



FREE #BROC2023

**BANGSAMORO
RESEARCH '23**
ONLINE CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 2-3, 2023

PROGRAMME

DAY 1:

TIME

EVENT

08:00AM-08:30AM

PRELIMINARIES

(PHILIPPINE & BANGSAMORO HYMNS, PRAYERS, CONFERENCE RULES, WELCOME REMARKS, & OPENING REMARKS BY DR. CARL E. BALITA)

08:30AM-10:30AM

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

08:30AM-09:10AM

ABHOUD SYED LINGGA

"CHALLENGES ON BUILDING THE BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT"

09:10AM-09:50AM

SHA ELIJAH B. DUMAMA-ALBA

"BANGSAMORO JUSTICE SYSTEM"

09:50AM-10:30AM

DATU MICHAEL O. MASTURA

"CAN BANGSAMORO GROWTH PUSH TAKE POLITICAL PRIORITY IN MUSLIM MINDANAO TO THE NEXT LEVEL?"

10:30AM-10:40AM

BREAK

10:40AM-12:10PM

PANEL 1: THE BANGSAMORO PEACE FORMATION AND PEACE PROCESS
(PANEL CHAIR: ALDEAN ALONTO)

1. DR. PRIMITIVO III CABANES RAGANDANG

MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-ILIGAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

"THROUGH THE BALLADS: REMEMBERING THE PAST AS PEACE FORMATION"

2. MS. BAI MARIZA SABDULA

MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-GENERAL SANTOS

"INTERPLAY OF SUBALTERN INFLUENTIALS: SITUATING ULAMA AND DATUS' ROLE IN HYBRID PEACE FORMATION"

3. MS. MARY JO GINETE

ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY

"WHERE ARE THE NON-MORO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES? A PLURIVERSAL ANALYSIS ON THE BANGSAMORO PEACE PROCESS FROM THE AGUIÑO III UNTIL THE DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION"

4. MR. DAN KRISTIAN RIVERA

SAINT COLUMBIAN COLLEGE

"PACIFYING PEACE: BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND ITS ROLE IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM"



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CORPORATE STRATEGY
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PROGRAMME

DAY 1:

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EVENT

12:10PM-01:20PM

LUNCH BREAK

01:20PM-02:50PM

PANEL 2: PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING IN THE BANGSAMORO
(PANEL CHAIR: VINCENT L. CASIL)

1. MR. EARL CARLO GUEVARRA

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-DILIMAN

"PEACEKEEPING AND PUBLIC SAFETY AT SEA: CREATING AND MAINTAINING A FISHERIES AND RESCUE FLEET FOR THE BANGSAMORO IN PURSUIT OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY"

2. MS. ALASTAIR ERFE

OSAKA UNIVERSITY

"YOUTH-LED PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE: REFLECTIONS FROM THE YOUNG MOROS FOR KALILINTAD INITIATIVE"

3. MS. NAOMI CO

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-DILIMAN

"BEYOND CAMP ABUBAKAR: AN ASSESSMENT OF PRESIDENT ESTRADA'S MORO POLICY AND ITS IMPACT ON PEACEBUILDING IN BANGSAMORO"

02:50PM-03:00PM

BREAK

03:00PM-05:00PM

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION

03:00PM-03:40PM

RIZAL G. BUENDIA

"THE DREAM THAT IS YET TO BE REALIZED"

03:40PM-04:20PM

FRANCISCO J. LARA, JR.

"THE FRIGHTFUL INADEQUACY OF MOST OF THE STATISTICS: MONITORING VIOLENT CONFLICT IN THE BANGSAMORO"

04:20PM-05:00PM

PATRICIO N. ABINALES

"RECOVERING STORIES FROM BELOW AND (RE)BUILDING THE MORO NARRATIVE"



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08:00AM-10:10AM

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

08:00AM-08:40AM

AYESAH UY ABUBAKAR

"CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES"

08:40AM-09:20AM

RUFA CAGOCO-GUIAM

"CLIMATE FRAGILITY RISKS AND ITS INTERSECTION WITH GENDER AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN THE BANGSAMORO"

09:20AM-10:00AM

RICHARD N. MUALLIL

"PRESERVING A NATURAL HERITAGE: EXPLORING THE DIVERSE CORAL REEF FISHES IN THE SULU ARCHIPELAGO"

10:00AM-10:40AM

HENELITO A. SEVILLA, JR.

"ENERGY SECURITY IN BARMM: LEARNINGS FROM THE PHILIPPINE-MIDDLE EAST ENERGY RELATIONS"

10:40AM-10:50AM

BREAK

10:50AM-12:20PM

PANEL 3: HISTORICAL AND RELIGIO-CULTURAL APPROACHES TO BANGSAMORO STUDIES

(PANEL CHAIR: GURHAN A. ADAN)

1. MR. AHMAD SHAID J. SALLIM

MALUSO OF THE PAST - BASILAN STUDIES CENTER

"THE BRIEF COLONIAL ATTEMPT OF THE FRENCH NAVAL ASIATIC SQUADRON IN BASILAN: A MALUSO SOJOURN 1843-1845"

2. DR. THERESA MAE GALLARDO

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - MINDANAO

"THE MORO RANCHERIA OF TAGUM: MUSLIM RESISTANCE DURING SPANISH COLONIAL RULE"

3. DR. SOFAILAH PANGGAGA

MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY - MAIN CAMPUS

"MERANAW PROVERBS (PANANAROON) FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION: A PROPOSED ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ETIQUETTE PRINCIPLES GUIDEBOOK"



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4. MR. KAMARUDDIN BIN ALAWI MOHAMMAD

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-DILIMAN, INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

"EXPLORING AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE ON TAUSUG RESISTANCE"

5. DR. ARVIN DINEROS EBALLO

INSTITUTE OF RELIGION, UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

"KAPITBAHAYAN: INT(RA)ER-FAITH DIALOGUE THROUGH BOTTOM-UP APPROACHES AS IMPERATIVE IN PROMOTING THE CULTURE OF PEACE IN MINDANAO"

12:20PM-01:20PM

LUNCH BREAK

01:20PM-02:50PM

PANEL 4: ASCERTAINING BANGSAMORO'S SECURITY IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES

(PANEL CHAIR: ABDUL WAHID I. TOCALO)

1. MR. IVAN HARRIS TANYAG

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-DILIMAN

"PROVINCE-LEVEL CONVERGENCE ANALYSIS OF BANGSAMORO REGION'S INCOME AND SPATIAL DEPENDENCE"

2. MS. KYEESHA ANNE DAQUIZ

ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY

"THE VIEWS, EXPERIENCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN THE BANGSAMORO REGION ON DIVORCE"

3. MR. SHERWIN TORING

ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

"PACIFYING DISSENT THROUGH MARKET LIBERALIZATION: THE CASE OF THE BARTER TRADE IN ZAMBOANGA"

4. MR. JOHN RYAN F. FERNANDEZ

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO

"UNVEILING MULTIDIMENSIONAL INEQUALITY EXPERIENCED BY BANGSAMORO COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR THE LIGUASAN MARSH, PHILIPPINES, USING THE CAPABILITY APPROACH: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL INQUIRY INFORMING THE PRIORITIZATION OF LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES"



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DAY 2:

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EVENT

02:50PM-03:00PM

BREAK

03:00PM-05:00PM

**PANEL 5: SITUATING THE POLITICAL IN BANGSAMORO'S CLIMATE CHANGE,
FOREIGN AID, POLICYMAKING, AND IN MARITIME SOUTHEAST ASIA
(PANEL CHAIR: KEBART P. LICAYAN)**

1. DR. DIMASOWA GURO DIMAPORO

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

"THE IMPACT OF AIR STRIKE ON WATER QUALITY AT AGUS RIVER AND LAKE LANAO
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GREEN GROWTH AND MITIGATION AND
ADAPTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WAR-TORN CITY OF MARAWI: ENVIRONMENTAL
RISK ASSESSMENT"

2. MS. MEREIA AILA VILLAS, AND MS. ANDREA GABRIELLE TENORIO

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

"A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF 'SUORTA SA BANGSAMORO TRANSITION' IN EMPOWERING THE
CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION: OCTOBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY
2023"

3. MR. ARTHUR FRANZ TENORIO & MS. MARIEL ENCAR UY

(1) UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND (2) PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

"THE EXERCISE OF SUPERVISORY POWERS OVER BANGSAMORO CONSTITUENT UNITS IN
THE PASSAGE OF THE BANGSAMORO LOCAL GOVERNANCE CODE"

4. MR. SHARIFUL HASHIM S. MANSUL

ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA UNIVERSITY

"REPOPULARIZING THE DUNIA MELAYU: THE BANGSAMORO BETWEEN BEING FILIPINO AND
MARITIME SOUTHEAST ASIAN"

05:00PM-05:30PM

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Keynote Presentations

1. Challenges in Building the Bangsamoro Government

Author: Abhoud Syed Lingga

Abstract:

The keynote presentation titled "Challenges in Building the Bangsamoro Government: Facing Realities on the Ground" offers a critical examination of the complexities involved in establishing the Bangsamoro government in the Philippines. Central to its analysis is the necessity of securing support from the Bangsamoro populace, including various groups like the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), to ensure the success of the political framework established by the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB). The paper advocates for a shift from clan and personality-based politics to a parliamentary government system with an enhanced electoral process, emphasizing the creation of principled political parties. This shift is seen as vital for promoting democratic values and offering genuine electoral choices. Additionally, it underscores the importance of reforms in election management and adjudication to guarantee fair and transparent electoral processes. Another significant challenge highlighted is the need for a robust legislative assembly and bureaucracy, backed by effective training and a meritocratic system. This is crucial for improving governance and service delivery. Equally important is the representation of all ethnolinguistic groups and the resolution of connectivity issues through e-governance and infrastructure development. The paper also discusses the imperative of developing efficient revenue systems and budget management, crucial in a region with historically low revenue collection. Moreover, it addresses the pervasive issue of corruption, suggesting measures such as strengthening anti-corruption laws and promoting transparency. Concluding, the paper reiterates that overcoming these challenges is essential for the CAB's success and the establishment of a Bangsamoro government that embodies self-determination, good governance, and sustainable development. This analysis underscores the multifaceted approach needed to build a stable and inclusive political institution in the Bangsamoro region.

2. Bangsamoro Justice System

Author: Atty. Sha Elijah B. Dumama-Alba

Abstract:

In this captivating keynote presentation, we delve into the transformative and empowering Bangsamoro Justice System (BJS). Designed to foster justice, inclusivity, and reconciliation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in the Philippines, the BJS represents a paradigm shift in resolving conflicts and upholding the rights of all citizens. Through an engaging narrative and insightful analysis, this keynote sheds light on the key principles, mechanisms, and accomplishments of the BJS, emphasizing its potential to bring lasting peace, strengthen social cohesion, and promote sustainable development in the region. Join us as we explore the profound impact of the Bangsamoro Justice System and its contributions to building a brighter future for all.



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3. Can Bangsamoro Growth Push Take Political Priority in Muslim Mindanao to the Next Level?

Author: Atty. Datu Michael O. Mastura

Abstract:

The norm for politicians in Muslim Mindanao could be more particularly religious for 'moral governance' if we leave former liberation front leaders to their own devices. If religion were to intrude into the 'government-of-the-day politics' can it be far beyond for their voters in the 2025 election? Given the establishment clause of the country's constitution that separates religion and politics the all-appointed MPs work in the pretext of cabinet ministries run under color of authority (colorum). That's why my contribution to the Voices from Moro Land published, in 2007, I already posed the hard question: "Political Islam in the 21st Century Philippines: Can It Survive?" Today, a little more than a decade, those so-called "people of faith" and their religious beliefs are perhaps no more intertwined within an imposed majoritarian composition of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) than in public life. At institutional level the lack of accountability drawn from electoral constituencies explains the absence of crucial cabinet collective responsibility to BTA members, even if they are in transition status. The Muslim faithful and devout supporters are not mutually exclusivists; they include non-elected MPs from MNLF grouping and a few Indigenous peoples. A project of moralizing the world by MILF-backed brand of proxy politics only suggests: It's not economics (haram vs halal above all) but growth-points in basic rule of law (al-amr vs an-nahy) debate for the most politically aware. That issue must be taken to a new level of cabinet system as well as parliamentary practice to work out both in the Electoral Code and the Party List System (PLS) with Proportional Representation System (PRS) to function within the framework of democratic competition in politics. In consideration, the right support for growth push with decisions made in the political market—including voter's exchange value in it—would not generally be accepted legitimacy, moral or legal. And thus what sets up as a rubric for the evaluation of legal as well as economic institutions and norms of human behavior is political education.

4. The Dream that is yet to be Realized

Author: Rizal G. Buendia

Abstract: The presentation encapsulates issues and challenges that leaders of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) face and new leaders of the BARMM, with the upcoming 2025 parliamentary elections, have to confront. It identifies a number of policy concerns and advocates general recommendations in the interest of relatively surmounting the historical and lingering socio-cultural and economic and political concerns in the Bangsamoro region in particular and Mindanao in general. These are challenges entrenched in present-day mosaic democracy and heterogeneous development. They require the state, not simply the BARMM to redefine itself and adopt an institutional framework of governance that would allow the expression of democracy in kaleidoscopic forms and a system of governance that is inclusive, comprehensive, and participatory towards the fulfilment of the Bangsamoros' hopes, aspirations, and opportunities.



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5. The frightful inadequacy of most of the statistics: Monitoring violent conflict in the Bangsamoro

Author: Francisco J. Lara Jr.

Abstract:

Conflict data has helped the Bangsamoro peace and subnational state building by filling the critical gap in information that could increase the pressure for an immediate end to hostilities, uncover the true cost of war, and institutionalize a political settlement for peace and stability to endure. However, few have turned to conflict data except for media purposes. The developmental role of conflict data has not been explored as much—why is this the case? The paper addresses the incentives and disincentives in using conflict data by subregional authorities with fragile political authority and the dilemmas faced by development actors who need to account for the peace building impact of their projects and programs. The paper posits a way out of these dilemmas and a better method for determining peacebuilding impact.

6. Recovering Stories from Below and (Re)building the Moro Narrative

Author: Patricio N. Abinales

Abstract:

The rehabilitation and restoration of Moro civil society hinges on the recovery of multiple narratives from below, many of which had been suppressed by war. This lecture suggests areas where this is urgently needed, and proposes a collaboration between Moro scholars, public intellectuals and civil society groups with the support from Moro leaders and colleagues from “the outside” to pursue this critical endeavor.

7. Conflict Transformation and Women’s Participation in Peace Processes

Author: Ayesah Uy Abubakar

Abstract:

The Bangsamoro peace processes are replete of stories of how women and women’s agenda have contributed to conflict transformation. This presentation will provide a reflection and critique of how some of these have changed power and gender relations in the goal of achieving peace in the Bangsamoro.

8. Climate fragility risks and its intersection with gender and social exclusion in the Bangsamoro

Author: Rufa Cagoco-Guiam

Abstract:

Results of three exploratory studies on the intersections of climate change, conflict, gender and social exclusion in selected localities in the Bangsamoro autonomous region have surfaced several structural realities that privilege men over women, resulting to devastating impacts felt more sharply by women rather than by men. Men and women have different levels of vulnerabilities, owing to social norms in a largely patriarchal society. The adverse effects of both extreme weather events – like flooding and long dry spells (droughts) – are exacerbated by pre-existing deficits in gender relations and dynamics of social exclusion. All these provide a compelling case for adopting more participatory processes in planning and decision-making, (planning with rather than planning for), especially in terms of responding to human-induced disasters (armed conflicts) and those created by extreme weather events contributing to climate change.



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9. Preserving a Natural Heritage: Exploring the Diverse Coral Reef Fishes in the Sulu Archipelago

Author: Richard N. Muallil

Abstract:

The Sulu Archipelago, which represents the BaSulTa (Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi) provinces of the BARMM region, is renowned for its rich coral reef biodiversity. The archipelago itself is located right at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the global epicenter of coral reef biodiversity. This study showcases the diverse coral reef fishes in Southern Sulu Archipelago. Our findings are based on extensive underwater surveys conducted in the southern part of the archipelago. We have also incorporated insights and knowledge from relevant published literature to enhance our understanding. The study further presents the various challenges and threats both natural and anthropogenic, confronting these valuable resources. Lastly, we also share some insights from the conservation initiatives done in the archipelago. By recognizing the value of coral reefs as key contributors to local livelihoods and economic prosperity and as a national heritage, the study underscores the imperative of prioritizing their protection and sustainable use.

10. Energy security in BARMM: Learnings from the Philippine-Middle East energy relations

Author: Henelito A. Sevilla, Jr.

