



Ref. No. :

الرقم الاشاري:

Date :

Eidul Adzha Message 2017/1438H

التاريخ:

We feel blessed again to be able to observe the *Eidul Adzha* in the year 1438 AH. We thank Allah (SWT) for making our lives reach this Feast of the Sacrifice, one of the two festivals in Islam when the Muslim community is encouraged to be in celebratory mood in line with the *sunnah* of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

On this great day, we recall the words of Allah (SWT) in the *Qur'an Al-Kareem*, to wit:

Say: Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds. (Surah Al-An-aam 6, Ayaat 162)

We offer communal prayer and sacrificial animals as a way of solidifying our ranks, a fitting symbolism to the collective imperative of strengthening our faith and sacrificing for the noble cause of Islam and the Bangsamoro *jihād fiisabilillah*.

Nowadays, the Bangsamoro is once again faced with many tribulations. Our Maranao brothers and sisters continue to suffer as a consequence of an extremist ideology. Some areas in Maguindanao are also badly affected by the attempted encroachment of similarly affiliated faction of extremists who have led us to no other recourse but to safeguard our territory against intrusion of the violent extremist elements. The Bangsamoro Darul-Iftah had issued Shari'ah ruling (Fatwa) on June 25, 2017 on the need to fight violent extremism on the land and promotion of division among the Muslims, as compliance with the injunction of the Qur'an and the Prophetic Tradition (Al-Hadith). Allah (SWT) says: "And do no evil nor mischief on the face of the land." (Al-Baqarah: 60). "And seek no occasion for mischief on the land: For Allah loves not who do mischief," (Al-Qasas: 77). The Holy Prophet (SAW) says: Fight anyone who comes to you and your affairs to renounce allegiance or to sow discord among you." (Narrated by Imam Muslim). The island provinces of ARMM are also witnessing military actions. And our hope for peace, the new Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), is already being undermined by some legislators this early in its revived effort to pass Congress.

Patience may be thinning out for some, but only genuine patience can endure sacrifices. And only sincere sacrifices are rewarded far beyond human expectations, as the story of our Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his son Ishmael (AS) will perpetually remind us. The same story of unparalleled sacrifice is what we remember today and we hope to get other shades of wisdom from this annual commemoration.

Our experience as a distinct Bangsamoro people, especially over the last four decades, is also worth retelling its own lesson: that had we not sacrificed, we would never have reached this far in our struggle. True, there remain a lot of our aspirations that are not yet realized. But overcoming the fear and insecurity instilled by past repressive regimes, the ability to defend ourselves against violence, and the recognition of our legitimate grievances enshrined already in indelible signed agreements are the undeniable fruits of our people's sacrifices.

Different times call for different sacrifices. The pressing challenge of today is how to convince the Congress of the Philippines that only a BBL compliant with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) can commence the bigger task of normalizing our communities, address our legitimate grievances, correct the historical injustices, and establish the government that is acceptable and in line with our distinct way of life.

Obviously, we have to sacrifice more—of our wealth, talent, time, resources, personal comfort, and even ourselves—because our aspirations will not be served on silver platters. There would always be peoples and processes that have to be overcome.

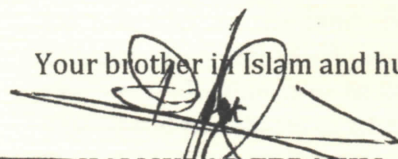
There is no doubt on the justness of our struggle. It would withstand the test of time as long we will not stop exerting all conceivable and doable actions. If we persevere along the path of Islam, as we have done the past four decades and more, there is surety that in this world and in the hereafter we will be successful, *Insha Allah!*

We pray for the immediate end to the armed fighting in Marawi City and other areas of the Bangsamoro. We pray for forgiveness and acceptance by Allah (SWT) of the pilgrimage (*Hajj*) of our fellow Bangsamoro. Indeed, may our prayers and sacrifices be accepted by Allah SWT.

Allahu akbar! Allahu akbar! Allahu akbar!

Kulo aamin wa antum bikhayr!

Your brother in Islam and humanity:


AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman

Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao
Bangsamoro

1st September 2017/ 10th Zulhijjah 1438H