



# Signing Ceremonies of the GRP-MNLF Final Agreement

Monday, 02 September 1996  
9:00 o'clock in the morning

Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace  
Manila, Philippines

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*Peace at last !*





*"... to bequeath to those who will come after us,  
on this green and fertile land, a united,  
peaceful, progressive and democratic society..."*

-- President Fidel V. Ramos





His Excellency  
**FIDEL V. RAMOS**

*President of the Republic of the Philippines*

without serious interruptions or disturbances to hasten community development and nation-building."

### **... A BETTER AND BRIGHTER TOMORROW.**

"Development cannot be an exclusionary process. If the nation is to progress, it must do so as a whole — and to do so as a whole, it must think and act as a whole, as Filipinos, and not just as Christians or Muslims or *Lumads* or other individuals of varied backgrounds or beliefs.

"This is what ZOPAD stands for — an opportunity with a precious time advantage during which all of us can work together

-- President Fidel V. Ramos  
*Presentation of the National Youth  
Commission's 1st Anniversary  
Accomplishment Report  
Malacañang, 16 August 1996*

"In his final moments, Rizal wrote in *Mi Ultimo Adios*:

*'When my death is forgotten, my grave unmarked, let  
the plow turn the earth where I lie. May my dust make fertile  
the fields. Where the grass grows thickly, there I dwell.*

*'When night comes and my grave in darkness lies,  
break not the peace, kneel before the mystery. If you hear the  
sound of music, be not afraid. It is I.'*





"Let us tell Jose Rizal: "We, your grateful people, have not forgotten your sacrifice. We now use the plow to turn the earth of your legacy, so that enduring peace and sustained development may reign in our beloved land. We hear your music, which inspires us and strengthens us in our labors."

-- President Fidel V. Ramos  
*Philippine Observance of the  
International Day for the World's  
Indigenous Peoples*  
Camp Aguinaldo, 16 August 1996

"If we are serious about national development — if development is to be for all Filipinos, and not just for a privileged and powerful few — then we must assume the burdens of our indigenous peoples as a special and urgent concern."

-- President Fidel V. Ramos  
*Philippine Observance of the  
International Day for the World's  
Indigenous Peoples*  
Camp Aguinaldo, 16 August 1996







"I chose to return home via Mindanao for two special reasons. We are vigorously promoting a sense of community and a culture for closer economic and business collaboration in this region, together with our partners in ASEAN."

-- President Fidel V. Ramos  
*After visiting Brunei Darussalam  
on the Occasion of the Wedding of  
Sultan Bolkiah's Eldest Daughter  
Cotabato City, 19 August 1996*

"And I ask you, the people of Mindanao — let us take counsel — not from our fears — but from our hopes. Let us not allow our apprehensions to deter us from moving on as brothers and sisters in unity — to win the future.

"We today have the chance to take bold steps together — so that we can reshape the future of Mindanao — to turn it from conflict to reconciliation and unity; from stagnation and poverty to economic growth, social cohesion and sustainable development."

-- President Fidel V. Ramos  
*Rally for Peace and Development  
Malabang, Lanao del Sur  
19 August 1996*







"I have just returned from a peace mission in the Province of Lanao Sur in our southern island of Mindanao, where a Muslim secessionist movement has been fighting the Philippine state for nearly thirty years at the cost of more than 120,000 Filipino lives. Last Monday, I met its leader, Chairman Nur Misuari of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) — and we together committed to create a new zone of peace and development (ZOPAD) in our southern regions."

-- President Fidel V. Ramos  
*International Conference on the  
"Philippine Revolution and Beyond"*  
Manila Hotel, 21 August 1996





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Office of the President  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Negotiation Panel for the Peace Talks with the  
Southern Philippines Autonomous Group  
GRP - SPAG

MESSAGE

Today, the peace process marks a high point as we sign the 1996 peace agreement between our government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

As a comprehensive, just and durable peace in Southern Philippines rises in the horizon, let us pray that this will eventually strengthen the unity, progress and prosperity of our people in that part of the land.



In behalf of the Philippine panel in the peace negotiations, I wish to thank the President and our national leaders, as well as all those who have stood behind us and shared our tasks -- including our international allies and friends -- in this noble enterprise.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

MANUEL T. YAN  
Chairman, GRP-SPAG



"We have agreed to end the war and restore peace... This is a very momentous, very historic occasion. This will be written in the golden pages of history. And I'm also very sure that President Ramos will occupy the central part of the page because of his crucial contribution to peace...

"More than any leader of the country since the time of President Quezon, I believe that he, the President (Ramos), is the one person who has given the most contribution to the cause of peace...

"Soon, we will see the transformation of Mindanao from a kind of life that we have today into a kind of life that is in accord with dignity as a human being...

"Peace is vital to all of us both for the living and the unborn for whatever we have today, we bequeath to them tomorrow..."

--- **NUR MISUARI**  
Chairman, MNLF  
In his first meeting  
with President Fidel V.  
Ramos in 10 years at  
the Malabang National  
High School, Lanao del  
Sur, 16 August 1996







## Signing Ceremonies of the GRP-MNLF Final Agreement

02 September 1996 • 9:00 A.M.  
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace

### PROGRAMME

National Anthem

Ecumenical Invocation

Welcome Remarks

*Hon. Ruben D. Torres*  
*Executive Secretary*

### SIGNING OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT

Statements

*H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas*  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs*  
*Republic of Indonesia*

*H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid*  
*Secretary-General*  
*Organization of Islamic Conference*

*Hon. Prof. Nur Misuari*  
*Chairman*  
*Moro National Liberation Front*

*Hon. Manuel T. Yan*  
*Chairman*  
*Government of the Republic of the*  
*Philippines Peace Panel*

Introduction of the President

*Hon. Ruben D. Torres*

### THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Hon. Marciano A. Paynor, Jr., Chief of Presidential Protocol  
Master of Ceremonies





## A CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF THE MINDANAO PEACE PROCESS

### THE PEACE PROCESS AND NUC CONSULTATIONS

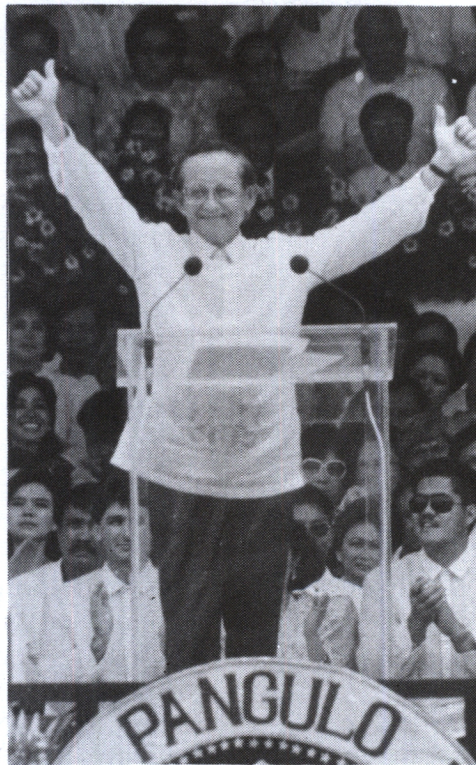
30 June 1992

**Inaugural Address of President Fidel V. Ramos.** The President issued a call for "mutinous soldiers and radical insurgents to give up their armed struggle," and committed himself to "work with Congress in fashioning an amnesty policy that will enable errant reformists to re-enter civil society."

27 July 1992

**First State of the Nation Address of President Ramos.**

The President invited both chambers of Congress "to join the executive in constituting a National Unification Commission that will include representatives of the private sector... [to] undertake extensive consultations with concerned sectors of society, including rebel groups, in order to formulate a viable amnesty



program and the process that will lead to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace."

The President also called on Congress to repeal Republic Act 1700, so that "the Communist Party of the Philippines and





similar organizations will no longer be outlawed but allowed to compete freely, openly and peacefully in the political, economic, and social arena instead of following the path of armed struggle."

The President issued Proclamation No. 10 granting amnesty in favor of persons who have filed or will file applications for amnesty under Executive Order No. 350, series of 1989.

28 July 1992

President Ramos issued Proclamation 10-A which created the National Unification Commission.

01 September 1992

President Ramos constituted the National Unification Commission through Executive Order No. 19. The NUC was chaired by Comm. Haydee Yorac with the following as members: from the executive branch, DOJ Secretary Franklin Drilon and DND Secretary Renato de Villa; from the legislative branch, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Sen. Wigberto Tanada, Rep. Eduardo Ermita, and Rep. Jose Yap; from the non-government sector, Bishop Fernando Capalla and Dr. Feliciano Carino. The NUC had a Council of Advisers composed of Former President Diosdado Macapagal, Former Senator Manuel Manahan, Former Congressman Luis Taruc, Dr. Jesus Lava, Atty. Sandiale Sambolawan, Ustadz Abdulgani





Yusop, Ms. Tarhata Alonto Lucman, and Former Amb. Alejandro Melchor. The NUC was given the following authority and functions:

1. To "formulate and recommend, after consulting with concerned sectors of society, to the President... a viable general amnesty program and peace process that will lead to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the country."
2. To "review and evaluate the existing National Reconciliation and Development Program... with the view to integrating the program into the general amnesty program and peace process."
3. To "call upon any official, agent, employee, agency or instrumentality of the national or local government for any assistance that may be necessary to carry out the purposes" of Executive Order No. 19.

