Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Eighteenth Sangguniang Panlalawigan
PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI

Third Regular Session

S.P. RESOLUTION NO. 006-18, S. 2025

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF TAWI-TAWI TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THE BANGSAMORO ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (BEZA) FOR THE INITIATIVE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN ESTABLISHING THE TAWI-TAWI MARITIME ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT (TMEZF), AND ENCOURAGING ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT ITS REALIZATION

Authored by: HON. ERSHAD T. ABDURAHMAN

WHEREAS, the Province of Tawi-Tawi is strategically located within the Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), giving it immense potential for maritime trade, *halal* industries, eco-tourism, aquaculture, and logistics, particularly along the Great Sulu-Sulawesi Economic Corridor;

WHEREAS, the Province of Tawi-Tawi envisions itself as a major maritime hub of the southern Philippines and within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), aiming to promote the general welfare of its constituents through enhanced trade, connectivity, and inclusive economic growth;

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment of the Tawi-Tawi Maritime Economic Zone and Freeport (TMEZF) is consistent with national and regional strategies for sustainable development and aligns with the broader goals of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP), and the long-term vision of the Provincial Government for resilient and self-reliant island communities;

WHEREAS, the proposed Maritime Economic Zone and Freeport seeks to maximize the comparative advantage of Tawi-Tawi as a maritime frontier and trade hub, enhance value-adding and processing of local resources such as seaweeds, fish, coconut, and other marine and agricultural products, and promote investments in halal-certified industries;

WHEREAS, the TMEZF supports the strategic pillars of the Mindanao Agenda 2023–2028, particularly:

Agenda 3 (Trade and Industry Development) which aims to promote a sustainable, innovative, and inclusive Mindanao economy, cultivating high-quality jobs and rapid industry expansion;

- **Agenda 4 (BIMP-EAGA and International Partnership)** which promotes regional integration and sustained engagement with BIMP-EAGA, and international partners to boost Mindanao's economic growth; and

- **Agenda 5 (Transport, Logistics, and Connectivity)** which seeks to enhance Mindanao's infrastructure and logistics networks for improved regional connectivity and safety;

WHEREAS, the TMEZF is envisioned to attract foreign and domestic investments, generate local employment, increase provincial revenue, support the development of the public infrastructure, and basic and essential services, thereby, uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people of Tawi – Tawi;

WHEREAS, the initiative will foster and strengthen economic and trade connectivity with the neighboring countries and regional blocs, further strengthening peace, stability, economic resilience in the province;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Tawi-Tawi recognizes the necessity of endorsing strategic initiatives that promote inclusive economic development, address historical marginalization, and empower the province's indigenous and coastal populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Tawi-Tawi expresses its full support and endorsement to the initiative of the Provincial Government for the establishment of Tawi-Tawi Maritime Economic Zone and Freeport.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Office of the Provincial Governor of Tawi-Tawi, the BARMM Government through the Office of the Chief Minister and the Bangsamoro Economic Zone Authority (BEZA), Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism (MTIT), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), Ministry of Finance, Budget and Management (MFBM), Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE), Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC), Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA), Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and other concerned agencies for their information, support, and appropriate action.

APPROVED this 12th day of August, 2025, during the Regular Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan held at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Hall, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Concurred:

HON. ERSHAD T. ABDURAHMAN
Member

HON. MICHAIL K. AHAJA
Member

HON. ARRON FHADZ C. AHAMAD
Member

HON. RODEL R. AKIP
Member

HON. EDZPAR S. LADJAHALI
Member

HON. MARK RENIL T. SAMSUYA
Member

HON. ALFILRADA M. LADJABASSAL
Member

HON. JONEL I. MOHAMMAD MONEL
Member

HON. HASANAL JEOFFREY A. SALI
Ex-Officio Member, ABC President

HON. MELHAN J. MASDAL
Member

Certified Correct:

ATTY. DAYANG-DAYANG KHADIJA J. BAGUINDA-DAMBONG
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Attested By:

HON. ALSYED A. SALI
Presiding Officer
Vice-Governor