

# CCDP-B Bulletin

Official Newsletter of the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro



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## Human Resource Development component of CCDP-B hosts BBL vs BLBAR Forum in Cotabato City



The participants from various organizations, academe, media and government agencies attended the BBL vs BLBAR Forum held at Al-nor Convention Center, Cotabato City on October 27, 2015.

A comprehensive forum and discussions on the original draft of Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BLBAR) sponsored by JICA and BTC was conducted on October 27, 2015 under the Human Resource Development (HRD), a component of Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CCDP-B) at Al Nor Convention Center, Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City.

About one hundred twenty (120) participants coming from different organizations and individual Bangsamoro professionals were registered in the Human Resource Mapping Bangsamoro Professionals Database Management System have attended the said forum. *Cont.p2,3,4 BBL vs BLBAR forum*

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## **BBL vs BLBAR forum from page 1...**

The event aimed to give updates on the status of BBL, and equal understanding of BBL and BLBAR; to determine the main differences between the original BBL and BLBAR (HB 5811 and SB 2894) and to discuss the implications of the modifications done on the former.

The invited resource speaker was Atty. Maria Julieta T. Asis, the Legal Officer of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC).

Mr. Naoyuki Ochiai, Head and Chief Leader of JICA-CPO expressed his appreciation to individuals who attended the said forum.

On the other hand, Dr Norodin Salam, the Project Manager of the CCDP-B, gave the rationale and overview of the program. He also extended his appreciation to the participants and gave his personal view to enlighten the participants on the background why Bangsamoro people need to be aware of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

The background presented included the history of the BBL and the efforts exhausted when the Bangsamoro Law was being formulated.

Resource speaker Atty. Asis, started her presentation by giving a short preview comparing the original draft of BBL and the proposed Senate Bill 2894 (BLBAR). She then discussed the HB 5811 and SB 2894 pointing to a question where the Bangsamoro is, in the BLBAR of congress. She pointed out further that the original draft of BBL has 242 sections.

On the house bill, the Ad Hoc Committee on BBL amended 215 sections while 8 were deleted. Four sections or provisions were added so a total of 219 sections equivalent to 90.5% changes were made on the House version. But not all are major amendments or substantial amendments. In fact, minor changes on nomenclatures were added to the amendments in other sections. A total of 114 sections (47%) with almost half of the original draft were amended by the House of Representatives.

In the Senate Bill, there were 229 sections out of 242 on the original draft were amended. The other 38 sections were deleted by Senator Bongbong Marcos and added instead 12 new sections. It can be observed that most of the sections added by him were on the normalization aspect of the proposed law comprising a total of 241 sections (99.5%). Hence, a

total of 185 sections (76%) were amended in Senator Marcos' version.

The amendments made on the house version were lesser in terms of percentage than the senate version but it does not mean that it is the greater version. The numbers of amendments do not reflect the impact of the amendments done. In most discussions on BBL, except for some, legal experts considered the proposed law as unconstitutional.

But advocates of Bangsamoro Basic Law clamor for thorough review and study and demand reconsideration.

Atty. Asis pointed out further that the starting point of studying BBL is the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB), with the highlight that "underlying the CAB is the recognition of justness and legitimacy of the cause of the Bangsamoro people and their aspiration to chart their political future, through a democratic process that will secure their identity and posterity which will allow further for meaningful self-governance."

This means that the CAB, the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB), and BBL are based on the struggle and assertion of the Bangsamoro people for their right to self-determination, not only to make BBL a law. Second, the birth of BBL was made within a period of 17 years of negotiations between GPH and MILF, not to mention hundreds of consultations made.

She also stressed the need to negotiate with the government on the matter. Atty. Asis said that, "Most of what we have heard from the senate that circulated in media, interviews conducted with them, and sponsorship speeches made by Congressman Rufus Rodriguez and Senator Bongbong Marcos, implied how they asserted powers in the congress".

Another important point was an agreement between the two parties that the government will not bring up constitutionality issue, and the MILF will not assert independence, as part of the agenda aiming only one solution to the issues on Bangsamoro. The CAB encapsulates the minimum acceptable expressions of RSD or minimum requirements for the Bangsamoro.

In the discussion, it was further pointed out by Atty. Asis that CAB

*Cont.p3 BBL vs BLBAR forum*



*The questions and answers portion in the forum. Seated from left to right: Atty. Maria Julieta T. Asis, the Legal Officer of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), Engr. Mohajirin T. Ali, Project Director of the CCDP-B, and Mr. Naoyuki Ochia, the Head and Chief Leader, JICA-CPO, with Prof. Alih S. Aiyub (standing), program moderator during the BBL vs BLBAR Forum.*

also includes previous agreements not only between the GPH and the MILF but also the consensus made between the GPH and the MNLF; “In fact, they also looked at the 42 consensus points under the R.A. 9054”, said Atty. Asis.

The proposed BBL reflects the CAB and is a mutually agreed version. Meaning, this is another agreement between the two parties (GPH and MILF).

Atty. Asis also highlighted that the ‘status quo’ is unacceptable which means it all need changes in terms of structure not just within the relationship between the central government and the Bangsamoro government but also to the LGUs and election of traditional leaders, and politicians; changes in Bangsamoro community and the autonomy must be genuine, implying a real political and fiscal autonomy, and power sharing framework between the Central Government and Bangsamoro Government.

She indicated then that it is not just devolution or even a catch up provisions implying that the places under Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) or in the Bangsamoro were late when it comes to the development programs and assistance of the country. Furthermore, she elaborated that according to World Bank “it will take 20 years for a conflict-affected area to recover” so the challenges faced by ARMM in terms of its recognition, historical injustices, marginalization, and social justices, must be addressed.

Atty. Asis has shown also the Power Sharing Framework of Central Government and the Bangsamoro Government, with reserved power for the government while exclusive power is for the Bangsamoro. She explained how the two share powers called the concurrent powers.

“The amendments made on Article V (Powers of Government) of House Bill 5811 on the other hand, are estimated to have reached 36% which have affected the power sharing framework of the two parties,” she disclosed.

Atty. Asis also emphasized the changes on one of the main features of BBL; the intergovernmental relations or IGR Mechanism that allows not just the decision of Central Government but also the right of the Bangsamoro Government to decide on the changes both on the House Bill and the Senate Bill. She also presented the changes, deletions, and added provisions that occurred in Senate Bill and House Bill.

In terms of Fiscal Autonomy on the other hand, there are three components indicated which will only ensure the strong dependency on the Central Government, to wit: the fund transfers that include just share taxes and wealth, and the block grant from the central government—the power to create own sources of revenues such as taxations which is different from the annual block grants, loans and credits, grants and donations, transportations and communications,

*Cont.p4 BBL vs BLBAR forum*

## **BBL vs BLBAR forum from page 3...**

and foreign investments, and the power to allocate and utilize funds like budgeting and auditing powers without the second and third components. According to Atty. Asis, the BLBAR shows no real Fiscal Autonomy.

For the natural resources, 'ancestral domain' is not recognized by the Central Government under the BLBAR.

In the territory, amendments and deletions of powers of the Bangsamoro on Inland waters, Economy and Patrimony, and the provisions on Zones of Joints Cooperation were made. The opt-in provision was deleted because it was seen as a creeping expansion of cities and provinces according to Rep. Rodriguez and Rep. Ronaldo Zamora. Atty. Asis however, clarified that their interpretation on the case were wrong because the article refers only to Bangsamoro Homeland and not the expansion of ARMM.

The resource speaker broadened amendments on the basic rights of the Bangsamoro people and non Moros or Indigenous Peoples (IPs) on 5811. Senate Bill 2894 on the other hand, redefined the Bangsamoro people as Bangsamoro inhabitants. Furthermore, the deletions of Sulu archipelago and its adjacent islands including Palawan plus the deletion of ascription or self-ascription were made.

Atty. Asis said that being part is different from being acceptable. Other than that, the references to Bangsamoro people are also deleted. For example: The change from Bangsamoro to "Bangsamoro Autonomous Region" or "Bangsamoro Regional Government", IPs right to freedom of choice, Bangsamoro identity to Cultural identity, and right to internal self-determination.

"The amendments would not help resolve the problems and issues on Bangsamoro question," Atty. Asis lamented.

An open forum was facilitated by Prof. Alih Sakaluran Aiyub, Project Coordinator of Institutional and Organizational Building (IOB). There were five (5) questions raised which afterwards were answered by the resource speaker Atty. Asis and Engr. Mohajirin T. Ali.

Some of the questions were: if the BBL or BLBAR is already implemented and legalized, and who will be the one to be considered as the head or



*Mr. Diamadel Dumagay of the Tripartite Solidarity Forum Inc.*



*Engr. Mohajirin T. Ali, BTC-SEO, Project Director of the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro.*

leader? However, only few questions were entertained by the resource speaker due to lack of time.

Engr. Ali had closed the program and extended his appreciation to the participants from the different regions with a hope that the forum would have enlightened them on the on-going peace process.

The main participants who were able to attend in the forum came from the local government of Malabang, ORG- ARMM, DSWD- ARMM, DOLE-ARMM, MAPAD Initiatives, United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD), LIPAD Mindanao, Health Organization for Mindanao (HOM), Philippine Information Agency (PIA XII), Mindanao Expose, Net 25, Voice Fm 99.0, ICT Bangsamoro, Bangsamoro Transition Commission, Tripartite Solidarity Forum Inc., Al-Amin Moro Women Development Educational Center, Alliance of Peace Advocates, DXN-Cotabato, Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA), Muslim Youth Religious Organization (MYRO), BLMI, OPAPP Communication Group, MWDECC, INFO, NIA, KASAMA Inc., and Al-Balagh Foundation. 

