

In the Name of God  
The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

### **Agreement to Sustain the Quest for Peace**

1. To keep the momentum in the quest for peace by the GRP and the MILF and to defuse the tension created by the unfortunate incidents in the recent past, it is agreed that GRP shall immediately commence to reposition its forces in Buldon, Maguindanao, at least five kilometers away from Banganan River to be complemented not later than February 20, 1998; Provided, that the MILF shall not occupy the vacated areas. To this end, the GRP and the MILF hereby confirm their strict adherence to the Implementing Operational Guidelines of the GRP and MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed on 14 November 1997.

2. The GRP shall immediately exert its utmost efforts to resolve the watershed issue involving Upper Minabay-Banganan-Ambal Rivers in Buldon, Maguindanao. In consultation with concerned parties and coordination with appropriate government agencies, GRP shall cause the proposed immediate suspension of logging operations of the Cotabato Timber Company, Inc. and other logging concessionaires in the area until final resolution of the conflict in the Banganan-Ambal area.

3. In order to effectively observe and implement the terms and conditions of the Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities, the GRP and the MILF Technical Committees agreed on the following:

- a. Operationalization of the Monitoring Office of the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities in Cotabato City and Sub-offices in Marawi City and other areas to be determined later;
- b. Expansion of the Fact Finding Committee membership chaired by Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, OMI; and
- c. Formation of a Quick Response Team (QRT) composed of representatives from the GRP, MILF, and the Independent Fact Finding Committee to immediately address alleged violations of the agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities; Provided, that the QRT is chaired by the IFFC.

Done in the City of Marawi this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1998.

For the GRP

A/Sec. Jovenal F. Lazaga  
Chairman, GRP Technical Committee

M/Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno

Chairman, Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

For the MILF

Shiekh Moner M. Bajunaid  
Chairman, MILF Technical Committee

Atty. Omar B. Umpar  
Chairman, Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities, MILF Legal Counsel