

# EMPOWERING VOICES



Office of the Member of Parliament Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph  
Bangsamoro Transition Authority, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

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## Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 stands for Corona Virus Disease 2019. Last week, March 25, MP Maisara participated in the international online conference of the International Alliance for COVID-19 Community Response. Various leaders and experts shared the situations in local communities and shared insights and strategies to help defeat the global pandemic. She was also given a spot to discuss the situation in Bangsamoro communities. We would like to share of them here.

When the World Health Organization (WHO) changed COVID-19 status from being to Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) into a global pandemic (a diseases prevalent around the world) on March 11, we have heard 118,319 cases and 4,292 deaths around the world. By April 4, the tally of confirmed cases has reach 1,098,762 or more than a

*(Go to next page)*

MP Maisara and her young team were able to celebrate Women’s Month just before the various levels of COVID-19 community quarantine were implemented. We plan to continue the activities in the month of April, or when the lockdowns end. In the mean time, read about MP Maisara’s reflection as a first-time woman legislator in the Bangsamoro, page 3.

### Featured Voice

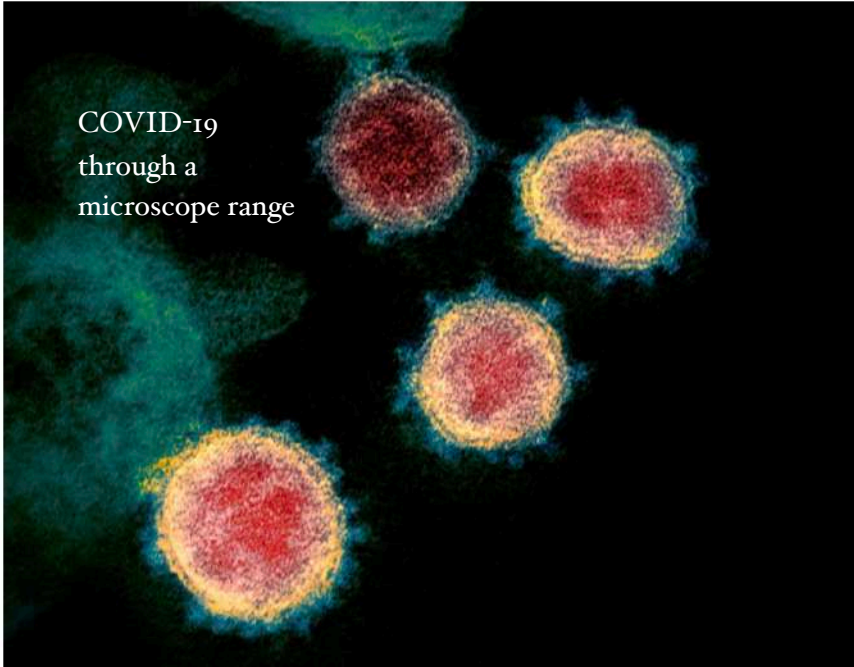
Here is our staff’s recall of the Marawi’s Internally Displaced Population (IDP) journey since the siege on May 23, 2017 to the present. See page 16.



Send your comments and feedback to: [mpmaisara@gmail.com](mailto:mpmaisara@gmail.com) or find our Facebook page: BTA Member Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph

million, while the deaths have climbed to 59,172 ([https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm\\_campaign=homeAdvegas1?](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm_campaign=homeAdvegas1?)).

In the Philippines, as of April 4, the reported confirmed cases have reached 3,018 with 136 deaths. (DOH April 4 tracker; URL: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid-19/case-tracker>.)

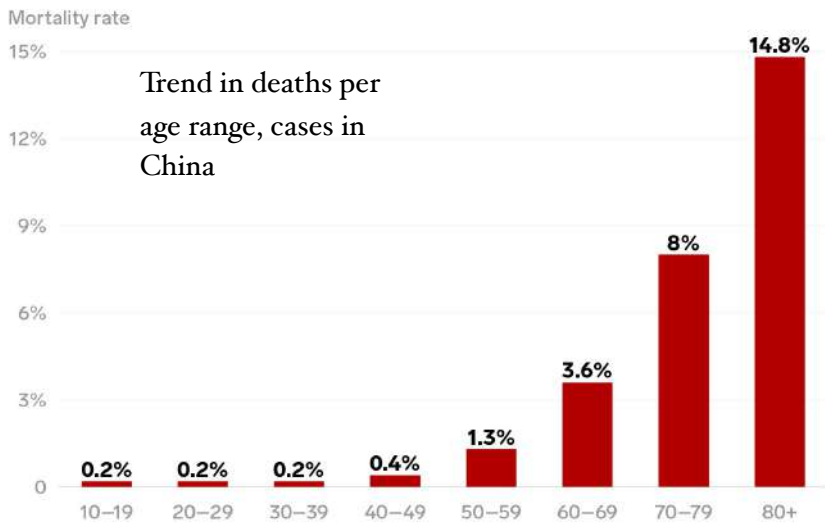


COVID-19 through a microscope range

An image of the new coronavirus taken with an electron microscope. Credit: U.S. National Institutes of Health/AP/Shutterstock

Retrieved on 27 March 2020 from nature.com, URL: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00660-x>

### COVID-19 mortality rate by age



Infographic by: Shayanne Gal, Business Insider, retrieved on 27 March 2020 from URL: <https://www.sciencealert.com/covid-19-s-death-rate-is-higher-than-thought-but-it-should-drop>

The BARMM Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) confirmed a local case admitted as a in Cotabato City However, this does not mean that our cases are low. Our lack in testing kits still render us incapable of testing the Persons Under Investigation (PUI, those who are untested but showing symptoms) and Persons Under Monitoring (PUM, those who had close contact with infected individuals but show no symptoms).

Before that, let us look at our health indicators or factors that affect our effectivity in stopping the spread of the virus.

When we, BTA members, took our posts, we already knew the challenges we will be facing. We already knew that among our more or less four (4) million constituents, 61.3 percent of them or roughly 2.45 million belong to the poor (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2018).

However now that a new kind of virus is bringing the world on its knees, we realize that we all never had an inkling that we would be facing a pandemic at a time that we are still striving to strengthen our self-governance, build peace, alleviate poverty and prove ourselves worthy of the trust of the

*Continued on page 4*

## Legislating for an office of women in the Bangsamoro: My experience as a first-time Legislator

**Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No.8**, entitled, “**An act creating the Bangsamoro Women Commission of the BARMM, providing for its powers, functions and composition and appropriating funds therefor**” is one of the first legislation for women that I have co-authored, lobbied, and participated fully in all levels of legislation. From the drafting of the bill to the consultations on the ground to its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading until the very end, its passage was overwhelmingly passed with zero abstentions and zero negative votes by the BTA Parliament on 31 January 2020.

This law symbolizes the struggle of many women in the Bangsamoro. Their hopes, dreams and aspirations. It recognized the vital role of women in building a just and humane society and participation in all levels of governance, peace-building and women’s right to be protected from all forms of exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Ultimately, the law recognized women’s rights as human rights.

As a first-time woman legislator working with fellow human rights and women advocates had been a dream come true for me. I never imagined in my wildest dream that I would be part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bangsamoro Parliament and thereafter be given a huge opportunity and responsibility to legislate on the creation of an office that will promote and protect the rights of women and work towards a just and equitable Bangsamoro society. I was given a chance to defend our bill at the plenary, answer the interpellators and even debate on the wisdom and propriety of each and every provision. Those days were the one the most memorable days for me as a

woman and as an advocate. The strength was not just from me but from the fellow members of the parliament who were there. Beginning with the Chairperson MP Bainon Karon principal author of the bill, from MNLF, a soft-spoken and gentle woman leader who stood mightily with her wisdom and years of experience on women’s issues and struggle is my inspiration. Minister Raissa Jajurie the deputy majority floor leader from MILF of Social Services and Development who represented the Government of the Day. Her mental acuity and handle of human rights and women’s rights had been my source of confidence. Other women MPs who was at my side during the deliberations and interpellations, MP Dr. Susana Anayatin a Christian Settler leader who had been very supportive and made sure that there will be representation from her sector, MP Diamila Disimban Ramos who introduced amendments to improve the draft bill. MP Atty. Anna Tarhata Basman our young member who gave clever ideas during the debates. And of course, our male members of the Parliament who supported the passage and introduced amendments to make the bill better. Incidentally out of 80, only 13 are women members of the BTA Parliament.

As a newbie in legislation, my experience in the passage of this very important law for women in the Bangsamoro has taught me a valuable lesson: that our strength and capacities as women is from our ability to cooperate with each other and pool our resources together to succeed in our goal. That we should engage our men counterparts and get their commitment and understanding that women’s equality and gender justice in the Bangsamoro shall forever be protected and respected. That day was indeed a celebration and affirmation of women’s rights in the Bangsamoro. I am both happy and proud to be part of the passage of the law.

—MP Maisara

**“Our strength and capacities  
as women come from our  
ability to cooperate with  
each other”**



The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 pertains to achieving clean water and sanitation for all. The UN\* refers to improved drinking water source to include safe drinking water and

- Piped household water connection
- Public standpipe
- Borehole
- Protected dug well
- Protected spring
- Rainwater collection

Unimproved drinking water sources include:

- Unprotected dug well
- Unprotected spring
- Surface water (river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, irrigation channel)
- Vendor-provided water (cart with small tank/drum, tanker truck)
- Bottled water
- Tanker truck water

Bottled water is not considered improved due to limitations in the potential quantity, not quality, of the water.

