



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta'

جمهورية الفلبين
دار الإفتاء لحكم بانجسامورو الذاتي الإقليمي
بمنداوا المسلمة



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**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE 2025 PROVINCIAL 'ULAMA ASSEMBLY AND
REGIONAL 'ULAMA CONVENTION OF 'ULAMA SECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND SECTORAL WINGS OF REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL PARTIES
(RPPPS) IN THE BARMM FOR THE ELECTION OF THE 'ULAMA SECTORAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT**

General Guidelines for the 2025 Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and Regional 'Ulama Convention of 'Ulama Sectoral Organizations and Sectoral Wings of Regional Parliamentary Political Parties (RPPPs) in the BARMM for the Election of the 'Ulama Sectoral Representative in the Bangsamoro Parliament

I. Legal Bases. The legal bases cited for this Guideline are as follows:

- 1. Section 7, Article VII of Republic Act No. 11054 (Bangsamoro Organic Law),** provides for the representation of the 'Ulama sector in the Bangsamoro Parliament;
- 2. Section 1, Article X of the Bangsamoro Autonomy Act (BAA) No. 35 or the Bangsamoro Electoral Code (BEC)** provides that: "in the first Parliamentary election, the selection of the sectoral representatives for the reserved seats in the Parliament shall be on the basis of election during assemblies especially called for the purpose by registered and accredited sectoral organizations of women, settlers, youth, 'Ulama, traditional leaders and NMIP (Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples)."
- 3. Section 1, Article IX of Resolution No. 10984 of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) or the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of BAA No. 35,** provides: "For the sectoral representatives of NMIP, Traditional Leaders and 'Ulama, the assemblies shall be called by registered and accredited sectoral organizations through their respective ministries, regional agencies, or offices and shall be conducted in the manner provided in this IRR (Comelec Resolution No. 10984).
- 4. Section 15, Article IV-C of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Act No. 35 (BAA No. 35) also known as the Bangsamoro Electoral Code** states that the reserved seats for sectoral representatives shall constitute at least ten percent (10%) of the Members of the Parliament, which shall include two (2) seats each for Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples and settler communities. Women, youth, traditional leaders, and the 'Ulama shall have one seat each: Provided, That the sectoral representatives shall in no case be less than eight (8) seats;
-  **5. Section 33, Article IV of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Act No. 35 (BAA No. 35) also known as the Bangsamoro Electoral Code** states that the 'Ulama sectoral representative shall be selected through a process that upholds the principle of Shura (consultation) and equal opportunity for representation on the basis of rotation.

The Bangsamoro Darul Ifta' shall create an 'Ulama Council within ninety (90) days from the promulgation of this Code.

The council shall be composed of seven (7) respected and knowledgeable religious leaders coming from the six (6) provinces of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and one (1) from the Special Geographic Area.

The Council will convene and organize the 'Ulama Assemblies and the Regional 'Ulama Convention and determine the manner, process, and procedures for the election of their representative in the Parliament in

accordance with this Code and the schedule set by the COMELEC;

6. **Section 34, Article IV of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Act No. 35 (BAA No. 35) also known as the Bangsamoro Electoral Code** states that the selection of nominees for the 'Ulama shall be conducted in two levels, namely the:

- a. Provincial 'Ulama Assembly; and
- b. Regional 'Ulama Convention, in accordance with the schedule to be set by the COMELEC.

Each of the provincial assemblies shall have the authority to choose their delegates that will participate in the Regional 'Ulama Convention and set the criteria for participation, taking into consideration the track record of the delegates.

II. Purposes. The primary objectives of this Guideline are as follows:

1. To implement the mandate of the Bangsamoro Darul Ifta', through the 'Ulama Council, by convening Provincial 'Ulama Assemblies and the Regional 'Ulama Convention for the registered and accredited Parliamentary Sectoral Organizations for 'Ulama, as well as the Sectoral Wings of registered and accredited Regional Parliamentary Political Parties (RPPPs) for 'Ulama;
2. To ensure a transparent, organized, and democratic process for conducting the Assembly of the 'Ulama Sectoral Organizations (USO) and Sectoral Wings for the 'Ulama; and
3. To delineate the procedures for the election of the Sectoral Representative for 'Ulama in the Bangsamoro Parliament, ensuring that these procedures align with the principles established in Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 35 and Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Resolution No. 10984.

By adhering to this Guideline, we aim to promote effective representation and participation of the 'Ulama in the legislative processes of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.



III. Construction and Interpretation. This Guideline shall be interpreted liberally to foster and enhance the democratic participation of the 'Ulama Sector. It shall ensure that members of the 'Ulama are afforded the opportunity to engage actively and freely in the political processes within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), thereby promoting inclusivity and representation in governance.

IV. Scope. This Guideline shall apply to the selection of the delegates and nominees to the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and the Regional 'Ulama Convention of the Parliamentary Sectoral Organizations and Sectoral Wings for the 'Ulama and the manner of election of the Sectoral Representative for 'Ulama in the Bangsamoro Parliament for the 2025 Parliamentary elections in the BARMM.

Only those Parliamentary Sectoral Organizations and Regional Parliamentary Political Parties (RPPPs) by way of their Sectoral Wings that submitted a Manifestation of Intent to Participate in the Parliamentary

Sectoral Representation System (MIP-PSRS) shall be allowed to participate in the assembly and convention.

V. Definition of Terms. The specific terms as used in this Guideline shall have the following meanings:

- a. **AAD** shall refer to the Assembly Assistance Desk;
- b. **Assembly Delegates** shall refer to the 'Ulama Sectoral Organization (USO) and/or Sectoral Wing (SW) delegates whose name is included in the Assembly Day Computerized Delegates List;
- c. **Assembly Day Computerized Delegates List (ADCDL)** refers to the final list of USO or SW delegates. The list contains the delegates' photographs, its signatures, USO or SW represented, and thumb prints;
- d. **Assembly and Convention Venue** shall refer to the place where the Ulama Council conducts the assembly or convention and where the delegates determine their sectoral representative;
- e. **Assembly Nominee** refers to an individual nominated by the USO or SW for the provincial assemblies;
- f. **Bangsamoro Electoral Office (BEO)** refers to the office established by the COMELEC in accordance with the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), the Bangsamoro Electoral Code (BEC), and COMELEC Resolution No. 10680;
- g. **Certificate of Declaration of Ulama Representative-elect** shall refer to the document containing the name of the 'Ulama representative who will serve as the representative of Ulama Sector in the Bangsamoro Parliament as a result of the conduct of Regional 'Ulama Convention.
- h. **Convention Day Computerized Nominees List (CDCNL)** refers to the final list of 'Ulama Convention Nominees. The list contains the delegates' photographs, its signatures, USO or SW represented, and thumb prints;
- i. **Convention nominee** refers to an individual nominated/elected during the provincial assembly;
- j. **CAD** shall refer to the Convention Assistance Desk;
- k. **Mass Media** shall refer to diversified technologies, operating on various platforms, that have for their primary purpose the transmission of information and communication to a large audience. These platforms include broadcast, internet and mobile social media and print. COMELEC accredited members of the Mass media shall be given free access to the Assembly or convention venue for purposes of observing and reporting on selection of nominees and other election events and processes;
- l. **Mass Media Entities** shall refer to individuals and organizations that exercise control over mass media and determine, whether directly or

indirectly, using these technologies;

