation through its shared vision of “green environment;”
- (2) The need to promote recycling and social responsibility;
- (3) The need to strengthen the role of Islam and Meranaw tradition;
- (4) The need to improve and strengthen the capacities of LGUs to effectively manage, preparedness and order in communities;
- (5) The need to strengthen community commitment; and,
- (6) The students to have their own source of income so that they will not depend on allowances.

—L. Sumpingan



Photo from RTYK member. PLASTICAN of Ranaw Youth Tanggol Kalikasan joins #YES2SDG



FEATURED VOICE: MARAWI IDPS' STRUGGLE FOR 3 YEARS

To give space for the voices of our constituents, we are featuring a strong voice for the Marawi, Sittie Joharah M. Pacalundo, Internally Displaced Population (IDPs) Sectoral Representative under my office. It is my hope that we read Joharah's words with an open mind so we can understand better their plight, act faster and recommend better solutions for the benefit of the displaced and the entire Bangsamoro.

— MP Maisara

I am Sittie Johara M. Pacalundo, an IDP myself and I would like to share our own version of what has happened significantly in Marawi since the siege on May 23, 2017 up to the present time.

May 23, 2017 - Government forces clashed with the coalition of two non-state armed (NSA) fighter groups - Abu Sayyaf and the Maute, which identify their union with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). When the military tried to arrest top Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in Barangay Basak Malutlut, they were ambushed by the guards of Isnilon Hapilon. Other groups of militants rushed to support the group in Basak Malutlut.

The government forces requested for reinforcements but before more troops arrived, the members and sympathizers of the NSA groups who were already scattered in Marawi City took over the central districts of the City.



The residents of Marawi City evacuated to different areas. Photo source: <https://sa.kapamilya.com/absnews/absbnnews/media/2017/news/05/24/20170524-marawievacuation-afp-1.jpg?ext=.jpg>

Some ISIS-inspired members who were occupying a large part of the city burned a Roman Catholic church in Moncado Colony, Dansalan College and the city jail in West Marinaut where they recruited some of the prisoners to be part of their group in exchange for their freedom. Everyone in the church and the school that they burned was taken as hostage, including Father Teresito "Chito" Soganub, Parish Priest of Marawi.

In the evening, Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) declared martial law in Mindanao.



Marawi became a ghost town on Day 3 of the Siege.

Photo source: https://www.straitstimes.com/sites/default/files/styles/article_picture_780x520_/public/articles/2017/06/04/marawi.jpg?itok=ngZVxjLM&tamp=1496543737

May 24, 2017 - Almost 300,000 individuals had already fled to nearby municipalities and cities and in various regions. They had nothing but a few clothes, thinking that this nightmare will end in just a few days.

May 26, 2017 - The rain of bombs and exchange of massive fire started even though some of the residents were still trapped

Featured Voice: Marawi IDPs' struggle for 3 years...

inside the city. The absence of negotiation and interventions of the local residents resulted to the hundreds of missing and dead civilians during siege as the rescuers cannot freely roam around the city due to the exchange of fires from time to time. Some remained captives by the ISIS, while others just died helpless inside their houses.

The affected IDPs were categorized as 80% Home- Based IDPs and 20% staying in the different evacuation sites. We, Maranaws are prideful people, which is locally called 'Maratabat,' which is also one of the reason why majority are not staying in evacuation centers and choose to seek refuge in their relative's homes.

The Government with local and international non-government organizations and some private groups initiated "Tabang For Marawi," distributing relief assistance mostly basic needs like Rice, Canned Goods, Noodles, and Hygiene Kit. Many home-based IDPs never received help because the response focused on IDPs staying in Evacuation Center (ECs).

June 28, 2017- President Rodrigo Duterte through Administrative Order no. 3 created the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) to facilitate the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction efforts in Marawi. At that time, the conflict was still ongoing. The Department of National Defense (DND) was designated as TFBM Chairperson.

October 17, 2017 - Duterte declared Marawi liberated. A total of 163 soldiers and cops sacrificed their lives to liberate Marawi. Meanwhile, 847 terrorists were killed by the military.

October 27, 2017 - Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Eduardo Del Rosario was placed as the chairperson of the task force replacing the Secretary of National Defense who became the vice-chairman.

TFBM is composed of different subcommittees and support groups to ensure that all concerns related to the city's development process are appropriately addressed. All the subcommittees are working in close partnership with the local governments of Lanao del Sur and Marawi.

Few months after the war has ended, the TFBM allowed the residents of the 72 Barangays in Marawi City, also called Least Affected Areas (LAA) to return to their homes. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) distributed 'Kambalingan Package' consisting of 5,000 pesos, food packs, hygiene kit and some necessary items like clothes and blankets to them.

The remaining 24 barangays in Marawi City considered heavily damage, also called Ground Zero (GZ) was divided into nine (9) sectors:

Sector 1	Tolali
Sector 2	Daguduban
Sector 3	Moncado Kadingilan
Sector 4	Kapantaran
Sector 5	Moncado Colony, Sangkay Dansalan and Norhaya Village
Sector 6	Wawalayan Marinaut, Marinaut East and Tuca Marinaut
Sector 7	Lilod Madaya, Banggolo, South Madaya and Bubonga Madaya
Sector 8	Sabala Amanao, Lumbaca Madaya, Sabala Amanao Proper, Raya Madaya 2 and Raya Madaya 1
Sector 9	Lumbac Marinaut, Marinaut West, Datu Naga, Dansalan and Datu sa Dansalan

The TFBM and local government of Marawi started the construction of temporary shelters where the remaining IDPs coming from ground zero will transfer.

December 27, 2017 – The first 500 temporary shelters in Barangay Sagonsongan, Marawi City and 300 temporary shelters in Bakwit Village, Matungao, Lanao del Norte were turn-overed to its beneficiaries. Among the awardees of the shelter were those IDPs that came from MAA/GZ. The TFBM thru the sub-committee on housing, National Housing Authority (NHA) earmarked to construct 6,700 shelters while the San Miguel Corporation has pledged to build 2,400 permanent shelters with NHA's technical assistance.

Featured Voice: Marawi IDPs' struggle for 3 years...

Since Sagonsongan shelter was a government project, you can see the difference in terms of assistance to a private constructed shelter like Bakwit Village in Matungao that were donated by PAGCOR and POGO. As early as April 2018, the occupants of Sagonsongan shelter complained about the foul-smelling water and the unavailability of potable water. The General Manager of NHA distributed 1000-liter tanks for residents to use aside from catching rain water. Up to now, they still depend on rationed water that could not fully answer the need for water of the IDP residents of Sagonsongan. The complaints of the people in Sagonsongan since 2018 were never resolved as you can hear the same agony today.

Why is clean and adequate water important? As Muslims, we are obliged to pray five times a day and this needs ablution through the use of water. Without clean water, how can we perform our prayer?

We are also forced to stay in very small houses, planned and designed without understanding our culture. As Muslim-Meranao, we do love extended family.

In one house you can see two or three families living in one place. Our religious practice requires that female and male children reaching the age of 7 will need to have separate rooms. We could never go back and practice our old way of life in small shelters. That is the main reason why some IDPs opted to stay away from the government shelters.

November 2, 2017- The Sowara o Miyamagoyag or Voices of Marawi IDPs, where I was elected as Spokesperson, was formed last November 22 at MSU to amplify the voices of the IDPs. It is a member of the Bangon Marawi Civil Society Organizations (BM CSOP), which has conducted a series of assemblies participated by the IDPs of the 22 host municipalities in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte including Iligan City. The BMCSOP is a coordination mechanism among Civil Society Organizations formed in August 2017 to respond to the Marawi crisis.



The General Assembly of Sowara O Miyamagoyag, IPDMMSU, Marawi City
Photo source: <https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-G8p8nXE0GOM/WoOIGUMVyAI/AAAAAAAAAGdQ/-MxDZNFrcCoY3lAtz7w0IWLtNsZPPogdTQCLcBGAs/s1600/IDPs%2Bseek%2Brecognition%2Bof%2Bancestral%2Bland.png>

After a series of processes, these were our recommendations:

A. Support for an enabling and dignified survival of IDPs: monthly cash assistance, stop DSWD food packs and relief assistance; IDPs access to health, medical and psycho-social services; access to education of IDP children and youth including subsidy for the education of IDP

B. Reparation and just compensation for damages: conduct actual damage assessment with the owner of the properties.

C. Support for livelihood recovery and access to employment of our IDP- members including seed grant capital of at least ₱20,000.00 to all families whose livelihoods were heavily affected by the siege/war, capital support thru loan without interest to all entrepreneur/ business owner IDPs for an amount of at least ₱100,000 up to ₱2M, support for farmers and fisherfolk to recover their assets and rehabilitate their livelihoods, and training and/ or employment opportunities for the youth.

D. Options for shelter prioritizing the most vulnerable: Shelter support packages based on their needs and preferences.

E. Facilitate a peace-enabling and sustainable rehabilitation of Marawi IDPs. Here we have detailed their recommendations to enable people's participation and ensure transparent and accountable planning process and rehabilitation of Marawi and to ensure a rehabilitation of Marawi that is culturally-appropriate and that would usher sustainable development that benefit the people.

F. Recognize the ancestral land ownership of Maranaos and enable peace-enabling land dispute resolutions. Distribute the military reservation in Marawi and Lanao to rightful owners and actual occupants of said land, institutionalize a peace-enabling Land Conflict Resolution, and, once declared safe and cleared, ensure safe return of the IDPs to the ground zero area.

You can read the full context at https://ecowebonline.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/finalver_idp-cso-proposal-for-the-rehab-of-marawiand-for-peace-in-lanao-and-mindanao_brochure.pdf

Featured Voice: Marawi IDPs' struggle for 3 years...



I joined the Ad-Hoc Committee on Marawi Senate Hearing on February 20, 2018 in Pasay City.

February 20, 2018 - A group of lobbyist from BMCSOP and Sowara O Miyamagoyag presented the document 'Towards a more IDP-centered, Culture & Faith-Sensitive, Inclusive, Accountable and Peace- enabling Marawi Rehabilitation' at the Ad-Hoc Committee Senate Hearing on Marawi. However, what we saw was a plan on temporary shelters and a new Grand Marawi with a Dubai-style.

We urged them to follow a people led-IDP centered Rehabilitation, that we want to rebuild Marawi at our own design. Given an assurance by the Senate that they will study our recommendations, we grabbed the opportunity given to us and used our remaining stay in Metro Manila to visit and lobby to the different line agencies of the Government concerning Marawi like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and DSWD. We even distributed the said document to the different lawmaker in the Congress. We were even invited to the NASSA Caritas Press Conference and Radyo Veritas 846 where we were given a chance to promote and ask for support for the plea of the IDPs that they may be given a chance and be given justice in accordance with IDPs' recommendation. We returned to Marawi with a great hope that they will finally listen to us but until now, our plea has been left hanging.

March 18, 2018 – We called for 'Kambalingan' or return to home.

March 20-21, 2018 – The plan for Marawi as a result of the Multi-Stakeholders consultation was presented at the Provincial Capitol. I felt that the consultation was not genuine and holistic as they just listened to the participants but most, if not all of the proposals, were accepted by the TFBM. They have been perceived as insensitive to the Meranao culture and norms. Sultan Abdul-Hamidullah Atar said, "The TFBM should accompany and provide comfort space to the IDPs considering that their properties were destroyed, some civilian relatives were killed during the siege, they left their properties, which were eventually looted, and not to mention the destroyed madrasah, masjid, and other private and public facilities.

The TFBM always argued that the IDPs were consulted through the leaderships of the LGU/BLGU. "We want to inform the TFBM and the government that the destruction of properties incurred in the MAA/GZ are not public properties alone but also included private properties," Sultan added.

March 30, 2018 – Multi-Sectoral Movement conducted a 'Mbalingan tano sa GZ' or a permanent return to GZ Peaceful and Protest Rally. Amidst the heat of the sun, Almost 4,000 IDPs from GZ walked from People's Park to Pumping Bridge where they performed the Friday prayer. No government response came.

