

JOINT STATEMENT

The 6th Round of GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks successfully concluded today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with both sides reaffirming their commitment to the peace process being hosted and facilitated by the Malaysian Government.

Both sides acknowledge the significant contribution of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in strengthening further the ongoing ceasefire on the ground. The Parties express their appreciation for participation of Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Libya in the IMT.

To implement the Joint Communiqué signed by the GRP and MILF Peace Panels on 06 May 2002, both Parties adopted a set of interim guidelines to immediately operationalize the Ad Hoc Joint Action group (AHJAG). The interim guidelines will be immediately enforced although these will be formally adopted in the next round of the formal talks.

Likewise, the Parties jointly signed the guidelines to govern the accreditation, participation and conduct of observers to the GRP-MILF Formal Talks.

In preparation for the discussion on the Ancestral Domain aspect of the GRP-MILF peace process in the formal peace talks, both Parties agree to activate their respective technical committees into four technical working groups (TWG) to meet and draw up a working paper to be presented to both Panels.

The Parties agreed that the next round of informal talks be scheduled tentatively on the 1st week of February 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Both sides extend their deep gratitude for the Malaysian Government's continuing key role as third party facilitator in the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in Mindanao.

The GRP delegation was composed of Panel Chair Sec. Silvestre C. Afable, Jr., Usec. Rodolfo Garcia, Gov. Pax Mangudadatu, Prof. Rudy Rodil, Ms. Sylvia Paraguya, BGen. Alexander Yano, Atty. Leah Armamento, Mr. Ryan Mark Sullivan and Ms. Jeannie Claire Laruan. The MILF delegation was composed of Panel Chair Mr. Mohagher M. Iqbal, Attorney Lanang S. Ali, Attorney Michael O. Mastura, Mr. Robert Maulana M. Alonto, Mr. Jun Mantawil, Mr. Mohamad Nasif, Mr. Mike Pasigan and Mohajirin T. Ali.

Done on 21 December 2004 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

FOR THE GRP:

SILVESTER C. AFABLE, JR.
GRP Panel Chair

FOR THE MILF:

MOHAGHER IQBAL
MILF Panel Chair