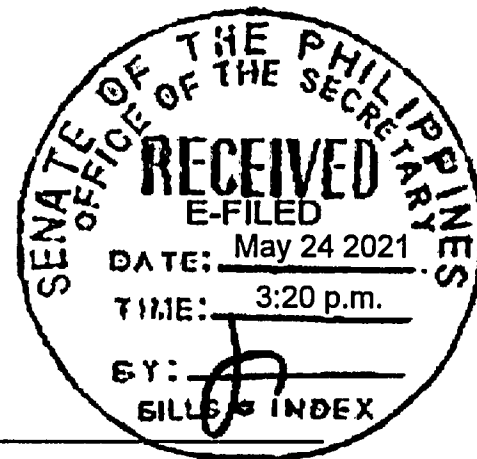


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 729



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
INTO THE ACCOUNTING AND LIQUIDATION OF THE APPROPRIATIONS
AND THE ANNUAL BLOCK GRANTS ALLOCATED FOR THE YEARS 2020 AND
2021 TO THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM
MINDANAO (BARMM), INCLUDING THE ANNUAL SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT
FUND ALLOCATED FOR THE REBUILDING, REHABILITATION, AND
DEVELOPMENT OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE BARMM**

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the creation of autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao consisting of provinces, cities, municipalities, and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures, and other relevant characteristics within the framework of the Constitution and the national sovereignty as well as the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11054 (R.A. No. 11054) otherwise known as the "*Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (OLBARMM)*" was enacted to establish a political entity, that would provide for the basic structure of government in recognition of the justness and the legitimacy of the cause of the Bangsamoro people, as well as to promote the aspirations of Muslim Filipinos and all indigenous cultural communities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to further secure their identity and posterity, allowing for meaningful self-governance within the framework of the Constitution and the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 11054 further provides that the Bangsamoro Government shall enjoy fiscal autonomy with the end goal of attaining economic independence and genuine development;

WHEREAS, the 80-member Bangsamoro Transition Authority, the region's law-making body, approved the Bangsamoro Development Plan for 2020-2022. The development goals include the establishment of foundations for inclusive, transparent, accountable, and efficient governance, to uphold peace, security, public order and safety, and respect for human rights, create a favorable enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable economic development, and promote Bangsamoro identity,

cultures, and diversity. The development goals also seek to ensure access to and delivery of quality services for human capital development, harness technology and innovations to increase socio-economic opportunities and improve government services, and increase strategic and climate-resilient infrastructure to support sustainable socio-economic development in the Bangsamoro region, among others;

WHEREAS, under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2020, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was allocated an annual appropriation of Php 7 billion, an Annual Block Grant of Php 63.6 billion, and a Special Development Fund of Php 5 billion;

WHEREAS, in addition, under the 2021 GAA, the BARMM was given an annual appropriation of Php 8.6 billion, an Annual Block Grant of Php 71.6 billion, and a Special Development Fund of Php 5 billion;

WHEREAS, prior to the establishment of the BARMM, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was allocated an annual appropriation of Php 32.4 billion and Adjustments of Php 7.2 billion with Total Available Appropriations of Php 39.7 billion. Thus, as compared to the ARMM appropriation of only of Php 39.7 billion, the total BARMM allocation was higher, amounting to at least double the amount of the budget allocated to the ARMM;

WHEREAS, BARMM Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim said that, *"Our task for the upcoming year is to create programs and policies that will simultaneously revive the economy, deliver basic services to the constituents and revisit our public health institutions"*;

WHEREAS, despite these allocated appropriations, there is too little progress and change in the BARMM. Moreover, in its ongoing decommissioning process, BARMM Chief Minister Ebrahim disclosed that they decommissioned only 13,500 of the 40,000 MILF fighters they are targeting for the said process. The decommissioning process is thus behind schedule;

WHEREAS, in 2019, out of the 12,000 MILF combatants decommissioned, only 2,000 long firearms were brought out. Many of these firearms were even old and inferior in quality. Given the number of decommissioned combatants, the proper ratio should have been one combatant-one firearm;

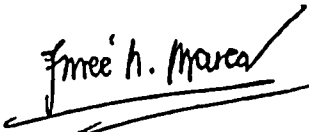
WHEREAS, on 11 May 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte called on top officials of the BARMM to help the national government in its campaign to stamp out violent extremism and terrorism in the region, stating: *"Nakikiusap ako because government cannot wage a war against its own people. Hindi talaga pwede 'yan. Kaya ako nagpunta dito, to remind you that Mindanao is still part of the Philippines...this cannot go on. If it will not stop at my time, this conflict will cost lives, will cost innocent lives"*;

WHEREAS, with the huge appropriations made in the GAA for 2020 and 2021, it is imperative for Congress to determine the status of the projects implemented especially since the Bangsamoro Government is still in its transition stage;

WHEREAS, it is also important for Congress to be informed on the progress of the transition process, implementation of programs and the proper utilization of funds, as well as the reasons for delay which are not attributable to the dire effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to determine other legislative measures, if necessary, to be legislated by Congress in order to promote the long-term vision of meaningful growth in the Bangsamoro Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the Committee on Finance to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the accounting and liquidation of the Appropriations and the Annual Block Grants allocated for the years 2020 and 2021 to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), including the annual Special Development Fund allocated for the rebuilding, rehabilitation, and development of conflict-affected communities in the BARMM.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Imee R. Marcos", written over a horizontal line.

IMEE R. MARCOS