# JICA, BTC Socio-Economic Office Turn-over Quick Impact Projects in Bangsamoro Communities



*Multi-purpose Building awarded to community of Barangay Datu Tumanggong, Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay on October 23, 2015.*

The Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) Socio-Economic Office and Japan international Cooperation Agency (JICA) led the turn-over ceremony of two multipurpose buildings under the Quick Impact Project (QIP) in the Barangays of Pamintayan in Buug and Datu Tumanggong in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay province on October 22 and 23, 2015, respectively.

Another turn-over ceremony was conducted in Brgy. Kibengi, Datu Saudi, Maguindanao on December 19, followed by Brgy. Laak, Laak, Compostela Valley on November 23 and Brgy. Lukatan, Taragona, Davao Oriental on November 24 and then Brgy. Simsiman, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato on December 2. In Brgy. Bulanza, Lantawan, Basilan, the turn-over ceremony was held on December 9 and December 10, 2015 in Brgy. Masola, Isabela City, also in Basilan.

The project is part of the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CCDP-B) Public Service Delivery (PSD) component, a partnership program of JICA, BTC and the Bang-

samoro Development Agency (BDA) in coordination with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

In a turnover ceremony held at Barangay Datu Tumanggong, Engineer Mohajirin T. Ali, BTC-SEO CCDP-B Project Director said “This is the first in the Bangsamoro history that a project was endorsed by the MILF leadership that makes our constituents, the Bangsamoro people, feel that the peace process is moving.”

“Hopefully if BBL is passed and eventually we will have our own government, there shall be more projects in all the Bangsamoro communities,” he added.

Engr. Ali also assured communities outside the proposed Bangsamoro area not to lose hope as the Philippine Government as well as the proposed Bangsamoro government are committed to help them.

Engr. Ali is hoping that the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) will be passed this year. “The government under President Noynoy Aquino III has not given up in pushing for the passage of *Cont.p6 QIP Turn-over*

## **QIP turn-over from page 5...**

BBL,” he pointed out.

Engr. Ali was accompanied by CCDP-B Project Manager Dr Norodin Salam with his Project Coordinators on Human Resource Development, Public Service Delivery, Bangsamoro Development Plan, and Institutional and Organizational Building.

Meantime, the BDA was represented by Project Management Officer Engineer Aida Silongan who talked on the QIP background and objectives during the brief ceremony.

“These Quick Impact Projects are results of a meeting between the MILF Chair Al-Hadj Murad Ebrahim and JICA President Akihiko Tanaka after the signing of Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) on March 28, 2014 where they agreed to implement this kind of project for the Bangsamoro community so that they can feel the dividends of peace,” Engr. Silongan disclosed.


Engr. Silongan said that on April 21, 2014, the JICA Headquarters and BTC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Manila to come up with implementing arrangement in coordination and collaboration with BTC, JICA and BDA.

She requested the residents and the assigned peoples’ organization to take care of the building and use it for community activities. Engr. Silongan is also with BDA Zamboanga Peninsula (ZamboPen) staff.

JICA representative and QIP project officer Kasan “Jun” Usop Jr read the message of JICA-CPO head and chief leader Naoyuki Ochiai.

In the said message, JICA reiterated its commitment to help and support the Bangsamoro communities even without the BBL.

The PSD Coordinator Nomaire Mustapaha said that other infrastructure projects under QIP will be turned-over in the next succeeding months. He also thanks all the stakeholders who helped in the success of the project.

Last August 24, a 2-classroom school building was also turned-over to residents and teachers of Kibleg, North Upi, Maguindanao where JICA President Tanaka and BTC Chairman, MILF Peace Panel Chief Mohagher Iqbal graced the event. 

## **Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) Update...**

On October 9, 2015, a seminar on the Bangsamoro Anchor Projects was held at Discovery Suites, Pasig City, Manila. This aimed at presenting the following: 1. BDP with Four (4) Initiatives: List of sixty (60) projects in fifteen (15) Programs; 2. Bangsamoro Anchor Projects; and 3. Report of the 3rd BDP II Workshop at Cotabato City.

The said seminar was attended by the BDA Chairman Dr. Saffrullah M. Dipatuan, BDA Executive Director Dr Mohammad Yacob, BDA Deputy Executive Director Windel Diangcalan, BDA Operation and Project Management Consultant Mr. Nasser Sinarimbo, BDA Planning Officer III Mr. Rhadzni Taalim, Mr. Noriaki Niwa, Chief Rep. of JICA Philippines, Dr Nashreen Sinarimbo and Mr. Tito Oria of JICA Study Team (JST) and eminent personalities from different government agencies.