The UN refers to improved sanitation facilities as usually ensuring the separation of human excreta from human contact, and include:

- Flush or pour-flush toilet/latrine to:
  - Piped sewer system
  - Septic tank
  - Pit latrine
- Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine
- Pit latrine with slab
- Composting toilet

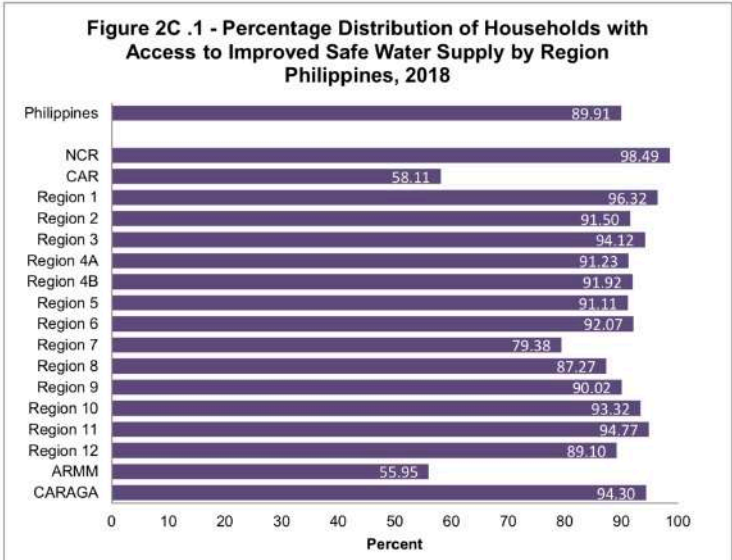
Improved sanitation facility may also refer to **shared sanitation facilities** are of an otherwise acceptable improved type of sanitation facility that is shared between two or more households. Shared facilities include public toilets.

**Unimproved sanitation facilities** do not ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact and include:

- Pit latrine without a slab or platform
- Hanging latrine
- Bucket latrine
- Open defecation in fields, forests, bushes, bodies of water or other open spaces, or disposal of human feces with solid waste

\*Reference: WHO, UNICEF. Progress on drinking water and sanitation: 2015 update and MDG assessment. Cdc-pdf [PDF – 90 pages]External 2015. URL: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/>

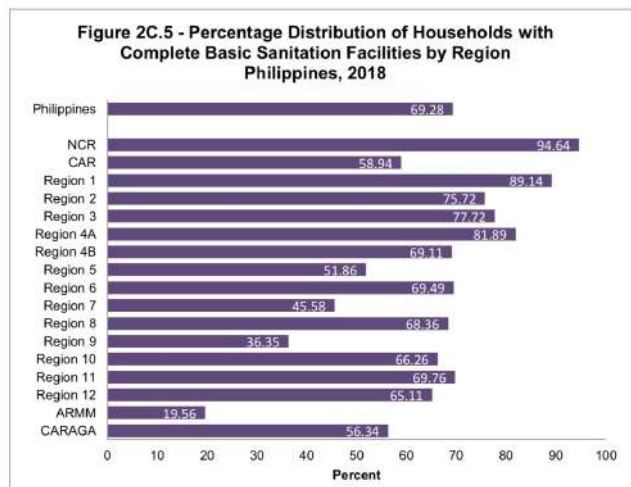
... COVID 19 , continued from page 2



Although access to safe water is a priority in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations member countries such the Philippines, as shown in the FHSIS chart, our region fared lowest in percentage of households having improved access to safe water supply. It only had 55.95 percent achievement compared to the national average of 89.91 percent.

We were also lowest in terms of complete basic sanitation facilities, which also means that open defecation is still the practice in many communities in the Bangsamoro.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases that have struck the region continue to teach us the importance of bringing down to the ground basic social services that directly affect the health and survival of our constituents.





Philippine President and the belief of the national legislators, but more importantly the public funds that come from the people’s taxes. We see how much we, in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, have to work to better equip our citizens with the capacity to better protect themselves from infectious diseases such as COVID-19 —even with the simple yet critical discipline of hand washing with soap.

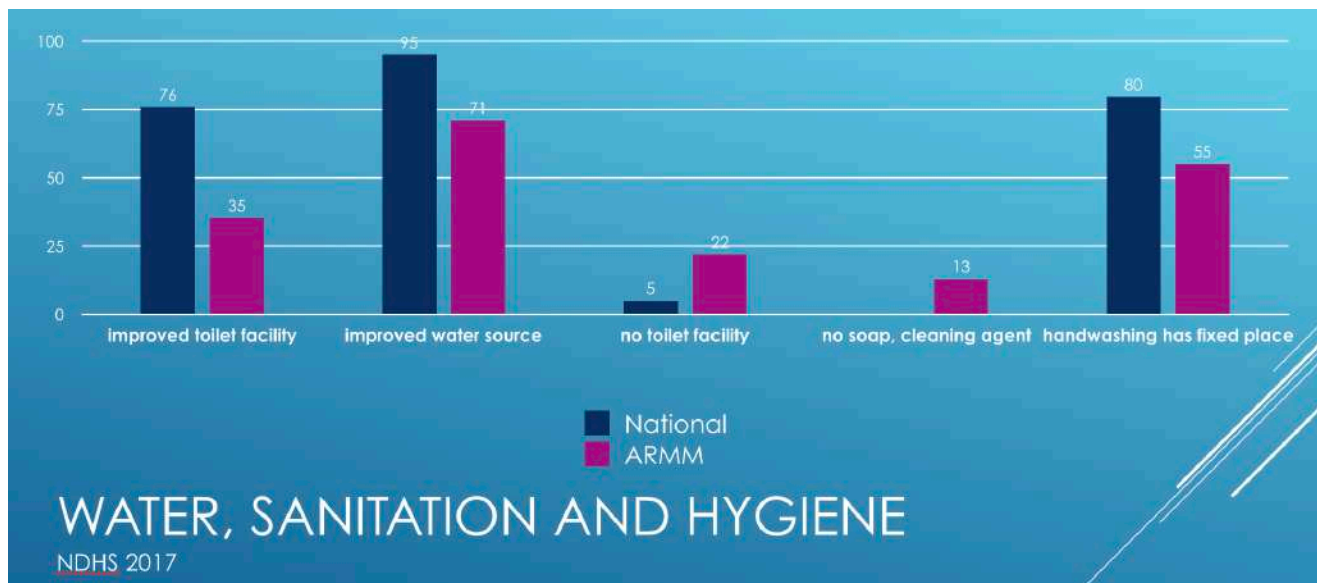
The figure below illustrates the findings of the 2017 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS). The survey found our region (Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi provinces plus the cities of Marawi and Lamitan) faring low compared to national average in terms of toilet facility, water source, availability of coal or cleaning agent and fixed hand washing place in the home.

ARMM only had 35 percent access to improved toilet facility and improved water source. Around 22 percent of its surveyed population had no toilet facility at all, 13 percent do not have soap or any cleaning agent at all, and only 55 percent have a fixed hand washing place at home.

These inadequacies contribute a lot to our vulnerability to infectious diseases.

For the past many years, BARMM had already been trailing behind in human development indicators compared to other regions in the country. With the COVID-19, which we cannot see with our eyes, we also rely on the availability of clean water, purchasing capacity for soaps and disinfectants, access to critical information and health services, and adequate health structures in place. BTA and the Bangsamoro people are faced with far greater challenges—we are like an unprepared people, poorly armoured and facing an unseen, dangerous, highly mobile and fast enemy.

We should be pushing for reliable provision of clean water and sanitation facilities to everyone, especially to families and communities that are isolated geographically and needing more opportunities economically. On our part, the goal is create and support legislation that will ensure this achievement.



We have to act fast. As of March 20, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of BARMM and the Bangsamoro Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) on COVID-19 reported that there are 4,501 persons under monitoring (PUM), 132 persons under investigation (PUI). Lanao del Sur, has 1,376 PUMs and 23 PUIs. Tawi-Tawi has 802 PUMs and five (5) PUIs. Sulu has 492 PUMs and 37 PUIs. Basilan has 646 PUMs and 19 PUIs. Maguindanao has 1,185 PUMs and 48 PUIs. There were already three (3) fatalities.

The first COVID-19 patient died at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro City last March 3. The patient came from Pasig City and returned to Lanao del Sur before Metro Manila implemented a lockdown. Another patient died at Amai Pakpak Mindanao Medical Center while undergoing treatment for pneumonia and acute respiratory system. Striving to respond to this crisis, the MoH have already directed hospitals in BARMM to prepare dedicated wards for COVID-19 patients. The MILG and the Ministry for Social Services (MSS) have been distributing food packs. Other officials like myself are also doing their part in easing the burdens that COVID-19 and the lockdowns have been causing on our poorer communities. My office, even with our limited resources, has also been distributing rice and canned goods to some communities in Lanao del Sur and Bangsamoro communities outside of BARMM.

Given our deficiencies, our region could face greater suffering unless we halt the transmissions, give effective treatment to patients, protect our frontline workers and, at the same time, assist poorer families and communities to survive the lockdowns through sufficient and culturally-sensitive food and non-food relief.

While we wait for a vaccine to combat the disease, the challenges we see in our context are

## COVID-19 Online Resources:

**Department of Health (DOH) online realtime updates on the COVID in the Philippines and the globe**  
URL: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>

**World Health Organization (WHO) website on COVID in the Philippines**  
URL: <https://www.who.int/philippines/emergencies/covid-19-in-the-philippines>

### UP Portal

This portal serves as a compilation of verified information and resource materials on UP's actions during this public health situation. Please bookmark and refresh this page to get the latest updates on UP's response to COVID-19. Share this site and help us prevent the spread of misinformation.  
URL: <https://www.up.edu.ph/covid-19-updates/>

### COVID Scientific Resources

The online resource is provided by CERAH, the [University of Geneva](#) and the [Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies \(IHEID\)](#), and aims to inform governments, humanitarian organizations and media representatives on the latest evidence on the COVID-19 virus. This page also refers to online resources from reputable organizations where updated information is published.  
URL: <https://www.cerahgeneve.ch/>

overwhelming. Some of these challenges could be similar to other communities in the Philippines or any part of the world.

1. *Informing and getting the cooperation of communities to break the transmission*
2. *Breaking the secrecy and moving toward effective contact tracing and prompt testing*
3. *Ensuring culturally-sensitive quarantine and treatment for patients*
4. *Efficiently protecting health workers and supplementing personnel everywhere*
5. *Sustaining services and sufficient supplies especially in populous areas or where there are high number of infections*
6. *Mobilizing local leaders to ensure consistent LGU support and cooperation with health personnel and facilities*
7. *Attending to the special and additional needs of the vulnerable Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) who lack most of the resources such as food, water, cleaning agent, and space for social distancing*
8. *Ensuring delivery of holistic support to geographically isolated and conflict-affected areas*
9. *Ensuring the survival of the poorer sectors and families or those who rely on daily wages/earnings outside of the home by providing basic necessities or alternative sources of income*
10. *Dealing with security problems associated with quarantines or lockdowns such as the rise in crimes*
11. *Planning to bounce back from the social effects of the pandemic and economic setbacks*
12. *Learning from the pandemic to build a disease-resistant region*
13. *Using all kinds of helpful technology in all aspects of the fight and resilience-building against the or any pandemic*

In the meantime, we commit to not back down from this great challenge. We continue to pray that the Bangsamoro and the country can triumph over this pandemic.

—MP Maisara

## *Commitment to women's human rights*

Human rights are both for men and women. Women should be valued for their contribution to society, no matter what role they play. Women have to trust themselves that they are capable and can become more than what roles society has set for them.

To enrich our understanding of women's issues, we participated in a three-day summit celebrating the National Women's Summit from March 4 to 6, 2020 at Miriam College in Quezon City. Worldwide, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day.

At the Summit, around 400 women from various women's organizations in the Philippines gathered to celebrate and also discuss the 25 Years of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) from the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in 1995.

The Keynote Speaker was *Patricia B. Licuanan*, the former Chairperson of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW).

Her speech, "Beijing on My Mind," reflected on the accomplishments of the FWCW, women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, power



*"Our participation is fundamental to democratic governance... when women are in leadership roles, positive change does happen."*

and decision making, mechanism for the advancement of women, human right of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl-child.

According to Dr. Licuanan, the FWCW:

- a) Elevated the issue violence against women to the level of public policy,
- b) Broadened the definition of violence against women,
- c) Acknowledged women's unremunerated work, d) brought women's sexual rights within parameters of human rights, and
- d) Affirmed the rights of the girl-child.

However, Dr. Licuanan added that there are:

- Persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
- Inequalities and inadequacies in access to education and training;



- Inequalities and inadequacies in access to health care and related services;
- Physical, sexual, and psychological abuse experienced by women and girls across income, class, and culture;
- Effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women including those living under foreign occupation;
- Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all form of productive activities and in access to resources;
- Inequality between women and men in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;
- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
- Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women;
- Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems especially in the media;
- Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment; and,
- Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl-child.

Dr. Licuanan's insights make us reflect on our own situation in BARMM.

We are thankful for the respect that officials and staff at the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) give to women colleagues. MP Maisara feels that equal voice and equitable footing whenever she delivers a talk, shares her insights and proposes or discuss a legislation.

However, we also realize that while we are in transition and “the iron is still hot and malleable,” we should strive for legislation and policy that strengthen Bangsamoro women's empowerment through holistic education, access to reproductive health services, participation in regional and local governance, development programs and peace-building.

We also see the importance of generating ground data to understand the various realities that women face, especially those living below the poverty line.

We hope that when the transition ends in 2022, Bangsamoro women are, at least, beginning to have an equal voice and decision in the home, community, places of education and work, governance, media and governance.

MP Maisara and her team commit to these goals for the women in the Bangsamoro.

—*Laarnie B. Racman, Ph.D.*

*“We should strive for legislation and policy that strengthen Bangsamoro women's empowerment... generating ground data to understand the various realities that women face.”*

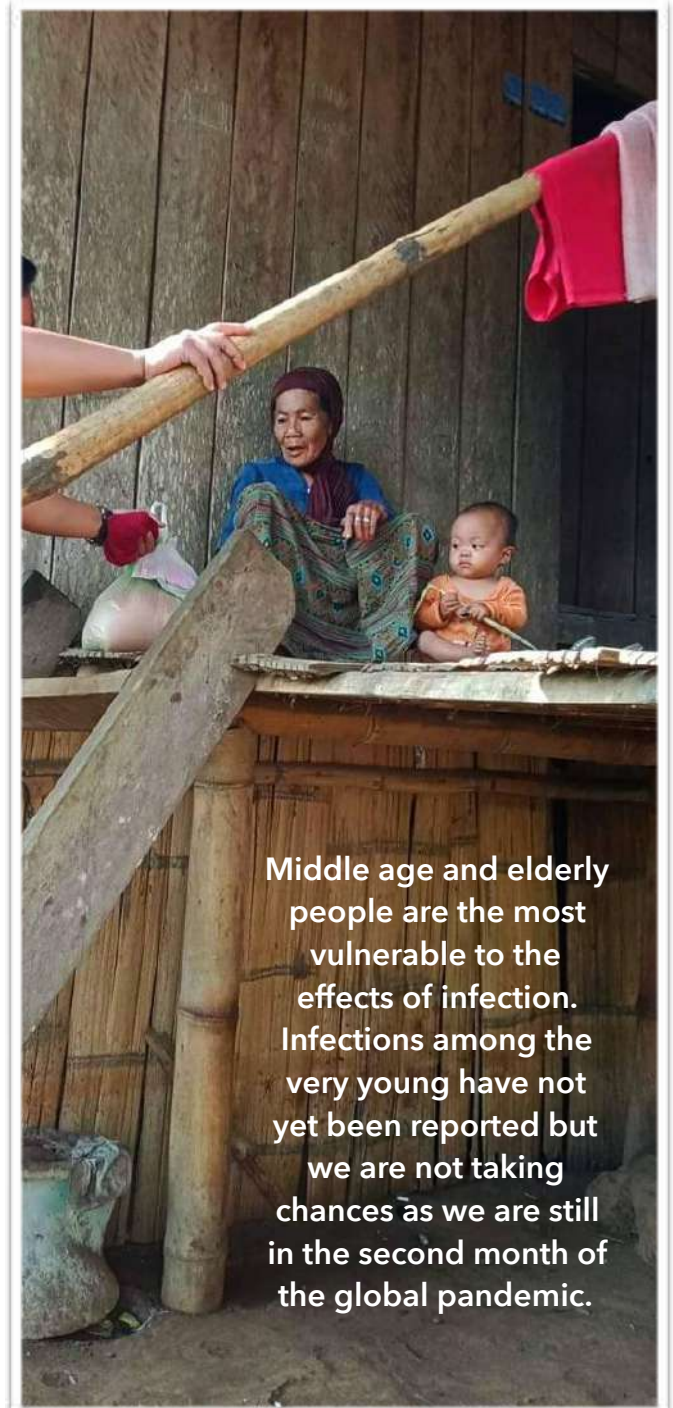
## COVID-19 Tabang Program by MP Maisara

To aid in the survival of families most in need of food relief while necessary quarantines or lockdowns are being implemented, we have partnered with several local government units, barangay officials and local volunteer groups, academic offices, youth groups to bring food packs containing rice, noodles, grocery items and hygiene products.

The program continues and we are reaching out to more areas. Our resources are limited but we are doing what we can to help the most in need families get through this pandemic.

Lanao del Sur alone has an estimated more or less 100,000 families who will be needing food aid. BARMM has an estimate of more or less 400,000 families living below the poverty line (calculated from Philippine Statistics Authority 2018 estimates).

For the distribution, the “vulnerable” and “at-risk” include the poorest of the poor, internally displaced persons (IDPs), old persons who receive no pension or support, single parents, widows, youths, persons with disability and persons adversely affected by the lockdowns in terms of income such as Pedicab drivers and small vendors.



Middle age and elderly people are the most vulnerable to the effects of infection. Infections among the very young have not yet been reported but we are not taking chances as we are still in the second month of the global pandemic.



*Rice just in time*

As the quarantines or lockdowns began, many mothers have sent us messages asking for food support. Barangay Captains have been mandated to distribute food relief to their needy constituents but while waiting for some of them to do so, a few kilograms of rice at the time it is needed most is a “life saver” as what some recipient families have said.