- m. **Media Practitioner** shall refer to a person or group of persons actively engaged in the pursuit of information gathering and reporting or distribution, in any manner or form, including, but not limited to, the following: 1. Bloggers/Vloggers 2. Community Journalists 3. Feature Film/Documentary Makers 4. Feature Film Makers 5. Novelists 6. Online Journalists 7. Photojournalists 8. Playwrights 9. Print Journalists 10. Professional Photographer 11. Professional Videographer 12. Public Relations Practitioners 13. Radio Journalist 14. Screenwriters/Creative Writers 15. Television Journalists 16. Television Productions 17. Opinion Writers 18. Social media Practitioner;
- n. **Minutes** shall refer to the minutes of the conduct of the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and the Regional 'Ulama Convention;
- o. **MIP-PSRS** shall mean the "Manifestation of Intent to Participate in the Parliamentary Sectoral Representative System;"
- p. **National Media** shall refer to those who are engaged in news reporting for and on behalf of a local media corporation or entity with online or print publications, or which engages in radio/television broadcasting, with national circulation or viewership, including provincial correspondents of, and freelancers on assignment for national publications or broadcast entities;
- q. **Other Media** shall refer to those engaged in other forms of journalism, including, but not limited to, opinion writers, public relations practitioners, creative writers, bloggers, feature film and documentary film makers, and the like;
- r. **Parliamentary Sectoral Organizations (PSOs)** shall refer to the duly accredited aggrupation of people belonging to the Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples, Settler Communities, Women, Youth, 'Ulama, and Traditional Leaders who are entitled to the reserved seats in the parliament;
- s. **Persons Rendering Assembly and Convention Service (PRACS)** shall refer to persons authorized to render assembly/convention-related service;
- t. **Poll clerks** shall refer to the persons rendering assembly and convention service designated with the task of taking the minutes of the assembly or convention;
- u. **Principle of Shura** (شورى) (is derived from Arabic, meaning consultation. As a fundamental Islamic principle, Shura emphasizes the importance of collective deliberation among Muslims. It encourages individuals to convene, engage in articulate debate, and employ sound reasoning to develop constructive opinions and actionable strategies, which are then presented to the Ameer (Leader). In the context of selecting the 'Ulama representative, the Shura process shall involve a structured consultation among the members of the 'Ulama Sectoral Organization or Sectoral Wing, facilitated by their respective 'Ulama delegates and nominees.

During this process, participants will engage in meaningful discussions, utilizing articulate debate and sound reasoning to reach a consensus. The outcome of this Shura will be a collective decision regarding the election of the Ulama Representative to the Bangsamoro Parliament;

- v. **Quorum** shall refer to the minimum number of all the registered and accredited USO and RPPP Sectoral Wing which submitted their MIP-PSRS and are present at the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and the Regional 'Ulama Convention. A quorum is necessary to conduct official business and make binding decisions during the assembly and convention;
- w. **Support Staff** shall refer to persons appointed to assist the 'Ulama Council in the performance of their duties;
- x. **Track record** refers to relevant involvement and accomplishments in advancing the rights and welfare of the 'Ulama sector in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) as supported by a list of relevant civic engagements;
- y. **'Ulama** refers to Muslim religious scholars and chief religious authorities;
- z. **'Ulama Council** refers to the body composed of seven (7) respected and knowledgeable religious leaders coming from the six (6) provinces of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and one (1) from the Special Geographic Area. This council shall determine the manner, process, and procedures for the election of the qualified representative in the Parliament in accordance with Sec. 16 of the BEC;
- aa. **'Ulama Sectoral Organizations (USOs)** refers to organized groups of Muslim religious scholars and chief religious authorities;

VI. PRE-ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES

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- a. **Call for the 2025 Provincial 'Ulama Assembly of the USOs and Sectoral Wings for 'Ulama.** The Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta' (BDI) shall issue a Notice of Assembly indicating the date, time, venue, agenda, and other relevant details forty-five (45) days prior to the conduct of the Assembly. The Notice shall be sent to the official email of all the duly registered and accredited 'Ulama Sectoral Organizations (USOs) and Sectoral Wings for 'Ulama and posted in the official websites of the BDI, Bangsamoro Government, and/or Bangsamoro Parliament.

The Notice shall also include the link to the Google Form for pre-registration of the delegates to the Assembly.

- b. **Selection of the Assembly Nominees and Delegates.** A qualified USO or Sectoral Wing may send a maximum of five (5) assembly delegates, which shall include one (1) assembly nominee, if there is any, to the assembly; *Provided*, that the selection of the USOs or Sectoral Wing's official assembly delegates and nominee must be in accordance with its established internal selection process and consistent with its constitution and by-laws.

The selection of the USOs or Sectoral Wing's official assembly delegates and its nominee must be contained in a letter of endorsement or resolution addressed to the BDI.

c. **Qualifications of an Assembly Delegate.** A delegate to the Assembly must have the following qualifications;

1. A citizen of the Philippines;
2. A registered voter in the BARMM;
3. A *bona fide* member of a duly registered USO which he seeks to represent; and
4. Such qualifications shall be evidenced by a certification of Membership issued by the BDI;

d. **Assembly Nominee.** A qualified USO or Sectoral Wing shall be entitled to send one (1) assembly nominee to the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly. The selection of the USOs or Sectoral Wing's official assembly nominee must be in accordance with its established internal selection process and consistent with its constitution and by-laws.

e. **Qualifications of an Assembly Nominee.** A nominee must be:

1. A citizen of the Philippines;
2. At least twenty-five (25) years of age on the day of the assembly;
3. Able to read and write;
4. A registered voter in the BARMM;
5. Has resided in the BARMM province for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election;
6. A *bona fide* member of a duly registered USO which he seeks to represent;
7. A member in good standing of the duly registered and accredited USO or Sectoral Wing; and
8. Must be a Muslim with profound knowledge of Islam and the Islamic Shari'ah;

For purposes of the assembly, a nominee of the duly registered USO or Sectoral Wing for sectoral representative shall be an automatic delegate to the Assembly.

f. **Limitations and Sanctions in Selecting USO or SW Nominees.** In the selection of nominees for the assembly, the USO or SW shall adhere to democratic processes and may, at their discretion, establish specific criteria for the selection of nominees. Such criteria shall consider the educational qualifications, track record, known probity, integrity, and loyalty of the aspiring nominees.

