



Transcript of MPOS Minister's Speech

Title of the Activity: **Forum and Learning Session on Transitional Justice and Reconciliation**
Date: March 19, 2021
Location: Bayview Park Hotel, Manila
Audience Demographics:
Speaker: **Hon. Hussein P. Muñoz**

AUDHOBILLAHIMINASHAYTANNIRRAJEEM. BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHEEM

Assalamu Alaykum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!

To the Chief Minister, Ahod B. Ebrahim, Office of the Cabinet Secretary, represented by Ms. Christine Bernadette Almoite, Office of the Member of the Parliament, Romeo C. Saliga, represented by his Chief of Staff Rene Batitao, Bangsamoro Director General Engineer Mohajirin T. Ali, of Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority, Bangsamoro Information Office Executive Director Ameen Andrew Alonto, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Independent Working Co-Convenor Professor Maria Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza and Mags Maglana, OIC Regional Community Affairs and Development Division PRO BAR, Pol. Lt. Col, Romel Naciongayo, and other TWG members of Peace, Public Order, Safety and Security Committee (POSSCOM), Colleagues from the different Agencies and Offices in BARMM, our Christians and Indigenous brothers and sisters representing different organizations from Mindanao, My BTA and MPOS staff: Good Morning!

Alhamdulillah! I know, every one of us was excited to work and contribute to the programs and activities that concern the Bangsamoro and the IPs. Everybody was eager to see how the Bangsamoro government will perform after the Bangsamoro Organic Law was ratified in 2019. Unfortunately, our excitement was hampered by the pandemic. Until now, we are not yet back to normal and there is even a possibility that strict implementation of health protocols might be imposed again. That is why, I am grateful that we are having this rare opportunity in the middle of a crisis.

Yesterday, we commemorated the 53rd Anniversary of the gruesome tale of Jabidah Massacre, in the Island of Corregidor, where the demise of Young TAUSUG Men amalgamated the different Bangsamoro as one to vociferously oppose this injustice executed by then government troops. As we laughed at the jokes of our tour guides in Corregidor Island, I did not forget to ask myself: "Would they comprehensively narrate to us the death of the Bangsamoro as they scholarly recounted the deaths during the World War 2, or would they circumvent the fact that JABIDAH tragedy really happened? As we have said, it is not easy to forget. We can work with reconciliation but it is highly preposterous to forget such blunder as perpetrators were not convicted, let alone was it considered a crime. If there were memory lanes we want to stroll down, not those times we were numbed to love and cried for our exes, but of those whose blood were spilled, and gave us reasons to stand for our rights, and for those who were sacrificed and brought us here to this Forum on Transitional Justice and Reconciliation.

There is transitional justice because there were injustices committed against people. The horrible story of Jabidah Massacre, and the massacres before and after it, and oppressions to people in the Bangsamoro and to the indigenous peoples or IPs.

The Bangsamoro Organic Law (RA 11054) provides in its Article IX (Basic Rights), Section 1 that: The Bangsamoro Parliament, taking into account the report of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission, shall enact a transitional justice mechanism to address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people, including the indigenous peoples, such as historical injustices, human rights violations, and marginalization through unjust dispossession of territorial and proprietary rights and customary land tenure. On the other hand, the Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS) is mandated under the Bangsamoro Administrative Code to conduct programs, projects and activities relating to the promotion of reconciliation and unification of all the peoples of the region.

MPOS geared towards the formulation of policy framework on transitional justice mechanism in the Bangsamoro. Moreover, this forms part of the endeavors of the MPOS to continue working for a lasting peace in the Bangsamoro in order to sustain the gains of the peace processes.

If we feel that we have been wronged, we can expect that there shall be a transitional justice mechanism that would "address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people and the IPs to correct historical injustices, and address human rights violations. Therefore, let us make this two-day forum fruitful to the best of our powers. This is our chance to help in the reconciliation process and let us not fail ourselves.

Thank you for joining us today and welcome.