

JOINT STATEMENT

The GRP and MILF Peace Panels ended their two-day special meeting today on a high note with both sides expressing deep satisfaction over the successful resolution of major issues to overcome the impasse last September 2006 over the Ancestral Domain agenda on territory.

The Parties acknowledged the critical gains achieved in the recent session, which embodied the culmination of intensive backchannel efforts since February 2007.

The Parties expressed their readiness to resume the next round of exploratory talks by mid-November. The peace process is firmly back on track towards the holding of the Formal Talks before the end of the year, thereby concluding the negotiations on Ancestral Domain.

The Panels extended their full appreciation to the international community and other concerned parties whose unflagging support and encouragement helped sustain the momentum of the peace process.

Both sides expressed gratitude to the unwavering assistance extended by the Malaysian Secretariat and the untiring efforts of H.E. Datuk Othman bin Abdul Razak.

The Panels thank H.E. Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi for his steadfast support to the peace process and to H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her sustained commitment to the achievement of lasting peace in Mindanao.

Done on the 24th of October 2007 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

FOR THE GRP:



RODOLFO C. GARCIA
GRP Panel Chair

FOR THE MILF:



MOHAGHER IQBAL
MILF Panel Chair