



# ORPHANS AND CHILDREN SECTORAL BOOK

A compilation of Orphans and Children Sectoral Programs and Initiatives of  
the Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph

## Warisan O Kalilintad

SPECIAL EDITION  
2019-2021



**MP MAISARA**

ATTY. MAISARA DANDAMUN-LATIPH  
MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT

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By  
Hana Tanog Yusoph

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **A. CELEBRATIONS**

Messages

Photos of Actual Implementation

## **B. CONSULTATIONS**

Synthesis of the Consultation

Photos of Actual Implementation

Impact of the Program

## **C. IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS**

Overview of the Program

Objectives

Photos of Actual Implementation

Impact of the Programs

## **D. IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS**

Overview of the Program

Objectives

Photos of Actual Implementation

Impact of the Programs

## **E. LEGISLATION**

Filed Resolutions

Policy Brief

Privilege Speech

## **F. FEATURE STORIES**

## **G. SUMMARY**

## **H. DIARY**

# PREFACE

Alhamdulillah.

Orphans and vulnerable children of Bangsamoro communities is one of my five (5) priority sectors as an interim legislator at the Bangsamoro Transition Authority.

My office envisions every child to attain their full potential where their rights and welfare are upheld, protected and served completely by the Bangsamoro Government.

It is our goal to bring the voices of orphans and children to Bangsamoro Parliament and Bangsamoro Government, for them to be heard and seen by our policy and decision-makers and hopefully to yield effective, meaningful, and relevant policies and programs on their sector.

Thus, we compiled this sectoral book that tells the story of Bangsamoro orphans and children their current situation and dreams for the future.

It speaks of our passion and commitment towards creating a better environment for our children amidst poverty, neglect, and conflict.

Fulfilling our mandate was made possible with the able leadership of Ms. Hana T. Yusoph, our children sector representative whom I am extremely grateful for our legislations and constituency programs on orphans and children. Her brilliant mind and sincere heart gave life to our advocacies and partnerships on the ground.

Blessed also to have team MP Maisara who consistently supported me for more than 3 years (March 2019-August 2022) to succeed in implementing my mandate as an interim Member of Parliament. I am certain that our team made positive contributions in touching the lives of thousands of children for the better with each and every activity that were held not only inside Bangsamoro, but outside as well.

Eternally grateful also to all our partners in the government, INGOs, NGOs, Academe, Women, Youth, Torils, Madrasa, Ulama, and MPs who gave their time and effort towards the success of our legislations and programs.

In all these blessings, we thank Allah in providing us this rare opportunity in making us instruments to serve our orphans and vulnerable children. May our deeds and efforts be accepted as part of our good deeds in this life and hereafter.

May the Peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all. August 10, 2022, Marawi City, Philippines.

Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph, MNSA  
Member of Parliament  
Bangsamoro Transition Authority

# **DEDICATION**

**To my loving parents**

**Engr. Lominog Pandao Yusoph and H. Anisa Tanog-Yusoph**

**To my supportive sisters**

**Sittie Hafza T. Yusoph, CGM and Farzana T. Yusoph, RN, MPM**

**To the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph**

**and to**

**All the orphans and children in Bangsamoro whom I sincerely dedicated this service and the devoted families and friends, partners, stakeholders, offices, ministries, and public servants who were always with us in our journey and have shown their immense values of trust and support.**

**Above all to Almighty ALLAH (s.w.t)**

# INTRODUCTION

WARISAN O KALILINTAD-a Maranaw words also means Children of Peace. The book is the compilation of both the activities and legislations in making our Children a partner for change. They are the source of hope to sustain the peace process in the Bangsamoro thus the book entitled.

The book is inspired by the people of Bangsamoro who continually take a challenge of becoming the voices and advocates for the Children's rights and welfare. Our office is mandated to craft policies such as bills and resolutions, we ensure that the programs and activities that we do is in aid of legislations to make it more sustainable in the long run.

The author of this book wants to instill to the good people of the Bangsamoro how important it is to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the children. This book is to inspire more people and to motivate all our partners to continually do more supports for our children.

This book cannot be completed without the immense efforts, trust, time, support of our partners, and stakeholders who are always with us in our journey. It is a life-long journey to achieve the mission and vision of our sector, but this book shows that by helping and supporting one another, we can achieve those things hand in hand.

To our Champion MP Maisara whom we always look up and who is also one of our inspirations. She provided us with a second family through her office which we will forever cherish and always grateful for.

Our children are the most valuable resource in our country and its best hope for the future. Before they can be responsible and become the ideal youth, we need to guide and mold them in their early years to help them become the best version of themselves. Indeed, it is a great opportunity for me, and I am forever grateful to be of service, to lead, and to be part of this sector. Our journey is not easy, but we believe that through our sincerest intention and passion to do our works, all things are worthwhile. Our children's future is worth every sacrifice; by helping them, we are helping our future.

We are always asking ALLAH's guidance that we may always continue our journey with success all out for the sake of HIM.

"We must stand for our children, because someday they will stand for us"



**HANA TANOG YUSOPH**

Orphan and Children Sector Representative

## **VISION**

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**EVERY BANGSAMORO  
CHILD ATTAINS THEIR  
RIGHT TO ACHIEVE LONG-  
LASTING CHANGE IN THEIR  
LIVES**

## **MISSION**

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**TO PROMOTE AND  
PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF  
EVERY CHILD IN THE  
BANGSAMORO**

# MESSAGES

## CHILDREN'S MONTH CELEBRATION 2020

Ang tema ng 2020 National Children's Month o Buwan ng mga Bata ngayong Nobyembre ay *"Sama-samang Itaguyod ang Karapatan ng Bawat Bata sa Panahon ng Pandemya!"*

Ang temang ito ay naglalayung kailangang magtulungan tayong lahat para sa patuloy na pagtataguyod ng karapatan ng lahat ng mga bata sa panahon ng pandemya tulad ng COVID-19.

Nakikibahagi ang ating Opisina sa pagpapa-unlad at pagtataguyod ng karapatan ng lahat ng mga bata sa Bangsamoro hindi lamang sa panahon ng pandemya maging sa kinabukasan ng ating mga bata.

Bilang isang magulang, mayroon kang mahalagang tungkulin sa pagtiyak na ang iyong anak ay may pinakamagandang simula sa buhay, iyon ay ang ating layunin at kinakailangang magtulungan ang bawat isa upang masigurado ang kaligtasan at magandang kinabukasan ng ating mga anak.

Hinihikayat natin ang lahat ng mga magulang, ahensya, opisina, at mga taga pag-alaga na magkaisa upang suportahan ang mga bata sa pamamagitan ng pag-aaruga, pag-aalaga at pag-unawa sa panahon ng Pandemya. Ang mga bata ay bahagi at miyembro ng komunidad. Sama-sama nating patnubayan at turuan ng tama ng sa gayon ay maging maganda ang kanilang kinabukasan at maging handa sa anomang hamon sa buhay.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

"My Voice, Our Equal Future"

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

The contribution of the girl child continuously increase all over the world. Young girls and women are at the forefront of social movements and change, and are shaking up the status quo. They are no longer content to settle. They demand more, as is their right: access to quality education, equal opportunities, the eradication of Violence Against Women and Children - a world which is kind to and full of possibility for girls and women wherever they may be. Girls will not wait for the world to be ready for them. In various areas and fields, such as in STEM, leadership, business, and many others, girls will leave their mark. They raise their voice to be heard, louder than hatred, discrimination, or insecurity. They raise their voice not only for their world, but our world - for a future where girls and boys are no longer beholden to harmful gender stereotypes.

This celebration amidst COVID-19 highlights the possibilities of a better world inspired by women. Together, let us all create a better place for a better future. Let us all grow, adopt and support our girls in using their voice to create our equal future. Let us all listen, learn, and honor the ideas of our girls, our future innovators, scientists, doctors, nurses, teachers, mothers, leaders, and change-makers. There is no limit to what or who a girl can be.

Happy International Girl's Day!



# JULY 2020

## NUTRITION MONTH



To my fellow Bangsamoro, Happy 46th Nutrition Month Celebration!

Amidst the unprecedented hardships brought about by Covid-19 pandemic, our Public Health Emergency has extremely disturbed the lives of every Filipino individual and families. This significantly limit our access to health, goods and services, thus placing our people especially our newborns and young children more at risk of malnutrition.

This year's theme "*Batang Pinoy, SANA TALL... Iwas Stunting, SAMA ALL*" focus on catalyzing activities to address child stunting. Stunting (*stunting is a Filipino term which means pagkabansot*) especially in the first 1000 days of life of the child is irreversible. It has dangerous effects for the individual and society; ranging from low education performance, increase risk of non-communicable illness later in life and loss of productivity.

As we celebrate the 46th nutrition month celebration, I appeal to our government, mothers and frontline health and nutrition workers to continue our struggles in fighting this battle especially in this time of crisis. I also commend our frontliners for their invaluable contribution to saving the precious lives of our children and our people amidst COVID-19.

Sa lahat ng mga ahensya at sektor na patuloy nating katuwang sa pagsusulong ng wastong nutrisyon, maraming-maraming salamat at mabuhay po kayo!

# JULY 2021 NUTRITION MONTH

Ito ang tema ngayong Hulyo 2021 na Buwan ng Nutrisyon. Ito ay panawagan para sa patuloy na pagsisikap ng ating bansa na matugunan ang malnutrisyon lalo na sa ating rehiyon, at madagdagan ang kaalaman ng bawat pamilya ukol sa kahalagaan ng wastong nutrisyon lalo na sa mga bata.

Ilan sa mga dahilan kung bakit marami tayong kaso ng malnutrisyon ay kahirapan, kawalan ng trabaho, maliit na kaalamang pangkalusugan, at ang pagkain ng mga di-masusustansyang pagkain. Maliban doon, isang malaking sanhi pa ay ang mga pangayayaring di inaasahan tulad ng pandemya at iba pang sakuna kung saan limitado ang mga pwedeng pagkuhanan ng pagkain.

Kaya't ang ating opisina ay sumusuporta sa lahat ng mga hakbang upang mapaunlad ang serbisyong pangkalusugan para sa pagkamit ng ating hangarin na "BANGSAMORO CHILDREN FREE FROM MALNUTRITION" sa pamamagitan ng pagsuporta sa mga iba't ibang proyektong pangkalusugan, pagbabahagi ng wastong kaalaman, at pagtataguyod ng proyektong Agrikultura tulad lamang ng 'Backyard Gardening' na napagkukuhanan ng mga masusustansyang pagkain.

Ang mga bata ay tulad ng isang umuusbong na halaman sa isang hardin na dapat ingatan, mahalina at alagaan dahil sila ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Kaya't ang pagpapalaki sa isang bata sa pamamagitan ng kumpletong nutrisyon ay makakabuti sa kanila. Ang ating mga magulang ay may mahalagang papel sa pagpapalaki ng kanilang mga anak. Kaya't ating hinihikayat ang lahat ng mga sektor na ito ang mga pagsisikap sa unang 1000 araw ng buhay ng mga bata bilang madiskarteng interbensyon upang maiwasan ang malnutrisyon o kakulangan sa nutrisyon ng mga bata na nagdudulot ng hindi magandang epekto sa kanilang paglaki. Ang wastong nutrisyon ay napakahalaga sa ating kalusugan dahil ito ang pundasyon ng tamang resistinsya at lakas ng katawan. Maliban doon ay makakatulong din ito upang makaiwas tayo sa iba't ibang mga sakit at karamdaman. Kaya ngayon sa oras ng pandemya, katulong niyo ang aming opisina sa pagtataguyod ng serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga bata, at tayo ay magkaisa upang alagaan at protektahan ang mga bata at suportahan natin ang ating hangarin na "BANGSAMORO CHILDREN FREE FROM MALNUTRITION" sa ating rehiyon.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD 2021

Our office joins the celebration on October 11, declared as "The International Day of the Girl Child with this year's theme: *"Digital Generation. Our generation."*

The International Day of the Girl Child with one purpose- to empower and amplify the voices of young girls around the world, to address the inequality faced by girls, and to promote girls' fulfilment of their human rights.

In this time of pandemic, girl's challenges have been increasing such as the increasing dropout rates in school, unhealthy environment, and economic security especially for girls from low-income households and girls in rural areas. These situations lead them to be vulnerable to abuse, violence, and discrimination.

While the pandemic has accelerated digital platforms for learning, earning and connecting, let's widen these pathways so that this generation of girls can more uphold their right to a safe, educated, and healthy life, not only during these critical formative years, but also as they mature into women.

Our office is one with the advocacy in promoting the best interests of the children and women. It should be the primary consideration for any intervention and policy development. We should work hand in hand to assist young girls to grow into empowered women, who have access to proper healthcare, education, and equal opportunities in a world free from gender-based violence for a more equitable and prosperous future generations.

# CHILDREN'S MONTH CELEBRATION 2021

Our office is one with the celebration of November children's month 2021 with the theme: *"New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Ating Tutukan (No One is Left Behind under the New Normal: Focus on Children's Rights)"*. This month-long event aims to promote, spread public awareness and support in protecting and promoting the rights of children in the Philippines, considering the political and social climate they live in.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has affected children as much as it did with adults. The school closures, social distancing and confinement have increased the risk of poor nutrition and health among children. Their exposure to unhealthy environment has increased their anxiety and stress, and has reduced access to vital family and care services.

Children's rights are part of human rights that need to be prioritized and give special attention to by the government. High quality childcare including, giving them adequate support and access to basic services such as education and health can have positive influence on their growth and development.

As we continue to support and advocate for children's rights, we are working hand in hand to make sure that our children must be prioritized and included in the programs, budgets, and activities of the government to improve their lives and welfare. We give importance to them because they are the hope of the next generation. Let us continue to support in creating a better world for our children, making a better place and a safe environment for them to take care of and pass on to future generations.



# CONSULTATIONS

# CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ALL OVER THE REGION



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orphans are considered to be one of the most vulnerable members of the society. Without parent/s, a child could face varying degrees of struggle. Without the love and care provided by parents, their life is filled with hardships. However, with proper support from the government along with the legal guardians and the community, institutions catering to the needs of the orphans can be built.

One of the key concerns identified by our office is how there are no accredited orphanages in the BARMM. This is also in the research study titled: “Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao” that was supported by The Asia Foundation. In response to this, our office filed the BTA-Bill No. 71, the “Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020” which would establish and regulate orphanages within the region.

As the new government raises the so-called “BARMM”, every sector should have the opportunity to be heard in order for their concerns to be known and addressed. Participative and informative consultations are necessary for the crafting of responsive legislations.

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with “The Asia Foundation” and “The Australian Aid” conducted a series of “CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION” in the province of Lanao, Maguindanao and Cotabato, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

“

*“Every Bangsamoro child should attain their rights to achieve long-lasting change in their lives. Our Office, together with our partners and stakeholders, is one with working hand in hand to make sure that our children especially the orphans in tender age be included and prioritized in the programs, budgets, and activities of the government to improve their lives and welfare. And to promote, and protect the rights of every child in the Bangsamoro.”*

*-Hana T. Yusoph  
Orphan and Children  
Sector Representative,  
Office of MP Atty.  
Maisara C. Dandamun-  
Latiph*



Photo taken during the first Care for Orphan Consultation

The consultations focused on the various issues and concerns of orphans, as well as the stakeholders who took care of them, and shall be participated by different sectors, stakeholders, individuals, institutions, offices/ministries and various organizations.

The participants and the stakeholders provided inputs and recommendations addressed to the Bangsamoro Government. The first part of the discussion shall be the presentation of the “*Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao*”, a research study that was supported by The Asia Foundation.

The second part is the presentation of Proposed BTA-Parliament Bill No. 71, or the “*Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020*”, to be followed by open discussions where the participants can give their comments, inputs, and recommendations for the improvement of the bill.

The last part of the session is the signing of the manifestation of support for the Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020 from the attendees, and stakeholders.

On March 20, 2021, the first consultation was held at the MSU-IPDM, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, and it was attended by forty (40) partners, and stakeholders representing different sectors, and various organizations/institutions such as Sadaqa Tatap, Save The Children, United Imam Of The Philippines, Philippine Humanitarian Care (Philcare), Hijab For A Cause, Bridge Of Hope, Adopt A Morit Program, Wamy (World Assembly Of Muslim Youth)- Philippines, Jamiatul Waqf Al-Filibbin, Saksi Orphanage Learning Center, Al Majlisol A'laa Linnisa El-Muslimat Fil-Filibbin, Inc., Markadz Shabab Fil Filibbin, Darul-Aitam Litahfidhil Qur'an, Al-Fauj Al-Imanie Philippines, Zaid Bin Thabit, King Faisal Center For Islamic Arabic & Asian Studies-Msu Main, Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. (Amdf), Mahad Angoyao Al-Islamie, Bustanul Muslimin Wal Muslimat, Jamiatu Muslim Mindanao (Jmm), Madrasah Al-Hikmah, Malaysia Al-Mustafa International University, Tehran, Peace Youth Movement, Ranao Charitable Society and some offices and agencies such as MSSD-B, PSWDO, CSWDO, MILG- LGOO II/GAD Focal Person.