Abstract:

The enormous reliance of the Philippines on foreign energy supplies has exposed the vulnerable side of the country to any geopolitical uncertainties that took place in areas such as the Middle East and recently in the war between Russia and Ukraine. This lecture will look at the experience of the Philippines' energy relations with the Middle East throughout the decades. It will offer perspectives on how the country can avoid this geopolitical exposure and at the same time maximize the use of its own local energy resources. Furthermore, the lecture will focus on looking at the local energy condition, issues, and challenges of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The 7 Ps of Services Marketing

People

- Customers
- Employees
- Social interactions
- Roles & Scripts
- Relationships

Place

- Access
- Location
- Delivery services
- Electronic



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Panel 1: The Bangsamoro Peace Formation and Peace Process

1. Through the Ballads: Remembering the Past as Peace Formation

Author: Dr. Primitivo III Cabanes Ragandang

Affiliation: Mindanao State University- Iligan Institute of Technology

Abstract:

What happens when, in the course of peace formation, the healing of the past is missed? What role do women play in remembering the past? In this paper, I advance the concept of 'hypernegative peace' as a foundational component for peace formation. I argue that 'hypernegative peace' occurs when a peace project fails to include in its framework the healing of generational wounds caused by past violence and trauma, including those traumata caused by and during the colonial era. Drawing from the case of the Tausugs' ballad called parang sabil kissa, this paper explores the role of women in remembering the past. In 1906, the Americans killed hundreds of Tausugs in the massacre in Bud Dajo of Sulu. A century after, the Americans returned to Sulu for a military exercise. Learning about the American's return, Tausug women expressed resistance by playing the parang sabil kissa in radio stations and government centres. Here, ballads were means of reminding everyone of wounds from the past. As keepers of the ballads, Tausug women's memorialisation of the past not only make them active participants of peace formation but has also brought to the centre the role of ballads for intergenerational healing of the past.

2. Interplay of Subaltern Influentials: Situating Ulama and Datus' Role in Hybrid Peace Formation

Author: Ms. Bai Mariza Sabdula

Affiliation: Mindanao State University- General Santos

Abstract:

This ethnographic study demonstrates the intricate role of subaltern influentials as key players in hybrid peace formation. Evidence based on interviews suggests that the localized agency of the subaltern influentials to facilitate hybrid peace operation is manufactured by their multifaceted sources of power and hybrid legitimacy. These powers stem from the people's sociocultural, political and spiritual practices in the peripheral sphere. By maximizing these powers, they are able to produce and capture other forms of power enabling them to induce negotiations and effectively enforced muscular mediation, which is useful for neutralizing the intensity of conflict, stabilization and eventually, peace. However, local peace formation is also reflective of major conundrums such as the delimitation of women and youth participation, imminent uncertainty relative to the sustainability and consistency of peace and it weakens the state's agency. This study focuses on the case of the Municipality of Palimbang as a hybrid political community and argues that the occurring phenomenon in Palimbang is a microcosm of a widely cascaded and similar phenomenon in many communities in the Philippines, particularly Mindanao. Therefore, they can also effectively enforce hybrid forms of peace to augment the inherent weakness of liberal peacebuilding mechanisms, withstand local resistance and pay credence to the local peace architectures.



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3. Where are the Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples? A Pluriversal Analysis on the Bangsamoro Peace Process from the Aquino III until the Duterte Administration

Authors: Ms. Mary Jo Ginete, Jacqueline Anne L. Laurente, Viriza Ann O. Caballo, Cheryll Marie Irish Aguirre, and Princess Norhana G. Calaca
Affiliation: Ateneo de Davao University

Abstract:

The Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples (NMIPs) have long been vying for the recognition of their rights in the Bangsamoro negotiations, and their subsequent representation in the BARMM today. However, the dominant peacebuilding discourse falls short in accurately mapping out their concerns and the extent of their participation in the Bangsamoro peace process, risking ontological and epistemic violence for the NMIPs. Thus, it is essential to investigate the extent of NMIP participation in the process beyond the current mainstream and critical approaches that still operate under Eurocentric ideals. Using the concept of Pluriversality, this study offers a decolonial perspective in investigating the converging and diverging realities and experiences of the Indigenous, Bangsamoro, and Modern worlds. The researchers conducted a qualitative case study to characterize and contextualize the circumstances of the ambiguous positionality of the NMIPs in relation to the MILF, the GPH, BARMM actors, and the international actors in the Bangsamoro peace process during the Aquino III and the Duterte administrations. Findings illustrate that there are contradictions that continue to ambiguate the NMIPs' positionalities despite the merits of NMIP recognition, representation, and engagements with the domestic and international actors involved in the Bangsamoro peace process. Furthermore, this study reveals that the factors contributing to the NMIPs' ambiguous positionality are the three Worlds' diverging world views and their consequences, tokenism, transformations in IP identity, and the evolution of armed conflict dynamics.

4. Pacifying Peace: Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and its Role in Preventing Violent Extremism

Author: Mr. Dan Kristian Rivera
Affiliation: Saint Columbian College

Abstract:

This paper explores and makes minor points about whether the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will likely lessen violent extremist and separatist groups, including the Dawlah Islamiyah, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, and Abu-Sayyaf. Nearly three years into the transition, the former MILF rebels, now in charge of the interim administration, have, with the assistance of the national army, largely confined the armed groups opposed to the peace process. Even so, there are still occasional clashes in the area, despite the low threat of major conflict. The resources used to assess the likelihood in this paper will focus on the history of the Moro people in Mindanao through research papers, news articles, commentaries, and documentaries. The paper also explains the different facets of the Moros' struggle in Mindanao. It will explain the history of armed conflict in Mindanao, including some of the operations of terrorist networks influenced by violent extremism; clarify the differences between radicalism and extremism; explain the purpose of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, or BARMM; and conclude with the current status quo of the BARMM. The importance of inter-agency mechanisms is recommended to be integrated with peace programs and long-term peacebuilding programs integrated with civic education, like tapping other pool agencies from BARMM and the National Government, such as the Ministries of Social Services and Development and Public Order and Safety."



