

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session



Begun and held in Metro Manila, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand and eighteen

House Bill No. 8880

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAI SANDRA SINSUAT A. SEMA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1515, the Sultanate of Maguindanao was formally established, with Kota Wato (now Cotabato City) as its capital, and ruled a vast territory in Mindanao. Several towns were carved off from Cotabato Empire since the year 1913. Cotabato City used to be part of the original Province of Cotabato and was its capital from 1920 until 1967, a year after the separation of South Cotabato. Cotabato City was the administrative center of the ARMM when Maguindanao was carved out in 1973. However, the city broke off administratively from Maguindanao as it rejoined SOCCSKSARGEN or Region 12 in the 1990s.

Cotabato City rejected two plebiscites to be part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The two revolutionary fronts (the MNLF and MILF) did not support the previous proposals. Nonetheless, the Office of the Regional Government of the ARMM has been established in Cotabato City.

In a plebiscite conducted on January 21, 2019 pursuant to Republic Act No. 11054, the people of Cotabato City including the MNLF and MILF voted for its inclusion to the BARMM. Thereafter, the Comelec serving as the National Plebiscite Board of Canvassers officially proclaimed

Cotabato City as now part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in view of overwhelming majority of the votes cast in the said plebiscite.

Dubbed as the crown jewel of the Bangsamoro Homeland, it is fitting and proper that Cotabato City be declared as the capital of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in the Muslim Mindanao.

Hence, this Bill.



HON. BAI SANDRA A. SEMA
Representative
First District of Maguindanao
and Cotabato City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand and
eighteen

House Bill No. 8880

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAI SANDRA SINSUAT A. SEMA

**AN ACT DECLARING COTABATO CITY AS THE CAPITAL OF THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM
MINDANAO (BARMM)**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Cotabato City is hereby declared the capital of the
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,