

STATUS OF 2007 PDF COMMITMENTS OF THE MINDANAO WORKING GROUP

Recommendations	Actions Taken
<p>Affirm government's commitment to the Peace Process</p>	<p>The 14th GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks successfully broke the 14-month impasse conducted last 16 November 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the peace process suffered another setback in December 2007 when "... the Peace Panel of the MILF (has) decided not to attend the 15th GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks ... after their counterpart from the Philippine Government submitted a totally unacceptable draft of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Ancestral Domain ..." (based on a statement signed by MILF Panel Chair Mohagher Iqbal).</p> <p>On January 2008, the Cabinet Cluster on Security approved to adopt an option to set up a Bangsamoro Federal Governance Unit as a way forward in our negotiation with the ongoing peace talks. In order to put this in place, it would need a ONE-agenda item amendment in the Constitution for which the OPAPP is crafting a proposal for this regard. An official government statement said, "Let this be clear that we are taking this option to provide a lasting and permanent solution to the ongoing peace negotiations in order to hasten the much needed peace, order, and development in the South..."</p> <p>For more recent updates, go to http://opapp.gov.ph</p>
<p>Set aside a national fund for conflict-prone areas in the country</p>	<p>Ongoing coordination and discussion with NEDA for the development of a full-blown proposal on the creation of a peace and development financing mechanism under the ODA program.</p>
<p>Increase LGU accountability for local peace-building</p>	<p>The Mindanao Economic and Development Council (MEDCo) Staff convened a PMO Convergence Meeting for Peace and Development for Mindanao-based implementing units in August. This mechanism will be used to evolve a "community of practice" for sharing of lessons learned and good practices in local peace-building to other donor projects, media and LGUs.</p> <p>There is growing consensus among field people that development assistance to conflict-affected communities have to be (a) highly consultative and participatory for local stakeholders (community-driven development) in order to restore trust of people on development programs and (b) implemented with effective LGU engagement strategies from the planning, implementation and exit phases of reconstruction and rehabilitation programs in conflict-affected communities.</p> <p>The Mindanao Trust Fund Reconstruction and Development Program held an LGU orientation for municipal mayors where</p>

Secretary Dureza endorsed the community-driven development strategy for conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. He enjoined mayors to support the work of the Bangsamoro Development Agency in order to move forward with the peace process and address social and economic needs of their constituents.

For more details, go to <http://emindanao.org.ph> and <http://medco.gov.ph>