Photo of the organizers from the Office of Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara Latiph together with The Asia Foundation

On May 31, 2021, our second consultation held at Diamond Hall, EM Manor Hotel, Cotabato City with a total of twenty-three (23) partners, and stakeholders coming from different offices/institutions such as Markadj Nor, Markadj Badria, Markadj Abdul Rahman, Markadj Al-Arradz, Markadj Al-Qaadie, Darol Gale, Markadj Monera, Madrasah Barakah, Save the Children, Bangsamoro Emergency Action Team (BEAT), Kutawato City Arabic Students Association (KCASA), United Muslim Youth Organisation (UMYO), and a representative from Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE), Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC), Ministry of Social Services and Development, STI Cotabato, and Office of MP Bainon Karon.

On June 27, 2021, our third consultation held at RnR Hotel, Sanga-Sanga, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

This has been attended by twenty-seven (27) participants coming from different government offices/ministries, institutions/madrassa, religious and academe sector, CSOs/Non-government organization, and other concerned community leaders. Among the Offices/Organizations that were present: Notre Dame of Bongao, Mahardika Institute of Technology, Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College, PAO, Office of Provincial Mufti, MAJLIS, Qudwatun Nisail Muslimat, Sali Nudjang Foundation, Inc., Mahad Dar Al-Asar, Inc., Mahad Tawi-Tawi Al-Arabie Al-Islamie, TFLF/Child Fund Philippines, AMBUH-INAH, Tawi-Tawi Provincial Women Council, PSWO, PLGU GAD Tawi-Tawi, MBHTE-BARMM Tawi-Tawi Division, Office of MILG Provincial Director, BCW-BARMM, MSU-TCTO, and Office of Provincial Administrator Tawi-Tawi.



Photo of the Participants during the Consultation at Isabela City, Basilan

On June 29, 2021, our fourth consultation held at Formation Center, 10cp Garcia Isabela City, Basilan. Nineteen (19) attendees were able to participate in the said consultation. They represent different Organizations/Institutions, and Offices/Ministries such as: Basilan State College, Office of MP Hatimil Hasan, Lamitan City Madaris, Ulama Supreme Council, Mahad Sumisip Al-Arabie Al-Islamie, Makamus Sar-Ih, Magpatulahad Basilan, Kalukbanan Kasambuhan Organization, CBCS Basilan, Save the Children, MSSD Basilan, Ministry of Health, Basilan School Division, Office of MP Faiz S. Alauddin, Yakan City Committee MILF, Hafizul Qur-an, Addirasatul Islamia CSO, Madrasah Jehra and BWIF.

On July 1, 2021, our fifth consultation held at Notre Dame of Jolo College Compound Main Campus, Gandasuli Road, Jolo, Sulu. Eighteen (18) participants came from different offices and Organizations that were able to attend such as Sulu State College, Notre Dame of Jolo College, Mahad Mandangan Academic, Madrasa Tarbiya, SUCPD, Matawakasi Inc., TSS CBCS, MSSD, MBHTE, IPHO-Sulu, Bangsamoro Women Office, and MILG, and BYC.

Some of the major issues and concerns that were raised from these consultations is that there was no concrete data about orphans in the region; there are also challenges with respect to the subpar standard of centers (Toril/Madrassa Institutions); limited financial support and assistance to the orphans, including home-based, center-based, and displaced orphans; lack of access to education and health services; lack of support and supervision among the orphans in the home-based and center-based institutions (Toril learning schools and Madrasah); vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization; and Issues on Security and Justice, Prone to Abuse.

Some of the recommendations and suggestions that were highlighted from these consultations, including the research study *“Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao”* that was supported by the Asia Foundation:



### *Data Monitoring*

Establish and build a comprehensive database and monitoring system for orphans, including home-based, center-based, and displaced orphans. This system is necessary for the smooth implementation of responsive and effective programs catered to orphans. There should be collaboration among the BLGUs, LGUs, the MSSD, and the Regional Government (Bangsamoro Government);



### *Government Services*

Declaration of orphans as wards of the state and allowing them to enjoy free government services such as shelter, subsistence, education (such as scholarships from the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education), livelihood support and health services. They may be given IDs along with widows, similar to those given to Senior Citizens, so that they can avail of discounts and benefits;



### *Support Programs*

Design a holistic and inclusive comprehensive support program for both widows and orphans.



## ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The following should be considered:



### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT



#### FOOD AND NUTRITION

Food security: Orphan children should have sufficient food to sustain an active and healthy life at all times.

Nutrition and growth: Orphan children should be monitored if they are growing well.



#### SHELTER AND CARE

Shelter: The child should have shelter that is adequate, sustainable, and safe both in home –based and center – based institutions.

Care: The child has at least one adult/guardian who provides consistent love and support.



#### SAFETY AND PROTECTION

1. Protection from abuse and exploitation: The child is safe from any abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
2. Safe from recruitment and radicalization.
3. Legal protection: The child has access to legal protection services as needed.



#### HEALTH SERVICES AND WELLNESS

1. The child should be monitored and has free access to health services.



#### PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

1. Emotional health: The child is happy and content and has a generally positive attitude.
2. Social interaction: The child is cooperative and enjoys participating in activities with other children and adults



#### EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

1. Provide scholarships and education packages support such as allowances for orphans both in home –based and center –based institutions.
2. Balanced curriculum to be taught in Torils and for such institutions to be provided with livelihood training by TESDA.



#### LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS TRAINING

1. Provide capital seeds for business enterprise or job opportunities for widows/guardians to improve living conditions of home-based orphans.



Recommending the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) to pass a law creating and institutionalizing *Zakat* within the Bangsamoro territories created pursuant to the Bangsamoro Organic Law. This includes the possible creation of a *Baytal Mal* (House of Wealth), which is a public institution responsible for the collection and implementation of the *Zakat* system among Muslims;



The Bangsamoro Government is also recommended to create Islamic instruments, such as endowment (*Waqf*) to receive gifts and donation for orphans, and to strengthen Islamic Finance in the region;



To conduct a research book related to orphan protection;



To educate parent/guardians in the teachings of Islam by conducting symposia, conferences, seminars on Child and Orphan protection and consultations in collaboration with the Ulama, Traditional leaders, LGUs, and other institutions;



Provide support and assist in accreditation to the existing orphanages or center –based such as Markadz, Toril, and Madaris;



The BLGU IRA should have an allocation in their budget for the orphans and orphanages in their own respective communities;



The Bangsamoro Government should provide support, financial or administrative, to accredited organizations or institutions whose principal function are assisting, taking care of, and supervising the well-being of young orphans;



Establishment of optional alternative housing (permanent or temporary) for orphans which are gender-sensitive. Considering the context of the Bangsamoro region, there should be institutions which cater specifically to female orphans managed solely by women;



For neglected and abandoned children, there should be a ruling from Shari'ah Courts determining their status as neglected or abandoned so that despite both parents living, since they can no longer be supported by their parents, they may be considered as orphans and be able to avail the benefits of programs for orphans.



There is also a proposal in each barangay to have Barangay Social Worker that is also focused on the data gathering for orphans, etc., and to oversee the status quo of the orphan, and vulnerable children in barangay.

As a Muslim, it is our duty to protect others from any kind of harm and help those who are in need such as orphans. Islam has laid great importance on helping the needy and has few reminders regarding the reward for helping orphans.

As per the Hadith of the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) mentioned in Saheeh Al-Bukhari:

*"I and the caretaker of the Orphan will enter Paradise together like this, (raising his forefinger and middle finger jointly, leaving no space in between.)"*

## CHILDREN OF WAR: A RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF ORPHANS IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

This study was one of the references used in crafting of the bill "Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020".

This is supported by The Asia Foundation and The Australian Aid. The executive summary of the study is as follows (reference: <https://bit.ly/Children of War Study>):

"This report summarizes findings from a rapid assessment of the status of orphans—called in the vernacular as *يتمى/yatim* (Arabic) or *ماتيلأ/al-aytām* (Arabic), *i'lu* (Tausug), *ilo* (Bisaya, Mranaw, Maguindanaon), or *ulila* (Tagalog)—who have lost at least one parent from the wars in Mindanao in the last decade (2009-2019).

Many are children of *shaheed*, or martyrs in the service of the Moro revolutionary fronts, but the study also covers civilians who were killed in skirmishes and other major incidents such as the Marawi crisis.

Primary data collection was conducted from April to September 2019.

A total of 273 respondents were interviewed across 34 municipalities in seven (7) provinces, focusing on three broad catchment areas in the Bangsamoro region: Central Mindanao (Maguindanao and North Cotabato), the island provinces (Basilan and Sulu), and Ranaw region (Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, and spillover areas in Northern Mindanao).

Due to the cultural definition of orphan-hood that is defined on the passing of the father, data was also collected on the plight of war widows.

The study also covers case studies on the orphans of Marawi's missing and disappeared such as the 2000 All-Out War, 2015 Mamasapano crisis, 2013 Zamboanga Siege, orphan sub-cells of the Abu Sayyaf Group, as well as selected best practices.

Given time and resource limitations, the study does not claim statistical representation; instead, this is a rapid assessment of the experiences and needs of orphans as a precursor to a larger and more systematic profiling and programming process.

## MAJOR FINDINGS



### NO OFFICIAL FIGURES



- There are no official figures on the number of orphans affected by the wars in Mindanao. This reflects the general lack of service facilities for abandoned, neglected, and orphaned children in the Philippines, particularly those in the Bangsamoro. An unofficial database held by the MILF's Social Welfare Committee (SWC) reportedly has a list of 8,182 orphans covering 26 out of 47 revolutionary 'provinces' as of April 2019, while the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) is working on a partial list with just over 500 widows and a similar number of orphans as of January 2020. MNLF records largely cover only elite fighters (e.g. Top 90 and Top 300).
- *Orphans are broadly defined as children who have lost at least one parent, particularly the father.* Many are children of *shaheed*, but this study also covers the orphans of civilians killed in other major violent events. Orphans can be defined by type of parent lost, age, type of dwelling, and type of incident in which their parent was lost. Due to the cyclical nature of conflict in the Bangsamoro, *shaheed status* is often defined by communities not only as a result of death in combat but also as a result of displacement.

### LIMITED SUPPORT



- When possible, orphans are supported by the family network. Support institutions (both home-based and in-center) also exist to provide assistance, often in the form of sadaqah (voluntary giving or charity) or zakat (tithing). However, most respondents only receive support from extended family members or support institutions for the first year; after two or three years, this support declines.

### NO DSWD-ACCREDITED ORPHANAGES OR SHELTERS



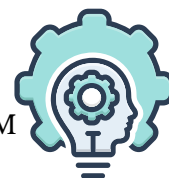
- There are no DSWD-accredited orphanages or shelters in the Bangsamoro. Instead, many Muslim orphans processed by DSWD in Mindanao are often sent to orphanages in Manila. Other private charitable organizations focused on children and orphans from the BARMM have arisen in areas with a sizeable Muslim diaspora, such as Maharlika Village in Taguig, Culiati in Quezon City, Quiapo, Manila, and Baguio City. These are used as educational hubs not only by ethnic Bangsamoro, but also by Balik-Islam, or reverts to Islam.

### NO DEDICATED NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR WAR ORPHANS



- Despite the extensive legal framework on children, there are no dedicated national programs for war orphans in the Philippines. Notable exceptions are programs of the AFP and PNP that serve widows and orphans of fallen soldiers and servicemen under *Republic Act No. 6963 s. 1990*. Selected P/CVE programs (specifically in Basilan) are looking at support for orphans who are former child soldiers, but these are still at a pilot stage.

### COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT PROGRAM



- Education is a primary need, incentive, and goal for most respondents, alongside access to jobs. However, respondents identified at least five common needs and aspirations of orphans that should be addressed by a comprehensive support program: (i) *Physical safety and security*; (ii) *Socioeconomic needs*; (iii) *Educational needs*; (iv) *Emotional and spiritual needs*, and (v) *Access to justice*.

- Service provision is complicated by ongoing conflict and displacement, *rido* (family feud), and economic uncertainty. Even for those who are put in a *markadz* (center), intermittent funding may result in orphans being sent away again, if the center runs out of money for food. Limited cases of bullying and maltreatment were also identified.
- In the absence of ample support, faith is a common coping mechanism amongst orphans. Many orphans also have a strong desire to uphold the name and legacy of their fathers as *shaheed*.
- Respondents across the region noted that being unattended, ignored, and unloved leaves orphans vulnerable to radicalization and co-option by violent extremist groups. There is a fine line between the kinds of motivations that may draw orphans to 'legitimate' non-state armed groups such as the MNLF and MILF and those that lead to recruitment by 'black flag'-inspired violent extremist groups. Without proper assessment and processing of their emotions, orphans may grow up believing resolving issues through violence is normal. Exposure to broader environments may help children."

There was a barangay chairperson who had attended the consultation and gave his perspective from the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU). According to him, the collection of data from the BLGU was only for a short term. When it came to programs, the system is that slots are given to the barangay. Hence, there was no data gathered or if gathered, the data would be inaccurate. Thus, there was a recommendation for data gathering to be done by the MSSD in partnership with the BLGU by going house-to-house in order to develop an accurate and comprehensive baseline database of orphans per region.

**Re-abuse:** According to some representatives of NGOs, orphans also experience physical abuse, sexual abuse, and financial abuse. Orphans may be pressured into early or forced marriages. Orphans also experience being subjected to forced labor which takes them away from their classrooms thereby affecting their education.

Orphans in the BARMM may be categorized into three depending on where they reside: there are home-based orphans who stay with their closest relatives, center-based orphans who stay in institutions which act as orphanages like *torils*, and displaced orphans with no fixed residence.

There is a need for stringent regulation of institutions which act as orphanages in order to prevent abuses. Also, there is a need for strict monitoring of home-based orphans to ensure that they are not suffering any abuse in their homes. Finally, there is a need to identify displaced orphans and to place them in regulated orphanages, or reunite them with their closest relatives, and provide them with necessary support.

**Re-standard of Facilities, Torils, and Education:** Participants shared the disheartening situation of institutions which act as orphanages in the BARMM. Often private institutions or madrasahs act as orphanages. However, since there was no regulation, a lack of funding has caused such institutions to fall into disrepair. Many institutions housing orphans (center-based orphans) do not have working restrooms.

## STAKEHOLDERS VIEWS



### A. ISSUES, STATUS, GAPS, AND CHALLENGES OF ORPHANS

**Re-data Gathering and Monitoring:** There is no uniform database for orphanages in BARMM. According to the representatives from MSSD, they have programs such as cash assistance and counselling for orphans. According to a representative from MSSD, there are some conflict between the MSSD and local government units such as the barangays since they had previously experienced harassment and threats. Thus, they believe they cannot rely on the data provided by the barangay chairman.



They do not have proper beds, so orphans would be forced to sleep on the cold floor with just a straw mat. Despite the fact that administrators of such institutions endeavor to feed their orphans three times a day. However, in most cases these provisions are insufficient due to lack of funding thereby affecting the health of orphans. Many orphans suffer malnutrition and are stunted. The participants compared the situations of institutions in the BARMM compared to orphanages for Christians or outside the BARMM which are better off.

Lack of Financial Support to Home-based, Center-based, and displaced orphans:

The primary problem is financial support for maintenance of the orphanage/center (infrastructure and facilities), necessities of orphans (food, safe drinking water, etc.), allowance for orphans, and salary for administrators/teachers. There are challenges also that no concrete data in center-based institutions such as *torils* and *madrasa* in the region, no proper monitoring and evaluation, and lack of manual of operation.

Thus, there is also a recommendation of the appropriate ministry/offices to oversee the center-based institutions such as *torils/madrasa*. It was also recommended to include orphans in the Gender and Development Code, the passage of Children's Code, Inclusion of Orphans in BTA Bill No. 23 (IDPs), and tailoring the needs according to the UNCRC for Orphaned Children.

The participants strongly recommended for regulation and institutionalized support. Some participants shared observations about how there were some institutions who would present themselves as Madrasahs and Torils and ask for donations and yet there was no improvement in the facilities.

There were also some who presented themselves as torils, yet there were no qualified teachers; there were none of them who memorized the Qur'an and/or the institutions had not produced anyone who had memorized the Qur'an. The participants seek for regulation to prevent such exploitation.

In relation to torils and education, administrators from such torils seek training from the BARMM government on how to best manage their institutions. They seek administrative training, as well as psycho-social help and counselling for the orphans under their care. In terms of education, the participants were in favor of a more balanced education curriculum for orphans staying in toril. Among their observations is that often the financial support given to orphans (from local and overseas sources) end once the orphan turns eighteen (18). Hence, by that age, orphans should already have the skills to pursue further education or seek work. Although torils have produced many religious teachers who were orphans, they worry about the number orphans who do not know English, or other livelihood skills. Thus, the recommend for a balanced curriculum to be taught in torils and for such institutions to be provided with livelihood training by TESDA.

## B. PROGRAMS BY THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT

At the outset, there has to be a definition in the law on what is meant by orphans from an Islamic perspective or within the Bangsamoro context. There is a need to harmonize the different definitions of orphans because the definition shall be the parameter for gathering baseline data on orphans within the BARMM. The following are recommendations by the participants on the actions the Bangsamoro Government should take with respect to orphans within the region:

- Declaration of orphans as wards of the state and allowing them to enjoy free government services such as shelter, subsistence, education (such as scholarships from the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education), livelihood support and health services. They may be given IDs along with widows, similar to those given to Senior Citizens, so that they can avail of discounts and benefits.

### C. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGE ACT 2020 (BTA BILL 71)

- Establishment of optional alternative housing (permanent or temporary) for orphans which are gender-sensitive. Considering the context of the Bangsamoro region, there should be institutions which cater specifically to female orphans managed solely by women. Some participants recommended the Dream House model being implemented in Bangladesh where all of the needs of orphans can already be satisfied: physical, educational, psycho-social, community development, among others.

- Monitoring the welfare of orphans at the care of their guardians (home-based orphans) to protect them from abuse, neglect and violence such as slavery, child labor, trafficking, early marriage, harassment and sexual violence. For home-based orphans, regular sustenance for their support can be given to the families who are taking care of them.

- For neglected and abandoned children, there should be a ruling from Shari'ah Courts determining their status as neglected or abandoned so that despite both parents living, since they can no longer be supported by their parents, they may be considered as orphans and be able to avail the benefits of programs for orphans.

- Institutionalizing or reviving the zakah (religious obligatory tax; one of the five pillars of Islam) system. Muslims would have the obligation to pay such tax and the proceedings would be devoted solely for Islamic purposes such as the support of Madrasahs and Orphanages and/or Torils or their counterparts, which are often failed to be supported by the government due to the prohibition of the use of public funds for religious purposes.

- Directing the appropriate ministries to assist in the accreditation process for the center-based institutions such as Torils and Madrasa.

The participants were largely in favor of the proposed *Bangsamoro Orphanage Act*, saying that it was already time for such an act to be passed. The recommendations of the participants were that there should be an institutionalized regulatory and monitoring system in place which involved the government in multiple levels, from the local government unit until the regional Bangsamoro Government, so that programs for orphans at all levels can be institutionalized. For example, according to the Provincial Social Welfare Development Officer of Lanao del Sur, the Provincial Government does not have regular programs for orphans.

Apart from the MSSD, the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE), Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG), Technical Education, Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) should also be actively involved in this framework in order to address the educational and livelihood needs of orphans. The MILG can mandate the monitoring of the standards of orphanages by each LGU.

A recommendation from the MILG Assistant Provincial Director of Lanao del Sur can be seriously considered. Although under the Local Government Code, 1% of the budget of LGUs should be devoted to socio-economic programs, such percentage can be raised, and similar to the 5% GAD budget, perhaps a 5% budget for orphanages can be legislated. Such budget would be devoted solely for programs for orphans and supporting orphanages or institutions which act as orphanages within each particular LGU.



## NEXT STEPS/ WAYS FORWARD

The recommendations were already included in the body of the report and were based on the sentiments of the participants.

As of now, the Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020 is up for its second reading. Hereinafter, it shall be referred to the appropriate committees. There is a need to pass the Bangsamoro Orphanage Act in order for it to become a law.

With respect to *torils* or indigenous boarding schools, it is strongly recommended that this system of education is regulated and supported, and the first step in doing so would be to include them in the proposed Bangsamoro Education Code. If the Bangsamoro Government undertakes the responsibility of regulating and overseeing these institutions, and providing them the support they need whether through capacity-building, curriculum development, financial support, or administrative training, these institutions would no longer be vulnerable to be used as recruitment grounds for vulnerable youth, especially vulnerable orphans who have no parents who would otherwise guide them to a better path.

## CONCLUSION



Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself was an orphan. Thus, the *Qur'an* and *Shari'ah* mandates the protection of orphans. The orphans' rights include the physical aspect, intellectual aspect, and spiritual aspect. The Bangsamoro Government should be the instrument by which orphans' rights are affirmed, respected, protected, and promoted following the spirit of Moral Governance. Children are among the most vulnerable of our society, and following the principle of *parens patriae*, it is the State, or in this case the Bangsamoro Government which has the power and responsibility to act as the legal guardian for people who are unable to care for themselves – including our orphans, neglected and abandoned children.



*"One of the main priorities of our office is our orphans; many initiatives have been taken such as Siyap Ko Wata-Ilo outreach program in home-based and center-based institution within and outside the region, and others. But we believe that through participative and informative consultations like these, we can improve our services, and seeks to address the concerns of the orphans in giving them more equitable solutions, programs and improve opportunities for them."*  
MP Maisara said.

# FIRST CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS LANAO DEL SUR

The Consultation started with the discussions by the two (2) invited speakers: Dr. Aleem Anwar Radiamoda, Sh.L who discussed *"Understanding Orphans and their Legal Rights in Islam"*, and Prof. Tirmizy Abdullah, PhD who discussed *"A Rapid Needs Assessment of the Orphans in Muslim Mindanao"*.

During the consultation proper, invited stakeholders and partners coming from various organizations, institutions, offices, madrasa, torils, and schools shared their insights about the issues, problems, gaps and challenges of orphans in our community, and gave their suggestions, recommendations, and solutions to the BARMM Government.

During the session, proposed BTA-Parliament Bill No. 71 or the *Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020* filed by our office, was also introduced. Suggestions and recommendations were gathered from our invited stakeholders to improve the bill.



From Right to Left: Dr. Laarnie Racman, MP Maisara Latiph, Atty. Alexine Bangcola, and Atty. Abduljabbar Guro.



The Office's Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, gave the overview of the Program

As MP Maisara stated during her welcome address, "One of the main priorities of our Office is our orphans. Many initiatives have been taken such as our Siyap Ko Wata-Ilo outreach program in home-based and center-based institutions within and outside the region, and others. But we believe that through participative and informative consultations like this, we can improve our services, seek to address the concerns of the orphans in giving them more equitable solutions and programs, and improve opportunities for them."



# SECOND CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

## MAGUINDANAO



Participants of this consultation are from Markadj Nor, Markadj Badria, Markadj Abdul Rahman, Markadj Al-Arradz, Markadj Al-Qaadie, Darol Gale, Markadj Monera, Madrasah Barakah, Save the Children, Bangsamoro Emergency Action Team (BEAT), Kutawato City Arabic Students Association (KCASA), United Muslim Youth Organisation (UMYO), MBHTE, BWC, MSSD, STI Cotabato, and Office of MP Bainon



*The Senior Program Officer of The Asia Foundation, Mrs. Noraida S. Chio, gave her message of support of the Care for Orphans Public Consultations all over the region.*



*The Office's Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, discussed the summary of the 1st care for Orphans Consultations in Lanao.*



# THIRD CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

## TAWI-TAWI

This was attended by 27 number of participants coming from different government offices/ministries, institutions/madrasa, religious and academe sector, CSOs/Non-government organization, and other concerned community leaders.

Among the Offices/Organizations that were present: Notre Dame of Bongao, Mahardika Institute of Technology, Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College, PAO, Office of Provincial Mufti, MAJLIS, Qudwatun Nisail Muslimat, Sali Nudjang Foundation, Inc., Mahad Dar Al-Asar, Inc., Mahad Tawi-Tawi Al-Arabie Al-Islamie, TFLF/Child Fund Philippines, AMBUH-INAH, Tawi-Tawi Provincial Women Council, PSWO, PLGU GAD Tawi-Tawi, MBHTE-BARMM Tawi-Tawi Division, Office of MILG Provincial Director, BCW-BARMM, MSU-TCTO, and Office of Provincial Administrator Tawi-Tawi.

This consultation aimed to know more about issues, problems, gaps and challenges and for them to suggest any recommendations/solutions to the BARMM government. This was also in support to the *BTA Parliament Bill No. 71*, or the *Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020*, and to gather any inputs, suggestions, and amendments to improve the Bill.

The consultation involved the discussion about "*Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao*" that was presented by Sir Hadzer Birowa, Children of War Study Researcher.

BTA Parliament Bill No. 71 or the *Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020* was also presented by Atty. Alexine Bangcola, Legal Researcher of MP Atty. Maisara Latiph.



The last part of the session was the signing of the partners and stakeholders in the "**MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGE ACT 2020**".

# FOURTH CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

## BASILAN



Nineteen (19) attendees were able to participate in the said consultation. These attendees represented different Organizations/Institutions, and Offices/Ministries such as: Basilan State College, Office of MP Hatimil Hasan, Lamitan City Madaris, Ulama Supreme Council, Mahad Sumisip Al-Arabie Al-Islamie, Makamus Sar-Ih, Magpatulahad Basilan, Kalukbanan Kasambuhan Organization, CBCS Basilan, Save the Children, MSSD Basilan, Ministry of Health, Basilan School Division, Office of MP Faiz S. Alauddin, Yakan City Committee MILF, Hafizul Qur-an, Addirasatul Islamia CSO, Madrasah Jehra and BWIF.

The consultation incorporated two (2) discussions. The first discussion was about *"Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao"* that was presented by Sir Hadzer Birowa, Children of War Study Researcher. The second discussion was about *BTA Parliament Bill No. 71 or the Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020* which was presented by Atty. Alexine Bangcola, Legal Researcher of MP Atty. Maisara Latiph.

And the last part of the session was the signing of the partners and the stakeholders in the *"MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT IN THE BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGE ACT 2020"*.

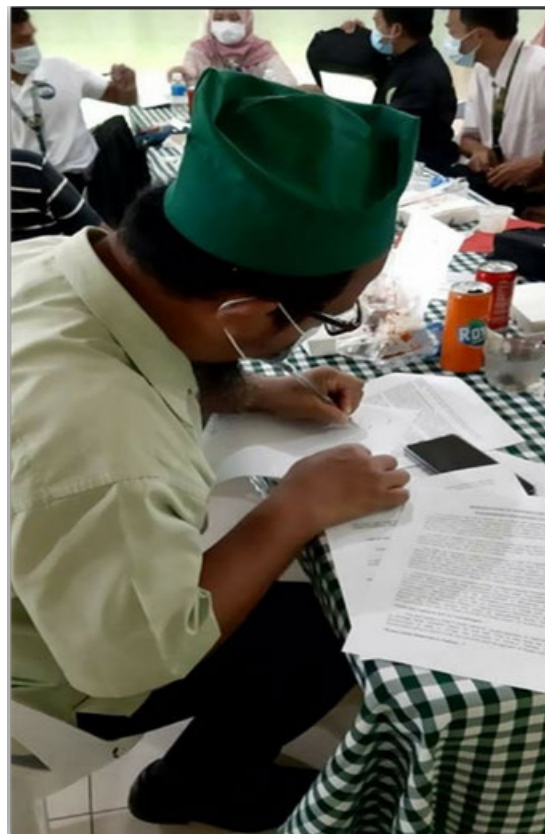


# FIFTH CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

## SULU



Participants are from different office and organizations such as Sulu State College, Notre Dame of Jolo College, Mahad Mandangan Academic, Madrasa Tarbiya, SUCPD, Matawaksi Inc., TSS CBCS, MSSD, MBHTE, IPHO-Sulu, Bangsamoro Women Office, and MILG, and BYC.



# **IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS**

# “SHAPING CHILDREN’S NEW NORMAL TOGETHER”

## A WEBINAR FOR CHILDREN’S MONTH 2020

### OBJECTIVE

The COVID-19 Pandemic can be stressful for both parents and children. Hence, it is very important to parents and caregivers of a child to know more tips and ways to support their children and provide them a guidance to promote the well-being of our children during Covid-19 Pandemic.

### DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:

November 20, 2020 (International and National Children’s Day)



# “FREE MALNUTRITALK”



**WEBINAR ON**  
**FREE MALNUTRITALK** *For Bangsamoro Children*  
 Theme: “MALNUTRISYON PATULOY NA LABANAN, FIRST 1000 DAYS TUTUKAN!”

**SPEAKERS:**

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

**NUTRITION IN THE FIRST 1000 DAYS OF LIFE**  
**KARNA KAMLON-IGASAN, MD, FPCP, DPBCN**  
 Head, Nutrition Care Team  
 Consultant, Residency Training Program in Internal  
 Medicine, Zamboanga City Medical Center

**HYDRATION IN PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:  
 CLINICAL APPROACH TO COMMON TROUBLES**  
**DR. NAHEEDA D. MUSTOFA, MD, FPCP, DPBCN**  
 Head, Islamic Studies Call and Guidance  
 Clinic and Clinical Nutrition Center

**LIVE** **zoom**  
**July 27, 2021 | 1:00-3:00 PM**

[mpmaisara@gmail.com](mailto:mpmaisara@gmail.com) [mpmaisara.com](http://mpmaisara.com) [@mpmaisara](https://twitter.com/mpmaisara) **EMPOWERING VOICES**

## OBJECTIVE

The 2021 Nutrition Month theme: “MALNUTRISYON PATULOY NA LABANAN, FIRST 1000 DAYS TUTUKAN!” calls for continued efforts to address malnutrition in the country, and to focus efforts on the First 1000 Days of life as the strategic intervention to prevent stunting and obesity for children.

This webinar brought to you by the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph entitled “Free MalNutriTALK” in partnership with Pocari Sweat PH, shall increase awareness among families and individuals on coping and resiliency strategies to prevent malnutrition status in the Bangsamoro Children especially when it comes to emergencies, and our current situation such as Pandemic.

# CARE FOR ORPHANS MOVEMENT

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) represent a significant population worldwide, enduring poor health and living conditions. However, the aim of the CARE FOR ORPHANS MOVEMENT initiated by the OFFICE OF MP MAISARA DANDAMUN-LATIPH is to support the salient features of the Magna Carta Act of Children in BARMM especially for our orphans that address the following issues about the protection, survival and development and participation of our children in our society.



CARE FOR ORPHANS MOVEMENT went to DARUL AITAM in Baloi, Lanao Del Norte on 24th day of November 2019 and has gathered 60 orphans ranging from 6-14 years old. This movement did not only aim to reach out in giving specific items but to capture the current situations of the orphans and to identify key topics to serve as our guide to consider in drafting bills that shall address mostly the concerns of the orphans and seeks in giving them equitable solutions, programs and improve services and opportunities for them.

The first session during the event was the Basic Health Program that aimed to raise awareness on the importance of health to help prevent diseases and small discussions related about the survival and development of our children that was discussed by Ms. Farzana T. Yusoph, RN.



The Basic Health Program consists of the 360-degree discussions of the overall healthiness and wellness about Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Social. But it focuses on the Basic physical health of the children and the proper growing for a mental healthiness.





The second session has involved mind and physical activity that gave opportunity for children to paint pictures which spoke thousands of words. Their major needs involve the convenience of their house and their physiological needs such as food, shelter, dress and furniture like cabinet, bed and facilities for their schooling.

*“Nagpapasalamat po kami sa inyong lahat dahil po sainyo, nabigyan po kami ng bagong pag-asa sa aming pamumuhay at na-inspire po kami na pagbutihin lalo ang aming pag-aaral (pag Hafidh) at sana po ipag-patuloy ninyo ang mga ganitong programa”* said by Mohammad Aliponto of Darul Aitam.



The Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, gave her overview and orientation of the Program “Care for Orphans”



CARE FOR ORPHANS MOVEMENT is through our mission to create a nurturing and caring environment for the orphans/vulnerable children and to empower them to live a life for a better tomorrow.

Let us help one another for our children in creating for a better future!



# CARE FOR ORPHANS' COVID-19 TABANG PROGRAM

## OBJECTIVE

To provide rice assistance and relief goods to the vulnerable orphans/ *morit* (students) in different Madrasa/Toril (Islamic orphanage) within Lanao del sur who are financially challenged and needed support amidst the challenges of COVID-19 crisis.