The auspicious occasion was opened with supplication asking the Almighty to provide the participants with correct analysis and deep understanding of the status of our people so that the plan now in the making will be a positive response to their vital needs and aspiration and equip our development partners and all peace-loving nations in the world with strong determination and untiring effort in exploring proper ways and means towards the attainment of just and lasting solution to the centuries-old problem affected Bangsamoro.

Delivering his welcome address, BDA Executive Director Yacob extended his heartfelt appreciations to JICA and JST for their untiring and continued support to the BDP in spite of the uncertainty of the passage of the BBL in Congress. Dr Yacob stressed the importance of the BBL being the vehicle of peace in the country. He also appealed to concerned government agencies and development partners to help put into translation the other BDP thematic areas in order to address the high expectation of the Bangsamoro.

Mr. Niwa of JICA said in his opening speech that the gathering was a crystal manifestation for the BDA and other participants to



*BDP in focus: A joyous countenance of the participants in the BDP 2 TWG Third Meeting, held at Microtel Hotel, Davao City on December 2, 2015.*

respond the high expectations and needs of the Bangsamoro.

Prof. Alih Sakaluran Aiyub of BTC Socio-Economic Office mentioned that JICA is not only supporting the BDP, but has several initiatives intended for the promotion of the general welfare of the Bangsamoro as well as in preparation for the time when Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) is in place. These include the conduct of trainings on administrative code, election code, parliamentary procedures and others.

BDA Chairman Dr. Dipatuan succinctly stated that the BDP is a roadmap of the Bangsamoro construction. "The CCDP-B is now moving in a right direction. Rest assured, with or without BBL, BDA will continue its mandate being the development coordinator authorized by the MILF Central Committee", he said.

Again on December 2, 2015, BDP II Technical Working Group (TWG) Third Meeting was held at Microtel Hotel, Davao City. This meeting focused on presenting three (3) items, namely: Review of New Project List under Four Initiatives, Presentation of Executive Summary (Draft Final Report) and the Status Report on Halal Industry & Islamic Banking Sub-group.

Dr Yacob, welcomed in this meeting the partici-

pants and praised the JICA Study Team for the unwavering and continuous effort in working for the final draft and formulation of the BDP-Phase 2, which is focused on two thematic areas – economy and infrastructure.

Mr. Diangcalan, presented the Review of BDP with Four Initiatives.

Dr Norodin Salam, CCDP-B Project Manager, presented the Status Report on Halal Industry & Islamic Banking Sub-group. Dr Salam mentioned the initiative on creation of Tabun Halal Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Integrative BDP Report (BDP I) lacks details. Hence, BDP II is badly needed to formulate a report on the master plan. 👍

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***Raesah M. Bantuas.....CCDP-B Secretary***

***Mr Naoyuki Ochiai...Head and Chief Leader, JICA-CPO***

# Quick Impact Projects turned-over to Bangsamoro communities (October-December 2015)



*Brgy. Pamintayan, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay (October 22) and Brgy. Datu Tumanggong, Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay (Oct. 23, 2015)*



*Brgy. Kibengi, Datu Saudi, Maguindanao (November 19, 2015)*



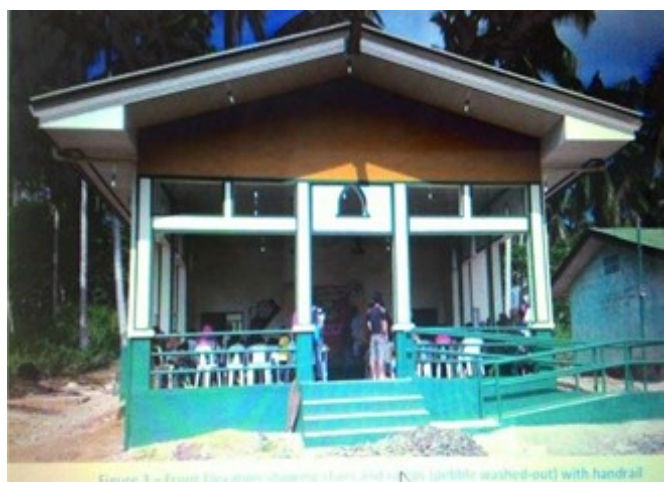
*Brgy. Laak, Laak, Compostella Valley (November 23, 2015) and Brgy. Lukatan, Taragona, Davao Oriental (November 24, 2015)*



*Brgy. Simsiman, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato (Dec. 2, 2015)*



*Brgy. Masola, Isabela City, Basilan (December 10, 2015)*



*Figure 3 - Trans Education Training Lane and sign (table washed-out) with handrail  
Brgy. Bulanza, Lantawan, Basilan (December 9, 2015)*