

**WOMEN'S PEACE SUMMIT: IF WOMEN
NEGOTIATED THE PEACE AGREEMENT
FEB. 16-17, 2006
WATERFRONT INSULAR HOTEL, DAVAO CITY
PROCEEDINGS**

BACKGROUND

The GRP-MILF peace negotiations, after having been stalled for three years, has now resumed with the meeting of the GRP and MILF Technical Committees in April 2005. Discussion on ancestral domain has begun and, hopefully, this will lead to a mini-agreement on this issue when the two panels finally meet again.

The Mindanao Commission on Women has strongly advocated for more female representation in the two panels. The present composition, however, of the panels leaves much to be desired. Whereas there were two women in the GRP panel from 2001-2004, now there is only one. In other words, there is only one woman in the combined membership of 10.

It has been shown that a critical mass is necessary for women to be heard in such bodies. Women's voices need to be heard because gender cross-cuts the ethnic, cultural, religious, political and economic divisions which underlie the Mindanao conflict. Women are victims of the armed conflict. But more than that, they have the capacity and the will to become major actors for peace in the various levels in which they are located. Gender equality is an important social goal in itself and crucial factor for achieving sustainable peace.

Since the GRP and MILF negotiating panels are already constituted and with only one female member as pointed out earlier, it is important that a process be undertaken that will bring to the attention of the panels what the women want to see in the final peace agreement.

To bring the voices of women of Mindanao in a dramatic way to the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Mindanao Commission on Women undertook a series of activities entitled "If Women Negotiated the GRP-MILF Peace Agreement. . ." This involved consultations with women, especially in conflict-affected areas. The process "shadowed" the GRP-MILF peace talks and conducted Technical Working Group meetings on the issues currently on the negotiating table – ancestral domain, political settlement and the DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) issues. The process culminated in a Mindanao Women's Peace Summit where the recommendations were presented to the GRP and MILF Peace Panels. The Summit brought together about 120 women leaders and peace advocates

who discussed the three issues as well as gender issues in the post-Peace Agreement scenario.

SESSIONS – FEBRUARY 16

WELCOME REMARKS

By: Margie Moran Floirendo



Maayong buntag kaninyong tanan
Assalami Alaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatuu

Good Morning!

Welcome to the Mindanao Women's Peace Summit. As you are all aware, the title of this Summit is "If Women Negotiated the Peace Agreement..." is designed to educate and train women to participate in the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in order that the voices of the women of Mindanao are heard.

Women's voices need to be heard because women are not only victims of the armed conflict, they are also involved in rehabilitation and peace-building in the communities they belong to. More importantly, for peace to be sustainable, the social development of both women and men, as major actors for peace cannot be overemphasized.

Today's summit is the culmination of eight consultations, were women members and sympathizers of the MILF and the MNLF and one consultation with IP women meaningfully participated in a consultative process and expressed their desires in a peace agreement.

There were 325 women who participated. We invited the MNLF women because their needs needed to be addressed since the 1996 peace agreement has yet to be fully implemented as well as what can be built on that agreement, weak and inadequate as it is. The IP women had their on consultation because they are also stakeholders in this negotiation.

We are thankful to Alhaj Kagi Murad, for allowing their MILF women partners to participate and to the MILF resource speakers, Atty. Lanang Ali, Datu Jun Mantawil, and Dr. Alpha Amirulhaj and the MNLF Vice Chair Jimmy Labawan as well as our sponsors, AusAID and GTZ for their support in this Mindanao Women's Peace Summit.

After today's workshop, we will be presenting the position paper to the Philippine Government and the MILF Negotiating Panels and we will have the opportunity to listen to the statements of support of Ambassadors Tony Hely of Australia and Annika Markovic of Sweden.

As I open this very significant Summit, let us be reminded that it is only when we have a critical mass of women, that our voices as stakeholders will be heard. And for the peace in Mindanao to be sustainable, the process must be participatory.

I wish you all a good morning and we look forward to a very fruitful summit.

Thank you.

OVERVIEW

By: Patricia M. Sarenas



See Annex A for the slide presentation on the Overview

I have been tasked to give an overview of what this Summit is all about. This Mindanao Women's Peace Summit which is bringing together 120 women from all the 6 regions in Mindanao and is being convened by the Mindanao Commission on Women with the assistance of the German Technical Cooperation and the Australian Agency for International Development.

So, let me begin with a brief background information about the MCW. On the screen is our *vision* "We assert our right to envision a future for Mindanao that is free of poverty and violence, where women and men participate fully in and benefit from peace and

development."

We are an NGO established in December 2001 after the 1st Kamindanawan held also in this hotel - to provide leadership to address political, economic, and socio-cultural concerns for the achievement of peace and development in Mindanao.

These are the Commissioners of the MCW - with the exception of the little girl, my granddaughter, Kyra, who is going to be a future woman leader in Mindanao. May I invite the Commissioners present today to please rise and be recognized.

