

**IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE OMNIPOTENT,  
THE MERCIFUL**

**GRP-MNLF FORMAL PEACE TALKS  
WITH THE OIC PARTICIPATION  
JAKARTA, 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1993**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**OF THE FORMAL PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE OIC MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SIX AND THE OIC SECRETARY-GENERAL HELD IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA, ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 1993.**

**WHEREAS**, the First Stage of the Formal Peace Talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which is recognized by the OIC as the sole and legitimate representative of the Muslims of Southern Philippines (Bangsamoro People), with the participation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and with Indonesia as host and Chairman of the OIC Ministerial Committee of the Six has been brought to a positive conclusion;

**WHEREAS**, the Formal Peace Talks are the culmination of an earnest and sincere peace process, which were preceded by two rounds of Exploratory Talks held in Tripoli, the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriah, on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 1992, and followed in Cipanas, West Java, Republic of Indonesia, on 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April 1993 respectively;

**WHEREAS**, the participants in the current Formal Peace Talks, in their ardent desire of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the problem in Southern Philippines, have agreed to the full implementation of the Tripoli Agreement of the 1976 in letter and spirit and within the realm of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the participants responding favorably to the exhortation of the Indonesian Foreign Minister, H.E. Ali Alatas and the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, in their common search for a peaceful resolution of the problem in the Southern Philippines in the spirit of brotherly understanding, goodwill and cordiality, have agreed to establish an interim ceasefire with a view to provide a better atmosphere conducive to the promotion of mutual confidence necessary for the success of the on-going negotiations;

**WHEREAS**, they share the moral responsibility to contribute towards the promotion of peace, justice, and security, not only in the Philippines but as well as throughout the Southeast Asian region and the world, as vigorously espoused by H.E. President Suharto of the Republic of Indonesia;

**WHEREAS**, the parties have unanimously expressed their collective appreciation of the statement of H.E. President Fidel V. Ramos, made on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1993 for his

kind and gracious personal assurance to do everything possible in his capacity as the President of the Republic of the Philippines to move the negotiations to a “higher level” and to find principled and lasting peace with neither blame nor surrender for either side, but with dignity for all concerned;

**WHEREAS**, in their common desire to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted progress of the Formal Peace Talk, the participants agreed to observe a ninety-day recess to facilitate further reflections and detailed studies on the various items in the Tripoli Agreement by the Support Committees under the umbrella of the Mixed Committee. This is in addition to the specific tasks assigned to the Joint Committee to, inter alia, supervise the ceasefire, and to the: Ad Hoc Working Group on the Setting Up of the Transitional Implementing Structure and Mechanism”;

Now, therefore, the parties do hereby agree on the following points namely,

1. The participants in the Formal Peace Talks, in order to facilitate their subsequent tasks called for in the Cipanas Statement of Understanding have decided to establish a Joint Secretariat made up of representatives from the GRP and the MNLF Peace Panels, as well as from the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and Indonesia, representing the OIC Ministerial Committee of the Six. The Joint Secretariat has been vested with the responsibility of providing back-up support to the Formal Peace Talks.
2. The Joint Secretariat was entrusted with the task of categorizing the items in the proposed agenda for the Formal Peace Talks on the basis of paragraph 14 of the Cipanas Statement of Understanding which prescribed the Peace Talks shall “focus on modalities for the full implementation of the Tripoli Agreement in the letter and spirit, to include: (A) Those portions of the Agreement left for further or later discussion”; and (B) Transitional implementing structure and mechanism”. The Joint Secretariat shall continue to function for the duration of the Formal Peace Talks.
3. The Formal Peace Talks, held following the Opening Ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1993, after having been immediately convened, have unanimously agreed to discuss the following nine (9) substantive items in the Tripoli Agreement, with the understanding that other items in the said Agreement shall be discussed at a later stage. The nine (9) substantive items are as following:
  - i. National Defense (article III, paragraph 2 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - ii. Education (article III, paragraph 4 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - iii. Administrative System (article III, paragraph 5 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - iv. Economic and Financial System (article III, paragraph 6 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - v. Regional Security Force (article III, paragraph 8 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - vi. Representation in the National Government (article III, paragraph 7 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - vii. Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (article III, paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Agreement)

- viii. Mines and Minerals (article III, paragraph 10 of the Tripoli Agreement)
  - ix. Judiciary and the Introduction of Shari'ah Law (article III, paragraph 3 of the Tripoli Agreement)
4. Following the extensive and rigorous exchanges of views on the general principles and different aspects related to the nine (9) items in the agenda, the participants in the Formal Peace Talks have agreed to set up five (5) Support Committees to be composed of experts from the parties concerned, as follows:
    - a. Support Committee-1 (National Defense and Regional Security Force)
    - b. Support Committee-2 (Education)
    - c. Support Committee-3 (Economic and Financial System, Mines and Mineral)
    - d. Support Committee-4 (Administrative System, Representation in National Government, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council)
    - e. Support Committee-5 (Judiciary and Introduction of Shari'ah Law)
  5. Each Support Committee mentioned above has been mandated with the task of examining in depth all the relevant issues in their respective areas of responsibility and submit their respective reports with the recommendations to the Mixed Committee within the prescribed ninety days (90), effective upon the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement. The Support Committee will hold their meetings in Manila and Zamboanga and elsewhere in Southern Philippines as and when necessary. The Indonesian Embassy in Manila shall serve as a contact point.
  6. The Peace Panels further agreed to reactivate the Mixed Committee in accordance with Article III, paragraph 11 of Tripoli Agreement "to study in detail the points left for discussion in order to reach a solution thereof in conformity with the provisions of the agreement".
  7. The participants in the Formal Peace Talks, after considering Article III, paragraphs 15 and 16 as well as the effective clause contained in Article IV of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement, have agreed to form an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Setting Up of the Transitional Implementing Structure and Mechanism in accordance with paragraph 14-B of the CIPANAS Statement of Understanding. This Working Group is tasked to study the respective proposals of the GRP and the MNLF Panels on the transitional implementing structure and mechanism and to submit their recommendations to the Negotiating Panels for the latter's consideration and approval.
  8. The Peace Panels signed and solemnly pledged to abide by the provisions of the **1993 Interim GRP-MNLF Ceasefire Agreement**, which will be maintained while the negotiation is on-going and shall be linked to substantial progress of the negotiations.
  9. The Peace Panels approved the **Executive Summary of the Proceedings of the Proceedings of the Formal Peace Talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front with the Participation of the OIC Ministerial Committee of the Six & the OIC Secretary General.**

10. The Peace Panels agreed to hold the Second Formal Peace Talks between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front with the Participation of the OIC Ministerial Committee of the Six & the OIC Secretary General in Indonesia on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1994.

For the GRP

**Ambassador Manuel T. Yan**  
Chairman of the GRP Peace  
Panel

**For the Host Government/  
Chairman of the OIC  
Ministerial Committee of Six**

**Ambassador S. Wiryono**  
Director-General for Political  
Affairs

For the MNLF

**Professor Nur Misuari**  
Chairman of the MNLF Peace  
Panel

**For the OIC Secretary-General**

**Ambassador Mohammad  
Mohsin**  
Assistant Secretary-General