April 1, 2018 - Some GZ residents were allowed to visit and dig through the rubble through the program of the TFBM called 'Kambisita'. It is a project of the Marawi City Government and TFBM for displaced families to visit their homes and retrieve their personal belongings. The stunned and tearful majority of the IDPs still insist and plea for a permanent return to MAA and not only a visit.

April 25, 2018 – Seven (7) members of Sowara O Miyamagoyag (Voices of Marawi IDPs) attended the National Conversation at Quezon City, Manila sponsored by I DEALS and PDRRN. We presented the document 'Towards a more IDP-centered, Culture & Faith-Sensitive, Inclusive, Accountable and Peace- enabling Marawi Rehabilitation'. I was given a chance to express the sentiment of the IDPs to permanently go back home. I also presented the appeal to the President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD), and a video of the Ranao Multi-Sectoral Movement, which ended with tearful remarks from the attendees.

June 15, 2018- the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (N DRRM C) executive director and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) chief Ricardo Jalad confirmed that as of June 14, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Lanao del Sur has reached 324,406 or 66,738 families. Five percent (5%) of these IDPs are staying inside 79 evacuation centers in Lanao Del Norte, Lanao Del Sur, and Cagayan De Oro. The remaining 95 percent sought refuge with relatives and friends particularly in the Lanao provinces, other regions of Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines. Marawi City is the center of this crisis but since Marawi is the Capital of Lanao del Sur and being the only city within, all its surrounding other municipalities are considered affected areas.

October 2018 – the Let Me Go Home Movement was organized, demanding transparency on slow rehabilitation efforts.

Featured Voice: Marawi IDPs' struggle for 3 years...

October 30, 2018 – “Our long wait has come to an end,” said Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra. The groundbreaking ceremony marks the start of Marawi Rehabilitation of the MAA after four (4) months of delay. The groundbreaking takes more than a year after PRRD announces Marawi Liberation on October 17, 2017. “In a few years from now, we hope to see a beautifully and strongly rebuilt Marawi City which shall be the Pride of all Meranao people,” Mayor Gandamra said. Philippine firm FINMAT International Resources, Incorporated (FIRI) was tapped by the government to do the first phase of debris clearing in Sector 1. Their contract for this job is worth P75 million pesos. Based on a tarpaulin in Marawi showing their scope of work, FINMAT estimates it will finish the work in January 2019.

November 19, 2018 – I participated in the Congress Disaster Management meeting Chaired by Representative Geraldine Roman. House Bill 8200 “Providing for compensation for loss or destruction of properties in Marawi City during the 2017 Marawi Siege, appropriating funds therefor” authored by Akbayan Representative Tom Villarin was deliberated.

November 29, 2018 – I attended the forum on Protecting Internally Displaced Persons at Silid Lapu- Lapu Conference Room, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. I spoke again on our plea and the need for the IDP Rights Bill. The bill entitled, “An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, and for other Purposes,” was originally filed during the 15th Congress by Rep. Kaka Bag-ao and Rep. Walden Bello. The bill was refiled during the 16th Congress by Rep. Ibarra Guterrez as House Bill No. 3146. Rep. Rene Relampagos (House Bill No. 239); Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (House Bill No. 1332); and Rep. Gus Tambunting (House Bill No. 3003) likewise filed separate proposed measures of the same subject. These bills were later substituted by House Bill No. 4744 after deliberations in the committee level. It later passed 3rd Reading and was transmitted to the Senate for appropriate actions.

On May 24, 2013, President Benigno Aquino III vetoed the Senate Bill No. 3317, “An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Providing Penalties Therefor and for other Purposes.”

December 4, 2018 – The winning contractor on the debris clearing in Marawi FI NMAT Resources, Inc. illegally demolished more than seventy houses in Sector 1 and 2 without the consent of the owners, contrary to the statement of TFBM chair that no houses will be demolished without its owner's consent. After two (2) days, the NHA issued a suspension order to FINMAT International Resources, Inc.



Protest rally outside the Provincial Capitol of those affected residents of the ilegal demolition in Daguduban.

TFBM and LGU acknowledged that the demolition was a mistake but they did not extend any legal assistance for the victims. The victims are alone in their fight for justice, nobody extended support, lawyers were afraid to be involved, BLGUs and City Government chose to remained silent and neutral.

March 18-19, 2019 – The TFBM and LGU Marawi conducted a Public Consultation for the IDPs of MAA/GZ facilitated by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) headed by Secretary Saidamen Pangarungan. This became a venue for the IDPs to express their dismay for the delay of Marawi Rehabilitation. NCMF raffled 34 slots for free hajj trips to Mecca for Marawi residents. Each trip is said to cost P200,000 each. Later on, no one in the 34 winners claimed their trips as the DBM questioned the source of funds.

March 20, 2019 – More than 200 IDPs staged a rally in the city park airing their plight of living in tents and temporary shelters for almost two years. Hundreds of residents aired the same complaint during the Public Hearing of the House Subcommittee on Marawi Rehabilitation chaired by AMIN-Partylist Representative Makmod D. Mending held at the gymnasium in the Lanao del Sur provincial capitol.

The Public Hearing was conducted to hear the issues raised by the IDPs. The sub-committee asked the TFBM to present the Marawi Master Development Plan and Debris Management Plan and address the concerns on the demolition of structures and return of the residents. One of the problems the government faced was the removal and disposal of the unexploded improvised explosive devices (IED) left during Marawi siege in 2017. The TFBM chair assured the residents that they can finally return to their villages, to repair or to rebuild their homes by the first week of September 2019, after the clearing is done by August 30. The GZ residents were allowed to repair and rebuild per sector in early 2020.

Featured Voice: Marawi IDPs' struggle for 3 years...

May 27, 2019 – The House Committee on Disaster Management called the agencies comprising the TFBM to report on updates on the Marawi Rehabilitation and Recovery Programs. Out of the 4.6 Billion released in August 2018, less than half have been utilized. The TFBM agencies were called to provide updates on the implementation of programs and utilization of funds.

July 22, 2019 – Displaced Marawi residents handed down their own State of Marawi Bakwit (SOMBAK) on the day of PRRD's fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA). The program was held in Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) at Mindanao State University (MSU).

August 13, 2019 – BARM M M embers of the Parliament (MPs) conducted an Eid'l Adha celebration and Consultation of Ranaw Region. The Special Committee on Marawi was created chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Ali Solaiman with Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph as one of the members.

The Rehabilitation of Marawi became part of the 12 priority agenda of the BARMM through Resolution No. 41, dated September 26, 2019. This is in line in the provision of the Bangsamoro Organic Law under section 13, Article 6, which allows the Bangsamoro Government to provide supplemental funding for the programs, projects in relation to Marawi Rehabilitation. The rule of the Special Committee is to serve as the BTA's mechanism for data gathering, and monitoring oversight the status of Marawi recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation that are being implemented by the different government agencies, local or national government.

October 17, 2019 – The TFBM and LGU celebrated the 2nd year Marawi Liberation. The Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO) sent out invitations to media outlets on October 9 inviting them to a "reporting tour" in Marawi City on October 16-17, 2019, in time for the second anniversary of the liberation of the City.

October 31, 2019 – 'Mashuwara o Meranao para sa bago a Military Camp ago kambalingan sa Ground Zero' or 'Meranao consultation on the establishment of new Military Camp and the return of IDPs to MAA' was conducted at Sahara Function Hall, Brgy. Saduc, Marawi City.

January 15-16, 2020 - The Special Committee on Marawi Rehabilitation had its 1st Public Hearing at Marawi City to address concerns matters related to the Rehabilitation of Marawi City. The first day of the public hearing was attended by the TFBM, OPAPP, MBHTE-Marawi City Division, DTI, DOH and DSWD, to which they presented to the committee their accomplishment reports and their future programs for the IDPs. On the second day, different IDP leaders and members of the different civil society organizations of Lanao, to which they presented also to the committee the different issues and concerns of the IDPs. Maranao leaders demanded for the TFBM Chairperson to step down or abolish the TFBM altogether.

February 10-12, 2020 - The Special Committee on Marawi held its 2nd Public hearing intended for the 2017 Marawi Siege IDPs and Rehabilitation to inquire and clarify the long-raised issues on the delay in the implementation of Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan. During the Public Hearing, the IDPs demanded their unconditional right to return home as well as the passage of the Compensation bill pending in Congress.

February 21, 2020 - The Senate Special Committee on Marawi headed by Committee Chair Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa conducted a Public Hearing attended by local government officials, IDPs, TFBM and concerned inter-government bodies at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (M SU-IIT) in Iligan City. Committee members Senators Imee Marcos, Christopher "Bong" Go, Francis Tolentino and Miguel Zubiri were also present. Prior to that, the senators did an ocular inspection of GZ and the temporary and permanent shelters sites in other areas.

March 5, 2020 – Finally, a meeting at Malacanang on Marawi Rehabilitation was held with PRRD, members of Senate, cabinet Secretary, BTA and local stakeholders. The meeting which lasted around three hours and thirty minutes (3.5 hours) from 7:00 to 10:30 pm was about the demand of the Marawi City IDP to unconditionally return home as well as the delays in the implementation of Marawi City rehabilitation.

President Duterte committed to closely monitor the implementation by regularly visiting Marawi City. He ordered the DBM to expedite the release of funds to prevent further delays.

He asked the Marawi local government to allow the people access to their homes without restrictions. He ordered the completion of basic services like water, electricity, and roads within a year. On the declaration of lots under Military Reservation, he supported our call to have it freed provided that a small land is allocated for the military camp. He also ordered the repair of the Grand Mosque as soon as possible.

MP Maisara reiterated to the President our unconditional right to return home, the restoration of light, water and selectivity services, freeing lands in Marawi City from military reservation, creation of a commission to study the emotional and psychological healing of the people, BARMM's commitment to supporting the President in rebuilding Marawi, repairing of Mosques destroyed in GZ, and declaration of Marawi as Cultural Heritage site.

With the Philippine President's commitments and MP Maisara as a champion for the Marawi IDPs, I continue to be hopeful but vigilant so we can get nearer to the day when we are finally back home with sufficient support from the government to rebuild our homes and livelihoods. —S.J. Pacalundo



SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD PROGRAM

“Siyap Ko Kapaganad”, which literally means care for education, is an educational program of the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, Lanao del Sur I School Division headed by Focal Person Dr. Mombao Abdul, Lanao del Sur II Schools Division headed by SDS Dr. Rubina Macabunlar, and Marawi City Schools Division headed by Hon. Pharida L. Sansarona.

Siyap Ko Kapaganad Program was launched on December 3, 2020 at MSU-IPDM Marawi City with the presence of the three (3) Division heads in Lanao, and the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education represented by Deputy Minister Atty. Haron Meling.

The purpose of this program is to help the learners, parents, and teachers in Lanao del Sur such that the lessons are accessible and easy to understand.

Parents who experience difficulties in assisting their children can resort to the carefully tailored materials for easy comprehension thus ensuring quality education despite the effect of pandemic.

The objective of this programs is to become the respiratory of knowledge on K-12 education, make education accessible for all learners, and ensure the

availability of educational resources such as modules, instructional videos and links essential for learning.

Subjects available are English, Math, Science, Filipino, Araling Panlipunan, Arabic and Islamic Study, and selected subjects for Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS), Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM), Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and General Academic Strand (GAS).

Selected best teachers from each divisions had their orientations. They were taught some guidelines and tips on how they will be able to demonstrate properly in the videos.

Video Learning Outputs are uploaded on the Siyap Ko Kapaganad official website (kapaganad.com), Facebook page, and youtube account.

Kalangkapan or Announcement is also included in sites to provide public information related to education.

Aside from downloadable video learning materials, modules are also viewable and downloadable for easy access of students or teachers.

