

JOINT STATEMENT

The two-day Special Meeting of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Peace Panels concluded today, 11 February 2016, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Parties expressed their disappointment over the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law. They reaffirmed their commitment to the peace process, and to preserve the gains of more than 17 years of negotiations and the implementation of the CAB, believing that it continues to provide a viable roadmap and comprehensive approach towards resolving armed conflict in Mindanao.

The Parties recognize that the non-passage of the BBL has adversely affected the timeline of establishing the Bangsamoro entity. They agreed that the means forward is the early passage of this legislation in the next Administration and Congress, which is a requirement for implementation of significant aspects of the CAB including the decommissioning of MILF weapons and combatants. Towards this end, the Parties shall exert further efforts to promote understanding and greater acceptability of the proposed basic law.

The two Parties reaffirmed their commitment to stay the course of peace. They shall sustain the existing peace infrastructure. This infrastructure is fundamental in keeping the peace on the ground and supporting the implementation of the CAB. It is important that it remains functional for the next administration to carry forward the implementation of the agreements.

As part of ensuring the long-standing ceasefire between the Government and the MILF, the Parties agreed to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group until 31 March 2017. This mechanism has proven time and again its importance in isolating and interdicting criminal syndicates/kidnap-for-ransom groups and terrorist groups operating in Mindanao.

Similarly, the Parties thanked the International Monitoring Team for the effective monitoring of the implementation of cessation of hostilities between the GPH and MILF forces and agreed to renew its mandate until March 2017.

The Parties received the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission's report and thanked its members for their hard work. A discussion on operationalizing the report's recommendations is ongoing.

The Parties signed the Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Forces on Camps Transformation. The Parties also agreed to create a working group to recommend to the Panels a set of interventions for vulnerable sectors, including widows, orphans, people with disabilities, detainees and their families.

The Parties discussed the updates provided by the Third Party Monitoring Team and the Independent Decommissioning Body.