## METHODOLOGY

On April 7, 2020 when President Rodrigo Duterte extended the “Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ)” or lockdown for the entire Luzon until April 30 from its original date which was April 12, the province of Lanao Del Sur and Marawi City had also announced the extension of ECQ to April 30 as a precaution to prevent the spread of the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). This was due to the recommendation of the IATF (Inter-agency task force) in combating the COVID-19 and in few weeks ago,

Provincial Governor Hon. Bombit Alonto Adiong stated that many did not want the further extension of the lockdown because of the observance of Ramadhan. However, an extension was needed to prevent the number of PUIs from rising again.

While many were being affected by the said crisis especially during the observance of the noble month of Ramadhan, the vulnerable sectors such as orphans in *toril* (Islamic Orphanage) and to the stranded students/*morits* (Arabic Learners) were more challenged while observing the implementation of ECQ that they struggled to their everyday means.

In response to this, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph provided Ramadhan Package of goods (which include but are not limited to sacks of rice, groceries, boxes of canned goods/noodles, fresh fish and vegetables/spices) that were distributed on each targeted ten (10) *madrasa/toril* in the Municipality of Saguieran, Binidayan, Marantao and Marawi City, including the stranded students/*morits* (Arabic learners) coming from different places who were stuck in Poona Marantao, Marawi City. Some of them were referred by the netizens and the community Leaders/volunteers that they need immediate help during this crisis.

“COVID-19 Tabang Program” is one of the programs that the office implemented in view of the COVID-19 crisis.



## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

NAME OF MADRASA/TORIL	ADDRESS	NO. OF ORPHANS (MORIT)	DATE
MARKAZUN NUR LITAHFIDHEL QUR'AN AL-KAREEM	Poblacion, Saguwaran LDS	47 morit	April 21, 2020
MARKAZ ABUL QASIM LITAHFIDHIL QUR'AN AL-KAREEM	Mipaga, Marawi LDS	Due to CoVID-19, 9 morits only stayed in place	April 21, 2020
MADRASA ARABIA ABU BAKR	Masjid Abubakr Markaz, Basak Malutlut, Marawi City	160 morit but due to CoVID-19 only 10 morits stayed in place	April 22, 2020
MA'HAD AL-AMAL LITA'LIM AL-QUR'ANI WA ASSONNAH, INC.	Cadayonan II, Marawi City	50 orphans	April 22, 2020
MA'AHAD AL-KUWAIT COMPOUND	Poona Marantao, Marawi City	30 morits and 15 ustadh	April 22, 2020
SAKSI TAHFIDIL QUR'AN & ORPHAN LEARNING CENTER	Cadayonan II, Marawi City	A total of 257 orphans but due to COVID19. some of them returned home and it decreased to 35 orphans as of now.	April 22, 2020
DARUUL ULOOM AL ARABIYYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH	Basak Malutlut, Marawi City	40 morits	April 22, 2020
MADRASA MAROHUM QADHI AL-ISLAMIE	Maul Marantao	99 (51 boys & 48 girls) orphans	April 22, 2020
DARUL AFNAN	Binidayan, LDS	50 morits	April 23, 2020
DARUNUR AND DARUNUR FIKR	Binidayan, LDS	50 morits	April 23, 2020

Some of the said stranded Morits (Arabic learners) were from the Municipality of SND(Sultan Naga Dimaporo), Malabang, Tubaran and Marogong who were students in the Ma'ahad Al-Kuwait, Poona Marantao, Marawi City and most of them were financially constrained because their family could not provide them support.



*"In just a week that our exam will finish but due to this lockdown, we could go home and we didn't expect this extension of "ECQ." said by Mr. Jamael Mutingan (one of the stranded students).*



Photo of some of the staffs of MP Maisara and the Head of Toril at Saksi Litahfidhil Qur'an, Brgy Cadayunan, Marawi City

# SIYAP KO MGA TORIL

## OBJECTIVE:

“SIYAP KO MGA TORIL” is also one of the priorities of the office, with various partnerships, we will be able to reach out more *Toril* in different municipalities in the region, and to gather data from our “*kamustuhan session*” in aid of legislation. On December 17, 2019, we had our TURN-OVER CEREMONY in Darul-Aitam, Baloi, Lanao del Norte to some of the needed facilities, supplies and tools in their *toril*.

## PHOTOS OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION



Photos of the morit children in Darul Aitam in Bal0-I Lanao del norte

On December 18, 2019-a turn-over ceremony of the needed facilities such as chairs, tables, white board, electric fan, emergency lights, speaker with microphone at Madrasa Maruhom Qadhi Al-Islamie in Marantao, Lanao del sur and at Madrasa Al-Hanounah from Tugaya, Lanao del sur was undertaken.





During the turn-over of the needed facilities in Madrasa Hanouna in Tugaya, Lanao del sur

## IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

The turn-over ceremony of the needed facilities, materials, and tools for the selected vulnerable *toril* and *madrassa* have long term impact on the orphans and morit. The facilities were used as for the comfort of the learners in their institution and for the common good and general welfare of the Arabic students.

This program is in aid of legislation.

## KAMUSTUHAN SESSION WITH THE ORPHANS KIDS



The Office of MP Maisara also visited some of the vulnerable orphans in different areas in Lanao. One of the objectives of the visitation was to gather inputs in aid of legislation.



*"Sa mga nakaraang buwan, naisali si Hassanor sa isang patimpalak ng Short Film Festival ng opisina ni MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun – Latiph. Dahil sa patimpalak na iyon, nabigyang pansin ng nasabing opisina ang kalagayan ng bata. Nung Nobyembre 12, 2020, bumisita ang mga staff ni MP Maisara sa aming bahay para kumustahin ang kalagayan ni Hassanor. Isa sa napag-usapan namin ay ang pagpapa-check-up sa mata ni Hassanor kung saan ang opisina nila ay magbibigay ng assistance sa pang check-up ng kanyang mata."* -Grandmother of Hassanor.



A photo is Hasanor being checked by an ophthalmologist, one of the medical services of the office of MP Maisara.

# ORFUND YES TO SE PROGRAM

Social Enterprises are businesses with primarily social or environmental objectives.

Social enterprises are more likely to innovate and experiment. They are typically designed to fill the gap in existing services that cannot be provided by the public or private sectors.

Among the large number of individuals chasing financial freedom, there is growing minority of social entrepreneurs who are focused on solving some of the world's biggest problems.

Utilizing the latest technologies and innovations, they are driven to create an impact that will improve our lives and environment. Making money is not enough for them. They want to add meaningful value to our society.

**Problem:** The Philippines needs numerous social entrepreneurs with innovative solutions to the society's most pressing social problems in the areas such as lack of livelihood, social and environmental issues, and the calamity and challenges that Filipinos are encountering right now.

Funding is by far the biggest challenge for the social enterprises. Literature identified that most social enterprises failed to secure start-up capital.

Given that most of the social entrepreneurs are individual entities, it is therefore difficult to accumulate enough funds at the beginning.

**Proposed Solution:** Under the umbrella of YES 2 SE Program is the ORFUND YES 2 SE and YES 2 SE Summit. Social enterprises fulfill a pressing desire to work with purpose and align people's efforts with their values.

- Promote more social enterprise in the region, and to advertise and support their local products in the market;
- Train more young people to engage in social enterprise;
- Give seed grant to our trainees, and to young individuals/groups for them to start-up in a business;
- Summon young entrepreneurs and promote their products/services in lieu in the market.

## **20 YOUTH ORPHANS UNDERGONE TRAINING ON BASIC ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ENTERPRISE**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Twenty (20) youth orphans from Lanao del Sur and Marawi City participated in the two-day training program conducted by the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism (MTIT) and Save the Children dubbed as ORFUND YES TO SE PROGRAM-Basic Entrepreneurial Skills Training and Sustainable Livelihood Enterprise.

The Program aims to promote more Social Enterprise in the region, capacitate and train more young people in social enterprise; and will give start-up capital to the trainees for their business proposals.



The training sessions include the discussions on Starting a Business, SWOT analysis, Business Licensing, Business Plan Overview with aligned workshops, Organization and Management, Marketing Aspect and Promotion, Production Management, Pricing and Costing, Financial Management, and Business Model Canvass.

Each participant received a total of P15,000 cash from the partner, Save the Children, as their supplements for their start-up capital of their Business Social Enterprise.

In her video message, MP Maisara said that "Our office is committed to invest in people empowerment, clean environment, and long-lasting peace in BARM.".

"We are committed to provide different capacity building for the benefit of our constituents and in making a socially responsible business. " She added.

## PHOTOS OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION



The Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, gave the overview of the Program



During the Message of support from the representative of Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism (MTIT)



Message of support from the Head of Office Save the Children-Iligan, Sir Mykiel Patcho



Participants were able to identify issues, concerns, and challenges in their society, and its recommended solutions. Their proposed businesses are aligned to create an impact that will improve lives and add meaningful value to our society



Walida, one of the participants said, "So katawi ami ko Business na tanto ko myakaito ito ogaidd na ALHAMDULILLAH ka myaadn gya a program sa myaka kowatawn sa mala n'dao agu mga pipiya a tips/strategy."

(Our knowledge on business is too little but All praises to Allah because of this program I have learned so many good tips/strategies.)



Photos of giving Tokens and Certificates of Appreciation to the partners, Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism (MTIT) and Save the Children.

# B-BATA BATANG-BANGSAMORO ADVOCATES TAGUMPAY AWARD 2021




**B-BATA 2021** is an advocacy-based video campaign production for children which shall feature, showcase, and inspire others the need to promote children's rights and recognize the working initiatives/advocacy of individuals/organization in Lanao in advocating Children's rights and welfare relevant to the Children's Month Theme 2021.

**GUIDELINES/MECHANICS**

- Video Entry must not be less than three minutes and should not go beyond 7 minutes;
- Video Entry must be relevant to the Children Month's theme 2021: "New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Atang Tutukan";
- This is open to individuals/organizations in Lanao, and Marawi City;
- Entry that uses either Filipino/Maranaw Language must include English subtitles;
- The video should highlight and showcase the need to promote the children's rights by working together, and the working initiatives/advocacy (programs, activities, seminars/workshops, enterprise, etc.) of the individual proponent/organization in advocating for children's rights and welfare;
- Entry should be children sensitive, it does not feature the children's inappropriate situation, it does not violate children's rights, or manifest any form of inappropriateness (i.e. featuring of candidate/s for election, use of foul words/profanities, misinformation, disinformation, and unlawful, insensitive content, and pictures especially the children, etc.);

**GUIDELINES/MECHANICS**

- The video might include the challenges of the children in a community, and the proposed solutions/recommendations, or the ongoing initiatives of the proponent/s that would address the challenges of the children in their community;
- Should there be children (17 years old and below) casted and featured in the video, there shall be a consent or waiver signed by parents/guardian that allowing them to include in the video;
- The deadline of the Submission of video is on November 25, 2021 at 11:59PM, can be submitted thru gmail: [Omdchildreng@gmail.com](mailto:Omdchildreng@gmail.com), or drop off at the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandaman-Latiph located at MSU-IPDM, 2nd floor, Marawi City; and
- Should there be any inquiries and concerns, please contact Ms. Hana T. Yusoph, the Office's Orphan and Children Sector Representative, thru her contact number <0919-751-6341>.




**CRITERIA**

Criteria	Percentage
Content	30%
Relevance to the theme	30%
Video Presentation	20%
Message/Impact	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**PROJECT SEED GRANT**

First Prize	Php 30,000
Second Prize	Php 20,000
Third Prize	Php 10,000

- Winning organizations will also receive Certificates and Plaques.
- The winning individuals/team shall receive project seed grant that can help sustain their advocacy, projects, programs, working initiatives, or proposal for children.
- All participating individuals/team are partners and have a chance to submit proposals for programs and policies recommendations for children to be funded by the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandaman-Latiph.



**MORIATAO DIWAN YOUTH (MDY)**  
**FIRST RUNNER UP**  
**Php 20,000.00**



CHILDREN ADVOCACY VIDEO CAMPAIGN ONLINE  
November Children's Month 2021: "New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Atang Tutukan!"

**MP MAISARA**  
ATTY. WILSON DANDAMAN-LATIPH  
OFFICE OF THE MARAWI CITY

**MSU-SCHOLARS' SOCIETY**  
**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**  
**Php 5,000.00**



CHILDREN ADVOCACY VIDEO CAMPAIGN ONLINE  
November Children's Month 2021: "New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Atang Tutukan!"

**MP MAISARA**  
ATTY. WILSON DANDAMAN-LATIPH  
OFFICE OF THE MARAWI CITY

**STALWARTZ**  
BUBONG INTEGRATED STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
**CHAMPION**  
**Php 30,000.00**



CHILDREN ADVOCACY VIDEO CAMPAIGN ONLINE  
November Children's Month 2021: "New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Atang Tutukan!"

**MP MAISARA**  
ATTY. WILSON DANDAMAN-LATIPH  
OFFICE OF THE MARAWI CITY

**ANDA SO AR'K I ABE**  
JUFFALI M. MAGARANG  
**SECOND RUNNER UP**  
**Php 10,000.00**



CHILDREN ADVOCACY VIDEO CAMPAIGN ONLINE  
November Children's Month 2021: "New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Atang Tutukan!"

**MP MAISARA**  
ATTY. WILSON DANDAMAN-LATIPH  
OFFICE OF THE MARAWI CITY

## LISTS OF VIDEO ENTRY NAME

1	ALI, SAIMAH AMBOR
2	ALSHABAAB ALHAALIMUN
3	iCareForChildren BATANG TRANSFORMERS ASSOCIATION
4	SIYAP KO PILOMBAY KO PHAKASALONO A KAPHAGINGUD (BYL)
5	DUEMILAUNO FILMS
6	STALWARTZ (BUBONG INTEGRATED STUDENT ASSOCIATION)
7	PHILIPPINE MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION-JAMIATU MUSLIM MINDANAO
8	ANDA SO AR'K I ABE BY JUFFALI MAGARANG
9	MORIATAO DIWAN YOUTH (MDY)
10	SINDAW RANAW
11	BIGBANG PRODUCTIONS
12	MSU-SCHOLARS' SOCIETY
13	SUWARA by YGroup
14	MONA MISCILLE DOMATO



Photo from Left to right is the Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Ms. Hana T. Yusoph, and the Panel Members Ms. Johaniah Yusoph, Dr. Shahera Lucman and Engr. Ali Yusoph.



A photo of Dr. Shahera Balt Lucman, one of the Panel Members. She was a Provincial SPED coordinator for 3 years, a Division SPED coordinator for 8 years, a Graduate of Doctor of Philosophy, Educational Management, MSU Main in 2016, completed Master of Education - School Administration at MSU Main in 2009. She completed Bachelor of Science in Community Development at MSU Main in 1996, and Earned 24 Units in Education at Pacas Um College (1997).



Photo of Ms. Johaniah Yusoph, one of the Panel Members. She is a teacher by profession and a peace advocate by passion through education and media platform. She is currently one of the Program Producers of the Philippine Broadcasting Service through Radyo Pilipinas - Marawi where she runs her radio program, Edukasyon at Iba Pa. She is the pioneer volunteer of Soar High Mobile Library as Mobile Teacher in bringing the love of reading to children in far-flung areas. She also has the love for books and making videos is one of her hobbies.



Photo of Engr. Ali Yusoph, one of the Panel Members. Engr. Ali Yusoph is a former Ranao Council President. Founder of Sambatan Talkshow and President of Soar High Knowledge Foundation, Inc where children's literacy and youth empowerment are their utmost goal. Therefore, Soar High Mobile Library was created and 1st ever in Lanao del Sur and Marawi City. Being an engineer, he is fond of arts and making things more beautiful. He is fond of making videos also as one of his interests and hobbies.

# B-BATA 2021 AWARDING CEREMONY

## OBJECTIVE

In celebration of Children's Month, the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun Latiph conducted a video contest campaign on the current situation of young ones in Lanao del Sur and Marawi City.

B-BATA Children Advocacy Video Campaign is in line with the November Children's Month Celebration with the theme: *"New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Ating Tutukan!"*. B-BATA 2021 is an advocacy-based video campaign production that shall feature, showcase, and inspire others the need to promote children's rights.

This also aimed to recognize the working initiatives of the organization/individuals in advocating for children to capture the situations and gather data that can be the identification of key topics to consider in aid of legislation. Different issues concerning the young ones are among the major issues depicted in most of the entries.

*Stalwarts* (1st runner up) focused on the rights of the children while *Moriatao Diwan Youth* (2nd runner up) inspired everyone with their every child is a gift which showed the importance of the children, and Juffali Magarang highlighted that the best gift we could give to our child was our time.

All participating groups and individuals received certificates, tokens, giveaways, and consolation prizes. They also had a chance to be partnered with the office in any chosen project.

