



SECOND REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 73

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 2, RULE VIII AND SECTION 4, RULE XIII OF BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION NO. 6, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PARLIAMENTARY RULES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES OF THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY OF THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, TO ALLOW THE CONDUCT OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE HEARINGS THROUGH TELECONFERENCE, VIDEO CONFERENCE OR OTHER RELIABLE FORMS OF REMOTE OR ELECTRONIC MEANS

WHEREAS, on 8 March 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, declaring a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) and enjoining all government agencies and local government units to “render full assistance and cooperation, and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat;”

WHEREAS, on 11 May 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases convened to analyze current scientific data and apply the parameters to determine the appropriate community quarantine or social distancing measures that should be implemented in different provinces, highly-urbanized cities (HUCs), and independent component cities (ICCs) in the country;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 41, s. 2020 issued by the IATF, beginning 01 June 2020, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) which consists of the Provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Cotabato City shall be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ);

WHEREAS, based on the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, work in all public offices in areas placed under MGCQ may be allowed to resume physical reporting to work at full operating capacity, with alternative work arrangements for persons who are sixty (60) years old and above, those with immunodeficiency, co-morbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women;

WHEREAS, mass gatherings in areas placed under MGCQ shall be allowed provided that participants shall be limited to fifty percent (50%) of the venue or seating capacity;

WHEREAS, despite government interventions, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise, with the latest count of confirmed cases at fifteen thousand five hundred eighty eight (15,588) as of 28 May 2020, and this is expected to continuously increase following the broadening of the country’s capacity to test more patients nationwide;

WHEREAS, the imposition of MGCQ in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and its attendant limitations should not prevent the Bangsamoro Parliament from exercising its legal mandate to enact laws and authorize appropriations, especially those necessary for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Government to respond to this pandemic while ensuring the safety and well-being of the Bangsamoro throughout the country;

WHEREAS, Section 25, Article VII of the Bangsamoro Organic Law allows the Parliament to adopt its own rules for the conduct of its business;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Bangsamoro Parliament, to amend Section 5, Rule VI; Section 2, Rule VIII; and Section 4, Rule XIII of Parliament Resolution No. 6, to read as follows:

**“Rule VI. - Organizing, Convening, and Electing Officers of the
BTA**

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Section. 5. Convening the BTA. – The BTA shall convene its regular session once every year, the second Tuesday after Eid’l Fitri and not later than thirty (30) days before the opening of the next regular session. At the beginning of its regular session, the Chief Minister presents before the BTA the policies and programs of the Government of the Day.

The parliament speaker, after due consultation with the majority floor leader and the minority floor leader, may convene the parliament through teleconferencing or other reliable forms of electronic means when there is an occurrence of force majeure or a national or regional emergency where physical presence of the members of the parliament in the plenary hall is not possible or is limited by circumstances.

The members using the teleconference platform shall be deemed present for the purpose of determining the quorum, participation in the deliberation, and casting of votes.

Guidelines related to teleconferencing may be issued by the speaker, after consultation with the majority floor leader, minority floor leader, and the secretary general.

**“Rule VIII. – Committee Hearings, Public Hearings and Public
Consultations.**

“Section 2. Committee Meeting, When and Where Held. – The meetings of the committees are held in the morning of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the committee room of the BTA building during the regular session of the BTA, without prejudice to holding it, whenever necessary, in outside venues. The committee members may also go on research visits or on-site investigations.

“For the same reasons and the same procedure provided under Section 5, Rule VI, the committee may conduct meetings or hearings through teleconference, video conference, or other reliable forms of remote or electronic means, using appropriate information and communications technology systems due to *force majeure* or occurrence of an emergency which may prevent members from physically attending the committee meetings or hearings.

The guidelines on teleconferencing issued by the speaker as provided in rule vi, section 5, shall likewise cover teleconferencing during committee meetings and hearings.

“Rule XIII. – Sessions

“**Section 4. Conduct of Sessions.** – Plenary sessions shall commence at one o’clock in the afternoon on Tuesdays through Thursdays of the third and fourth week of the month, except when the Parliament decides otherwise. The Speaker shall open, conduct, and close the sessions.

“The Speaker, after consultation with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, respectively, may:

“(a) Postpone the holding of the session on a day to day adjournment, or

“(b) Convene and hold the session through teleconference, video conference, or other reliable forms of remote or electronic means, using appropriate information and communications technology systems, due to *force majeure* or the occurrence of a national or regional emergency which may prevent the convening of the Parliament or the physical presence of its Members in the plenary hall. The members using the teleconference platform shall be deemed present for the purpose of determining the quorum, participation in the deliberation, and casting of votes.

“Notwithstanding the foregoing, a limited number of the Members who elect to be physically present during the holding of a teleconference session may personally attend and participate in the said session inside the plenary hall. The Speaker, in consultation with the majority and minority leaders, shall determine the list of members who will be allowed to physically attend the session in the plenary hall.

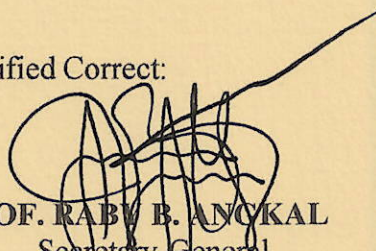
The guidelines on teleconferencing issued by the speaker as provided in Rule VI, Section 5, shall likewise cover teleconferencing during sessions.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Secretary General shall recommend the appropriate information and communications technology system and, upon the Speaker’s approval, oversee the setting up thereof;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Secretary General shall provide for relevant safety measures to protect the integrity of the plenary session and committee hearings, the security and reliability of the technology used, and the proper archiving of the audio-visual or electronic recording of the sessions and hearings as part of the records of the Parliament.

Adopted, June 18, 2020.

Certified Correct:


PROF. RABY B. ANOKAL
Secretary-General

Attested:


ATTY. ALIPANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker

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