

## PROGRAM 3: LOCALIZED PEACE ENGAGEMENT



For the past thirty-two (32) years, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) has been negotiating with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF).

Since 1986, over forty (40) rounds of talks have been conducted and have been disrupted over 15 times. Through all these, only one substantive agreement has been signed—the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or CARHRIHL. Three (3) substantive agreements remain for completion and signing by the parties, these are: socio-economic reforms (SER), political and constitutional reforms (PCR), and end of hostilities and disposition of forces (EHDOF).

Exploratory talks were held under various administrations but due to various disruptions, the peace negotiations with the CPP/NPA/NDF were terminated due to their failure to show sincerity and commitment in pursuing genuine and meaningful peace negotiations. This was followed by Proclamation No. 374 s. 2017 which proclaimed the CPP-NPA as a designated/identified terrorist organization.

Despite various efforts from the GPH to open another set of talks, the NDF rejected the President's requirements for talks to resume. The CNN continued their acts of violence on the ground.

On 11 July 2018, the President convened a special meeting of the Cabinet Cluster on Security, Justice and Peace. One (1) of the agenda items discussed was the localized peace engagement with local communist groups.

The President approved the guiding framework for this track which will be affected by the issuance of an Executive Order.

On 04 December 2018, the President issued Executive Order No. 70 "Institutionalizing a Whole of Nation Approach in Attaining Inclusive and Sustainable Peace, creating a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, and Directing the Adoption of a National Peace Framework."

# Localized Peace Engagements Highlights of Accomplishments

- ✓ **Mainstreaming LPE**
  - 107 Community consultations and problem-solving sessions
  - 26 Local peace dialogues with former Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) members
  - Crafted 65 PTF-LPE Strategic Action Plans
  - Conducted orientation for 90 local task forces (RTFs/PTFs) on the LPE Guidelines and on Peacebuilding Approaches
- ✓ **Established partnership with Security Sector and LGUs**
- ✓ **Operationalization of LPE and its Transformation Program**
- ✓ **Mobilized Special Project Team for the Zamboanga Peninsula to serve as transformation agents on the ground**
- ✓ **Peace Village in Talaingod Davao del Norte**
  - 125 Ata-Manobo IP families from Haran reintegrated and provided shelter

The implementation of EO 70 is being managed by Localized Peace Engagements Office (LPEO). The LPEO is mandated to facilitate the mainstreaming of LPE and undertake the three phases of mainstreaming activities namely:

- 1) Orientation Sessions on the LPE Guidelines and on Peacebuilding Approaches;
- 2) Crafting of the LPE Strategic Action Plans by the Provincial Task Forces (PTFs); and
- 3) Execution of said Action Plans that contain the two tracks of LPE:
  - (a) community consultations and problem-solving sessions; and
  - (b) local peace dialogues with CTG towards reaching local peace settlement with the group that will pave the way for the implementation of a Transformation Program for former rebels, their families and communities.

Meanwhile, LPEO facilitates and coordinates Transformation Program for the Former Rebels, their families and communities. LPEO shall coordinate, engage LGUs and capacitate program implementers for the delivery of Transformation Program.