*Youth volunteers make the program possible*

Mostly young volunteers from the communities purchase, pack and distribute the food. They undergo orientation on keeping themselves and others safe by strictly following WHO-prescribe personal hygiene practices such as frequent and prolonged hand washing with soap, social distancing, and disinfecting before and after packing. Masks are worn during distribution.

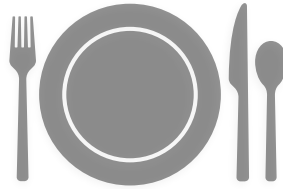




# Summary Distribution of Food Relief and Other Items as of March 31, 2020

100

Rice and Noodles packs  
Farmers from Brgy. Mananayo  
Malabang, Lanao del Sur (LDS)



165

Rice packs  
Senior citizens and single parents  
household heads in Tugaya, LDS

660

Rice and Grocery packs  
Stranded students staying in  
university dormitories in Marawi



100

Rice and Grocery packs  
Senior citizens and single parents  
household heads in Bayabao, LDS

135

Rice and Noodles packs  
IDPs based in Bakwit Village  
located at Saguieran, LDS



Clipart

100

Rice and Grocery packs  
Senior citizens and single parents  
household heads in Taraka, LDS

400

Hygiene Kits, Masks, Notes to avoid COVID-19 packs  
Senior citizens and prenant women from  
10 barangays of Malabang, LDS



Shutterstock image

155

Rice and Grocery packs  
BCOBARMM-Senior Citizens,  
Widows, Single Parents, Pedicab/

100

Rice and Grocery Items packs  
Senior citizens and single parents  
household heads in Butig, LDS

155

Rice and Grocery packs  
BCOBARMM-Senior Citizens, Widows,  
Single Parents, Pedicab/Sikad Drivers,  
Vendors in Calooan City  
Senior citizens and single parents

TOTAL

2,170

Family and Individual recipients



TOTAL

34

COMMUNITIES



# Useful information on COVID-19 prevention

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE?



**OBSERVE PROPER HAND HYGIENE**  
Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds (or two rounds of "Happy Birthday"), and, if available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



**PRACTICE GOOD COUGH ETIQUETTE**  
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and properly and immediately dispose of the tissue. Wash your hands properly afterward.



**REMEMBER THAT YOUR FACE IS SACRED**  
Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



**AVOID EATING RAW OR IMPROPERLY COOKED ANIMAL PRODUCTS**  
as COVID-19 is also animal-transmitted. Thoroughly cook meat and eggs.



**KEEP YOUR GADGETS AND PERSONAL ITEMS CLEAN**  
Disinfect your mobile phones, tablets, laptops, bags, eyeglasses, etc. regularly.



**BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM**  
by eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep and exercise, and drinking plenty of water. A strong immune system will be better able to fight off COVID-19.



**GET YOUR INFORMATION ONLY FROM TRUSTED SOURCES**  
to prevent the spread of fake news and disinformation.



**WEAR THE FACE MASK PROPERLY**  
Wear the face mask with the colored side facing outward. Remove the mask by holding only the strings. Wear one only when necessary, such as if you are immunocompromised or have a cough and cold.



**RESPECT PERSONAL SPACE**  
Avoid crowded places and maintain at least a one-meter distance between yourself and other people, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever.



**WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER AFTER CONTACT WITH PETS**  
Although there is no evidence yet that pets can be infected with COVID-19, this will help prevent the spread of other germs such as E. coli and Salmonella.

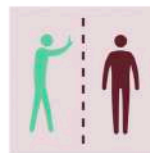


**WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER HANDLING THINGS SUCH AS DOOR KNOBS AND TABLE TOPS**  
Although coronaviruses do not survive long on objects, they have been detected on places like door knobs, table tops or other surfaces.

### HOME SELF-QUARANTINE INSTRUCTIONS



**STAY AT HOME**  
EXCEPT WHEN GETTING MEDICAL CARE



**SEPARATE YOURSELF**  
FROM OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR HOME



**AVOID SHARING**  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



**WASH HANDS WITH WATER AND SOAP FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS**  
OR 2 ROUNDS OF "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" SONG, AND SANITIZE WITH ALCOHOL



**COVER YOUR COUGH AND SNEEZES**  
WITH TISSUE



**WEAR A FACE MASK**  
WITH THE COLORED SIDE FACING OUTWARD



**MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS**

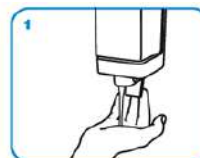


**CALL AHEAD**  
BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

## Proper hand washing according to WHO



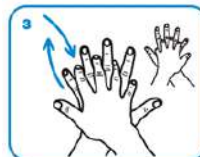
Wet hands with water



apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



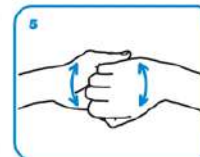
Rub hands palm to palm



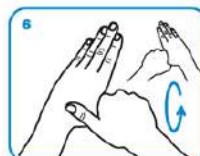
right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



palm to palm with fingers interlaced



backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



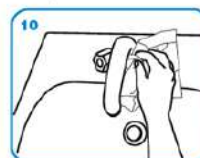
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.

Screenshots from UP COVID-19 Information and Resources

URL: <https://www.up.edu.ph/covid-19-updates>

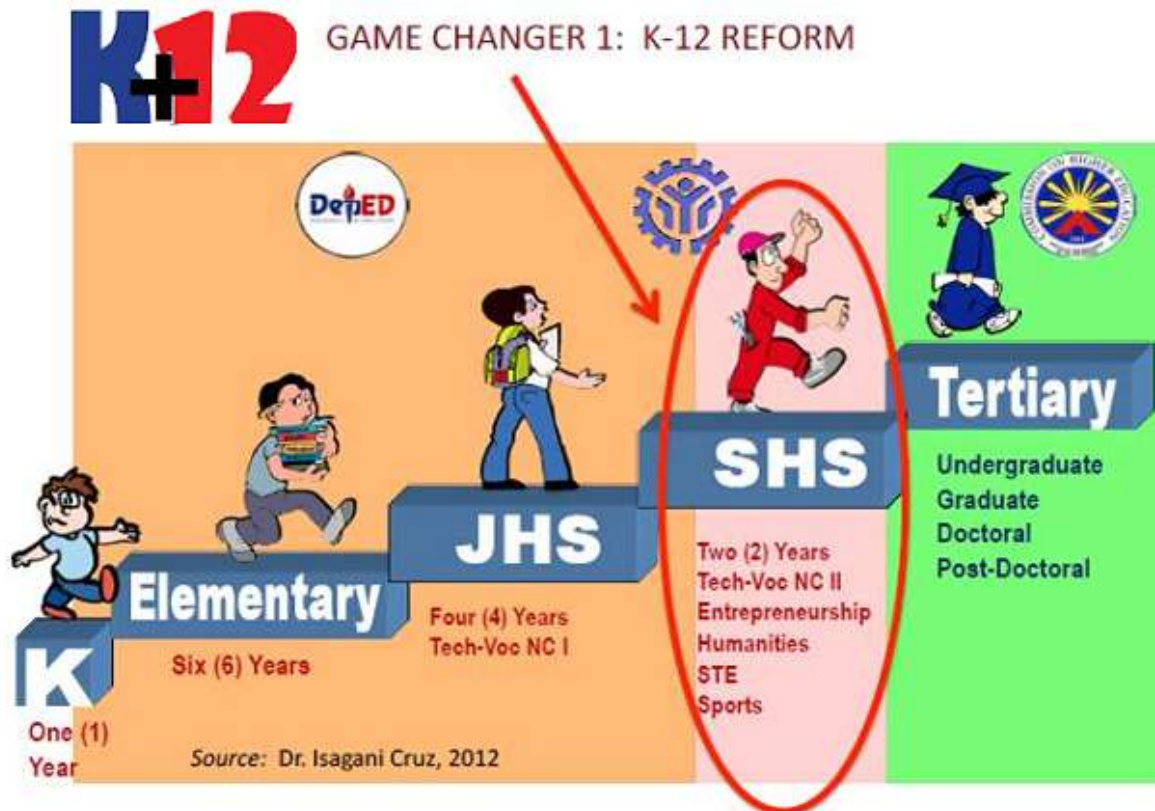
URL: [https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean\\_hands\\_protection/en/](https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/)

# A Game Changer: Supporting Senior High Work Immersion

One of the requirements of the K-12 curriculum is the senior high students' work immersion. This is actually simulation that will hopefully equip them for the future work and also better prepare them for college studies.

Schools often have difficulty in finding host offices or agencies where their senior high students can find fulfilling work immersion. There are thousands of senior high students who are required to comply with their partial prerequisite for the course "Work Immersion and Simulation." This prerequisite is composed of 80 hours or eight (8) hours per day, to be completed in 10 working days.

The Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph is extending services to support the youth and education sector. The Office developed the Advocacy and Policy Development Training (APDeT), Program also an intervention for the senior high students to appreciate the work of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) and recognize the needs of vulnerable sectors. Firstly, the APDeT Program aims to train the students in advocacy for the vulnerable sectors. Secondly, it provides senior high students with technical skills for them to learn to think critically and act creatively as they respond to the issues and concerns from the vulnerable sectors. Lastly, the program introduces the work of Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) in the parliamentary





government of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

This school year 2019 to 2020 we had two (2) schools partners. Fourteen (14) senior high students who completed the program with six (6) of them coming from East Bayabao Integrated National High School Vocational Technology and eight (8) from RC-AI Khwarizmi International College Foundation Incorporated.

