

EIDUL FITRE Message of 2018/1439H

All praises be to Allah SWT for giving us the faith, time, good health, and patience to fast the entire month of Ramadhan1439H whose culmination is being celebrated in this *Eidul Fitre* on the 15th day of June 2018.

This year's Ramadhan, just like all the Ramadhan that have passed through the Bangsamoro, brought with it some events that further tested our belief in the virtue of patience and submission for which the Islamic pillar of fasting or *sawm* has been prescribed by Allah upon the believers. At home, it was very significant for us to see the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) by both the Senate and House of Representatives on the 15th night of Ramadhan corresponding to last May 30.

Over the last five years since the first Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) began its work on April 3, 2013, it has always been our hope and prayers that the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) would be finally passed by the Congress of the Philippines.

As maybe known to many, the journey of the BBL in the legislative chambers was never easy. There were hurdles that needed to be overcome, such as parochial political interests, ingrained biases, ignorance and fear, and even arrant arrogance from the powers-that-be. It was a journey accompanied by guarded optimism that was almost broken by the Mamasapano incident in 2015. It was, and still is, a journey of many ups and downs, of occasional failures and frustrations, but always one that never loses sight of the attainment of the eventual passage of the BBL.

During the Holy Month of Ramadhan 1439H, we the Bangsamoro have finally seen the penultimate stage of the BBL when both Houses of the 17th Congress of the Philippines approved their respective versions of the BBL on May 30. The struggle of course to realize a BBL that is compliant with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) has not yet ended.



The leadership of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front will continue to exert all efforts, as it has always done, to convince the Government of the Philippines under the strong leadership of His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to come up with a BBL that is consistent with signed agreements and mutually acceptable to the Bangsamoro people and the larger Filipino nation. We remain optimistic that the legislative process would still be biased in favor of peace, security and the opportunity to rebuild lives and communities in areas of the Bangsamoro.

May our fasting, prayers, invocations, charities and good deeds during Ramadhan be accepted and rewarded by Allah SWT.

Wa kullu aamin wa antum bikhayr!

Your Brother in Islam and Humanity,

AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM Chairman

Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Bangsamoro, 15 June 2018/ 01 Shawwal 1439H