



FIRST REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 62

RESOLUTION REQUIRING ALL MINISTRIES AND OFFICES INCLUDING SCHOOLS TO INITIATE AND DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES EVERY MARCH 18 IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF JABIDAH MASSACRE AS ONE OF THE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article 9 of the Bangsamoro Organic Law provides that, “the Bangsamoro Parliament, taking into account the report of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission, shall enact a transitional justice mechanism to address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people and the indigenous peoples, such as historical injustices, human rights violations, and marginalization through unjust dispossession of territorial and proprietary rights and customary land tenure”;

WHEREAS, in line with the above provision, there is a need to commemorate the anniversary of Jabidah Massacre this coming 18 March 2020 as it is essential to raise awareness by the Bangsamoro people concerning the historical injustices, human rights violations, and marginalization;

WHEREAS, on 18 March 1968, at least 23 Muslim army recruits who were members of a special commando unit named Jabidah were shot to death on Corregidor Island by the Philippine government, hence the Jabidah Massacre; and becoming public knowledge after sole survivor Jibin Arula was rescued by two fishermen from the waters of Caballo Island in Manila Bay; and on 28 March 1968, Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. exposed the incident in his privilege speech delivered at the Legislative Building, Manila, which resulted in the immediate adverse reaction of former Cotabato Governor Datu Udtog Matalam announcing the formation of Muslim Independence Movement (MIM) in May 1968 followed by the formation of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a month after the declaration of Martial Law, on 21 September 1972;

WHEREAS, former President Benigno Aquino III acknowledged also the same on 18 March 2013, when he led commemorations on the 45th anniversary of the massacre. This notably marked the first time that a ruling President had acknowledged the massacre as having taken place. Aquino also directed the National Historical Commission of the Philippines to designate the Mindanao Garden of Peace on Corregidor as a historical landmark;

WHEREAS, the Jabidah Massacre is recognized as one of the root causes of the Bangsamoro revolution marks its 52nd anniversary this coming 18 March 2020; causing the Moro National Liberation Front and eventually the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and other movements into action for political aspirations;

WHEREAS, propagandists have published opinion pieces branding the Jabidah Massacre as ‘fake news,’ hence the need to educate the public;

WHEREAS, Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (BHRC) is mandated to promote and protect human rights and, during armed conflict, uphold international humanitarian law;

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) is mandated, on the other hand, to educate, among others, relating to historical injustices and political aspirations;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

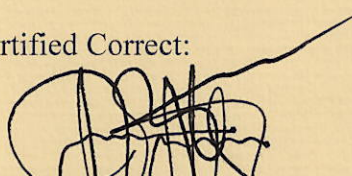
RESOLVED, to express the sense of the BTA parliament to encourage all offices and schools to develop activities in commemoration of the anniversary of the Jabidah Massacre.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to require all other ministries and commissions to conduct programs and activities related thereto in commemoration of the anniversary of the Jabidah Massacre.

RESOLVED FINALLY, to require the Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (BHRC) and Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) to develop comprehensive policies and programs commemorating the Jabidah Massacre and all other historical injustices of the Bangsamoro people so that these will never happen again.


Adopted, February 19, 2020.

Certified Correct:



PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary General

Attested:



ATTY. ALI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker

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