The champion received Php 30,000, the 1st runner up received Php 20,000, 2nd runner up received Php 10,000, and People's Choice Awardee received Php 5,000.

## PHOTOS OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION



*The Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, gave the overview of the program*



## IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

B-BATA 2021 featured messages of support from children, youth leaders, national agency partners, and child rights supporters and advocates. Thus, it captured situations of our children and aimed to gather data and evidence that can be the identification of key topics to consider in aid of legislation. With much support from our partners, and stakeholders, we can be the eye-opener of the government and other stakeholders/partners to support in fully realize the rights and welfare of our children to be always protected.

# SIYAP KO MGA TORIL

## LASUR TABANG PROJECT WITH ALFAUJ-AL IMANIE, PHILIPPINES

### OBJECTIVE

*LaSur Tabang Project: Provision of Basic Needs Assistance to Wata-Ilos' (orphans) in Torel (orphanage) orphans and vulnerable children are always confronted with serious psychological and social problems. As they grow older, they may be potential victims of maltreatment and harassment due to their vulnerability.*

The project aims to help and assist those orphans with special needs, widows, mosques (Asatidz), and local farmers generally those who are needy in terms of provisioning their family's daily consumption. These people were affected by the turmoil of the *Marawi Siege*.

The general objective of the project is to provide support to orphans living in the orphanage so as to make them feel that they lead a normal life like other children in the country.

### PHOTOS OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION



### HARAT MEDINA ISLAMIC TOREL

*The orphanage is located at Masjid Lilod Bliss, Marawi City. The said orphanage is managed by a Muslim scholar together with her wife. The orphans were sheltered crowdedly at the back of masjid. Mostly of the orphans were from Marawi Siege victims who lost their parents during the war.*



### ABUL QASIM QUR-ANIC CENTER



### MADRASA MARUHOM QADHI AL-ISLAMIA



### DARUL LITAHFIDEL QUR'ANIL KAREM

### IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

This orphanage in Lanao Del Sur is not financially supported from any local government units, it is managed by a Muslim scholar who also seeks help from different entities for the 250 orphans in these orphanages. They only receive contributions when someone voluntarily gives donation. In these trying times, this program can help and support them to cope up with the challenges in the face of adversity.

# SINGA KA MAN MORIATAO PROJECT



**“TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE CHANGE FOR OUR CHILDREN”  
-HANA T. YUSOPH, ORPHAN AND CHILDREN SECTOR  
REPRESENTATIVE**

With various partners from the initiatives of youth organizations in Lanao, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph will be able to reach out many children not just only in Lanao del Sur, but also outside the region.

One of the main advocacies of the Office is the Orphan and Children Sector with its vision that every Bangsamoro child shall attain their right to achieve long-lasting change in their lives, and the office’s main undertaking is to promote and protect the rights of every child in the Bangsamoro region.

This project aims to bring smile, laughter and education to the children through series of activities and workshops on proper hygiene, basic life skills and importance of education as well as to encourage children’s responsibility and participation in their homes and community to develop resilience at early age and learn to value their own culture.



On the first and second quarter of this year, the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph has reached one of the barangays in the Municipality of Tugaya, and Marawi City with one of its flagship programs is the “Singa Ka Man Moriatao Project” with the theme, “*Rebuilding a Healthy and Peaceful Marawi through Building Resilience in Children*”, in partnership with Philippine Youth Leadership Program-Ranaw (PYLP Ranaw) which aims to address the effect of the pandemic, as well as the *Marawi Siege* such as those who are suffering from trauma, and hopelessness of the vulnerable children such as the street kids, vendors, and orphans.



## CLUSTER 1: SINGA KA MAN MORIATAO PROJECT

**JANUARY 14, 2021 | TUGAYA, LANA DEL SUR**

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with Philippine Youth Leadership Program-Ranaw (PYLP Ranaw) conducted 'Singa Ka Man Moriatao' project that aims to address the effect of the pandemic as well as the Marawi Siege such as those who are suffering from trauma, and hopelessness to the street kids/vendors/orphans at Tugaya, Lanao del Sur.

*"We are one with you in your advocacy and may you continue to bring smile, laughter and education to the street-kids/vendors/orphan children and encourage their responsibility and participation in their homes and community to develop resilience at early age and learn to value their own culture. We thank you very much for these initiatives and collaboration," MP Maisara said.*

### PHOTOS OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION



### IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

The project aims to bring smile, laughter and education to the street kids/vendors/orphans children through series of activities and workshops on proper hygiene, basic life skills and importance of education as well as to encourage children's responsibility and participation in their homes and community to develop resilience at early age and learn to value their own culture.

## CLUSTER 2: SINGA KA MAN MORIATAO PROJECT

**MAY 9, 2021 | MARAWI CITY**

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with Philippine Youth Leadership Program - Ranaw (PYLP Ranaw) conducted "Singa Ka Man Moriatao Project Part II" with the theme: "Rebuilding a Peaceful and Healthy Marawi through Building Resilience in Children", aimed to bring smiles, laughter and Education through series of activities and workshops on proper hygiene, and basic life skills.

The Team also provided groceries, school supplies, and hygiene Kit to the street kids/vendors/orphan children at Brgy. Lilod Papandayan, Marawi City.

*"Our Office is one with you in your advocacy, and we worked hand in hand to make sure that our Children be included and prioritized in the programs, budgets, and activities of the Government to improve the lives and welfare of our children." MP Maisara said.*

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph thanked its partners namely, The Pocari Sweat (Philippines), Philippine Youth Leadership Program-Ranaw (PYLP Ranaw) together with the Project Head Ms. Fatima Sakina A. Otara, and to all of the Volunteers such as the Global Marawi Team, Lagaday o Dariday, MSU-Young Researchers Club Team, Soar High Knowledge Foundation Inc., and to all of the partners behind this project for the opportunity to serve, and also for collaborating with us to implement initiatives for the betterment of orphans and vulnerable children.



# SIYAP KO MGA WATA-ILO

JUNE 27, 2021 | LANA DEL SUR

The Office also conducted “Annual Ramadhan Post Iftar Program” in partnership with MSU-Inspired Young Optimists Guild (IYOG) in one of the *torils* in Marawi City. The activity include the discussions about COVID-19, and the proper hygiene lectures by the invited speaker, and psychosocial activity that were participated by the *morits* (Arabic Students) mostly orphan children in the Toril in BUSTANUL MUSLIMIN AND BUSTANOL MUSLIMAT, Lanao del Sur.

Indeed, A hadith by our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: “The best of houses is the house where an orphan gets love and Kindness.”



Islam has laid great importance on helping the needy and has few reminders regarding the reward for helping orphans. Orphans are being valued and cared by our religion. Besides, our Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) is an orphan himself, and the topic on orphans has been mentioned for over *twenty times* in the Qur'an and is also signified by the Hadith and Sunnah of the Prophet (S.A.W) countlessly.



“Our office is one with you in your advocacy, and we worked hand in hand to make sure that our children be included and prioritized in the programs, budgets, and activities of the government to improve the lives and welfare of our children.” MP Maisara said.



The first activity include the discussions about COVID-19, and the proper hygiene lectures by the invited speaker.

The second part is Psychosocial Activity that were participated by the *morits* (Arabic Students) in the said Toril. The team also provided groceries, school supplies, and hygiene kit to the *morits*.



# SIYAP KO MGA WATA-ILO

JULY 1, 2020 | LANA O DEL SUR



The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph continued to provide reliefs to the Bangsamoro Orphans in partnership with Alshabaab Alhaalimun distributed relief assistance to different *Madrasa* (Arabic School) in the Municipalities of Marantao, Tamparan, and Ditsaan Ragain, Lanao del Sur.

The distribution of relief assistance was part of MP Maisara's *Siyap Ko Mga Wata a Ilo* (Care for Orphans) Program. This program aimed to provide grocery items (containing sugar, milo, vinegar, noodles, 12 sacks of rice, canned goods, trays of egg, powdered milk, and biscuits) to the Bangsamoro children as a short-term assistance for their needs.

Beneficiaries of the said relief assistance are orphans, morits, and vulnerable children currently studying Arabic school at Darul Emman Al Islamiya in Marantao Lanao del Sur, Mahad Marantao Al-Islamia Maranao Islamic Institute in Tamparan Lanao del Sur, and Darul Ebtisam Lihafitul Kora-an in Ditsaan Ragain Lanao del Sur.

Part of the program was the signing of the partners, the Head of each Toril in the "MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT IN THE BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGE ACT 2020".

Indeed, helping our Bangsamoro Orphans is needed as it is mentioned in the Hadith of Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) in Saheeh Al-Bukhari: "Ako, at ang tagapag-alaga ng Ulila ay magkakasama na papasok sa Paraiso, (sama-sama ang pagtaas ng hintuturo at gitnang daliri, na walang iniwan na puwang sa pagitan.)"

"Ang mga taong nagdadalaga ng mga ulila ay may malaking halaga sa paningin ng Allah (SWT) at magkakaroon ng malaking gantimpala sa araw ng paghuhukom.", said by MP Maisara.





## NUTRITION MONTH ACTIVITY: SIYAP KO MGA WATA IN AID OF LEGISLATION

JULY 25, 2021 | MSU-IPDM, MARAWI CITY

### OBJECTIVE

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph in partnership with Philippine Young Leader's Program (PYLP-Lanao) conducted Nutrition Month Celebration Activity entitled: Free MalNutriTALK for Bangsamoro Children with a theme: *"Batang Moro, Sana Tall, Iwas sakit sa masiglang buwan, Sama All!"*.

The participants of the activity are thirty (30) Internally Displaced People (IDPs) children with their parent/guardian from Brgy. Sagonsongan Tent Shelter. This activity is in line with the July 2021 Nutrition Month with the Theme: *Malnutrisyon Patuloy na Labanan, First 1000 days tutukan!*

The first part of the program involved discussions by (2) invited Resource Speakers. The first topic was about *"Healthy Eating Habit; How to get away from Malnourishment and Common Eating Disorder"* by Dr. Muammar A. Amer, RPh. The second topic was about *"Children's Rights and Protection in Islamic perspective"* by Prof. Mohammad Jihan Macarambon. The second part of the program was a one-on-one Health consultation by Dr. Amer. This highlighted the Hygiene Training and Games for the kids, and Healthy reflections for both parents and their children.



*"Ang mga bata ay tulad ng isang umuusbong na halaman sa isang hardin na dapat ingatan, mahalin at alagaan dahil sila ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa. Kaya't ang pagpapalaki sa isang bata sa pamamagitan ng kumpletong nutrisyon ay makakabuti sa kanila", MP Maisara said.*

### PHOTOS OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION



The Office's Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, gave her welcome address and inspirational message of the event.



### IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

In line with the celebration of Nutrition Month, this activity impacted both parents and children. The parents are able to learn the rights and welfare of children under Islamic perspectives by Sir Macarambon, they also given chance to seek medical advice by Dr. Amer and discussed the *"Healthy Eating Habit; How to get away from Malnourishment and Common Eating Disorder"*. Simultaneously, the children had also time to play games and fun activities relates to psychosocial activities. The event also ended with giving the participants nutritious fruits and vitamin.

# ORIENTATION ON MINIMUM HEALTH STANDARDS AND HALAL AWARENESS

NOVEMBER 12, 2021 | LANA O DEL SUR



The participants of the ORFUND YES TO SE PROGRAM of the Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph participated and attended the "Orientation on Minimum Health Standards and Halal Awareness" conducted by the partner, Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT) Lanao del sur at Lamens Place, New Capitol, Marawi City.

This activity aims to equip and disseminate the Halal Awareness and Minimum Health Standards as defined by IATF to be observed during this COVID-19 pandemic which are applicable to the Business Sector.

# PROJECT DYAKATRA

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 | BRGY. LOMBAYAO WATO BALINDONG, LANAOS DEL SUR



The office of MP Maisara C. Dandamun Latiph in partnership with the MSU- Scholars Society conducted "Project Dyakatra" in Wato Balindong, Lanao del sur.

The Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, gave her inspirational speech to the participants, children from Brgy. Lombayao Wato Balindong, Lanao del Sur.

Project DYAKATRA, A Meranaw word which means freedom, wisdom, and tranquility, is manifested by our objective for peace. This project aims to fulfill the basic needs of the children and to achieve the true essence of peace for all the children in the Philippines through inspirational folk stories about positivity. Part of the project is to publish and distribute inspirational storybooks to kids.



# SHAPING CHILDREN'S NEW NORMAL TOGETHER

DECEMBER 9, 2021 | PIAGAPO LANAo DEL SUR



The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph thru its Orphan and Children Sector Representative, Hana T. Yusoph, attended and gave lecture on Children's Effects and Interventions in New Normal with a theme "*Shaping Children's New Normal Together*" to the children with their parent/s of the Barangay, Radapan Proper, Piagapo Lanao Del Sur.

The main objective of the lecture is to intervene with the problems and challenges which is caused by the engagement of the child with mobile/online games, that may affect their physical, mental, and psychosocial development in this time of pandemic.

The program is in response and one of the interventions to the primary issues and problems determined by the Mindanao State University-Social Work Students intern who undergone their field study/case in Brgy. Radapan Proper, Piagapo Lanao del Sur.



# LEGISLATION

# PRIORITY BILL

## BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGE ACT 2020

Orphans are considered one of the most vulnerable members of the society. Without parent/s, a child could face varying degrees of struggle. Without the love and care provided by parents, their life is filled with hardships. However, with proper support from the government along with the legal guardians and the community, institutions catering to the needs of the orphans can be built.

As the new government raises the so-called “BARMM”, every sector should have the opportunity to be heard for their concerns to be known and be addressed. Participative and informative consultation are necessary for the crafting of responsive legislation.

The Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph conducted series of Care for Orphans Public Consultation in Aid of Legislation to obtain a better picture of the status of orphans and children all over the BARMM region.

We believe that through participative and informative consultations like these, we can improve our services, and address the concerns of orphans so that we can give them equitable solutions, programs, and opportunities.

One of the key concerns identified by our office is how there are no accredited orphanages in the BARMM.

In order to address this, our office filed *BTA-Bill No. 71*, the “*Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020*” which would establish and regulate orphanages within the region in order for the Bangsamoro Government to step in.

Under the principle of *Parents Patriae*, the Bangsamoro Government should stand in as the parents and caregivers of these vulnerable children. By building orphanages and supporting institutions housing orphans so that they can provide quality care, the Bangsamoro Government will have more impact on the lives of orphaned children.





# BILL AND RESOLUTIONS

Filed bill:

1

## **BTA-BILL NO. 71**

An Act Institutionalizing Support To The Welfare And Care For Orphans By Establishing Bangsamoro Orphanages In The Region, And Providing Funds Therefor

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

Filed Resolutions:

1

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 60**

Requesting All Interim Ministries Of The Bangsamoro Transition Authority To Provide Data, Budget Allocation, Status Of Children In Their Service Constituency As Well As Current, Proposed And Potential Policies And Programs To Preserve, Protect And Promote The Rights Of Children In The BARMM In Aid Of Legislation

*Author: MPs Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph And Atty. Suharto Ambolodto*

3

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 300**

Resolution Directing The Ministry Of Social Services And Development (MSSD) In Collaboration With The Ministry Of Basic, Higher, And Technical Education (MBHTE) To Increase And Strengthen The Educational Assistance Program That Is Inclusive To The Disadvantaged Children And Other Needy Families In The Region

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph*

2

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 281**

Resolution Directing The Ministry Of Basic, Higher And Technical Education (MBHTE) In Coordination With The Ministry Of Labor And Employment (MOLE) To Develop A Comprehensive Plan For The Out Of School Youth And Children (OSYC) In The Bangsamoro Region And To Report On Its Status To The Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph*

4

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 279**

Resolution Directing The Ministry Of Social Services And Development (MSSD) With The Assistance Of The Ministry Of Interior And Local Government To Begin The Process Of Accreditation Of Orphanages Located In The Bangsamoro Autonomus Region In Muslim Mindanao

*Author: MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph*



# ORPHANS AND CHILDREN POLICY

PROTECT CHILDREN OF CONFLICT

Hana T. Yusoph

Orphan and Children Sectoral Representative  
Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph

## KEY MESSAGES

*A Greater Impact on Children*

Children from the vulnerable groups are at risk of not meeting their rights to survival, protection and development. Indigenous people's children in geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities are deprived of access to government services & programs. Children affected by armed conflict are at risk of maiming, killing and abduction. They also experience disruption in schooling and live their young years caught in a quagmire of want and suffering and long for peace and hope for a better future. [Building Peace & Protecting Children in BARM/Mindanao, Save the Children, 2019]

## RECOMMENDATIONS

➤ The MSSD and other concerned ministries shall strengthen to impose Republic Act 10821 (The Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act) that state the protection of children, especially in times of emergencies and natural disasters. Among RA 10821's important provisions are the following:

- A comprehensive emergency program for children;
- Establishment of evacuation centers, with child-friendly spaces;
- Transitional shelters for orphaned, separated, and unaccompanied children;
- Assurance of immediate delivery of basic necessities and services for children;
- Strong measures to ensure safety and security of affected children;
- Delivery of health, medical and nutrition services for children;
- Plan of action for prompt resumption of educational services for children;
- Promotion of children's rights;

- Child-centered trainings for responders;
- Child protection training for responders.

