



**MP MAISARA**

ATTY. MAISARA DANDAMUN-LATIPH  
MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT



**ENVIRONMENT**



2019-2021

**ENVIRONMENT**

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By

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# **DEDICATION**

**This book is duly dedicated to everyone who has the heart for the environment and those who aspire to care more and love their beautiful surroundings.**

**To my loving parents, Mr. Norhasan P. Panolong and Mrs. Noronisa M. Panolong, for their untiring support and understanding to whatever I do in this field of work. I would not have made it this far without you in my back. And I know I can continue make a difference all through my existence with your guidance in my heart and mind.**

**To my siblings and relatives who believed in my small capacity in making a difference to my community.**

**To my BYMP family for being one of my strong forces, and for being one of the sources of my learnings.**

**To my boss and mentor, Ma'am MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph for all the opportunities she opened for me. The opportunity to learn, reflect, help, and make a difference for the Bangsamoro people even in my small little way. And my Team MP Maisara for the encouragement and support.**

**Above all, to the Almighty Allah (swt), for the guidance, energy, and wisdom that He has entrusted in me. For the ease and contentment that He has instilled in me throughout my existence. I would not have made all of these without His guidance and direction. Alhamdulillah!**

**This book is dedicated to all of you. Thank you very much and I pray that you may prosper in this life and in the Hereafter. Ameen.**

**Makakalikasan at makabuluhang buhay para sa lahat!**

# PREFACE

The focus of our office in pursuing a more conserved, protected, and properly utilized natural resources in Lanao del Sur and in the Bangsamoro Region as a whole is not only for economic but also for social and cultural aspects.

Our office's approach for the protection and utilization of our natural resources is best represented with the 5Ps of Sustainable Development Goal. The 5Ps are people, prosperity, peace, partnership, and planet.

## People

All our programs and activities were made and implemented because of the Bangsamoro People. It all started with every Bangsamoro. We ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals are heard and represented in the efforts of ending poverty and hunger for the dignified life of the people.

Ensuring food and nutrition security is our greatest challenge, and one we must not fail at all time, especially in this trying time. In order to create the conditions for lasting food and nutrition security, our efforts must be sustainable economically, environmentally and socially. We must ensure that there are sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods in our tables.

## Prosperity

It is our priority that ensuring prosperous and fulfilling life shall be one of the primary goals in every program of our office. We recognize the importance of economic development, yet we do not refer to the profit only. Wealth is not only measured by economic indicator alone. We must shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns that do not deplete natural resources for future generations, and that promote prosperity for all.

## Peace

In order to ensure sustainable and lasting peace in the region, we must not forget the very main reason of why we had various armed conflict in the region. Managing vital resources such as inland waters, forests, and other natural resources of the region must be just, equitable and fair for us to meet the basic principle of ensuring peace. Additionally, we recognize that a meaningful, lasting and sustainable peace is not only the absence of violence.

## Partnership

Our office value our partners in implementing programs – ministries, offices, and organizations especially those who have the primary mandate and functions related to environment. The stakeholders have a significant part in attaining the vision and mission of the office. It is not possible to achieve judicious management of resources without partnership with all stakeholders within BARMM and beyond BARMM.

## Planet

We are determined to protect the planet by doing our part in taking actions against climate change. All environmental protection efforts such as tree planting and growing, clean up drives, and crops production even in small land spaces for family consumptions are, somehow, contributing for our own survival and the whole planet survival especially recognizing the damaging effect of climate change globally. Climate change is no longer a future threat but a current reality. The future of the next generation depends on how the current generation utilizes the natural resources and how we respond to climate crisis.

Programs and legislations addressing some issues and concerns we are currently facing in relation to environment are compiled in this book. Bill, resolutions, policy briefs, programs, and feature stories that were made and implemented by the Office of MP Maisara to aid environmental concerns are all in this book.

# **VISION**

**WE ENVISION AN ENVIRONMENT  
WHERE THE BANGSAMORO  
PEOPLE CAN BENEFIT  
ECONOMICALLY WITHOUT  
EXPLOITING OUR NATURAL  
RESOURCES. A COMMUNITY THAT  
IS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY  
AND FREE OF POLLUTION.  
WE ENVISION OUR ENVIRONMENT  
WHERE THERE ARE LESSER  
IMPACTS OF STORMS AND FLOODS  
BY CONTROLLING SOIL EROSION  
THROUGH PLANTING MORE TREES.**

# **MISSION**

**TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND  
REHABILITATE THE NATURAL  
RESOURCES IN LANA O DEL SUR  
AND HELP MAKE AN  
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY  
WHERE THE AIR IS FREE OF  
CONTAMINATION AND THE  
SURROUNDINGS ARE FULL OF  
GREENS.**

# MESSAGE OF MP MAISARA ON BARMM FOOD SECURITY WEBINAR



Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

This COVID-19 pandemic brought so many challenges in our daily lives, especially in dealing with our basic needs. Access to supermarkets and stores had been a challenge to us especially when we were under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) due to this pandemic. This webinar on food security wishes to enlighten everyone to grow our own food because it will not just bring foods on our table but will also bring hope and can be a source of income to everyone.

Ensuring food and nutrition security is our greatest challenge, and one we must not fail in this trying time. In order to create the conditions for lasting food and nutrition security, our efforts must be sustainable economically, environmentally and socially. We must ensure that there are sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods that will be put on our tables.

There must be proper and sufficient availability of food to meet the demands of the public. Therefore, it is important that the agricultural sector is taken into account seriously. We must support our local farmers because they are the backbone of our country.



We must always bear in mind that farming need clear linkages along the value chain, from production—having sufficient quantities of appropriate food available--to processing, to marketing, and ultimately, to consumption.

Remember, food security can only exist when all people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets the needs for an active and healthy lifestyle.

To our viewers, to all Bangsamoro people, we can all help in securing our foods. We can start in our homes. Let us grow seeds that can be beneficial to our everyday lives. Let us start planting vegetables or crops so that we will not worry to what tomorrow may bring. Let us secure that there will be safe and nutritious foods in our tables every day.

Thank you and assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

# MP MAISARA'S MESSAGE ON GREEN CONSUMER DAY WEBINAR



Waste management is one of our country's most important concerns these days. Given the fast-increasing numbers of population and increasing wastes, the environmental factors have also increased. Though the government is trying to control the solid waste management in the country through its Republic Act 9003 or also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, it is also the responsibility of the citizens to actively participate in implementing this law and make this country clean and more attractive.

By buying products that can be easily decomposed, reused and are not harmful, we can help protect the environment. Awareness-building about the importance of reusing, reducing, and recycling should be prioritized and taken up seriously.

We can be green consumers if we buy products that are environmentally friendly or eco-friendly. We can be eco-friendly if we start purchasing products with little or no packaging, products that are made without causing pollution.

The poster is for a webinar titled "Making Right Choices, Becoming a Responsible Consumer" Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12). It is organized by FISIP-University of Jember and RCE-ESD East Java, in collaboration with RCE Srinagar. The event is co-hosted by RCE Srinagar. The poster features a collage of images including food, a person in a pink hijab, and various logos. It lists the following panelists: Iwan Taruna (Rector of University of Jember), Mario Tabucanon (United Nations University - Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability, Japan), R. Gopichandran (NTPC School of Business, India), Khofifah Indar Parawansa (The Governor of East Java), Eunkyung Park (Sejahtera Centre & RCE Tongyeong, South Korea), Isran Noor (The Governor of East Kalimantan), Maisara Latiph (Member of Parliament, Bangsamoro, the Philippines), Joni Murti (University of Jember), and Eko Ernada (University of Jember). The event is presented by 8 panelists from Indonesia, China, South Korea, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, and the Philippines. It is scheduled for 28th SEP 2020, from 9-11 AM GMT+7. The registration link is bit.ly/green\_rceeastjava. The meeting ID is 863 9909 9861. The event is free and offers an e-certificate. It will be live-streamed on YouTube via the UNEJ Official Youtube Channel. The poster also mentions support from RCE Kuching, Western Sydney University, and United Nations University.

Let us all practice to reuse materials that can be used again. Let us reduce the usage of materials that can be avoided and replaced with some environmentally friendly products. Let us recycle things that can be innovated into another beautifully recycled products.

If you are not a green consumer, then Green Consumer Day can help you think and rethink about buying materials or things you like – will it be helpful to my environment? Will it really contribute in making my surroundings more beautiful? This Green Consumer Day will enlighten us to make decisions that can make us eco-friendly.

Let us Go Green so we can make a cleaner, safer, and friendly environment. Thank you very much.

# SPEECH OF MP MAISARA ON GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE



Assalamualaykum  
warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

First of all, I'd like to congratulate everyone for winning in our online contest entitled Growing Seeds of Hope. We are delighted to meet all of you today. This online contest was realized because of everyone's participation.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought so many challenges in our daily lives, especially in dealing with our basic needs. Access to supermarkets and stores had been a challenge to us especially when we were under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) due to pandemic. It made us realize that securing foods should always be part of our plans. We do not know what tomorrow may bring, thus food security plays a very important role in this trying times.

Growing our own food is like securing our tomorrow. It is like we are hoping for something good to harvest tomorrow or in the coming days. Harvested foods that will improve our health, will reduce our monthly food bill, and will relieve our stress from the pandemic. It also provides some mental benefits for us.

**Guidelines**

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

**Criteria**

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

**Entries Close JUNE 25**

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

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

"Growing Seeds of Hope" is like a campaign on food security that wishes to enlighten everyone to grow their own food because it will not just bring foods on their table but will bring HOPE to everyone. A hope that will instill in our minds that no matter how big the challenges may arrive to us, there will always be something good that awaits us. So let us continue bringing HOPE to our homes, not just in our homes but also to the people around us.

Again, congratulations to everyone and thank you for being a good example to your community and to our fellow Bangsamoro. Alhamdulillah! Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

# MESSAGE OF MP MAISARA ON EARTH DAY 2021



This year's theme for Earth Day 2021 is "Restore Our Earth". The theme tells us that there are things that need to be restored, which means that there is also a need for us to start doing our part in order to restore our Mother Earth.

This Day is celebrated to spread awareness about the problems that we should be focusing as we are living in this Earth. Pollutions, deforestation and climate change should always be brought to topics.

We should be reminded that as individuals, we have accountabilities and responsibilities in the world that we are living. It is our responsibility to take extra care of our little spaces and be accountable of the consequences that our negligence may bring when the time comes that we have nothing left but an environment where the next generation will have to suffer and carry on their shoulders the tasks that should have been done by us.

As Muslims, Islam teaches us to take care of the earth. We believe that humans should be the guardians of the planet and that we will be held accountable by the Almighty for our actions. In the Qur'an, Muslims are ordered to look after the environment and not to cause problems and damage it. "Indeed, your lord is Allah who created the heavens and the Earth in six days and then established himself above the throne. He covers the night with the day, [another night] chasing it rapidly; and [He created] the sun, moon, and the stars, subjected by His command; blessed is Allah, the Lord of the worlds." Qur'an 7:54.



Because of this Ayah, it is seen that people are responsible for the Earth which God created and that we shall make decisions on how to look after it.

We need to change the mindset of the people. We need to start taking action before it is too late. We need to rebuild the world's ecosystem by starting it in our homes, our neighbors, and our community. With that, we can contribute in bringing back the ecosystem to its original form, gradually.

Let us celebrate the Earth Day by doing some recycles focus on papers and plastics, and identify materials that can be reused and reduced. Let us practice switching to eco-friendly materials. Try planting a tree or make use of little land spaces to have our own garden. Together let us learn how climate change occurs on how it damages the environment.