It is expressly provided that no nominee from the USO or SW shall accept nominations from more than one USO or SW. In cases of aggrupations or coalitions, such nominations shall be treated as a single nomination only. Any violation of this provision shall constitute grounds for the disqualification of the nominee.

The 'Ulama Council shall be responsible for assessing and determining whether the nominations from the USO or SW comply with the requirements set forth herein, subject to further issuances by the

Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta.

Nominations that do not comply with this provision shall be rejected by the 'Ulama Council. However, nominees may resubmit their nominations before the deadline established by the BDI and/or the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

VII. FILING OF NOMINATION AS CANDIDATES FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF A SECTORAL WING OF AN RPPP.

1. The BDI shall schedule the filing of Nomination of Candidates for Provincial 'Ulama Assembly within thirty (30) days from the actual date of Assembly.
2. Any USO or Sectoral Wing that intends to field a nominee shall submit personally to the BDI the following requirements:
 - a. RPPP Certificate of Registration issued by the Commission
 - b. Sectoral Agenda;
 - c. Certification of Membership issued by the BDI which must contain the following:
 - i. That the nominee has a track record of outstanding and relevant involvement, accomplishments, and ethical behavior in the community and sector being represented, evidenced by a list of community or sectoral engagement;
 - ii. Signature of the head of the BDI; and
 - iii. Official seal of the BDI.
3. Upon submission of the aforementioned documents and finding them to be in order, it shall be ministerial on the part of the BDI to accept the filing of nomination of a candidate for the Assembly.
4. Late filing of nomination beyond the prescribed period will not be accepted and the concerned nominee will not be listed for voting in the Assembly.

The official list of nominees shall be published in the BDI and BARMM websites and social media accounts at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled date of the Assembly.

VIII. ENTRY AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- A. Registration during the provincial 'Ulama Assembly of the Delegates of an RPPP Sectoral Wing.** In addition to the required documents enumerated in Article VIII(A) of the 'Ulama Guidelines, a delegate shall likewise the following:
1. Manifestation of Intent to Participate in the Parliamentary Sectoral Representation Elections (MIP-PSRS), and shall attach the following:

- a. RPPP Certificate of Registration issued by the Commission;
- b. Organizational Structure
- c. Sectoral Agenda; and
- d. Certification issued by the Bangsamoro Darul Ifta' based in their track record.

Provided that, the Manifestation of Intent to Participate in the Parliamentary Sectoral Representation System (MIP-PSRS) and proof of publication are certified copy in compliance with Sections 5(d), 6, and 15, Rule II, Article VI of the BEC IRR. Provided, further, that the Clerk of the Commission shall publish a list of the PSOs who submitted their MIP-PSRS and complied with the order to publish the same, which shall be deemed compliance of the PSOs. No additional or conflicting requirements may be imposed.

2. Proof of Publication of the MIP-PSRS

B. Assembly Hours. The registration of assembly delegates shall commence at seven o'clock (7:00 AM) in the morning and shall conclude at three o'clock (3:00 PM) on the day of the assembly, unless a different time is established by the 'Ulama Council. The poll clerk shall call the names of the assembly delegates listed, announcing each name three (3) times in the order they appear on the list. Any assembly delegate who is not present when their name is called shall forfeit their right to vote and shall not be allowed to cast their vote at any subsequent time.

C. Entry to the assembly. The Assembly Area shall be designated as the polling area. To ensure a respectful and organized entry process, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. There shall be distinct entrances for male and female delegates, each managed by support staff of the same gender, as designated by the 'Ulama Council;
2. Delegates shall approach the designated facilitating member at the entrance and present their government-issued identification and any other required credentials.
3. The facilitating staff shall verify the delegate's name against the final list of delegates and nominees, which will be prominently displayed on the bulletin board at the entrance.
4. Verification of identity shall include checking the delegate's photograph, signature, and physical appearance to ensure consistency; and
5. If a delegate's name is not found on the final list of delegates and nominees, entry to the Assembly area shall be denied.

A private area shall be provided at the entrance, separated by a simple divider, where Muslim women wearing burqa/niqab may discreetly show their faces for identity verification purposes, ensuring their privacy and dignity are respected.

IX. CONDUCT OF PROVINCIAL 'ULAMA ASSEMBLY

- A. Who may Vote.** - Only the delegates of the USOs and Sectoral Wings that submitted a Manifestation of Intent to Participate in the Parliamentary Sectoral Representation System (MIP-PSRS) may vote in the assembly.

The BDI shall prepare the Assembly Day Computerized Delegates List (ADCDL) for use in the Assembly.

- B. Delegates Assistance Desk (DAD)** - To avoid gathering, crowding and huddling, there shall be in each ingress and egress of the assembly area a Delegates Assistance Desk (DAD), manned by staffs or personnels assigned by the 'Ulama Council, any accredited citizen's arm or such other entities as may be determined by the committee. The DAD shall assist voters in ascertaining the manner of the assembly.

- C. The Principle of Shura in the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly.** Before commencement of the election process, and after the nominees have delivered their respective messages, the 'Ulama Council shall facilitate a consultative discourse among the nominees, in accordance with principle of Shura, through articulate debate and reasoned discussion toward the selection of delegates for the Regional 'Ulama Assembly.

- D. Preliminaries to voting** - The PRACS/secretariat shall arrange the assembly area and perform the following preliminary activities:

1. At six (6:00) o'clock in the morning of assembly day:

- a. See to it that they have all the election forms, documents and supplies needed;
- b. Post one (1) copy each of the delegates list for the assembly;
- c. Staple or paste the Certified Lists of nominees in the ballot secrecy folders or desks/chairs/tables;
- d. Place the ballot secrecy folders on top of the desks/chairs/tables.
- e. Strategically arrange the chairs and tables to be used inside the polling place in such a way that they are at least one (1) meter away/apart from each other; and
- f. Set up the segregated waiting areas for women and men.