## JUSTIFICATION

"Respondents across the region noted that being unattended, ignored, and unloved leaves the children such as the orphans vulnerable to radicalization and cooptation by violent extremist groups. Without proper assessment and processing of their emotions, orphans may grow up believing resolving issues by violence is normal if they are unable to trust those around them, it may make the situation worse. Exposure to broader environments may help children discern what is radical or extreme from what is not." [Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao, Asia Foundation, 2020]

## EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

"Employing children as soldiers in any form of armed conflict is one of the worst forms of child labor, globally. During the Marawi Siege in 2017, a report stating that the Maute Group had recruited children as fighters jolted everyone. But this is not something new as there have been presented reports that the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and others USE CHILDREN as part of the group's operations (Bangsamoro Development Plan: Chapter 9 P#166)".

## REFERENCES

"Building Peace & Protecting Children in BARM/Mindanao," Save the Children, [2019]  
"Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao: Child Rights Situational Analysis," Save the Children, [December, 2019]  
Bangsamoro Development Plan: Chapter 9 P#166.  
"Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao," Asia Foundation, [2020]; <https://asiafoundation.org/publication/children-of-war-a-rapid-needs-assessment-of-orphans-in-muslim-mindanao/>

# CARING FOR ORPHANS



## ORPHANS AND CHILDREN POLICY

### PARTNERSHIP GOALS FOR CARING FOR ORPHANS

Hana T. Yusoph

Orphan and Children Sectoral Representative  
Office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph

## KEY MESSAGES

Many accredited organizations and institutions in Lanao engaged in social welfare activities such as programs and activities in aid of orphans and other services for the vulnerable sector especially in times of calamity, but due to their organizational limitations such as lack of opportunities, limited resources-both financial and human from one or both sides, they were unable to do so.

While it is the responsibility of the government to provide social programs to its citizens it is also incumbent to everyone to help. With proper collaboration and works amongst the accredited organizations/groups and institutions that provide social programs could make it more sustainable and be able to improve services and opportunities for the target beneficiaries.

Some of the Lanao del Sur non-profit humanitarian organizations such as Philippine Humanitarian Care (PhilCare), Al-Ashdiqah Foundation of the Philippines, United Imam of the Philippines and Hijab for a Cause provide programs and activities for the orphans and underprivileged morits (Islamic Education Students). Some financial resources came from the private donors within and outside the country and some are from the members. As much as they want to increase more beneficiaries and activities, they were not able to do so because of organizational limitations, particular financial.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bangsamoro government should include the support to the accredited organization or institutions whose principal function is assisting, taking care of and supervising the well-being of vulnerable children in difficult situations especially the young orphans.

## JUSTIFICATION

According to Executive Order 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), Title XVI, Chapter I, Section 3, Powers and Functions, to accomplish its mandates and objectives, the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall accredit institutions and organizations engaged in social welfare activities and provide consultative and information services to them. The MSSD should include supporting the programs and activities of the accredited organization and institutions that engaged in social welfare programs to further widen its humanitarian activities most especially the Bangsamoro territories.



## KEY MESSAGES

Orphaned children are often sent to the orphanages as a way of relieving a widow from the stress of providing for her family with very little income. Orphans in orphanages should be given a safe environment to grow, with a good place to sleep, adequate food and proper schooling, and also visited their families often. By supporting and helping these orphanages to make it better and provide quality care, we will have more impact on the lives of these children and reach more orphans with care.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Registration and Assessment of Child Development Centers/Child Development Workers (Internal Assessment) & Reproduction of Assessment tools is under the program of MSSD. It enhances the set of standards for the CDCs and CDWs for a more efficient and effective delivery of Child Development Service, and reproduction of the hard copy of the accreditation tool (assessment and accreditation).

This should include the identification of the existing orphanages or any shelter that cater the orphans so the program can assist them with accreditation and provide appropriate interventions and services for them.

## JUSTIFICATION

- Section 3 of RA No. 5416 of 1968 (Social Welfare Act of 1968) provides that the social welfare department is mandated to set standards and policies to insure effective implementation of public and private social welfare programs;

- Section 3 of RA No. 5416 of 1968 (Social Welfare Act of 1968) provides also that the social welfare department is mandated to accredit institutions and organizations, public and private, engaged in social welfare activity including the licensing of child caring and child placement institutions and provide consultative services there-to;
- Section 26 of Chapter 10, Title XVI of Executive Order 292 (Administrative Code of 1987) provides that no foster home, day care center and other substitute parental arrangement shall operate unless it is first registered with and licensed by the social welfare department.

## EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

According to the researchers from The Asia Foundation, there are no orphanages or shelters in the Bangsamoro that were accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Instead, many Muslim orphans processed by DSWD in Mindanao are often sent to orphanages in Manila and other regions. [Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao, published by Asia Foundation, 2020]

Some orphanages or shelters such as Toril that cater orphans in Lanao del sur could not afford to accredit their institutions because of long process and many requirements for accreditation. They also do not receive any assistance from government.

## REFERENCES

"Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao," Asia Foundation, [2020]: <https://asiafoundation.org/publication/children-of-war-a-rapid-needs-assessment-of-orphans-in-muslim-mindanao/>  
Personal Communication, Head of the Baitul Yatim (House of Orphans).

## **POLICY BRIEF ON ORPHANS AND CHILDREN: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY LEARNING AT ALL TIMES**

*"No Bangsamoro Child Left Behind."* However, this pandemic highlights a stark divide: children's access to education for those who can afford it and those who cannot. For many children, school is a safe haven and a protective environment. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is shifting children's learning from school to the home setting.

Education is the most effective means to overcome poverty and empower individuals over the long term-horizon.

However, for families with poor and limited access to resources, education tends to be of less priority when their income is just enough for their daily subsistence.

There are at least 213 barangays in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) wherein children do not have access to any learning facility. This problem is affecting over 45,000 primary school aged children.

The Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) has a program for Educational Assistance for children of disadvantaged and other needy families.

This provides the beneficiaries, once a year, with the amount of Php 10,000 for 6,000 College beneficiaries, Php 1,500 for 10,000 High School beneficiaries and Php 1,000 for 15,000 Elementary School beneficiaries for the year 2020.

There is still a need to increase this educational assistance and give more scholarship grants to the disadvantaged children through a wide region.

While the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) provides scholarship programs such as, Access to Higher and Modern Education Scholarship Program (AHME-SP) also known as the *"Bangsamoro IQ Scholar"*, this shall only accommodate Senior High School and Alternative Learning System graduates in the region. However, there is an additional need to ensure that children's right to learn is supported even in a household setting.

Sierra Paraan, Basic Education Advisor of Save the Children Philippines, emphasized the importance of providing support to parents, caregivers, and elder siblings in the effective implementation of adaptive learning methods.



As provided in Republic Act No. 10533, schools and learning institutions shall continue to deliver education services that are “relevant to the needs of the people, the country and the society-at-large” in a manner that is appropriate, feasible and compliant to the minimum health and safety standards and directives from the BARMM-IATF, MOH, and other proper authorities.

Given the current context and until the situation improves, home-based or distance learning shall be the preferred modality.

However, face-to-face learning in school and other training centers may be employed if and when the local situation and public health measures allow.

Thus, the MSSD, MBHTE and other concerned ministries are recommended to adopt the following:

(1) Education Learning Continuity such as learning materials, tools (tablets, laptops, smartphones, etc.), guidance, resources such as providing free books and modules, as well as information for COVID-19 prevention and controls shall be provided to the children especially in the remote areas. This is needed by the guidance of the teachers and parents in supporting their children in home-based or distance learning. Disadvantaged children such as orphans, IDPs, poor and needy shall be prioritized by this program;

(2) Increased Educational assistance and give more scholarship grants to the deserving children especially in the remote areas that shall be determined through a wide, inclusive and fair assessment. Orphans and disadvantaged children shall be one of the priorities for educational assistance to make sure that they still have access to education especially in this time of pandemic;

(3) Mental health and psychosocial support that is provided to the children and their families. It is important for families to develop emotional and social skills to promote physical and psychological well-being from home, through the adoption of healthy practices and lifestyles. This category features resources on mental health and psychosocial support, guidance on how to support young children to face changes, advice on how to protect the mental health of families in the face of the coronavirus disease, and strategies for teenagers on how to protect their mental health during the coronavirus outbreak.

#### REFERENCES:

Save the Children (2020). *Save the Children Philippines supports DepEd adaptive learning methods for children, youth amid COVID-19 pandemic*. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/save-children-philippines-supports-deped-adaptive-learning-methods-children-youth>.

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United Nations Children's Fund (2020). *UNICEF's education response to the challenges during the pandemic also has its virtual space*. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/covid-19-unicef-education-response-to-the-challenges-during-the-pandemic>.



## **POLICY BRIEF ON ORPHANS AND CHILDREN:**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (SCPC) IN THE REGION**

Our children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. This right to protection has been clearly laid out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989. This is also emphasized in accordance with Section 14 of the Republic Act No. 11054 states that *“the Bangsamoro Government shall respect, protect, and promote the rights of children, especially orphans of tender age.”*

They shall be protected from exploitation, abuse, or discrimination. Their education and development, both physical and mental, shall be fully addressed, and the policy of protection also stressed in Article XV, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution provides that *“the State shall defend the rights of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development”*.

According to the Special Committee for the Protection of Children [SCPC] (2006), a growing number of Filipino children today especially in this time of pandemic find themselves in various situations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence brought about by various factors including but not limited to:

- (a) broken families;
- (b) increasing school drop-out rate;
- (c) inadequate basic social services;
- (d) weak and inconsistent enforcement of child protection laws;
- (e) growing unemployment and underemployment;
- (f) inequitable distribution of wealth, income and opportunities;

(g) continuing impoverishment and marginalization of millions of Filipino families; (h) intermittent armed conflict particularly in Mindanao; (i) rising materialistic and consumerist expectations; and (j) deteriorating moral values as demonstrated in the “commodification” of human sexuality perpetuated through mass media, among others.

As an expression of that commitment, our Legislature enacted in 1992 Republic Act No. 7610, *“An Act Providing Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination”*. Thereafter, the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC) was created in 1995 through Executive Order No. 275 to monitor enforcement of RA 7610.

The Committee has been further strengthened through the issuance in 2011 of Executive Order No. 53 by President Benigno Simeon Aquino III by adding more key and relevant member agencies and sharpening its focus on the legal and judicial protection of children.

The CSPC – which is chaired by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and co-chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – is tasked to initiate and coordinate the formulation and implementation of a Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP) (SCPC, 2012).

Moreover, a protective and caring environment for children must be prioritized by the government, and must be the concern of all actors at various levels of society.

Thus, the Bangsamoro Government together with the appropriate ministries and other line agencies in collaboration with the Local Government Units, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and other institutions in the region are recommended to adopt the following:

- (1) Strengthening the action forces of government's commitment and capacity to fulfill their mandates in children's rights to protection;
- (2) Crafting policies that would institutionalize the Comprehensive support program in the enactment and enforcement of child protection laws consistent with the CRC; such programs should include but not limited to equipping children with knowledge, life skills and capacity for meaningful and effective participation, and building capacities of parents, teachers, religious leaders, social workers, health workers, law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, etc. to recognize and respond to abuse, exploitation and violence;
- (3) Strengthening the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) - provincial, municipal, city and barangay, particularly the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPL). The role of Local Government Units (LGUs) should also be highlighted, coordinated, and sustained for the actions of the child care and protection;
- (4) There is a need for the Bangsamoro Government coordinated with the appropriate ministries and offices to establish an effective monitoring, reporting and coordination mechanisms for the enforcement of RA 7610, and the multi-level child protection system in the Region. More importantly, under a protective Environment, children at risk are prevented from becoming victims of various forms of abuse, exploitation and violence by facilitating their effective access to basic social services such as health and nutrition as well as opportunities for basic education, life skills education, and vocational training, among others.

**REFERENCE:**

*Special Committee for the Protection of Children*, Dept. of Justice, (2012). *Protecting Filipino Children from Abuse, Exploitation and Violence*. Retrieved from <https://lccn.doj.gov.ph/>



# PRIVILEGE SPEECH FOR ORPHAN AND CHILDREN SECTOR SIYAP KO MGA WATA

November 18, 2021



Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, and distinguished colleagues: Assalaamo Alaykom Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh! Magandang hapon po sainyong lahat!

Ito ay kwento ng isang bata na gumagala sa labas dahil wala siyang matutuluyan, isang bata na walang nag-aalagang magulang at naninirahan lamang kasama ang isang kamag-anak o kapit-bahay ngunit hindi siya naaalagaan ng maayos, isang batang sapilitang nagtatrabaho kumita lamang upang may pang tustos sa kanyang pangangailangan at para makatulong sa kanyang pamilya, isang bata na walang nag-aalaga at kulang sa atensyon at walang nagbibigay ng gabay kaya't siya'y maaaring humantong sa pagsali sa mga grupo ng mga ekstremista, isang batang pinagkaitan ng pangunahing mga serbisyo kabilang ang access sa edukasyon at mga serbisyong pangkalusugan. Ito'y kwento ng isang batang nawalan ng magulang. Batang walang nag-aalaga at nagmamahal, dama ang kalungkotan at kahirapan ng buhay. At dahil sa mga batang ito, ang mga bata at mga batang ulila ay masasabi nating isa sa pinaka vulnerable na sector mula sa ating Rehiyon na kinakailangan lamang bigyan ng pansin.

Ang mga bata ay may kaukulang pangangailangan na dapat gampanan ng kanyang mga magulang. Ito'y lihitimong Karapatan na dapat nating ibigay sa kanila. Sa mga pagkakataong wala ang magulang o walang kamag-anak na maaaring gampanan ang tungkolin ng kanyang namatay na mga magulang, sino ang dapat tumugon sa kanilang mga daing o panawagan? Dito kinakailangan ang intervention ng ating pamahalaan lalong-lalo na ang BARMM Government.

Ang mga Muslim ay may tungkuling protektahan ang iba mula sa anumang uri ng pinsala at tulungan ang mga nangangailangan tulad ng mga ulila. Ang Islam ay nagbigay ng malaking kahalagahan sa pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan at maraming mga paalala tungkol sa gantimpala para sa pagtulong sa mga ulila.

Ang mga ulila ay binibigyan ng pangunahing pangangalaga sa ating relihiyong ISLAM, pati na rin sa iba pang mga relihiyon. Si Propeta Mohammad (S.A.W) ay isang ulila mismo. Bukod dito, ang paksa sa mga ulila ay nabanggit nang higit sa dalawampung beses sa Qur'an at sinasangguni rin sa Hadith ng ating Propeta.

Ayon sa Hadith ng Propeta Mohammad (S.A.W) na nabanggit sa Saheeh Al-Bukhari: *("Ako, at ang tagapag-alaga ng Ulila ay magkasama na papasok sa Paraiso")*

Sa ating bagong gobyerno ng tinaguriang "BARMM", dapat magkaroon ng pagkakataon ang bawat sector na marinig ang kanilang hinanaing upang malaman at matugunan ng Pamahalaan. Ito ay kinakailangan para sa paggawa ng mga tumutugong proyekto at batas.

Ang isa sa mga pangunahing prayoridad ng aking tanggapan ay ang ating mga bata at mga batang ulila (Orphans and Children). Pinapangunahan ng ating Opisina kasama ang ating mga partners ang maraming mga hakbang sa paglilingkod sa ating mga ulila at bata tulad ng "Siyap Ko Wata-Ilo Outreach Program" sa home-based at center-based na mga orphanage sa loob at sa labas ng rehiyon, "Siyap ko mga Wata" at "Siyap ko mga Toril". Ito ay ilan lamang sa ating mga inisyatibo upang matugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga bata at mga batang ulila. Tayo ay naniniwala na sa pamamagitan ng ating pakikilahok at pakikipagtulungan, maari nating mapabuti ang ating mga serbisyo at mga hangarin upang matugunan ang mga alalahanin ng mga batang ulila sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng mas konkretong programa at mas epektibong batas.