Aiming for progress and development without aiming to change will make no progress at all. The responsibility is ours.

Now, all we have to do is to take actions. Happy Earth Day!

# “MP MAISARA’S MESSAGE ON ENVIRONMENT MONTH 2021”



Assalamu alaykum warahmatullahi wabarakatoh!

Annually, we celebrate Environment Month every June. This month’s theme is: “Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom: Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan”.

It is no doubt that to fully succeed in things that we aim to achieve, we must work with one another. We should work not just for the benefit of ourselves. For every action we make and take, we must always see the possible impact not just on ourselves but also on the people around us – or the environment that surrounds us.

We are celebrating Environment Month to raise awareness. We must constantly remind ourselves that we are all responsible for the environment we live in. We must be aware that it is mankind who deals the greatest damage to the environment. That is why we must be accountable for our actions and take responsibility.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, some may have have forgotten the continuing problems on solid waste management, deforestation, and global warming. We have been focused on staying safe against the virus. However, we must remember the link between health and the environment. A clean environment is necessary for the upkeep of sanitation and hygiene. A dirty environment makes us more susceptible to diseases and more vulnerable to the virus. Hence, initiatives to combat the COVID-19 pandemic must also include environmentally friendly initiatives. Improper waste disposal does not just affect the environment, but also affects the health of every individual, especially senior citizens and children.



For those who have not yet started caring for the environment, I would like to say that it is never too late to start. You can start today. However, we should not just care for the environment for this month alone. We must care for the rest of our lives, until we can ensure and guarantee that our next generation will be able to ensure the beauty of our surroundings – the trees, the oceans, the forests – and inhale fresh air free from contamination.

We ARE the environment. The negative effects of human activities do not only affect a single person, but rather affects everyone. So together, let us remind one another and make the environment clean and friendly, not just for our sake but so that the future generations can enjoy what we are enjoying today.

Happy Environment Month 2021!

# MP MAISARA'S MESSAGE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FGD



Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for participating in our Blended Round Table Discussion on Solid Waste Management. Despite this pandemic, we are still able to pursue this activity, of course with the proper observance of guidelines and protocols for COVID-19. This only shows that today's activity is very significant that we really want this to be pursued.

Environmental issues have been a concern not just in our country, but all over the world. In fact, every year, an estimated 11.2 billion tons of solid waste are collected worldwide. Here in the Philippines, we have laws that deal with environment, we have numerous ordinances issued by our local leaders but until now, our environment seems to be in no better state.

We, humans, live like there is no tomorrow. We throw garbage not thinking that the earth can't take all the pollution we produce. We throw things that can be reused for another purpose. We tend to buy things not thinking that we still have unused things in our homes which can actually be recycled.

Another observed problem in our community is the improper disposal of waste which causes a lot of harm to our environment, and it attracts various diseases, thus, public health will be at risk. This is unfortunate truth despite our existing law on solid waste management. We should always remember that a clean environment will encourage healthy lifestyle in the people and will eventually lead to a developed and beautiful community, In shaa Allah.

We need to help one another to treasure and conserve our resources. Great actions sometimes start by the minds of a few, but it must be spoken by many. Each of us has the opportunity now to help and responsibly manage our environment. Let us make the Bangsamoro region a great model for other areas or regions in terms of Solid Waste Management System.

I am welcoming everyone and may we have a great output today. Thank you and Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.



# MP MAISARA'S OPENING MESSAGE ON SIYAP KO RANAW FGD



Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

We are gathered here today for the Focus Group Discussion on Siyap ko Ranaw in aid of legislation to learn more on how we can better protect, conserve, and rehabilitate our water resources.

Water resources are useful or potentially useful to humans. It is important because it is needed for life to exist. Human activities and natural forces are reducing available water resources. Although public awareness of the need to better manage and protect water has grown over the last decade, economic criteria and political considerations still tend to drive water policy at all levels. Pressures on water resources are increasing mainly as a result of human activity – namely urbanization, population growth, increased living standards, and pollution.

Water is life in every sense of the word. Many living resources rely on water for survival. From cooking, drinking, flushing toilets, washing clothes, brushing teeth amongst other, humans use water in many parts of our lives. These only show the significance of our water resources.

Lake Lanao, being considered as a large ancient lake in the Philippines, must be preserved and protected at all costs. Wastes or garbage that are being disposed by people can pollute the air, the land, and most especially the water resources as it travels to our lakes, rivers and other forms of bodies of water. Yes, this kind of issues must be put in our priorities because some people do not even realize that it actually takes much longer to clean up polluted water than for pollution to occur in the first place. And according to research, in many cases, clean-up takes more than 10 years.

Us, Meranaws, must be the first people to care for our natural resources. Those resources benefit us in a manner that we do not even realize. And what scares me the most is the fact that some people may forget that there are also people who will be living after them, that there are people who will either suffer or enjoy their surroundings, that there are children who may not be able to see the scenic beauty of Lake Lanao and the fresh water that flows in some areas of Lanao del Sur.

For today's FGD, I hope that we can have a very productive and fruitful interaction to better address the current issues and concerns focusing on Lake Lanao.

I'd like to welcome everyone and express my gratitude for accepting my invitation for this good cause. Thank you very much and Assalamu alaykum warahmatollahi wabarakatoh.

# 1ST CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CREATION OF RANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## I. ANECDOTES

All participants from the different stakeholders have shown their interest on the 1st consultation. As such, one of them appeal to have the same consultation at Grassroot level. This is to hear the voice of the ordinary Meranaws living beside the lake, especially with integration of the new government from ARMM to BARMM.

During the RTD, several past studies and data were mentioned. Issues, concerns, and challenges as well as suggestions and recommendations were raised by the participants coming from various agencies, offices, and organizations.

### 1) Issues, concerns, and challenges

There are issues and concerns raised with regards to different perspective on Watershed Management and River Basin Management, environment impact assessment over the electricity/power in Agus River, and problems with waste management and landfill.

The table shown below is the consolidated problems/issues and recommendations given by the different concerned line agencies, CSOs and other sectoral groups:

PROBLEMS/ISSUES ADDRESSED	RECOMMENDATIONS
Lake Lanao Development Authority as rhyme with Laguna Lake Development Authority	Renaming the LLDA to Ranao Development Authority (RDA).
No establishment of sanitary landfill	Proper Solid Waste Management System to be presented in the congress to preserve the sustainability of the Lake Lanao with the identification of dump sites in the community for garbage disposal.
Inclusion of areas in the RDA	Tributaries and territorial jurisdiction that supply water in the Lake Lanao should be included in the RDA.
Remaining 30 years of Lake Lanao's existence	Rehabilitate, regulate, and cater the needs of the society in maintaining sustainability.
Improper implementation of the Master Plan	Proper implementation of the plan, both national and local structure and fundings with definitive actions.
Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)	Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) implementation with competency for the human settlement.
Alarming consequence to man and nature	Urge series of consultation at grassroot level.

## II. SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Several past studies and data mentioned throughout the consultation are:

- Ateneo School of Government Study (funded by USAID) to use the "Special Mechanism" under ARMM to protect Lake Lanao.
- Kornfield, 1982
- Global Forest Change data from University of Maryland mentioned that Agus River will dry by 2042.
- World Bank Dams Report (World Commission)
- Biodiversity Journals
- Integrated Development Plan of Lake Lanao
- Comprehensive Development Plan

# TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## I. SUMMARY

This will discuss the result of the Technical Working Group on the Establishment of the Ranao Development Authority (RDA) conducted on November 7, 2019, at MSU-Main Library, Marawi City. Present during the TWG are representatives from Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), and other offices and organizations with the mandate and functions concerning to the preservation, conservation, and proper utilization of the Lake.

The TWG has the following objectives

- Provide technical insights for various parts for the draft bill to establish Ranao Development Authority, among others: special powers and authority, the scope of jurisdiction, intergovernmental relation, forming GOOC, and revenue management;
- Generate insights from 50 years of empirical evidence from Laguna Lake Development Authority in managing, protecting and rehabilitating Laguna Lake that will help inform stakeholders in BARMM; and
- Produce a policy note or technical report which will be used for revision of the draft bill.

## II. INTRODUCTION

Facts and Figures<sup>[1]</sup>

Lake Lanao, with an area of 36,274 ha, is the second largest lake in the Philippines. Its water comes from five (5) watersheds around it. These are Taraka-Gata with an area of about 548 km<sup>2</sup> or 39% of the basin area, Malaig with 354 km<sup>2</sup> (25%), Bubong with 195 km<sup>2</sup> (14%), West with 175 km<sup>2</sup> (12%) and Saguwaran-Marawi with 141 km<sup>2</sup> (10%) for a total river basin area of 1,413.39 km<sup>2</sup>. Its outlet, Agus River, with a total length of 36.5 km, cuts across the municipalities of Saguiran, Pantar and Baloi and drains into Iligan Bay. The river basin covers 27 municipalities and city and 731 barangays.

The total population of the watershed is estimated at 720,649 or an average density of 510 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. There is no estimate of poverty incidence in the river basin. The indigenous peoples in the river basin are the Maranaos, with pockets of Higaonon, Kolibugan and Iranon. Together, they constitute about 91% of the population of the province of Lanao del Sur.

*[1] Data from Department of Environment and Natural Resources: <https://forestry.denr.gov.ph/inremp/lanao.html>, accessed October 2019*

**Topography and Slope.** The elevation of the river basin ranges from 700 m at Lake Lanao to 2,600 masl in the municipalities of Lumba-Bayabao.

**Forest and Vegetation Types.** Out of the 141,000 ha of basin area, 102,088 ha or 72% have been classified as forestland, while 39,251 ha or 28% are A&D lands. Of the 102,088 ha of forest land, 78,826 ha or 77% are with forest cover, while the remaining 23% are distributed among other land uses such as built-up area, annual and perennial crops, shrubs, and grasslands.

The total population of the watershed is estimated at 720,649 or an average density of 510 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. There is no estimate of poverty incidence in the river basin.

Lake Lanao is a unique natural asset with a rich cultural heritage located in Lanao del Sur Province of Philippines. Lake Lanao is known as one of the ancient lakes in the whole world, all has existed for more than 1 million years. Specifically, for Lake Lanao, it is believed to exist for more than 2 million years.[1] It is also the second largest lake in the Philippines. Lake Lanao is mostly known for its pre-historic and socio-culturally significance.

However, through the years, Lake Lanao has not been spared from various anthropogenic activities related with the growing demand of the lake's resources, such as more water for domestic and agricultural use as well as for hydro-power generation, boating, ritual use, water sports, fishes for domestic consumption and livelihood, and host of numerous lake's related uses.[2]

However, sustaining and balancing the long-term economic and environmental value of Lake Lanao depends on addressing the various challenges such as deterioration of water quality and declining water level. Sustainable management of water is critical as all life forms require water in order to survive. The response shall also be an integrated, cross-ministerial, and cross-sector approach for the future of Lake Lanao and its environs.

Following the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law ("BOL") in January 25, 2019, the Bangsamoro Government now has wider autonomy and authority to manage its natural resources, power sector investments and fiscal autonomy. With this power, our office envisions bills and policies on Lake Lanao that is holistic on all fronts, i.e. social, economic and environmental. We wish for the Ranao Development Authority ("RDA") to be an entity that strives for environment protection, people's well-being and sustainable development.

[1] See Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers – State University of New Jersey: [https://marine.rutgers.edu/~cfree/wp-content/uploads/ancient\\_lakes.pdf](https://marine.rutgers.edu/~cfree/wp-content/uploads/ancient_lakes.pdf); Also to be noted: sources varies on the total amount of ancient lake from 15, 17 to 20.