2. Before the start of voting, the election committee shall:

- a. Open the ballot box, empty both compartments and show to the public that they are empty. Then the election committee shall lock its interior cover with one (1) padlock. The chairperson shall retain the key to the padlock during the voting; and
- b. Show to the public, the package of official ballots. Enter in the Minutes the number of pads and the serial numbers (SNs) of the ballots in each pad, and the fact that the package of ballots was shown to the public.

- E. Rules to be Observed during the Voting** - During the voting, the election

committee shall see to it that:

- a. The delegates shall vote in the order of their arrival in the polling place;
- b. The delegates shall cast their votes in the designated polling place inside the venue of the assembly;
- c. No watch dogs shall enter the places reserved for the voters and the Election committee, nor mingle and talk with the delegates;
- d. No crowding of voters and disorderly behavior inside the assembly place shall occur; and
- e. The interior cover of the ballot box shall remain locked until the voting is finished and the counting begins, except when it becomes necessary to make room for more ballots, the Chairperson, may, in the presence of citizens arm's watchdog, open the box, press down the ballots without removing any of them. After which, the Chairperson shall again close the interior cover of the ballot box and lock it with the padlock. Such facts shall be recorded in the Minutes.

F. Prohibition on Voting - It shall be unlawful to:

- a. Bring the ballot and/or the ballot secrecy folder outside the polling place/assembly area;
- b. Speak with anyone while inside the polling place, as herein provided;
- c. Prepare the ballot without using a ballot secrecy folder or exhibit its contents to any person, except in cases of assisted voting;
- d. Erase any printing from the ballot or place any distinguishing mark thereon;
- e. Use carbon paper, paraffin paper or other means of making a copy of the contents of the ballot, or otherwise make use of any other scheme to identify the vote, including the use of digital cameras, cellular phones or similar gadgets;
- f. Intentionally tear or deface the ballot; and
- g. Disrupt or attempt to disrupt the proceedings of the election committee.



G. Persons Allowed inside the Polling Place. — Only the following shall be allowed inside the polling place:

- a. Election committee members, including members/staffs of the facilitating agency;
- b. Delegates casting their votes;

- c. Delegates waiting for their turn to vote;
- d. Delegates waiting for their turn to get their ballots; and
- e. Others who are specifically authorized by the 'Ulama Council.

H. Persons Not Allowed in and Around the Polling Place. — Unless specifically authorized by the 'Ulama Council or the Commission, it is unlawful for the following to enter any polling place or stay within a radius fifty (50) meters thereof, except to vote:

- (a) Any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or the Philippine National Police (PNP), unless said PNP personnel is duly appointed as Electoral Board (EB) members;
- (b) Any peace officer or armed person belonging to any extra-legal police agency, special forces, reaction forces, strike forces;
- (c) All other kinds of armed or unarmed extra-legal police forces; and
- (d) Incumbent member of the parliament except if he/she is a delegate/nominee;

I. Order of Assembly. The Secretariat shall initiate the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly by conducting a roll call of the members of the 'Ulama Council, followed by a certification of the presence of a quorum. Each nominee representing the participating USO or SW of an RPPP shall be allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes to deliver a message, if desired.

At the conclusion of the election, the Secretariat or a designated individual appointed by the Chairperson shall be responsible for tallying the votes on the tally board or sheet. The Chairperson of the 'Ulama Council shall then announce the **five (5) winning nominees** who will represent at the Regional 'Ulama Convention.

I. Substitution in Case of Death, Withdrawal, Apostasy or Disqualification of the Winning Nominee. In the event of the death, permanent disability, incapacity, voluntary resignation, withdrawal, apostasy or disqualification of the winning nominee prior to the conduct of the Regional 'Ulama Convention, the nominee who received the second highest number of votes during the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly shall be eligible to participate in the Regional 'Ulama Convention.

Provided, that such circumstances of death, permanent disability, incapacity, voluntary resignation, withdrawal, apostasy or disqualification must be formally communicated to the 'Ulama Council, the BDI, and/or the BEO prior to the Regional 'Ulama Convention.

For the purpose of validating participation in the Regional 'Ulama Convention, the 'Ulama Council shall issue a resolution certifying that the winning nominee has been officially substituted by the nominee who garnered the second highest votes during the Provincial Assembly.

J. Postponement or Failure of the Conduct of Assembly. - When for any serious cause such as violence, terrorism, loss or destruction of essential

documents or materials, force majeure, or other analogous causes of such a nature that the holding of a free, orderly, and honest assembly becomes impossible, the BDI, motu proprio or upon a verified petition, and in coordination with the COMELEC, may postpone the assembly to a date reasonably close to the original schedule. The postponement shall be subject to due notice and hearing, ensuring that all interested parties are afforded equal opportunity to be heard.

K. Quorum of the conduct of Provincial 'Ulama Assembly. A quorum for the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly shall be deemed present when **at least fifty percent (50%) plus one (1)** of all the registered and accredited USO and RPPP Sectoral Wing which submitted their MIP-PSRS are present.

L. **Absence of Quorum.** - In the event that a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the assembly, the Chairperson shall immediately call the roll of the registered and accredited USO and RPPP Sectoral Wing to ascertain attendance. If a quorum is still lacking after the roll call, the chairperson may declare a recess for a period not exceeding one (1) hour to allow for the arrival of additional registered and accredited USO and RPPP Sectoral Wing. Should the quorum remain unconstituted after the recess, the assembly shall be adjourned to a later date as determined by the 'Ulama Council and the BDI.

M. COUNTING OF VOTES.

1. Preliminaries. — The Electoral Committee shall unlock the ballot box, take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots, and proceed to examine the ballots to determine whether there are:

a. Excess Ballots. — The Electoral Committee shall, without unfolding the ballots or exposing their contents, count the number of ballots in the compartment for valid ballots, and compare the number of ballots inside the ballot box with the number of voters who voted as reflected in the ADDL. If there are more ballots than there are voters who voted, all the ballots shall be returned to the compartment for valid ballots and thoroughly mixed therein. The Poll Clerk, without seeing the ballots and with his back to the ballot box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess and, without unfolding them, place them in the Envelope for Excess Ballots.

b. Marked Ballots. — The Electoral Committee shall then unfold the ballots and determine whether there are any marked ballots. If any should be found, they shall be placed in an Envelope for Marked Ballots which shall be sealed and signed by the Electoral Committee. The marked ballots shall not be counted.

