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MILF OFFICIAL STATEMENT

11 June 2016

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) remains committed in its continued pursuit to find long-lasting peace and development in Mindanao. With the advent of a new administration on June 30, 2016, we are confident that the Bangsamoro peace process will not be relegated in status, as it has proven to be potentially the most viable solution to address conflict arising from historical injustices committed against our people. It is also considered as a practical model for other peace processes in the world.

We support the MILF Peace Panel with the signing of the Declaration of Continuity of the Partnership of the GPH and MILF in the Bangsamoro Peace Process, the Terms of Reference for the Establishment of the Bangsamoro Normalization Trust Fund (BNTF), and the Terms of Reference for the Project Board of the Mindanao Trust Fund for the Six Previously Acknowledged MILF Camps (MTF-RDP Camps Project) during the two-day Special Meeting of the Panels in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 29-30, 2016.

The MILF pledges to exert efforts in undertaking its obligations to fully implement the commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), building upon all the gains and achievements secured in the Bangsamoro peace process through years of negotiations. It is important to sustain the traction that we have managed to develop toward the anticipated success of this political settlement.

The MILF maintains its position that the CAB-based Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) needs to be immediately passed into law, not only because it is part of the implementation of the signed agreements, but also because it effectively addresses the peculiarities unique to the Bangsamoro that are not necessarily found in other prospective federal states. President-elect Rodrigo R. Duterte himself recognized the BBL as a possible template for federalism in various statements he made during his campaign. He likewise publicly declared during the last Presidential debate in April 2016 that nothing will appease the Bangsamoro until the BBL is passed.

We receive with high regard the statement of Presidential Peace Adviser-Nominee Jesus G. Dureza welcoming the signing of the declaration above-


mentioned, and the intent "to continue with the gains and build on those already done and achieved."

MILF

Notwithstanding the unpredictable political landscape that contributed to the stalling of the implementation of the CAB and the non-passage of the BBL, we acknowledge the efforts of President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, and the GPH Peace Panel pertaining to the peace process. Indeed, it is a good time to reflect on the many gaps and breakdown in the past years, draw lessons from them with the end in view of ultimately moving forward with a reasonable and time-bounded roadmap.

Our praises and thanks likewise go to the Government of Malaysia, the Malaysian facilitator, the individuals and countries comprising the various infrastructures and peace process mechanisms, our friends and partners in the international community, for standing by the peace process, and for believing in the cause we fight for, that is, the realization of the aspiration for freedom and self-determination of the entire Bangsamoro. The roles that the international actors play in the Bangsamoro peace process are placed with high regard, more particularly in the implementation phase of the agreements, because their scrutinizing eyes ensure that both parties stay true to their obligations and commitments. This critical stage of implementation involves some aspects of the normalization process where specific international partners' support is vital, such as, decommissioning, transitional justice and reconciliation, and compliance monitoring.

Finally, we call on the Bangsamoro people for solidarity and a unified stand throughout this journey towards peace, justice and development. We have been through the worst of times than this. The MILF will continue to fight for you and the justified causes of the Bangsamoro


AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman