Philippine Muslim region holds first polls

The first parliamentary election in a predominantly Muslim region of the southern Philippines is seen as a crucial step in the long quest for self-rule after decades of insurgency and violence

Bangsamoro Government Centre in Cotabato City





BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM)



- **2014:** BARMM established under peace deal between Philippine government and largest Muslim rebel group
- **2017:** So-called Islamic State militants lay siege to Marawi City for five months
- **2018:** BARMM formalised in law which grants region greater political and economic powers
- **2019:** Voters ratify law, creating interim government tasked with preparing region for elections
- **2022:** Elections initially planned but postponed. Vote postponed again in 2025 and Mar 2026
- **Sep 14, 2026:** Voting takes place under heightened security following deadly violence on eve of election
- **Sep 15:** Unofficial results suggest coalition talks may be needed to choose region's first elected chief minister

*Right: Interim Chief Minister **Abdulraof Macacua***



Sources: AP, Reuters Pictures: Bangsamoro Information Office, Facebook

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