

# FACT SHEET

June 21, 2017

*Did you know that both Legislative Districts (LDs) of Maguindanao have the biggest number of population among eight LDs in ARMM?*

FS-ARMM-17-005

## ARMM: Population Counts by Legislative Districts *(Based on 2015 POPCEN)*

### Background

ARMM was created by virtue of the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (RA 6794), which was signed into law by the late President Corazon C. Aquino on August 1, 1989. A plebiscite was conducted in the proposed area of ARMM on November 17, 1989. Out of the several areas proposed to be included in ARMM, only four provinces opted to join the area of autonomy: Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. The region was strengthened and expanded in 2001 to include the province of Basilan and the cities of Marawi and Lamitan. This was an offshoot of the signing of the Final Fiscal Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (Republic Act No. 9054).

Section 5 (3) Article VI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution stipulates that each province should have at least one Representative in the Congress. In other words, each province should be apportioned into at least one legislative district (LD).

Section 5 (3) Article VI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution also states that each city, with a population of at least 250,000 persons shall have at least one Representative.

### Population Counts

Based on the results of the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN), ARMM including Cotabato City and City of Isabela recorded a total population of 4,193,613 persons. Of the region's eight legislative districts, Both LDs of Maguindanao posted the biggest number of population counts with 821 thousand persons in the First LD and 652 thousand in the Second LD. First LD in Lanao del Sur ranked third in terms of population size with around 610 thousand persons. Furthermore, Second LD of Sulu recorded the lowest number of population counts with only 339 thousand persons (see Table 1 below).

**Table 1. ARMM Population by Legislative Districts: 2015**

AREA OR DISTRICT	COUNT
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) <i>(including Cotabato City and the City of Isabela)</i>	4,193,613
Basilan (including the City of Isabela) <i>Lone Legislative District</i>	459,367 459,367
Lanao del Sur <i>First Legislative District</i> <i>Second Legislative District</i>	1,045,429 609,579 435,850
Maguindanao (including Cotabato City) <i>First Legislative District</i> <i>Second Legislative District</i>	1,473,371 821,475 651,896
Sulu <i>First Legislative District</i> <i>Second Legislative District</i>	824,731 486,063 338,668
Tawi-Tawi <i>Lone Legislative District</i>	390,715 390,715

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority; Commission on Elections, List of Cities/Municipalities by Legislative District and List of Barangays by Legislative/Councilor District (as of May 9, 2016 Elections)