



A Primer on the
**Bangsamoro
Transition
Commission**
and the
**Bangsamoro
Basic Law**

ENGLISH

Primer production supported by



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Dialogue

Mediation for peace

FEBRUARY 2014

The Transition Commission (TC) was created by virtue of President Benigno Aquino III's issuance of Executive Order 120 in December 2012. It is mandated to draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law provided for in the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) that was signed by the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in October 2012.



Hon. Mohagher Iqbal

CHAIRMAN

Iqbal is a Maguindanaoan from Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. He obtained both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees on Political Science from the Manuel L. Quezon University.

He served the MNLF and MILF in various capacities. Currently, he is a member of the MILF Central Committee, sitting as chair of its Committee on Information, as well as Chair of its Peace Negotiating Panel since July 2003. He was nominated by the MILF as head of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission.



Hon. Maulana Alonto

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

A writer and activist from Lanao del Sur, Alonto joined the MNLF as a young Moro student and fought against the Marcos dictatorship as head of information and propaganda of the Northern Mindanao

Regional Revolutionary Committee (NMRC). In 2000, he joined the MILF Peace Negotiating Panel as member of its Technical Committee when peace negotiations were held in Tripoli, Libya. In 2003, he was elevated to full panel membership. He is also a member of the MILF Central Committee.



Hon. Akmad Sakkam

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Sakkam, a lawyer, has a built a distinguished career in Diplomatic Relations. He served as Ambassador to three Islamic states within a period of nearly two decades—to Iraq from

1986 to 1992; to Bahrain from 1994 to 1999; and to Oman from 1999 to 2003. Sakkam is a recipient of the Presidential Award of Merit given by former President Cory Aquino for his "outstanding service to the country in the safe evacuation of Filipino workers in Kuwait and Iraq during the first Gulf War of 1991." Sakkam is a Muslim and a native of Sulu.



Hon. Johaira Wahab

FLOOR LEADER

Wahab is from Maguindanao and is the youngest member of the Transition Commission. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, minor in Psychology at the University of the

Philippines - Diliman (magna cum laude) in 2005 and her Law degree (Juris Doctor) at the same university in 2009. She is a member of the board of Nisa Ul Haqq Fi Bangsamoro and sits as a member of the International Advisory Group of Musawah. She was head of the legal team of the Government Peace Panel from July 2010 until her appointment in the Commission.



Hon. Timuay Melanio Ulama

An Indigenous Peoples (IP) Consultant of the MILF, Ulama is a Teduray leader who heads the Organization of Teduray and Lambangian Conference. He finished BS Agronomy in Upi

Agricultural School in 1986 and took his Master's degree in Public Administration at the Notre Dame University. Ulama hails from Upi, Maguindanao.



Hon. Talib Abdulhamid Benito

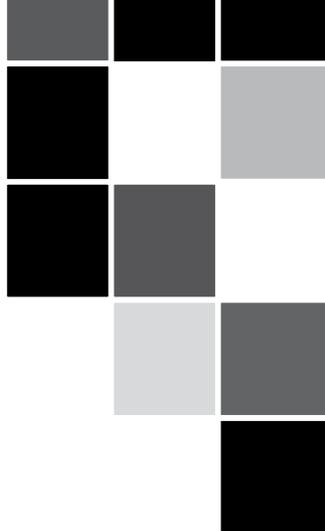
A practicing Shari'ah lawyer, Benito is former Dean of the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies at the Mindanao State University in Marawi City from 2008 to 2012. He is a long-standing member of the Philippines Shari'ah Bar

since 1985 and has served as a legal researcher and professor, specializing in Muslim Procedural Law and Muslim Law of Personal and Family Relations. Benito is Maranao by ethnicity.



Hon. Ibrahim Ali

Ali is a regular member of the Central Committee of the MILF and has been with the organization since the 1970s. He was educated in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, studying at the Arabic Language Institute of the King Abdul Aziz University and at the College of Islamic Law at Ummol Qura University, among others, in Mecca. He was Director at the Kutawato Islamic Institute in Cotabato City in 1989-1993 and a member of the Darul Ifta of the MILF and a permanent member of the Board of Trustees of Hayatol Ulama of the Philippines.



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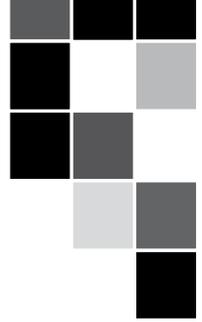
RYAN G. PALACOL

AX Digital Palette Designs

E: rgpalacol@yahoo.com

M: +63 927.654.4785

W: <http://www.axdpdesigns.com>



Message from the Chairman

As Chairman of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), it is my great honor to present to the public this Primer on the Commission and the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

This Primer contains answers to the common questions raised on the BTC and the BBL in the media, fora and the public consultations that the BTC is currently holding. This Primer translated in various local dialects is designed to reach out not only to leaders and policymakers but most importantly to grassroots communities that are most affected by conflict and peace in Mindanao. The publication of this Primer is a living proof of our commitment to make the process of drafting the BBL transparent and with due regard to the views of all the stakeholders.

I would like to encourage everyone to actively discuss this Primer and help disseminate it to the broadest audience possible. Provided there is prior notice to the BTC Communications Group, institutions and organizations are free to reproduce this Primer for public distribution. To download this primer in English, Tagalog, Cebuano, Tausug, Maranao, Teduray and Maguindanaon, please visit www.bangsamoroonline.com

United in our common vision for peace, let us move forward as one people.

HON. MOHAGHER IQBAL

Chairman

Bangsamoro Transition Commission

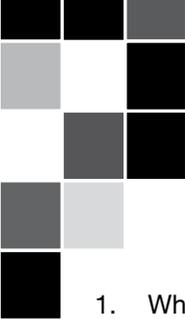
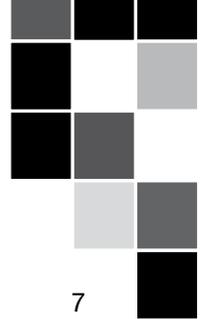


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Culture

Bangsamoro

Justice IP Matters Transitory Provisions

Political Autonomy

Social Justice Fiscal Autonomy Security Matters

Transition Commission

Basic Rights



BTC

Bangsamoro Transition Commission

BBL

Bangsamoro Basic Law

BTC What is the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC)?

The Bangsamoro Transition Commission, created by Executive Order 120, is a body authorized to draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) for the new Bangsamoro political entity. The members of the Commission shall draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law in conformity with the peace agreements between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). In relation to its task to draft the BBL, the BTC is also mandated to recommend to Congress or the people amendments to the 1987 Philippine Constitution, if it deems such necessary.

BTC Who are the members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission?

There are fifteen (15) members of the BTC all of whom are Bangsamoro and appointed by the President. Seven (7) members were selected by the government, while eight (8) members, including the Chairman, were selected by the MILF. In its 15 members, three (3) communities are represented in the Commission: the Muslims, the Christians and the Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

1

BTC What are the principles adopted by the BTC in drafting the Basic Law?

The BTC shall be guided, among others, by the following principles.

First: The BTC shall work as one body sharing a common vision for the peace and progress of the Bangsamoro region, which shall be embodied in a Basic Law, based upon the Framework Agreement and Annexes agreed upon by the GPH and the MILF.

Second: The BTC shall encourage popular participation in drafting the Basic Law through public hearings and consultations to ensure the inclusion of concerns and support for the law by its stakeholders.

Third: The Basic Law shall benefit all the peoples of the Bangsamoro, such as the Muslims, Christians, the Indigenous Peoples and the resident settlers within the territory of the Bangsamoro.

2

3

BTC How are these principles reflected in the rules and processes of the BTC?

The BTC rules provide that the Commission shall strive to decide by consensus on substantive issues such as the contents of the Basic Law. To promote popular participation, the BTC shall consult local leaders in the proposed Bangsamoro constituencies, as well as foreign experts. The BTC has engaged civil society organizations to assist in the information dissemination to the different communities.

