

Du30, Peace Process, and the Moro Struggle

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Abstract

The rise of President Du30 is expected to open a new chapter in Mindanao peace process especially with the Administration's proposal of federalism and Charter change. As envisioned, said proposals would provide the basis, framework, and parameters of any future political entity for the Bangsamoro as the country's Fundamental Law would be rewritten. Displaying political will and leadership very early in his term while exerting influence in major political and military institutions of the country, the President is basking with high people's support showing Du30's ascendancy to realize a peace vision. However, as the Bangsamoro peace process has long become a "narrative of tragedy" where the beginning of an administration often starts with so high a promise of peace only to deteriorate at the middle or end of its term, question is raised as to what makes the Du30 presidency exceptional that it would not succumb to the same tragedy. Whereas there are peace agreements (e.g., BBL, FPA) that the government had signed with Moro fronts that could serve as a template in the formation of envisioned political structure for the Bangsamoro, its full appreciation however hinges on the progress of federalism debate that is obviously still too inchoate as of date. With the country's lack of experience on federalism, concern is also raised how its purported vision would result in developing the country's political system rather than further entrenching political dynasty and patronage politics in traditional area like Muslim Mindanao. Equally critical is how the Du30 government would have to deal with major Moro fronts and make them converge to work on common peace agenda and how to engage other militant groups that are increasingly becoming more problematic and make them cohere, if possible, with Du30's vision of peace and political restructuring.