[2] Angagao, Norzeda B., Maria Alma D. Quiao, Elnor C. Roa, and Grace I. Prado. "Water Quality Assessment of the South-Eastern Part of Lake Lanao, Philippines." *International Letters of Natural Sciences* 63 (2017): 34-41; Also stated by stakeholders in "Public Consultation on the Protection of Lake Lanao" conducted by Office of MP Maisara D. Latiph, July 2019.

### III. CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

It was mentioned during the TWG that the issues and concerns in this river basin are:

- Changes in climatological conditions as manifested by
- Rainfall irregularity, intensity and erosivity; and
- Reduction in annual rainfall and rainy days;

B. Land degradation attributed to:

- Slope and terrain of watershed;
- Dislocation of timberlands in flatlands and A&D lands in slopes above 18%; iii) deforestation;
- Agricultural activities encroachment into fragile ecosystems; and
- Sand and gravel quarrying that is encroaching critical zones; and

C. Water utilization as exhibited by:

- Lake has lot of water for electric generation while most localities in the lake area do not have water for drinking or irrigation;
- Most agricultural areas are rain fed;
- Serious siltation of the littoral zones of Lake Lanao;
- Overdrawing of water from the lake; and v) un-utilized aquifer in Lumba-a Bayabao.

D. In addition to the above other major constraints in assessing water quality or to formulate policy in general is the scarcity of primary data. For example: water quality data are neither systematically collected nor available over suitable periods of time and with appropriate spatial coverage.

Part of the discussion during the TWG were:

- Data base policy making of Lanao,
- Challenges in managing Lake Lanao and its watershed,
- The Laguna Lake Development Authority, and
- Regulatory Process.

Ma'am Borja of LLDA emphasized that there is the risk if people just go on using the resources of Lake. There is the need of safe guard. "Time is ripe" for the rehabilitation of Lake Lanao as what she stressed during her lecture.



Atty. Lapuz of LLDA shared the ordinances they implemented within their area of jurisdiction like the Clean Water Act which is a national law. She also shared some lessons learned from LLDA.

### III. GOVERNMENT POLICY

In the Bangsamoro Government, it is the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) who has the mandate and primary control in monitoring the SWM in the Region and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG) through its Local government Units (LGUs) as partner in monitoring the strict implementation of RA 9003.

### IV. ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND CHALLENGES

Various concerns were tackled during the RTD. One of the resource persons presented and mentioned that the current situation of the Bangsamoro Region with regards to SWM is far behind among other regions in which resulted to serious ecological challenges due to:

- a. Lack of Solid Waste Management Facilities
- b. Ineffective Solid Waste Segregation policies
- c. Unavailability of SWM board in the region
- d. Only one sanitary landfill receives the combined wastes of 128 municipalities and four cities, estimated at 940 MT per day and expected to reach 972.14 MT per day in 2016 and projected to reach at about 1036.42 MT per day by 2020
- e. Ecological challenges (natural calamities)
- f. Vinta Super Typhoon heavy floods hit municipalities in Lanao del Sur

Check-Action management cycle, Project Activities, etc.

Two most interesting part were:

- Recycling and Upcycling hub – a hub that will serve the community as recycling and upcycling facility and will be open for all. Trainers and assistance will be provided by the commission to help people how to properly use the equipment in the hub.
- Solid Waste Power Plant – uses solid waste as fuel like in coal power plant that uses coal as primary fuel. This power plant will burn all non-biodegradable and non-recyclable materials. They will be heated up to 850OC in the boiler. Then, the boiler produces a steam that will flow to the turbine where a shaft connecting the turbine and generator will rotate that produces electricity. The exhaust gas will flow through the filter that will clean the gas and become acceptable to the environment. The ash will be transported to sanitary landfill.

There are problems with regards to health and sanitation, garbage collection and disposal, environmental and ecological problems, poor housing condition, congestion, inadequacy of infrastructure facilities, inefficient delivery of basic services, ill-equipped personnel and garbage collection system, and the absence of permanent engineered sanitary landfill.

It was stated that more than 90% of solid waste in the city of Marawi end up in the environment (open dumpsite and indiscriminate dumping/burning everywhere) while 10% is recycled to junk shops. Ideally, targets should be 58% waste diversion leaving 48% as residual waste for disposal.

The city produces 110-120 tons of solid waste per day, in which 65-70% of its composition was biodegradable, 20-25% was non-biodegradable, and 2-5% was special waste.

A survey on the situation of solid waste in Marawi City was also presented and they are as follows:

- No waste bins have been in-placed.
- No proper disposal/segregation of solid waste from the residents
- Less manpower, tools and equipment used for the collection of solid waste materials
- No observance of occupational safety and health requirements
- Open dump site is not complying with the requirements of relevant DENR-EMB's R.A. Provisions

Environmental laws were strictly mentioned during the RTD such as:

- PD 1586 (Environmental Impact Statement System - 1978)
- RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste Control Act -1990)
- RA 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999)
- RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act - 2000)
- RA 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act -2004)

It was emphasized that the LGUs are primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of these Acts within their respective jurisdictions. Barangay levels shall conduct segregation and collection of solid waste for biodegradable, compostable and reusable wastes, and city or municipality shall be responsible for the collection of non-recyclable materials and special wastes.

## **V. NEXT STEPS/WAYS FORWARD**

Suggestions and recommendations were raised by the participants. There is a need of engineering support such as:

- Procurement of additional garbage truck and other equipment,
- Construction of Demo facilities of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs),
- Supply sufficient manpower, tools and equipment necessary to implement the above-mentioned RAs shall be provided,
- Clustering/shifting of garbage collection,
- Provision of waste segregators/receptacles at City Hall Complex and other strategic areas in the city,
- Identified site for sanitary landfill,
- Educational campaign on solid waste management shall be conducted in Barangay level, and
- Occupational safety and health requirements shall be strictly implemented.

Programs and legislations will be made to help achieve and implement the recommendations that were stated by the respected participants of the Blended Round-Table Discussion.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

Each one of us has the responsibility in protecting the environment. One must participate in implementing the regulations with regards to proper segregation and disposal of wastes imposed by the local government. In relation, the BARMM Government shall also made and implement programs and policies which will address the mentioned issues, concerns, and challenges and the continuing problems in connection to Solid Waste Management.

# SIYAP KO RANAW IN AID OF LEGISLATION

## I. SUMMARY

This briefing synthesizes the results of the Focused Group Discussion (FGD) conducted with representatives from different agencies, offices, and other organizations with the mandate and functions concerning in the environment, especially the Lake Lanao or Ranaw.

The FGD has the following objectives:

- Play an essential role in our modern economy by protecting natural resources for future generations;
- Address issues and concerns with regards to Lake Lanao in aid of legislation;
- Gather data concerning to environment specially the Lake Lanao; and
- Provide a platform where all the invitees can freely share their concerns as well as insights and recommendation.

The report discusses the issues, status and challenges of Lake Lanao. There are issues and concerns with respect to some species becoming extinct. There are rumors that there are still species in lake but due to the lack and limited equipments and research, it is still a challenge to gather data about the specific and current status of the lake. There are issues and concerns with respect to health risks and water pollution. There are also concerns with regards to the deterioration of the lake's water quality as the number of catch fishes decreased.

The report also discusses ways forward recommended by the participants and are based on the experiences and observations of the participants, such as strict implementation of policies in the Local Government level or municipal level, Information and Education Campaign (IEC) on RA 9003, activities such as clean-up drives and tree planting and growing.

Finally, the focused group discussion had the objective of serving as pre-legislative scrutiny, give the participants an update on BTA-Parliament Bill No. 32, an Act Creating the Ranaw Development Authority and to give the participants an opportunity to provide recommendations to better address issues, concerns, and challenges in the Lake Lanao and the environment as a whole.

## II. INTRODUCTION

Lake Lanao, considered as a large ancient lake in the Philippines and the largest lake in Mindanao as well as second largest lake in the country, located in Lanao del Sur, with a surface area of 340km<sup>2</sup>, is a home for Meranaw people with unique cultures and traditions.

Water resources are useful or potentially useful to humans. It is important because it is needed for life to exist. Human activities and natural forces are reducing available water resources. Although public awareness of the need to better manage and protect water has grown over the last decade, economic criteria and political considerations still tend to drive water policy at all levels. Pressures on water resources are increasing mainly as a result of human activity – namely urbanization, population growth, increased living standards, and pollution.

Water is life in every sense of the word. Many living resources rely on water for survival. From cooking, drinking, flushing toilets, washing clothes, brushing teeth amongst other, humans use water in many parts of our lives. These only show the significance of our water resources.

Lake Lanao, being considered as a large ancient lake in the Philippines, must be preserved and protected at all costs. Wastes or garbage that are being disposed by people can pollute the air, the land, and most especially the water resources as it travels to our lakes, rivers and other forms of bodies of water. Yes, this kind of issues must be put in our priorities because some people do not even realize that it actually takes much longer to clean up polluted water than for pollution to occur in the first place. And according to research, in many cases, clean-up takes more than 10 years.

Protecting and preserving the lake shall always be part of our priorities. Preserving the natural resources is like securing a good and reliable future for the next generation because those resources benefit us in a manner that we do not even realize. We must always remember the fact that there are also people who will be living after us, that there are people who will either suffer or enjoy their surroundings, that there are children who may not be able to see the scenic beauty of Lake Lanao and the fresh water that flows in some areas of Lanao del Sur.

### **III. GOVERNMENT POLICY**

In the Bangsamoro Government, it is the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) who has the mandate and programs relevant to the Lake. It is the MENRE who has the primary control in maintaining the protection of the lake and the MAFAR as partner in monitoring the constituents especially the fisherfolks who directly benefit from the lake.

### **IV. STAKEHOLDER VIEWS**

Issues, concerns, and challenges

**RE 18 Endemic Cyprinid Species:** For many discussions regarding Lake Lanao and its fishes, Dr. Albert W. Herre, the discoverer and describer of the Lanao Fish Fauna, collected fourteen species of the Lanao fishes and described them formally in 1924. Dr. Herre visited the lake upon later occasion, adding two more species in 1926 and two in 1932. There are species that are vulnerable to extinction. Species like *Puntius Lindog* and *Puntius Tumba* are currently listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as vulnerable to extinction. Yet there are also species that “reappeared” over the course of the market surveys, it was *Puntius Baoulani*. This species was found in the market surveys during 1977 but was not reported again until it was recorded by Escudero in his 1990 – 1991 survey.

It is significant to note that except for the 1982–1983 and 2008 surveys, the other surveys showed different numbers and mixes of the endemic species. Does this mean that perhaps other extinct endemic cyprinids still exist but in relatively low abundance? This is why research and monitoring must be put in place to know the exact status of the lake and the species living and present in it.

**RE Watershed Deforestation:** There is a continuing deforestation in some watershed areas which also causes some species to be extinct. According to the representative from MENRE-LDS, the causes of watershed deforestation include following: a) increase of population, 2) claimants and land conversion, 3) feud, and 4) grass and forest fire. Deforestation is very rampant in the area of Lanao del Sur.

**RE Solid Waste Management:** There is limited knowledge and poor implementation of policies with regards to proper disposal of wastes. According to some representatives from CSOs, the people living near the lake or the people that are surrounding the lake has limited knowledge on policies and programs that are made to protect and preserve the lake. There are some areas in Lanao del Sur that had developed the lake into and put floating cottages. That attracts tourists which has had some positive and negative impacts. It negatively impacted the lake as for the weak implementation of policies controlling the visitors/tourists, and even locals, to properly dispose their garbage. Thus, it is recommended that there shall be strict implementation of policies with respect to RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. And there shall also be a conduct of municipal-wide activity on Information and Education Campaign (EIC) with regards to Solid Waste Management System. This is to keep the stakeholder updated and informed of the policies to be implemented and being implemented by the Local Government.