4

BTC When Congress and the President approve the Basic Law will it immediately be effective?

No. There is still a final step. There shall be a plebiscite to give the people the choice to ratify the Basic Law in a popular referendum.

5

6

BTC What is the significance of ratification of the Basic Law in a plebiscite?

Ratification by the people in a plebiscite shall make the Basic Law effective. It confirms the Basic Law as the fundamental law of the Bangsamoro.

7

BTC How should people prepare for the plebiscite?

The plebiscite is an act of self-determination, wherein the Bangsamoro people and the inhabitants of the proposed Bangsamoro shall choose whether or not to abide by the Basic Law that will govern their political, social and economic life. It is important for the people to understand and participate in discussions on the provisions of the Basic Law, so that they may make well-informed decisions during the plebiscite.

8

9

BTC How will the BTC draft the Basic Law?

The BTC has created five (5) committees to draft the provisions of the Basic Law. These are the Committees on 1) Political Autonomy 2) Fiscal Autonomy 3) Justice and Security Matters 4) Basic Rights, Culture, Social Justice and Indigenous Peoples 5) Transitory Provisions, Amendments, Revisions and Miscellaneous Matters.

Two (2) separate committees were likewise constituted, namely, the Coordinating Committee and the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

BTC Who will participate in the plebiscite?

The registered voters of the following geographical areas shall participate in the plebiscite:

- a. The present geographical area of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao;
- b. The Municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantar, Tagoloan and Tangkal in the province of Lanao del Norte and all barangays in the municipalities of Kabacan, Carmen, Aleosan, Pigkawayan, Pikit and Midsayap that voted for inclusion in the ARMM during the 2001 plebiscite;
- c. The cities of Cotabato and Isabela; and
- d. All other contiguous areas where there is a resolution of the local government unit or a petition of at least ten percent (10%) of the qualified voters in the area asking for their inclusion at least two months prior to the conduct of the ratification of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

BTC Is it possible for areas not listed above to be included in the plebiscite?

Yes. Areas which are contiguous and outside the core territory where there are substantial populations of the Bangsamoro may opt anytime to be part of the territory upon petition of at least ten percent (10%) of the residents and approved by a majority of qualified voters in a plebiscite.

10

BTC Will a resolution or a petition of 10% of qualified voters be enough to be included in the Bangsamoro territory?

No. The resolution or petition of 10% of qualified voters will only be for purposes of being included in the plebiscite. A favorable vote of a majority of registered voters in a plebiscite is still needed for a territory to be included in the Bangsamoro.

11

BTC What happens upon the ratification of the Basic Law?

Provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays wherein the majority of voters have ratified the Basic Law will form part of the Bangsamoro which is the political entity that will replace the ARMM.

12

BTC What happens to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) upon the promulgation and ratification of the Basic Law?

Upon promulgation and ratification of the Basic Law, which provides for the creation of the Bangsamoro, the ARMM is deemed abolished. However, there shall be mechanisms in the Basic Law for the dissolution of the ARMM, severance of employees with due regard to civil service laws and rules, and the turnover of properties and assets to the Bangsamoro government.

13

BTC Upon the creation of the Bangsamoro, who will assume governance in the territory?

Upon ratification of the Basic Law in a plebiscite, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), as an interim government, shall assume the powers of governance and ensure the continued functioning of government in the territory of the Bangsamoro. The BTA may organize the bureaucracy into appropriate institutions of governance under a ministerial system. The primordial consideration is to ensure that public service will not be hampered; health and security will not be endangered.

14

BTC What will be the functions of the BTA?

The BTA shall perform the functions of an interim Bangsamoro government until the election and assumption of the members of the Bangsamoro Assembly and the formation of the Bangsamoro government in 2016.

15

The organization and composition of the BTA shall be provided for in the Basic Law. Its members shall be appointed by the President. It shall be MILF-led. The ministerial form and cabinet system shall commence once the BTA is in place.

BBL What Is the Bangsamoro Basic Law?

The Bangsamoro Basic Law is the governing law of the Bangsamoro political entity. As such, it establishes the Bangsamoro government, defines its powers and provides for its structure, among others.

