

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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



اللجنة المركزية
(ج.ت.م.ا)
مكتب الرئيس

Ref. No. :

Eidul Fitre Message 1438H/2017

الرقم الاشاري:

Date :

التاريخ:

I send my greetings of joy and felicitations to my fellow Bangsamoro over the successful completion of the month-long fasting during Ramadhan that has just departed us. We join the entire *Ummah*, our Muslim brethren around the world and the Filipino people in celebrating the praises of Allah SWT during this *Eidul Fitre* in the year 1438 AH corresponding to 25 June 2017.

The just concluded Ramadhan has been truly a month of great sacrifice and difficulties for the Bangsamoro, especially our brothers and sisters in faith in the City of Marawi. Hundreds of thousands have to endure fear, hunger, and immeasurable sadness over the loss of lives and properties. There seems to be no more decent homes to return to and the prospect of early return remains to be seen.

To those who are still in evacuation centers, those who sought shelter in relatives and friends, and even those who stayed in their homes — our thoughts and prayers are with you. We invoke the mercy of Allah SWT upon every single individual who remains extremely patient and steadfast in spite of this calamity. May Allah SWT immediately reward you with tranquility for doubly enduring the rigors of fasting and this calamity.

In all of these difficulties, I see triumph over the natural weakness of ourselves and an attainment of spiritual rebirth. When a calamity befalls upon a place, it affects all. And yet it always gives lesson and guidance for those who are patient, as Allah SWT says in the Holy Qur'an:

155. And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Saabirin (the patient ones, etc.).

156. Who, when afflicted with calamity, say: "Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return."

157. They are those on whom are the Salawat (i.e. blessings, etc.) (i.e. who are blessed and will be forgiven) from their Lord, and (they are those who) receive His Mercy, and it is they who are the guided-ones. (Surah Al-Baqarah)

As we look forward to rebuilding our lives in the soonest possible time *inshaa Allah*, let us now be resolved in our personal and collective capacities to counter the spread of violent extremism and political beliefs that bring more harm than good to the Bangsamoro. Our legitimate aspirations have already been recognized by the Philippine government and attested by the international community through the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. It may be that the implementation process is sometimes painstakingly slow, but even in this stage of our Jihad we have

to be more patient. To the young ones who may have been attracted to extremist propaganda, we urge you to seek guidance and knowledge from your elders who have preceded you in the struggle and have "seen and tasted it all". We tell you that Jihad has never been just an adventure and fashion, but a lifetime commitment to make supreme the Word of Allah in ways that found proofs in the Sunnah.

M.I.L.F.


We have been blessed with an opportunity for these sacrifices and hope for multiple rewards for standing firm against trials and the temptations to give up. As such, I do congratulate those among us whose devotion to Ramadhan and whose firm resolve to a dedicated observance of the month's holiness has never been remiss despite the present man-made and natural difficulties we confront today.

On this blessed occasion of Eidul Fitre or Feast of Breaking the Fast, I once again reiterate that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has never, and will never, abandoned the legitimate aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. We will not stop in asserting and struggling for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, the best product thus far of the negotiated political settlement which our late Ameerul Mujahideen Al-Sheikh Salamat Hashim *Allahu Yarhamuho* has described as the most civilized way of resolving conflict.

Join me in my prayers that the new draft Bangsamoro Basic Law which has been finished during the holy days of Ramadhan would eventually become a law in the very near future.

Wa kullu aamin wa antum bikhayr!

Your brother in Islam and humanity:


AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman

Bangsamoro Homeland
25th June 2017/1st Shawwal 1438H