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Panel 2: Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro

5. Peacekeeping and Public Safety at Sea: Creating and Maintaining a Fisheries and Rescue Fleet for the Bangsamoro in Pursuit of Local and National Security

Author: Mr. Earl Carlo Guevarra

Affiliation: University of the Philippines-Diliman

Abstract:

Given that the BARMM has been given wide latitude to manage its affairs as an autonomous region, and with the Mandanas ruling providing the necessary justification for local and regional government units to extend expanded services to their constituents (DOF, GOVPH, 2021), it should be argued that the relevant ministries of the BARMM government, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) to take the lead in maritime law enforcement and the general security of fisheries in the Bangsamoro region and to reinforce Philippine national security through the acquisition and maintenance of a standalone fisheries fleet. BFAR has expanded its fleet over the past few years (Verdejo, 2022) and is currently contributing to the whole-of-nation approach to protect our maritime resources in the West Philippine Sea and elsewhere in the country's EEZ. The question is: Would the creation of a fisheries enforcement and sea rescue fleet by the BARMM help in securing the fishing grounds of the Bangsamoro and contribute to overall security? My paper explores the different policy options available to Bangsamoro policymakers as well as their respective advantages and disadvantages. Ten aspects are covered, ranging from legality to logistical feasibility, economic impact and inclusiveness, among others. Based on the discussion and analysis of the given policy alternatives, the BARMM government should be able to develop and manage its own fisheries fleet, thus fulfilling its mandate of food, environmental, and maritime security to its constituents and to the Filipino people at large.

6. Youth-led peacebuilding efforts in the Anthropocene: Reflections from the Young Moros for Kalilintad Initiative

Authors: Ms. Alastair Erfe, Raymond de Peralta

Affiliation: Osaka University

Abstract:

The Bangsamoro region is vulnerable to various threats in the Anthropocene, such as climate change, environmental degradation, and the rise of misinformation. Despite the recent developments and progress toward sustainable peace, these complex realities obstruct the realization of positive peace in the area. Responding to these threats requires recognizing the contribution of civil society actors, especially the youth, and their meaningful participation in building and sustaining peace. This paper draws on the lessons and experience from the Young Moros for Kalilintad in 2016, a youth-led initiative aimed at contributing to peacebuilding in Mindanao by raising the awareness of young to participate in socio-civic activities and encouraging them to be partners in holistic development through an educational excursion and an open-forum. The Volunteers organized the initiative for Kalilintad, a group of young people comprised of former volunteers of the Madaris Volunteer Program, a local madaris teacher, and young development practitioners. Based on the reflections and empirical accounts of the youth organizers from the three-day excursion for the students in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, this paper discusses how educational trips, volunteerism, and intercultural dialogue espouse participatory peacebuilding at the grassroots level. Moreover, recognizing the contributions of youth-led peacebuilding activities is congruent with the call for inclusive participation of stakeholders underlined in the international and local peace agendas. This paper also reflects on the need to rethink peace beyond human-to-human interactions and take stock of making peace with the environment as we transition from 'global warming' to 'global boiling.'



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7. Beyond Camp Abubakar: An Assessment of President Estrada's Moro Policy and Its Impact on Peacebuilding in Bangsamoro

Author: Ms. Naomi Co

Affiliation: University of the Philippines-Diliman

Abstract:

President Joseph Estrada's Moro Policy is the biggest offensive carried out by the Philippine government against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2000. The directives of an "all-out war" campaign resulted in the capture of MILF bases and satellite camps, including its largest base, Camp Abubakar. While the implementation of this policy achieved military successes, it is crucial to recognize that a true and lasting peace between the central government and the Muslim separatists has yet to be attained. Despite the apparent success on the battlefield, it did not address the underlying ideological divide and layers of socio-cultural and historical dimensions, which remain an obstacle to a genuine reconciliation. It would appear, therefore, that the "enemies" that the Estrada government seeks to defeat are not tangible but abstract concepts deeply ingrained in the identity and collective experiences of the Muslim population—concepts that have persisted through centuries of colonialism and indoctrination. This study will assess Estrada's policy strategies and outcomes and their impact on peacebuilding in Bangsamoro. Through a comprehensive understanding of historical context and the challenges posed by deep-rooted ideologies, policymakers can develop strategies that promote inclusion, diversity, and sustainable peace. It hopes to contribute to a broader discourse on conflict resolution and provide valuable insights for future peacebuilding efforts in the region.

Panel 3: Historical and Religio-Cultural Approaches to Bangsamoro Studies

8. The Brief Colonial Attempt of the French Naval Asiatic Squadron in Basilan: A Maluso Sojourn 1843–1845

Author: Mr. Ahmad Shaid J. Sallim

Affiliation: Maluso of the Past-Basilan Studies Center

Abstract:

In this chapter, we provide an overview of the unknown history of the Southern Philippines involving, principally the history of Basilan, affecting the history of the Sulu Archipelago and largely the Moros. We tracked the history of France' colonization attempt in Southeast Asia, its causes and initial reasons, and related it across the numerous foreign and local historical records, autobiographies, and official data. Mainstream writings and research about European Colonialism during the 19th century on the maritime Sulu Archipelago usually connoted three commonly held themes: War, Destruction, and Religion. The lack of an in-depth study about the central role of diplomacy, negotiation, and a series of treaties and agreements between the European Colonialists and the Sulu Archipelago Natives is included in this paper. The paper revisits the brief French colonial attempt on Basilan in 1843 up to 1845; the central role of the De Lagrene Mission, the Sultan of Sulu and the Ruma Bichara, the active participation of the Basilan datu to the negotiation, Spain's sideline observation, the British and American neutral positions, by which their collective actions greatly shaped the event and topic about to be discussed. We tracked the history of France's attempts to colonize Basilan; the causes and effects, and related the reasons behind the numerous foreign and local historical records, autobiographies, and related pieces of literature. In addition, we review its impact on shaping the Southern Philippines' collective history, involving the narratives brought by the French, its Geopolitical importance, and changing the course of the island's history.



