



MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT

Central Committee
Office of the Chairman



PRESS STATEMENT

Office of the Chairman

Moro Islamic Liberation Front

February 19, 2019

**Message of Gratitude to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for the Establishment of the
Bangsamoro Transition Authority**

On the day before the historic swearing in into office of the Members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) which shall be headed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in terms of leadership and composition, we thank and give tribute to His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for the immediate establishment of the BTA after the successful plebiscite for Republic Act 11054 or Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL).

The setting up of the BTA signals the transition period and the abolition of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). In the latter's stead will rise the new political entity called the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). It is the beginning of many things we have aspired for over the past several decades.

We thank President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for believing in the legitimate aspirations of the Bangsamoro for the restoration of our identity and right to govern ourselves under a truly autonomous set up. Now, more than ever, the necessary powers to advance our total human development are in our hands already.

By signing into law RA 11054, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has given us not only the golden opportunity to work for peace and progress in the Bangsamoro, but also his trust that the MILF would be able to transform its ideals into realities during the transition period.

We welcome the establishment of the BARMM and the BTA. The work must now begin in building new institutions of governance. Parallel to that, we have to move forward with the initial steps made already in the normalization process.

For this grand new opportunity, and the promise of a brighter future for the Bangsamoro, we truly say *Thank you very much* to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte!