

**ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS FOR A LASTING PEACE AND
DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARMM PROVINCES**

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**(Inspirational Message Delivered During the 4th Inter-Agency Committee Meeting
for ARMM Assessment and Planning Conference Workshop)**

**Dominique Hotel, Tagaytay City
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A Pleasant day to all of you!

Dear Regional Secretary Allen Usman and all the members of the Inter-Agency Committee, I wish to thank and commend you for the joint efforts and commitment towards the achievement of our goals and objectives as mandated under the new Implementing Rules and Regulations for the ARMM provinces.

This conference could not have been done at a more opportune time. As the new year brings so much renewed vigor and enthusiasm in all of us, it is but appropriate for us to look back and see how far we have achieved our goals and objectives. Finally, we can now hope for a speedy resolution of those standing claims in the ARMM provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao towards the fulfillment of a greater cause of continued peace and development for our brothers in those parts of Mindanao.

I highly expect that after this conference, all minor hitches in the whole process shall have been settled and all the stakeholders shall have full confidence and total sense of pride in our achievements.

To all the implementers, I enjoin you to be always guided by the noble spirit of our work. When we are able to do that, we can rest assured of one thing – that we have given our honest and best efforts towards achieving a ‘just and fair resolution’ of those subject claims as mandated by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. More importantly and in a larger context, we shall be able to make a relevant step towards creating and sustaining a peaceful environment in the affected areas in the concerned provinces.

Thank you and under our ONE GOD, mabuhay po kayong lahat!