

## LOCATION, LAND AREA AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

### 1.1 Location & Boundaries

Maguindanao del Sur is located 968.51 (601.80 mi) aerial kilometers away from the Kilometer Zero marker in the City of Manila to the Provincial Capitol in the Municipality of Buluan. The province occupies the northeastern portion of the former empire Province of Cotabato bounded partly by vast marshland and the sea.

It is bounded on the northeast by the Province of North Cotabato, on the northwest by the Province of Maguindanao del Norte, on the southern part by Province of Sultan Kudarat, and on the western part by Moro Gulf. It is accessible by air through the General Santos Airport, and by land through Gen. Santos City Highway - Province of Maguindanao del Norte from the South, Davao City via Makilala to Tacurong City route from the north.

### 1.2 Land Area

The province has a total land area of **3678.8** sq.km. Based on the survey conducted by Department of Budget and Management– Region XII, the biggest municipality is Pagalungan with an area of **898.76** sq.km, followed by Datu Piang with **237.21** sq.km. The smallest municipalities are Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Datu Montawal (Pagagawan) with an area of **24** and **31.74** sq.km, respectively.

### 1.3 Political Subdivision

The Province of Maguindanao is once part of the empire Province of Cotabato. When there were still less emigrants from Luzon and Visayas, this empire was inhabited by Bangsamoro People and known as the Moro Province. In 1967, by virtue of Congressional Act, the empire Province of Cotabato was divided into two (2) provinces, Cotabato and South Cotabato.

Then, the late President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos through Presidential Decree 341 on November 22, 1973 again divided the Province of Cotabato into three (3) provinces. Thus, the Province of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat came into existence.

The province then was divided into two congressional districts: the first and the second district. The first district is composed of Eleven (11) Municipalities while the second district is composed of Twenty-Five (25) municipalities with the total of 36 municipalities.

On May 27, 2021, then President Rodrigo Duterte signed Republic Act. 11550, the law dividing Maguindanao a province under the Bangsamoro region.

The Maguindanao division plebiscite was held in the province of Maguindanao on September 17, 2022.

Which then resulted to the creation of the new two Province namely; Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte.

Subsequently, the new province Maguindanao del Norte has 12 municipalities: Barira, Buldon, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Kabuntalan, Matanog, Northern Kabuntalan, Parang, North Upi, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura and Talitay. Its capital is Datu Odin Sinsuat. Furthermore, the new Maguindanao del Sur has 24 municipalities: Ampatuan, Buluan, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Datu Hoffer, Datu Montawal, Datu Paglas, Datu Piang, Datu Salibo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Gen. Salipada K. Pendatun, Guindulungan, Mamasapano, Mangudadatu, Pagalungan, Paglat, Pandag, Rajah Buayan, Shariff Aguak, Sharif Saydona Mustafa, Sultan sa Barongis, Talayan, and South Upi. Siting Buluan as its Capital.

With the ratification, elected Maguindanao Governor Bai Mariam Mangudadatu serves as Governor of Maguindanao del Sur, while elected Vice Governor Bai Fatima Ainee Sinsuat serves as acting Governor of Maguindanao del Norte until a governor is elected in 2025.

