

**MESSAGE OF  
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BDA CHAIRMAN**

**Bangsamoro Development Plan  
(Medium to Long Terms)  
Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro  
Third Seminar  
February 1, 2016, Discovery Suite, Pasig**



Assalamu Alaikum  
Warahmatullahi wa  
Barakatu, Good  
Afternoon and Koni  
Chiwa.

We completed the  
Bangsamoro  
Development Plan (BDP)  
Integrative Report (BDP-  
IR) in 2014 and turned it  
over to the MILF-CC in  
October of same year.  
We are glad to note that

the plan is now adopted as a Development Plan of the MILF. This is the reason why the MILF is a unique organization because it is the only active revolutionary group in the whole world today that has a development plan. In November of the same year, in cooperation with the national government, the plan was finally launched in Davao City, perhaps the most serene, secured & peaceful city in the Philippines. No less than H.E. President Aquino and Al-Hadj Murad Ebrahim graced the occasion.

After completing the BDP-IR, we realized that we cannot implement the plan (BDP-I) because we lack details. So we have to move to the next steps and this is the formulation of the master plans for the different thematic areas identified in the BDP-IR.

We are happy that we have a partner, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that came ahead of other partners to help us on the thematic areas of Economy, Livelihood and Infrastructure. We are now in the final league of the completion of the Master Plan.

Going back to the time when the BDP-I was completed, we were just awaiting the establishment of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) so that the plan could be immediately implemented but ALAS! the unexpected happened, congress failed, or should I say refused, to pass the BBL that will usher in the establishment of the BTA. So just to emphasize that the principal casualty of the so-called Mamasapano tragedy, an incident not of our own-making but

ironically being blamed on us, is the immediate implementation of the BDP. The Mamasapano tragedy is not the first of its kind that was imposed on the Bangsamoro. The same kind of incident happened twice in Al-Barka, Basilan where scores of marines and again followed by elite Scout Rangers of the Philippine Army entered in MILF areas without coordination with the GPH-MILF Committee on the Cessation and Hostilities (CCH) and many were killed in action. But the two previous incidents did not derail the on-going peace process.

Why is the Mamasapano different? Honestly, we believe that it is not the Mamasapano incident per se that led to doom of the BBL, but the twisted biases and prejudices, deep-seated prejudices that were ignited that brought the BBL to doomsday.

As we are preparing to gather here today, tens of thousands of enraged Bangsamoro gathered in Marawi City for an Indignation Rally dubbed as the day of Betrayal, referring to the failure of the Philippine government to honor its commitment to the Bangsamoro people for honorable, just and lasting peace. The failure of congress to grab the chance of a lifetime to put an end to the Mindanao bloody conflict by employing unfair tactics of the tyranny of numbers and lack of quorum to deliberate on BBL, has just unleashed massive frustrations and boiling rage that could set us back to the period of turbulence and instability.

Unfortunately, whenever we mention about this likely possibility in case the BBL's failed to pass in congress, people would think that we are merely threatening.

We have to accept that the non-passage of the BBL is a very big challenge in the implementation of the plan. However, I wish to emphasize, that this does not mean that the whole plan could not be implemented at all. There are significant portion as highlighted by the presenters of the plan that can be implemented even without the BBL.

We just hope that even without the BBL, the two parties, the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) continue to engage towards the peaceful conclusion of the peace process. We believe that for as long as the two parties are engaged, they can draw out implementation mechanism in order that the plan could be realized.

It is my own idea that the BDA and its principal, the MILF, will not create road blocks towards the implementation of the plan. Even prior to the establishment of the Bangsamoro government, NGO's, CSO's, Business Sector, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and national line agencies of government may adopt and implement the plan. We will still consider it as a "mission accomplished" if our communities benefits from our plan even though by reason of implementation technicalities hinder us from implementing the BDP ourselves.

We have been conducting consultation workshops and seminars to ensure that this plan realistically responds to the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people.

As our partners in BDP-I, we continue consulting with you in order to enrich this plan with your ideas and recommendations. At the end of the day, we want to come-up with a Master Plan that are not exclusively for the Bangsamoro Muslim but also includes the Indigenous People and Christian migrants in our areas.

Lastly, I appeal to all our development partners to continue engaging with us so that the gains of the current peace process will not go to waste. I invite you to work with us in thinking out of the box so that we can find innovative ideas and approaches to implement the plan even without the BBL.

Thank you for the time you have given to us. Wassalamu Alaykum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