2. **Manner of Counting of Votes.** — Counting of votes is done by the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee. The counting of votes shall be public without interruption or delay until completed and shall proceed as follows:

a. The Electoral Committee shall open the ballot box, take out the ballots, and without unfolding them or exposing their contents except so far as to ascertain that each ballot is single, compare the number of ballots in the ballot box with the number of voters who voted as

recorded in the Minutes.

- b. The Chairperson shall take the ballots of the first pile and read the ballots one by one; while the Poll Clerk and a third member of the Electoral Committee shall record on the printed tally sheet.

Each vote shall be recorded by a vertical line (tara), except every fifth vote, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines.

After all the ballots for the Assembly have been counted, the Electoral Committee shall:

- i. Prepare the Assembly Electoral Returns based on the final result of the tally sheet;
 - ii. Sign and affix their thumb marks on the certification portion printed at the bottom of the tally sheet; and
 - iii. Place the counted ballots in the special envelope provided for the purpose, the electoral committee shall close the envelope with a paper seal, and sign and deposit the same in the compartment for valid ballots. The accomplished tally sheet, certified by the Electoral Committee, shall also be deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.
3. **Assembly Election Returns and Distribution of Copies Thereof.**
– The Electoral Committee shall prepare the returns after the counting of votes. The returns shall be prepared in five (5) copies. All the members of the Electoral Committee shall sign the certification printed at the bottom of the returns and affix their respective thumb marks on the space provided.

Upon completion of the returns, each copy shall be placed in a separate special envelope provided for the purpose, and be immediately distributed to the following:

- a. One (1) original copy to the BEO through the Electoral Committee;
- b. One (1) original copy to the Office of the Chief Minister;
- c. One (1) original copy to the COMELEC Accredited Citizens Arms;
- d. One (1) original copy to the Rules Committee; and
- e. One (1) original copy to the BDI.

A photocopy of the Assembly Election Returns shall also be given to a SO/Sectoral Wing who has fielded a nominee.

4. **Announcement of Results.** – Upon completion of the returns, the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall officially announce the

results of the voting by reading the total number of votes obtained by each nominee.

5. Disposition of Ballot Boxes, Keys, Returns, and Other Documents. – Upon the termination of the counting of votes and the announcement of results in the assembly, the Electoral Committee shall:

- a. Place the following documents inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots:
 - i. Envelopes containing the
 - ✓ Counted official ballots;
 - ✓ Excess/marked/spoiled and one-half of torn Unused official ballots;
 - ✓ Returns (copy for the ballot box); and
 - ✓ Minutes of the Assembly (copy for the ballot box);
 - ii. Tally Sheet; and
 - iii. Stubs of used official ballots.
- b. Close the interior covers of the ballot box and seal it with a plastic security seal, lock the outer cover of the ballot box with the one (1) padlock, and seal it with a plastic security seal.
- c. The keys to the padlock shall be placed in a separate envelope which shall be sealed and signed by all members of the Electoral Committee and submitted to the chairperson.
- d. Deliver to the BDI the following:
 - i. The ADDL;
 - ii. Certified minutes of the Assembly;
 - iii. Envelope containing the returns copy;
 - iv. Envelope containing the keys to the ballot box; and
 - v. Envelope containing the other half of torn unused ballots.

X. CONDUCT OF REGIONAL 'ULAMA CONVENTION

-  **A. Who may participate in the convention.** - Only the winning nominees appearing in the certificate of canvass during the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly may participate as convention nominees in the Regional 'Ulama Convention.
- B. Nominees Assistance Desk (NAD)** - To avoid gathering, crowding and huddling, there shall be in each ingress and egress of the assembly area a NAD, manned by staffs or personnels assigned by the 'Ulama Council, any accredited citizen's arm or such other entities as may be determined by the committee. The NAD shall assist voters in ascertaining the manner of the assembly.
- C. Preliminaries to convention-** The PRACS shall meet at the convention place and perform the following preliminary activities:

a. At six (6:00) o'clock in the morning of convention day:

- i. See to it that they have all the forms, documents and supplies needed;
- ii. Post one (1) copy each of the convention nominees list for the 'Ulama regional convention;
- iii. Strategically arrange the chairs and tables to be used inside the convention place in such a way that convention nominees and the non-nominees will have unobstructed exchange of knowledge through articulate debate and sound reason in forming a collective decision as to the order of rotation in the ulama convention;
- iv. Set up the segregated waiting areas for women and men.

XI. ENTRY AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES DURING THE REGIONAL 'ULAMA CONVENTION

A. **Convention hours.** The convention shall start at seven (7:00) o'clock upon the declaration in the morning and shall end at three (3:00) o'clock in the afternoon of convention day, unless otherwise fixed by the committee.

B. **Registration during the Regional 'Ulama Convention.** Convention nominees must register and present their government-issued ID for proper identification before allowing entry to the convention venue. Failure to present this document is a ground for the denial of entry. For observers, a separate list of Observers duly certified by the 'Ulama Council shall be provided. Only the names listed therein shall be allowed admission provided they present their government issued ID for proper identification.

C. **Verification and entry to the 'Ulama Regional Convention.** There shall be separate entrances for men and women with each entrance facilitated by a member of the same gender. Thus:

1. The 'Ulama Council staffs shall verify the name of the registrant on the Convention Day Computerized Nominees List (CDCNL) and on the certified List of Observers, if an USO or SW observer;
2. The 'Ulama Council staff may likewise verify whether the nominee is the winning nominee in the provincial assembly through the certificate of canvass;
3. The 'Ulama Council staff must insure proper verification and identification of the registrant by checking their picture, signature, and face on the CDCNL or Certified List of Observers;
4. If the nominee is not found on preceding documents, admission to the Assembly venue shall be denied.

The 'Ulama Council staff must establish an accessible private area,

separated by a simple divider, where Muslim women wearing burqas may show their faces for identity verification and identification purposes.

D. Rules to be Observed during the convention- During the convention, the election committee shall see to it that:

- a. The convention nominees shall be assisted to their designated seat in the roundtable;
- b. The observers shall have designated space to observe the proceeding. They shall not be allowed to engage in disruptive communication or interruptive conversation with one another or with the Convention nominees.
- c. No watch dogs shall be allowed on the round table reserved for the convention nominees and the Election committee, nor mingle and talk with the observers;
- d. No person carrying any firearm or other deadly weapon shall be allowed, except those expressly authorized by the 'Ulama council, to enter the convention venue;
- e. No crowding and disorderly behavior by the Convention nominees and observers inside the convention venue shall be allowed;

E. Prohibited acts during the convention - It shall be unlawful to:

- a. Campaigning for or against convention nominees in any manner such as but not limited to speech, campaign materials, video or audio recordings, and other means of campaigning where the purpose is to influence the other convention nominees to decide favorably or against a certain convention nominee;
- b. Intentionally tear or deface convention materials and documents; and
- c. Disrupt or attempt to disrupt the proceedings in the Ulama Regional Convention by causing public disturbance in any manner.
Any person causing the above-mentioned prohibition shall be escorted outside the premises without prejudice to the civil and criminal action that may be filed against the erring individual.

F. Persons Allowed inside the convention venue. - The following individuals shall be permitted entry into the convention venue:

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1. Members/staffs of the facilitating agency;
 2. Each USO or SW may designate an observer to attend the convention. The designated observer must submit a formal letter of request to the 'Ulama Council prior to the convention, seeking approval to send an observer. The 'Ulama Council reserves the right to grant or deny such requests at its discretion; and
 3. Other individuals specifically authorized by the 'Ulama Council.

G. Persons Not Allowed in the Convention Venue. — Unless specifically authorized by the 'Ulama Council, it is unlawful for the following to enter the convention venue or stay within a radius fifty (50) meters thereof,:

- a. Any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- b. Any peace officer or armed person belonging to any extra-legal police agency, special forces, reaction forces, strike forces; and

D. All other kinds of armed or unarmed extra-legal police forces;
Provided that, when there is actual disturbance or disruption of peace and order, the PNP or AFP officials/personnel deputized may enter the convention venue even without the written order of the election committee. In no case shall the said police officer hold any conversation with any voter or disturb or prevent or in any manner obstruct the free access of the voters to the convention venue.

XII. CONVENTION PROPER

A. Convention Proper. The Chairperson of the 'Ulama Council shall preside over the convention, with the assistance of a secretariat, who shall facilitate the proceedings in the following manner:

- a. The quorum of the convention nominees from each Provincial 'Ulama Assembly must first be determined.
- b. The quorum shall consist of fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the convention nominees from each Provincial 'Ulama Assembly.
- c. Once a quorum is confirmed, the secretariat shall certify these facts to the Chairperson.
- d. The convention shall formally commence with a prayer led by the Grand Mufti or its representative.
- e. A roll call of the members of the 'Ulama Council, representatives from the citizens' arm, and the convention nominees from each province shall follow.
- f. The secretariat shall read the house rules and explain the procedure of the convention in a language comprehensible to all participants.
- g. The nominees from the various provinces shall then be invited to deliver their message, if there's any, each limited to a maximum of ten (10) minutes. Any convention nominee exceeding the time limit shall be interrupted accordingly.
- h. After the speeches, the Chairperson shall facilitate a consultative form of discourse among the convention nominees through articulate debate and reasoned discussion, aimed at determining the manner of rotation among the winning

nominees.

- i. Before any decision regarding the rotation is made, the unanimous consent of all nominees must be obtained.
- j. If consensus is reached, the secretariat certifies it, and the Chairperson declares the decision;
- k. In the event that unanimous consent is not achieved, the Chairperson shall initiate a voting process through **secret ballot** among the convention nominees. This vote will determine the **rotational basis among the Provincial 'Ulama Assemblies**.
- l. If the voting is successful, the secretariat certifies it, and the Chairperson declares the decision
- m. In the event of a tie, the same shall be resolved through a drawing of lots to determine the rotation. The results of the drawing of lots shall be documented in the official minutes of the Assembly.
- n. The secretariat shall prepare pieces of paper corresponding to the number of winning nominees. One (1) paper shall be marked with the number "1" and the remaining papers shall be marked with "0." The papers shall be properly rolled so that their contents are not visible.
- o. Each nominee shall draw a paper, reveal its content, and the result will determine the rotation. The convention nominee who draws the paper marked with the number "1" shall be designated as the 'Ulama Sectoral Representative. The decision made during the convention shall pertain solely to the current term of the 'Ulama representative.
- p. The convention nominee who draws the paper marked with the number "1" shall be inhibited from participating in the selection of the 'Ulama Sectoral Representative for the subsequent term until all Provincial 'Ulama nominees have had the opportunity to serve as the 'Ulama Sectoral Representative in the Bangsamoro Parliament.



B. **Selection of the 'Ulama Sectoral Representative.** Upon the determination of the order of rotation among the Provincial 'Ulama Assemblies, the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly designated to represent the 'Ulama Sector for the initial term shall elect, from among its duly chosen delegates through secret ballot, the individual who shall serve as the 'Ulama Sectoral Representative. The 'Ulama Council shall then submit the result through certification duly signed by all of the 'Ulama Council and Convention nominees to the BDI and the Bangsamoro Electoral Office.

C. **Culmination of the Convention.** The Chairperson shall formally announce the conclusion of the 'Ulama Regional Convention. Following this announcement, the elected 'Ulama representative shall be allotted a maximum of ten (10) minutes to deliver an acceptance speech, should they choose to do so. This speech serves as an opportunity for the representative to express gratitude and outline their vision for the upcoming term.

XIII. COMMITTEES OF THE PROVINCIAL 'ULAMA ASSEMBLY AND REGIONAL 'ULAMA CONVENTION

A. Chairperson and Convenor. The 'Ulama Council shall serve as the convenors for the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and Regional 'Ulama Convention. Within the Council, the members shall elect a Chairperson who will preside over the Assembly and Convention. The Chairperson shall be responsible for facilitating discussions, ensuring adherence to the agenda, and representing the Council in all official matters related to the Assembly and Convention.

B. Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall be created to oversee the development, implementation, and review of the procedures and guidelines governing the conduct of all Sectoral Assemblies. The Bangsamoro Mufti shall appoint the four (4) members of Rules Committee from the existing BDI personnel, who shall act as a collegial body in the performance of their duties and functions.

The Rules Committee shall perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Ensure that the Guidelines are properly implemented and resolve gaps and challenges arising in the course of the conduct of the sectoral Assembly.
- b. Verify the credentials of nominees and ensure they meet qualification criteria.
- c. Validate and approve the Assembly Day Delegates List (ADDL) submitted by the Secretariat.

Address and interpret procedural rules and resolve disputes, except election-specific procedural matters, which are directly handled by the electoral committee.

C. Electoral Committee. The Electoral Committee shall be composed of The Chairperson, Poll Clerk, and a third member who will be appointed by The Bangsamoro Mufti from the existing BDI personnel

The Poll Clerk shall be responsible in maintaining and keeping the Minutes of the Assembly and shall record all incidents that occur during the Assembly.

No person shall serve as Member of the electoral committee if he/she is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any nominee, committee member, or head of the BDI.