**RE Health Risks and Water Pollution:** Continuing mishandling the lake leads to the negative impacts on the health of the people, most especially the species that are living in the lake. According to some youth advocates present during the FGD, some people who are living near the lake dispose their wastes directly to the lake. There is no public comfort room made by the government, thus people who cannot afford to build their own comfort room directly go to make their wastes be disposed in the lake. As the water is being contaminated by different types of wastes, it also bring high risks on the health of each individual who are drinking, washing, and taking a bath using the water from the lake.

There is also a continuing increase of the numbers of water hyacinth present in the lake. There is thus a recommendation that the government shall build and provide public comfort rooms in lakeshore areas, especially in Masjids near the lake, to avoid polluting the water. There shall also be a conduct of clean-up drives in the lakeshore municipalities to strengthen the campaign on proper disposal of waste and to raise awareness on the importance of the lake and its cleanliness.

## **V. NEXT STEPS/WAYS FORWARD**

The recommendations are already included in the body of this report. The Information and Education Campaign on the Proposed Parliament-Bill No.32 shall be introduced to the stakeholders so as to inform them on the salient points about the bill which could address all issues, concerns, and challenges with regards to the lake that were mentioned in this report.

Programs and legislations will be made to help achieve and implement the recommendations that were stated by the respected participants of this Focused-Group Discussion.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

In order to preserve, conserve, and rehabilitate the Lake Lanao, each one of us has to take responsibility. The BARMM Government shall implement policies that will strictly address the improper disposal of waste and the health risks of the people living near the lake. There shall be a regular programs from the Local Government Units such as Information and Education Campaign, Tree Planting and Growing, Clean-up Drives, and strengthen the coordination and participation of all stakeholders in community activities.



# **TRASH BINTA MO!**

## **A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON 4RS (REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE, RECOVERY)**

Trash BINTa Mo is a two (2) days workshop focused on single-use plastics and proper segregation of wastes. It was held on December 7, 2019 at, Bayabao Central Elementary School, Brgy. Poblacion, Butig, Lanao del Sur.

This project catered 32 student leaders coming from different schools in the Municipality of Butig. It aims to engage the in any environment-related activities. The participants were taught about the effects of single-use plastics and how they can counter it by reducing and minimizing its effects to the environment. The said participants were also taught on how to make trash bins using used plastic bottles.



### **Objectives:**

- To encourage the 32 student leaders to participate in any environment-related activities;
- To engage young individual in promoting the campaign to #NoToSingleUsePlastics; and
- To provide a better understanding on the proper segregation of disposals; and
- To enhance their creativity skills through recycling.



# WEBINAR ON BARMM FOOD SECURITY



As COVID-19 continues to disrupt countries around the world, food security and livelihood are at risk especially to the most vulnerable sectors. Food supplies could be massively disrupted due to measures put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus. It is very timely that the Bangsamoro people shall also learn and know how to further take part in securing foods for the future.

This webinar explained what agricultural value chain is and what are the mechanisms put in places to assess dependencies and identify how the population in BARMM with special needs can be supported in this time of pandemic.

The webinar was open to public viewers as it was live on the Facebook Page of the BTA Member Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph.

Objectives:

- Scale support to the most vulnerable by ensuring access to nutritious, affordable food;
- Know the factors that affect the food supply and how it affects our food security; and
- Secure foods in times of crisis.

# WEBINAR ON BACKYARD GARDENING (WE CAN GROW OUR OWN FOOD)

 MP ATTY. MAISARA C. DANDUMUN-LATIPH  
Bangsamoro Transition Authority - BARMM

## BACKYARD GARDENING

**LIVE**  
ON FACEBOOK  
WEBINAR

Join us on  
Friday  
June 12, 2020  
1:30pm to 3:00pm

**#IAMHampasLupa**  
www.iamhampaslupa.ph

**WE CAN GROW OUR OWN FOOD**

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Office of MP Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph  
In partnership with I AM HampasLupa, Inc.

*Empowering Voices*

“Accessible, safe, and sufficient foods for the Bangsamoro”, this is one of the primary goals and advocacy of the office. This webinar on Backyard Gardening is one of the initiatives in achieving “Zero Hunger” in the region. It aimed to help the viewers in becoming equipped with skills on how to start their own garden even in their small land spaces. This encourages everyone that we can all grow our own food and be assured that there are foods that will be put in our tables.

Gardening is great in many aspects. In mental aspect, it may be a way for adults and children to fight boredom especially in times of pandemic. It is a good and relaxing recreational activity specially for families. According to study, gardening helps decrease the risk of dementia and is a therapy for those who are suffering from it. As for physical aspect, gardening can be a good exercise and help uplift your mood.

# GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE 1.0 AND 2.0

In this time of crisis, people need to be physically and mentally healthy. A small study from Wageningen University comparing the stress-relieving impact of reading with that of gardening found that gardening had a physiologically soothing effect on 30 adult participants. 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.

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 a garden, including the health benefits of gardening. And there are emotional benefits, such as connecting with your kids, siblings, or parents when you garden as family and the joy of watching a seed grow into a plant from your efforts – of course aside from it can supply your family with fresh greens and vegetables.

This Online Backyard Gardening Contest encouraged various individuals to engage themselves into gardening and/or farming. As it is believed that having a small vegetable garden even in our small land spaces would also be a great help and will contribute bigger to securing foods in these trying times.

The online contest was open to any interested individual residing in the Province of Lanao del Sur.

## Objectives:

- To promote backyard gardening in the province of Lanao del Sur or in the BARMM as a whole;
- To secure foods in times of crisis;
- To engage individuals in agricultural practices on small land spaces;
- To grow vegetables for financial health; and
- To help supply your family with healthy foods to eat.

**Presented by** MP Maisara Dandaman-Latip  
Bengangon Garden Activity, 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 Dandaman-Latip 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 EMAIL AT [ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com](mailto:ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com)  
With the subject "Garden,(Your name),(Municipality)"  
Ex: "Garden,Sahane M. Panolong,Butig"

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

**Presented by** MP Maisara Dandaman-Latip  
Bengangon Garden Activity, BARMM

**Give Us Your Best Shots!**

## Growing Seeds OF HOPE 2020

**THEME: My Backyard Garden as a Source of Hope**

The Office of MP Maisara Dandaman-Latip is inviting all interested residents of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to join "GROWING SEED OF HOPE PHOTO CONTEST" online photo competition with the theme "MY BACKYARD GARDEN AS SOURCE OF HOPE".

### 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.

### Criteria

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

**Entries Close AUG 30**

SEND YOUR ENTRIES VIA EMAIL AT [ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com](mailto:ompmdeenvironment@gmail.com)  
With the subject "Garden,(Your name),(Municipality)"  
Ex: "Garden,Sahane M. Panolong,Butig"

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

# CLEAN-UP DRIVE IN LAKESHORE AREAS



The Clean Up Drive activity in the lakeshore areas in Lanao del Sur specifically in the Municipality of Marantao is part of Information and Education Campaign (IEC) of the Office of MP Maisara in protecting, preserving, and proper utilizing of the natural resources. It aims to raise environmental awareness in the different areas in Lanao del Sur especially those who are affected with improper waste disposal.

This activity promotes reduction of improper disposal of wastes and create public awareness on waste management and other environmental concerns.

The activity gathered almost 300 individuals/volunteers coming from the LGU of Marantao, various offices and organizations who have the same vision in protecting Ranaw.

The Lake Lanao has been of great help to the Bangsamoro people in Lanao del Sur, not just in Lanao del Sur but all nearby cities and municipalities benefit from it because it produces electricity. Lake Lanao also is the source of income for people living near the lake – the fishermen.

It cannot be denied that Lake Lanao is part of the history and has a special place in the hearts of every Meranaw. Most of the people in the lakeshore areas drink and uses water from the lake. That raised an alarming issue with regards to health to be specific. Health Problems like Diarrhea and skin disease is being reported in one of the municipalities in Lanao del Sur. Thus, the conduct of this activity was initiated to bring a sense of responsibility in keeping our homes and common areas safe and clean.

The Clean Up Drive has the following objectives:

- Promote the beauty of Lake Lanao;
- Engage individuals in preserving and conserving the Lake Lanao;
- Serve as Information and Education Campaign for proper disposal of wastes;
- Promote the 4 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Refuse); and
- Raise awareness on issues and concerns with regards to Lake Lanao in aid of legislation.

# PATROLLING/ASSESSMENT

## AT SACRED MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK (MOUNT MUPO) & TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY

The Patrolling/Assessment at Sacred Mountain National Park (Mount Mupo) & Tree Planting Activity was conducted to assess the status of the mountain's biodiversity, see the threats it is currently facing and establish policies that would strengthen its management and protection.

Bases on the data provided last June 2020 by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, the BARMM's forest cover is at 45 percent or 299,195 hectares of the region's total land area of 1,293,552 hectares.[1]

In 2010, Lanao del Sur had 243kha of natural forest, extending over 72% of its land area. In 2020, it lost 546ha of natural forest, equivalent to 329kt of CO2 of emissions.[2]

It is important that the remaining forest land in the region be protected and preserved. We must be reminded that the importance of our forests cannot be underestimated by anyone. Some may not know but we, people, also depend on forest for our survival, from the air we breathe to the wood that most of us are using. Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, forests also offer watershed protection, prevent soil erosion (a natural calamity which had happened in some areas in Lanao del Sur) and help mitigate climate change.



Sacred Mountain was established as a National Park on August 5, 1965 by virtue of Republic Act No. 4190. It is a protected area with 94 hectares (230acres) with the height of 274.32m (900ft) situated in Brgys. Guimba and Papandayan, Marawi City.

The Watershed Management Division of the National Power Corporation – Mindanao Generation spearheaded the said activity. Also present during the patrolling and assessment are environment leaders and warriors from MENRE Lanao del Sur, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Marawi LGU, the MSU-CFES, BLGU of Brgy. Papandayan and other environment advocates.



