

MESSAGE OF
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on Women's Month Celebration
March 30, 2021

A pleasant day to all.

As our National Women's Month celebration draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to put the spotlight on all the brave women at the forefront of our fight for genuine peace and development, for freedom from conflict and violence, for a more caring and loving society for all.

Especially here in the Bangsamoro, women play a crucial and indispensable role in the peace process. In times of conflict, it is women who carry a disproportionate amount of burden when it comes to facilitating healing, reconciliation, community development, and transitional justice -- all of which are key in achieving sustainable and long-lasting peace.

This tireless work towards peace encapsulates the very essence of Women's Month -- its beginnings born from women-led movements and workers' strikes, with women all over the world lining the streets to fight for fair wages, for civil rights, for gender equality and empowerment.

The plight of women, therefore, is inextricably linked to the spirit of the Bangsamoro struggle. Women, time and time again, continue to link arms against historic injustices, against all forms of violence and harassment, against the systems that have for so long oppressed them. So that the vulnerable and marginalized may live better and more peaceful lives. So that we can spread a culture of respect towards human rights and democratic freedoms.

Within the veins of every woman lies the blood of fighters, of peace-builders, of heroes.

To celebrate women is to celebrate the struggle for peace and justice in the Bangsamoro, in the nation, in the world.

Thank you and Happy National Women's Month!