

IN THE NAME OF GOD, MOST BENEFICENT, MOST MERCIFUL

**AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), herein after referred to as the Parties:

Recognizing the need to resume their stalled peace talks in order to end the armed hostilities between them and achieve a negotiated political settlement of the conflict in Mindanao and of the Bangsamoro problem, thereby promoting peace and stability in this part of the world;

Aware of the need to create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the peace negotiation through the normalization of the situation of the communities affected by armed conflict in Mindanao;

Noting the Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities entered into by the Parties on July 18, 1997 and the General Framework of Agreement of Intent between the Parties dated August 27, 1998;

Determined to pursue a solution to the Bangsamoro problem with honor, justice and dignity for all concern;

Acknowledging the ascendancy of moral and spiritual development as the primary foundation of socio-economic and political development of all the people in Mindanao;

Holding a common belief that the resumption of the peace negotiation should go hand in hand with relief, rehabilitation and development efforts in the men affected by the armed conflict;

Hereby agree as follows:

Article I

The Parties agree to resume the stalled peace negotiations immediately after the signing of this Agreement, and continue the same from where it had stopped before April 27, 2000 until they shall

have reached a negotiated political settlement of the Bangsamoro problem.

Article II

The MILF shall organize its own Peace Panel forthwith to meet with its GRP counterpart, and this shall be announced to the public at the soonest time possible.

Article III

In conjunction with its formation of its Peace Panel, the MILF shall reciprocate the GRP's Suspension of Offensive Military Operations (SOMO) with the declaration of its own SOMO.

Article IV

The Parties commit to honor, respect and implement all past agreements and other supplementary agreements signed by them. Details of implementation shall be discussed by the Panels.

Article V

The Parties shall agree to hold the first formal meeting of their panels at a mutually agreed venue within three months from the signing of this agreement.

Article VI

To pave the way for the immediate normalization of the situation in Mindanao, the Parties agree to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures for evacuees, and joint development projects in the conflict affected areas.

Article VII

The Parties commit themselves to negotiate with sincerity and mutual trust, justice and freedom, and respect for their identity, culture and aspirations of all peoples of Mindanao.

Article VIII

The Parties express their gratitude for the gracious hospitality of the Government of Malaysia in hosting and facilitating the dialogue that has resulted in this Agreement.

Done in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this 24th Day of March 2001.

For the GRP :

EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

For the MILF:

AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM

Chairman, MILF Panel