[1]<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1145570>

[2] Global Forest World

The following are filed bill and resolutions:

1

**PROPOSED BILL NO. 32**

An Act Creating The Lanao Development Authority Prescribing Its Powers And Functions And Appropriating Funds Therefor

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph*

2

**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

*Author: MP Maisara Cudia Dandamun-Latiph*

3

**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

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph*

4

**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

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph*

5

**Proposed Resolution No. 416**

Resolution Respectfully Asking The Senate Committee On Government Corporations And Public Enterprises To Give Due Consideration To The Provisions Of R.A. No. 11054 Concerning The Right Of The Barmm Government Over The Management Of Inland Waters In Light Of The Pendency Of Senate Bills No. 90, 389, And 1015 Seeking To Create A Lake Lanao Development Authority

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph*

*Co-Authors: MPs Eddie M. Alih, Mp Dr. Susana S. Anayatin, Atty. Anna Tarhata S. Basman, Bai Maleiha B. Candao, Musa K. S. Diamla, Rasul E. Ismael, Bainon G. Karon, Engr. Don Mustapha Loong, Atty. Rasol Y. Mitmug Jr., Uztadz Abdulmuhmin A. Mujahid, Suwaib L. Oranon, Lanang T. Ali, Jr., Aida Silongan, Ziaur-Rahman Alonto Adiong, Marjanie Macasalong, Nabil Tan, Rasul Ismael, Omar Yasser Sema, Hamid Aminoddin Barra, Jose Lorena, Bai Maleiha Candao, Saffrullah Dipatuan, Said Salendab, Musa K.S. Diamla, Narciso Yu Ekey, Eddie M. Alih, Ali Sangki, Omar Yasser Sema And Khadafeh Mangudadatu*

6

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 568**

Resolution Expressing The Deepest Condolences And Profound Sympathy Of The Bangsamoro Parliament To The Bereaved Family Of Former Provincial Environment And Natural Resources Officer, Engr. Pipalawan O. Naga

*Author: MP Maisara Cudia Dandamun-Latiph*

*Co-Author/S: MPs Raissa H. Jajurie, Rasol Y. Mitmug Jr., Diamila D. Ramos, Muslima A. Asmawil, Bainon G. Karon, Akmad I. Abas, Ali O. Salik, Melanio U. Ulama, Romeo C. Saliga, Musa K.S. Diamla, Abdulmuhmin A. Mujahid, Omar Yasser C. Sema, Abdullah G. Macapaar, Hamid Aminoddin Barra, Punduma B. Sani, Paisalin P. Tago, Sultan Edrieza H.N Rimbang, Haron M. Abas, Faiz S. Alauddin, Susana S. Anayatin, Narciso C. Yu Ekey, Eddie M. Alih*



# ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRIEF

MINERAL RESOURCES REGULATORY  
PROGRAM

## KEY MESSAGES

Mineral resources are one of the natural resources that play important role in the industrial and economic development in BARMM. Exploration of the areas with potential mineral resources and knowing where future mineral resources will come from is important for sustaining the region's economy. "Minerals in the environment and products manufactured from mineral materials are all around us and we use and encounter them every day."<sup>1</sup> (Mineral Resources Program Information Handout, 2009)

This will give benefit to all constituents of Bangsamoro government, not just in BARMM but the entire Philippines. It will increase employment rate and will create many opportunities to all Bangsamoros. We may also be able to export if these resources are properly managed. Among the other benefits will be the availability of materials necessary to build homes, schools, hospitals, and roads. Materials will be low-cost when we are the main producers of the minerals we use.

## RECOMMENDATION

Community participatory research by government

experts in consultation with communities in all mining and potential mineral areas in BARMM shall be conducted and results shall be disclosed publicly, immediately. Research shall be guided by pro-people, pro-ecology and pro-sustainable development in deriving recommendations.

## JUSTIFICATION

*"Mindanao is endowed with rich mineral resources. Its metallic deposits include lead, zinc, ore, iron, copper, chromites, magnetite and gold. Gold mined in Mindanao accounts for nearly half of the national gold reserves. Mindanao's non-metallic mineral resources include marble, salt, sand, gravel, silica, clay, and limestone."*<sup>2</sup> (Mindanao – UPEI Projects – University of Prince Edward Island)

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> "Overview of the role minerals play in the everyday lives of U.S. residents." Mineral Resources Program Information Handout, 2009. [https://www.usgs.gov/energy-and-minerals/mineral-resources-program/science/do-we-take-minerals-granted?qt-science\\_center\\_object=s=0#qt-science\\_center\\_objects](https://www.usgs.gov/energy-and-minerals/mineral-resources-program/science/do-we-take-minerals-granted?qt-science_center_object=s=0#qt-science_center_objects)

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Island Studies. University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). 2007 <http://projects.upei.ca/iss/files/2016/11/Mindanao.pdf>



# ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRIEF

BASIC INTEGRATION FOR HARMONIZED  
INTERVENTION (BINHI)

## KEY MESSAGES

The Bangsamoro is an agricultural region with its economy mainly driven by agriculture. This is arguably the most important contribution of agriculture in the economy, regionally and nationally. Proper use of our agricultural land will not only benefit the Bangsamoro government but it will also become the source of income for the farmers.

Farmers should be provided with proper training, machineries, facilities and other technical supports. However, aside from the provision of the said supports, proper communication and information dissemination about BINHI program should be in the priority list of MAFAR.

## RECOMMENDATION

Conduct comprehensive and exhaustive community and municipal consultations for full information on the program to ensure inclusiveness and positive impacts on the lives of the farmers that would eventually reduce poverty for a socially and economically stable BARM.

## JUSTIFICATION

Some farmers are not informed about the programs of MAFAR. “Igira na aden a pkioma saya mga pamemegayan lagid o para sa mga kapamomolaan ago para sa kapanginsda na di kami ron khaped, inangin na pkhapa-kayan kami ron ka ipoon sa paganay na giyoto dn e mga galebek ami. Di kami ron phakakowa ka igira a kowan na di ami den katawan a aden bs a pamemegayan a phaka-poon sa poro”<sup>1</sup> said by a mother residing in Brgy. Tuca Kiyaldan, Marantao.

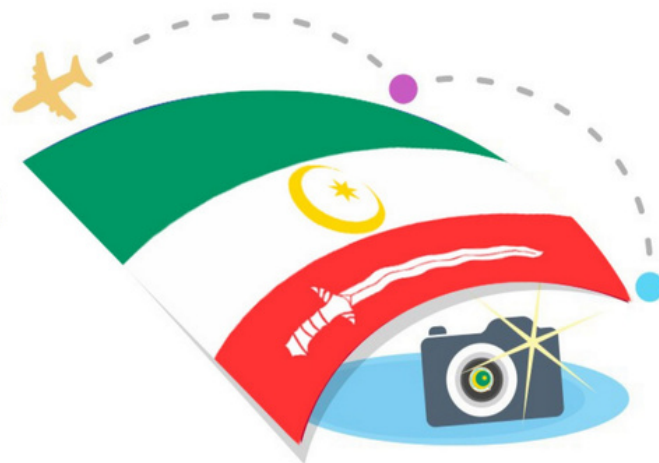
## REFERENCE

<sup>1</sup> Interview of the office of MP Maisara Staff at Marantao, Lanao del Sur, 10 October 2019

# Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

## ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRIEF

TOURISM AND MARKETING PROMOTION



# BARMM

TRAVEL | DISCOVER | CAPTURE

## KEY MESSAGES

"Tourism marketing contributes to the growth of local and national economies."<sup>1</sup> (Andra Picincu, 2018). The more people visit a city or an area, the more money they spend. This helps grow the local economy and attract investors. New hotels and vacation resorts open their doors, leading to the creation of new jobs. As the local infrastructure and services improve, the number of tourists increases even more. However, the more infrastructures, the more land will be used. As much as we want to improve our infrastructure, we shall also preserve our forest land.

## RECOMMENDATION

Preservation of forest lands shall be strictly implemented. Regional summit/exhibits showcasing the beauty of potential tourist spots in all areas of BARMM shall be conducted.

## JUSTIFICATION

"As of 2013, the total land area of the Bangsamoro region is 299,839 hectares, of which, 84, 469 hectares are closed forests, 162, 958 hectares are open forest, and

52, 412 hectares are mangroves. The remaining areas are either built-up or expansion areas. BARMM is one of the few regions in the country that still has intact mangrove forests."<sup>2</sup> (1st Bangsamoro Development Plan 2020-2022, p.116)

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> "The Importance of Marketing in Tourism". Andra Picincu. November 08, 2018

<https://bizfluent.com/about-6584954-importance-marketing-tourism.html>

<sup>2</sup> 1st Bangsamoro Development Plan 2020-22, p.116



# LAKE LANAO

## ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRIEF

INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT FOR AQUACULTURE/  
CAPTURE (ISDA)

### KEY MESSAGES

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region has the second largest lake in the Philippines which is the Lake Lanao. "Lake Lanao is considered "the heart of the Meranaw people's spiritual, cultural, social, political and economic life," according to the National Research Council of the Philippines (NCRP). The fisheries of Lake Lanao provide a source of livelihood to the fisherfolk.

### RECOMMENDATION

With the cooperation of the Local Government Units (LGU), the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MAFAR) shall validate the recipients of the packages and give it to them DIRECTLY. There must be a conduct of house-to-house survey so that all qualified beneficiaries will SURELY receive help from the authorized ministry.

### JUSTIFICATION

*"Dapat na pkhasongowan kami mambo a dii mamag validate ka para pkhailay iran sopiyor dapat a mbgan ko pamemegayan. Balabaw so skami a sii khibabaling sa kilid a*

*ranao ka talagang skami na aya kawyagan ami na kapanginsda. Igira na apiya so da a katawan iyan sa ranao, odi na knaba dii pangawyagan sa ranao na ayapn phamakakowa sa mga awang odi na pok't. Giyotoy pkhasowa kasi na di kha-validate so piyor a beneficiary. Mastomo a ip'nderetso rkam so pamemegayan.."*<sup>2</sup> Said by Jalaloden, a fisherman from Brgy. Tuca Kiyaldan, Marantao, LDS

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> AGRIMAG Agriculture Monthly magazine is the Philippines' best-selling magazine on all things agriculture. It is packed with information and inspiration on how to make the most of your farm or garden & National Research Council of the Philippines <http://www.agriculture.com.ph/2018/06/13/saving-lake-lanao/>

<sup>2</sup> Interview of the office of MP Maisara Staff at Marantao, Lanao del Sur, 10 October 2019

# RDA SPONSORSHIP SPEECH 2020



Mr. Speaker, members of parliament, and distinguished colleagues:

Today, I have the honor to seek approval of Proposed Bill No. 32, entitled “An Act Creating the Lanao Development Authority Prescribing Its Powers and Functions and Appropriating Funds Therefor” filed on 29 November 2019.

I am standing here today as a Member of Parliament, a mother and Maranao, and a person with an immense concern for our environment and the well-being of our future generation.

Lake Lanao, located in Lanao del Sur, is the biggest freshwater body in the whole Philippines. Lake Lanao is one of the seventeen (17) Ancient Lakes of the World and the only ancient lake within the country.

Lake Lanao, located in Lanao del Sur, is one of the largest bodies of freshwater in the whole Philippines.

It used to be home to eighteen (18) endemic species of freshwater fish that cannot be found anywhere else.

Lake Lanao is considered of prime ecological importance used as the basis for the establishment of the Lake Lanao Watershed back in 1992 via Presidential Proclamation No. 871.

As a Maranao, we also have a special attachment to the lake. As our ethnicity was derived from the literal meaning of Maranao, “the people of the lake.”

Lake Lanao has a huge historical and cultural importance to the peoples, particularly the peoples who continue to live in areas surrounding the lake. A huge part of the Maranao’s culture can be found to be linked to the Lake.

It is even considered as “the heart of the Maranao people’s spiritual, cultural, social, political and economic life,” according to the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCF).

Equally as important, Lake Lanao currently plays a crucial role in securing Mindanao’s energy needs as it supplies water for six of its existing hydroelectric power plants. This is true not only for the people of BARMM but also outside BARMM.

This shows the numerous value and importance of Lake Lanao from many perspectives for various stakeholders.

Unfortunately, through the years, Lake Lanao has not been spared from various environmental pollutants caused by human activities related with the growing demand of the lake’s resources.

The problems are a set of wide-ranging issues.

- **Water Level and Water Quality.** The growing water needs among others has been used for domestic and agricultural use as well as for hydro-power generation, boating, water sports, fishes for domestic consumption and livelihood. Recent news mentioned that the water level in Lake Lanao is below its critical level amid the dry season. The Lanao del Sur Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Office (PDRRMO) back in April 2019 mentioned that the water level in the lake has dropped to 697 meters—already below the critical level of 699 meters. The power supply in the region may possibly be affected should the lake’s water level continue to dwindle.

