



## **PROPOSAL TO APPROVE SUBATRA'S BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENTARY LEARNING AND TRAINING CENTER (BPLTC)**

According to the study done by *Support to the Bangsamoro Transition* (SUBATRA), BARMM's Parliament's personnel have significant need for capacity building. The assessment indicates that the Members of the Parliament and their staffs have rated medium to low in terms of legislative knowledge and skills. The Parliament's administrative, technical, and security support system have also shown to have limited capacity to provide service they intend to deliver.<sup>1</sup>

The drafting of *Bangsamoro Legislative Institute* (BLI) targets to address the Parliament's need for a more equipped and knowledgeable workforce. Drawing from the experiences from other countries, BLI will serve as a research and training arm of the Parliament, improving on its expertise and technical know-how while being sensitive to the unique character of the Bangsamoro region. It will be designed as an academe-like institution that will consolidate Parliament's legislative training, research, and public coordination.

BLI is a promising venture for the Bangsamoro government, however, establishing such new institution requires a longer period of time to be fully activated and provide quality service. Realistically, creating such type of institution requires a lengthier process. Considering the immediacy and magnitude of the concerns of the Parliament, especially that BARMM is in transitory phase to build foundation for better governance, BLI needs some leverage to jumpstart its operation and to deliver the pressing needs of the Parliament.

SUBATRA's proposal to create a *Bangsamoro Parliamentary Learning and Training Center* (BPLTC) can strategically set the impetus needed by the BLI to achieve its objectives. Both BLI and BPLTC share the same goal on: (1) capacity building of MPs and staffs through providing training; (2) development of expertise on legislative studies tailored to the needs of the Bangsamoro region; and the (3) promotion of public awareness on Parliamentary issues.

BPLTC can execute its functions immediately, as it has already developed a detailed and well-researched plan for delivering its services. BPLTC also has the network of parliamentary experts that can help organize the needed trainings for the Parliamentary personnel. Aside from

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<sup>1</sup> Pastrana, Reginald, *Establishing the Bangsamoro Parliamentary Learning and Training Center (BPLTC)*, p.4.



its clear blueprint, the initial stage of the BPLTC and its infrastructure building will be supported by SUBATRA's European Union funding, which makes the problem on resources manageable.

In the end, BPLTC will mainly benefit the BLI in terms of its initial operations, system, knowledge, and infrastructures. After some time, BLI can use BPLTC for its long-term objectives, since BPLTC's main aim is to be fully owned and managed by the Parliament.