JOINT COMMUNIQUE


RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WILL BE LASTING PEACE IN MINDANAO WHEN THERE IS MUTUAL TRUST, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND TOLERANCE FOR THE IDENTITY, CULTURE AND ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE PEOPLES IN MINDANAO, BOTH PARTIES HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR SINCERITY TO PURSUE PEACE TO BRING AN END TO THE ARMED CONFLICT IN MINDANAO, FURTHER, BOTH PARTIES COMMIT TO COMMENCE TALKS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESOLUTELY CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

FURTHERMORE, THE GRP AND THE MILF REAFFIRM THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS TO PEACE:


2. PARTIES AGREE THAT THEIR COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (CCCH) SHALL EARNESTLY OVERSEE THE SMOOTH, SINCERE, EFFECTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES;

3. PARTIES REITERATE TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE CCCH, IFFC AND QRT FOR THEM TO BE EFFECTIVE IN THE TASKS ASSIGNED BY THE PEACE PANELS;

4. PARTIES AGREE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE SECOND ROUND OF FORMAL PEACE TALKS ON MARCH 1 & 2, 2000 AT ESTOSAN HOTEL, COTABATO CITY; AND,

5. THAT FINALLY, PARTIES AGREE TO GIVE MEANING AND IMPETUS TO THE AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 8, 1999.

DONE THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2000, IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PHILIPPINES.

FOR THE GRP:

LT. GEN. EDGARDO E. BATEGGA AFP (RET.)
CHAIRMAN, GRP PEACE PANEL

FOR THE MILF:

ALEEM ABDULAZIZ MOMBANTAS
VICE CHAIRMAN FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS
AND CHAIRMAN, MILF PEACE PANEL

WITNESSES:

ATTY. ALBERTO A. BERNARDO
MEMBER, GRP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

ATTY. ALAN E. FLORES
MEMBER, MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

BGGEN. ANTONIO Q. ROMERO (RET.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GRP PANEL

MR. EDUARDO KABALU
CHAIRMAN, MILF CCCH

CPT. VICENTE G. BATAJ, FA
DND REPRESENTATIVE

MR. RUDY RAGAIBUDA
ADVISER, MILF PEACE PANEL
JOINT COMMUNIQUE


RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WILL BE LASTING PEACE IN MINDANAO WHEN THERE IS MUTUAL TRUST, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND TOLERANCE FOR THE IDENTITY, CULTURE AND ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE PEOPLES IN MINDANAO, BOTH PARTIES HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR SINCERITY TO PURSUE PEACE TO BRING AN END TO THE ARMED CONFLICT IN MINDANAO. FURTHER, BOTH PARTIES COMMIT TO COMMENCE TALKS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESOLUTELY CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

FURTHERMORE, THE GRP AND THE MILF REAFFIRM THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS TO PEACE:

1. PARTIES AGREE FOR THE EARNEST CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS, NAMELY: CARMEN, COTABATO PROVINCE; SHARIF AGUAK, DATU PIAING, TALAYAN, KABUNTINGAN AND AMPATUAN, MAGUINDANAO PROVINCE, AND, ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT PROVINCE, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 28, 2000, SIX O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ON GENERAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES OF JULY 18, 1997;

2. PARTIES AGREE THAT THEIR COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (CCCH) SHALL EARNESTLY OVERSEE THE SMOOTH, SINCERE, EFFECTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES;

3. PARTIES REITERATE TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE CCCH, IFFC AND QRT FOR THEM TO BE EFFECTIVE IN THE TASKS ASSIGNED BY THE PEACE PANELS;

4. PARTIES AGREE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE SECOND ROUND OF FORMAL PEACE TALKS ON MARCH 1 & 2, 2000 AT ESTOSAN HOTEL, COTABATO CITY; AND,

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DR. EMILY M. MAROHOMBSAK
MEMBER, GRP PEACE PANEL

MR. MOHAGHER IQBAL
VICE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION AND MEMBER, MILF PEACE PANEL

WITNESSES:

ATTY. ALBERTO A. BERNARDO
MEMBER, GRP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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CHAIRMAN, MILF CCCH

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MR. RUDY RAGAMONDA
COUNSEL, MILF PEACE PANEL