

21 JAN 25 P4:57

SENATE
S. No. 2019

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 ARTICLE XVI OF
REPUBLIC ACT 11054, ENTITLED “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
THE ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6734,
ENTITLED “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIC LAW
OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO”
AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 9054, ENTITLED “AN ACT
TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC ACT FOR
THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO” AND
SETTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE FIRST REGULAR
ELECTION OF THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To pave the way for a better, more empowered, and self-governing Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Republic Act No. 11054 or the “*Bangsamoro Organic Law*” was passed repealing Republic Act No. 6734 or “*An Act Providing for an Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*” as amended by Republic Act No. 9504 or “*An Act to Strengthen and Expand the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*”.

This law was overwhelmingly approved in the plebiscite held on January 21, 2019. The BARMM, with its expanded territory and enhanced powers for more meaningful self-governance is aimed to end decades of armed conflict and facilitate the transition to normalization. This process of normalization also involves the decommissioning of thousands of combatants and ushering them back to the society as non-combatants.

As mandated by Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) began its work on July 1, 2019, right after the dissolution of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and at the end of the term of the ARMM Officials.

Just like the rest of the nation, the COVID-19 Pandemic also significantly affected the BTA's efforts and timetable to pass legislation and build the BARMM's institutions. The COVID-19 Pandemic has also apparently affected the National Government's fulfilment of its remaining obligations under the normalization provisions of the GPH-MILF Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro.

In view of these concerns, there is need to give the BTA and the National Government more time to completely build the BARMM and deliver each other's commitments in relation to the peace agreements. The challenges brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic made it difficult for stakeholders to fulfill the three-year transitional time frame mandated by the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

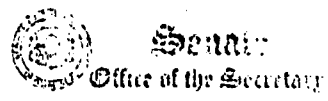
Thus, the postponement of the first BARMM parliamentary elections scheduled in 2022¹ to the year 2025 is hereby sought to give the BTA ample time to implement its mandate and strengthen the foundation as well as the institutions of the BARMM.

Passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

¹ Section 13, Article XVI of RA 11054 states that "Section 13. First Regular Election. - The first regular election for the Bangsamoro Government under this Organic Law shall be held and synchronized with the 2022 national elections. The Commission on Elections, through the Bangsamoro Electoral Office, shall promulgate rules and regulations for the conduct of the elections, enforce and administer them pursuant to national laws, this Organic Law and the Bangsamoro Electoral Code."

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 13, Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054
2 or "An Act Providing for the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro
3 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao" is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **"Section 13. *First Regular Election.* - The first regular election**
6 **for the Bangsamoro Government under this Organic Law shall**
7 **be held and synchronized with the [2022] 2025 national**
8 **elections. The Commission on Elections, through the**
9 **Bangsamoro Electoral Office, shall promulgate rules and**
10 **regulations for the conduct of the elections, enforce and**

1 administer them pursuant to national laws, this Organic Law
2 and the Bangsamoro Electoral Code.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or
4 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation
5 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
8 days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a
9 newspaper of general circulation.

10
Approved,