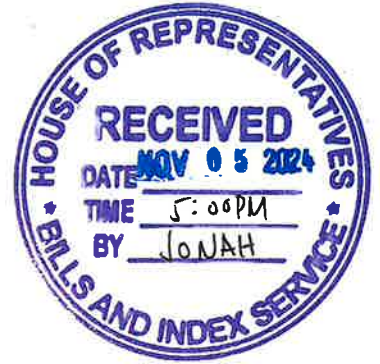




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11034**

**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez,
Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe,
Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez,
Jude A. Acidre, Zia Alonto Adiong, Yasser Alonto Balindong,
Bai Dimple I. Mastura and Munir N. Arbison Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In March 2014, a peace agreement was signed between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to establish a new self-governing region in Muslim Mindanao.

In July 2018, the Congress of the Philippines enacted Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “*Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*”. On January 29, 2019, the Organic Law was ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite called for the purpose of creating a new political entity replacing the extant Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

On February 22, 2019, the members of the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority, as the interim regional government, took their oath of office, swearing in the Chief Minister, Cabinet and Members of Parliament (BTA). As an interim body that confronts a myriad of challenges, the transition allows the BTA a historic window of opportunity to lay the groundwork for an enduring regional government.

Under Section 13, Article XVI of RA 11054, the first regular election for the Bangsamoro Government under this Organic Law shall be held and synchronized with the 2022 national elections. In 2021, however, Congress approved Republic Act No. 11593, entitled "*An Act Resetting the First Regular Elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Amending for the Purpose Section 13, Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054, Otherwise Known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*". With this amendatory law, the first regular election for the Bangsamoro Government under the Organic Law was scheduled to be held and synchronized with the 2025 national elections.

Under Section 7 (c), Article VII of the RA 11054, the reserved seats and sectoral representatives shall constitute at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the Parliament, which shall include two (2) reserved seats each for non-Moro indigenous peoples and settler communities, women, youth, traditional leaders, and the *Ulama* shall have one sectoral seat each, the Parliament shall determine the manner of election of the reserved seats and sectoral representatives; as such, the manner of registration for these sectors has yet to be determined.

On 27 September 2024, the BTA adopted Resolution No. 499 urging Congress to enact a law creating a province to be composed of the sixty-three (63) barangays from the Special Geographic Area (SGA) now consisting of the eight municipalities of Pahamuddin, Kadayangan, Nabalawag, Old Kaabakan, Kapalawan, Malidegao, Tugunan and Ligawasan, to be named as Kutawato Province. The establishment of a province is essential to the existence and operation of the municipalities and barangays in the SGA of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

On 9 September 2024, the Supreme Court declared Republic Act No. 11054 (the Bangsamoro Organic Law [BOL] or the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) as constitutional *via Province of Sulu and Philippine Association of Islamic Accountants Inc. v. Salvador Medialdea, et al.*, together with its companion cases under G.R. Nos. 242255, 243246, and 243693 with pending Motions for Reconsideration as of this date. The decision also excluded the province of Sulu from the BARMM, leading to legal implications on the composition of the BARMM Parliament and the upcoming 2025 BARMM Parliamentary Elections. This has created a legal vacuum in both the BARMM parliament's composition and its members' scheduled elections.

On October 22, 2024, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority adopted Resolution No. 641, requesting the House of Representatives and the Senate to extend the transition period from 2025 to 2028. It seeks to postpone the region's first regular parliamentary elections, initially scheduled for 2025, allowing all stakeholders to prepare for a smooth democratic transition adequately.

In view of recent political and legal developments, this bill seeks additional time to allow the resolution of various emerging legal issues, promoting broader participation from political parties and enhancing the electorate's understanding of new electoral processes.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.



MANUEL JOSE "MANNIX" M. DALIPE



FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



ZIA ALONTO ADIONG



YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG



BAI DIMPLE I. MASTURA



MUNIR N. ARBISON, JR.



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AN ACT
RESETTING THE FIRST REGULAR ELECTIONS IN THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13, ARTICLE XVI OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE “ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS
REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO,”

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

SECTION 1. Section 13, Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao”, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. *First Regular Election.* – The first regular election for the Bangsamoro Government under this Organic Law shall be held [~~and synchronized with the 2025 national elections~~] **on 11 MAY 2026.** **SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD EVERY THREE (3) YEARS THEREAFTER.** The Commission on Elections, through the Bangsamoro Electoral Office, shall promulgate rules and regulations for the conduct of the elections, enforce and administer them pursuant to national law, this Organic Law and the Bangsamoro Electoral Code.”

SEC. 2. Upon effectivity of this Act, the President shall appoint the eighty (80) new interim members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) who shall serve until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The term of the present duly constituted BTA in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) shall be deemed expired.

SEC. 3. If any of the provisions of this Act is held unconstitutional, provisions not affected shall remain valid and binding.

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, and all other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,