



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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 12
Series of 2022**

“A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THAT EVERY FEBRUARY 1 OF THE YEAR BE OFFICALLY OBSERVED AS ‘BANGSAMORO IDENTITY DAY’ AND THEREFORE A NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE BARMM TO MEMORIALIZE THE HISTORIC ‘DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND PURPOSES’ OF FEBRUARY 1, 1924 ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘ZAMBOANGA DECLARATION’ ISSUED BY LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 13 MUSLIM AUTOCHTHONOUS PEOPLES IN MINDANAO AND SULU PROCLAIMING FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THEY ARE A NATION CALLED THE ‘BANGSA MORO NATION’”

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1924 the leaders and representatives of the Muslim Malay autochthonous peoples of Mindanao and Sulu led by Sultan Manguigin of Maguindanao and prominent datus from Sulu and Ranaw had assembled in Zamboanga City and issued the now historic document officially titled “Declaration of Rights and Purposes Addressed to the Congress of the United States of America” also known as the “Zamboanga Declaration of 1924”;

WHEREAS, in said “Declaration” not only did the Muslim leaders and representatives manifest their opposition to the inclusion of their peoples and territories (collectively referred to as the ‘Moro Province’ by the Americans) into what was then bruited about as the grant of independence to the Filipinos by the United States of America given the fact that the Muslim sultanates and principalities in Mindanao and Sulu were never fully colonized by Spain, the colonial power that preceded the United States;

WHEREAS, also in the same ‘Declaration’ the Muslim leaders and representatives appealed to the US Government to grant the same political independence to the Muslim Malay autochthonous peoples of Mindanao and Sulu fifty (50) years after the grant of Philippine independence, and that for the first time in the same document they openly declared themselves a nation and this nation “is to be known to the world as the Moro Nation”.

WHEREAS, ‘Moro Nation’ in Bahasa Melayu and its cognate languages in the Malay region of Southeast Asia translates to ‘Bangsa Moro’.

WHEREAS, by declaring themselves a nation and assuming the nomenclature ‘Bangsa Moro’ as the collective identity of their nation, the eminent signatories to the ‘Zamboanga Declaration’ showed great wisdom, political maturity and foresight in that their ‘Declaration’ secured for posterity the national identity, **Bangsamoro**, which is clearly evident of the final evolution of the erstwhile disparate Malay Muslim autochthonous peoples of Mindanao and Sulu into one unifying nation under which the just struggle for self-determination can be pursued legitimately within the framework of international law that confers such right of self-determination on nations.

WHEREAS, the Bangsamoro struggle is an identity-driven struggle for the right to self-determination whose spirit and letter of nationhood emanate from the February 1, 1924 ‘Zamboanga Declaration’ that has enshrined **Bangsamoro** as a people and imbued collective consciousness as a nation recognized as such by the Philippine State and the international community as evident in the peace agreements between the Moro liberation fronts and the Philippine State;



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WHEREAS, the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)** would not have been officially named as such if it were not of the Moro nationhood identity assertion and struggle inspired by the February 1, 1924 'Zamboanga Declaration'. Therefore, the historic import of the February 1, 1924 declaration of Bangsamoro nationhood is central to contemporary Moro history and the continuing assertion for the right to self-determination and self-rule;

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, Section 49 of Title XVI, Chapter 4 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THAT EVERY FEBRUARY 1 OF THE YEAR BE OFFICIALLY OBSERVED AS 'BANGSAMORO IDENTITY DAY' AND THEREFORE A NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE BARMM TO MEMORIALIZE THE HISTORIC 'DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND PURPOSES' OF FEBRUARY 1, 1924 ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'ZAMBOANGA DECLARATION' ISSUED BY LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 13 MUSLIM AUTOCHTHONOUS PEOPLES IN MINDANAO AND SULU PROCLAIMING FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THEY ARE A NATION CALLED THE 'BANGSA MORO NATION'


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:


MERRA A. AMPAO
Commissioner for Basilan


ROBERT M. ALONTO
Commissioner for Lanao del Sur




Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

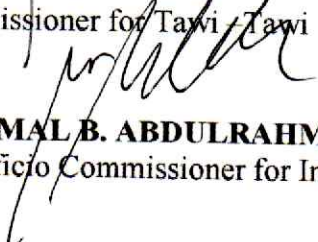


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ARDAN D. SALI
Commissioner for Sulu


ELMASIA L. MADJILON
Commissioner for Tawi-Tawi


GUIAMAL B. ABDULRAHMAN
Ex-Officio Commissioner for Indigenous People