—L.Sumpingnan

A GAME CHANGER: SUPPORTING SENIOR HIGH WORK IMMERSION

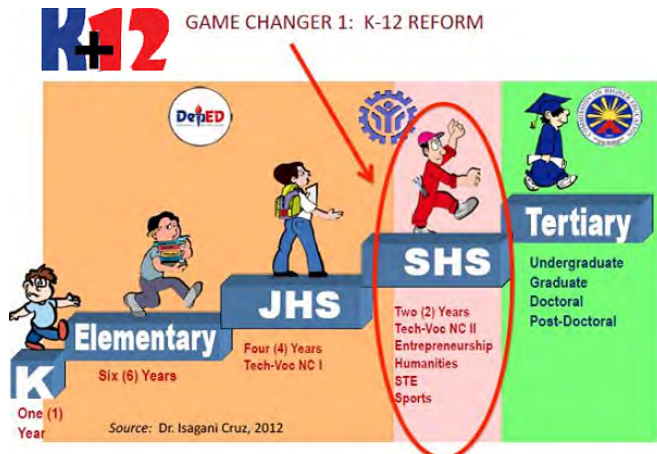
ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (APDET)

One of the requirements of the K-12 curriculum is the senior high students' work immersion. This is actually simulation that will hopefully equip them for the future work and also better prepare them for college studies. Schools often have difficulty in finding host offices or agencies where their senior high students can find fulfilling work immersion. There are thousands of senior high students who are required to comply with their partial prerequisite for the course "Work Immersion and Simulation." This prerequisite is composed of 80 hours or eight (8) hours per day, to be completed in 10 working days.

The Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph is extending services to support the youth and education sector. The Office developed the Advocacy and Policy Development Training (APDeT), Program as an intervention for the senior high students to appreciate the work of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) and recognize the needs of vulnerable sectors.

Firstly, the APDeT Program aims to train the students in advocacy for the vulnerable sectors. Secondly, it provides senior high students with technical skills for them to learn to think critically and act creatively as they respond to the issues and concerns from the vulnerable sectors. Lastly, the program introduces the work of Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) in the parliamentary government of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

This school year 2019 to 2020 we had two (2) schools partners. Fourteen (14) senior high students who completed the program with six (6) of them coming from East Bayabao Integrated National High School Vocational Technology and eight (8) from RC-Al Khwarizmi International College Foundation Incorporated.



Under the supervision of the field staff of MP Maisara at the Marawi sub-office, working with the senior high school coordinators of the schools, the senior high students had the opportunity to find their own relevance as part of the Bangsamoro. Their learning and insights from APDeT will be useful in their course Community Engagement, Solidarity and Citizenship (CESC), their voluntary work record and tertiary studies. As one of the trainees, Mr. Asnor Maruhom, said "you can learn many things and you will be more aware of your surroundings, the issues, problems, and possible solutions."

—J.Sarip



MS. SITTIE NAHARA S. HASAN

"It is my pleasure to be part of APDeT. I learned to be kind in dealing with people and tasks every day. As a human being, we need to be careful in making decisions in life and be firm in our advocacy. We should always be a good person as we lead to become good role models in our community."

THE BANGSAMORO SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The Bangsamoro Short Film Festival (BSFF) aims to give opportunity for young 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 CoViD19.
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 a just and inclusive society and community. 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.

"We talk about Moros or Bangsamoro art, we are typically boxed as traditional craftmakers. I believe that the Moros can go beyond that so I want to change that by helping give them the platform to kick-off and showcase their creative storytelling through short films," Festival Director Rhadem Musawah said

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. 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.

—Q.Comadug

Panel of Jury



ATTY. MAISARA DANDAMUN LATIPH
Member of the Parliament
BTA-BARMM



RHADEM MUSAWAH
Festival Director
Thomson Reuters Changemaker
Alumni



JANA PETERKOVA
Deputy Ambassador
Czech Embassy Manila



BREECH ASHER HARANI
Forbes "30 under 30" for Arts 2020
JCS Young Creatives Awardee at the
International Emmy Awards



BABYRUTH VILLARAMA
Documentary Filmmaker/Producer
Gawad Urian and MMFF Awardee



PRINCESS JACEL KIRAM
PhilSilat Assoc. President
Daughter of the 33rd Sulu Sultan



SUSAN D. TAMONDONG
Quality Assurance Expert
Swedish International Development Agency



MALAYA DEL ROSARIO
Head of Arts and Creative Industries
British Council Philippines



BANGSAMORO
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Short Film Awardees



Maglabay Ra In Sakit literary means "Pain Will Ease film is about a 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.

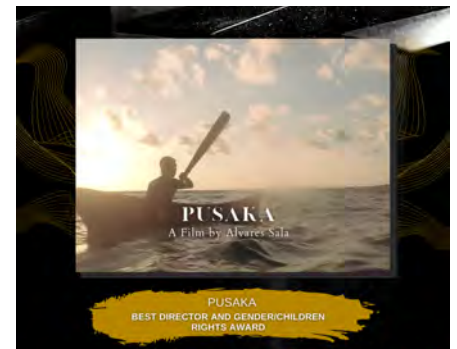
THIS FILM HAS LANDED ON AN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN MANHATTAN.



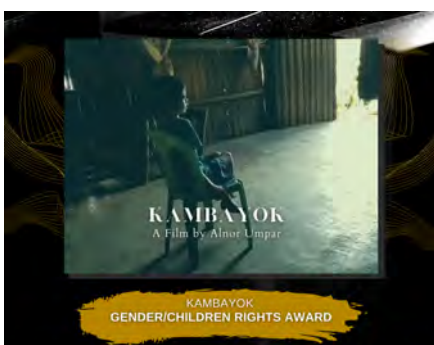
A documentary about the lives of the displaced Teduray people in South Upi, Maguindanao, "Funan Meuyag" breaks the silence on the struggles of this indigenous minority. They may be fewer but their wisdom on the sacredness of the land, the need for peace with nature and among all human beings, and respect for the values and beliefs handed down by ancestors echo loud in this documentary.



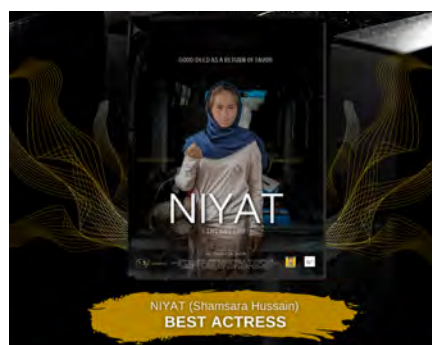
Spoken entirely in Chavacano, this film is a truly heart-warming story about a teenage girl who has been longing for a mother's love. This film triggers emotions from start to finish. On her 16th birthday, Rose is visited by a mysterious 16-year old girl who encourages her about life. Walking back home, 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.



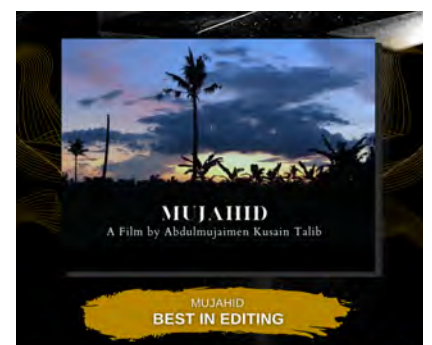
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This film strikes straight to the heart. The story is a glimpse at the life and God-gifted musical talent of a blind 10-year old child. A master chanter is embodied in Kasanor, a child living in Meranao land, Lanao del Sur. Kasanor is young but already teaches us wisdom through his chants. "We should not forget the legacy of our ancestors, and one of them is Kambayok," Kasanor reminds us.



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.



This film is about a father who lives and fights for the seek of the people. Serving as a hero led to the sadness of his wife and little son. One day, he was on a war with other Mujahids and he was shot. Only a piece of paper where his last message was written brought back home to his wife. Indeed, Mujahids are unseen heroes in the society.

YOUTH ARTISTS PAINT THE BANGSAMORO

In celebration of the National Arts Month 2020, the Bangsamoro Bureau on Cultural Heritage (BCH-BARMM) in partnership with the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph, conducted the Philippine Arts Festival - Ani ng Sining particularly the “On-the-Spot Poster-Making Contest.”

The contest aimed to showcase the artistry in the Bangsamoro Region and promote the belief that the youth can use their creativity and innovative thinking to make a difference in their own community.

This art competition was categorized into the following: Senior High School; Young Professional Category; and, Junior High School Students Category. Through their art work, the participants portrayed the rich culture and arts of the Bangsamoro Region.

First place winner for the Young Professional Category by the name of by Mr. Eladio L. Coja, Jr. extended his gratitude to MP Maisara and the organisers. *“I joined this competition since even though I’m a Christian, I really respect Bangsamoro culture and tradition po. Actually, I am a fan of painting the Mosque and Islamic culture. My main inspiration is God and my family,”* he said.

MP Maisara congratulated both the winners and participants and encouraged each one to continue to paint their colourful dreams that will become reality if they strive for it and become more united.

—Q. Comadug



Winners



BAND OF HONOR FOR THE HEROES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

June 2020 - The office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph held an online Poster-Making Contest. This was an opportunity for all residents of the Bangsamoro Region to showcase their talent in the arts.

Entitled “**Band of Honor: My Modern-Day Heroes**” the contest had the theme, “**My Modern-Day Heroes’ Great Contribution in the Survival of our Nation from CoViD-19.**”

The contest aimed to show gratitude to the front-liners who serve as the heroes in the time of pandemic. Front-liners have been rendering invaluable services in supporting and assisting the community in coping with the crisis brought about by COVID-19.

Recognizing the great contributions of front-liners in battling against CoViD-19 also extends gratitude to our family members who play significant roles while we are in the quarantine period. It also appreciates the different volunteer groups and individuals who render services in their respective communities. It encourages everyone in using art as one of the platforms in acknowledging the efforts of modern-day heroes amid the pandemic.

The championship was awarded to Leuwyn Jay S. Cadano from Cotabato City. His poster garnered 25% creativity and presentation, 14% originality, 26% relevance to the theme, 23% overall harmony impact with a total of 88.33%, making it the No. 1 choice of the Jury.

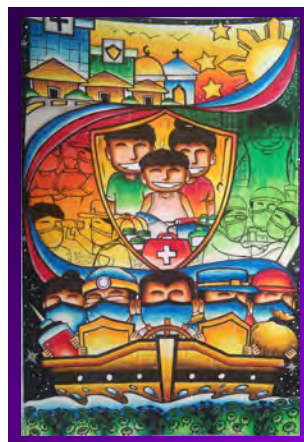
The MP’s choice award was given to Siyamsir Marsuki. His poster is a sombre depiction of the devastation brought about by Covid-19 pandemic. It also illustrates the sacrifices and heroism of our front-liners. “The artist choice of colors and skillful drawing of each and every expression are elements that make this work truly outstanding,” says MP Maisara. This made his work the choice of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph.

The special award for the “Netizens’ Choice Award” was awarded to Sacap P. Marangit. Based on the number of reactions and shares, the poster garnered 85,004 shares and 1,380 reactions out of 459,149 total shares and 35,838 total reactions making it the audience favorite and No. 1 in the MP Maisara Facebook Page.

Other awardees were Nahidah O. Hadji Sobair of Malabang Lanao del Sur and Hosni Taha of Marawi City. “This activity is an opportunity to extend our gratitude to different actors who play significant roles in the survival of our nation from a pandemic. It is also an opportunity for every individual who is an art enthusiast to share their perspective on how members of our society contribute to the survival of others,” MP Maisara concludes.

—L.Sumpingan

Winners



JURY'S CHOICE AWARD
Leuwyn Jay S. Cadano
Cotabato City



MP MAISARA'S CHOICE AWARD
Siyamsir Marsuki
Sulu



FIRST RUNNER-UP
Nahidah O. Hadji Sobair
Malabang Lanao del Sur



SECOND RUNNER-UP
Hosni Taha
Marawi City

BANKING ON THE ROLE OF THE BANGSAMORO YOUTH IN POWERING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



In June 2020, MP Maisara's office held a vlog tourism competition for the young people in Lanao del Sur. A champion who goes by the name Sasa Stylista emerged from Malabang municipality. His winning entry stylishly featured the local ecotourism spots and cuisine in his municipality. Other winning entries came from Balabagan and Tugaya municipalities.

For MP Maisara, this is a step in the right direction. *"Young people have so much passion and eagerness for life and all the wonderful things that goes with it. I wanted to show the bright side of the Bangsamoro youth and I think we succeeded in doing that in the vlog competition,"* MP Maisara says.

As one study confirmed, young people travel to enrich their experience, discover cultures, develop themselves and briefly but healthily escape from the concerns of real life. [1] Around 30 percent of the population in BARMM are composed of persons 18 to 30 years old. Even just by their number, young people make a strong foundation for the Bangsamoro economy.

Entitled **"Vlog: What's Up! Watch-Up Lanao!"** the competition carried the theme: **"Showcasing the Peaceful Lanao del Sur."** It aimed to showcase the current and to be discovered tourist spots in the province, supporting Republic Act No. 9593 or also known as "The Tourism Act of 2009."

Using social media for broadcast, the vlog tourism competition opened more eyes to the rich culture, wonderful cuisines and scenic spots in Lanao del Sur. The competition also promoted the preservation and protection of local natural resources so that they may be enjoyed by generations to come.

Just how connected are viewers to social media? The champion's entry, which was posted on July 10, 2020 already has 57,400 views, 2,000 reactions and 1905 shares as of July 23, 2020! The winning entries have reached a combined 66,500 unique views, 2467 reactions and 2158 shares. The awarding ceremony for the 3 vlog winners was held on July 16 in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. The program ceremony gave opportunity for the awardees to talk about their experiences in making their videos as well as give advice for other youth vloggers.

The winners were very grateful to be part of the first ever vlog competition in Lanao del Sur and the Bangsamoro Region. This gave them the opportunity to showcase their own municipality and promote the tourist spots, culture and traditions.

The pandemic is not stopping our young people from enjoying life even just through the eyes of other young people. We can't wait for the pandemic to end so that young people can finally come out freely and travel to local tourist spots and feel the value of the land inherited from the ancestors.

—L.Sumpingang



BACKYARD GARDENING

The Webinar on Backyard Gardening, organized by the office of MP Maisara and I AM Hampaslupa, Inc., was a discussion on making your own high-yield vegetable garden within your own backyard. The program aims to give knowledge on food security and techniques on how to properly grow vegetables and fruits.

NEW NORMAL/NEW DISTANCE EDUCATION

This webinar presents a clearer picture of what the New Normal in education in BARMM looks like and how our educational leader implement and articulate new 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 through different modalities but there will be no face to face instructions until a vaccine is ready.

Other speakers were Atty. Haron Meling, Chief of Staff of Minister Mohagher Iqbal, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Techvoc Education; Board Member and Parent representative Atty. Allan Panolong of Lanao del Sur; OIC Superintendent Pharida Sansarona (Marawi City Division); OIC Superintendent Dr. Rhubyna M. Macabunan (LDS II, Division); and, Ms. Adeilada Mangata-Noor (LDS 1 Division)



FOOD SECURITY IN BARMM

The Webinar aims to explain the agricultural value chain, see the mechanisms in place to assess dependencies, and identify how the population in BARMM with special needs can be supported through this time of pandemic. Among the invited resource speakers were from MAFAR.

WHO TALKS TO THE BANGSAMORO ON COVID-19

This webinar aims to gave awareness on COVID-19 pandemic. The invited speaker for this webinar was Dr. Albert Domingo of the World Health Organization and MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, BARMM.

This highlighted some importance things about the COVID-19.

Dr. Albert Domingo shared some tips on reduction of behavioral Risk. Audience were also given the opportunity to ask questions to the invited speakers.

"Home liners are the first front liners. We need to learn important things that will help us.", said MP Maisara



WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2020: PROVINCE OF LANA O DEL SUR

YOUTH SERVICE GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMUNITY SERVICE



On Wednesday, June 24, 2020, three women awardees were 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. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph in celebration of the National Women’s Month last March 2020.

This program aims to showcase the role of women by recognizing their great contributions in society. The women nominees were assessed based on their leadership, community commitment, educational accomplishment, and 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 and expansion of their own personal and 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.

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

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.”



Johaila Balt is a district supervisor in the municipality of Butig. The pandemic brought many changes in her life but she sees the pandemic has advantages and 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.)

—L.Sumpingan





END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



On November 26, 2020, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph conducted an awareness webinar for Bangsamoro women. This is in line with the year's campaign on VAW elimination with a theme, **“VAW-Free Community Starts with Me”**. This aims to give an awareness campaign on the elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW) and encourage everyone to have commitment and support on ending VAW all over the world.

The 2020 Campaign comes at a time when the country is reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic that aggravated underlying gender issues and affected marginalized and vulnerable sectors. The pandemic really affected the situation of marginalized and vulnerable sectors which part of this are women and girls. They may be experience different forms of VAW during locked down in their homes with the perpetrators, with tension rising from uncertainties in health, security, and economy creating perfect storm.

Topics discussed were *“I Know My Rights and I Will not Allow Anyone to Violate These”* by Atty. Hanna Mangondato of the Office of MP Bainon Karon, and *“Empowering and Strengthening the Bangsamoro Women and Girls for their Protection from Violence”* by Atty. Sittie Nayilah D. Abduljaleel of Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation Incorporated.

Every woman and girl have the right to be protected from all kinds of abuse and exploitation. Worldwide, the observance of this campaign is one of the priority in every activities of the agency department and the community. This campaign highlights the role and essence of everyone's to end Violence Against Women specially the Barangay officials on how to handle VAW cases, the campaign reiterates everyone's commitment and call the general public to make a personal commitment to end Violence Against Women and Children.

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara also joined the the 18-Day Social Media Campaign to end Violence Against Women (VAW). Infographics on VAW awareness were featured on MP Maisara's Official Facebook Page. It was part of the observation of the Worldwide Campaign to End Violence Against Women. These are some information printed on VAW Awareness Campaign Infographics:

- Speak out and report to the authorities in case your Rights are violated.
- Encourage others to fights for their rights.
- I know My Rights and I will not allow anyone to violate these. I won't allow myself to become a victim of violence and I know what to do, where to go, and whom to go in case it happens.
- Respect women and girls in your home, workplace, and community.
- Join male groups promoting Anti-VAW efforts and participate in discussions to broaden your awareness on the Advocacy.
- Enlighten/advice perpetrators to seek help and join the male Anti-VAW supporters.
- Equip yourself with trainings and capacity development sessions to improve service delivery for your clients.
- Let people know that you provide the services. We need to inform the public that there are government offices that they can turn to and trust to assist them towards healing and seeking justice.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation strategy to assess the service to your clients' supporters.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the challenge of strengthening the functionality of Barangay VAW Desks, as the first line of response for survivors.

Data from DILG's 2019 National Statistical Report on the Functionality of VAW Desks reflect that only 19% of assessed barangays have reached the highest level of functionality. The Commission sees an opportunity to align this year's campaign towards strengthening local mechanisms and building on the required competencies of barangay officials in responding to VAW/GBV-related situations.

Therefore, this year's campaign highlights the role and essence of the Barangay, as part of a VAW-free community, in consonance with the recurring theme "VAW-free community starts with Me".

Aside from capacitating VAW Desk Officers and other barangay officials on how to handle VAW/GBC cases, the campaign reiterates everyone's commitment and contributions on ending VAW and calls on the general public to make a personal commitment to end violence against women and children.

Ensure that your Barangay VAW-Desk Officer is functional. You can use that Barangay VAW-Desk handbook developed by PCW and DILG with partner agencies to guide you on what to do.

Establish linkage with local and national governments agencies, as well as other organizations near your Barangay where you can refer victim-survivors of VAW needed assistance which the Barangay is not able to provide.

Promote harmonious family and community relationships in your barangay which is grounded on mutual respect for human rights, and take proactive steps to attain a VAW-free community.

Support the Anti-VAW efforts of the government and your immediate community.

Include concept of VAW and women's human rights in lesson plans/lesson guide of your teaching staff.

Continually conduct/spearhead anti-VAW advocacies in your campus, and if possible, to your immediate community through extension programs.

Setup a Committee on decorum and Investigation (CODI) where students and employees can seek help.

—H.H.Malic

GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE

Presented by
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
ompmldenvironment@gmail.com
With the subject "Garden_(Your name)_(Municipality)"
Ex.: Garden_Sahane M. Panolog_Butig

Last June 2020, the Office of MP Maisara held the first ever backyard gardening photography contest in Lanao del Sur. *"Growing Seed of Hope"* is an opportunity for Bangsamoro individuals to showcase their backyard gardening skills through online photography contest. The champion award went to Aminola Inidal of Marantao, Lanao del Sur. Other awardees were Samina Macadato, Sahara Gania, Haspia Kasanodin, and Juffali Magarang.

The awarding ceremony was held on July 15 at the Mindanao State University -Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (MSU-IPDM) Marawi City. *"As the head of the family, this crisis taught me to invest in doing something that will not only benefit myself and my family but also my community as well. Growing food gives me a sense of hope and something to look forward to every day. I'd like my children to appreciate hard work. I used to encourage my neighbors to grow their plants also,"* says Inidal.

Inidal gives his neighbors seed every time they need one. He believes that encouraging one another to grow plants will save their lives longer than just giving them vegetables. It also encourages different individuals to engage themselves in gardening and/or farming.

It is a great help and contribution to securing food in these trying times. The contest promotes backyard gardening in the province of Lanao del Sur and in BARMM as a whole, secure foods in times of crisis, engage individuals in agricultural practices on small land spaces, grow vegetables for physical and financial health, and help supply the family with healthy food to eat.

*"In this time of crisis, people need to be physically and mentally healthy. A beautiful garden is not just something to be admired in glossy magazines, or in what we see in news articles,"*says MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph.

A small study from Wageningen University (Netherlands) comparing the stress-relieving impact of reading with that of gardening found that gardening had a physiologically soothing effect on 30 adult participants. Therefore, it is timely to promote backyard gardening in the province of Lanao del Sur or in BARMM as a whole so that people will be physically and mentally fit.

During the awarding ceremony, awardees were able to share their motivations and experiences in growing seeds.

This program gave them opportunity to widen the reach of their advocacy to encourage the Bangsamoro people to grow food not only for the table but for a healthy lifestyle.

—L.Sumpungan

GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE VERSION 2.0

MP MSA SAHANEE C. DANDAMUN LATIPH
Bangsamoro Transition Authority - SARAWI
Presents

Give Us Your Best Shots!

2020
Growing Seeds OF HOPE
VERSION 2.0

Category A
Vegetable Backyard Gardening

Category B
Ornamental Backyard Gardening

Guidelines

- ★ The competition is open to all residents of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.
- ★ The online backyard competition shall be focused on the theme "My Backyard Garden as source of Hope".
- ★ The participants shall capture his/her backyard garden at least four (4) to five (5) photos.
- ★ Write 2 to 3 paragraphs description either Filipino or English about his/her backyard garden that focuses on the theme "My Backyard Garden as source of Hope".
- ★ All entries shall be screened by three (3) agriculture experts.

Entries Close
AUG 30

Criteria

★ Backyard Garden Creativeness	20%
★ Description/explanation	30%
★ Sustainability of his/her Backyard Garden	25%
★ Gardening skills	25%
	100%

SEND YOUR ENTRIES VIA EMAIL AT
ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com
With the subject "Garden_(Your name)_(Municipality)"
Ex: "Garden_Sahanee Panolong_Butig"

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

As COVID-19 continued to disrupt countries around the world, food security and livelihood were at risk especially to the most vulnerable sectors. Food supplies had been massively affected due to measures put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus.

Looking on the positive side of this pandemic, however, it was a great opportunity for the Bangsamoro people to practice and know more on how to further take part in securing food for the future. It was with great hope that in every family, they will not have to worry on what food to bring on their table.

Thus, **Growing Seeds of Hope version 2.0** was again launched online on the 25th of September 2020 to open its 2nd batch of garden entries. "Here in this small and humble space, a small eden

offering beauty and relaxation continues to grow and stand tall, in hopes of greeting a new tomorrow with its radiance. The morning breeze carries with it an aroma of a refreshing feeling, reminding us of God's gifts, a new day, new chances, a new beginning," said by Aida M. Pandaca, the champion in the Ornamental Garden Category. Indeed, a beautiful garden is not just something to be admired in glossy magazines, or in what we see in news articles. There are solid reasons to start out a garden, which also includes health benefits. Moreover, it also serve as a platform in connecting and spending time with one's kids, siblings, or parents. It is but a joy to watch a seed grow into a plant with the efforts of significant others and reaping the benefits of the produce - fresh fruits and vegetables.

"I started gardening with not much technical knowledge. Many of the techniques that I use come from trial-and-error and by asking relatives and friends who have experience with gardening. I also get information from the internet. Some work, some don't. Some plants die, some plants live and propagate. Despite the challenges, there is a remarkable sense of fulfillment that comes from planting a root or a seed and seeing it bloom into a full-grown plant," Saida U. Romero said, the champion on the Agricultural Crop Category.

Truly, it takes courage and patience to start a garden but the reward of it once it becomes successful is very fulfilling. So, let us start and continue gardening and bring HOPE to our homes, not just in our homes but also to the people around us.

—S.Panolong

Awardees

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



Growing Seeds OF HOPEWINNERS

2020 VERSION 2.0

CATEGORY A
Agricultural Crops Production

First Runner-Up

"I believe that the joy of my backyard garden gives to my family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers, a form of charity"

Saida U. Romerez
Marawi City

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



Growing Seeds OF HOPEWINNERS

2020 VERSION 2.0

CATEGORY B
Ornamental Plants Production

First Runner-Up

"Every morning, vivid and vibrant natural colors of green, maroon and yellow greets us with gentle yet charismatic atmosphere; thereby reminding us the beauty of nature. The diversity of different shapes and sizes never fails to catch your attention"

Aida Pandaca
Marawi City

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

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



Growing Seeds OF HOPEWINNERS

2020 VERSION 2.0

CATEGORY A
Agricultural Crops Production

2nd Runner-Up

"I believe that growing seed is my hope for tomorrow. I hope that more people will develop this principle. My backyard garden is an inspiration to me."

Abdulmoin H. Arsad
Calanogas, Lanao del Sur

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

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



Growing Seeds OF HOPEWINNERS

2020 VERSION 2.0

CATEGORY B
Ornamental Plants Production

2nd Runner-Up

"Everyday, I got so excited to make DIYs project in my garden. I reuse and recycle flower pots, like old shoes, clothes, coconut shell, tin cans, tires, galloons etc. to beautify my garden."

Sonaya Marhom - Zainal
Cotabato City

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BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY - BARMM



Growing Seeds OF HOPEWINNERS

2020 VERSION 2.0

CATEGORY A
Agricultural Crops Production

3rd Runner-Up

"Planting a variety of vegetables is an exemplary manifestation of converting quarantine boredom into a productive one. Fresh and organic foods are readily available for the family's daily consumption. Backyard gardening is a healthy family bonding and exercise that contributes to the holistic development of each family and society"

Julbert B. Solarte
Balabagan, Lanao del Sur

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

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



Growing Seeds OF HOPEWINNERS

2020 VERSION 2.0

CATEGORY B
Ornamental Plants Production

3rd Runner-Up

"We believe that having plants inside your home - whether it is ornamental plants or vegetables - will at least make you feel fulfilment when you see it growing beautifully."

Jamilah P. Hadji Rauf
Marawi City

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

NEW FRONTLINERS: PROTECTION KIT FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS



COVID-19 cases in the country was rapidly increasing during the 3rd quarter of 2020. It continuously affected the economy, education, and lives of every Filipino family.

Businessmen, drivers, street vendors, employees of both government and non-government institutions were among the affected sectors. “No Work, No Pay” are the simple words that describe most of the private employees in different private institutions and companies.

This may include employees of hotel and restaurant companies, non-government organizations, and private schools.

Private school teachers are among the most affected by the pandemic. They needed assistance also, however, they were in some way forgotten as among the COVID-19 directly affected workers. Ever since the lockdowns begun in the country last March, all of the private schools were closed. This has totally affected thousands of families being sustained by private school teachers of both Arabic and English Education.

Most of them have been struggling already before pandemic due to low income ranging from 3,000 a month and above. It brought them twice the struggles they have with “No Work, No Pay”.

In September 2020, schooling started. Teachers were among the new frontliners and teaching became more challenging with the new methods of teaching.

Thus, the Office of Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph initiated a program for the private school teachers through providing personal protection kit and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on COVID-19. This PPK consists of isopropyl alcohol, face masks, hand soap, and face shield.

Among the schools that received protection kits were the Philippine Engineering and Industrial (PEACI), Philippine Integrated College Academy Foundation (PICAF), Lanao Islamic Paramedical College Foundation (LIPCIFI), Jamiatul Philippine Al-Islamia (JPI), Khadidja Mohammad Islamic Academy (KMIA), Marawi Islamic College, Al-farabi International Academy (AFIA), Jamiatul Muslim Mindanao (JMM), Islamic Endowment Foundation/Jam'iyah Al-Waqf Al-Islamie, Senator Ninoy Aquino College Foundation (SNACF), Dianaton Naim Learning Institute (DNLI), Masiu Pathfinder Integrated Academy (MPIA), Philippine Integrated School (PIS), Marawi Boundary Academy, Mahad Al-Irshad Al-Islamie Pilot Madrasah, Our Lady of Peace High School (OLPHS), San Isidro High School (SIHS), Soar High Academy, and the Dansalan College.

During the distribution, private school teachers and ustadhz were very thankful upon receiving kits and IEC materials. “We are very thankful because this is the first time that we received protection kit from the Bangsamoro Government”, Normin B. Amboloto said, School Administrator at Lanao Islamic Paramedical College Foundation (LIPCIFI).

“We are very thankful, because the BARMM were able to see, appreciate, and include us in their intervention. I hope, this does not end the BARMM help for all private schools”. Atha Macalayo Expressed, Vice President of Marawi Islamic School.

Private school employees raised concerns during the distribution/turn-over ceremony:

1. To have subsidy/financial support for private school teachers,
2. Give private schools an opportunity to be part of the Bangsamoro government projects. Private school teachers provide great teaching method and have great number of educators and learners,
3. To have continuous assistance from the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BARMM) and Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA),
4. For legislators, encourage parents to continue sending their children to school despite the pandemic,
5. Provision of school supplies such as bondpaper and printer for module production. Most of the teachers were struggling on the availability of printer especially to the remote areas like Butig Lanao del Sur.

—L.Sumpingang



Photos during the distribution of Protection Kits for the teachers

School Best Practices in Time of CoViD-19 Pandemic

World Teachers' Day is an annual event celebrated every October 5 to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 UNESCO recommendation concerning the status of teachers. This year, on World Teachers' Day, the Office of MP Maisara celebrated it with the theme "Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future".

This activity is significant because teachers are acknowledged for their efforts and achievements. It is also a chance to amplify their voices calling for progress, attention to their concerns, and solutions to challenges they face in the teaching profession.

For 2020's World Teachers' Day, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph successfully conducted a long month celebration from September 2 to October 2, 2020. In order to recognize the efforts of school administrators and teachers during this time of pandemic, and to bring attention to their difficulties, the office conducted an online competition entitled "School Best Practices on Balik-Eskwela Program in Time of CoViD-19 Pandemic".

The competition also served as a consultative activity to identify the gaps and challenges our educators are facing, as well as to document best practices which can help in addressing those gaps and challenges.

Last October 5, 2020, all the submitted entries from different schools were judged by a jury. The winners were also announced on the same day and considered as one of the highlights of the 2020 Teachers' Day Celebration.



Dama Elementary School in Butig, Lanao del Sur won as Champion, followed by Sugod-1 Central Elementary School in Tugaya as 1st Runner-up, and Pangandaman Central Elementary School in Masiu as 2nd Runner-up, all under the Elementary Category. Meanwhile in the College Category, Jamiatul Philippines Al-Islamia was held as the winner. Additionally, there were five (5) entries which received consolation prizes.

Each school presented their own unique solutions to address the gaps and challenges they are facing in their respective areas. Despite the trying times, our educators continue to adapt the learning continuity plans in order to continue the learning process of our learners for the School Year 2020-2021.

All the entries demonstrated the creativity and adaptability of our educators despite all the challenges we are facing today. Their initiatives to address gaps and challenges are all commendable, especially their efforts to sustain their best practices. We can learn much from them.

—J.Sarip

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

WEBINAR ON

THE RESILIENCY OF EDUCATORS

"Presentation of the School Best Practices in Balik Eskwela in time of CoViD-19 Pandemic"

Topics (Sharing of Best Practices and Initiatives)

- Latest Updates on School Balik Eskwela Program
- Resource Mobilization and Networking to address Challenges and Gaps
- Community and Parent Participations to Motivate and Inspire Learners

zoom LIVE

f BTA Member Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph Page

Monday October 19, 2020
09am-11:30am

October 19, 2020 - The awardees of the School Best Practices in Balik Eskwela in Time of Covid-19 Pandemic Online Contest were gathered for a webinar.

This webinar was dubbed as **“Resiliency of Educators: Presentation of School Best Practices in Balik Eskwela in Time of Covid-19 Pandemic”**.

Educators who represented their respective schools were: Halimanessa M. Alonto of Jamiatul Philippine Al-Islamia (JPI), Norhanifah N. Alikhan of Camp Bagong Amaipakpak Elementary School (CBAPES), Anihayda A. Sumayan of Lumayanague Primary School, School Principal Ainilhaya Panulong of Dama Elementary School (DES), Nihaya R. Halil of Pangandaman Elementary School, Sohaylah M. Ali of Dilausan Elementary School, Carima M. Mamintal of Pindoguan Elementary School, and Anisah Abdulwahab-Datumoloc of Philippine Integrated School-Tugaya (PIS).

This webinar aims to showcase the best practices adopted by the awardees of the said online education contest. Online participants were able to witness the different initiatives of the invited resource persons as they have included in their presentations.

Topics discussed during the webinar include the Latest Updates on School Balik Eskwela Program, Resource Mobilization and Networking to address Challenges and Gaps, Community and Parents Participations to Motivate and Inspire Learners.

“With this new learning approach, we are here to listen on how did you cope up with the struggles and challenges that teachers are now facing. Teachers deserve a celebration for this 2020 Teacher’s Month since they are still able to manage things despite these challenges”, said by MP Latiph

Regular disinfecting of visitors’ shoes and frequently touched surfaces, temperature check, hand sanitizing, social distancing, putting of log book in the entrance, and posting of IEC on CoViD-19 were among the common Health precautionary measures of schools.

“We have prepared learning modules and video lectures for our students. We also provide counselling interventions to address our students’ day-to-day personal, socio-emotional, and career concerns.” Said by the JPI College Secretary, Halimanessa M. Alonto

Aside from providing quality education with health precautionary measures, Lumabayanague Primary School took an initiative to distribute hygiene kits and PPE for their teachers last June 2020.

Furthermore, the invited resource persons were very thankful to share their initiatives to their co-teachers and educators as the new front liners for this CoVid-19 pandemic.

—L.Sumpingan

TABLETS FOR STUDENTS' ONLINE LEARNING USE

October 15, 2020 - Education is vital to people especially in ensuring a good future. This is the reason why young people continue to struggle to pursue their education. It is supposed to be a right, but with the pandemic, it could become a privilege.

Both teachers and students continue to face series of challenges. The most affected ones are the students since they are vulnerable and need attention from their family and the government.

The new learning approach has affected the mentality of young people. Among the challenges that some young people are facing with this new learning approach include poor internet connection, lack of parents' capacity to assist their children, and the most difficult problem that every student encounters - the availability of gadgets for their online learning.

This problem has tragically led to the deaths of some young people whose parents are unemployed or low income earners. Not being able to provide for the additional needs of their children has doubled the difficulties being encountered by parents.



Thus, the Office of Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph came up with a program entitled, **Siyap for Education: Provision of Tablet and 5G Smart Sim**. This aims to lessen the problem of the lack of availability of gadgets.

Through the program, the Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph distributed tablets to the vulnerable youth in Lanao del Sur.

The first recipients who received a Tablet and 5G Smart Sim were the 12 alumni of MP Latiph's Advocacy and Policy, Development Training or APDeT.

The beneficiaries were first year college students from public and private colleges in Lanao del Sur. This is to help and encourage the student-beneficiaries to continue their studies amidst the challenges of COVID-19.

—L.Sumpingan

“This tablet will be useful for our educational needs. I am very happy to share this gadget with my siblings. Together we will fight the challenges of this online learning approach”, stated Mohammad Fayed, APDeT Alumni.



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

WEBINAR ON

“SHAPING CHILDREN’S NEW NORMAL TOGETHER”

A Webinar for Children’s Month, “Sama-samang Itaguyod ang Karapatan ng Bawat Bata sa Panahon ng Pandemya



October 20, 2020 - Considering the mental stress brought about by the New Normal, it is important for parents and guardians to know some tips and ways on how to support and handle children, especially those vulnerable ones.

Thus, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph conducted a webinar entitled, **“Shaping Children’s New Normal Together”**. This was in celebration for the National Children’s Month 2020 with a theme, *“Sama-samang Itaguyod ang Karapatan ng Bawat Bata sa Panahon ng Pandemiya.”*

This webinar was in line with MP Latiph’s Orphan and Children Sectoral Advocacy. This aims to provide guidance to the parents and older ones to promote the well-being of children during the lockdowns.

Topics delivered during the webinar involved Strengthening the Role of Parents in Raising Children this time of Pandemic by Dr. Naheeda D. Mustofa, MD, FPCP, DPBCN, and Protecting Mental Health for children and handling their emotions in this Pandemic by Dr. Ever T. Jaji.

Studies show that crisis like pandemic has a negative impact to the children psychologically.

Children may experience fear and uncertainty due to changes with their daily routine along with parental stress.

These things can manifest in various ways like temper tantrums, fussy, struggling to focus and engage in play, clinging and demanding, more aggressive, regressive behavior such as thumb sucking and toileting accidents, and change in sleeping and eating habits.

As for the older children and teenagers, they may feel frustrated, disappointed, anxiety, bored, stomachache/ headache/ nausea, struggling to focus, and change in sleeping and eating habits. Among the identified signs that children may have mental disorder involves persistent sadness, withdrawing from or avoiding social interactions, hurting oneself or talking about hurting oneself, talking about death or suicide, outburst or extreme irritability, out of control behavior that can be harmful, drastic changes in mood, behavior, or personality, and frequent headache or stomachache.

When these things happen to children, parents may consult a doctor for children's mental health. Thus, the webinar was organized to help parents alleviate the plight of the children as part of MP Latiph's Orphan and Children Sectoral Advocacy.

Its aim was to provide guidance to the parents and older ones to promote the well-being of children amid lockdowns.

Topics delivered during the webinar involved *Strengthening the Role of Parents in Raising Children this time of Pandemic* by Dr. Naheeda D. Mustofa, MD, FPCP, DPBCN, and *Protecting Mental Health for children and handling their emotions in this Pandemic* by Dr. Ever T. Jaji.

"When children are in stress, they need to seek more of attention of parents. That is why parents should spend more time with their children, be involved in their screen time, involve in video chat, and make sure that children have mix of activities across the day like book time, free play, art activity, etc.", said Dr. Ever

"During pandemic, lets' grab more positive impacts of it like having more time to be prayerful, Allah-conscious, Nature-conscious, Dedication and discovery, Empowered, Motivated and Money-Saver, Independent, and Creative.", said Dr. Mustofah.

Dr. Mustofah also encouraged the children not to delay showing their love to their parents because we do not know how long these blessings are. The major advice mentioned by Dr. Mustofah for the parents is to have communication with their children.

Although parents are busy especially those front liners, they should always give time to communicate with their children. During the webinar, Otsuka-Solar Philippines Incorporated represented by Rechel Sale, a Consumer Relation Specialist, and Chackie Garciano, a Medical Communication Specialist introduced POCARI Sweat and gave lively activity to the audience.

—L.Sumpingang

"The current situation affects not only the parents but the children, adolescence and families in a very exceptional way. This is the time for us to review/revise our way of thinking in order to spotlight the importance of closing the equity gap and quality gap in early childhood care and education services of our children", MP Latiph said

Siyap for Vulnerable in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Siyap for Vulnerable Program (Care for the Vulnerable Program) was a program initiated by the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph which aims to provide any form of assistance as requested by beneficiaries, and was instituted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 outbreak began in Wuhan, China on December 2019 and continuously spread in different countries. It was on January 30, 2020 when the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) reported the first COVID-19 case in the country with a 38-year-old female Chinese national. Local transmission of COVID-19 was also confirmed on March 7, 2020. Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation No. 929, declaring a state of calamity throughout the Philippines on March 16, 2020 due to the unstoppable spread of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 or COVID-19.

This pandemic has affected not only the health of the people, but also the state of society and the economy as a whole. Persons with low income such as drivers, small store owners, carpenters, ustadhz, fisher folk, and farmers were severely affected by the successive lockdowns. This has resulted in their struggles in earning money to financially sustain their families.

Thus, the office of MP Atty. Maisara initiated the Siyap for Vulnerable Program. The program includes relief and transportation assistance. In response to the struggles of the students who were stranded in their respective dormitories, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara in collaboration with the Mindanao State University-Supreme Student Government (MSU-SSG), and other warm-hearted donors and organizations, distributed relief goods and hygiene kits to the students. Around 60 dormitories and cottages with more than 660 students trapped inside the campus were catered to from March 22-23, 2020.

Marawi City dumpsite, where 150 families are currently residing, is one of the most vulnerable areas in Marawi City. This is located at Barangay Caniogon Papandayan, Marawi City. Most of the families there earn money from driving a tricycle. Sometimes they look for food in the dumpsite when they have nothing to eat. Knowing the harsh conditions of these families encouraged and inspired MP Maisara to reach more Bangsamoro People and help them.

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Knowing the harsh conditions of these families encouraged and inspired MP Maisara to reach more Bangsamoro People and help them.

MP Maisara relief assistance has reached 14 areas in Lanao del Sur such as Saguiran, Bubong, Taraka, Lumba-Bayabao, Masiu, Lumbatan, Butig, Binidayan, Pualas, Bacolod, Tugaya, Marantao Lanao del Sur, and Marawi City. The Office also reached 2 areas outside Lanao del Sur such as Sultan Sa Mastura of Maguindanao, and Bongao of Tawi-Tawi (Jama Mapun) and some communities outside the Bangsamoro region such as Brgy. Holy Spirit in Quezon City, Brgy. Tala in Caloocan City, Maharlika Village in Taguig, Brgy. Pangi in Matungao Lanao del Norte, Brgy. Barra in Opol Misamis Oriental, South Cotabato Rehabilitation and Detention Center (SCRDC), Marikina, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, and Bangsamoro Communities in Cagayan Valley, Isabela Province and Santiago City.

As to the beneficiaries reached, the Office of MP Maisara has served 7,609 families. The household beneficiaries belong to vulnerable sectors such as Senior Citizens, Widows, IDPs, Drivers and Vendors. Other beneficiaries of this relief assistance are the 1225 Orphans, Morit and Students served. As for transportation assistance, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara also implemented its Hatid-Estudyante program for the 220 students in Tawi-Tawi.

Through the Siyap for Vulnerable Program, the office was able to provide relief goods and hygiene kits for the Bangsamoro people within and outside the Region. Other Covid-19 responses include the provision of personal protection kits to 400 pregnant women and senior citizens. Furthermore, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara also provided personal protection kits to 500 teachers who are also serving as front-liners. Personal protective equipment was also provided to the medical front liners of Amai Pakpak Medical Center (APMC) in BARMM and ISCAG Clinic and Clinical Nutrition Center.

—L. Sumpingang



Tabang for Vulnerable at Tugaya Lanao del Sur

TUGAYA Lanao Del Sur, July 19 - The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph with the great working force of the Office of MP Marjanie Macasalong, Office of MP Abdullah “Bravo” Macapaar, Office of MP Janati Mimbantas, Office of MP Zainoden Bato, and Local MILF distributed Rice Assistance to the families in Tugaya Lanao del Sur. The Rice Assistance was part of the “Project Tabang”, a COVID-19 Relief Assistance of the Office of Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim.

A number of 3,500 sacks containing 25 kilograms of rice were provided to the constituents of Tugaya, Lanao del Sur. Along with the distribution is the Overview of the Tabang Project and Turn-over Ceremony of the Rice Assistance between the MILF volunteers and Members of Parliament. Among the respective people to speak in the Ceremony were Hon. Alfattah A. Pacalna, Dr. Laarnie Racman to represent the office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph, MP Zainoden Bato, MP Janati Mimbantas, Dr. Rubina Mimbantas Macabunar, Dr. Bashary Latiph, Ustadh Zainoden D. Langcua Aleema Mariam Dandamun, and Hon. Sadic Macaborod.

“Miyatimo tano imanto sabap ko kaiisa-isa o niyat tano sa kawgopi tano ago kirampayn tano ko gagaw ago serbisyo ko pagtaw.”, said MP Atty. Maisara

MP Janati’s message includes the history about the Bangsamoro sacrifices. *“Imanto na kagya tiyabangan iyo so mga Mujahidin, tiyabangan iyo so jihad, tiyabangan iyo so chief minister ago mga commanders sa gya miyakalima pulo ragon na aya myaoma niyan na gene a Bangsamoro na giyaengkae a kiyapakaonotod a Bangsamoro Government, gyangkae a Bangsamoro Parliament na sekano peman e mebalasan a Bangsamoro Government. Pagwitun rekano so panabang.”* (Because you supported the Mujahiddin, you supported Jihad, you supported the chief minister and commanders for 50 years to have this Bangsamoro Government and this Bangsamoro Parliament. We are now turning back the support you gave us. We will deliver our support to you

To ensure the smooth distribution of the rice assistance, numerous number of youth volunteers served the people of Tugaya, Lanao del Sur.

—L. Sumpingan



Siyap for Vulnerable in Response to the victims of Typhoon Ulysses

The Bangsamoro people outside BARMM were affected by typhoons that destroyed not only their livelihoods but their homes.

Tuguegarao City, where some Bangsamoro families live, was one of the places affected by the typhoon on November 2020, when rainy days had caused flood to the community. "Yong first flood, Hanggang tuhod lang yong tubig. Akala namin, hanggang doon lang yon kaya naglinis nalang yong mga tao not knowing na sa Isabela is sunod sunod parin yong ulan," said Prince Acmad Rachmadin Cosain, Muslim Community in Centro 10 Riverside

"Ang nangyari is sabay-sabay na binuksan ang pitong gate sa Magat Dam. Ito ay nagdulot ng flood sa aming community," Acmad added

The flood had reached the ceiling of their houses and caused destruction of some homes. "Nong November 13, grabi talaga yong dulot ng baha kung saan almost lahat ng aming kabahayan ay lumubog sa baha. Ang akala namin hanggang doon lang yon."



Photo of an affected home at Gonzaga, Cagayan Valley

Upon hearing these concerns, the office of MP Atty. Maisara responded by distributing relief packs to the victims. Relief packs consists 3-5 kilos rice, 3-4 pcs assorted noodles, 3 pcs can goods, 1 laundry bar soap , 1 bath soap, 1 bottle Clorox, 4 pcs of Shampoo, Powdered laundry detergent, and Face masks. This humanitarian response was part of the program **"Siyap to the Vulnerable"** initiated by the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph. "We will continue our advocacy to extend help to people who are most in need within or outside the Bangsamoro region," MP Maisara said.

