



Transcript of MPOS Minister's Speech

Title of the Activity: **COORDINATIVE MEETING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN BASILAN**
Date: March 31, 2021
Location: Isabela City, Basilan
Audience Demographics: Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)
Speaker: **Hon. Hussein P. Muñoz**

AUDHO BILLAHIMINASHAYTANIRRAJEEM. BISMILLAHIRAHMANIRAEHEEM.
ASSALAMU ALAYKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH!

18TH INFANTRY BATALLION COMMANDER **LTC EGVERR JONATHAN ABUTIN**; 64TH INFANTRY BATALLION COMMANDER, **LTC RENANTE BESA**; 68TH INFANTRY BATALLION COMMANDER, **LTC FREDDIE CALOSING**; 4TH SPECIAL FORCE BATALLION COMMANDER, **LTC ALEX AMPATI**; PCG, CGS BASILAN ACTING STATION COMMANDER, LCDR **ROJANE M TOLENTINO**; BASILAN PPO PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR, **PCOL RODRIGO MARAMO**; OIC PROVINCIAL WARDEN **NUL ASMAWIL**; OTHER DELEGATES FROM THE DIFFERENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH US TODAY; OUR PARTNERS FROM THE ASIA FOUNDATION; ATTY. ALRASHED BALT; AND MPOS STAFF:

GOOD MORNING!

The conclusion of peace negotiation between the MILF and the Philippine Government on March 27, 2014, through the signing of Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro in Malacañang, advances the interest of both sides to settle disputes and closely work together towards development. This monumental milestone in building peace in the Bangsamoro is but a tip of the iceberg, there are still challenges ahead that need collaborative effort towards a sustainable peace. Displacements, loss of properties and lives, due to skirmishes and mortar shelling that may be caused by RIDO or Land Grabbing Issues, terrorism, or simply to disrupt the BARMM Government, still undermine the peace condition in the aftermath of CAB signing. Chaos is still present in BARMM that impedes our genuine efforts to bringing a lasting peace in Bangsamoro and the lack of policing powers has its fair share to our incapacity to directly address those conflicts arising in BARMM. However, even though such power has not been granted to the region under the BOL, on a positive note, on the onset of peace negotiations between the MILF and the Government of the Philippines, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES have been our partners in stilling security, peace, and order. Since time immemorial, we have acknowledged the imperative role of men and women in uniform, in peace-building, unification, and reconciliation. As an entrusted institution by the state to safeguard the nation from conflicts and threats, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, are which the Ministry of Public Order and Safety has considered the top priority to strengthen relationship with. Under the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, one of the functions, duties, and mandates, of the Ministry of Public Order and Safety, is to establish proper coordination mechanisms with the law enforcement agencies in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. This is to enhance security in the region by strengthening collaborations among government offices, especially with the men and women in uniform.

Public order and safety are a huge responsibility, and without policing powers, our endeavors to a lasting peace is fractional. Admittedly, we cannot do it alone, and our foremost legitimate espouse in reinforcing security in the BARMM region is nonetheless the Law Enforcement Agencies. We need a claw that can push us into safeguarding the people in BARMM from those whose goal is to instill terror and fear in the region. We need a shield from those who do not want us to live in peace. And we could not think of the best claw and shield other than the brave and courageous men and women who vouch to defend and protect the people. Hence, the Ministry of Public Order and Safety invokes sturdy coordination with the Law Enforcement Agencies which prioritize the security of the nation and its populace. We ensure that every activities and programs of the Ministry of Public Order and Safety, especially those that pertain to conflict resolution, unification, and reconciliation, we never miss to invite the law enforcement agencies. The most recent collaborative activity MPOS conducted was the RIDO Learning Session with PRO BAR on



January 2021. On March 19-20, this year, MPOS conducted forum on Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Manila, where we invited PROBAR, NBI, BJMP, BFP, PDEA, AFP, and among others. As our vital partners in implementing our mandate in fortifying public order and safety in the region, trust that we always coordinate with law enforcement agencies and invite them as partners.

As I have stressed during the learning session, as public servants with desire to expunge fear and terror from our people, our accord lies in creating a secure region that increases prosperity of this country, where harmony and unity is achieved. The commitment of MPOS towards a peaceful, orderly, and safe BARMM, is the same with yours, as agencies with highest responsibility to maintain and protect peace and order situation in the country. We share the same vision and intention to serve the people, so allow us to be your cohorts in embedding peace and security on this region. As we have said, peace is precedent to development. There can be no genuine development without peace. But to lodge peace, is not a one-man's show. It will only work best if we have each other to lay its foundation for the generation to enjoy as our ultimate goal is sustainability, and that can only be achieved through close coordination. May this coordinative meeting warrant us a fruitful and progressive conversation that will bind us together to an agreement in finding solutions to the prevailing conflicts that may drift us apart. In sha Allah, through this collaborative partnership, we will advance our common endeavors to a lasting peace and sustainable development in matters of SECURITY in the BANGSAMORO, and the Philippines!

Wa Billahi Tawfik wal hidaya, Good morning! Assalamu Alaykum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!