



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Statement on the Enactment of the Bangsamoro Organic Law

The Department of National Defense welcomes the President's signing of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) yesterday, 26 July 2018. We are optimistic that this landmark legislation will usher in a new era of peace in Mindanao.

We now begin the very important step of implementing the provisions of the new law, including the decommissioning of MILF fighters, and the possible integration of qualified individuals to the AFP and PNP.

The DND is ready to assist our fellow Filipinos in the Bangsamoro to start their lives anew, heal the wounds of conflict, and end our people's divisiveness after decades of fighting.

With the expected development of commerce, trade, and industry in the region, and increased delivery of government services to communities, I am confident that the root causes of violent extremism and terrorism, such as poverty, lack of education, and social injustice will be adequately addressed.

I now call on the remaining groups still fighting the government to follow the path of peace just like the MILF and MNLF. Through our localized peace efforts, we remain committed to achieve peace, even with members of the Communist Terrorist Group, and pursue the peace agenda of our President who is walking the extra mile to unite the people as one nation.

Thousands of former communist rebels have returned to their families to live their lives in peace with the help of government programs such as the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program or E-CLIP.

Together with our brothers and sisters in the Bangsamoro, we will show the world that violence and terror do not have a place in our communities, and as Filipinos we can work together to achieve just and lasting peace.###