According to Mr. Amenodin Olama, the President of Muslim Community in Roxas, "during the recent calamity since the lockdown starts, many people suffered from gaining their everyday income because the small and big business operations were closed in the market and despite of this, we are very thankful to the BARMM government for reaching us here".

The residents expressed their gratefulness for reaching out despite the distance and the inconvenience brought about by the different travel restrictions.

The Office of MP Maisara also expressed its sincerest gratitude to the following community leaders/presidents who exerted great effort and time for the success of the relief assistance program:

- Mr. Anwar Cabugatan and Mr.Mamintal Ibra of the Muslim Community in Cauayan City
- Mr. Ongcad P. Enidal of the Muslim Community in Cagayan Valley Mr. Aga P. Enidalof the Muslim Community in Gonzaga
- Mr. Amenodin Olama of the Muslim Community in Roxas, Isabela
- Mr. Reymen Dimarao of the Muslim Community in Ilagan City, Isabela
- Mr. Prince Acmad Rachmadin Cosain of the Muslim Community in Centro 10 Riverside, Balzain East Muslim Community Bago a Ingud ,Iibag Muslim Community
- Mr. Abdulmoin Harim the President of Traders Muslim Community Association

Here are the areas reached by the office:

Muslim Community	Number of Relief Packs
Muslim Community of Marikina	350 Relief Packs
Muslim Community of Tanay Rizal	101 Relief Packs
Muslim Community of Nueva Ecija	200 Relief Packs
Muslim Community of Cauayan City, Province of Isabela	120 Relief Packs
Muslim Community of Gonzaga, Cagayan Valley	100 Relief Packs
Roxas Muslim Community, Province of Isabela	100 Relief Packs
Baligatan, Ilagan City, Province of Isabela	165 Relief Packs
Muslim Community of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley	300 Relief Packs
Darussalam Muslim Community, Mabini, Santiago City	210 Relief Packs
TOTAL	1,646 Relief Packs

3 Years After Marawi Siege

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 as being rich in culture, with a strong traditional structure and being the center of Islamic values. Long before Spanish and American colonization, the Datus and Sultans were the great warriors who fought hard against the colonizers, like the great warrior, Amaï Pakpak who defended beloved Dansalan (old name of Marawi City). One historic event of the Meranaos was the 1935 Dansalan Declaration, where our forefathers demanded from the US government their right to self-determination, respect for their norms, beliefs, religion, and 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, and the 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.



Photo Sourced From: https://th.bing.com/th/id/R0bee92d05976d48acb14511937b4e7?rik=Ljmlci7S85EIQ&riu=http%3a%2f%2fcbcpnews.net%2fcbcpnews%2fwfp-content%2fuploads%2f2017%2fio%2fCBCPNews_Marawiz.jpg&ehk=kh7x7M547Mzeils1mgAPYluZ3%2fposNOeRulsXo1ztc%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw

The truth will always hunt the different actors of the Marawi Siege. 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 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 don't 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 brings them closer to healing 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)

—S.J. Pacalundo

Solving the Garbage Problem

One of the major environmental problems in Lanao del Sur is the continuing improper disposal and mis-segregation of wastes. This has also been the usual situation in many areas.

To help solve this, environmental advocates on February 25, 2020 met at the Marawi Satellite Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph to discuss the problems of improper segregation, poor information dissemination, non-availability of sanitary landfill, operational inefficiencies of services, limited utilization of recycling activities, and poor enforcement of ordinances. From the discussion, the group concluded that there is limited knowledge on Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

There is also poor enforcement of the law. The Philippine Constitution Article X, Section 20 gives “Autonomous Regions to have legislative powers over natural resources.” The Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) Article V, Section 2 on the “Powers of Government,” gives the Bangsamoro Government the authority to act on “ecological solid waste and pollution control.”

Solid waste management legislations and policies are necessary to protect the environment and health of the Bangsamoro people. To do this, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) is planning to create a Bangsamoro Solid Waste Management Commission within the transition period 2019-2022. *“Walang mga proper landfill sa mga munisipyo at kung mayron man ay maliliit lang. May mga MRF din pero for compliance lang ‘yon ng mga Barangay Chairmen kasi masyadong maliliit. Wala ding nagco-collect ng mga basura na itinatapon doon,”* (There are no proper landfills in the municipalities and, if there is, the spaces are not enough.

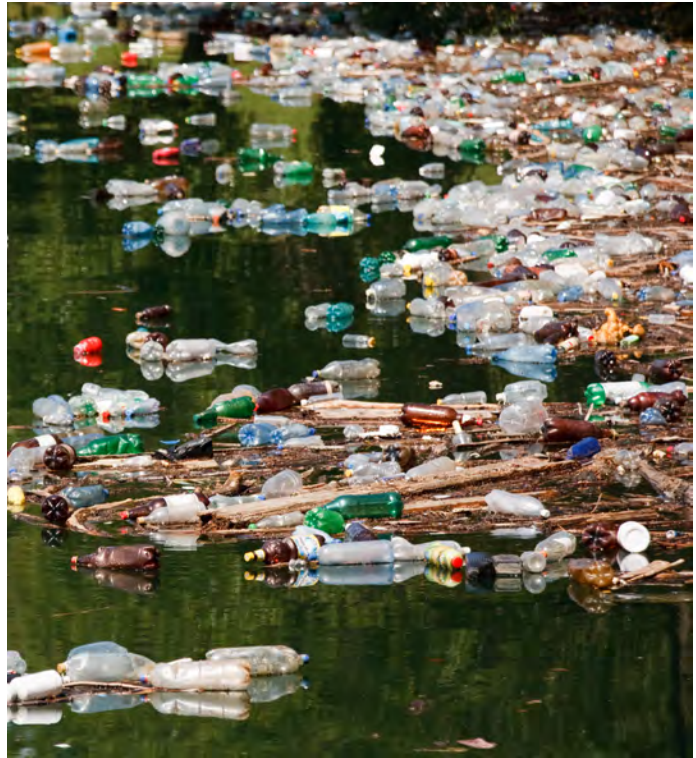


Photo Sourced From Canva

There are Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) but these are only for compliance by the Barangay Chairman because the MRF are really too small), said Dr. Anisah P. Hajdi Ali, an environment advocate.

“We want to push for the bill on the creation of the Bangsamoro Ecological Solid Waste Management Commission (BESWMC), which aims to strengthen the Information and Education Campaign with Islamic teachings about cleanliness. We wish to integrate the Solid Waste Management Act as part of the programs in all schools in Lanao del Sur or even in BARMM as a whole,” Asmarie Labao, also an environment advocate, added.

To push for the bill, the office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph will be conducting a round table discussion where representatives from Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 10, Local Government Units in Lanao del Sur, concerned non-government organizations, and other environment advocates will be invited.

—S. Panolong

Solid Waste Management for a Healthy Life

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 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 has 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 the 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.

—L.Sumpingang



A Young Eagle Will Fly High Soon

In Malabang Lanao del Sur, a child saw a Philippine Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis holospilus*) near their house. 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, who 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 of 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 turned 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.

—J.Sarip

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.

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 the 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 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)



WE ARE EARTH KEEPERS

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 begun 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)

1. Forest/land conversion and loss of natural habitats and biodiversity;
2. Overfishing and loss of marine resources;
3. Soil degradation and erosion;
4. Lower water availability;
5. Water pollution (application of fertilizers and agrochemicals);
6. Waste management;
7. Health impacts from exposure to agrochemicals and other pollutants; and,
8. Pollution (point sources such as emission to air and discharge of effluent).

2020 YEAR-END ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

It is essential for every office to conduct a year-end assessment in order to evaluate the performance of a team, program, and the implementation of the previous year's micro-plan. Moreover, it is the purpose of annual performance evaluation to promote communication and provide useful feedback about job performance, to facilitate better working relationships, to provide a historical record of performance and to contribute to professional development.

In the case of the Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph, a year-end assessment was held at Cagayan de Oro City on the first week of December 2020 where her staffs presented the Office accomplishments with respect to both the programs and legislations. During the presentation, the team looked back upon all the programs implemented and legislations passed.

Looking back, no one expected that a pandemic would occur. Hence, most of the programs of the Office were designed to involve gatherings. However, due to the resilience and innovativeness of the Office, the team was able to accomplish objectives beyond its 2020 Micro-Plan.



Of course, despite hectic schedule, the team is always up for an adventure. During the year-end assessment, the team went to the Dahilayan Adventure Park to see the breathtaking view of the mountain ranges and experience the longest zip-line in town and other amenities.

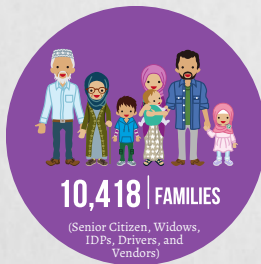
SUMMARY OF 2020 PROGRAMS

APDeT Program for the Senior High Students
Tulong for Madrasah
WHO talks to the Bangsamoro on COVID-19
Pasabuy Program
1st Round Table Discussion on Ecological Solid Waste Management System
Women of the Year 2020
Vlog “What’s-up.. Watch-up Lanao”
Modern Day Hero Online Poster Making Contest
Growing Seeds of Hope
Provision of Teachers’ Protection Kit
Bangsamoro Short Film Festival 2020
Growing Seeds of Hope Version 2.0
School Best Practices in Times of Pandemic
“Teachers Month Celebration”
Siyap ko Kapaganad Program
We can Grow with our own Food
Preparing in the New Normal in BARMM Education
Food Security in BARMM
Resiliency of Educators
Shaping Children’s in New Normal Together
Webinar on VAW Free Community Starts with Me Campaign
VAW Free Social Media Campaign
Hygiene and Dignity Kits For LDS Provincial Jail Detainees
Balik Probinsya Repatriation Program
Siyap for Vulnerable Morit
Printers for MOOE Less Schools
Medical Assistance
Siyap for Vulnerable Victims of Angeles City Fire Incident
Siyap for Vulnerable Victims of Typhoon Ulysses in Luzon
Financial Assistance
Basic Training on Video Editing for Teachers

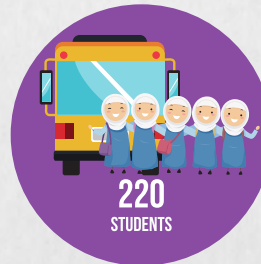
SUMMARY OF YEAR 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January-December 2020

