

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

**on 3rd Bangsamoro Constituent Forum**

*Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh* and good morning to everyone present today.

First off, I would like to thank the Office of MP Romeo K. Sema, together with the Ministry of Labor and Employment, for the invitation to speak about the projects and programs of the Bangsamoro Government in the 3rd installment of the Bangsamoro Constituent Forum. I am humbled, as well, to stand here alongside distinguished colleagues working hard to serve the Bangsamoro people.

I am here before you today as the head of the Bangsamoro Youth Commission (or BYC) and am tirelessly proud of the strides we've made to bring our initiatives closer to the youth. But before we proceed, I would just like to underline that, as the title of this forum suggests, our work within the commission and within the whole Bangsamoro Government *is* and *should* be centered around *you* — our constituents.

Amin pong isinasaisip at isinasapuso ang paghahanap ng mga paraan upang ilapit ang aming mga programa sa mismong mga Bangsamoro constituents upang maramdaman ang pagiging accessible ng mga serbisyo at magkaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga karaniwang mamamayan na direktang makilahok sa ating gobyerno.

In the BYC, it is important for us to ensure that the Bangsamoro youth are given avenues for engagement and participation. We have seen first hand how willing and eager young people in this day and age are to work hand in hand with the government to contribute to programs that genuinely cater to their interests and allow their voices to be heard.

We conducted the *Lingkod Kabataan Bangsamoro*, a humanitarian relief operation that distributes relief goods to Bangsamoro Youth in all Bangsamoro provinces. Through this program, we have catered to nearly 170 youth organizations from Tawi-tawi, Lanao, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Cotabato City, and Sulu.

Through Project *TABANG* or *Tulong Alay sa Bangsamorong Nangangailangan*, that aims to provide basic services to Bangsamoro people in poverty- and calamity-stricken areas, we conducted an operation at Boganga temporary shelter in Marawi City to provide assistance to internally displaced people. As the then Office on Bangsamoro Youth Affairs (OBYA), we distributed packed lunches and school supplies to around 600 children.

In December 2019 to February 2020, we conducted a series of fora on youth issues and concerns entitled *BARMM Youth: INSPIRE, EMPOWER and CONNECT* wherein we went to different public high schools in Marawi City to inform students on the approval of the BYC Bill into law

Another series of community-based consultations were held to consolidate ideas on the crafting of the *Bangsamoro Youth Transition Priority Agenda* that serves as a guide for the commission in realizing its mission and vision for the youth through the coming years. The document outlines BYC's five priority areas on youth participation and development which are: Health, Education, Peace-building and Security, Governance, and Active Citizenship.



Ang mga ito ay iilan lamang sa ating mga inisyatiba para tugunan ang mga hinaing ng kabataang Bangsamoro. Ngunit higit pa sa pagtaguhod ng mga proyekto at programa, layunin ng BYC na siguraduhing kabahagi at katuwang ang bawat isa sa bagbuo ng Bangsamoro na tunay nating matatawag na atin.

Yes, the Bangsamoro still has ways to go, but we are more than ready to face these challenges head on and with great hope and optimism.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the Bangsamoro Youth Commission and let us know how we can better serve the youth as well as the greater Bangsamoro constituency. Especially in this crucial period of transition, it is important that we push for an inclusive Bangsamoro Government that has its ear on the ground and is one with its people.

Thank you very much and Wassalam.