

Country/entity	Philippines
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDPF) and the Third Party Facilitator, the Royal Norwegian Government
Date	25 Jun 2004
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -)

The Maoist Insurgencies (1968 -)

Philippines-NDF

The Philippines have been defined by a series of center-periphery and often ideologically Maoist, separatist insurgencies. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), began its war against the central Philippine government in 1968 through their armed wing – the New People’s Army (NPA). Further legitimacy was gained through the establishment of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in 1973. Grievances were predominantly opposed to the corruption and repression under the authoritarian Marcos regime.

Philippines-Cordillera

With the overthrow of Marcos’ regime in 1986, the CPP factionalized further to take on more localized characteristics. The Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) broke away from the NDF in 1986 to focus on the protection of the Cordilleran people and land in northern Luzon. Hostilities were formally ended in July 2011, with an agreement signed between the central government, the CPLA and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) that allowed for the absorption of CPLA fighters into the Philippine Army and the re-working of the CBA-CPLA into a socio-development organisation.

Philippines-RPM-P

Meanwhile, purge among the CPP in the early 1990s, encouraged the formation of a parallel party, the Revolutionary Workers Party (RPM-P). Their armed wing, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) which had carried out a number of assassinations during the 1980s at the bequest of the CPP, followed suit and allied themselves with the RPM-P in 1997 forming the (RPM-P-RPA-ABB). Severely weakened by the split with the CPP and with the arrest of several key figures, the RPM-P-RPA-ABB signed a peace agreement in December 2000, which encouraged the RPM-P’s branch in Mindanao to break away in 2001.

The CPP-NPA has only participated in intermittent talks with the government. Talks halted in 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration sought closer ties with the U.S. in the war on terror and added the CPP-NPA to the list of terrorist organisations, renewing violence. Following the launch of a counter-insurgency by the Philippine government, negotiations have been further delayed due to suspected internal differences between the CPP ‘old guard’ and younger members.

The Moro Insurgency (1968 -)

Philippines-Mindanao

The Moro Insurgency began in 1968, in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago after the killing of Moro Commandos, the so-called Jabidah Massacre, by the Philippine Army following a plot to invade Sabah province in Malaysia. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) captured a swath of territory in the mid-1970s. In an attempt to stem the violence, the constitution was reformed and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was created 1990 granting a devolution of power to the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Following the establishment of the ARMM, the MNLF splintered into a range of smaller groups including Islamic factions such as the

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Philippines-NDF process
Parties	3 signatures (see notes)
Third parties	-
Description	The Agreements lists 10 points which describe the role of the designated Finance Agent of the Norwegian Government and their financial support to the Joint Monitoring Committee and its Joint Secretariat. Amongst other things, the Finance Agent will review and submit budget for funding to the third party facilitator, release funds and disburse money and allowances for the staff and personnel and staff. Moreover, the Finance Agent retains the right to review the disbursement and utilization of funds.

Agreement document [PH_040625_Memorandum of Understanding.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Note: Agreement is entirely about the administration of international funds to the Joint Monitoring Committee.

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

The respective Monitoring Committees of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), through their respective Chairpersons, by authority of their respective Negotiating Panels have agreed with the Third Party Facilitator the Royal Norwegian Government that the following will guide the role of the designated Finance Agent (employed by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, CHD) of the Third Party Facilitator and their financial support to the Joint Monitoring Committee and its Joint Secretariat:

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1. The Finance Agent will relate with the respective sections of the GRP and the NDFP in the Joint Secretariat in reviewing and submitting a budget for funding of the Joint Secretariat to the Third Party Facilitator.

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2. The Finance Agent will release funds and disburse money in accordance with the allotments contained in the approved budget for the Joint Secretariat for an initial three (3) month period.

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3. The Finance Agent will release funds to the respective sections of the GRP and the NDFP in the Joint Secretariat for their daily expenses on a monthly basis to ensure their efficient and smooth operations and to receive receipts and supporting documents of the liquidation of such expenses.

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4. The Finance Agent will release directly the allowances or honoraria for the staff and personnel of the GRP and the independent nominees and contracted staff of the NDFP sections in the Joint Secretariat every 15th and 30th of the month.

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5. The Finance Agent will relate with the respective Heads of the GRP and NDFP sections in the Joint Secretariat as limited agents or representatives of their respective Monitoring Committees exclusively on disbursement and release of funds for the operations of the Joint Secretariat; provided that the power to audit shall be vested in another entity.

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6. The Finance Agent will hold office, consistent with its role and function, outside and Independent of the Joint Secretariat offices.

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7. The Finance Agent will deal with the building administrator or officers of the corporation that owns the offices being leased by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, as representative of the Royal Norwegian Government, for the benefit of the Joint Secretariat, exclusively on financial matters related thereto.

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8. The Finance Agent will relate with the two parties in agreeing on a format for reports, attaching receipts and supporting documents, helping when necessary in submitting financial reports to the Third Party Facilitator.

Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	No specific mention.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	No specific mention.
Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.

Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	Most likely Norway, but signatures not printed.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism

No specific mention.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

The GRP-NDFP Peace Negotiations: Major Written Agreements & Outstanding Issues, p. 76.
