

MESSAGE OF
MP MARJANIE S. MIMBANTAS MACASALONG, PhD
Chairperson/ Commissioner representing Lanao Del Sur Province with Marawi City

on Ramdamin and Ramadhan 2021
April 5, 2021

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. All thanks to Allah, the Lord of Both Worlds. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad SAW, his family and all his companions.

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. Ramadhan al Mubarak.

This Ramadhan, albeit not different from last year's, will not cease to feel different. We will still not be able to celebrate it the way we used to. Social restrictions must still be observed, curfews are still in force. But this Ramadhan should not be treated any less sacred, any less beautiful or less spiritually enriching than the previous years'. There's no reason to. Alhamdulillah

Ya ayyuHaalladhi na aamanuu – O you who believed
Kutiba 'alaykumuSSiyaam – Fasting is prescribed for you
Kamaa kutiba 'alalladhiina min qablikom – as was prescribed to those before you
La 'allakum tattaquun – so that you may become righteous.

This is the most popular verse that talks about sawm or fasting in the Qur-an. It can be found in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 183. This verse speaks of two things. First, fasting, sawm is prescribed for those who believed. Second, La 'allakum tattaquun – taqwa. So that we may become righteous.

It means that fasting when done the right way, the character of taqwa may be achieved. Fasting builds and strengthens taqwa. Mashaa Allah. I believe that we can use this time to get even more close to Allah swt more than how we would like to in the previous years'. In shaa Allah.

Taqwa is the consciousness of Allah. It is to do one's best efforts to live by His commands and to avoid His prohibitions. And to attain this taqwa weighs way heavy and more beautiful than any gift we could ever ask for or receive as a Muslim. Subhanallah.

So, let us spend this Ramadhan well and thank Allah swt.

In this time where social restrictions as a measure against the fast spread of COVID-19 is enforced, let us strengthen our connection with Allah swt and to our Qur'an - elevate it to a deeply intimate level. Let not the restrictions be a hindrance in performing our duties and obligations but rather use them as means to draw ourselves closer to Allah

swt, to introspect and realign our intentions in accordance with the teachings of Islam, with the Sunnah of Prophet SAW. In shaa Allah.

I am praying that we all remain steadfast in our faith in Allah swt, that we find our peace in remembering Allah swt in every action that we do and words that we speak. Let us find solace in the words of Allah swt in the Qur-an.

Let us continue to work together; follow the national and local guidelines imposed for the safety of everyone - Social distancing, regular hand washing, proper hygiene, wearing of mask and stay at home.

With that, allow me to greet you all in advance and on behalf of the Bangsamoro Youth Commission, Ramadhan Kareem to all our brothers and sisters in Islam!

In shaa Allah, like what I said during my 1st BARMM Ramadhan in 2019 - to the best of my ability, and within the bounds of the powers granted to the Bangsamoro Youth Commission - programs like this that aims to raise awareness, give reminders and impart knowledge to the Bangsamoro youth which will mold them into a better member of this society, not only as heirs of the future of this region but most importantly as a potential agents of positive change – will always be encouraged and supported.

Keep safe everyone and I hope we all get the full reward of our deeds in this month of Ramadhan, may we all receive the Mercy, Forgiveness and the Protection of Allah azza wajal.

Read some Rabbanas? Assalamu Alaikom wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuho.