

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Third Regular Session }

24 SEP 25 P 3 :06

SENATE
PS. Res. No. 1208

Introduced by **Senator Francis "TOL" N. Tolentino**

RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO AUGMENT THE FISCAL REQUIREMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SULU FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 2024 AND TO INCORPORATE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE PROPOSED 2025 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOLLOWING THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON SULU'S EXCLUSION FROM THE JURISDICTION OF BARMM.

Whereas, Republic Act No. 11054, known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), established the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, which includes the provinces of Maguindanao (now divided into Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte), Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan (excluding Isabela City), 63 villages in Cotabato, and the province of Sulu;

Whereas, under the authority granted by the Organic Law, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region has created offices, established facilities, and employed personnel under its supervision. It has also implemented various programs and projects within its jurisdiction since the law took effect in 2019;

Whereas, on 9 September 2024, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of the Province of Sulu vs. Executive Secretary et al.,¹ that the Bangsamoro Organic Law is constitutional but excluded the Province of Sulu from the coverage and jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region due to the province's rejection of the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law during the plebiscite;

Whereas, this Supreme Court decision is immediately executory resulting to the exclusion of the Province of Sulu from the coverage and jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro

¹G.R. No. 242255, G.R. No. 243246, and G.R. No. 243693, 9 September 2024.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, resulting in significant implications for the offices, facilities, and personnel established in Sulu;

Whereas, given this new political development, there is an urgent need to recalibrate and allocate additional budgetary resources for the Province of Sulu for its operation for the last quarter of 2024 and to ensure sufficient appropriations for the province in the proposed 2025 General Appropriations Act to be released directly to the Province of Sulu and facilitate the devolution of offices, facilities, and personnel to the province;

Whereas, there is an urgent need to immediately resolve this seeming impasse to ensure the smooth transition and funding of necessary programs and projects in the Province of Sulu, following its detachment from BARMM; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES to urge the allocation of additional budgetary resources for the Province of Sulu, in order to address its immediate budgetary requirements for the last quarter of 2024 and to incorporate the needed appropriations for its operation for FY 2025.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Tolentino', is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO