

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The GRP and MILF Peace Panels conducted their 1st Formal Meeting on January 19-20, 2000, at the Da'wah Center, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. The following Agenda for the meeting, as prepared and submitted by GRP-MILF Technical Committees, was approved by both Panels:

1. Notation of previous Agreements;
2. Adoption and approval of the proposed talking point of the GRP-MILF peace talks as submitted by the MILF Technical Committee on January 7, 1997 and elaborated on February 25, 1997;
3. Adoption of confidence-building measures and proposals to strengthen all existing Agreements:
 - a. Immunity and Security Guarantees
 - b. Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws
 - c. Tasking the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) to hasten the implementation of the GRP-MILF Agreements on September 2, 1999 and January 12, 2000
4. Adoption of proposed agenda, schedule and venue of next meeting.

At said meeting, the MILF Panel furnished the GRP Panel for discussion and comment proposed drafts, to wit:

- a.) "GRP-MILF Comprehensive Agreement on the Security and Immunity Guarantees"; and
- b.) "Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws."

Also, both GRP and MILF Panels disposed the following business:

- a.) Admitted and noted all previous agreements entered into by the duly authorized representatives of the GRP and the MILF;
- b.) Tasked the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) to hasten the implementation of the GRP-MILF Agreement on September 2, 1999 and January 12, 2000; and,
- c.) Tasked their Technical Committees to cluster the nine (9) talking points and to create the Technical Working Groups of both Parties in order to discuss their talking points, the output of which is to be submitted to the Panels' Technical Committees which shall, in turn, reconcile the same for the approval of the Peace Panels. The Panels' Technical Committees shall meet on February 7-8, 2000 in Cotabato City.

The 2nd Formal Meeting of the GRP-MILF Peace Talks shall be on February 21-22, 2000 at a venue to be determined and agreed upon by the Chairmen of both Panels.

Done this 20th day of January 2000 at the Da'wah Center, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

FOR THE GRP:



USEC ORLANDO V SORIANO
Chairman
GRP Peace Negotiating Panel

FOR THE MILF:



ALEEM ABDULAZIS MIMBANTAS
Chairman
MILF Peace Negotiating Panel