

JOINT STATEMENT

The Peace Implementing Panels of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) successfully completed their 34th meeting on 10 February 2024 in Pasig City, with the Parties achieving substantial headways on pertinent components of the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB).

To build on this momentum and in the spirit of partnership, the Parties reached consensus on the principles which shall govern the implementation of the socioeconomic development program for the decommissioned combatants (DCs) and the six (6) previously-acknowledged MILF camps.

The Parties deferred discussion on the revitalization of the International Monitoring Team (IMT), following the request of the GPH to conduct further due diligence and consultation with its principals.

Further, the Parties agreed that the verification of membership of MILF applicants for amnesty is a crucial step to ensure the sanctity of the application process. To this end, the Parties agree that the MILF shall submit to the National Amnesty Commission (NAC) the names of those authorized to issue the certification of membership; institute a process of validation for the authenticity of said certification; and device a system to identify those who are no longer active members of the MILF.

The Parties are also united in ensuring the integrity of the peace process. Contrary to baseless allegations of corruption, especially in the decommissioning, the GPH and the MILF Peace Implementing Panels assure the public that proper mechanisms and procedures are in place to guarantee accountability, and trust and confidence in the process. Informed by lessons of the past, best practices, and internationally accepted norms on processing combatants and weapons, the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) undertakes stringent verification and validation, among other established safeguards, before MILF combatants and weapons undergo decommissioning. Programs under the normalization track, both nationally-funded and donor-assisted, are adequately accounted for by proper documentation and in compliance with rigorous monitoring processes to ensure transparency. The Parties assure the esteemed members of the Philippine Congress and the general public that the implementation of various programs under normalization are conducted with utmost truthfulness.

The Parties express their deepest appreciation to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. for his unwavering support to the implementation of the peace agreement towards a just and lasting peace and inclusive development in the Bangsamoro. The Parties likewise thank OPAPRIJ Secretary Carito G. Gehrez, Jr. and Bangsamoro Chief Minister Ahad B. Ebrahim, under whose respective strong leaderships the implementation of the CAB has continued, as well as the different agencies of the National Government and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) for their continuing commitment to the CAB. The



Parties finally thank the MILF-led Bangsamoro Government for its support in the implementation of the normalization program.

As the tenth-year anniversary of the signing of the CAB nears, both the GPH and the MILF re-affirm their resolve for the completion of the deliverables under the peace agreement through close collaboration, open dialogue, and a problem-solving approach.

Done this 10th day of February 2024 in Pasig City, Philippines.

For the GPH:


CESAR S. YANO
Chair, GPH Peace Implementing Panel

For the MILF:


MOHAGHER M. IQBAL
Chair, MILF Peace Implementing Panel