

JOINT STATEMENT

With the facilitation of the Malaysian Government, the Government of Republic of Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Panels have initiated today the final draft of Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD). Having restarted the talks today, relying on the deep reservoir of goodwill and cooperation of both sides, the two Panels have crafted an important document that would contribute immeasurably to peace in Mindanao, progress and prosperity for the Philippines, and strong affirmation of Malaysia - Philippine bilateral relations and multi-lateral cooperation for peace.

The conclusion of today's session marks the end of the negotiations on the third aspect of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001. Both sides reached a consensus to initiate the final draft pending its official signing by the Chairman of the two Peace Panels in early August 2008, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The ceremony will be witnessed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Foreign Minister of Malaysia.

The Parties look forward to continue the negotiations on the Comprehensive Compact and finally address the Bangsamoro problem and the conflict in Mindanao.

The Panels convey their appreciation to H.E Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi for the Malaysian Government's continued assistance in keeping the peace process on track, and to H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's unwavering commitment in pushing forward the Mindanao peace process.

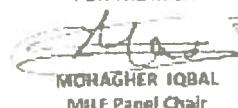
Hence on the 27th of July 2008 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

FOR THE GRP:



RODOLFO C. GARCIA
GRP Panel Chair

FOR THE MILF:



MONAGHER IQBAL
MILF Panel Chair

WITNESSED BY:



DATUK OTMAN ABDUL RAZAK
Special Adviser to the Prime Minister