22 September 1992

**The President signed RA 7637, which repealed the anti-subversion law (RA 1700).** This removed the legal obstacle to peace negotiations with rebel groups.

October 1992  
to July 1993

The NUC held public consultation at the national level, regional level, and local level, i.e. in 71 out of the (then) 76 provinces. The NUC also held consultations with various rebel groups.

01 July 1993

The NUC submitted its consolidated recommendations to the President, identifying the root causes of armed conflicts and social unrest as defined during the consultations. The root causes identified were as follows:

1. Massive and abject poverty and economic inequity, particularly in the distribution of wealth and control over the resource base for livelihood;
2. Poor governance, including lack of basic social services, absenteeism of elected local officials, corruption and inefficiency in Government bureaucracy, and poor implementation of laws, including those that should protect the environment;





3. Injustice, abuse of those in authority and power, violations of human rights, and inequity, corruption and delays in the administration of justice;
4. Structural inequities in our political system, including control by an elite minority, traditional politicians and political dynasties, and enforcement of such control through private armies; and
5. Exploitation and marginalization of Indigenous Cultural Communities, including lack of respect and recognition of ancestral domain and indigenous legal and political systems.

The NUC also proposed the “six paths to peace” to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, as follows:

1. The pursuit of social, economic and political reforms that address the root causes of the armed conflicts;
2. Building consensus and empowerment for peace;
3. Pursuit of a peaceful, negotiated settlement with the different armed rebel groups;
4. Establishment of programs for honorable reconciliation and reintegration into mainstream society;
5. Addressing concerns that arise out of the continuing armed hostilities; and
6. Nurturing a positive climate for peace.

Furthermore, the NUC recommended a set of “doables” which can be acted upon by government in line with the peace process.

15 September 1993

The President issued Executive Order No. 125 defining the approach and administrative structure for government’s comprehensive peace efforts. The “six paths to peace” were formally adopted as the major components of the peace process. The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process was created to continue the work begun by the NUC.





15 March 1994

The President issued Proclamation No. 347 granting amnesty to rebels, insurgents, and all other persons who have or may have committed crimes against public order, and other crimes committed in furtherance of political ends, and violations of the Articles of War, and creating the National Amnesty Commission.

The President also issued on the same day Proclamation No. 348 granting amnesty to certain personnel of the AFP and PNP who may or may have committed certain acts or omissions punishable under the Revised Penal Code, the Articles of War, or other special laws, committed in furtherance of, incidental to, or in connection with counter-insurgency operations.

## PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AUTONOMOUS GROUPS

03-05 October 1992

First Round of Exploratory Talks between GRP and MNLF was held in Tripoli, Libya to determine the willingness of MNLF to sit down and negotiate with the Philippine Government. The small GRP delegation composed of Rep.







Eduardo Ermita, Rep. Nur Jaafar and Mr. Silvestre Afile (consultant) received a positive response from the MNLF.

April 1993

Second Round of Exploratory Talks were held in Cipanas, West Java to finalize the agenda for the negotiations. The enlarged GRP Panel was composed of Rep. Eduardo Ermita, Rep. Nur Jaafar, DOJ Asst. Sec. Teresita Castro and Mr. Silvestre Afile.

25 October to  
07 November 1993

First Round of Formal Negotiations was held between GRP and MNLF in Jakarta, Indonesia. An Interim Ceasefire Agreement was signed between GRP and MNLF. GRP and MNLF also signed a Memorandum of Agreement providing for the reactivation of the Mixed Committee (provided for in the Tripoli Agreement), creation of five support committees of experts from both the government and the MNLF to discuss substantive concerns arising from the Tripoli Agreement, creation of an Ad-Hoc Working Groups on the Transitional Implementing Structure and Mechanisms, and setting of the Philippines as the venue for the discussions of the Mixed Committee, Support Committees, and the Ad-Hoc Working Group.

20 December 1993

First Mixed Committee Meeting held in Jolo, Sulu.







- 06-07 April 1994      Second Mixed Committee Meeting held in Zamboanga City. A ceasefire agreement was signed between GRP and MNLF and a Joint Ceasefire Committee was established.
- 31 August 1994      Third Mixed Committee Meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 01-05 September 1994 Second Round of Formal Talks held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 29-31 January 1995   Fourth Mixed Committee Meeting held in Zamboanga City.
- 21 May 1995          First Mindanao Peace and Development Summit was held in Zamboanga City, in line with the consultations on the peace process with the MNLF and the peace and development program of the Ramos administration.
- 19-23 June 1995      Fifth Mixed Committee Meeting held in Davao City
- 02 July 1995          Second Mindanao Peace and Development Summit was held in General Santos City.
- 26-28 July 1995      Sixth Mixed Committee Meeting held in General Santos City.





25-26 August 1995

Third Mindanao Peace and Development Summit held in Cagayan de Oro City.

October 1995

GRP Panel composed of Chairman Yan, Vice-Chairman Eduardo Ermita, Rep. Nur Jaafar and Mr. Silvestre Afable went to Tripoli, Libya to brief the Libyan authorities on the progress of the Talks. The groups met with Libyan Leader Muamar Khadaffi.

The group proceeded to New York, U.S.A. for the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations and met with Prime Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia and Sec. Gen. Hamid Algabid of the OIC Ministerial Committee of the Six.

06 November 1995

Fourth Mindanao Peace and Development Summit held in Cotabato City

28 November to  
02 December 1995

Third Round of Formal Talks held in Jakarta, Indonesia. An Interim Agreement was signed between GRP and MNLF panels containing the points of consensus reached in earlier negotiations.



AP Photo





Philippine Star Photo

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 01-02 March 1996 | Seventh Mixed Committee Meeting held in Zamboanga City.   |
| 14-15 April 1996 | Consultation with Mindanao leaders at the DOLE Clubhouse in Polomolok, South Cotabato.  |
| 22 April 1996    | Consultation-Workshop with local government officials and Mindanao leaders held at Bahay Pangarap, Malacanang Park.   |
| 25 April 1996    | Follow-up Consultations with Mindanao leaders at the DOLE Clubhouse in Polomolok, South Cotabato  |
| 09 May 1996      | Consultation-Workshop with Mindanao leaders, concerned agencies of government, and Mindanao peace advocates held at the New Executive Building, Malacanang.   |
| 02-06 June 1996  | Consultation meeting called by Indonesia for the OIC Committee of the Six. The GRP and MNLF Panels were invited and a decision was reached to discuss the proposed Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development in the Eight Mixed Committee Meeting. |





Philippine Star Photo

- 21-23 June 1996      Eight Mixed Committee Meeting held in Davao City, which resulted in the agreement to establish the Special Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD) in the areas covered by the Tripoli Agreement, utilizing the proposed Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) as mechanism to implement the ZOPAD.
- 28-29 August 1996      Ninth Mixed Committee Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 30 August 1996      Fourth Round of Formal Peace Talks in Jakarta, Indonesia which resulted in the initialing of the GRP-MNLF Final Agreement.
- 02 September 1996      Signing of the GRP-MNLF Final Agreement at the Ceremonial Hall of Malacañan Palace in Manila.

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MALACAÑANG  
MANILA

31 August 1996

Your Excellency:

The signing of the final peace agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Manila on September 2, 1996 shall bring down the curtain on a long and storied era of strife in Philippine history.

Our people in Mindanao have fought long enough, and they have proven their courage. Now, they have chosen to embrace peace—a peace with honor and justice, a peace that will allow them to take hold of their life again and join the mainstream of Philippine society as our nation surges towards a new era of peace and development.

Amid this momentous event in our history as a nation, I extend the deepest gratitude of the Philippine Government and the Filipino people to your Excellency for your untiring and invaluable friendship and support, and to the Committee of Six of the Organization of Islamic Conference for their responsive and expeditious action in facilitating our peace talks which have been concluded to the satisfaction of all concerned.



*President Soeharto*

As I thank your Excellency, and all the peoples of the world who support our peace efforts in Mindanao, I offer my assurance that we shall move on, renewed in purpose, to give life to the structure and substance of the final agreement and make not just Mindanao, but the entire Philippines, a better place to live in, enabling our country to hold firmly a respected and dignified place in the community of nations.

As you have supported the Philippines in the negotiations with the MNLF, I hope you will continue to extend your generous cooperation for the successful implementation of the agreement.

With reassurances of my highest esteem and our people's wish of lasting peace, progress and prosperity for the Republic of Indonesia.

His Excellency  
President Soeharto  
Republic of Indonesia





## PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE MINDANAO PEACE PROCESS

### THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF SIX OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC)

INDONESIA

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

LIBYA

BANGLADESH

SENEGAL

SOMALIA

CHAIRMAN - H. E. ALI ALATAS  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

### ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC)

SECRETARY GENERAL - DR. HAMED AL-GABID

### GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP)

CHAIRMAN - HON. MANUEL T. YAN

### MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF)

CHAIRMAN - HON. NUR MISUARI