Under the supervision of the field staff of MP Maisara at the Marawi sub-office, working with the senior high school coordinators of the schools, the senior high students had the opportunity to find their own relevance as part of the Bangsamoro. Their learning and insights from APDeT will be useful in their course Community Engagement, Solidarity and Citizenship (CESC), their voluntary work record and tertiary studies. As one of the trainees, Mr. Asnor Maruhom, said “you can learn many things and you will be more aware of your surroundings, the issues, problems, and possible solutions.”

—*J. Sarip*



Students mentor students: Mr. Hisham Dandamun, an APDeT student leader conducts an interview with a younger student from Dama Elementary School, Butig Lanao del Sur to assess the impact of their assigned activity in Butig.

“it is my pleasure to be part of APDeT. I learned to be kind in dealing with people and tasks every day. As a human being, we need to be careful in making decisions in life and be firm in our advocacy. We should always be a good person as we lead to become good role models in our community.”



Ms. Sittie Nahara S. Hasan

## Featured Voice:

# Marawi IDPs' struggle for 3 years

*To give space for the voices of our constituents, we are featuring a strong voice for the Marawi, Sittie Joharab M. Pacalundo, Internally Displaced Population (IDP) Sectoral Representative under my office. It is my hope that we read Joharab's words with an open mind so we can understand better their plight, act faster and recommend better solutions for the benefit of the displaced and the entire Bangsamoro. — MP Maisara*

I am Sittie Johara M. Pacalundo, an IDP myself and I would like to share our own version of what has happened significantly in Marawi since the siege on May 23, 2017 up to the present time.

**May 23, 2017** - Government forces clashed with the coalition of two non-state armed (NSA) fighters group - Abu Sayyaf and the Maute, which identify their union with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). When the military tried to arrest top Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in Barangay Basak Malutlut, they were ambushed by the guards of Isnilon Hapilon. Other groups of militants rushed to support the group in Basak Malutlut. The government forces requested for a re-enforcements but before more troops arrived, the members and sympathizers of the NSA groups who were already scattered in Marawi City took over the central districts of the City.

Some ISIS-inspired members who were occupying the large part of the city burned a Roman Catholic church in Moncado Colony, Dansalan College and the city jail in West Marinaut where they recruited some of the prisoners to be part of their group in exchange for their freedom. Everyone in the church and the school that they burned was taken as hostage, including

Father Teresito "Chito" Soganub, Parish Priest of Marawi.



The residents of Marawi City evacuated to different areas. Photo source: <https://sa.kapamilya.com/absnews/abschnnews/media/2017/news/05/24/20170524-marawi-evacuation-afp-1.jpg?ext=.jpg>

In the evening, Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) declared martial law in Mindanao.



*Marawi became a ghost town on Day 3 of the Siege.*

Photo source: [https://www.straitstimes.com/sites/default/files/styles/article\\_picture\\_780x520\\_/public/articles/2017/06/04/marawi.jpg?itok=ngZVxjIM&timestamp=1496543737](https://www.straitstimes.com/sites/default/files/styles/article_picture_780x520_/public/articles/2017/06/04/marawi.jpg?itok=ngZVxjIM&timestamp=1496543737)

**May 24, 2017** - Almost 300,000 individuals have already fled to nearby municipalities and cities and in various regions. They had nothing but a few clothes, thinking that this nightmare will end in just a few days.

**May 26, 2017** - The rain of bombs and exchange of massive fire started even though some of the residents are still trapped inside the city. The absence of negotiation and interventions of the local residents resulted to the hundreds of missing and dead civilians



during siege as the rescuers cannot freely roam around the city due to exchange of fires from time to time. Some remained captives by the ISIS, while others just died helpless inside their houses.

The affected IDPs were categorized as 80% Home-Based IDPs and 20% staying in the different evacuation sites. We, Maranaws are prideful people, which is locally called '*Maratabat*,' which also is one of the reason why majority are not staying in evacuation centers and choose to seek refuge in their relative's homes.

The Government with local and international non-government organizations and some private groups initiated "Tabang For Marawi," distributing relief assistance mostly basic needs like Rice, Canned Goods, Noodles, and Hygiene Kit. Many home-based IDPs never received help because the response focused on IDPs staying in Evacuation Center (ECs).

**June 28, 2017**- President Rodrigo Duterte through Administrative Order no. 3 created the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) to facilitate the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction efforts in Marawi. At that time, the conflict was still ongoing. The Department of National Defense (DND) was designated as TFBM Chairperson.

**October 17, 2017** - Duterte declared Marawi liberated. A total of 163 soldiers and cops sacrificed their lives to liberate Marawi. Meanwhile, 847 terrorists were killed by the military.

**October 27, 2017** - Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Eduardo Del Rosario replaced as the chairperson of the task force replacing the Secretary of National Defense who became the vice-chairman.

TFBM is composed of different subcommittees and support groups to ensure that all concerns related to the city's development process are appropriately addressed. All the subcommittees are working in close partnership with the local governments of Lanao del Sur and Marawi.

Few months after the war has ended, the TFBM allowed the residents of the 72 Barangays in Marawi City, also called Least Affected Areas (LAA) to return to their homes. The Department of Social Welfare and

Development (DSWD) distributed 'Kambalingan Package' consisting of 5,000 pesos, food packs, hygiene kit and some necessary items like clothes and blanket to them. The remaining 24 barangays in Marawi City considered heavily damage, also called Ground Zero (GZ) was divided into nine (9) sectors:

Sector 1 – Tolali

Sector 2 – Daguduban

Sector 3 – Moncado Kadingilan

Sector 4 – Kapantaran

Sector 5 – Moncado Colony, Sangkay Dansalan and Norhaya Village

Sector 6 – Wawalayan Marinaut, Marinaut East and Tuca Marinaut

Sector 7 – Lilod Madaya, Banggolo, South Madaya and Bubonga Madaya

Sector 8 – Sabala Amanao, Lumbaca Madaya, Sabala Amanao Proper, Raya Madaya 2 and Raya Madaya 1

Sector 9 – Lumbac Marinaut, Marinaut West, Datu Naga, Dansalan and Datu sa Dansalan

The TFBM and local government of Marawi started the construction of temporary shelters where the remaining IDPs coming from ground zero will transfer.

**December 27, 2017** – The first 500 temporary shelters in Barangay Sagonsongan, Marawi City and 300 temporary shelters in Bakwit Village, Matungao, Lanao del Norte were turn-over to its beneficiaries. Among the awardee of the shelter were those IDPs that came from MAA/GZ. The TFBM thru the sub-committee on housing, National Housing Authority (NHA) earmarked to construct 6,700 shelters while the San Miguel Corporation has pledged to build 2,400 permanent shelter with NHA's technical assistance. Since Sagonsongan shelter was a government project, you can see the difference in terms of assistance to a private constructed shelter like Bakwit Village in Matungao that were donated by PAGCOR and POGO. As early as April 2018, the occupants of Sagonsongan shelter complained about the foul-smelling water and the unavailability of potable water. The General Manager of NHA distributed 1000-liter tanks for residents to use aside from catching rain water. Up to now, they still depend on rationed water that could not fully answered the need of water to its IDPs residence of Sagonsongan. The complaints of the people in Sagonsongan since 2018 was never resolved as you can hear the same agony today.

Why is clean and adequate water important? As Muslims, we are obliged to pray five times a day and this needs ablution through the use of water . Without clean water, how can we perform our prayer?

We are also forced to stay in very small houses, planned and designed without understanding our culture.As Muslim-Meranao, we do love extended family. In one house you can see that two or three families living in one place. Our religious practice requires that female and male children reaching the age of 7 will need to have separate rooms. We could never go back and practice our old way of life in small shelters. That is the main reason may why some IDPs opted to stay away from the government shelters.

**November 2, 2017-** The **Sowara o Miyamagoyag** or Voices of Marawi IDPs, where I was elected as Spokesperson, was formed last November 22 at MSU to amplify the voices of the IDPs. It is a member of the Bangon Marawi Civil Society Organizations (BMCSOP) , which has conducted a series of assemblies participated by the IDPs of the 22 host municipalities in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte including Iligan City. The BMCSOP is a coordination mechanism among Civil Society Organizations formed in August 2017 to respond to the Marawi crisis.



*The General Assembly of Sowara O Miyamagoyag, IPDM-MSU, Marawi City*

Photo source: <https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-G8p8nXEOGOM/WoOtGUMVyAI/AAAAAAAAAGdQ/MxIDZNFrcOY3lA1zw7oIWLtNsZPPogdTQCLcBGAs/s1600/IDPs%2Bseek%2Brecognition%2Bof%2Bancestral%2Bland.png>

After a series of processes, these were our recommendations:

- A. Support for an enabling and dignified survival of IDPs: monthly cash assistance, stop DSWD food packs and relief assistance; IDPs access to health, medical and psycho-social services; access to education of IDP children and youth including subsidy for the education of IDP

students; and, access of IDPs to government assistance while still on the recovery process.

- B. Reparation and just compensation for damages: conduct actual damage assessment with the owner of the properties.
- C. Support for livelihood recovery and access to employment our IDP- members including seed grant capital of at least ₱20,000.00 to all families whose livelihoods were heavily affected of the siege/war, capital support thru loan without interest to all entrepreneur/ business owner IDPs for an amount of at least ₱100,000 up to ₱2M, support for farmers and fisherfolk to recover their assets and rehabilitate their livelihoods, and training and/ or employment opportunities for the youth.
- D. Options for shelter prioritizing the most vulnerable: Shelter support packages based on their needs and preferences.
- E. Facilitate a peace-enabling and sustainable rehabilitation of Marawi IDPs. Here we have detailed their recommendations to enable people’s participation and ensure transparent and accountable planning process and rehabilitation of Marawi and to ensure a rehabilitation of Marawi that is culturally-appropriate and that would usher sustainable development that benefit the people.
- F. Recognize the ancestral land ownership of Maranaos and enable peace-enabling land dispute resolutions. Distribute the military reservation in Marawi and Lanao to rightful owners and actual occupants of said land, institutionalize a peace-enabling Land Conflict Resolution, and, once declared safe and cleared, ensure safe return of the IDPs to the ground zero area.

You can read the full context at [https://ecowebonline.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/finalver\\_idp-cso-proposal-for-the-rehab-of-marawi-and-for-peace-in-lanao-and-mindanao\\_brochure.pdf](https://ecowebonline.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/finalver_idp-cso-proposal-for-the-rehab-of-marawi-and-for-peace-in-lanao-and-mindanao_brochure.pdf)



*I joined the Ad-Hoc Committee on Marawi Senate Hearing on February 20, 2018 in Pasay City.*

**February 20, 2018** - A group of lobbyist from BMC SOP and Sowara O Miyamagoyag presented the document 'Towards a more IDP-centered, Culture & Faith-Sensitive, Inclusive, Accountable and Peace-enabling Marawi Rehabilitation' at the Ad-Hoc Committee Senate Hearing on Marawi. But what we saw was a plan on temporary shelters and a new Grand Marawi like a Dubai-style. We urged them to follow a people led-IDP centered Rehabilitation, that we want to rebuild Marawi at our own design.

Given an assurance by the Senate that they will study our recommendations, we grab the opportunity given to us and used our remaining stay in Metro Manila to visit and lobby to the different line agencies of the Government concerning Marawi like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and DSWD. We even distributed the said document to the different lawmaker in the Congress.

We are even invited in the NASSA Caritas Press Conference and Radyo Veritas 846 where we are given a chance to promote and ask for support the plea of the IDPs that they may give a chance and give justice to the IDPs recommendation. We returned to Marawi with a great hope that they will finally listen to us but until now, our plea were left hanging.

**March 18, 2018** - We called for '**Kambalingan**' or return to home.

**March 20-21, 2018** - The plan for Marawi as a result of the Multi-Stakeholders consultation was presented at the Provincial Capitol. I felt that the consultation was not genuine and holistic as they just listened to the participants but most, if not all of the proposals, were accepted by the TFBM. They have been perceived as insensitive to the Meranao culture and norms. Sultan Abdul-Hamidullah Atar said, "The TFBM should accompany and provide comfort space to the IDPs

considering that their properties were destroyed, some civilian relatives were killed during the siege, they left their properties, which were eventually looted, and not to mention the destroyed madrasah, masjid, and other private and public facilities. The TFBM always argued that the IDPs were consulted through the leaderships of the LGU/BLGU. "We want to inform the TFBM and the government that the destruction of properties incurred in the MAA/GZ are not public properties alone but including private properties," Sultan added.

**March 30, 2018** - Multi-Sectoral Movement conducted a '**Mbalingan tano sa GZ**' or a permanent return to GZ Peaceful and Protest Rally. Amidst the heat of the sun, Almost 4,000 IDPs from GZ walked from People's Park to Pumping Bridge where they performed the Friday prayer. No government response came.

**April 1, 2018** - Some GZ residents were allowed to visit and dig through the rubbles through the program of the TFBM called 'Kambisita'. It is a project of the Marawi City Government and TFBM for displaced families to visit their homes and retrieve their personal belongings. The stunned and tearful majority of the IDPs still insist and plea for a permanent return to MAA and not only a visit.

**April 25, 2018** - Seven (7) members of **Sowara O Miyamagoyag** (Voices of Marawi IDPs) attended the National Conversation at Quezon City, Manila sponsored by IDEALS and PDRRN. We presented the document 'Towards a more IDP-centered, Culture & Faith-Sensitive, Inclusive, Accountable and Peace-enabling Marawi Rehabilitation'. I was given a chance to express the sentiment of the IDPs to permanently go back home. Also I presented the appeal to the President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD), a video of the Ranao Multi-Sectoral Movement, which ended in the tearful remark from the attendees.

**June 15, 2018** - the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) chief Ricardo Jalad confirmed that as of June 14, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Lanao del Sur has reached 324,406 or 66,738 families. Five percent (5%) of these IDPs are staying inside 79 evacuation centers in Lanao Del Norte, Lanao Del Sur,



and Cagayan De Oro. The remaining 95 percent sought refuge with relatives and friends particularly in the Lanao provinces, other regions of Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines. Marawi City is the center of this crisis but since Marawi is the Capital of Lanao del Sur and being the only city within, all its surrounding municipalities are considered affected areas.



**October 2018** – the Let Me Go Home Movement was organized, demanding transparency on slow rehabilitation efforts.

Source: [https://image.isu.pub/181207044556a5a8555e3af447c183e48586047404d9/jpg/page\\_1.jpg](https://image.isu.pub/181207044556a5a8555e3af447c183e48586047404d9/jpg/page_1.jpg)

**October 30, 2018** – “Our long wait has come to an end,” said Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra. The groundbreaking ceremony marks the start of Marawi Rehabilitation of the MAA after four (4) months of delay. The groundbreaking takes more than a year after PRRD announces Marawi Liberation on October 17, 2017. “In a few years from now, we hope to see a beautifully and strongly rebuilt Marawi City which shall be the Pride of all Meranao people,” Mayor Gandamra said. Philippine firm FINMAT International Resources, Incorporated (FIRI) was tapped by the government to do the first phase of debris clearing in Sector 1. Their contract for this job is worth P75 million pesos. Based on a tarpaulin in Marawi showing their scope of work, FINMAT estimates it will finish the work in January 2019.

**November 19, 2018** – I participated in the Congress Disaster Management meeting Chaired by Representative Geraldine Roman. House Bill 8200 “Providing for compensation for loss or destruction of properties in Marawi City during the 2017 Marawi Siege, appropriating funds therefor” authored by Akbayan Representative Tom Villarin was deliberated.

**November 29, 2018** – I attended the forum on Protecting Internally Displaced Persons at Silid Lapu-Lapu Conference Room, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. I spoke again on our plea and the need for the IDP Rights Bill. The bill entitled, “An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, and for other Purposes,” was originally filed during the 15th Congress by Rep. Kaka Bag-ao and Rep. Walden Bello. The bill was refiled during the 16th Congress by Rep. Ibarra Guterrez as House Bill No. 3146. Rep. Rene Relampagos (House Bill No. 239); Rep. Rufus Rodriguez ( House Bill No. 1332); and Rep. Gus Tambunting (House Bill No. 3003) likewise filed separate proposed measures of the same subject. These bills were later substituted by House Bill No. 4744 after deliberations in the committee level. It later passed 3rd Reading and was transmitted to the Senate for appropriate actions. On May 24, 2013, President Benigno Aquino III vetoed the Senate Bill No. 3317, “An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Providing Penalties Therfor and for other Purposes.”

**December 4, 2018** – The winning contractor on the debris clearing in Marawi FINMAT Resources, Inc. illegally demolished more than seventy houses in Sector 1 and 2 without the consent of the owner, contrary to the statement of TFBM chair that no houses will be demolished without its owner’s consent. After two (2) days, the NHA issued suspension order to FINMAT International Resources, Inc.



Protest rally outside the Provincial Capitol of those affected residents of the illegal demolition in Daguduban.



TFBM and LGU acknowledged that the demolition was a mistake but they did not extend any legal assistance for the victims. The victims are alone in their fight for justice, nobody extended support, lawyers were afraid to be involved, BLGUs and City Government chose to remain silent and neutral.

**March 18-19, 2019** – The TFBM and LGU Marawi conducted a Public Consultation for the IDPs of MAA/GZ facilitated by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) headed by Secretary Saidamen Pangarungan. This became a venue for the IDPs to express their dismay for the delay of Marawi Rehabilitation. NCMF raffled 34 slots for free *hajj* trips to Mecca for Marawi residents. Each trip is said to cost P200,000 each. Later on, no one in the 34 winners claimed their trips as the DBM questioned the source of funds.



*Displaced Residents called for a Safe and Dignified Return in Marawi.*

**March 20, 2019** – More than 200 IDPs staged a rally in the city park airing their plight of living in tents and temporary shelters for almost two years. Hundreds of residents aired the same complaint during the Public Hearing of the House Sub-Committee on Marawi Rehabilitation chaired by AMIN-Partylist Representative Makmod D. Mending held at the gymnasium in the Lanao del Sur provincial capitol. The Public Hearing was conducted to hear the issues raised by the IDPs. The sub-committee asked the TFBM to present the Marawi Master Development Plan and Debris Management Plan and address the concerns on the demolition of structures and return of the residents. One of the problems the government faced was the removal and disposal of the unexploded

improvised explosive devices (IED) left during Marawi siege in 2017. The TFBM chair assured the residents that they can finally return to their villages, to repair or to rebuild their homes by the first week of September 2019, after the clearing is done by August 30.