Kamakailan ay nagsagawa tayo ng CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION sa buong rehiyon kasama ang ating partner na "The Asia Foundation". Ang unang konsultasyon ay ginanap sa Lanao del sur noong Marso 20, 2021, at sa Maguindanao naman noong Mayo 31, 2021, at sa lalawigan ng BASULTA nong buwan ng Hunyo at Hulyo. Ito ang aming hakbang upang mapalawak ang maabot ng aming mga konsultasyon upang makakuha ng isang mas mahusay na larawan ng sitwasyon ng mga ulila sa buong Rehiyon. Nais naming marinig mula sa kanila ang iba't ibang mga isyu, problema at hamon ng mga ulila direkta mula sa mga stakeholder, partners, indibidwal o institusyong sumusuporta sa kanila.

Base sa lumabas sa ating mga konsultasyon, ang mga pangunahing isyu at mga problema ay ang:

- (1)Kakulangan ng konkretong datos tungkol sa mga ulila sa loob ng ating rehiyon,
- (2)Ang mga problema at suliranin tungkol sa pamantayan ng mga ipinapatayong toril or madrasa institutions,
- (3) Limitadong suportang pinansyal at tulong sa mga ulila tulad ng pag-access sa edukasyon at serbisyong pangkalusugan,
- (4)Kakulangan ng suporta sa pangangasiwa ng mga ulilang nakabase sa bahay at yong nasa Toril learning school o Madrasah at
- (5) Ang mga isyu patungkol sa kanilang seguridad at hustisya.

Ayon sa pag-aaral mula sa "*Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of the Orphans in Muslim Mindanao*" na suportado ng The Asia Foundation (2020), kasalukuyang walang mga orphanage o tirahan na accredited ng DSWD sa Bangsamoro. Sa halip, maraming mga ulilang Muslim mula sa Mindanao ang natulungan ng DSWD noon sa pag proseso ng kanilang mga papelis ang madalas na ipinapadala sa mga orphanage center sa Maynila. Ang suliranin na ito ay dapat isa sa prayoridad na kinakailangang tugunan ng ating pamahalaan. Sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatayo ng mga orphanage center at ang pagbibigay sa kanila ng suporta ay makakapagbigay ang Pamahalaang Bangsamoro ng mas higit na positibong epekto sa buhay ng mga batang ulila.

Ito ay ilan lamang sa mga rekomendasyon mula sa ating konsultasyon: (1)magdisenyo ng isang holistic at inclusive na komprehensibong programa para sa balo at mga ulila, tulong sa pinansyal at suporta sa mga bata at sa institusyon tulad ng mga Toril at Madrasa, (2)Ang mga bata ay kinakailangang magkaroon ng proteksyon mula sa pang-aabuso, (3)Siguradohing ligtas sa anumang kapabayaan at karahasan ang mga bata at (4) palawakin ang serbisyong pangkalusugan at edukasyon, pagbibigay ng oportunidad at pangkabuhayan sa mga pamilya o tagapag-alaga sa mga bata upang mapabuti ang kanilang kondisyon at pamumuhay. (5) at ang maigting na pagpapatupad ng mga batas patungkol sa mga Karapatan ng mga bata.

Ngayon sa buwan ng Nobyembre ay buwan para sa mga bata, sabay sabay nating itaguyod ang tema ngayong buwan sa buhay ng mga bata: "New Normal na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Ating Tutukan!" Bilang kasapi ng gobyerno, tayo ay may tungkulin na alagaan at protektahan ang mga Karapatan ng mga bata, at mabigyan sila ng pangunahing atensyon at tugunan ang kanilang mga pangangailangan. Ang mga bata ang siyang pinakamahalagang parte ng ating lipunan, sila ang pag-asa ng ating bayan, sa pagtulong natin sakanila, tinutulungan natin ang ating kinabukasan.





# SPONSORSHIP SPEECH ON BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGE ACT 2020

December 21, 2021



Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, and distinguished colleagues: Assalaamo Alaykom Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!

Today, I have the honor to seek approval of Proposed Bill No. 71, entitled AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUPPORT TO THE WELFARE AND CARE FOR ORPHANS BY ESTABLISHING BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGES IN THE REGION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF filed on November 9, 2020.

I am standing here today as a Member of Parliament, a mother, a Moro, and an advocate for children's rights with an immense concern for the well-being of our future generation.

In Islam, an orphan is the child or the minor who, by the will of Allah, has no parents or has just one parent. In Islam, the absence of a father either by death or abandonment or any other reason results in the child becoming an orphan. The child remains an orphan till he/she reaches the age of maturity or puberty. Because orphans are minors, they are physically weak, disadvantaged in society, and often suffer from poverty. Many are children of shaheed, or martyrs in the service of the Moro revolutionary fronts.

For a child who has lost a parent, life is filled with hardships. In the absence of early child and development support, the orphaned child is one of those most vulnerable to poverty, radicalization, and criminality. Some orphaned children are blessed by being adopted by their relatives, but some are not provided with enough care. Meanwhile, there are those supported by institutions, however in truth, only a few are accommodated due to limited resources.

The sad reality is that if foster parents, social workers, or institutions are not there to provide what they need, no one will. This is the time for the government to step in. Under the principle of *parens patriae*, the government should stand in as the parents and caregivers of the orphaned child.

As the new government raises the so-called "BARMM", we believe that every sector should have the opportunity to be heard. Orphans are among the most vulnerable sectors. On top of that, they do not have sufficient budget, programs, projects, and policies for them.

According to the research study by The Asia Foundation in 2020, entitled "*Children of War*", there are currently no Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or MSSD -accredited orphanages or shelters in the Bangsamoro region, some reasons is that they did not meet the requirements given to them, that's why, many Muslim orphans are often sent to orphanages in Manila.

Moreover, respondents across the region noted that being unattended, ignored, and unloved leaves orphans vulnerable to radicalization and co-option by violent extremist groups. Without proper assessment and processing of their emotions, orphans may grow up believing resolving issues through violence is normal.

Mr. Speaker and Members of Parliament,

This bill seeks to institutionalize support for the welfare and care of orphans in the Bangsamoro region by establishing a system of accredited Bangsamoro Orphanages within each province throughout the region which will help alleviate the condition of every orphan and to provide them with the opportunity to live a fulfilled life. Moreover, it seeks to create a system that will determine the qualified beneficiaries and to monitor and evaluate the proper provision of this Act.

It has been months of efforts from our office to come up with this bill. Our office conducted series of CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS IN AID OF LEGISLATIONS IN THE WHOLE REGION in partnership with The Asia Foundation. Our first consultations held in Lanao is on March 20, 2021, in Maguindanao and Cotabato on May 31, 2021, and to the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi in the months of June and July. The consultations had focused on the various issues and concerns of orphans, as well as the stakeholders who took care of them, and participated by different sectors, stakeholders, individuals, institutions, offices/ministries, and various organizations.

They provided inputs and recommendations addressed to the Bangsamoro Government, and to our Proposed BTA Parliament Bill No. 71, or the "Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020", where the participants gave their comments, inputs, and recommendations for the improvement of the bill. Our participants and many stakeholders signed the manifestation of support for the immediate passage of this Bill.

Some of the major issues and concerns that were raised from these consultations is that there was no concrete data about orphans in the region; there are also challenges with respect to the subpar standard of centers (*Toril/Madrasa* Institutions); Limited financial support and assistance to the orphans, including home-based, center-based, and displaced orphans; Lack of access to education and health services; Lack of support and supervision among the orphans in the home-based and center-based institutions (*toril* learning schools and *madrasah*); vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization; and issues on security and justice, prone to abuse.

I will now highlight the main features that we proposed from the Bill

- There is hereby created a system which shall lead the creation of a credible mechanism to determine the eligible beneficiaries and shall create the appropriate model for the orphanages in the respective community. It is also its mandate to come up with a comprehensive monitoring system to address the needs of orphaned minors in the respective community. It shall include, but not be limited to, coming up with updated data on the number, location, and personal profile of orphaned minors in their respective communities, developing the appropriate models of orphanages in the respective community, and monitoring the orphaned minors in the orphanages.

- The bill also seeks to develop and create comprehensive support program that is institutionalized as a mechanism to provide social welfare and care for orphans in the orphanages by the Bangsamoro Government through its implementing agencies. The programs shall include but is not limited to: (i) *Basic needs*; (ii) *Physical safety and security*; (iii) *Socio-economic needs*; (iv) *Educational needs*; (v) *Emotional and spiritual needs*, and (vi) *Access to justice*.
- The bill includes the constituent LGUs in the Bangsamoro Region are mandated to develop a monitoring and evaluating system over the orphanages found within their jurisdiction, and to assist them with accreditation.
- There shall be a managing committee in charge of the management of the established Bangsamoro Orphanages and shall require program requirements and transparency.

Mr. Speaker and Members of Parliament,

To pass this bill also means to implement the mandate of Bangsamoro Organic Law. It is hereby declared the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to respect, protect and promote the rights of children, especially orphans of tender age. They shall be protected from exploitation, abuse, or discrimination. Their education and development, both physical and mental, shall be protected from exploitation, abuse, or discrimination. Their education and development, both physical and mental shall be fully addressed under *Section 14, Article IX of Republic Act 11054*.



Bangsamoro policies and programs shall take into utmost consideration the best interest of children, and promote and protect the rights of children, youth, and adolescents, including their survival and development. The Bangsamoro Government and its constituent local government units shall provide for adequate funding and effective mechanisms for the implementation of this policy.

Building orphanage centers (*Baytul Yatim*) will help alleviate the condition of every orphan. Orphans are often sent to this institution as a way of relieving a family with very little income or limited capacity to meet the needs of the child. Orphans in orphanages should be given a safe environment to grow, with a good place to sleep, adequate food and proper schooling, and also visited their families often, this way to help them grasp their rights as individuals. By institutionalizing to build orphanages that are supported by the Bangsamoro Government, we will have more impact on the lives of these orphaned children and reach those more in providing services with quality care.

We all know how much our orphans are being valued and cared by our religion. Besides, our Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) is an orphan himself, and the topic on orphans has been mentioned for over twenty times in the Qur'an and is also signified by the Hadith and Sunnah of the Prophet (S.A.W) countlessly.

As per the Hadith of the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) mentioned in Saheeh Al-Bukhari: *"I and the caretaker of the Orphan will enter Paradise together like this, (raising his forefinger and middle finger jointly, leaving no space in between.)"*

When we help orphan children raised in a healthy and loving environment, they grow up to be responsible individual, and there will be less crime, less deprived children and less out-of-school children. Our children are the most valuable resource in our country and its best hope for the future, before they can be responsible and ideal youth, we need to guide and mold them in their early years to help them become the best version of their selves. Our children's future is worth every sacrifice; by helping them, we are helping our future.

It is for these reasons that the early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Mr. Speaker and Members of Parliament,

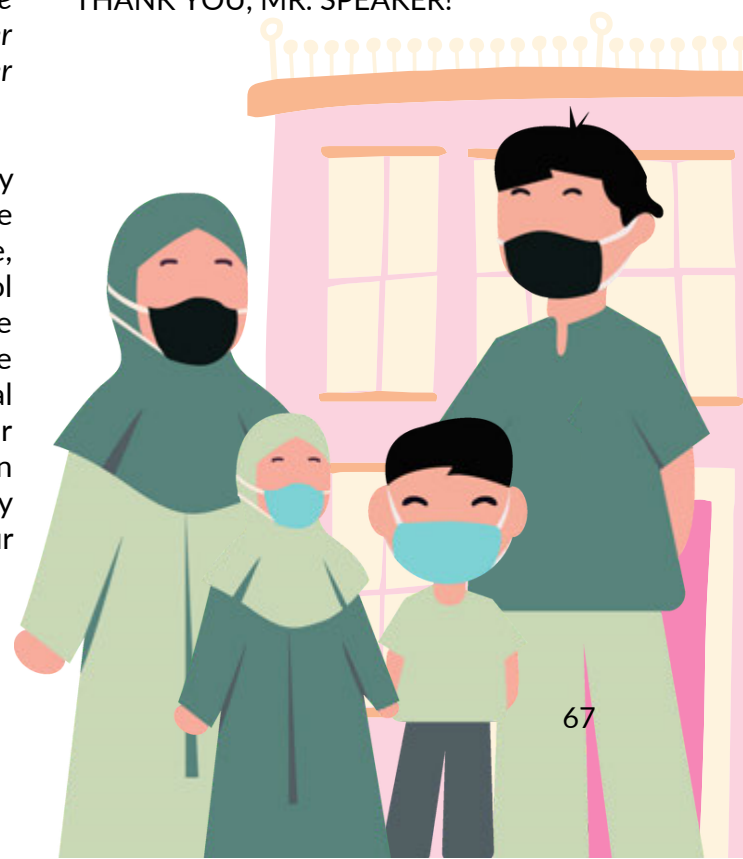
**Every Bangsamoro Child deserves to be protected.**

**It is finally time to establish orphanages in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and to provide support to our institutions housing orphans especially for our children of *shaheed* or *martyrs* in the service of the Moro Revolutionary Fronts.**

And So,

**I humbly recommend to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to adopt this bill and to support the quick passage of *Bta Parliament No. 71 Or The Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020*, for the sake of our children and orphans in the BARMM.**

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER!



# FEATURE STORIES

# A GLIMPSE AT A MODERN-DAY HERO



**“YOU HAVE TO FIGHT TO SURVIVE. THE MOMENT YOU SURRENDER, THE ENEMY WINS.”**

**- SHAHANIE B. BAULO, RN**

Let us take a look at our ‘Modern-Day Heroes’ who selflessly perform their job during the COVID-19 pandemic despite the hardships and health risks.

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

She faces the everyday challenges of a health frontliner- physically and mentally exhausted, experiencing the feeling of fear, anger, anguish, panic and anxiety. The fear for the unknown, the anger over the unseen enemy taking away innocent lives, the sadness over the rapidly increasing mortality and morbidity rates, the panic attacks felt every time the ‘what ifs’ anxiety comes.

Shanie confides that every night before sleep, she feels a struggle to find peace and calm.

With perseverance, Shanie overcomes the challenges through prayer and motivation from her family. “Continue to chase your passion and dreams with a purpose. Do it for yourself and for the people who need you.

Always give a hand without expectations. Be a role model to the people, in that way you will be remembered.” Shanie says.

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

Health workers are on the frontline in the fight against the new Corona Virus, they carry enormous task at work and face the fear of bringing the virus home to their families. Our ability to help the helpers is our main significant contribution for them, and mainly for us.

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

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

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



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

# CALL FOR BANGSAMORO ORPHANAGES

*"The story of our children is the story of our future."*

This is a story of a child roaming outside because he doesn't have a place to stay, a child without parental care or he may live with a relative or a neighbor but could not take care for him, a child who could be forced to work to earn a living and even for his family, a child who is being unattended and ignored that could lead him to radicalization and co-option by violent extremist groups, and a child who could be deprived of basic services including access to education and health services.

These are more closely associated with a child who lost his parents or just one parent. Without love and care of the parents, life is filled with hardships. In the absence of ample support, the orphaned children is one of the most vulnerable as they might end up engaging in criminal acts, they may grow up believing resolving issues by violence, they could die of starvation or malnutrition, they could be at risk and vulnerable to recruitment by the armed and extremist groups, they could do harm to others and impact the world in a negative way. But in some cases, orphaned children seek out warmth and love from other families or relatives but many of them end up living on the street.

Some orphaned children are being supported by family network or support institutions (both home-based and in-center) also exist to provide assistance, often in the form of *sadaqah* (voluntary giving or charity) or *zakat* (tithing). However, most respondents only receive support from extended family members for the first year, after two or three years, this support declines. As the cases of support institutions (both home-based and in-center), the number of orphans that can be provided support is limited by available resources.[1]

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

However, some respondents noted that there are cases where orphans are perceived as additional burden, particularly when they are taken in by distant relatives who are forced to take them in. This can lead to discrimination or abuses when it is not their choice to take care of the orphans but are obligated by cultural and religious norms. Some respondents described caretaker relatives who send their biological children to school but do not extend the same privilege to the orphans (purportedly due to limited resources). Others give jobs to orphans in the guise of providing employment, but these roles can be unpaid, low-paying, or unpleasant (as househelp and/or various forms of hard labor such as digging ditches, latrines, or graves).

'ORPHAN CARE CENTER' 'because every child deserves a chance...

Explore appropriate models for orphanage centers per town to cater orphans with no guardians for in-house care, including 'village' type settlements where orphans and widows can be together, and training of personnel to provide appropriate care. Education is a primary need, incentive, and goal for most respondents, alongside access to jobs. However, respondents identified at least five common needs and aspirations of orphans that should be addressed by a comprehensive support program: (i) *Physical safety and security*; (ii) *Socio-economic needs*; (iii) *Educational needs*; (iv) *Emotional and spiritual needs*, and (v) *Access to justice* (The Asia Foundation, 2020).

