

## MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT

Central Committee
Office of the Chairman



## MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY AND UNITY TO THE BANGSAMORO PEOPLE, THE FILIPINO PEOPLE AND MUSLIM UMMAH ON THE OCCASION OF EID'UL ADZHA 1436H/2015

The leadership of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) once again conveys its greetings and felicitations to the Bangsamoro people, the Filipino people and the entire Muslim Ummah on the occasion of this year's celebration of Eid'ul Adzha.

Eid'ul Adzha reminds every Muslim of the great sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) when he solemnly offered for Qurban his son Prophet Ismail (AS) in obedience and compliance to Allah (SWT) to gain His pleasure.

As we celebrate the feast of Eid'ul Adzha, I am sure everyone is aware of the challenges we are facing in our peace process with the Philippine government. Admittedly, the chances of the passage of a Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) during the present GPH administration that is in compliance with the letter and spirit of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB), its annexes and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) is gradually diminishing as time passes by.

However, let us all be reminded that while the passage of a good BBL is of paramount importance as it is the key to the implementation of the Peace Agreements we have forged with the Philippine Government as well as the other aspect of the agreed Roadmap, especially the normalization aspect, but the BBL is not everything in the process. The gains of the peace process are much wider and more comprehensive. What is of prime importance is the preservation and sustenance of the achievements of the struggle and the Bangsamoro people in the peace process. The failure to pass a good BBL during the term of the present administration that has been consistently supporting the peace process will undoubtedly affect the process. But then it is not the end of the whole undertaking since the gains we have achieved are the Peace Agreements themselves, the FAB, the CAB and all the related agreements we have signed with the Philippine government.

Remember that we did not negotiate and sign an agreement with the present Philippine government administration only and/or the executive branch of the government as spoilers of the peace process are alluding. The agreement itself, which is entitled "an agreement between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)", is a clear manifestation of its status. It therefore follows that whoever is in the government of the Philippines is bound by the agreement and obliged to implement its provisions.

We praise Allah (SWT) for the relative peace and security we are experiencing now in the Bangsamoro homeland and adjacent areas which are attributable to the progress of the ongoing peace process and the combined efforts of the International Community and all the peace loving peoples supportive to the Bangsamoro Cause. Since the signing of the FAB on October 15, 2012, and

the CAB) on March 27, 2014 the number of violence and armed encounters dramatically dropped down. Except for the Mamasapano incident on January 25, 2015 and the subsequent AFP offensive actions against the BIFF, there were no major incidents ever happened in the Bangsamoro Homeland and elsewhere.

While we are commemorating this year Eid'ul Adzha, we appeal to everyone to hold fast to the Peace Process, continue our arduous journey for peace and development and exhaust all means to achieve our aspiration for genuine, just, lasting and dignified peace and sustainable development in the Bangsamoro and the whole of the country. We have already travelled a long way and invested immeasurable efforts to attain our cherished objective.

We are aware of the trying times and enormous challenges we are facing with the peace process especially in the internal process of the government with the BBL. The spoilers of peace are so obsessed of building stumbling blocks to stop the enactment into law of the GPH-MILF agreed draft of the BBL submitted to Congress on September 10, 2014.

However, with the unwavering commitment of the President and his allies in the administration, coupled with the strong support of the International Community, as well as the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) including the peace loving peoples of the country and the world and most of all our complete trust in the Oneness and Justness of Allah (SWT), we remain optimistic. As long as we have exhausted our best efforts, whatever happens to the BBL, we should accept it as the will of Allah (SWT). We completely thrust that Allah will decide and grant us what is best for us in this World and the Hereafter, *Insha Allah*.

Finally, in behalf of the MILF Central Committee, the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) and the MILF Political Committees and agencies, we wish the entire Bangsamoro in the homeland and those overseas and the Filipino nation as well the happy and prosperous returns of Eid'ul Adzha. Blessed Eid'l Adzha to the entire Muslim Ummah and humanity. *Kullo aamin wa antum bikhayr*.

Your brother in Islam and humanity,

ALMURAD EBRAHIM

Bangsamoro Homeland 10<sup>th</sup> Zhul-Hijjah 1436H

September 24, 2015