

JOINT STATEMENT

A special meeting between representatives of the GRP and MILF Peace Panels concluded today with both sides expressing a common resolve to move forward, and firming up measures to strengthen the role of the International Monitoring Team (IMT).

The Parties reached a consensus to request Malaysia, Brunei, Libya and Japan to extend the tour of duty of their respective contingents to the IMT for another 12 months ending August 2008. Both sides affirm the substantial contribution of the IMT for almost three years in helping stabilize the ground environment in Mindanao, and in boosting international confidence to the peace process.

As part of measures to reinforce the mandate of the monitoring body, both sides adopted the expanded Terms of Reference (TOR) of the IMT containing, among others, the following substantial amendments:-

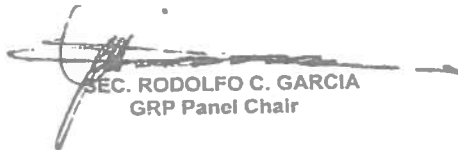
1. The functions of the IMT is expanded to align its role along the Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Development Aspect, and Socio-Economic Assistance;
2. In addition to the previous areas covered under the ceasefire agreements, the IMT area of coverage shall include Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan;
3. The IMT may undertake advocacy and information activities in support of the ceasefire and other programs, in close coordination with the Peace Panels and the ceasefire committees.

Both Parties agreed to seriously consider in the forthcoming round of talks the request of countries and international institutions that are interested in participating in the IMT, and other support programs of the peace process.

The Panels expressed their most profound gratitude to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for their continuing support for the Mindanao peace process.

Signed on August 27, 2007 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia.

FOR THE GRP:



SEC. RODOLFO C. GARCIA
GRP Panel Chair

FOR THE MILF:



MOHAGHER M. IQBAL
MILF Panel Chair