

Delivered during the Lanao Month of Peace Opening Activity
on March 5, 2021

*Isti'adhah
Basmalah
Hamdalah
Musa's du'a
Amma baad*

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaratu.

Thank you for inviting me to speak before you and join your community as you celebrate the Lanao Month of Peace. It brings me so much pride and joy to be commemorating this milestone with you – to remind ourselves that when this started as early as the early 2000s, our peace and order situation appeared bleak. But now, this occasion is reason for us to come together and herald the peace, camaraderie, cooperation, and mutual trust that has become our new normal. May we not forget this. May we not take this for granted. That we have come a long way from where we began.

Na hindi pa man perpekto at hindi pa man nakakamit ang pangmatagalan at lubos na kapayapaan sa kanyang pinakarurok, sa pamamagitan ng ating determinasyon at pagtutulungan, malayo ang ating nararating. Maraming tagumpay ang ating nakakamit. At unti-unti nating binibigyang buhay ang pinapangarap natin para sa mga susunod na henerasyon – isang pamayanang binubuo man ng iba't-iba sektor, iba't-ibang paniniwala, at iba't-ibang kinabibilangan – ito naman ay isang komunidad na nagkakaisa at namumuhay nang payapa.

Malayo pa ang ating lalakbayin. Sa panahong ang kapayapaang ating natatamasa ay humaharap sa mga panibagong pagsubok, sigurado akong lalo tayong hindi bibitaw. We have come a long way and we've shown resilience in the face of adversities worse than the ones that are threatening our sense of unity and community now. May this day and month be our reminder that us working together means we shall overcome these, too. Let us draw strength from each other. Let us find inspiration and motivation from one another. And together, let us soldier on and fight – fight for peace, understanding, and unity.

Maraming salamat po at isang mainit na pagbati sa buwan ng kapayapaan.

ATTY. ANNA TARHATA BASMAN
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