

# Philippines: Inward Flows And Undertows: Investments In The Bangsamoro

Tuesday 16 August 2022, by [CASTILLO Galileo de Guzman](#) (Date first published: 12 April 2022).

**The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is a region in Southern Philippines that has been mired in decades of conflict rooted in exclusionary economic growth and historical injustice committed against the tri-peoples in the region (i.e., the Muslims or the Moro, the non-Muslim indigenous peoples or Lumad, and the migrant settlers).**

Since the colonial period, land laws imposed on the region have deprived the tri-peoples of their access to the commons, favoring instead domestic and multinational corporations, landlords, and powerful clans. Development programs that facilitate access to land have also pitted the tri-peoples against one another, thereby creating a breeding ground for intercommunal conflict.

Over time, conditions of poverty, landlessness, and conflict have become intertwined, entangling the poor and the dispossessed in a seemingly inescapable vicious cycle. All the while, the powerful and the wealthy have been allowed to plunder and consolidate their control over the region's natural resources.

In 2019, the BARMM was established through the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) precisely to facilitate the region's transition from conflict to autonomy. A crucial part of this transition process is the crafting and implementation of development plans.

In this series of infographics, we look at the development goals set by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA)—the interim regional government mandated to oversee BARMM's transition—and assess whether or not these are being realized through the investments being pursued by the BTA. We also relay the impacts of these investments on the lives of communities that have long been excluded from mainstream development.

These infographics are based on an article written by Galileo de Guzman Castillo on investments in the Bangsamoro.

[Read the Publication](#)



However, the development projects pursued by the IITA and their impacts on communities contradict the development goals set by the transition government. Many of the ongoing and prospective investments in Bahrén remain under the control of big corporations and are extractive in nature.

The pie chart below shows that extractives (mining and energy) have taken up the biggest share of investments at an increase of 27% from 1998 to 2019.

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Read more at [www.foxpath.org/TCO2/au/AMM\\_6301](http://www.foxpath.org/TCO2/au/AMM_6301)

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The table below shows some of the private investments led by BTA with corporations across the agriculture, energy, mining, and services industry since BAAFI's inception in 2019.

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Activity	Industry	Process	Control
<b>BSR</b>			
Cost and price	Minig	AM (Asset and Service Finance Services)	P-01
Company growth	Agriculture	Supply and Finance (Food and Global Supply)	P-02
Cost products	Agriculture	Agribusiness (Food Management Plus)	P-03
Production (making and distribution)	Agriculture	Supply/Manufacturing/Exportation and PLS	P-04
Production necessary	Agriculture	Supply/Manufacturing/Exportation	P-05
<b>BSR</b>			
Commercialization	Services	Financial Services and Power Corporation	P-06
<b>BSR</b>			
Commercialization	Agriculture	A-Market (Market Investment)	P-07
Company growth	Agriculture	Supply and Food Development (Market)	P-08
Cost and price	Energy	ES (Electricity) (Water/Water Company, Investment)	P-09
Company growth	Energy	ES (2) (Power) Building (Power)	P-10
Free distribution	Services	Home Distribution and Inspection (Free)	P-11
<b>BSR</b>			
Asset Distribution	Services	Manufacturing Corporation and Equipment	P-12
Asset Distribution	Services	Supply/Manufacturing Corporation	P-13

Read more at [news.uth.tmc.edu/TCOutreach/TCMM\\_Feb08](http://news.uth.tmc.edu/TCOutreach/TCMM_Feb08)

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In 2019, former **Bangsamora** Chief Minister **Harod Ibrahim** attended in a meeting with various officials.



"I invite you to explore opportunities in mining to bolster the economic development of the Kingdom. [The] wealth of the mining operations in the region will provide an avenue for a better, pro-environment, pro-people and responsible mining to the BARMAN."

What was left unsaid were the industry's negligible contributions to the economy, the disastrous and oftentimes irreversible impacts of extractives on the environment and peoples' rights and lives, and the myth of a "responsible mining" that has already been debunked.

"The theory of microeconomics has become more important with the introduction of economic globalization that aims at expansion of trade for nations' development. This development paradigm runs the risk of increasing the influence of corporate interest at least and resource depletion, and environmental pollution to prevent the public good. It calls for not only understanding the (non-commercial) evaluation potentials of the land but also the distribution of the land of private."

—Mal. Taguig, Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center - Friends of The Earth Philippines (LRO-FoE)

Read more at [research.org/F0C320edA82A08\\_1.pdf](http://research.org/F0C320edA82A08_1.pdf)

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The high-value cash crop industry and agro-industrial plantations are driven by the demands of national and global markets, not the needs of the communities that host them.

The entry of many plantations will lead to the further decline of small-scale subsistence farming, thereby debilitating the livelihood of local communities, subsuming them as contract farmers and workers in the plantations, pushing them out of their lands, and eroding indigenous knowledge systems and practices.

Case in point: TAMASCO B.

A grim reminder of the violence brought by development aggression is the Thai-Mexico Ecol Claimsants Organization (TAMECO) a massacre in 2007, which saw the killing of eight indigenous people in their struggle against the encroachment of a corporate coffee plantation on their ancestral domain.

Find more at [frontweb.org/TOC21m-BAP3M](http://frontweb.org/TOC21m-BAP3M) & on

www.ck12.org



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