Supporting Democratic Stability in the Bangsamoro Programme (Phase 2)

Terms of Reference

Technical resource for Anti-Corruption policy making (Bangsamoro)

Background.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK’s democracy assistance agency, working in partnership with political parties, parliaments and civil society organisations around the world to create more inclusive, accountable and transparent democratic systems. WFD strengthens the capacity of these key democratic institutions, helping ensure they have the systems, knowledge and skills to perform effectively. WFD also fosters improved democratic processes, bringing together individuals and institutions and encouraging them to work together to solve concrete problems, applying democratic values and principles.

Over the course of 2021-2022, WFD is leading on supporting democratic stability in Bangsamoro Philippines through the UK Conflict Stability Security Funding (CSSF) managed by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development (FCDO). Recognising the establishment of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) being a key entry point for locally owned institutions and processes to develop and adopt inclusive and accountable practices, the programme is designed with the overall aim of supporting the implementation of BOL. The programme will support the establishment of BOL by strengthening locally owned institutions to become increasingly accountable, inclusive and pluralistic.

The programme is designed around four outputs as follows:

1. Strengthening the Bangsamoro parliament as an institution and developing the expertise of its members and staff.

2. Supporting more inclusive and responsive policy making by creating more opportunities for engagement between parliament, government, and civil society.

3. Supporting Bangsamoro women as political leaders and politically active citizens to coalesce around shared objectives and agenda and to be equipped with the right expertise to identify and influence key policy and legislative change.

4. Supporting the development of existing and fledging Bangsamoro political parties and brokering dialogue between them around the emerging rules of the game within the new system of governance.

Objective.

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is at a critical stage in its journey to democracy; as it transitions from conflict to stability and as the democratic institutions take shape, the challenges on the road ahead remain numerous. Some of the key challenges that the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) and the Parliament must address during the transition period relate to laying the
foundations of a system of governance that is open, transparent and focuses on delivering services for the benefit of the citizens. As priority legislations are being lodged and passed in the Parliament, it is imperative that the BTA and the Parliament consider the intended and unintended risks of corruption contained in the legislation and proactively review draft laws to curtail these risks.

The provisional regional government, the BTA, is also tasked with setting up good governance structures that are transparent, processes that are clear and institutional systems that prevent corruption from occurring in the first place. This is an important governance agenda for the BTA who want to build the post-conflict region based on ‘moral governance’ – a set of ethical principles that all BTA officials must adopt to prevent corruption, bribery and graft. The transition period provides an unprecedented opportunity to the BTA to not only pass legislation that is sensitive to corruption but also setting up processes and procedures in local institutions that are designed to overcome vested interests and on the basis of transparency and open governance.

WFD is looking to hire the services of a technical resource (an individual expert, a team of 2 experts or a company / institution including 2 or more experts) for anti-corruption and integrity policy making with a view to coordinate and develop a series of four panel discussions led by anti-corruption experts, preferably with a background of work in the Southeast Asia region. The objective of this intervention is to deepen an anti-corruption and integrity policy agenda for the provisional regional government and parliament, based on in-depth conversations on selected topics relevant to anti-corruption and integrity in Bangsamoro. The technical resource will engage with relevant stakeholders to confirm the topics and identify the panel members to participate in the project. The panel members will be diverse, and the discussions will be inclusive with the involvement of local voices. It is envisaged that these discussions will be attended by BTA officials, MPs and relevant parliamentary staff. The topics of the panel discussions might cover areas such as parliamentary ethics, transparency of governance, corruption proofing of legislation, etc.

**Deliverables:**

The technical resource is expected to deliver the following over the course of the assignment:

1. Build understanding of the local context in Bangsamoro by conducting desk research, meeting with the Bangsamoro programme team and by going through any reading materials provided by WFD.

2. Develop a solid proposal on topics for anti-corruption and integrity policy making in Bangsamoro and work closely with WFD’s Senior Governance Advisor and Programme Manager to finalise the selection of the four panel discussion topics.
3. Based on own network and expertise and in close collaboration with WFD and stakeholders in Bangsamoro, identify the expert-speakers and develop terms of reference for their participation and contribution to the panel discussions.

4. Develop outlines and agenda for each panel discussion.

5. Chair each panel session, and provide technical input based on own expertise.

6. Develop a participation guideline for panel members.

7. Coordinate with and manage the pool of panel members during the assignment.

8. With assistance from Bangsamoro programme team, hold meetings with important and relevant BTA officials to brief them on the assignment as relevant.

9. Draft a ‘session report’ for each panel discussion documenting the key points including any follow-up actions for anti-corruption and integrity policy making in Bangsamoro.

10. Draft a blogpost on democracy building, anti-corruption and integrity in Bangsamoro, capturing the main insights from the four panel discussions as relevant for external communication purposes.

**Timeline:**

20 days between October – February 2022. It is envisaged that two panel discussions will be held before 15 December 2021 while the remaining two before 15 February 2022.

**Fees.**

Depending on experience.

**Qualifications.**

The technical resource can be an individual expert, a team of 2 experts or a company / institution including 2 or more experts.

Relevant work experience of the expert(s):

- Experience of working in anti-corruption space;
- Understanding of anti-corruption policies;
- Understanding of legislative processes in different constitutional systems;
- Work experience in / understanding of legislative processes in parliament;
- Experience developing training materials and resources;
- Experience of organising seminars, panel discussions or similar events.

Technical and functional competencies:
- Excellent analytical, research and writing skills;
- Commitment to accountable governance;
- Experience working collaborative and in teams;
- Excellent organisational skills.

To Apply.

Please submit updated CV(s) and a brief technical and financial proposal to saba.gill@wfd.org by 20 October 2021. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and we reserve the right to close this vacancy early if a suitable candidate is found.