

PRESS RELEASE

August 7, 2018

GPH PIP TO TURN OVER THE SIGNED BOL TO MILF COUNTERPART

After the ceremonial turnover of Republic Act No. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) by President Rodrigo R. Duterte to Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Chairman Alhaj Murad Ebrahim on August 6 in Malacañang, a similar handover ceremony will be done by the Peace Implementing Panel (PIPs) of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and MILF on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex, ORG Compound in Cotabato City.

The handover rites will be led by Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPPAP) Undersecretary and GPH PIP Chairman Nabil A. Tan and MILF PIP Chairman and Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) member Mohagher Iqbal.

The MILF Central Committee has already officially accepted the BOL during its special meeting last August 1 and transmitted its decision the same day to the President through an official letter signed by the MILF Chairman. This resolution came after the overwhelming acceptance of the BOL by more than one hundred thousand officers and members of the MILF who attended the Bangsamoro Consultative Assembly on July 29 at Camp Darapanan.

Chairman Ebrahim publicly announced the MILF's decision to accept the BOL during a forum on August 4 at the Notre Dame University where he asked the audience to "participate in shaping the Bangsamoro Vision that goes beyond our individual interest; beyond our clan interest; beyond our organizations' interest; beyond our party's interest; and I dare to say, beyond our generation's interest."

"I know there will be challenges in forming a government given this setup, but I have an enduring faith in the collective wisdom of our people and the guidance of ALLAH. Together, we shall overcome," he also added.

The BOL is the legal translation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), a political agreement signed in 2014 between the GPH and the MILF. The law will pave way for the establishment of a new political entity to be known as the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) which will replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) created under RA 9054 in 2001. It will provide a basic structure of government that will be responsive to the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people for a viable socio-cultural standing as well as economic and political advancement.

The new organic law will take effect after its popular ratification in a plebiscite to be called for such purpose not earlier than ninety days nor later than one hundred fifty days upon the signing of the BOL.

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