



Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT
Bangsamoro Government Center, Cotabato City



BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY

(THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

BANGSAMORO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 20

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Friday, the 29th day of March, 2019.

AN ACT
MANDATING THE DUAL USE OF HIJRI AND GREGORIAN CALENDARS
IN ALL MINISTRIES, AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, OFFICES AND
INSTITUTIONS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM
MINDANAO (BARMM), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in Parliament assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “The Bangsamoro Dual Calendar Act of 2021.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the Bangsamoro Government that in the exercise of its right to self-governance, it shall be free to pursue its political, economic, social, and cultural development as provided in Republic Act (R. A.) No. 11054 otherwise known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Towards this end, the Bangsamoro Government adopts and mandates the dual use of *Hijri* and Gregorian Calendars in the conduct of its business recognizing the primacy of the predominant way of life in the region and encourage all-inclusive, understanding, coexistence and harmony in all levels of governance.

Section 3. Definition of terms. – The following terms, as used in this Act, shall mean:

(a) “*Hijri* Calendar” – Muslims around the world use Islamic calendar following the *Hijrah* (also known as the lunar calendar) to determine the dates of religious events and observances. It is based on 12 lunar months. A new month begins when a new moon is sighted and consists of 354 or 355 days. It consists of the following 12 months in numerical order, such as:

1. *Muharram*
2. *Safar*
3. *Rabi Al-Awwal*
4. *Rabi Al-Thani/Rabi Al-Akhir*
5. *Jumada Al-Awwal*

6. *Jumada Al-Thani/Jumada Al-Akhirah*
7. *Rajab*
8. *Sha'ban*
9. *Ramadhan* (the month of fasting)
10. *Shawwal*
11. *Dhul Al-Qa'dah*
12. *Dhul Al-Hijjah* (month of *Hajj*)

(b) “**Gregorian Calendar**” – is a solar dating system used by most of the world. It is named after Pope Gregory XIII, who issued the papal bull *inter gravissimas* in 1582, announcing calendar reforms for all of Catholic Christendom. It consists of 12 months, to wit:

1. January
2. February
3. March
4. April
5. May
6. June
7. July
8. August
9. September
10. October
11. November
12. December

(c) “**Hijrah**” – means the migration of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) from Makkah to Madinah (*Yathrib*) upon invitation in order to escape persecution.

Section 4. Agencies Covered. – All ministries, bureaus, offices, commissions, administrations, boards, committees, institutes, corporations whether performing governmental or proprietary function, or any other units of the BARMM, as well as provincial local government units, city local government units, municipal local government units, barangay local government units, and public and private schools, including basic, higher and technical education.

Section 5. Dual Use of Calendar. – Dual use of calendar shall mean all official documents and communications such as memorandum, office order and other forms of formal correspondence shall use and allow at the same time the *Hijri* calendar and the Gregorian calendar with respect to the year, month and date of said communication or formal correspondence.

In writing the date of official documents, communications, and other forms of formal correspondence, the date on the *Hijri* calendar shall appear first before the date on the Gregorian calendar.

Section 6. Objectives. – This law aims to:

(a) Put into action inclusiveness in all public affairs, transactions, and develop awareness among the constituents of the Bangsamoro of the *Hijri* and Gregorian Calendars;

- (b) Familiarize the calendar originated from the migration of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) from Makkah to Madinah;
- (c) Fulfill equally the declaration of the Islamic Holidays;
- (d) Distinguish *Hijri* calendar from Gregorian and other calendars;
- (e) Promote all Muslim Holidays as stipulated in the Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 1083 otherwise known as the Code on Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines;
- (f) Think of the historical event of the *Hijrah* of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), from Makkah to Madinah to escape persecution;
- (g) Establish the dual use of *Hijri* and Gregorian Calendars within the core territory of the BARMM; and
- (h) Recognize and inculcate in the minds of the Bangsamoro people that the most important migration in the glorious history of Islam was the migration of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) from Makkah to Madina in the Month of *Rabi Al-Awwal*, in the 13th year of the Prophetic mission.

Section 7. Implementing Office. – The Office of the Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, through the Bangsamoro *Darul-Ifta'* shall implement this law with the highest degree of integrity, efficiency, responsibility and accountability.

Section 8. Powers and Functions. – The Bangsamoro *Darul-Ifta'* shall, in implementation of this law, have the following powers and functions:

- a) Promulgate *fatwa* (religious verdicts) pertaining to the whole coverage of Islamic Jurisprudence;
- b) Lead the promotion of intrareligious and interreligious dialogues for the attainment of peaceful co-existence;
- c) Serve as consultant to the Office of the Chief Minister pertaining to religious affairs;
- d) Collaborate and exchange information pertaining to *Ramadhan* moon-sighting locally and internationally specially among the nearby South East Asian Muslim Countries;
- e) Perform moon-sighting every 29th day of *Hijri* month to accurately determine the monthly *Hijri* or Lunar calendar; and
- f) Perform other functions as may be provided by law or assigned by the Chief Minister.

Section 9. Budget. – For the operation and implementation of this law, the Bangsamoro *Darul-Ifta'* shall have an initial funding of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000,00) which shall be sourced from any available funds of the Bangsamoro Government and every year thereafter

shall be included in the regular budget of agency subject to usual accounting, audit rules, and regulations.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. – Any law or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 12. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general or regional circulation.

APPROVED.


ATTY. ALI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Bangsamoro Parliament on Muharram 8, 1443/August 17, 2021.


PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

APPROVED:


AHOD BALAWAG EBRAHIM
Chief Minister

Date: SEP. 22, 2021