



STATEMENT OF MINISTER MOHAGHER M. IQBAL CHAIRMAN OF THE MILF PEACE IMPLEMENTING PANEL

On the Appointment of Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento as Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front warmly welcomes the appointment of Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento as Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity. We recognize an opportunity in his appointment for the substantial fulfillment of the CAB and building the foundations of peace in the Bangsamoro.

We also extend our sincere gratitude and our wishes to General Carlito G. Galvez for strength and success in whatever path he chooses ahead. General Galvez has been not merely an official, but a partner to the MILF in the critical years of implementation. His tenure witnessed historic achievements—the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and beginning the work on decommissioning. We bid him well with respect and appreciation.

The moment before us is clear. The peace agreements are signed. The basic institutional architecture is in place. What remains is the harder, less visible work: completing normalization, building fiscal and governance capacity in the BARMM, ensuring that the Bangsamoro's first parliamentary elections strengthen rather than fracture democratic legitimacy, and delivering development that reaches the communities most affected by decades of conflict.

This is civilian work. It requires the kind of governance experience that Secretary Sarmiento brings—his understanding of municipal administration, regional development coordination, and national government - BARMM intergovernmental work. The Bangsamoro needs a partner at the national level who understands how institutions actually work, not simply how security operations function.

The MILF is ready to work with Secretary Sarmiento toward the completion of the peace process. We invite Secretary Sarmiento to engage the MILF leadership directly on these priorities. The work ahead requires partnership, not parallel processes. We have navigated decades of difficulty together. We can complete this final stretch with the same commitment to mutual respect and genuine problem-solving.

The Bangsamoro's future depends on whether we finish what we started. The MILF stands ready to contribute fully to that work.