

Delivered during the 4th Anniversary of the Marawi Siege Event

On May 23, 2021

Today we remember the 4th year of the Marawi Siege, and we grieve with all those who lost family, friends, and loved ones; those who had to leave behind a crucial piece of their cultural and religious identity in the rubble; those whose lives continue to suffer today, and who struggle to recover especially amid a pandemic.

At the same time, we celebrate the continued strength of the Maranaos who have shown their unwavering desire to return to our homeland and to hold those who must to task – despite the long passage of time.

We know there are no words that would ease your pain and grief, or that would bring back what you lost. But know that the Bangsamoro Government is doing all it can with what authority it has in Marawi's rehabilitation. This past year, we have been able to complete our report in the Special Committee on Marawi, which has led to the establishment of the BARMM Marawi Rehabilitation Program. Seeing the need to improve how fast we are able to respond to the needs of the displaced and affected, the Office of the Chief Minister has also created a Project Management Office to implement programs directly.

And we are making strides in this endeavor. So far, the BARMM MRP has approved a total of 10 projects, covering at least half of the P1 billion allotted for 2020 and 2021. These include the Profiling Survey of Displaced Persons to improve project targeting and delivery; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene projects to help IDPs in temporary shelters; Mobile Health Care utilities including mobile clinics, lake ambulances, and cadaver transports; the Bangsamoro Sagip Kabuhayan Project, which provides cash assistance to help beneficiaries jumpstart their businesses; and technical assistance to those desiring to rebuild within the MAA and require the possession of building permits for the purpose. Many more projects are in the pipeline for BARMM MRP that will respond to the immediate, mid-term, and long-term needs of those in the shelters, those who are homebased, and even those outside the BARMM among our IDPs. We hope all these show an indubitable fact: that the Bangsamoro Government is serious in making Marawi's rehab a priority agenda—and it will remain our priority in the months and years to come.

Today we renew our commitment to a response that is people-centered, that is effective and inclusive, that truly caters to the needs of those who were displaced as they have communicated to us in consultations. We will continue to do what we can where we can; and where we may have no authority, you will always find our voice amplifying yours—until, In shaa Allah, the residents of Marawi finally return home; until our sisters and brothers reclaim their lives; until the city rises again, more prosperous, more secure, more peaceful than before.

ATTY. ANNA TARHATA BASMAN

Member of the Parliament, Bangsamoro