The Electoral Committee may designate additional members from the personnel of the BDI to provide technical and secretariat support.

The Electoral Committee shall perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Conduct and administer the Assembly voting by secret ballot.

- b. Maintain order in the voting area and ensure the holding of a free, fair, honest, peaceful and credible elections during the Assembly.
- c. Conduct the manual counting of votes and prepare the Assembly Election Returns.

The Electoral Committee shall act through its Chairperson and shall decide, by simple majority, any question, protest or opposition which may arise in the course of the voting process and the counting of votes.

- D. Secretariat.** The Secretariat shall handle the registration of the delegates and shall be under the supervision of the Rules Committee. It shall be composed of eight (8) members who shall be appointed by the Rules Committee from the existing BDI personnel.

The Rules Committee may appoint additional members of the Secretariat as it deems necessary to provide technical and logistical support.

- E. Prohibition on members of the 'Ulama Council and its Committees.** No member of the 'Ulama Council or its Committees shall be eligible to be nominated or serve as a delegate for any USO or SW group participating in the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and Regional 'Ulama Convention.

Furthermore, no member of the 'Ulama Council or its committees shall be related to any 'Ulama Assembly or Convention Nominee within second degree of consanguinity or affinity, including their spouse.

- F. Non-Delegates in the Assembly.** The following non-delegates are allowed to attend the Ulama Provincial Assembly:

1. **Other persons rendering assembly and convention service.** They are responsible for providing supplemental administrative and logistical support, as determined by the 'Ulama Council, in the conduct of the Provincial Assembly and the Regional Convention with the task of ensuring the smooth conduct of the Assembly, providing guidance on procedures, and maintaining order.
2. **COMELEC Representatives.** Authorized representatives from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) are allowed to attend the assembly to monitor, observe and ensure that the election of Sectoral Representatives is conducted in accordance with established electoral laws and regulations. COMELEC representatives together with other members of the Election Committee may also provide technical assistance and respond to queries related to the election proceedings.
3. **COMELEC-Accredited Media, media practitioners, national media, and other mass media entities.** Media representatives accredited by COMELEC are allowed to attend the assembly/convention to cover the event. Accredited media must adhere to the guidelines on media coverage, ensuring that their activities do not disrupt the proceedings.
4. **Duly Registered and Accredited Citizen's Arms.** Representatives from duly registered and accredited citizen's arms, such as civil society organizations, are permitted to attend the assembly/convention as

observers and watchdogs. These representatives may observe the proceedings to ensure transparency and accountability in the election and decision-making processes. Citizen's arms must be accredited by the 'Ulama Council, prior to the assembly.

5. **Role of the COMELEC Representative in the 'Ulama Assemblies.** Authorized representatives from the Commission on Elections shall only monitor and observe the conduct of the 'Ulama Assemblies following the guidelines set by the Commission.

XIV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. - To avoid conflict of interest, any official or employee of the BDI who has accepted a nomination to be the 'Ulama sectoral representative shall recuse himself from participating in any of the Assembly/Convention proceedings or preparations pertaining thereto.

XV. HOUSE RULES DURING THE CONDUCT OF PROVINCIAL 'ULAMA ASSEMBLIES AND REGIONAL 'ULAMA CONVENTION

- A. **Right to participate.** Only registered and accredited USOs and RPPP through their sectoral wings that submitted a Manifestation of Intent to Participate in the Parliamentary Sectoral Representation System (MIP-PSRS) may participate in the assembly.
- B. **Respect and Decorum.** Every delegate must maintain respect and shall observe proper decorum, avoiding personal attacks, disruptive behavior, and unauthorized use of electronic devices.
- C. **Speaking Order.** Participants who wish to speak must raise their hand and await recognition from the Chairperson. Each speaker is encouraged to deliver concise remarks that directly relate to the agenda items. To facilitate effective communication, speeches should be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes, allowing for a more inclusive discussion and ensuring that all voices are heard.
- D. **Limited attendance of non-delegates.** Attendance of non-delegates will be limited based on venue capacity and the nature of proceedings, with the BDI having discretion over attendance limits.
- E. **Observation and Participation.** Non-delegates, except for in-charge on the conduct of the Assembly, the 'Ulama Council members, COMELEC personnels, and other authorized persons shall only observe without active participation unless explicitly invited by the Chairperson/presiding officer.
- F. **Restrictions on non-delegates.** Non-delegates attending the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and Regional 'Ulama Convention are required to adhere strictly to the established assembly rules. This includes, but is not limited to, restrictions on voting, speaking, and participation in deliberations. Non delegates who fail to comply with these rules may be subject to removal from the assembly at the discretion of the presiding officer. The presiding officer shall ensure that all participants are informed of this guideline prior to the commencement of the assembly to maintain order and respect for the proceedings.



- F. Restriction on proxy voting.** Proxy voting is strictly prohibited in the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and Regional 'Ulama Convention. For purposes of this provision, "proxy voting" refers to the practice of allowing one delegate to represent or cast a vote on behalf of another delegate. This restriction is implemented to ensure that all votes reflect the direct participation and intent of the delegates present at the assembly and convention.
- G. Nominee.** The nominee shall also be considered as the delegates for the purpose of the Assembly and Convention.
- H. Casting of votes.** The BDI staffs and members of the 'Ulama Council shall take the necessary measures to protect the confidentiality of the votes cast and preserve the integrity of the voting process.
- I. Media Coverage.** Accredited media, mass media entities, national media, and media practitioners may cover the proceedings non-intrusively within the designated areas provided.
- J. Security and Confidentiality.** Upon request of the 'Ulama Council, security personnel from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement agencies shall ensure safety and compliance with security protocols. Non-delegates must maintain confidentiality of sensitive information, with media and citizen's arms prohibited from disclosing off-the-record discussions without authorization.
- K. Selection of Venue.** The venue of the assembly and convention shall be determined by the 'Ulama Council taking into consideration the accessibility, the security, safety, and the efficient conduct of the Assembly/Convention.
- L. Special Assistance.** Delegates requiring special assistance, including but not limited to persons with disabilities and senior citizens, must disclose such needs during the pre-registration period to ensure necessary accommodation and support by the facilitating agency.
- M. Medical Team.** A medical team shall be present outside the venue for the provision of emergency medical care and first aid for participants.