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9. The Moro Rancheria of Tagum: Muslim Resistance during Spanish Colonial Rule

Author: Dr. Theresa Mae Gallardo

Affiliation: University of the Philippines-Mindanao

Abstract:

Following the Legaspi expedition, a Spanish invasion of Mindanao resulted in a wave of Muslim and Moro raids and opposition to newly constructed reduccion settlements. Spanish missions were dispatched to Mindanao to establish commercial relations with the Moros, recognize Spanish dominions, and convert local communities to Christianity. In particular, the Moro Rancheria of Tagum's experiences resisting colonial power in the 16th century are examined in this paper. According to Blair and Robertson's testimonies, the Moro Rancheria of Tagum is one of the most notorious and unruly rancherias in the Davao Gulf because of the numerous murders and assassinations attributed to it. Unreported in studies on the history of Muslim resistance to the Spanish colonizers, the killing of Don José Pinzon y Purga, one of the highest-ranking Spanish officials, in 1861 sparked fears that the colonizers would continue to advance near the Davao Gulf. This paper explores the history of the Moro Rancheria of Tagum and how they opposed Spanish colonial power. In order to comprehend their form of resistance and how it compares to that of the rest of the Filipino archipelago, it uses anti-colonial rhetoric as a guiding framework. The study drew on primary sources, secondary sources, and interviews with regional historians.

10. Meranaw Proverbs (Pananaroon) for Conflict Resolution: A Proposed Ethical and Social Etiquette Principles Guidebook

Author: Dr. Sofailah Panggaga

Affiliation: Mindanao State University-Main Campus

Abstract:

Pananaroon (Meranaw proverb) play a significant role in a variety of occasion, the purpose of this study is to call attention to and increase awareness of harmonious Meranaw proverbs by employing Meranaw conflict resolution proverbs as subject markers and they always give professional advice, with the goal of informing readers or listeners about the consequences of their actions. Because pananaroon and other proverbs are often figurative and indirect, they allow authors and speakers to convey their views in a gentler manner. According to H. Asis (1993), while other ethnic groups in the Philippines have experienced changes, modernization, and innovations, the Meranaws have preserved some of their native culture, traditions, customs, and ways of life, which now appear unique because they were untouched until the turn of the century. The study revealed the following findings: there are thirty (30) pananaroon found in the collected Pananaroon for conflict resolution from the informants, and there are eight (8) figurative speech found in all pananaroon on all occasions. The findings on the ethical and social etiquette principles of Pananaroon from the analysis of denotative, connotative, and figurative language used were the following: integrity on purpose, revealing the truth, respect for authority, the implementation of responsibility, and modesty in behavior. The findings on social etiquette principles were language awareness/sensitivity, language usage with wisdom, and loud articulation of voice. The study concluded that knowing Meranaw proverbs for conflict resolution may help in the recall of proverbial expressions, allow for flexibility of use, allow for complimentary usage, provide a substitution, reduce monotony, allow for smooth expression of views, reinforce concepts, and it is timely to fund and distribute printed materials such as the Guidebook entitled "Pananadem: (Reminisce) Proverbs and Idioms of the Meranaw Ancestors."



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11. Exploring and Indigenous Perspective on Tausug Resistance

Author: Mr. Kamaruddin Bin Alawi Mohammad

Affiliation: University of the Philippines-Diliman, Institute of Islamic Studies

Abstract:

In teaching the history of Muslims in the Philippines, in the field of Sulu history in particular, sources from Western scholars were the first to be recognized. One may conclude that most sources, if not all, are mired with personal agendas, thus it is highly recommended to be critical in reading them. As time goes by, "counter-discoursing" such sources become a trend on their own and the latest is in Decolonial Studies. However, despite the effort to be more critical in "reading" as well as teaching Sulu history, especially with the issue on Tausug resistance, one may observe that most esteemed scholars in the field were not able to delve more into the realm of the indigenous or the pre-Islamic discourse. The latter, as understood by the researcher, may provide a more realistic discourse in understanding Tausug resistance. This is the gap that the researcher is attempting to fill in.

12. Kapitbahayan: Int(ra)er-Faith Dialogue through Bottom-up Approaches as Imperative in Promoting the Culture of Peace in Mindanao

Author: Dr. Arvin Dineros Eballo. Mia Borromeo-Eballo

Affiliation: University of Santo Tomas, Institute of Religion

Abstract:

Given its geohistorical importance, Mindanao is regarded as a melting pot of various cultures, traditions, and religions. Lamentably, it has become fragmented due to the coexistence of armed conflicts, rebel and terrorist violence, and religious, political, ethnic/territorial, and clan disputes (rido) that are aggravated by poverty. To put conflict resolution procedures and peacebuilding strategies into place, numerous local and international organizations, including religious organizations, have consistently worked with the government. Peace, nevertheless, is still ill-defined because there are still power struggles in the area. As a result, one of the difficulties the Bangsamoro Transition Authority is currently experiencing is the pressing need to foster a culture of peace that is incorporated into daily life across the region's households, neighborhoods (kapitbahayan), non-governmental organizations, schools, and religious institutions. This article suggests that both intra-faith and inter-faith ways of dialoguing are essential to avert internal conflicts and foster acceptance and appreciation for other religions, such as Christianity and Islam, or indigenous people, such as the Lumads. These two types of dialoguing should be initiated not just among religious and political leaders but also among locals to motivate them to participate in conflict management and peacebuilding activities. The foundation for securing peace is laid by peace education at the grassroots level, which ensures stability. In addition, community-led peace projects also encourage inclusivity as they incorporate sectoral implementers including elders, religious leaders, women, and youth. Strategic peacebuilding will be facilitated by bottom-up approaches that link local peace initiatives with governmental interventions and international peace cohorts."