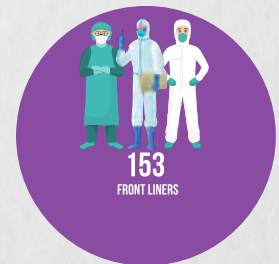
FOOD PACKS



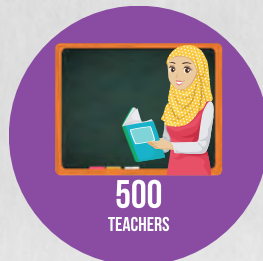
HATID-ESTUDYANTE



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



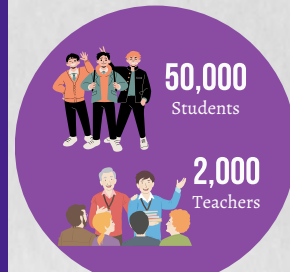
PERSONAL PROTECTION KITS



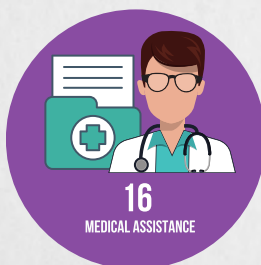
TABLETS AND PRINTERS



SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD PROGRAM



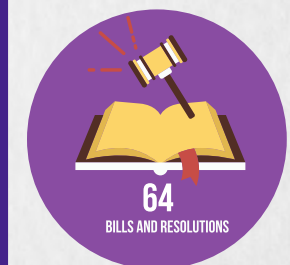
ASSISTANCE



PROGRAMS



LEGISLATIONS FILED



MP MAISARA'S WEBINAR ENGAGEMENTS

- On December 10, 2020, MP Maisara participated in "**Contemporary Issues in International Humanitarian Law and Children in Situations of Armed Conflict**", a webinar in line with the celebration of Human Rights Day organized by Department of Justice.
- On November 27, 2020, MP Maisara participated on "**Conversations on Commitment of the Bangsamoro Government to Children's Declaration**", a webinar in celebration of the Regional Children's Month and Juvenile Justice and Development Consciousness Week organized by MSSD, BYC, Bangsamoro Information Office, U-Report, VSO Philippines, and UNICEF.
- On November 25 to 26, 2020, MP Maisara participated on "**IDP Protection Law and Policy**", a webinar series for BARMM Parliamentarians and Legislative Staff organized by UNHCR.
- On November 26, 2020, MP Maisara participated on "**Realizing the Importance of Mental Health Amidst the Pandemic**", a webinar for Mental Health organized by BTA Parliament – Gender and Development Office.
- On November 25, 2020, MP Maisara participated on "**WFD Online Event: Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Women and Girls in Times of Peace and Crisis**", an online event where policy makers in the Arab region will have important conversations with UK legislators on the work of drafting and implementing laws to protect women and girls both during times of peace and in the height of conflict organized by Westminster Foundation for Democracy
- On November 4, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on "**Roundtable Discussion on Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body**", a Presentation of report on the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body by the Former Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Sir George Reid organized by Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
- On October 29, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on "**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**", a Webinar for the Breast Cancer Awareness Month with the theme, "United We Fight" organized by BTA Parliament – Gender and Development Office.
- On October 19, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on "**Tatlong Taong Bakwit Closed Door Webinar**", a Presentation of the initial findings of the research on the comprehensive evaluation of the city's rehabilitation process organized by International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov).
- On October 9, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara delivered an Inspirational message on "**Lanao Youth Enhance| ADV 11**", The ADV 11: Becoming an Effective Advocate is one of the 20 modules under the Lanao Youth Enhance Webinar Series organized by Youth ACTS (Youth Advocates for Change, Transformation, and Sustainability.)
- On October 5, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on "**Gender-Sensitive Post-Legislative Scrutiny: A Closer Look.**" The session examined how practitioners can ensure that legislation at the very least does not harm and delivers better lifetime opportunities for those facing structural disadvantage organized by Westminster Foundation for Democracy", In line with the celebration of Green Consumer Day 2020 organized by FISIP-University of Jember in collaboration with RCE-ESD East Java.
- On September 28, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara was a resource person during the "**Making Right Choices, Becoming A Responsible Consumer Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12).**"
- On September 21, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara was a resource person during the "**Food, Peace, Security: Sustaining Peace in the Philippines through Zero Hunger**". This aims to to realize that peace is an issue which is closely tied to the rest of the Sustainable Development Agenda and encourage instructions to address the root causes of conflict organized by SDG Villages, UN Advisory Board of the Philippines, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, Philippines, and National Youth Commission of the Philippines.

- On September 2, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara delivered a discussion on “Bangsamoro during the Transition Period: What Went Before and What is Happening Now?” during the **"Forum on “Mindanao: Fractured Promises, Continuing Challenges” organized by UP-CIDS**".
- On September 2, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on a **"Webinar on Save the Children"**.
- On September 2, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on a **"Webinar on Magna Carta Act of Children in the BARMM."**
- On August 26-28, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara was a speaker during the **"Young Women Leaders for Peace-PH Online Training of Trainers (ToT) on Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and the Beijing+25 Declaration and Platform for Action"**.
- On August 24, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara was a speaker during the “Art Appreciation Class”, a Talk about Indigenous Art under Art, Tradition, and Community/Nation organized by De La Salle University – Manila.
- On August 12 to 13, 2020, , MP Atty. Maisara was a resource speaker during the **“2nd Ranaw Youth Organizations’ Summit (RYOS).”** Ranaw Youth Organizations Summit (RYOS)- is an annual convergence of youth organizations and youth-serving organizations from Lanao del Sur which aims to provide a platform for youth organizations to do knowledge-sharing, networking-building and updating on the plans of the provincial government for the youth. This was organized by Office of Board Member Jeff Saro Adiong.
- On July 13, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on **“Updates on the Peace Process”**. This webinar aimed to bring together national and international organizations, local civil society organizations, and other key actors to be informed of the latest developments on the peace process organized by The Asia Foundation in partnership with the GPH and MILF Peace Implementing Panels.
- On July 10, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on **"Understanding the Bangsamoro Development Plan 2020–2022"**.
- On July 3, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara participated on **"Restoring Livelihood and Learning in Marawi Webinar"**.
- On June 25, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara was a resource person during the **“Building an Inclusive, Secure, Peaceful, and Just #BetterNormal”**. A series of webinars that strive to surface issues during this pandemic and co-creating solution for a green, sustainable, and just recovery organized by Greenpeace – Philippines.
- On June 17, 2020, , MP Atty. Maisara participated on **“Special Webinar: Assessing the Economic Impact of COVID – 19 to Overseas Filipino Workers and the Philippines”**. A contribution to the ongoing discourse on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis to the country, particular highlighting the socio-economic impact of the crisis to OFWs organized by Ateneo School of Government, Asian Institute of Management, Situation Room, Ateneo School of Medicine.
- On May 29, 2020, MP Atty. Maisara was a speaker during the **“Pag-iwas sa TB at COVID – 19 sa mga Komunidad Tungo sa New Normal”**. It aimed to provide guidance to our frontliners concerning IPC measures in our communities as we move towards the new normal organized by University Research Co., LLC.
—S.Panolong

OUR 2020 ADVOCACY PARTNERS



BUTIG YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR PEACE (BYMP) is a youth-led organization situated in Butig, Lanao del Sur, aims for lasting peace, equal access to quality education, sustainable development – economically, physically, and spiritually –, and youth empowerment. While they are continuously advocating peace, they have been invited in some peace initiative programs like training and seminars which helped them in becoming more empowered and molded-in realizing different innovative ideas and projects for the sustainability of their advocacies. To extend support to the welfare of the vulnerable families that severely restricts access to basic necessities amidst pandemic, the BYMP and the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph generously conducted a relief operation program for the vulnerable families in the Municipality of Butig, Lanao del Sur.



PILUMBAYAN is a young women's organization of volunteers, students, and young professionals established primarily to empower young women in the BARMM through awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing. Last April 15 to 24, 2020, in partnership with the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph, Pilumbayan conducted an online video Slam Poetry Contest. The contest was served as a chance to amplify the lived realities of Bangsamoro women during the crisis. The Slam Poetry Contest focused on the question “How this pandemic affected Bangsamoro Women”. With this contest, the Bangsamoro women ages 15 to 30 who have been submitted their entrants shared their perspective about the effect of a pandemic on Bangsamoro women and encouraged youth to utilize their spare time and talent while we are in the quarantine period.



KAPITAL PEACE is a youth-led organization that aims to contribute peace and stability to the Bangsamoro people. They have different practices for the sustainability of their interventions in peacebuilding. Because of their dedication and commitment to attain peace in our region and extend support to the vulnerable sectors, they came up with the idea for a relief operation for the families that were severely affected by the CoViD-19 pandemic. Last April 15, 2020, and September 23 and 24, 2020 the Kapital Peace together with the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph successfully conducted its relief operation entitled “Siyap for Vulnerable Sector” (A Response Project for Covid-19 in Aid of Legislation) at the Municipality of Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao.



SUGOD-1 ISLAMIC YOUTH MOVEMENT (SIYM), is a community-based youth led group that promotes the Islamic values in Tugaya, Lanao del Sur. They aim to unite the youths as well as the adults to strengthen the level of awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the righteousness of Islam for a peaceful living for their respective community. Last April 24, 2020 to May 24, 2020 together with the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph, SIYM successfully conducted a long month celebration for the Holy Month of Ramadhan. The two parties collaborated for a meaningful celebration of Ramadhan in time of CoViD-19 pandemic. The partnership demonstrated the Islamic practices in observing the Holy Month of Ramadhan.



PAENDAY KO MASA ORGANIZATION (PKMO) is an organization composed of different professionals and community leaders from the Municipality of Malabang, Lanao del Sur. “Paenday ko Masa” is a Meranao phrase, which means “Building Society.” Seeing the effects of the pandemic, there are some of us who began to demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism— showing care, unity, and support for one another. With that, the organization was created to show the spirit of volunteerism and live the spirit of “Bayanihan”. From their dedication and commitment to achieve their goals in serving the less fortunate families that affected by the CoViD-19 pandemic, last May 16, 2020 Peanday Ko Masa Organization engaged a partnership with the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph for the relief operation. The two parties are both endeavor to support the general welfare of the vulnerable families that severely restricts access to basic needs. The partnership inspires individuals and groups that every little act of kindness can create lasting and beautiful memories of hope and cooperation.



TIYAKAP KALILINTAD, INCORPORATED is a non-stock, non-profit and right-based organization composed of local civilian peacekeeping and protection monitors specially organized to help sustain the cessation of hostilities and strengthen grassroots peacebuilding in the conflict-prone areas to be able to establish communities with socio-economic sustainability. “TIYAKAP KALILINTAD” (TK or TIYAKAP), a Maguindanaon vernacular for “Care For Peace”. To extend care to our brothers and sisters prisoner at South Cotabato Rehabilitation and Detention Center (SCRDC) in Koronadal City. On October 08, 2020 the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph in partnership with Tiyakap Kalilintad successfully conducted a relief operation to the 250 inmates in SCRDC. The recipient are grateful with the provisions of essential relief, they have been facing of insufficiency of supplies since the community quarantine.



YOUTH ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY (YOUTH ACTS) is a youth-led organization based in Lanao del Sur. It envisions to empower the youth in bringing inspiration and hope through innovation in their community while upholding the teaching of Islam. To realize their vision, they came up with a webinar program entitled Lanao Youth Enhance. LYE is a webinar series that started on October 09, 2020, to November 09, 2020, it aims to equip youth advocates and youth organizations in Lanao del Sur with the fundamentals of community engagement and leadership. It also aims to solidify young people’s commitment to resolve current issues from their respective communities, and mainstream the significance of connective actions and collective visions. The webinar was successfully conducted with different partners, of which the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph is one of the main sponsors of the said webinar. With these partnerships, it creates a venue for the youth participants to be responsible for addressing the challenges from their respective community and educated youth to lead and participate in resolving community issues and concerns.



THE HAGONoy ISLAMIC CENTER AND TRADERS ASSOCIATION INC. THE HAGONoy ISLAMIC CENTER AND TRADERS ASSOCIATION INC. is an organization that aims to build a network of Muslim traders in communities in all provinces and cities outside and within the Bangsamoro Region. On October 10, 2020, a Muslim community outside the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao specifically located at Brgy. Sto. Rosario, Angeles City, Pampanga has been the victim of a fire tragedy that gutted their respective houses and business establishments. Mr. Samsoden Manalocon, the treasurer of the Bangsamoro Communities Outside Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Federation, reached out to the office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph to seek assistance for the Bangsamoro fire victims. The office of MP Maisara granted their request by availing them the program entitled “SIYAP for Vulnerable Program” that aims to relieve the difficulty of the vulnerable sectors facing challenges and ease their hardship and for their survival amidst pandemic.



AL-FAUJ AL-IMANIE is a young professional led organization that aims to serve community specially marginalized members of society and orphans. The organization was established in 2018 and situated at Marawi City. To cater the needs of the orphans in the orphanages center, the organization signed a partnership with the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph. The partnership generally aims to provide supports to the orphans living in the different orphanage center in Marawi City and Marantao, Lanao del Sur. The program “SIYAP for Vulnerable” was successfully conducted on October 24, 2020.

—J.Sarip

Other Partners



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