

MESSAGE OF
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Chairperson/ Commissioner representing Lanao Del Sur Province with Marawi City

on CABataan at CABabaihan para sa ika-pitong anibersayo ng CAB
March 27, 2021

A pleasant day to all and thank you to everyone in attendance for being with us today to commemorate a momentous milestone in the Bangsamoro peace process.

Seven years ago today, the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, or the CAB, was signed. This important document was the culmination of years of talks and negotiations, a crucial step in ending armed hostility and forging lasting peace in the Bangsamoro. The CAB paved the way for the recognition of the justness and legitimacy of the decades-long Bangsamoro struggle and set in motion a democratic process that will secure meaningful self-governance.

This was a true landmark in what was then the rocky state of peace efforts in the country. And the peace negotiations would not have reached the success they did without the invaluable contribution of sectors such as women and the youth.

Our current Bangsamoro Youth Commission Chair, MP Marajanie Mimbantas Macasalong, for one, is the youngest ever individual to occupy a seat at the negotiating table. And across the globe, more and more young people are actively taking part in supporting and participating in peace processes.

This is, in part, due to the growing recognition that the essence of the peace process is not only to look back and correct historical injustices, but also to imagine a future in which we live in a society founded on peace.

Peace efforts, especially those deeply rooted in centuries of struggle such as that of the Bangsamoro, is a necessarily protracted and painstaking process, making it important that we pass down the culture and institutional memory of peacebuilding to future generations.

It is thus imperative that the youth, who will inherit the gains of the peace process, take their seat at the table and become involved in these efforts -- from negotiation, to decision-making, to implementation, and in any other spaces where their voices must be heard.

It is through the minds and hearts of the youth that we will be able to build the foundations of a society that rejects conflict and violence, and instead actively and purposefully works for sustainable and long-lasting peace.

And with the constant ebb and flow of the world around us, the ways in which we facilitate the peace process must also change and adapt with the times. It is the youth who will lead the way

in producing more creative and innovative solutions such that the culture of peace will permeate through all sectors of society.

And so I would like to end this message by calling on the youth to continue working for peace and to influence other young people to do the same. Find avenues that you can call your own to advocate for youth engagement and participation in the peace process.

It will be through the meaningful and dedicated involvement of young leaders and peacebuilders such as yourselves that we will be able to forge genuine peace and development in the Bangsamoro.

Thank you and Wassalam.