Building orphanage centers such as *Baytul Yatim* will help alleviate the condition of every orphan. Orphans are often sent to this institution as a way of relieving a family with very little income or limited capacity to meet the needs of the child. Orphans in orphanages should be given a safe environment to grow, with a good place to sleep, adequate food and proper schooling, and visited their families often, this way to help them grasp their rights as individuals. By institutionalizing to build orphanages that are supported by the Bangsamoro Government, we will have more impact on the lives of these orphaned children and reach those more in providing services with quality care.

When we help orphan children raised in a healthy and loving environment, they grow up to be responsible individual, and there will be less crime, less deprived children, and less out-of-school children. Our children are the most valuable resource in our country and its best hope for the future, before they can be responsible and ideal youth, we need to guide and mold them in their early years to help them become the best version of their selves. Our children's future is worth every sacrifice; by helping them, we are helping our future.

## REFERENCE:

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



## EDUCATION, MY ONLY HOPE

*"During Marawi Siege, we lost our home and a small sari-sari store, our only earnings. After Marawi Siege, we lost our father who has been terribly sick because of paralysis and a trauma brought by the siege and now a pandemic; I couldn't afford to lose my education too."* Sittie narrated.

Hopeful as she is, Sittie stated how important to her is the education. *"Education is my only hope, we lost everything from Marawi Siege and now I need to finish my study to support my family."* She added.

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

*"It is almost three (3) years since the Marawi Siege happened, yet still remained in this temporary shelter. My mother is old and sick, she has no job. I, together with my five siblings, was just supported by the generous relatives and sometimes through sadaqah (voluntary giving) from our neighbor."* Sittie said.

The coronavirus pandemic has been exposing us that education 'is only' for those who can afford. It is one of the problems of the government that needs to be resolved; to make education accessible to all under any circumstances.



*"Education is my top priority since then because it was the dream of my father but due to this circumstance, though it's painful for me, I need to stop schooling for a while and start looking for a job instead so that I could pay bills and support my family."* she added.

While we recognized the importance of continuity learning, the government must address the issues/gaps and challenges that brought by the new normal education, explore more appropriate model that is necessary to resolve the status quo and make a long-term solution to ensure that our education is accessible by anyone under any circumstances, so that we could ascertain that *"No Bangsamoro Child left behind"* in our region.

# EARLY LEARNERS AT BLENDED LEARNING- ARE THEY READY?



*"We are not ready for a Blended Learning; but we are now preparing for a Modular Distance Learning in our school." Rahma, a teacher from Marawi City said. "Moreover, we also can't afford to provide online learning since majority of our learners and teachers are residing in the remote areas. Slow internet connection and scarcity of technological devices are the primary problems." She argued.*

*"It's quite a challenge for us teachers that we need to make modules in accordance to the working activity of our pupils and it should be understood by their parents." A private teacher from Marawi City narrated how hard their adjustments in preparing for the opening of the class. The school is part of the most affected area during Marawi Siege, they transferred to Marantao, and occupied a small building of abandoned Madrasa for free, it is solely from the parents' payments were the expenses of the school came from and now since their main problem is the low rate of their enrollees because of pandemic; they experienced limited financial resources and capacity to adjust for this new normal Education. "For the sake of our learners, we continued to work even though we don't have salaries." She added.*

This situation represents many schools in Lanao del sur especially in Marawi City, as they struggled to meet the new normal education requirements while not compromising the health of their students. Both learners and teachers are new to this kind of Learning Modalities. Teacher from Marawi city narrated how blended learning is a very tough challenge to both teachers and early-learners especially in remote areas.

*"Early learners will have a hard time adapting this so called blended learning, especially that of combination of modular and online education." Miah, a primary school teacher from Marawi City said.*

*"In terms of modular, we all know that early learners especially kindergarten pupils have a very short attention span. So, how can they learn all the content of their module if they're not with their teachers (absence of face-to-face education)? They're fortunate if their parents are not that busy and will voluntary teach them the whole content of their module like how their pre-school teachers do." She added.*

*"Another thing is that in terms of online education, it's more difficult to apply here in our locality, knowing that our internet connection here is very poor. Not all the pupils and the teachers have enough access to internet, and even if for some pupils having good access to internet, we are not really sure if they're willing to participate in their online class because most of them prefer doing online games than listening to online classes." She argued.*

As the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, young children will always be one of the most vulnerable, this time with full of challenges-also offers us some opportunities. It's time for us to not just resort to a single option but to have multiple plans. However, this blended learning may be implemented for early learners as long as their parents and caregivers are willing to assist and guide them as their teachers at home. The parents and educators will have a big role in this time of pandemic, they need to support and help one another in preparing for our children in education that needs a lot of effort and apt planning; we need always to bear in mind that our children's future is worth every sacrifice.





## BABY MINA, SANGGOL NA BAKWIT



Isinilang si Baby Mina ngayong taon, ika-14 apat ng Hulyo sa kanilang temporary shelter sa Boganga, Marawi City. Tulad ng lahat ng mga batang bakwit, walang katiyakan ang kanyang kinabukasan.

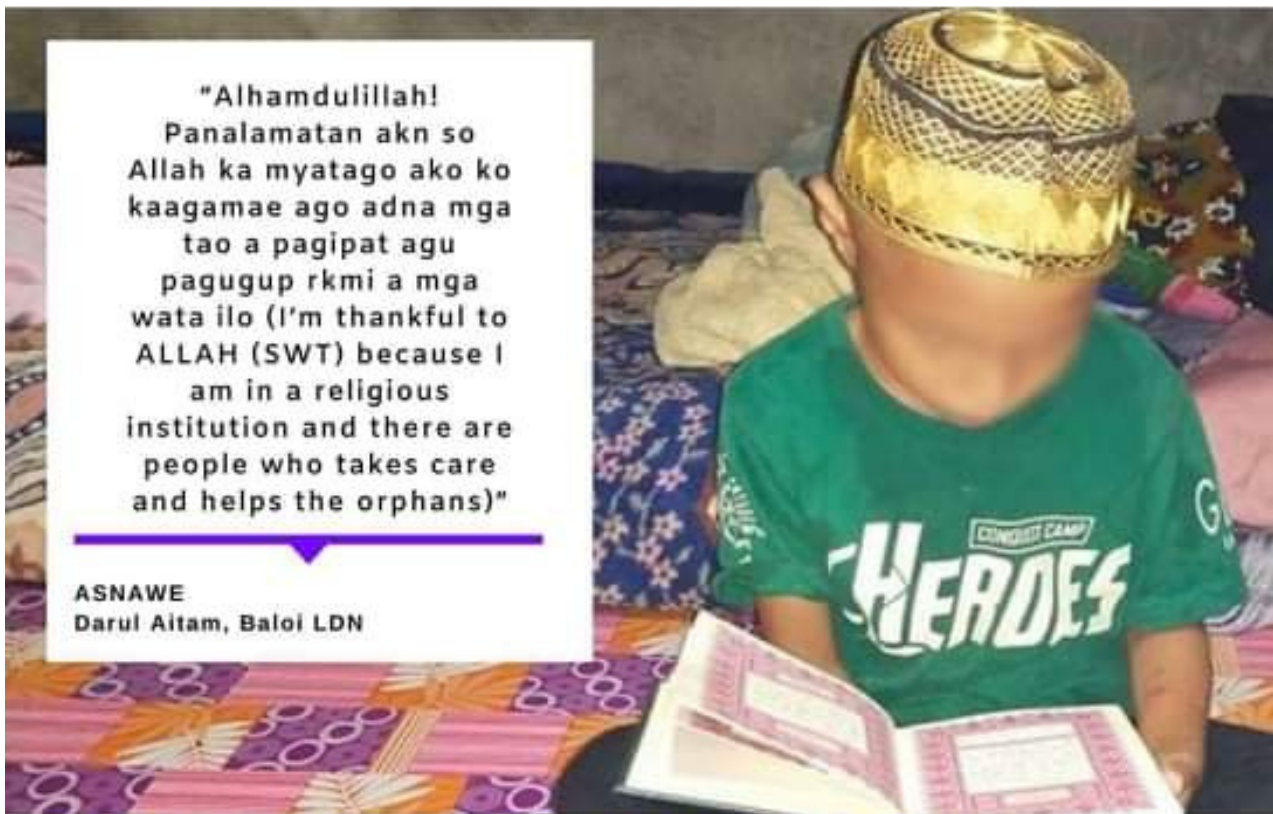
Subalit pangarap ng kanyang nanay na mabigyan ng magandang buhay ang kanyang mga anak kahit hindi na nila masisilayan ang kanilang ama dahil mag-a-apat na buwan na itong namatay. Ang kanyang ama ay nagtrabaho noon sa Manila bilang Taxi driver.

Si Baby Mina at ang kanyang nanay at apat na kapatid ay umaasa lamang sa pinamimigay na mga tira o sobra mula sa relief assistance. Yung tira lamang ang nakukuha nila dahil sila ay kasama sa “unrecognized occupants” ng shelter na nakikitira rin lamang doon. Hirap man sa buhay sa pagiging bakwit nananatili pa rin ang bayanihan ng mga kasama nila sa shelter. Sila ay nagtulungan at nag-ambag-ambag noon sa pagsilang ni Baby Mina.

Isa lamang si Baby Mina sa maraming mga sanggol na bakwit na isinilang sa temporary shelter hahamon sa buhay dahil sa pangyayari noong “Marawi Siege.” Sa ngayon, ang tanging pangarap ng nanay ni Baby Mina ay makabalik at makapag-simula muli sa kanilang lugar sa Marinaut. Ang Marinaut ay napabilang sa “Most Affected Area” noong Marawi Siege. Pangarap ng nanay ni Baby Mina na lumaki ang kanyang mga anak na mapayapa, may pangarap, at may magandang kinabukasan. Higit sa lahat, ay hindi lumaking mga bakwit pa rin.

***“Hindi man nila masisilayan ang kanilang ama sa kanilang paglaki, ang aking pangarap ay mabigyan sila ng pagkakataon na masilayan ang lugar at tahanan na kung saan kami namuhay noon— sa lupang sinilangan ng kanilang ama,” wika ng nanay ni Baby Mina.***

# LIFE OF AN ORPHAN IN TORIL



Five-year-old boy Asnawe narrated how difficult his life became when his father died years ago. Together with his three siblings, they relied on their aunts who are farmers for support as their mother has no job.

According to Asnawe, when there is no food to eat, his mother would ask him to borrow money from the neighbors in order to buy rice at the store.

However, there are times when no one would lend a hand. During such cases, he would just play outside and entertain himself to forget the hunger.

He would return home with stomach ache and his mother would tell him and his siblings to just sleep in order to forget the hunger. Despite hardship, Asnawe remains hopeful. His dream is to become a *hafidh* (a person who memorized the Qur'an) in order to ensure that his family members enters Janna (Heaven).

He is currently in *Qaeedah* (Level 1) in the Toril and strives hard in memorizing the Qur'an. He said that, in the beginning, living in the toril was hard, but he chose to stay in order to lessen the burden of his family and to make his dream come true.

*"Mab'b'lag ako saki ome ago so mga pagare akn, na di ta di makatigr ka kagya aya akn mapipikir na so singanin akn a makapasad mangadi agu mbaloy a hafidh (I'm away from my mother and siblings but I have to endure the pain because of my dream to finish my studies and ultimately become a Hafidh)," Asnawe said.*

He is inspired to finish his studies not only because of the company of his classmates but also because it was the dream of his father (to become a *hafidh*).

# SUMMARY

Children and young people with the absence of their parents either by death or abandonment are clearly vulnerable groups and results in the child becoming an orphan; they are physically weak in the society and are mostly challenged by poverty. The sad reality is that if foster parents, social workers, or institutions are not there to provide what they need, no one will. This is the time for the government to step in. Under the principle of *Parens Patriae*, the government should stand in as the parents and caregivers of these vulnerable children.

SIYAP KO MGA WATA IN AID OF LEGISLATIONS aims to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the children through various programs and activities, and to capture the situations and gather data that can be the identification of key topics to consider in aid of legislation.

We conducted CARE FOR ORPHANS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS IN AID OF LEGISLATIONS IN THE WHOLE REGION in partnership with The Asia Foundation. The consultations focused on the various issues and concerns of orphans, as well as the stakeholders who took care of them, and participated by different sectors, stakeholders, individuals, institutions, offices/ministries, and various organizations. They provided inputs and recommendations addressed to the Bangsamoro Government, and to our Proposed *BTA Parliament Bill No. 71*, or the "*Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020*", which would establish and institutionalized support to our orphans and the participants gave their comments, inputs, and recommendations for the improvement of the bill. Our participants and many stakeholders signed the manifestation of support for the immediate passage of this Bill.

As we continue to support and advocate for children's rights, we are working hand in hand to make sure that our children should be prioritized and included in the programs, budgets, and activities of the Government to improve their lives and welfare. We give importance to them because they are the hope of the next generation. Let us continue to support in creating a better world for our children, making a better place and a safe environment for them to take care of and pass on to future generations.

# DIARY OF MY JOURNEY AS SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE

My journey as student leader, an advocate and now a young government in service.

I always believe in a statement that you cannot give what you do not have. As a youth, we have this opportunity to work hard while we still have the energy and inspiration. We must insist to involve ourselves in matters that concern our future, integrate ourselves to development programs, and invest in our capacities as the hope and future breed of change makers. I am someone who takes time to continue learning even though it may or may not related to my course and job. Being a Management and an Accountancy degree holder, I must see to it that I always work with my passion because I loved what I do, and this passion has led me to challenge myself daily and learn new skills that helped me to do better to become an instrument in helping others and be a catalyst of change.

To be honest, I've never really thought of myself as someone who is a strong advocate for anything or specific. Sure, in conversations with friends or family I'll vocalize my core values and those that align with my character and the way I think life 'should' be. As for my engagements, I have been on various activities in the university and college, an active youth leader who have been delegated to attend a series of trainings, seminars, and workshops in various relevant topics such as a community service, leadership, and social obligations. But we must realize that making an impact in our society is the great contribution that we can make even if we have so many achievements and degrees in life, I always put in my mind that *"A great ambition without a contribution is without significance"*.

In 2019, Alhamdulillah! I was given an opportunity to be of service under the office of MP Maisara though it was unexpected because during the interview, I did not know that it was a real work with salary, I applied because since then I loved doing volunteering and advocacy works. My dream came true that somehow, I wish to work with people who have the same passion and who have sincere intention to serve, which I described our institution as complete package such as family, work, career, passion, advocacy, and adventures. I am always inspired by the kind and leadership skills of our boss and being motivated by our supporting and loving team members.

I was given an opportunity to represent the sector of Children and orphans in our region. We do consultations in every grassroots, offices/agencies and organizations and we do also programs, activities, and projects for them. We met many stakeholders and partners that were also doing the same. One of the mandated of our office is to craft policies such as bills and resolutions, Alhamdulillah, another skill that we learnt is how to make it. It was challenging at first but whenever I think of the orphans and vulnerable children, it inspires me to do and learn for them.

It is my first time also to craft the 1st draft of the Bill namely: the Bangsamoro Orphanage Act 2020 filed on November 9, 2020. It was challenging at first but with the help and guide of Allah (S.W.T), all things can be surpassed. Alhamdulillah! This is the combination of all the data that we gathered, consultations, and the supports of our partners.

Orphans should have an attention to the government because the sad reality is that if a good and caring person is not there to provide what they need, who will? They might end up engaging in criminal acts and brings suffering to others as well. The result is truly heartbreaking as many of the orphan children out there could die of starvation or malnutrition. They could die from preventable diseases; they could die at the hands of others and themselves. They could spend much of their life in jail. They could do harm to others and impact the world in a negative way. Alhamdulillah, thru our office, the voice of orphans and children are heard in BTA Parliament, and we are working hand in hand to make sure that the government should make them prioritized and do their mandates to protect the rights and welfare of the orphans and children in our region.

As an ordinary youth, I am more inspired by all our advocacies, I am forever grateful because I'm one of the staffs of Ma'am MP, thru her office, we were able to exercise our passion and advocacies through our work. It inspires me to do more in our community. This is also one of the main reasons why I enrolled in law school because having this profession will help me to serve others and address those concerns and issues in our community. The office taught me to embrace change, I must change my own self for me to see the change I wanted to be. Change should be coming from our own self, Alhamdulillah, thru our office, we learnt a lot to change and improve ourselves both professionally and personally that wherever we are, we are continuing taking the challenge of becoming the voices and serve others especially the vulnerable sectors in our community to see the positive changes in the status quo that we wanted to be. In shaa Allah!

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