**Table 1. Land area, Legal Basis of Creation, Number of Barangays and Income Class: Province and its Municipalities**

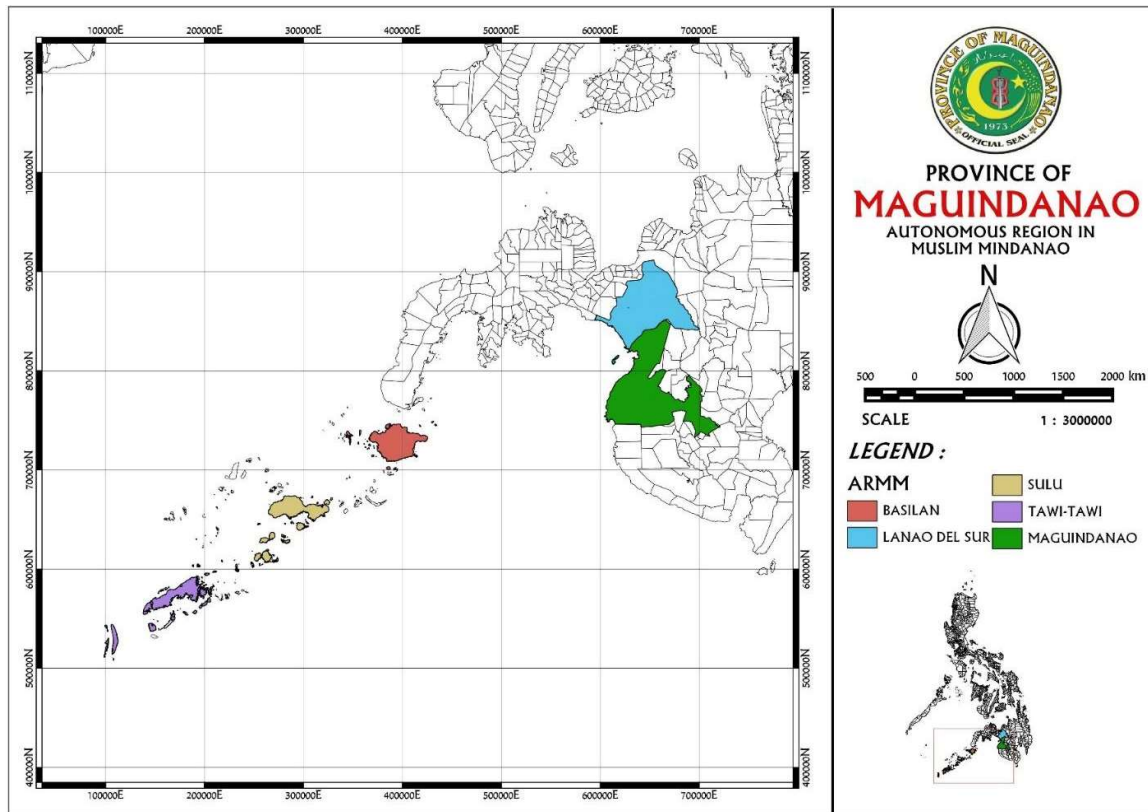
MUNICIPALITY	LAND AREA		# OF BARANGAYS	DISTANCE FROM BULUAN (km.)	INCOME CLASS
	2015 CAD AREA (sq.km)	DBM Land Area(sq.km)			
<b>MAGUINDANAO DEL SUR</b>	2,876.2563	3,678.8	287		1st
Ampatuan	383.150924	232.31	11	59.7km	4th
Buluan	54.025266	190.06	7		4th
Datu Abdullah Sangki	111.993511	220	10	52.8km	6th
Datu Anggal Midtimbang	55.77654	55.78	7	86.7km	6th
Datu Hoffer	73.793928	73.79	11	64 km	6th
Datu Montawal	155.512198	31.74	11	66.7km	5th
Datu Paglas	114.421095	132.1	23	11.5km	4th
Datu Piang	52.142961	237.21	16	66.2km	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Datu Salibo	43.942054	43.94	17	79.3km	6th
Datu Saudi Ampatuan	59.608693	24	8	76.2km	4th
Datu Unsay	72.265099	87.87	8	68.1	5th
Gen. SK Pendatun	286.720356	189.37	19	26.8km	4th
Guindulungan	12,656.4797	115	11	74.4km	6th
Mamasapano	126.564797	52.12	14	55.0km	5th
Mangudadatu	109.348608	109.35	8	7.6km	6th
Pagalungan	189.782554	898.76	12	84 km	1st
Paglat	37.296749	77.53	8	8.8km	6th
Pandag	43.893008	43.89	8	14 km	6th
Rajah Buayan	65.980109	71.98	11	52 km	6th
Shariff Aguak	38.634655	235.3	13	65 km	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Shariff Saydona Mustapha	58.463798	101.26	16	56 km	6th
South Upi	451.408103	184.8	11	169 km	4th
Sultan Sa Barongis	117.621708	219.32	12	46 km	4th
Talayan	126.905071	51.32	15	89 km	4th

Source: Cadastral Data, DENR

Department of Budget and Management– Region XII

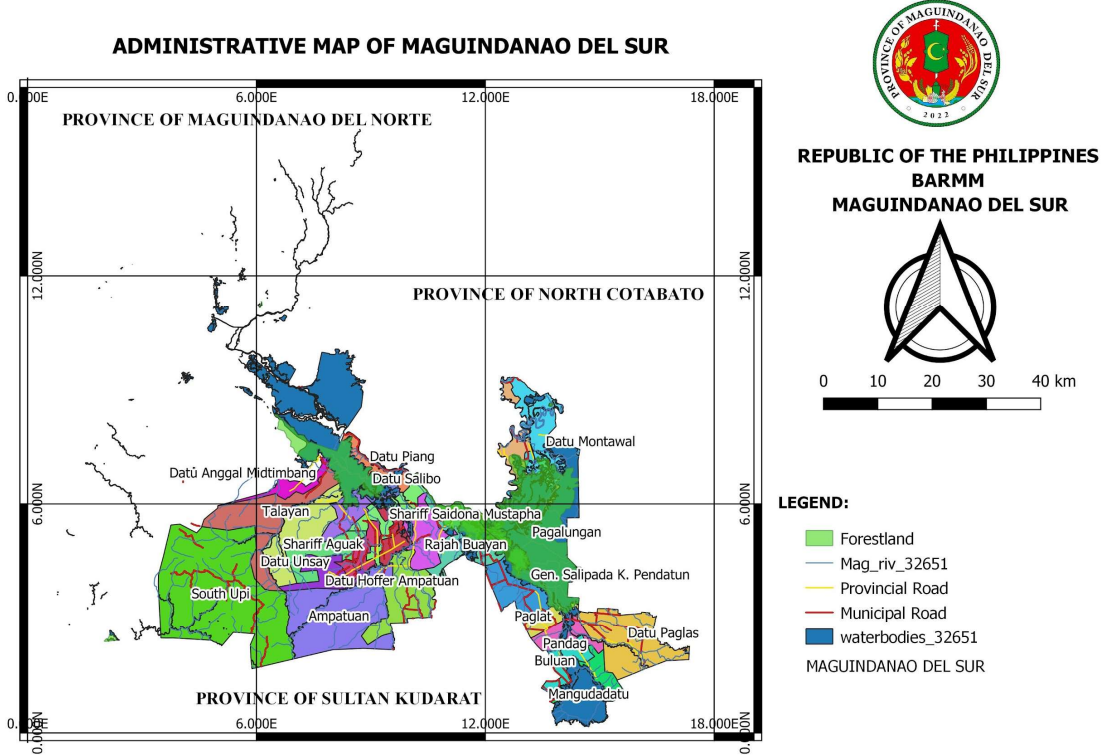
MAPS

Map 1. BARMM Region Showing Province of Maguindanao del Sur,



Source:

Map 1.2 Administrative Map of Maguindanao del Sur



Source:

