



Republic of the Philippines

BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

Bangsamoro Government Center, Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Rosary Heights VII, Cotabato City 9600

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 0015
Series of 2021

**EXPANDING THE BANGSAMORO TASK FORCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING
(BTFAT) TO BANGSAMORO INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON
ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR
CHILDREN (BIACAT-VAWC)**

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the Bangsamoro Government to fully respect human rights, and to ensure that social justice shall be promoted in all aspects of life and phases of development in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

WHEREAS, some areas in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region have high incidence of interceptions of potential trafficked victims and cross-border trafficking;

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen measures to combat Trafficking in Persons and ensure the protection of the Bangsamoro people and other inhabitants in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

WHEREAS, recent reports have shown a high rate of sexual violence in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region with minors as the usual victims;

WHEREAS, it is deemed essential to safeguard the most vulnerable women and children in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region who are at heightened risks to violence as a result of poverty and other socio-economic factors;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), provides that the Bangsamoro Government shall exercise its authority over human rights (Art. V, Sec. 2 (ee)), labor employment, and occupation (Art. V, Sec. 2 (jj)), social services, social welfare, and charities (Art. V, Sec. 2 (vv));

as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9208, also known as Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, as amended by R.A. 10364, also known as the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, prompted the creation of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), a body that is mandated to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the law at the national level;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9262, also known as Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, brought about the establishment of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC) to ensure effective implementation of the law and be the lead coordinator and monitoring body on VAWC initiatives;

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Office of the Chief Minister acknowledges the need to strengthen measures to combat Trafficking in Persons and Violence Against Women and Their Children in the region, at the same time, strengthen coordination amongst Bangsamoro Government ministries in achieving the said objective;

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Justice issued a Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2010-1 for the creation of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC) and stipulated that "for purposes of expediency, maximizing resources, and preventing duplication of functions and representation at the local level, local committees on anti-trafficking and VAWC will be created instead of establishing two separate bodies at the provincial and city/municipal levels";

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 0009 provides for the creation of the Bangsamoro Task Force Against Trafficking (BTFAT), which will be expanded to Bangsamoro Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (BIACAT-VAWC) to strengthen and intensify the effort to protect the BARMM constituents against human trafficking and violence against women and children and other forms of abuses;

NOW THEREFORE, I, AHOD B. EBRAHIM, Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

Sec. 1. Creation of the Bangsamoro Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (the Committee).

The Committee is hereby created, composed of the heads of the following:

Chair: Office of the Senior Minister

Co-Chair: Ministry of Social Services and Development

Members: Bangsamoro Attorney General's Office (BAGO)
Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE)
Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG)
Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE)
Ministry of Health (MOH)
Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC)
Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (BHRC)
Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC)
Bureau of Information Office (BIO)
Bangsamoro Youth Commission (BYC)
Regional State Prosecutor (RSP)
Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MIPA)
Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta'

Partner Institutions:

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) - BARMM
Philippine National Police PRO-BAR
Bangsamoro Airport Authority (BAA)
Bangsamoro Ports Management Authority (BPMA)
National Bureau of Investigation - BARMM (NBI-BARMM)
Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) - BARMM
Department of Foreign Affairs Regional Offices
Department of Justice, Office of the Regional Prosecutor
Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, Inc.
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Committee members may designate an alternate to represent their respective offices in their absence. Such alternate must be fully authorized to decide for and on behalf of the Committee member.

Sec. 2. Powers and Functions. The Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Identify, determine, and discuss the root causes of irregular migration, domestic violence and child abuse in order to determine strategies on how to effectively combat Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Violence Against Women and Their Children (VAWC);
2. Develop a comprehensive Regional Action Plan to combat TiP and VAWC;
3. Formulate and implement policies and programs that prevent TiP and violence especially towards women and children and provide protection to victims of TiP and VAWC;
4. Monitor and ensure the strict implementation of R.A. 9208 as amended by R.A. 10364 and R.A. 9262;
5. Coordinate the programs and projects of member agencies to effectively address TiP and VAWC;
6. Establish and manage information sharing platforms that will monitor and respond to TiP and VAWC committed against any Bangsamoro and other inhabitants in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in accordance with the Data Privacy Act;
7. Formulate policy framework to be used as reference by Local Government Units and Non-Government Agencies in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region to prevent and suppress human trafficking and domestic violence;
8. Ensure relevant information and data on TiP and VAWC cases are available and accessible to stakeholders and are shared and regularly updated while ensuring confidentiality of victims' identities;
9. Establish and/or implement systems on surveillance, investigation and rescue to ensure effective and efficient coordination amongst concerned agencies;
10. Receive, document, track report, and gather evidence on human trafficking and VAWC for case prosecution;
11. Assist in the filing of cases against individuals, agencies, institutions, and establishment that violate the provisions of R.A. 9208 as expanded by R.A. 10364;
12. Establish a referral system that will ensure an integrated and coordinated response to victims of TiP and VAWC;
13. Develop and provide effective measures to institutionalize victim support assistance and recovery;
14. Formulate and implement a holistic program for the reintegration of trafficked and VAWC victims in coordination with relevant regional offices and national government agencies;

15. Conduct massive information dissemination and campaign on laws, rules, and regulations and on various issues and problems attendant to trafficking in persons and violence against women and children;
16. Establish a system of collecting periodic reports from member agencies on cases filed before them including the status of the case;
17. Request member agencies and other government instrumentalities to address specific issues brought to the Committee's attention that require immediate action;
18. Coordinate with other inter-agency councils and other similar structures and mechanisms for synchronization and harmonization of actions on the legal protection of children and TiP;
19. Develop and/or recommend policies and guidelines to address gaps and issues identified in the investigation and prosecution of cases as well as in the legal protection of children;
20. Formulate a uniform protocol for capacity-building of duty bearers and other stakeholders with emphasis on multi-disciplinary approach;
21. Submit to the Office of the Chief Minister an annual report which will include its work program and report on the progress of its execution including the findings on matters brought before it and action taken thereon; and
22. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Chief Minister, or as may be deemed necessary to meet the objectives of this Order.

Sec. 3. Secretariat. The technical staff from the MSSD shall serve as the Secretariat of the Committee. It shall perform the following tasks:

- a. Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the policies and guidelines on anti-trafficking in persons and VAWC;
- b. Maintain records of meetings, proceedings, activities and other services of the committee;
- c. Initiate training programs for members of the herein referred Committee in identifying and providing the necessary intervention or assistance to victims of TiP and VAWC;
- d. Document cases of TiP and VAWC by maintenance of a database for such purpose;
- e. Manage the information sharing platform referred to in Section 2 hereof;
- f. Collate and analyze information/cases;
- g. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Committee.

Sec. 4. Meetings. The BIACAT shall meet at least once every quarter. Whenever necessary, the Chairperson may call for a meeting at any time, provided that at least two (2) days advance notice is provided to the members.

Sec. 5. Support of Agencies. The Committee may call upon non-member government agencies and instrumentalities as well as development partners for assistance, whenever necessary, in the exercise of its functions and duties. The Committee may also invite experts as Resource Persons as the need arises.

Sec. 6. Funding. The initial funding for the implementation of this executive order shall be sourced from the operational funds of the Office of the Chief Minister, and for the succeeding years, it shall be included in the annual budget proposals of the concerned agencies.

Sec. 7. Terms of Reference. The BIACAT-VAWC shall formulate its Terms of Reference within thirty (30) days from its first meeting.

The Terms of Reference shall contain the agencies' respective interventions and programs to prevent, protect and reintegrate the victim-survivors of TiPs and VAWC.

Sec. 8. Separability. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. All other issuances, rules, and regulations or parts which are inconsistent with this Order is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity. The Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE in Cotabato City, this 20th day of December 2021.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER
Records Division - AMS

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BY: EV
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AHOD B. EBRAHIM
Chief Minister

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Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Office of the Chief Minister
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER

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Name: Abdul Azis L. Ali
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