The situation will be compounded during dry season and with lack of sufficient rain. Local residents, the Meranaws, also depend on the lake for domestic uses, including drinking water. Any kind of pollution will degrade the community’s health. All of these, coupled with the absence of sustainable water management and no clear framework in managing Lanao’s water and watershed resources leads to the deterioration of the water quality of Lake Lanao.

- **Issue with Watershed Area.** The surrounding forest cover is essential in preserving water resources. It acts as storage by entrapping water in the upper crust of the soil. Yet, since 2006 or to be exact (13) years ago, there had been reports from the researchers of the Mindanao State University that there exist indiscriminate logging, extensive land use, and farming in the watershed of the lake which caused the increase of soil erosion and the decrease of its water level.
- **Fisherfolks Concerns.** Fishes of the lake is a huge part of livelihood for the people residing in surrounding area. Lanao Lake was formerly home to the 18 endemic cyprinids found nowhere else in the world. According to Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III – a scientist known as [\*] since March 1999, only three of the endemic fishes, namely, sirang, tumba and baolan remain. The probable extinction of the 15 other cyprinids is attributed to the accidental introductions of the white goby and eleotrid into the lake from Lake Mainit, also in Mindanao. The cyprinids comprised the bulk of the commercial fish catch from the lake before the introduction of the invasive fishes. All of these also happened due to lack of knowledge given to the people. Additionally, they have no alternative livelihood or source of food, hence conserving the fish will be the least of their focus.
- **Impact of Marawi Siege.** Lastly, the impact of the Marawi Siege. It is linked and might also deteriorate the situation of the lake. Several News had shown the importance of Lake Lanao during the Marawi Siege for the Maute group hence the heavy military's patrolling. Armed fights have also happened in and surrounding the Lake Lanao area. Therefore, scientist have previously urged for the inclusion of Lake Lanao in Marawi rehabilitation to prevent it to become "dead zone in the future" which means a lake that is no longer habitable for marine creatures if no conservation measures would be implemented. The reconstruction of Marawi is indeed "a very complex problem that needs to be addressed in a "multidisciplinary approach" and encouraged the planners to devise a development plan to protect Lake Lanao.

The response to these challenges shall also be an integrated, cross-ministerial, multidisciplinary and cross-sector approach for the future of Lake Lanao and its environs.

This issue has been long disregarded. As if, we will have abundant fish, forest resource, water and the lake forever.

Mr Speaker and member of parliaments, In the face of such serious and complex challenges, thus I proposed for the establishment of the Lanao Development Authority or RDA.

RDA will be the main agency that will be the lead institution to manage the preservation, development and utilization of Lake Lanao. This Authority will create the framework and master plan designed to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and develop the lake. It shall have the power to regulate the water body and surrounding watershed area. It will regulate and supervise the implementation of the master plan to ensure it to be implemented in a sustainable way.

Mr Speaker,

To pass this bill also means to implement the mandate of BOL. The BOL has specifically and explicitly mandated under Section 22, Article XIII for the management of Inland Waters including lakes. It is mandated under BOL for the parliament to enact laws on the regulation, conservation, management and protection of these resources.

Thus, "It shall create a Bangsamoro Authority and offices for specific inland bodies of water that shall exercise management and regulatory powers over these bodies of water."

It has been months of efforts from our office to come up with this Bill.

We have conducted the first public consultation in Marawi City back in July 25th 2019 by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. It was well attended by various stakeholders and experts. During this first public consultation, I learned directly from the people their anxiety over the lake – over their livelihood and future for their children and grandchildren.

We continue to pursue a better understanding of water management with my office's engagement and coordination with Laguna Lake Development Authority. The only lake authority within the Philippines. We reached out to them as they celebrate 50 years of establishment – which means, 50 years ago the senators and lawmakers of Laguna Lake environs have thought about sustainable lake management and the risk should there be no body overseeing and regulating it. Thus, they passed the charter of Laguna Lake.

If they can do it 50 years ago, why can't we have the same level of concern for our lake and our people?

Sabi nga po: Kung hindi ngayon, kailan? Kung hindi tayo, sino? “

Thus, we deemed appropriate to invite the Vice-Chairman of International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC) based in Japan, Atty. Zenaida Lapus, the Officer-in-Charge of LLDA, Pipalawan Naga – a long time advocate for Lake Lanao for three decades and Napocor's representatives.

We invited them for a Technical Working Group in Marawi City back on November 7th, 2019. The purpose of the TWG was to gain insights on the condition of the lake, how it impacts the livelihood of the Meranaws and development of the region and for the members to contribute to the improvement of the bill. LLDA shared their view on lake management and we were struck by their simple question during the TWG asked by Ms. Adelina Borjas:

“What is the Water Balance of Lanao Lake? Meaning what is the amount of water you can draw for multi-use like energy, domestic, or agriculture consumption without harming the health of the Lake.”

I was shocked that no one from Lake Lanao experts had the answer. Because, since 1992 when the Lanao Lake Council was created, according to Pipalawan Naga, “No single instrument – not even a thermometer – was bought to measure the lake's inflow and outflow.”

This is the very sad state of Lake Lanao. Not a single instrument to measure the health of our lake's water balance. Whereas Laguna Lake authority has been in existence for 50 years as envisioned by its local leaders, our very own ancient lake, the most valuable if not singular resource has never been taken care of.

We only have ourselves to blame. If the people from Luzon can do it, why can't we?

However, I was encouraged because of this simple question, that we need this authority for Lake Lanao.

will now highlight several main features that we proposed from the Bill:

- We propose for the RDA to have a comprehensive power and function over the lake and its surrounding area. It shall start with a comprehensive study on the potential and any threats for the Lake and creation of good database;
- RDA shall also study, pass upon, approve or disapprove all plans, programs and projects proposed by any LGUs, ministry, offices, agencies within;
- RDA shall also undertake various research and studies on fisheries and aquatic, waste and water quality;
- Make recommendation to other related agencies on financing, technical support, assistance on any agriculture, forestry, industrial and trade, fisheries;
- To set standards for environmental compliance and monitor the implementation and
- Mainly to coordinate across sector and coordinate with various ministries among others: Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Transportation and Communication, Ministry of Public Works.

The totality of the proposed power and functions can be found under Section 5 of the RDA Bill.

As a cross sectoral and comprehensive agency, RDA is also expected to deal with the energy generation issue under the Inter Governmental Relation mechanism of the BOL. Aside from energy issue, RDA will have full power to regulate and monitor Lake Lanao and its surrounding environ.

It is also important to emphasize that the creation of the Ranao Development Authority shall be consistent with Section 22 of Article XII of the Organic Law for Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in so far as the exploration, utilization and development of lake Lanao for the grant of rights, concessions and sharing of revenues derived from the use of lake Lanao as source of energy in which case, the observance of co-management principle enshrined in Section 34 of Article XII shall apply. It is only in this respect that the co-management principle shall be observed.

RDA is also aimed to be the first GOCC within BARMM, as a result, RDA is expected to sustain their own funding in the future.

With the adoption of this bill, we will also implement the guidance from the Quran by implementing various principles such as:

- Khilafa wa amanah meaning stewardship and trusteeship;
- Amr bi'l-maruf wa nahi 'an 'l-munkar (enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong) and
- Tahshin al-'Ardh (beautifying the earth)

Mr. Speaker and member of parliaments,

As you might be aware now, we are no longer in the "climate change" era but already in the "climate catastrophe" era.

We have seen worse typhoon and flooding every year. Changes happened to the whole of Philippines and the whole world. Areas might get wetter or they might suffer from drought due to Climate Catastrophe. If we do not take action now, we will be remembered forever by our children for our inaction.

More importantly, we cannot have a new Marawi if we do not take comprehensive steps.

We have seen several of the Senators tirelessly advocating and drafting bill for the protection of Lake Lanao, such as Senator Loren Legarda and Senator Dick Gordon. Several assemblymen from Lanao have also tried to pass this bill.

The concerns and worries for the Lake is not something new and out of the blue. It is a concern since 1992 and this worry only grows since then.

For the reasons mentioned above, I humbly recommend to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to adopt this bill and to support the establishment of the RDA.

To immediately pass this bill not only means to support the Meranaw people, but due to the importance of Lake Lanao, it means to support all people of Bangsamoro and even the whole of Philippines.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



# PRIVILEGE SPEECH ON RDA BILL



Mr. Speaker, Members of the Parliament, and distinguished colleagues: Assalamualaykum Warrahmatullahi Wabaraktuhu! Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat!

Ang ating kasarinlan bilang Moro ay ginuguhit ng ating kasaysayan, pamumuhay, kultura, linguahe, at paniniwala. Malaking bagay ang likas yaman sa pag-buo ng ating kasarinlan.

At ito po ang dahilan kung bakit natin pinaglaban ang ating likas na yaman o “natural resources.”

At hindi tayo dapat maging pabaya. Unang una, pinaglaban natin ito sa Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro. At mismo kami noon sa Bangsamoro Transition Commission, ito ang isa sa pinaka matinding issue sa Bicameral Conference.

Particular dito sa inland waters, sa lahat ng mga issues, ito po ang pinaka contentious at pinakahuling paksa. Pero hindi po natin ito isinuko. Ang pagdesisyon po ukol sa ating likas yaman ay isa sa pundasyon nang right to self-determination. Ito po ang simbulo ng ating Kalayaan.

Kaya ngayon tayo, at tayo lamang sa Bangsamoro Parliament ang dapat magbalangkas ng batas ukol sa inland waters ng Bangsamoro.

Noong maupo po ako bilang isang MP, unang mga consultation ko ay ukol sa Lake Lanao as early as July 2019, sinundan po ito ng pangalawang consultation kasama ang mga eksperto noong Nobeyembre 2019.

Dahil dito, ako po ay naghain noong Nobeyembre ng taong 2019, panukalang batas o Bill No. 32 na pinamagatang “An Act Creating the Ranao Development Authority Prescribing Its Powers and Functions and Appropriating Funds Therefor.” Sa katunayan mahigit kumulang sa 47 Membro ng ParliyamntO ang sumanib bilang co-authors. Ang panukalang batas na ito ay naghahangad na makapagpatayo ng isang ahensiya ng gobeyrno na mamamahala, mangangalaga, at magbibigay proteksyon sa ating mga likas na yaman: ang Lake Lanao. Ang panukalang batas na ito ay sumailalim na sa Second Reading noong February 21, 2020.

Ngayon, meron na tayong batas na binalangkas na nasa second reading na po. Nandito na po nakahain.

Bago po isinulat ang Bill No. 32, isang malaking konsultasyon ang ginanap sa MSU-Main Campus, Marawi City kung saan dumalo ang mga eksperto, membro ng academe, ibat-ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno kasama na ang National Power Corporation, at ang matataas na opisyal ng Laguna Lake Development Authority na naglakbay mula Luzon upang ibahagi ang kanilang mahigit (5) limang dekadang karanasan sa pamamahala sa Laguna Lake.

Sa kanilang pagbisita sa lawa, isa pong kaalaman na tumatak sa aking puso ay ang sinabi ng Executive Director ng Laguna Lake Development Authority, ika niya: “Kapag ang lawa ay nasira, hinding hindi ito maibabalik sa dati nitong kalagayan.” Sa wikang englis: “It can neither be fixed nor restored to its original state.” Sunod na kanyang sinabi pagkatpos ng kanyang personal na pagbisita sa lawa ay “panahon na o oras na para simulan ang pag-alaga sa lawang ito.”

Ano ba ang kasalukuyang kalagayan ng Lake Lanao?

Ayon sa pag-aaral ng Mindanao State University at pahayag ng mga dating namumuno sa DENR, ang kakahuyan o kagubatan na nakapalibot sa Lake Lanao ay naging biktima ng deka-dekadang illegal logging, extensive land use, and farming in the watershed – na nagdudulot ng soil erosion na siya namang nagpapababa ng water level. Nakita po natin ito sa trahedyang dulot ng bagyong Vinta noong 2017 at malaki ang epekto neto sa Lanao del Sur kung saan marami po ang namatay at nawalan ng bahay sa aming kaanak at mamamayan. Marami rin sa “forested” timberland ang nasira dahil sa iba’t ibang aktibidad na hindi na-regulate.

Idagdag po natin dito ang problema ng polusyon dahil sa hindi maayos na pagtatapon ng basura. Dahil po sa mga pangyayaring ito, naibahagi po ng Lanao del Sur Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Office (PDRRMO) noong 2019, na ang water level ng Lake Lanao ay bumaba, at ito ay nasa critical level. Dahil sa kakulangan ng malinaw na framework sa pamamahala ng lawa at ng watershed resources, magdudulot ito ng pagbaba ng kalidad ng tubig.

Atin pong alalahanin na ang mga naninirahan sa tabi ng lawa ay nakadepende rito para sa domestic use – kasama na ang inuming tubig, ablution (abdas), paligo, paglalaba, at iba pa. Sa madaling salita, ang pollution dahil sa kakulangan sa regulation ay makaka-apekto sa kalusugan ng ating mamamayan.

Bukod pa rito at hindi lingid sa ating kaalaman, ang Lake Lanao ay may mahalagang papel pagdating sa supply ng kuryente na pinakikinabangan ng mga Bangsamoro constituents at maging nga mga nasa outside BARMM kung saan ito ay nagbibigay na mahigit sa 70% energy supply sa buong isla ng Mindanao at nagdudulot nang kaunlaran. Ito rin ay nagbibigay ng revenue o pundo sa karamihan sa ating mga political subdivisions.

Dahil sa labis-labis na supporta ng ating mga kasamahan sa parlamento noong panahong ito ay dininig sa second reading noong February 21, 2019, at ating ipinasa ang Resolution No. 122 noong Marso 25, 2021 na naglalayong pagtibayin ang ating Karapatan sa pangagalaga ng ating lake Lanao at humingi tayong Senado ng considerasyon dahil nasa atin ang kapangyarihan at ito ay naksaad sa Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Huwag po nating ipag liban ang Lake Lanao Bill nanakbinin na magdadalawang taon na, nandito na po ito sa ating mga kamay at ipanaglaban po natin itong likas na yaman naating parte ng kasarinlan, ito ay parte ng ating kultura. Ito ang nagbibigay kahulugan sa pagiging Moro.

Itong bill na ito ay sinuportahan na 47 Member of the Parliament. Nangangahulugan na marami pong gusto itong na maipasa.

Paghindi natin ginawang priority bill itong batas na ito baka maisabatas ng Congress ang kanilang version. Huwag po nating hintayin mangyari iyon dahil maaring maging hudyat sa pag-pasa ng mga batas ng Congress patungkol sa pangangalaga ng ating likas-yaman.

Sa panghuli.

Ang tawag po namin sa Lake Lanao, ay Ranao. Hango po dito ang identity bilang mga Maranao.

Mga kasama ko sa Bangsamoro Parliament, ang Lake Lanao po ay ang umbilical cord ng mga Maranao na naguugnay sa aming lahat. It is the foundation of our identity and our heritage as a people and as Bangsamoro.

Ang Lake Lanao po ay nasa intensive care unit ngayon, kailang po siyang gamotin at pagalinigin, itong panukalang batas na ito ay siya ang naming naisip naming gagamot sa kanyang sakit na sinang ayunan ng majority.

Huwag po nating pabayaang ang Lake Lanao.

Kaya nanawagan po ako sa Government of the Day, na ilagay sa priority legislation at ikalendaryo ang Proposed Bill No. 32.

Wag po nating hayaan ang patuloy at unti-unting pagkamatay ng Ranao. Habang-buhay naming isasapuso bilang mga Maranao ang inyong pag-pasa ng panukalang batas at hindi po naming ito makakalimutan ang inyong handog sa susunod na henerasyon.

Maraming salamat po. Wassalam.



# “GROW YOUR OWN FOOD” COUNTERING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting food systems, posing risks to household food security. It has affected the supply and demand side. Food supplies were disrupted and less production of foods were observed due to limited movements and shortage of labors.

Therefore, less availability of fresh foods were likely experienced.

“Miyapikir ami a phamomolaan kami badn sa mga food crops – lagid a giya mga banggala, kangkong, babasal- para if in case a daden a miyoma a panabang a phoon sa gobyerno na aden a sasanaan ami a khakan ami ibarat, lagid a giya mga banggala.”

(We always thought to engage in planting food crops – cassava, kangkong, squash – because just in case that the government could not provide assistance, we can still secure our own food to eat like this cassava), said Amina C. Basari.

“sa giya a kiya-pandemic iyan na kadakelan rkami sa giya Municipality a Bacolod-Kalawi na omaniisa na so aden a lupa iyan a kaphamamolaan iyan na miyamamola mambo.”

(In this current pandemic, most of us here at the Municipality of Bacolod-Kalawi who had availability of land also engaged in gardening), she added.

This pandemic has created awareness of food safety for producers, businesses, governments, and consumers. Challenges in terms of the logistics involving the movement of food from one place to another may result to food loss and waste.

Transport restrictions and quarantine measures are likely to impede farmers' access to markets, curbing their productive capacities and hindering them from selling their produce. This results to limited accessibility of foods for the consumers. Thus, growing own food in this time of crisis is one of the best interventions to beat COVID-19. Let us heal together.



*In this time of pandemic, it's hard to buy foods because of community quarantine protocols and due to fear from virus. I encourage others to engage in backyard gardening just incase there is no food available then they can still have their own secured foods.*

AMINA C. BASARI  
Bacolod-Kalawi, Lanao del Sur



# “RESILIENCE DESPITE HARDSHIP”

“Meranaws are resilient people”, I always hear this from other people, and yes, I also personally believe that. Despite all the challenges we are in, we still continue to find and make ways to get through the difficulties and hardships. We always try to rise above.

“So kapkhatootna ko mga kamapiyaan na sii rktano anan miyatimo, khatoon tano o penggalebeken tano.” (It depends to us on how we can find the blessings (of God Almighty). We can find it if we work on it.) Said by Mr. Abdul Baari Lininding, an IDP from West Marinaot, Marawi City.

Mr. Lininding is an optimist individual. He always tries to see the positive side in everything that is happening around him.

During the Marawi siege, he was one of the volunteers who helped in giving and distributing relief assistance to other internally displaced persons (IDPs).

“In the year 2017 or 2018, I was part of the Farm Model Program of Go Negosyo. Binigyan kami ng mga seeds, nagtanim kami at nakapag harvest din kami. Naging source of income din namin yon kasi nakakapag benta din kami. Doon din namin nakita ang importance talaga ng farming kasi nase-secure namin ang aming pagkain. May oras na hindi na kami bumibili sa labas kasi doon na kami kumukuha ng pagkain sa mga pananim namin.” (They gave us seeds. We planted it we had harvested. It had become our source of income because we were able to sell some. That’s when we realize the importance of farming. There were times that we no longer buy foods outside because we just get foods from our farm.) Lininding said.

There were times that their patience was also tested. “May mga araw na hindi marami ang bumibili ng mga na-harvest namin. Minsan ipinamimigay din namin yong mga hindi nauubos. Actually hanggang ngayon na may COVID-19 pandemic, pinamimigay din namin kapag sobra-sobra yong mga harvested products namin kasi kailangan mo rin talaga magbigay. Si Allah na ang bahalang magbayad, mbalasan kawn bo o Allah.” (There were days that not many are buying our harvested product. Sometimes we give it to other people, even in this time of pandemic. We need to give sometimes. The Almighty God will be the one to pay. God will bless us also.) Lininding said. Indeed, you don’t have to be standing above other people in order for you to give and help someone who’s in need. Sometimes, all it requires is a heart that is willing to listen and help others.

“Ako ngayon ay isang volunteer mentor sa Go Negosyo at nakatulong na din sa ibang area dito sa Lanao del Sur kagaya ng Bayang, Ramain, Wato, at iba pa. Mahirap sa umpisa, mahirap mag-imbata ng mga tao na sumali sila sa mga trainings lalo na nang mga kapwa ko IDPs noong kasagsagan pa ng Marawi Siege. Pero Alhamdulillah sumasali naman yong iba. Sabi ko nga sa kanila noon – at hanggang ngayon ay sinasabi ko sa kanila–kung ano yong mga natutunan niyo noon regarding sa farming ay wag niyo sanang kalimutan. Tandaan natin na sa buhay natin, kung ano ang ating itinatanim ay yon din ang ating aanihin.” (I am now a volunteer mentor in Go Negosyo. I have helped in some areas here in Lanao del Sur such as Maguing, Ramain, Wato and other areas. At first it was hard to convince them to attend in some of our trainings, specially my fellow IDPs during the Marawi Siege. But Alhamdulillah, they were still able to participate. As I am always telling them, whatever they learn in the trainings, they should not forget it. In this life, we can only harvest what we planted.) He added.

Mr. Lininding’s optimism is really an inspiration to everyone. “Habang hindi pa tayo nakakauwi sa ating mga tahanan sa ground zero, maghanap po tayo nang pwede nating trabaho para kapag nakabalik na tayo ay masasabi natin na marami tayong nagawa sa pagiging isang IDP natin.” (while we are not yet back in our home at ground zero, let’s find jobs (that is suited to us) so that when we return we can say that there are beneficial works I’ve done in being an IDP.) His last words during the interview. Indeed, Mr. Lininding is a living example of a resilient Meranaw.



# GETTING USED TO MODULAR AND ONLINE LEARNING

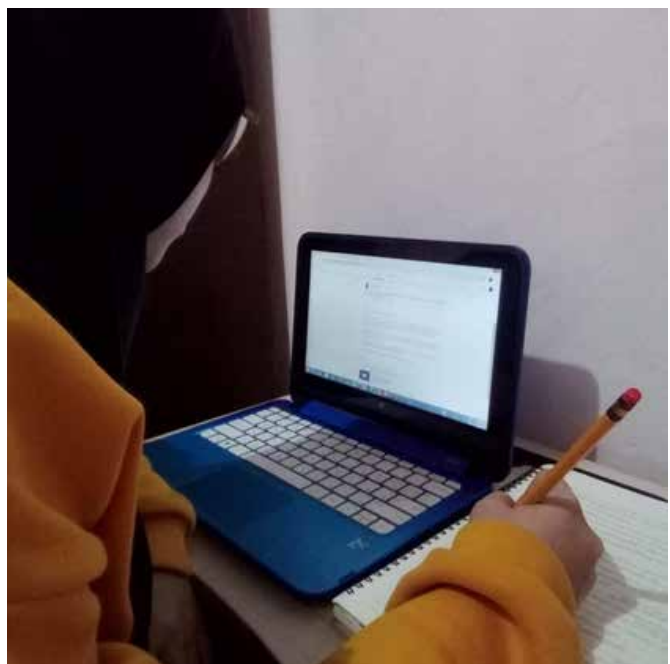
The COVID - 19 pandemic has disrupted the normal lifestyle of every individual, not just in the country but across the globe. It was so sudden that everyone has to adapt to the new normal. Education is not an exemption. Fortunately, the virtual world has come to the rescue. In order not to stop the learning of the students, schools have shifted from face-to-face learning approach to online or modular learning.

