

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Moro Islamic Liberation Front
(MILF)
Central Committee
Office of the Chairman



اللجنة المركزية
(ج.م.ا.)
مكتب الرئيس

Ref. No. :

الرقم الاشاري:

Date :

RAMADHAN MESSAGE 2017/1438H

التاريخ:

As we begin to observe the Holy Month of Ramadhan 1438H, corresponding to May 27, 2017 in the Gregorian Calendar, allow me to extend my sincerest felicitation and solidarity to our Muslim brethren, especially our Bangsamoro brothers and sisters, as we purify our intentions and prepare ourselves to fulfill the obligatory month-long *sawm* or fasting which is one of the five pillars of our religion Islam.

We welcome the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadhan with heartfelt gratefulness to Allah (SWT) as Ramadhan entails blessings of great magnitude on our parts. As Allah (SWT) said: "O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you, as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn self-restraint." (Qur'an 2:183).

This Holy Month of Ramadhan 1438H comes at a time when the *Ummah* is beset with great trials and tribulations, such as the wars in the Middle East, the resultant diaspora of and discrimination against refugees in Europe, and the oppression against Rohingyas in Burma and in other parts of the world. We pray to Allah (SWT) to ease their burdens and give them the strength to fulfill the rites of *sawm* amidst the hardships they are presently experiencing.

In the Bangsamoro, despite the resurgence again of violence particularly in Marawi City, aggravated by the declaration of Martial Law in the entire Mindanao Region by the Philippine Government, we continue to struggle for the fulfillment of the signed agreements between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Government of the Philippines (GPH), particularly the legal translation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) through the enactment of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). *Insha Allah*, the BBL that is being drafted by the expanded Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) would be transmitted to the Office of the President in one of the blessed days of Ramadhan.

We do not, and we will not, waiver in asserting the implementation of the CAB. In both the political/legislative track as well as in the normalization track, we do not slow down in demanding the deliverables from the GPH and our own responsibilities in the signed agreements.

We always take solace from Ramadhan to be ever more patient and persevering in our *Jihad fie sabilillah*. It is a universal tenet, and very Islamic

as well, that the good life we aspire for, in this world and in the hereafter, can only be achieved with sacrifices, extreme patience, and unrelenting determination. The annual passage of Ramadhan reinforces our resolve to offer more sacrifices, be more patient and determined in our struggle to our right to self-determination.

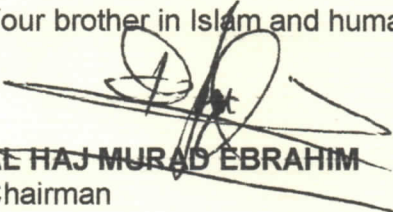
M.F.L.F.

With pure intentions and devotion, let us make this Ramadhan an occasion to strengthen our brotherly relations by finding in our hearts the empathy for the less-privileged Bangsamoro. Let our fasting fortify our iron will which is our potent weapon to surmount and survive from the odds and challenges of our day-to-day living.

On this blessed month, I reiterate my appeal for unity and harmony among the Bangsamoro. Tribal, organizational or whatever parochial loyalty we may have should be set aside for the larger cause of the Bangsamoro struggle and of Islam in general. May the holiness of Ramadhan bestow us blessing and guidance on the fulfillment of our duties.

Shahro Ramadhan Al-Mubarak!

Your brother in Islam and humanity,



AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman

Bangsamoro Homeland
27 May 2017 corresponding to 1st day of Ramadhan 1438H