BBL How is the Basic Law related to the 1996 Final Peace Agreement?

The Basic Law builds upon the gains of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement. The Annex on Power Sharing in fact provides that the BTC shall consider the proposed recommendations from the review process of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement for possible incorporation into the Basic Law.

It is hoped that the Basic Law will reflect the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people, as well as of the other inhabitants of the region. The Basic Law will articulate new political, financial, economic, commercial, ethnic and administrative infrastructures for attaining the peace and progress for the wide spectrum of all the people in the Bangsamoro.

BBL Why is real and meaningful autonomy important to the Bangsamoro?

Real and meaningful autonomy shall allow the the Bangsamoro to address the long-standing problems of injustice, poverty and social and political marginalization caused by institutions, laws and policies that are not attuned to the needs, grievances, identities and experiences of the Bangsamoro. Real autonomy shall afford the people to exercise their right to self-determination towards the development of political institutions and processes and their material resources, while preserving their cultural heritage, values and traditions.

16

BBL What if in the drafting of the BBL, the BTC finds that there is a provision in the BBL that may not be consistent with the Philippine Constitution?

The BTC is empowered to propose to Congress or to the people amendments to the Philippine constitution, should the BTC find such necessary.

17

18

BBL What is the new Bangsamoro political entity?

It consists of people, regional government and territory that remains part of the Republic of the Philippines. It will have its own distinct political, economic and social systems suitable to the life and culture of the Bangsamoro people. It will enjoy political and fiscal autonomy.

19

20

BBL What are political and fiscal autonomy?

Political autonomy means less interference by the Central government in governing the region and the Bangsamoro people shall be given more freedom to decide on how they will run their internal affairs.

21

Fiscal autonomy means that the Bangsamoro shall be given the freedom to generate its own resources and to allocate and budget its funds and resources according to their needs.

Political and fiscal autonomy pave the way for the Bangsamoro to be self-reliant and self-sustaining.

BBL How will the Basic Law bring change and meaningful autonomy to the Bangsamoro?

Between the Central government and the Bangsamoro government is a special relationship defined by the peace agreement as asymmetric. The Framework Agreement and its Annexes empower the Bangsamoro through its Basic Law to evolve and administer a ministerial system of government, the sharing of powers, the sharing of wealth from its natural resources, the process of normalization, provisions for transition and modalities, and fiscal autonomy with less interference from the Central government.

22

BBL What is the role of local government units (LGUs) in the ministerial system?

The privileges already enjoyed by the LGUs under existing laws shall not be diminished unless otherwise altered, modified or reformed for the purpose of good governance pursuant to the provisions of a Bangsamoro local government code.

Through the principle of subsidiarity, decisions are to be made at the appropriate levels to ensure public accountability and transparency, and in consideration of good governance and the general welfare. The Basic law shall promote cooperation among the public agencies in the Bangsamoro.

Furthermore, there shall be a Bangsamoro Council of Leaders composed of the Chief Minister, provincial governors, mayors of chartered cities, and representatives of different sectors.

The Bangsamoro government shall have the authority to regulate on its own responsibility the affairs of the local government units (LGUs).

24

25

BBL What is the ministerial system of government in the Bangsamoro?

In the ministerial government, the Bangsamoro Assembly will not only make the laws and policies, but shall also implement them through its cabinet. Both the law-making power and executive powers of government shall be vested in the Bangsamoro Assembly.

The Bangsamoro cabinet shall be composed of the Chief Minister, a Deputy Chief Minister, and such other ministers necessary to perform the functions of government. The Chief Minister shall be elected by majority vote from among the members of the assembly and shall exercise executive authority on its behalf. The Chief Minister shall appoint the Deputy Chief Minister from among the elected members of the assembly and the rest of the ministers, majority of whom shall also come from among the members of the assembly.

BBL How are members of the Bangsamoro Assembly elected?

The Basic Law shall provide for the system of allocation of the number of seats, and the broad representation of sectors and interest groups in the Bangsamoro Assembly. The Basic Law emphasizes the important role of political parties with genuine principles and platforms taking a stand on issues of governance that will affect the people.

BBL How does the Basic Law empower the Bangsamoro?

The Basic Law, in accordance with the Annex on Power Sharing, clearly delineates the power sharing arrangement between the Bangsamoro and the Central government. The Bangsamoro government shall have exclusive powers that it can exercise within its territorial jurisdiction. The Central government shall retain certain reserved powers. However, both the Central government and the Bangsamoro government shall share a number of concurrent powers within the Bangsamoro.

26

BBL What is the sharing in the revenues and income in the exploration and development of natural resources in the Bangsamoro?

Income from the exploration, development and exploitation of all the natural resources within the Bangsamoro shall be allocated as follows:

- a. For non-metallic minerals such as sand, gravel and quarry resources within the Bangsamoro, revenues shall belong to the Bangsamoro and its local government units.
- b. For metallic minerals within the Bangsamoro, seventy-five percent (75%) shall belong to the Bangsamoro, and twenty-five (25%) shall go to the Central government.
- c. For fossil fuels such as petroleum, natural gas and coal, and uranium, there shall be equal sharing of income between the Central and Bangsamoro governments.

28

BBL Will the Bangsamoro have the funds to improve the living conditions of the Bangsamoro people?

The Basic Law shall provide for additional sources of funds for the Bangsamoro. In addition to taxes already being collected by the ARMM, the Bangsamoro may also collect capital gains tax, estate tax, documentary stamp tax and donor's tax. All the revenues from these taxes will form part of the Bangsamoro treasury. From national taxes, fees and charges collected in the Bangsamoro, 75% shall go to the Bangsamoro and 25% to the Central government.

Greater fiscal autonomy is ensured by the automatic appropriation and release of annual block grant transfers from the Central government. A Special Development Fund shall also be provided by the Central government for rehabilitation and development.

The Bangsamoro shall have the authority to contract loans, credits and other forms of indebtedness with government or private banks and lending institutions except those requiring sovereign guaranty. The Bangsamoro may also avail of overseas development assistance (ODA) for priority development projects. Other sources of revenue include shares of government income derived from Bangsamoro government owned and controlled corporations, financial institutions, economic zones, and freeports operating within the Bangsamoro territory. It may receive grants derived from economic agreements entered into or authorized by the Bangsamoro Assembly such as donations, endowments and other forms of aid, subject to the reserved powers of Central government over foreign affairs. Grants and donations may be received directly by the Bangsamoro government to be used solely for the purpose for which they were received.

BBL With more funds and resources for the Bangsamoro, how do we ensure that there will be transparency and accountability in the use of these funds?

The Basic Law will provide for the mechanisms and regulations to promote accountability in the use of funds of the Bangsamoro government. The Bangsamoro shall have an auditing body with auditing responsibility over public funds of the Bangsamoro. This is without prejudice to the power, authority and duty of the national Commission on Audit to examine, audit and settle all accounts relating to revenues and use of funds.

The Bangsamoro Assembly may enact laws to ensure transparency mechanisms and the accountability of officials. The Basic Law also mentions the office of the hisbah, which is an office for public accountability, similar to the Ombudsman.

BBL Problems of peace and security hamper economic development, how will the Basic Law address these issues?

The enactment and ratification of the Basic Law in itself brings a message of peace and reconciliation of contending parties.

Law enforcement and maintenance of peace and order shall be the primary function of the police force for the Bangsamoro, which shall be professional, civilian, efficient and effective in law enforcement, fair, impartial and accountable under the law. The police force for the Bangsamoro shall be responsible both to the Bangsamoro and Central governments and to the communities it serves.

The Basic Law shall provide for the establishment of the police force for the Bangsamoro, and the structure of policing. The justice system in the Bangsamoro shall be strengthened and made accessible so that disputes are brought to the proper forum and do not become violent conflicts.

The Bangsamoro government shall implement the Sajahatra Bangsamoro, socio-economic impact programs aligned with the broad Bangsamoro Development Plan to address imbalances in economic growth and infrastructures among the Bangsamoro communities. The Bangsamoro government shall strive to build a peaceful society free from fear and want, committed to human dignity and human rights.

BBL How does the Bangsamoro justice system work in the Basic Law?

All citizens are guaranteed the basic right to the redress of grievances and due process of the law. In addition to this basic right already enjoyed under the Constitution, the Basic Law further provides for justice institutions in the Bangsamoro. The formal institutionalization and operation of the Shari'ah justice system, the expansion of the jurisdiction of the Shariah courts and competence over the Shariah justice system shall be established in the Bangsamoro. The supremacy of Shari'ah and its application shall be only to Muslims.

When necessary, the Basic law may institute measures to improve the workings of local civil courts. Aggrieved parties residing in the Bangsamoro may have recourse to the local courts, or among Muslims to the Shari'ah district or circuit courts.

The Basic Law expresses respect for the right of the indigenous peoples to the settlement of conflicts through their own tribal laws, and traditional systems.

The Basic Law shall also recognize other indigenous processes as alternative modes of dispute resolution.

BBL What are the rights of the indigenous peoples in the Bangsamoro?

Indigenous peoples are natives or original inhabitants of the Bangsamoro at the time of colonization. They have the freedom of choice to identify themselves, their spouses and descendants as Bangsamoro by so ascribing or self-ascribing themselves. Under the Basic Law, the rights, customs and traditions of indigenous peoples shall be respected.

31

32

BBL What are the rights over land ownership of a non-Bangsamoro residing inside the Bangsamoro territory?

All inhabitants of the Bangsamoro enjoy all the basic rights guaranteed by the Philippine Constitution, the Basic Law and international human rights conventions. No person in the Bangsamoro shall be discriminated against because of age, class, gender, disability, ethnicity, political or religious affiliation. The Basic Law further guarantees that vested property rights shall be recognized and respected. Any person who has a valid title to land he has acquired legally and fairly has nothing to fear.

BBL What shall be done in cases where the Bangsamoro were unjustly dispossessed of their lands?

Vested property rights shall be recognized and respected. Legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people arising from any unjust dispossession of their territorial and proprietary rights, customary land tenure or their marginalization shall be acknowledged. When restoration of the property is no longer possible, the Central government and the Bangsamoro government shall take effective measures for adequate reparation which shall be beneficial collectively to the Bangsamoro people.

33

34

BBL I am a resident in one of the proposed Bangsamoro areas. What can I do to help?

First, It is important to get correct information, study and understand the issues. There may be false information, malicious rumors, prejudice, ignorance and unfounded speculations that tend to divide and inflame emotions. Please do not believe these. Instead, read direct and reliable information materials like this Primer, and take an active part in public consultations on the Basic Law by asking frank questions and voicing your concerns.

Second, be an advocate of the Basic Law. Among your family and friends, explain how the Basic Law may be the best approach to end years of conflict and violence, by implementation of a true and workable framework for peace and socio-economic development in the Bangsamoro region.

Third, when the draft Basic Law is submitted to Congress for enactment into law, please express your support by calling, meeting, sending letters and social media messages to your representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate. If you are a member of an organization, please initiate the campaign for your group to issue to Congress a statement of strong support for the passage of the Basic Law.

Fourth, during the plebiscite go out and vote, and encourage others to vote “Yes!” to the Basic Law.

BBL Is there a role for those like me who live in Manila?

Yes. It is important to acknowledge that everyone is part of the solution to the problem of conflict in Mindanao. The entire nation is called upon to support the formula of the Basic Law agreed upon in the peace talks, and to accept our share in making compromises for the sake of peace.

We must stop speaking and thinking in negative terms about institutions and persons because of their different religious beliefs. To unite as one nation, we must set aside our stereotypes, prejudices, suspicions and hostilities that confuse our thinking, and have instead led us to our present problems.

We should learn the customs and traditions of the many indigenous tribes in Mindanao, about the purity of the teachings of the Qur’an which embraces the same basic tenets of the Bible. To be one peaceful, progressive and modern Philippines, we must open ourselves to discover the rich cultural diversities we have within our own house.