“Having this sudden transition of learning is not easy. We were used in attending regular classes inside a classroom meeting our instructor and classmates face-to-face. But because of this pandemic we are facing, we had to attend classes through online and/or modular. Modular and online learning made me study and learn by myself when the instructor’s lesson is not enough.” said by Nisrin P. Hadji Rauf, a first-year college student at Mindanao State University (MSU) Main Campus. It is seen that most the students are experiencing difficulty because of this new normal in education.

Gladly, our teachers are doing their best performance so that quality education of the students will still be achieved despite this pandemic. However, online or modular learning is still seen as a challenge for most of the students especially those who are less privileged. Some are even worried of the future challenges that they may encounter. “Aside from not stable internet connection in our place which could add factor to stress, I think the bigger problem that might occur in the future is when the gadget we’re using for online learning is an old model and will be damaged. By that, it will be hard to find other gadget to use considering the financial and the situation right now.

But then, as a student who is willing to learn, I have to look for ways to continue learning like find relatives or friends who can borrow me a gadget to use. If there is really nothing, I can ask my instructors for alternative ways to learn even without the access to the internet.” said by Nisrin.

Some students may have internet access but is very weak , but for some, due to financial constraints, they find it hard to connect to internet. Students are experiencing technical difficulty yet despite that, they still remain positive about this new learning approach. “Online learning made me discover the world of internet. I never knew there were such online classes.” said by Nisrin. Indeed, there will be no hindrance to education for the people who are willing and eager to learn. “To those students who are really willing to learn, keep on working hard and always do your best. I hope you take care of your physical, emotional, and mental health. I know we can survive this and soon we will achieve our dreams.” Nisrin added. She wants to encourage her fellow youth to never stop chasing their dreams for someday, this pandemic will just be part of the history.



# ADAPTING NEW NORMAL

The COVID-19 is a huge challenge to education system not just in the Philippines but all over the world. Every one of us needs to adjust for the new normal. Education is one of the most affected sectors in this time of pandemic. “Ang pandemyang ito ay bago sa atin, ang sitwasyon na kinalalagyan natin ay lahat bago. Ang daming mga factors na kailangan nating bigyan ng konsiderasyon. Hindi kami fully equipped. May kakulangan kami sa mga resources lalo na ngayon na modular learning approach na tayo.” (This pandemic is very new to us, the situation we are in right now is all new. There are many factors that we need to put into consideration. We are not fully-equipped. We have limited resources especially now that we are into modular learning approach.) Said by Dr. Johailah M. Balt, the District Supervisor of Butig District.

This pandemic is an anxious times for students, teachers and parents. “Nahihirapan yong mga teachers sa kung ano ang mga dapat na gamiting pedagogy sa pagtuturo ngayong panahon ng pandemya. Lahat bago. Nasa stage kami ng pag-a-adjust.” (Teachers find it hard to know what pedagogies would be best to use in this time of pandemic. Everything is new. We are in the stage of adjustments.) Said by Dr. Balt.



In order for a team to come up with innovative solutions in these challenging times, there is a need to conduct various meetings. “Nagkaroon kami ng various meeting through the use of two-way radio, messenger – yong social media, and text messages or SMS. Nagkaroon din kami ng face-to-face meeting nong na-lift ung ECQ – mga meetings pero sinunud naman yong health protocols para sa COVID-19.” (We had various meetings via two-way radio, messenger/chat, and SMS. We also had a face-to-face meeting when Enhanced Community Quarantine was lifted—we conducted meetings but of course with proper observation and following of health protocols on COVID-19 pandemic.” Said by Dr. Balt.

"Ngayon, nasa stage na kami ng pag-p-print ng mga modues. Naghahanda na din kami para sa dry-run on October 1. Nag coordinate din kami sa Local Government Unit ng Butig para makatulong din sila sa amin, at nagpapasalamat kami because Good Mayor committed to support us at magbibigay siya ng photocopier machine."

(As of now, we are in the stage of printing modules. We are preparing for the dry-run this coming October 1. We also coordinated to the Local Government Unit of Butig so they can reach out some help and thankfully, Good Mayor committed to support us by donating photocopier machine.) She added.

As the government limits face-to-face interaction and prohibits mass gathering, it is a challenge not just for the teachers and students but it will also be a huge challenge to parents considering that students will be learning from home.

"We are trying to coordinate with different agencies so we can be well-equipped in facing the identified problems and challenges. We are using different technologies so we can get help. We are planning to use two-way radio to teach pupils. We are thinking of having an on-air learning – somewhat like "Education On-Air". And of course we will not be confined to that. We will still be constantly monitoring the learning of our students, especially those who have less privileged parents or guardians and will not possibly be able to teach their children."

"We are planning to have collaboration with the Butig Youth Movement for Peace (BYMP), an active youth organization in Butig, so we can help more children in gaining and acquiring sufficient learning despite this pandemic." Said by Dr. Balt.

"Bilang ako ang namumuno sa aming distrito, I am encouraging everyone na dapat magtulong-tulong tayo, hindi ko kayang mag-isa ito. Ang mga teachers, mga magulang at lahat ng stakeholders, dapat magkaisa para mas mag-improve pa ang education natin sa Butig kahit sa panahon ng pandemya. Dapat maging mas responsible tayo sa ating mga trabaho. Dapat palaging i-monitor ng mga magulang ang learning ng kanilang mga anak. There must be strong collaboration between parents and teachers – of course, teachers should also have strong commitment so the children will gain more learning. Let us all remember that we are doing this for the sake of the Almighty, not just for the sake of other people."

(As the head of our district, I am encouraging everyone to help one another. I cannot do it alone. Teachers, parents, and all stakeholders need to be united so our education system will improve despite the pandemic. We must be more responsible of our works. Parents should constantly monitor the learning of their children.) Said by Dr. Balt. Indeed, it takes a village to educate a child



# EMBRACING CHALLENGES FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING

The COVID-19 is a huge challenge to education system not just in the Philippines but all over the world. And one cannot deny that education is one of the most affected sectors in this time of pandemic. All of us were forced to adjust for the new normal and deal with all the challenges.

In order for us to come up with innovative solutions in these challenging times, various meetings and coordination had to be conducted with the officials of each schools divisions in Lanao del Sur, not just officials but we also had to conduct a survey with the stakeholders for us to innovate better ideas to aid, somehow, the effects of the pandemic to our education sector.

All the issues, gaps, and challenges that were raised during the various interviews with some teachers, students, and parents where they were asked about the issues and challenges that they encountered during the first three months of COVID-19 pandemic are the reasons why SIYAP KO KAPAGANAD was initiated and launched.

“Kagaya ng objective ng Siyap ko Kapaganad na matulungan ang bawat bata sa kanilang pag-aaral in this time of pandemic at para mas mapadali sa kanila ang mga ibinigay na mga modules ay talagang nakatulong naman ito sa aking mga students upang mas maintindihan nila ang mga lessons/modules na ibinigay sa kanila. Mas nagfo-focus sila sa kanilang aralin kapag may video din silang napapanood.” (Just like the objective of Siyap ko Kapaganad, that is to help every children in their learning in this time of pandemic and to make it easier to them to understand the modules that we gave to them, it really is helpful to them to understand the lessons/modules that are given to them. They become more focused in their learning when there is video lesson that they can watch.) Said by Omaimah A. Mindalano, an elementary teacher from the Division of Lanao del Sur 2.



As the government limits face-to-face interactions and prohibits mass gathering, it is a challenge not just for the teachers and students but is also a huge challenge to parents considering that students are learning from home.

“Nakatulong ang Siyap ko Kapaganad sa aking mga students na mas maintindihan ang kanilang aralin at mas napadali sa kanilang magulang na i-guide ang mga anak nila dahil hindi na sila pabalik-balik sa school para magtanong ng mga bagay patungkol sa modules. Nabigyan ng chance ang mga bata sa rural areas na makapag-aral parin ng maayos lalo na yong mga batang may magulang na hindi nabigyan ng prebilihiyo na matuto kung kayat hindi rin nila maturuan ang kanilang mga anak.”, Said by Mindalano

(Siyap ko Kapaganad helped my students to learn more the about the lessons and made it easier also for the parents to guide their children because there is no need to go back-and-forth to the school to ask something about the modules. Children from rural areas are also given a chance to learn better especially to those children who have parents that were not given the privilege to attend school and therefore cannot teach their children.)

It cannot be denied that one of the best options to continue the learning of our Bangsamoro learners is to make use of digital platforms. By embracing all the challenges of this COVID-19 pandemic only made us more innovative, resilient, and creative. So together, let us continue building our Bangsamoro children to grow better despite of all the adversity.

# SUMMARY

Our office recognizes the importance of protecting and preserving the Natural Resources of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, especially the Lake Lanao located in the Province of Lanao del Sur. We do not only recognize the importance of economic development, but we want to ensure a prosperous and fulfilling life for the Bangsamoro people. Ensuring that the most vulnerable population and marginalized individuals are heard and represented in the efforts to end poverty and ensure delivery of basic services for dignified life of the people.

Living a prosperous life cannot only be measured with wealth. It is in the kind of living where sustainable consumption and production does not deplete natural resources. It is in the way of living where continued population and economic growth will not increase planetary pressures.

The office had conducted consultations and Focus Group Discussions to better learn all the issues, gaps, and challenges from the ground and to know more of the current situation of one of the ancient natural resources in the Philippines, the Lake Lanao. Those consultations are in support to the Bill No. 32 or the Ranao Development Authority authored by MP Atty. Maisara Latiph. The bill seeks to strengthen the protection, preservation, conservation, and proper utilization of the Lake.

Various activities such as tree planting and growing, patrolling and assessment of forest land, clean up drive, and food security are being conducted by the office in support of a more secured, developed, and preserved surroundings for the constituents of the Bangsamoro.

This book is a compilation of the all the programs implemented, legislative accomplishments, summary of consultations, and policy briefs for the Environment Sector. It captures all the activities that has been implemented from year 2019 to 2021.

# DIARY OF MY JOURNEY AS SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE

A teacher and educator to becoming an Environment Sector Representative.

Being one of the staff at the Office of MP Maisara made me more of a learner, a listener, a futurist, an idealist, and a more competent and stronger person in a way that I get to fight for the rights of the Bangsamoro people, especially the marginalized individual and those of in the vulnerable sectors, for their right to access in the programs of the Bangsamoro Government. I get to listen to their stories and sentiments which helped me in becoming more equipped with ideas and think of more tangible solutions to such sentiments.

As Environment Sector Representative, I learned more on how our surroundings can affect our daily lives. I saw how our natural resources are gradually changing and being deteriorated. Knowing so many issues and concerns with regards to my sector was not an easy ride. Sometimes I get emotional and frustrated over the problems that are being raised and observed yet many of us do not even realize and see what causes such.

I am learning and discovering new things almost every day. I got to experience many things for the first time. I learned how to deal with people from different sectors – people with different ideas, opinions, stories, and even with people who have different stands in certain topic and issue.

I got to learn the importance of implementing programs and activities to the people in the grassroot level as it helps us in drafting laws that will be of help for the constituents of the BARMM Government.

Being the Environment Sector Representative of the office will surely be part of the best experiences I had with my 26 years of existence in this world. I will always cherish and embrace all the happy and challenging experiences while making the Environment Sector be part of the top priorities of all leaders in the region.

I will always say “Alhamdulillah” for being part of the TEAM MP MAISARA. Alhamdulillah!