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Panel 4: Ascertaining Bangsamoro's Security in Social and Economic Services

13. Province-Level Convergence Analysis of Bangsamoro Region's Income and Spatial Dependence

Author: Mr. Ivan Harris Tanyag

Affiliation: University Of The Philippines-Diliman

Abstract:

This paper attempts to investigate provincial income inequality and spatial dependence in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) through beta convergence analysis. Estimates of convergence dynamics in five provinces explain how disparities in per capita income levels across the region have evolved over time. In addition, this research aims to uncover the extent to which income levels in neighboring provinces influence each other using global and local estimation methods. We also apply geographically weighted regression (GWR) to account for the spatial variation in the relationships between income levels and a set of key regional determinants such as local infrastructure investments, level of educational attainment, and access to healthcare facilities. It also captures the nuanced and context-specific patterns of income disparities and the impact of regional determinants on these variations. This study finds a significant variation in the speed of provincial convergence. This indicates that the economic growth trajectories among provinces in BARMM are not uniform throughout, as it is influenced by local factors such as historical conflicts and resource distribution. As BARMM continues to transition itself from a post-conflict region to a more economically stable and self-reliant entity, understanding the multifaceted dynamics of income inequality and the role of regional determinants is crucial in shaping evidence-based policy interventions on the economy. This study hopes to contribute to the literature on regional economic development in BARMM by providing empirical evidence on convergence dynamics across provinces. Finally, we provide recommendations for future research on the spatial distribution of income inequality.

14. The Views, Experiences, and Recommendations of Muslim Women in the Bangsamoro Region on Divorce

Author: Ms. Kyeesha Anne Daquiz

Affiliation: Ateneo de Davao University

Abstract:

Apart from the Vatican, the Philippines, where 90% of the population is Catholic, is the only country that does not legally recognize divorce. However, it provides a religious exemption to Muslim residents, who comprise 5% of the population. Existing literature has focused on how divorce is permitted in Muslim communities in the Philippines. There is a lack of literature on the actual accounts of Muslim Filipino women who have undergone divorce. Thus, this study focuses on the views, experiences, and recommendations of ten Muslim women in the Bangsamoro region who have undergone divorce under Sharia law. The study is guided by Nancy Hartsock's Feminist Standpoint Theory. Information was gathered through in-depth, digitally recorded interviews with each participant. For the analysis of the participants' transcripts of the interview, the proponents used the Descriptive Qualitative method. The findings indicate that the respondents' views on divorce are sufficient and carefully considered through a discerning period and witnesses. However, they view divorce negatively in terms of the family's prejudice against divorced Muslim women, the unequal rights granted to men and women, and the expensive cost of divorce. Moreover, the findings also highlight the general experiences of Muslim women in the Bangsamoro region before, during, and after divorce. The factors that contribute to women initiating divorce include long-term suffering, violence, husband's negligence, and third-party relationships. During the divorce process, respondents experienced challenges owing to gender disparities and negotiating with an uncooperative spouse. Respondents have also stated that they felt relieved, liberated, and at peace after the divorce. Regarding their recommendations to improve Islam divorce, the respondents suggested that there should be a cost-effective method of processing divorce and equal rights for men and women.



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15. Pacifying Dissent through Market Liberalization: The Case of the Barter Trade in Zamboanga

Author: Mr. Sherwin Toring

Affiliation: Zamboanga Peninsula Polytechnic State University

Abstract:

Trade liberalization is often perceived as an effective strategy for development especially by international financial institutions (IFIs) such as World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). The measure, though many would disagree, is seen to be more beneficial as it could facilitate the generation of employment and increase of wages, decrease of prices of commodities, and upsurge of social spending that in effect would address the bigger issue of poverty (World Bank, 2005). In the context of the Philippines, a unilateral form of market liberalization took place in the southern part of the country at a much earlier time and beyond the pressures of the IFIs. In particular, trade within the Sulu Archipelago and its adjacent areas was almost entirely liberalized by Ferdinand Marcos Sr. in 1973 through the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 93. The decree allowed the importation and sale of duty-free products within the intended trade area that was comprised mainly by Sulu Archipelago, Balabac Island, and Zamboanga. The document pointed out the historic trading activities going on in this region for centuries as a general justification for the liberalization of a market that has become known then and now as the barter trade. However, several scholars and local individuals contend that this market was established to particularly pacify the Moro rebellion that started before the declaration of the Martial Law. This paper therefore aims to narrate the stories of those who have been admitted to this market and consequently describe its current status exactly fifty years since its establishment. The article emerged out of a long-term ethnographic fieldwork which I originally conducted as part of a larger research project.

16. Unveiling Multidimensional Inequality Experienced by Bangsamoro Communities Living Near the Liguasan Marsh, Philippines, Using the Capability Approach: A Phenomenological Inquiry Informing the Prioritization of Local Social Services

Author: Mr. John Ryan F. Fernandez

Affiliation: University Of Southern Mindanao

Abstract:

This study aimed to uncover multidimensional inequality among the Bangsamoro communities living near the Liguasan Marsh in the Philippines using the capability approach as a basis for policy development. Twenty informants were selected from two locations: Brgy. Cuyapon in Kabacan, Cotabato Province, and Brgy. Inug-ug in Pagalungan, Province of Maguindanao Del Sur. The researcher employed a validated semi-structured interview guide, and data were collected through interviews, observations, and conversations with key informants. Data were recorded using electronic audio recorders and field notes, later transcribed, reviewed, and rigorously analyzed through coding and triangulation methods. The study identified significant findings in various aspects of the informants' lives. In terms of health, five major themes emerged, including sanitation challenges, health challenges, insufficient government support, environmental challenges, and limited access to healthcare. Security concerns revolved around a single theme: social and legal conflicts. Education revealed four themes: digital access disparities, barriers to regular school attendance, obstacles to educational access and attainment, and limited educational resources. In the realm of financial independence, two themes surfaced: financial distress and socioeconomic struggles. Living conditions yielded a single theme: housing and residential challenges. Political participation revealed three identified themes: political participation attitudes and behaviors, political relations and influences, and electoral upheavals. Lastly, social life centered around a single theme: social dynamics and cultural preservation. These findings illuminate the significant multidimensional inequality faced by the Bangsamoro communities living near the Liguasan Marsh, Philippines.



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Panel 5: Situating the Political in Bangsamoro's Climate Change, Foreign Aid, Policymaking, and in Maritime Southeast Asia

17. The Impact of Air Strike on Water Quality at Agus River and Lake Lanao: Promoting Sustainable Infrastructure for Green Growth and Mitigation and Adaptation of Climate Change in the War-Torn City of Marawi: Environmental Risk Assessment

Author: Dr. Dimasowa Guro Dimaporo

Affiliation: University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP)

Abstract:

The City of Marawi was destroyed in the Philippines' longest urban war (Agence France Presse, 2017). An armed conflict against the ISIS-affiliated Maute group was in progress within the city since May 23, 2017. The city was liberated on October 17, 2017, and battle operations officially ended on October 23, 2017. Marawi City is the capital and the only city in the province of Lanao del Sur in the Philippines. This study aimed to determine the current status of the Agus River and Lake Lanao in terms of Water quality, Green Growth Infrastructure, and Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change through Environmental Risk Assessment. This project deals with the study of the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA). It is aimed for assessing and reporting environmental conditions. This is a process for estimating the likelihood or probability of an adverse outcome or event due to pressures or changes in environmental conditions resulting from war and other human activities. It also covers the ERA procedure triggered prior to significant decisions affecting the environment and the Marawi residents. It can be broken into three broad stages- a) preparation, involving collecting and examining relevant background information, and establishing the focus for the assessment. b) conducting the assessment. c) interpreting, reporting, and applying results of the assessment. The research findings pursuant of the City Government of Marawi to Promote Sustainable Infrastructure for Green Growth and the Mitigation and Adaptation of Climate Change in order to have a comprehensive and integrated environmental protection program necessitates the establishment and institutionalization of a system whereby the exigencies of socioeconomic undertakings can be reconciled with the requirements of environmental quality.

18. A Study on the Role of Suporta sa Bangsamoro Transition" in Empowering the Civil Society in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region: October 2021 to February 2023

Author: Ms. Merea Aila Villas, Andrea Gabrielle Tenorio and Janet Atutubo

Affiliation: University Of Santo Tomas

Abstract:

The transition of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2019 provides hope that the conflict in Mindanao is now moving towards a direction that promotes self-autonomy, peace, and sustainability after decades of unrest. Despite the newly constituted BARMM's autonomous status, the future of Mindanao remains uncertain, with occasional violence breaking out between the government and Moro armed groups. Hence, this paper explored how foreign aid, specifically SUBATRA (Suporta sa Bangsamoro Transition), contributes to the transition by enhancing the capacity of civil society. Guided by John Robinson's Backcasting Approach (1982), which identifies the desired future and then assesses what is required to get there, this study highlighted how SUBATRA could help BARMM attain its goal: to transition into a peaceful autonomous region. The researchers interviewed key officials from SUBATRA and BARMM. Moreover, this study employed textual analysis and data triangulation to help list the programs implemented by SUBATRA. The study highlighted the importance and role of SUBATRA in the ongoing transition by giving assistance to CSOs. Therefore, this paper confirms that SUBATRA will always be sensitive to the needs of the people. There is also the desire to not only help the transition of BARMM but also to improve the lives of the Bangsamoro people. The visible actions of CSOs working together with SUBATRA were found to be more inclusive and collaborative, encouraging meaningful engagement with CSOs during the transition."



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19. The Exercise of Supervisory Powers over Bangsamoro Constituent Units in the Passage of the Bangsamoro Local Governance Code

Author: Mr. Arthur Franz Tenorio & Ms. Mariel Encar Uy

Affiliation: (1) University Of Santo Tomas; (2) Philippine Institute For Development Studies

Abstract:

The 1991 Local Government Code (LGC) reinforced the Constitutional provision to vest the President with supervisory powers over all local government units (LGUs). The national Administrative Code delegates this function to the now-Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), consistent with their aspiration for self-governance, demanded the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) to pass five codes within the transitory period – which includes crafting their own local government code. On 28 September 2023, the BTA passed the Bangsamoro Local Governance Code (BLGC) that aims to define the relationship of the Bangsamoro Government and its constituent local governments, including the exercise of supervisory powers of the former to the latter, which according to the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, is delegated to the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG). The paper intends to understand on whether the passage of the BLGC clarified the exercise of supervisory powers over the constituent units of the Bangsamoro. The researchers will conduct Key Informant Interviews (KII) with representatives from both the DILG and the MILG, and use document review to pertinent national and regional policies such as, but not limited to, the 1991 LGC; national Administrative Code; BOL; Bangsamoro Administrative Code; and the newly-passed BLGC."

20. Repopularizing the Dunia Melayu: The Bangsamoro between Being Filipino and Maritime Southeast Asian

Author: Mr. Shariful Hashim S. Mansul

Affiliation: Ateneo De Zamboanga University

Abstract:

Muslim Mindanao and Sulu, or currently the Bangsamoro region, has been a longstanding exception in Philippine history, politics, society, and economy, and despite the political propensity to make this state of exception into a state of norm in the backdrop of the larger Philippine polity, little has changed. To the contrary, this homogenizing propensity itself has subduced. This paper seeks to show that the Philippine determination to integrate the Bangsamoro people into the fold of its own nationalist narrative is both narrow and myopic. It also reinforces the vestiges of colonization that have insularized the Philippines from the rest of maritime Southeast Asia and crystallized its role as a docile geopolitical tool for changing imperialist interests in the region. Instead of following the same footsteps since the colonial era, what Philippine nationalists should begin rethinking is the redemption of its spot in maritime Southeast Asia beyond tokenistic and/or regional security discourses. With the Bangsamoro region more tied to the rest of maritime Southeast Asia than any region in the country, both in terms of geography and socio-economy, the Philippines might as well find its redemption by being more Bangsamoro, instead of the inversion. Taking cue from early nationalist and anticolonialist intellectuals from the Philippine revolution to the early state formation of the Philippines under American rule, this paper explores the validity of repopularizing the Dunia Melayu in the politics of both the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and the Philippines as situated in maritime Southeast Asia.



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