BBL What can social institutions do?

Schools, churches, mosques and media are in strategic positions to create avenues for dialogue and discussions on the peace agreement and the Basic Law. Students can discuss the Basic Law and its overwhelming significance to the Bangsamoro and to the progress of our nation in their classes in social studies, political science, economics, urban and rural planning, trade and commerce, Islamic banking, agricultural and fisheries productivity, the humanities and international understanding. Religious leaders can reinforce the messages of benevolence to the poor, tolerance for diversity, and the enduring values of the spiritual truths they preach and represent in the modern world.

Let us give peace a chance.

Let us help to solve the inequalities of the poorest people in our country.

They are also our brothers of the house we live in.

Let us live not only by the words we preach, but also by our example.

*For it is said that lasting peace shall only come
to women and men of good will.*



Hon. Abdulla Camlian

An alternate member of the MILF Peace Panel since 2010, Camlian has been an erstwhile member and later Chairman of the MILF Technical Committee. He finished BS Military

Science in 1965 in the Cairo Military Academy. Camlian hails from Basilan and is of Sama-Bangingi-Tausug descent.



Hon. Said Shiek

Shiek was the head of the MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities. He finished his degree in Secondary Education at the Lanao National College and

practiced his teaching profession in the province. Shiek is Maranao by ethnicity.



Hon. Hussein Muñoz

A native of Davao Oriental, Muñoz is a graduate of AB Political Science at the University of Mindanao in Davao City. He is the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces

and is a respected Base Commander. Also known as "Sonny Davao," he is fluent in English and Tagalog, as well as in Maguindanaon, Tausug, and Bisaya. Muñoz hails from Lupon, Davao Oriental.



Hon. Asani Tammang

Tammang is a proud son of the town of Panamao in the Province of Sulu. He came from a humble yet respected family of the municipality and became one of the most outstanding

trial lawyers of the province. He served as an Assistant Provincial Prosecutor before he was elected to the House of Representatives for three consecutive terms during the 9th, 10th, and 11th Congresses.



Hon. Pedrito Eisma

Eisma is a prominent figure in local Basilan media and has been recognized twice as an Outstanding Municipal Councilor, being an awardee of the Gawad Parangal ng Bayan in

1999 and the Excellence in Public Service Award in 2000. Eisma has the distinction of authoring the resolution which led to the conversion of the municipality of Isabela into a component city. He finished his Bachelor of Law at Silliman University. Eisma is a Roman Catholic and is a native of Basilan.



Hon. Fatmawati Salapuddin

Salapuddin is a peace advocate and have worked in the area of peacemaking in the civil society sector before serving as the Director of the Bureau of Peace and Conflict

Resolution under the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos since 2010. She also served as a member of the Consultative Assembly of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD), the transition mechanism of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement with the MNLF. Salapuddin is a native of Sulu.



Hon. Raissa Jajurie

Jajurie is a Tausug and hails from Jolo, Sulu. She obtained her Political Science degree from the Ateneo de Manila University and then finished Law at the University of the Philippines in 1994.

She has worked with marginalized sectors and identities even while in college, and then moved on to full-time human rights lawyering after passing the bar in 1995, working specifically on issues of workers, women, and later on, on peace in Mindanao, indigenous peoples, and the Moros. She sits in the Board of Consultants of the peace panel of the MILF.



Hon. Froilyn Mendoza

Mendoza is a Teduray who hails from South Upi, Maguindanao. She was a member of the all-women contingent of the Civilian Protection Component of the International Monitoring Team.

She obtained her degree in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan. She was the advocacy specialist of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance for the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples in the ARMM. She is one of the founding members of the Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc.

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to the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, please contact
BTC Secretariat via e-mail**

btc.secretariat@mail.com

Mobile Number

(+63) 916 440 6783

Communications Group

comgroup.btc@gmail.com

or by sending a letter to the address below:

**Elena V. Co Building, Don Rufino Alonzo Street,
Cotabato City, Philippines 9600**

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