XVI. COMMON PROVISIONS

-  **A. Posting of Bangsamoro Autonomy Act (BAA) No. 35, Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta' Guidelines, and pertinent Resolutions of the Commission.**
- At least twenty (20) days before the day of the Assembly, the BDI and or BEO shall cause the posting of a copy of BAA No. 53, Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta' Guidelines, and pertinent resolutions issued by the Commission in the bulletin boards of each (1) Office of the Election Officer (OEO), (2) Municipal Hall, and (3) Barangay Hall in the Bangsamoro Region.
- B. Non-participation of a Provincial 'Ulama Assembly in the Regional 'Ulama Convention and its Effect on the Order of Rotation.** In instances where a provincial 'Ulama is not represented in the Regional 'Ulama Convention, the said Provincial 'Ulama shall be placed last in the order of Rotation.
- B. Postponement of Assembly/Convention.** - The BDI may, *motu proprio* or upon a verified petition by any certified member of USO or SW, call for

postponement of the assembly or convention when before the assembly or convention, by reason of force majeure, violence, terrorism, loss or destruction of election paraphernalia, or other analogous cases, there is serious impossibility of having free and orderly election.

- C. Conduct of Postponed Assembly or Convention.** - The rescheduling of the Assembly or Convention shall occur within a timeframe that is reasonably close to the original date of the Assembly or Convention that was not held. The rescheduled Assembly or Convention must take place no later than thirty (30) days following the cessation of the cause that necessitated the postponement.
- D. Failure to Conduct Assembly or Convention.** - Upon petition by any certified member of USO or SW or *Motu Proprio*, failure to conduct assembly or convention may be declared by the BDI in the following cases:
- a. The assembly or convention has not been held on the date fixed on account of force majeure, violence, terrorism, fraud, or other analogous causes;
 - b. The assembly or convention had been suspended before the hour fixed by law for the closing of the voting on account of force majeure, violence, terrorism, fraud, or other analogous causes; and
 - c. After the voting and during the preparation and transmission of the election returns or canvass thereof such election results in failure to elect on account of force majeure, violence, terrorism, fraud, or analogous causes.
- E. Continuation of Assembly or Convention.** - The continuation of the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly or Regional 'Ulama Convention shall be scheduled to occur within a period that is reasonably close to the date of the assembly or convention that was not held. Such continuation must take place no later than thirty (30) days following the cessation of the cause that necessitated the postponement.
- F. Transfer of counting of votes.** - In the interest of free, orderly, and honest elections, the BDI through the 'Ulama Council may count the votes and accomplish the ERs and other forms in any other place within a public building in the same municipality or city on account of imminent danger of widespread violence, terrorism, disorder or similar causes of comparable magnitude; Provided, That the transfer shall have been recommended in writing by unanimous vote of the 'Ulama Council and endorsed by majority of watchdogs and delegates present: Provided, further, that the said public building shall not be located within the perimeter of or inside MILF, MNLF, military or police camp, reservation, headquarters, detachment or field office nor within the premises of a prison or detention compound of any law enforcement or investigation agency. Any transfer of the venue for the counting of votes shall be duly recorded in the Minutes.

XVII. OPPOSITION

1. **Manner of Resolving such oppositions.** Only certified members of their respective sector may file with the BDI, an opposition. No opposition by any

party shall be given due course by the BEO without first having availed of the remedies before the BDI.

2. **Opposition as to the manner of election.** Any questions pertaining to or affecting the proceedings of the 'Ulama council, which may be raised by any nominee or delegates directly with the BDI. The issues that may be raised are the following:

- a. Illegal composition or proceeding of the 'Ulama Council in contravention of the laws and rules promulgated;
- b. Canvassed election returns are either:
 - i. Incomplete
 - ii. Contain material defects;
 - iii. Appear to be tampered or falsified; or
 - iv. Contain discrepancies in the same returns or in authentic copies;
- c. The election returns were:
 - i. Prepared under duress, threats, coercion, intimidation; or
 - ii. Obviously manufactured or not authentic;
- d. Substituted or fraudulent returns in the convention were canvassed, the result of which materially affected the standing of the aggrieved nominees; or
- e. Manifest errors in the election returns.

3. **Filing of Opposition.** - An opposition to any decision or resolution made during the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly or Regional 'Ulama Convention must be formally submitted to the BDI within five (5) days following the conclusion of the assembly or convention.

4. **Opposition as to the qualification of the assembly nominees.** — A delegate or nominee of a duly registered USO or SW of political parties, or the BDI *motu proprio*, may file a case for disqualification against any assembly/convention nominee within five (5) days following the conclusion of the assembly or convention with the BDI for any of the following grounds:

- a. For lack of qualifications or possessing any of the grounds for disqualification provided by law, this guideline, or the Constitution;
- b. When the Assembly or convention nominee is an apostate or a *murtad/apostasy* who left Islam and converted to another religion or became non-religious; and
- c. Any other grounds for disqualification as authorized by law.

5. **Period to resolve.** - Any case or matter submitted to or heard by the BDI shall be decided within ten (10) days from the date it is submitted for

decision or resolution.

6. **Jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta', Electoral Committee, and Rules Committee over Oppositions Filed and Disputes Raised.** - The Electoral Committee and the Rules Committee shall, during the conduct of the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and the Regional 'Ulama Convention, rule upon disputes raised in the course thereof. Any decision or resolution rendered by the Electoral Committee or the Rules Committee may be formally elevated to the Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta' for resolution.

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. **Request for additional person rendering assembly and convention related service.** - In the event that the available staff from the BDI is insufficient, the 'Ulama Council and or the BDI shall formally request the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) and/or other relevant government offices to provide a list of qualified, willing, and available public school teachers or staffs who can render services related to the assembly and convention.

The 'Ulama Council shall ensure that all personnel engaged in assembly and convention-related services meet the established criteria to uphold the integrity and effectiveness of the events.

XIX. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. **Jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Darul 'Ifta, Electoral Committee, and Rules Committee over Oppositions Filed and Disputes Raised.** - The Electoral Committee and the Rules Committee shall, during the conduct of the Provincial 'Ulama Assembly and the Regional 'Ulama Convention, rule upon disputes raised in the course thereof. Any decision or resolution rendered by the Electoral Committee or the Rules Committee may be formally elevated to the Bangsamoro Darul 'Ifta for resolution.
2. **Repealing Clause.** Any provision of the existing guidelines that is contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Supplemental Resolution is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
3. **Effectivity and Publication.** - The *Supplemental Provisions* shall take effect on the third (3rd) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general or regional circulation in the Philippines. A copy of the approved *Supplemental Provisions* shall be immediately transmitted to the Commission on Elections, through the BEO, for posting in its website and notices to the concerned parliamentary sectoral organizations.



SHEIKH ABDULRAUF A. GUIALANI
Bangsamoro Mufti