The GZ residents were allowed to repair and rebuild per sector in early 2020.

**May 27, 2019** – The House Committee on Disaster Management called the agencies comprising the TFBM to report on updates on the Marawi Rehabilitation and Recovery Programs. Out of the 4.6 Billion released in August 2018, less than half have been utilized. The TFBM agencies were called to provide updates on the implementation of programs and utilization of funds.

**July 22, 2019** – Displaced Marawi residents handed down their own State of Marawi Bakwit (SOMBAK) on the day of PRRD’s fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA). The program was held in Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) at Mindanao State University (MSU).

**August 13, 2019** – BARMM Members of the Parliament (MPs) conducted an *Eid’l Adha* celebration and Consultation of Ranaw Region. The Special Committee on Marawi was created chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Ali Solaiman with Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph as one of the members.

The Rehabilitation of Marawi became part of the 12 priority agenda of the BARMM through Resolution No. 41, dated September 26, 2019. This is in line in the provision of the Bangsamoro Organic Law under section 13, Article 6, which allows the Bangsamoro Government to provide supplemental funding for the programs, projects in relation to Marawi Rehabilitation. The rule of the Special Committee is to serve as the BTA’s mechanism for data gathering, and monitoring oversight the status of Marawi recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation that are being implemented by the different government agencies, local or national government.

**October 17, 2019** – The TFBM and LGU celebrated the 2nd year Marawi Liberation. The Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO) sent out invitations to media outlets on October 9 inviting them to a “reporting tour” in Marawi City on October

16-17, 2019, in time for the second anniversary of the liberation of the City.



*IDPs at Kadingilan Tent in Balo-I showing their dismay over the TFBM celebration of Marawi Liberation.*

**October 31, 2019** – **‘Mashuwara o Meranao para sa bago a Military Camp ago kambalingan sa Ground Zero’** or ‘Meranao consultation on the establishment of new Military Camp and the return of IDPs to MAA’ was conducted at Sahara Function Hall, Brgy. Saduc, Marawi City.

**January 15-16, 2020** - The Special Committee on Marawi Rehabilitation had its 1st Public Hearing at Marawi City to address concerns matters related to the Rehabilitation of Marawi City. The first day of the public hearing was attended by the TFBM, OPAPP, MBHTE-Marawi City Division, DTI, DOH and DSWD, to which they presented to the committee their accomplishment reports and their future programs for the IDPs. On the second day, different IDP leaders and members of the different civil society organizations of Lanao, to which they presented also to the committee the different issues and concerns of the IDPs. Maranao leaders demanded for the TFBM Chairperson to step down or abolish the TFBM altogether.

**February 10-12, 2020** - The Special Committee on Marawi held its 2nd Public hearing intended for the 2017 Marawi Siege IDPs and Rehabilitation to inquire and clarify the long-raised issues on the delay in the implementation of Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan. During the Public Hearing, the IDPs demanded their unconditional right to return home as well as the passage of the Compensation bill pending in Congress.

**For almost three (3) years passed and there has been no progress on the rehabilitation of ground zero in Marawi City Most Affected Area (MAA) this led to the unrest of many affected residents who demanded that they be allowed to return home immediately.**

On the part of the TFBM, the delay was said to be due to bureaucratic challenges in downloading and approval of funds as well as implementation challenges. When pressed on why there has been so much delay in the release and implementation of public infrastructure and utilities like roads, electricity, and lighting, Secretary Del Rosario emphasized that there at first was really recovery then debris and bomb clearing which took them more than a year. He said that they now have a new timeline for the return which is in December 2021. Representatives from the Dead and Missing persons were also present to present their issues on why up to now there has been no action on their demands like proper identification of burial sites among others.

On the 2nd day, the invited resource persons coming from the LGU Marawi, RLA, NHA, TFBM, PLGU-LDS, MSU, and PNP were present to face and answer the queries of the Parliament Members. MP Maisara requested the TFBM Chairperson Secretary Del Rosario to provide BTA-BARMM the status of implementation on Marawi Rehabilitation.

On the third day, the highlights of the discussions were the accomplishments, current and future programs of TESDA, Office of the Civil Defense, LASURECO, LWUA, DENR, MCWD, OCD, Marawi Schools Division, and TFBM-DPWH. It was during the third day that problems on electricity, water, and roads were revealed as the main cause of the delay in the return of the MAA IDPs. LASURECO and LWUA were both present to answer the BTA’s questions, however, NHA who was uncharged with roads were not around to explain the inordinate delay in implementation. The BTA scheduled the 3rd round of public hearing in March 2020.

**February 21, 2020** - The Senate Special Committee on Marawi headed by Committee Chair Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa conducted a Public Hearing



attended by local government officials, IDPs, TFBM and concerned inter-government bodies at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) in Iligan City. Committee members Senators Imee Marcos, Christopher “Bong” Go, Francis Tolentino and Miguel Zubiri were also present. Prior to that, the senators did an ocular inspection of GZ and the temporary and permanent shelters sites in other areas.

**March 5, 2020** – Finally, a meeting at Malacanang on Marawi Rehabilitation was held with PRRD, members of Senate, cabinet Secretary, BTA and local stakeholders. The meeting which lasted five (3.5) hours from 7:00 to 10:30 pm was about the demand of the Marawi City IDP to unconditionally return home as well as the delays in the implementation of Marawi City rehabilitation.

**President Duterte committed to closely monitor the implementation by regularly visiting Marawi City. He ordered the DBM to expedite the release of funds to prevent further delays.**

He asked the Marawi local government to allow the people access to their homes without restrictions. He ordered the completion of basic services like water, electricity, and roads within a year. On the declaration of lots under Military Reservation, he supported our call to have it freed provided that a small land is allocated for the military camp. He also ordered the repair of the Grand Mosque as soon as possible.

**MP Maisara** reiterated to the President our unconditional right to return home, the restoration of light, water and selectivity services, freeing lands in Marawi City from military reservation, creation of a commission to study the emotional and psychological healing of the people, BARMM’s commitment to supporting the President in rebuilding Marawi, repairing of Mosques destroyed in GZ, and declaration of Marawi as Cultural Heritage site.

With the Philippine President’s commitments and MP Maisara as a champion for the Marawi IDPs, I continue to be hopeful but vigilant so we get nearer

the day when we are finally back home with the sufficient support from government to rebuild our homes and livelihoods. —*Q. Pacalundo*



*Drieza Liminding, an IDP leader, spoke during the meeting PRRD at Malacanang.*



*MP Maisara’s conversation with the IDPs from MAA at Sarimanok Tent City Site*

## Last year's bootcamp gives birth to 4 SEs



MP Maisara congratulates the four (4) social enterprise organizations formed from our bootcamp held last year. These organizations are based in Lanao del Sur. The bootcamp is in line with the 8th priority agenda of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on job generation.

“We saw the relevance of Social Enterprise. Pushing for economic growth, as we found in a research, is very important. Youth Social Enterprise is business with heart. Meaning, you have social mission or social purpose. You’re not doing it for profit. SE is a very effective tool for economic growth. People are finding solutions to their problems. Social enterprise is used to sustain peace not profit”, says MP Maisara.

The newly formed social enterprises are:

### 1. MAMIS SA RANAW

Marawi Youth Resilience Organization

Mamis Sa Ranaw is a Social Enterprise that aims to promote Meranao sweet delicacies. “Youth are talented, they say. We were trained on how to make sweets such as ‘browa’. An entrepreneur does not focus on one product so what we did is that we innovate three Meranaw sweet products namely: ‘Browa’ with toppings, Regular ‘Browa’, and ‘Lokates. Our social enterprise will benefit the residents of Datu Saber. We will also have livelihood coaching (paper bag making) for the youth there,” says Ms. Inshera Asama.

### 2. BAGSAKAN (Community Market)

Moro Friendly Consumers

Bagsakan (Community Market) is an agricultural enterprise that aims to provide marketing system in Marantao Lanao del Sur. “Through this Bagsakan, residents of Marantao can easily buy vegetables at a low price. This will also help patronize the crops of the Marantao farmers. The duration of ‘bagsakan’ is every weeked. Among our prospected partners are the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform offices,” says Ms. Johana Agor.

