

JOINT STATEMENT

The Chairmen of the GRP and the MILF Peace Panels re-established official contact today under the auspices of the Malaysian Third Party Facilitator, to end nearly a year of impasse in the peace negotiations, and to complete the preparation for the resumption of the Talks.

The two-day Special Meeting ended on a high note with both sides expressing a common desire to restore trust and confidence in addressing major issues in order to pave way for the early resumption of the stalled peace negotiations.

In their meeting, they agreed on the following:

1. Mutual effort to sustain both the Government's Suspension of Military Offensives (SOMO) and the MILF's Suspension of Military Actions (SOMA);
2. Acknowledgment of MOA-AD as an unsigned and yet initialed document, and commitment by both parties to reframe the consensus points with the end in view of moving towards the comprehensive compact to bring about a negotiated political settlement;
3. Work for a framework agreement on the establishment of a mechanism on the protection of non-combatants in armed conflict;
4. Work for a framework agreement on the establishment of International Contact Group (ICG) of groups of states and non-state organizations to accompany and mobilize international support for the peace process.

The GRP Panel Chairman took serious note of the concern of the MILF on the implication of the exclusion from the SOMO of some MILF commanders tagged as "rogues" by the Government.

The Parties expressed their gratitude to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her desire and commitment to durable peace and sustainable development in Mindanao, and to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak for his generous and steadfast support and assistance to the pursuit of these goals. Their joint efforts largely contributed to this significant advancement in the GRP-MILF peace process.

Done this 29th day of July 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

For the GRP:



For the MILF:

