

**PROTOCOL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF THE
INDEPENDENT DECOMMISSIONING BODY (IDB)**

I. REFERENCES

- The Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, signed by the Parties on 27 March 2014.
- The Annex on Normalization signed by the Parties on January 25, 2014.
- The Terms of Reference for The Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) signed by the Parties on March 22, 2014.

II. DEFINITIONS

- ASSEMBLY AND PROCESSING AREA (APA) – a designated and a clearly defined geographical area identified by the IDB for purposes of assembly, inventory, registration, verification, and validation of MILF combatants and weapons scheduled for decommissioning.
- SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – refers to programs and other initiatives for the MILF combatants, their families and communities in accordance with the Annex on Normalization.
- AMNESTY AND PARDON – are legal forms of confidence building measures which shall be immediately undertaken as agreed upon in the Annex on Normalization by the Government of the Philippines (GPH) towards the speedy resolution of cases of persons charged with or convicted of crimes or offenses connected to the armed conflict in Mindanao.
- REDEPLOYMENT is the repositioning of units and troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including weapons, ammunitions, equipment and installations in accordance with the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, the Annex on Normalization and its Attachment (Program for normalization in the Bangsamoro).
- SECURED ARMS STORAGE AREAS- are sites used for storage of weapons, munitions and explosives, or storage containers established in special perimeters, controlled and guarded by the responsible unit as agreed upon by both Parties and monitored by the IDB.
- DECOMMISSIONING is the process of putting the weapons of the MILF beyond use and the process of allowing a smooth transition for MILF combatants to productive civilian life which shall be parallel and commensurate with the

redeployment of AFP and dismantling of Private Armed Groups (PAGs) and other aspects of the peace agreements.

- THE INDEPENDENT DECOMMISSIONING BODY (IDB) is the body tasked to oversee the decommissioning of the MILF weapons and forces, chaired by the expert from the Republic of Turkey with members made up of one expert each from the Kingdom of Norway and Brunei Darussalam, and four (4) local experts jointly nominated by the Parties. The IDB shall conduct verification, registration, validation and inventory of weapons and forces of the MILF.
- IDB VERIFICATION AND MONITORING ASSISTANCE TEAMS (IDB-VMAT) are Teams constituted by the IDB to assist in the verification and monitoring of the decommissioning process. Upon the request of the IDB Chairman, the GPH and the MILF shall provide personnel to IDB-VMAT. An international member of the team will be appointed by the IDB Chair as the overall area commander.
- MILF COMBATANTS. For purposes of these implementing guidelines, refers to both regular and guerrilla members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF). To ensure that the socio-economic initiatives and the decommissioning process will be gender-sensitive and inclusive, the term shall include Women Auxiliary forces.
- WEAPONS in this context are functional crew-served weapons, high-powered firearms and ammunitions.



III. SECURITY

The Parties shall take all measures for the overall protection and security of all the IDB members, personnel, offices and equipment.

IV. THE IDB

The Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB), tasked to oversee the process of decommissioning of the MILF forces and weapons, is composed of three (3) foreign experts from states that have been mutually agreed upon by the Panels, and four (4) local experts that were nominated by the parties.

The IDB is chaired by HE Haydar Berk (Turkey), and its members are: retired BGen Jan Erik Wilhelmsen (Norway), Major Muhammad Aiman Syazwi bin Haji Abdul Rahim (Brunei Darussalam), retired LtGen Rey Ardo, Prof Mario Aguja, Von Al Haq and Isah Bato.



The membership in the IDB may be changed by the sending States and the Parties.

The IDB under its Chairman will act as a consultative and decision-making body particularly on policy matters. Agenda of the IDB will be determined by its chairman upon the proposals of Chief of Staff (CoS) and the other IDB members. Any IDB member may bring a matter to the IDB Chair for consultation and, if need be, for decision-making.

All disputes arising from the implementation of the decommissioning process shall be resolved at the level of IDB.