### 3. BANGKALA

Social Hub for Education

Bangkala is a social enterprise that will give hope to the IDP weavers in Tugaya Lanao del Sur and the IDP children in Boganga temporary shelter through the pre-loved and customized coat production. “Bangkala” will help the IDP women and children in the evacuation center. “We will buy the products of the IDP women (waving products) and improve to a new one,” says Ms. Noreen D. Datu





4. PLASTICAN

Ranaw Youth Tanggol Kalikasan

Plastican is a social enterprise that will promote environmental care through the conduct of seminars and competitions on plastic innovation. Hamedha Sumndad said that among the problems/ issues they want to address are:

(1) The need to unify people’s cooperation and participation through its shared vision of “green environment;”

*“Youth Social Enterprise is business with heart. Meaning, you have social mission or social purpose.”*

- (2) The need to promote recycling and social responsibility;
- (3) The need to strengthen the role of islam and Meranaw tradition;
- (4) The need to improve and strengthen the capacities of local government units to effectively manage, preparedness and order in communities;
- (5) The need to strengthen community commitment; and,
- (6) The students to have their own source of income so that they will not depend on the allowances. —L. Sumpingan





# Solving the garbage problem

**One of the major environmental problems in Lanao del Sur is the continuing improper disposal and mis-segregation of wastes. This has also been the usual situation in many areas.**

To help solve this, environmental advocates on February 25, 2020 met at the Marawi Satellite Office of MP Maisara Dandamun-Latiph to discuss the problems of improper segregation, poor information dissemination, non-availability of sanitary landfill, operational inefficiencies of services, limited utilization of recycling activities, and poor enforcement of ordinances.

From the discussion, the group concluded that there is limited knowledge on Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. There is also poor enforcement of the law.

The Philippine Constitution Article X, Section 20 gives “Autonomous Regions to have legislative powers over natural resources.” The Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) Article V, Section 2 on the “Powers of Government,” gives the Bangsamoro Government the authority to act on “ecological solid waste and pollution control.”

Solid waste management legislations and policies are necessary to protect the environment and health of the Bangsamoro people. To do this, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) is planning to create a Bangsamoro Solid Waste Management Commission within the transition period 2019-2022.

“Walang mga proper landfill sa mga munisipyo at kung mayron man ay maliit lang. May mga MRF din pero for compliance lang ‘yon ng mga Barangay Chairmen kasi masyadong maliit. Wala ding nagco-collect ng mga basura na itinatapon doon,” (There are no proper landfills in the municipalities and, if there is, the spaces are not enough. There are Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) but these are only for compliance by the Barangay Chairman because the MRF are really too small), said Dr. Anisah P. Hajdi Ali, an environment advocate.

“We want to push for the bill on the creation of the Bangsamoro Ecological Solid Waste Management Commission (BESWMC), which aims to strengthen the Information and Education Campaign with Islamic teachings about cleanliness. We wish to integrate the Solid Waste Management Act as part of the programs in all schools in Lanao del Sur or even in BARMM as a whole,” Asmarie Labao, also an environment advocate, added.

To push for the bill, the office of MP Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph will be conducting a round table discussion where representatives from Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 10, Local Government Units in Lanao del Sur, concerned non-government organizations, and other environment advocates will be invited. —*S. Panolong*

## Inclusive Madrasah education for the Bangsamoro

MP Maisara fully supports the realization of Madrasah Education in BARMM that is inclusive, balanced, faith-based, and with timely curriculum, pedagogy and Islamic education system. She hopes to have an enhanced education system with the best interests of the *morit* or students, *asaatidh*, and schools, which reflect Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Live Together, Learning to Be and Learning to Become.

We must have produce students who are well-equipped both in Islamic and western education, not merely knowledge bearers but also nation-builders. Our 'Asaatidh' (teachers) will educate our young ones within the standards of Islam and the integration of teachings in the west. Our schools will provide safe and conducive learning environments that support and facilitates learning. *In Shaa Allah*, people in our community will prevail together economically and spirituality.

Our Madrasah school has always been the producers of eloquent professionals worldwide. *Ibn Siena*, *Al Khwarizmi*, and *Al-Farabi* were some of the most well-known Muslim scientist and mathematicians whom their studies and findings are being utilized, applied and become the basis of modern education by many of us today around the globe.

Our mission is to provide excellent services to vulnerable sectors to the Bangsamoro people. In line with this, we consider our Madrasah as one of

the vulnerable sectors in our community that really needs enough attention and provision particularly on its school facilities and equipments.

Few months ago, the office of MP Maisara visited and validated some of the Madrasah schools in Lanao del Sur and we found out these problems:

1. Lack of school facilities and equipments;
2. Low compensated Asaatidh;
3. Increasing number of students but not enough space; and,
4. Socio-economic background of students is low.

Therefore, the team together with the authorized personnel of some of the Madrasah identified their most needed equipments or materials and provided it to them for supplemental needs of the school as a whole.

Its impact is much greater than we expected, as one of the principals once said, "Before your team came, we are in a state of hopelessness to the point that we felt our spirit of volunteerism of teaching and managing our *Madrasah* is getting low but *Alhamdulillah* In Allah's Mercy, you are here today telling to each one of us not to stop the good things we started, encouraging not to lose hope, showing that there are some people who really care for us considering that our place is in a far-flung area. Thank you." We can see the light and hope of the stakeholders of the Madrasah school every time we visit. —S. Latiph

***“Madrasah schools produce students who are well-equipped both in Islamic and western education, not merely knowledge bearers but also nation-builders.”***





## Youth innovate “Pitch it, win it!”

The Marawi Response Project of Plan International together with some of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) convened the young entrepreneurs from Lanao del Sur and let them showcase their innovative products.

These young participants pitched their ideas to the activity entitled, “Pitch it, Win it” Session, wherein each selected youth groups will present their business ideas to the panel of judges.

“Social Enterprise is doing business with social impact. It aims to solve our social problems at the

same time making a profit margin that can sustain the enterprise and also provide innovative solutions to our perennial problems like unemployment, poverty, poor health and poor education,” MP Maisara said.

“Social enterprises should promote a clean environment for the planet that will benefit the people and use the profit to remedy social problems,” she added.

MP Maisara talked about youth innovation, gender, and social enterprise during her speech. One of her missions is to introduce Social Enterprise to Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as she wants to help provide other sources of living. —*Comadug*





## Youth artists paint the Bangsamoro

In celebration of the National Arts Month 2020, the Bangsamoro Bureau on Cultural Heritage (BCH-BARMM) in partnership with the office of MP Atty. Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph, conducted the Philippine Arts Festival - *Ani ng Sining* particularly the “On-the-Spot Poster-Making Contest.”

The contest aimed to showcase the artistry in the Bangsamoro Region and promote the belief that the youth can

use their creativity and innovative thinking to make a difference in their own community.

This art competition was categorized into the following: Senior High School; Young Professional Category; and, Junior High School Students Category. Through their artwork, the participants portrayed the rich culture and arts of the Bangsamoro Region.

First place winner for the Young Professional Category named by Mr. Eladio L. Coja, Jr. extended his gratitude to MP Maisara and the organizers.

“I Joined this competition even though I’m a Christian, I really respect Bangsamoro culture and tradition po.



### Winners of Senior High School and Professional Category



1st place: Mr. Eladio L. Coja



2nd place: Jiezille Mae Martin



3rd place: Sacap Marangit

### Winners of the Junior High School Students



1st place: Rajeema R. Uday



2nd place: Al-Sharif K. Uday



3rd place: Ruhaiza Sahibul

Actually, I am a fan of painting the Mosque and Islamic culture. My main inspiration is God and my family,” he said.

MP Maisara congratulated both the winners and participants and

encouraged each one to continue to paint their colorful dreams what will become reality if they strive for it and become more united.

—*Q. Comadug*





## Meeting with the Philippine President on the rehabilitation of Marawi

Member of the Bangsamoro Parliament Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph was invited at the Malacanan Palace on March 5, 2020 to discuss with His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Senators Ronald Dela Rosa, Bong Go, Imee Marcos and Francis Tolentino the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

In the meeting, she raised and emphasized the following concerns:

1. Unconditional Return of Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) to their respective houses in the Most Affected Area (MAA);
2. Restoration of water and electricity supply and construction of roads;
3. Revocation of the proclamation declaring parts of Marawi City as Military Reservation;
4. Opposition to the establishment of a Military Camp;
5. Establishment of a Commission to study the emotional and psychological healing of the people more than the physical infrastructure;
6. BARMM's commitment to support the President in rebuilding Marawi;
7. Repair of *Masajids* destroyed in MAA; and,
8. Declaration of Marawi as Cultural Heritage site.

The incumbent Mayor of Marawi City, Majul Gandamra, BTA-Member Diamila Ramos-Disimban, Heads and Representatives of Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM), Provincial Board Member Atty. Allan Panolong and CSO leaders from Marawi City were also present.

The meeting was called to address the demand of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to have unrestricted access to their respective houses and lots inside the (MAA); the issue on the establishment of a military camp in Marawi City; and, the challenges in the rehabilitation of the Most Affected Area in general.

The President made an assurance that he will closely monitor the rehabilitation by regularly visiting Marawi City. He also instructed the officials of Department of Budget and Management to expedite the release of funds to prevent further delays.

On the issue of returning home, the President signified his intention to join the IDPs in making possible that their demand to return to their respective houses at the MAA will be acted upon promptly. Thus, he ordered the immediate completion of facilities that will cater to the basic needs of the IDPs such as water, electricity, and roads. On the issue of the establishment of a military camp, he explained that a technical working group has been organized to study and review the proposal of the Philippine Army. A military camp could still be established but, should such proposal prosper, its size will be smaller than the area contained in the first proposal as a respect to the Bangsamoro People’s unanimous sentiment. —*Comadug*

***“Unconditional right to return home... restoration of water and electricity... freeing the lands from military reservation... emotional and psychological healing... repair of Masajids... declaration of Marawi as Cultural Heritage site... BARMM’s commitment to support the President in rebuilding Marawi”***

**Empowering Voices 2020-01**

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