



**BANGSAMORO COMMISSION  
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex Building, Bangsamoro Government Center, Cotabato City

**RESOLUTION NO. 11  
Series of 2022**

**“A RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST/CALL BY THE BANGSAMORO COMMISSION ON THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (BCPCH) FOR THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY (BTA) PARLIAMENT AND OTHER PERTINENT AUTHORITY WITHIN THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT TO CONVERGE EFFORTS TOWARDS THE NOMINATION OF THE *RANAW* OR LAKE LANA O FOR PROSPECTIVE INCLUSION IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST”**

**WHEREAS**, the BCPCH is created by virtue of Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 13 otherwise known as “An Act Providing for the Bangsamoro Administrative Code and Other Related Purposes” as enacted by Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament;

**WHEREAS**, Section 24, Article IX of Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Bangsamoro Organic Law),” states that the Bangsamoro Government shall preserve the history, culture, arts traditions, and the rich cultural heritage of the Bangsamoro people and their Sultanates, such as those of Sulu, Maguindanao, Kabuntalan, Buayan, the Royal House of Lanao and of the Iranun, and the non-Moro Indigenous peoples of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

**WHEREAS**, the BCPCH holds its legal mandate as provided under Article IX, Section 25 of the Bangsamoro Organic Law which states that “The Bangsamoro Commission for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage shall have the primary responsibility to write the history of the Bangsamoro people and to establish and sustain the cultural institutions, programs, and projects in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. The Commission shall coordinate and work closely with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, National Museum of the Philippines, and other concerned cultural agencies for the preservation of cultural heritage, shall establish libraries and museums declare and restore historical shrines and cultural sites to preserve the Bangsamoro heritage for posterity. The Commission shall ensure the inclusion of Philippine history, culture and heritage in the establishment of museums and similar institutions, programs and projects to foster unity among Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, Section 49, Chapter 4, Title XVI of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code No. 13 provides that the BCPCH in carrying out its mandate, the Commission shall have the power to recommend to the Bangsamoro Government regional policies and legislation on culture, arts, heritage promotion and development programs and activities, perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation – which includes calling attention to matters of significant import to the heritage rights of the Bangsamoro people;

**WHEREAS**, in common cognizance that “cultural and natural heritage is among the priceless and irreplaceable assets, not only of each nation, but of humanity as a whole”; and further, that “the loss, through deterioration or disappearance, of any of these most prized assets



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constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the peoples of the world<sup>1</sup>,” the member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the World Heritage Convention (hereinafter referred to as the Convention) in 1972;

**WHEREAS**, “since the adoption of the Convention in 1972, the international community has embraced the concept of ‘sustainable development’ and consequently the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage constitute a significant contribution to sustainable development;”<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Convention “aims at the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value” and likewise developed the criteria and conditions for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List to evaluate the Outstanding Universal Value of properties to guide States Parties in the protection and management of World Heritage properties<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Convention provides for the consideration of *Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage* which “satisfy a part or whole of the definitions of both cultural and natural heritage laid out in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention” including heritage known as *Cultural Landscapes* which are thus termed are to encompass the “diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and the natural environment;”

**WHEREAS**, Lake Lanao, hereinafter referred to in the original native M’ranaw language as ‘*Ranao*’, is the biggest lake in Mindanao and the second biggest in the Philippines estimated to be around 10 million years old according to the World Lake Database, thus making it one of the 15 Ancient Lakes of the World;

**WHEREAS**, Ranaw is found within the province of Lanao del Sur, and is of immense importance to the cultural identity and history, and likewise forms a significant part of the ancestral domain of the *People of the Lake* or the Mranaws, one of the 13 ethnolinguistic groups of the Bangsamoro;

**WHEREAS**, Ranaw has not been included by the Philippines, as a State Party to the UNESCO, as a nominee for inscription to the World Heritage List despite how the lake exemplifies the definition of a *Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage* of the Convention and how it merits equal, if not better, accreditation as opposed to the three (3) *cultural heritage properties* (i.e. the Baroque Churches of the Philippines [1993], the Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras [1995], the City of Vigan [1999]) and three (3) *natural heritage properties* (i.e. the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park [1993, 2009], Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park [1999], and the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary [2014]) already inscribed. Furthermore, Ranaw is also not included in the latest Tentative List of the Philippines which is an inventory of heritage properties it intends to consider for nomination;

<sup>1</sup> Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



Republic of the Philippines  
*Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*



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**WHEREAS**, the foregoing provide ample validation of the matter of Ranaw's cultural significance to the Mranaws, the Bangsamoro, and to humanity as worthy of the thorough consideration and concerted efforts of all pertinent authority within the Bangsamoro Government;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, A RESOLUTION BY THE BANGSAMORO COMMISSION ON THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (BCPCH) RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING AND CALLING ON THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY (BTA) PARLIAMENT AND OTHER PERTINENT AUTHORITY WITHIN THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT TO CONVERGE EFFORTS TOWARDS THE NOMINATION OF THE *RANAW* OR LAKE LANAO FOR PROSPECTIVE INCLUSION IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST.


**DONE and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BCPCH COMMISSIONERS**  
on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Certified Correct by:

  
**SALEM Y. LINGASA, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Commissioner for Maguindanao

Attested by:

  
**MERA A. AMPAO**  
Commissioner for Basilan

  
**ROBERT M. ALONTO**  
Commissioner for Lanao del Sur

**ARDAN D. SALI**  
Commissioner for Sulu

  
**ELMASIA L. MADJILON**  
Commissioner for Tawi-Tawi

**GUIAMAL B. ABDULRAHMAN**  
Ex-Officio Commissioner for Indigenous People