The IDB shall in principle reach its decisions by consensus. It should formulate its rules and procedures in resolving issues.

The Chair may designate any of the international experts as officer-in-charge in his/her absence. The Chair shall exercise overall operational control of all assets in the IDB, and shall have the authority to plan, direct, execute, coordinate, supervise and monitor the performance of such personnel in their preparation, deployment, employment and redeployment and to assign specific tasks, duties and responsibilities to the HQ Staff and the IDB-VMAT to meet stated mission objectives. The IDB-VMAT shall be directly responsible to the Chair for the efficient functioning of all components and staff elements in their area of responsibility. Decisions taken by the Chair shall be in written Orders or Directives.

The IDB will:

1. Conduct inventory, verification and validation of Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) members, arms and weapons.
2. Develop and implement schedule of decommissioning of BIAF members.
3. Plan, design, and implement techniques and technologies for weapons collection or retrieval, transport, and storage and putting weapons beyond use in accordance with the agreements of the Parties.
4. Ensure that all the necessary steps and processes for decommissioning are complied with by the Parties;
5. Report on the progress of its work and submit its terminal report to the GPH and MILF Panels; and
6. Coordinate with the Joint Normalization Committee (JNC) on the other aspects of normalization.

1. IDB Operational Headquarters

The Headquarters (HQ) shall be organized in accordance with international standards. The IDB HQ includes the IDB Chair and members, and the HQ staff.

The Chair shall appoint a Chief of Staff (CoS) who shall exercise tactical control as delegated by the Chair.

The IDB Headquarters shall be organized as follows:

- Personnel Section, including personnel services and administration.
- Mission Information Section, including assessment cell, complaints and violation cell/the permanent secretariat, the security cell and Public Information Cell (PIO).
- The Operations Section, including current operations cell, and plans and policy cell and training.
- The Logistics Section, utilizing the administrative, logistic and financial support given by the Parties and donors.
- The Budget and Finance Sections shall take care of the accounting, control and reporting of the budget and actual spending.

Note 1: Upon the request of the IDB, the GPH and the MILF may provide the list of candidates who will work as staff members in the IDB headquarters.

Note 2: The Chair of the IDB may reorganize the headquarters with notice to both Parties


2. IDB Verification and Monitoring Assistance Teams (IDB-VMAT)

The Independent Decommissioning Body–Verification and Monitoring Assistance Teams (IDB-VMAT) shall assist the IDB at the local level and through site visits. The Chair of the IDB in consultation with the Parties shall determine the number of IDB-VMAT and their deployment.

V. THE PROCESS

Phase 1

- a. The MILF shall conduct internal validation and registration of its weapons and combatants.
- b. The MILF shall submit initial lists of validated and registered weapons and combatants to the IDB.
- c. The Institute of Bangsamoro Studies (IBS) shall undertake the needs assessment survey for the members of the BIAF as basis for financial assistance and



sustainable socio-economic programs for the decommissioned BIAF members and their communities.

- d. Consolidation of previous needs and skills assessment of MILF forces and communities.
- e. Ceremonial turnover of 20 crew-served weapons and 55 high-powered firearms to the IDB.
- f. The IDB shall program the first 30% of the verified, validated and registered MILF forces and weapons for Phase 2.
- g. The IDB shall identify assembly areas for Phase 2 that will serve as the areas for official registration, verification and official decommissioning.

Phase 2

- a. Identified assembly areas are prepared to receive the first batch (30%) to be decommissioned.
- b. Joint Normalization Committee – Joint Peace and Security Committee (JNC – JPSC) shall facilitate the movements of such MILF forces to the APAs.
- c. IDB shall supervise the on-site temporary storage of the decommissioned weapons.
- d. The IBS shall conduct additional needs and skills assessment for the MILF forces and their communities.
- e. The JNC shall conduct on-site verification of the implementation and delivery of the socio-economic programs extended by the GPH and other donors for the decommissioned MILF forces and their communities.
- f. The IDB shall program the next 35% of the verified, validated and registered MILF forces and weapons for Phase 3 after the assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the normalization processes.
- g. The IDB shall identify the APAs for Phase 3 that shall serve as the areas for official verification, registration and decommissioning.

Phase3

- a. Identified APAs are prepared to receive the second batch (35%) to be decommissioned.
- b. Joint Normalization Committee – Joint Peace and Security Committee (JNC – JPSC) shall facilitate the movements of such MILF forces to the assembly areas.
- c. IDB shall supervise the on-site temporary storage of the decommissioned weapons.

- d. The JNC shall conduct on-site verification of the implementation and delivery of the sustainable socio-economic programs extended by the GPH and other donors for the decommissioned MILF forces and their communities.
- e. The IDB shall program the remaining verified, validated and registered MILF forces and weapons for Phase 4 after the assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the normalization processes.
- f. The IDB shall identify the assembly areas for Phase 4 that shall serve as the areas for official verification, registration and decommissioning.

Phase 4

- a. Identified APAs are prepared to receive the remaining batch to be decommissioned.
- b. Joint Normalization Committee – Joint Peace and Security Committee (JNC – JPSC) shall facilitate the movements of such MILF forces to the APAs.
- c. The remaining stage of decommissioning shall take place after the evaluation of the Panels with the participation of the Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) and Facilitator that all the commitments of the parties have been completed.
- d. IDB shall supervise the process by which decommissioned weapons shall be put beyond use.
- e. The JNC shall conduct on-site verification of the implementation and delivery of the socio-economic programs extended by the GPH and other donors for the decommissioned BIAF members and their communities.

1. MOVEMENT AND CONCENTRATION OF FORCES

For this purpose, comprehensive plans, timelines and routes for the movement and concentration of forces shall be provided by MILF to the IDB. The GPH shall give information to the IDB on the comprehensive plans and timeline for the redeployment of the AFP.

The movement of all MILF combatants and weapons to the APAs shall be carried out in consultation with the IDB and in coordination with the ceasefire mechanisms.

The Parties shall undertake measures to promote and guarantee free movement and create an environment free of fear and of intimidation.

2. ASSEMBLY AND PROCESSING AREA (APA)

2.1 In accordance with the commitment referred to in the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and relevant documents (see References), MILF combatants and their weapons shall, in a sequence agreed upon between the MILF and the IDB, be confined

within designated APA sites for registration, verification and decommissioning of forces and weapons. The APA shall be based on comprehensive planning and preparation before implementation. The GPH shall provide services to the combatants in the APA. To ensure implementation there shall be good communication and available supplies and logistics. The IDB shall have access to any and all APA sites for the purposes of verification and monitoring. To ensure the safety of both monitors and MILF forces, no improvised explosive devices or crude bombs shall be brought inside the APA sites.

2.2 IDB-VMAT Responsibilities

There shall be six (6) to twelve (12) APA sites. Each site shall be under the supervision of the IDB-VMAT Commander.

IDB-VMAT Commander is the person appointed by the IDB to exercise Tactical Control over the IDB installations on the APA site and its personnel, including the secured arms storage area. His/her responsibilities include:

- (1) Area security, including access to and control of the APA;
- (2) Secured arms storage area security, including access to and control of the site with the permission of the IDB Chair;
- (3) Ensuring the security, freedom of movement and well-being of IDB and associated personnel, goods and services;
- (4) Maintenance of discipline, morale and training;
- (5) Assist in registration and verification of MILF combatants at APA sites.

2.3 BIAF Commander's Responsibilities

The relevant BIAF Commander shall provide the following information to the IDB:

- (1) BIAF Command structure for the unit and sub-units plotted on a map;
- (2) Names of BIAF commanders down to company level;
- (3) Complete list of personnel;
- (4) Complete list of weapons, i.e., types, numbers, serial number and calibre registered at the APA sites;
- (5) Ammunition inventory type, lot number and amount; and,
- (6) List of names for the BIAF involved in site security and their disposition.