There are 25 Commissioners – 12 representing the 6 Mindanao regions and 13 elected at-large. The Commission draws inspiration and advice from 3 Program Advisory Councils – composed of experts doing work on each of the MCW's program areas: peace and multiculturalism, Poverty reduction and politics and governance. The Commission's presence in the region has been expanded through the Regional Thematic Networks – 3 Regional Thematic Networks in each region – one each for the 3 program areas. The Commission's mass movement on the ground is the Mothers for Peace Movement through the organization of Peace Circles – in neighborhoods, workplaces, schools.

Here are just some of the pictures of the Commission (*referring to the slide presentation*).

The Commission has a 5-year Program called "Another Mindanao is Possible!" – a take-off from the Social Development Forum's "*El Otro Mundo es Posible*". For we believe that with women's meaningful participation in decision-making in all aspects of life – indeed another world, another Mindanao is possible. Our program is not a women's agenda for Mindanao. Rather it is an agenda for peace and development from the perspective of the women of Mindanao.

It is an agenda that we do not just for ourselves, but for our children and our children's children – to ensure that we enjoy our birthright to a just, humane and free Mindanao, a just, humane and free world.

The 3 Program areas of concern of MCW are politics and governance, poverty reduction, and peace and multiculturalism.

To enable us to plan for the "Another Mindanao is Possible" program – we do consultations with women in all the 6 regions – in various fora, meetings of the Regional Thematic Networks (RTNs), conferences such as this.

We consult with leaders of various sectors as well to explore how the women's sector can work with the other sectors who share our vision of another Mindanao. One of the methodologies the Commission has tried is scenario planning. Scenarios are carefully crafted stories about the future. They help us link the uncertainties we hold about the future to the decisions we must make today. Out of last August 2006 scenario planning process held at the Eden Nature Park, a multi-sectoral campaign has started and it is called "Mindanao Rising!

It is multi-sectoral campaign and taking the lead are sectoral champions who have started planning for how their respective sectors. On the screen are the key messages for the campaign. "*Rising is Emergence, Rising is Ascent, Rising is Victory, and Rising is Pride in being a Mindanawon by blood and by heart.*"

But to contextualize our work presence here at this Summit, allow me to give you just a brief background about the 3 Program areas of the Commission. We begin with Poverty Reduction. We focus on triple concerns identified in

the UNDP Human Development Report on Poverty Reduction – health, education, income.

To do that, our major strategy is to invest in women and girls. I know that all of you, women leaders present in this Summit know the truth of this all too well. A healthy mother means a healthy home. Education for a woman widens her horizons and allows her to make informed choices in life. Over time, it has been proved that that skills training and financial assistance programs for women have greater chances of success and have resulted in maximum positive impacts on the welfare of their families and their communities.

In Politics and Governance, we believe that “collectively, women can be a strong force to make politics and governance responsive and transparent. So among other things, we facilitate Public Leadership training programs believing that women must take their rightful place in the places where vital decisions are made. We do advocacy for the GAD budget at all levels in the local government. We also believe that a solid women’s vote is possible.

Next, we look at Peace and Multiculturalism. Among other things, we believe in all these – Peace in Mindanao is a national concern. From national security to human security. Women’s substantive role in the peace process. Promote healing and reconciliation. - And always, do what we know best – Work for peace in the ways of peace.

On Mothers Day in the year 2003, we launched the Mothers for Peace Campaign in Manila and in various parts of Mindanao. The campaign called the immediate cessation of hostilities between armed forces and a return to the Peace Negotiating table. The highly successful campaign involved various activities in Luzon and the Visayas designed to raise national consciousness about the problems in Mindanao. The campaign has since evolved into a movement with women coming together in small Peace Circles – in neighborhoods, schools, workplaces.

The Commission has also taken an active role in advocating for action to address the triggers of conflict – continuing family feuds, the proliferation of firearms, among others. So MCW is doing an anti-rido campaign and has joined the calls for disarmament and de-militarized communities, a de-militarized Mindanao.

One major strategy that the Commission has employed in order to raise consciousness about the issues in Mindanao is linking the micro to the macro, surfacing and articulating our concerns in higher levels. We successfully facilitated local and international fora on the gender issues in conflict and post-conflict scenarios. In December 2004, we sponsored Women’s Voices, a conference on gender issues in post Peace Agreement periods. The keynote speaker was Ms. Chantou Boua, author of the book entitled “Children of the Killing Fields.” Other speakers from Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste shared their experiences in their respective countries. Our very own Ms. Wahida Abtahi shared the experiences of the MNLF women after the signing of the 1996 Peace Accord between the GRP and the MNLF.

Then, as part of our contribution to the commemoration of 10th year anniversary of the fourth World Women's Conference held in Beijing, PROC in 1995, we sponsored a fora in the Beijing + 10 Preparation Conference in Bangkok and in New York for the 39th Session of the Commission on the Status on Women of the United Nations. We had the Minister for Women's Affairs of Afghanistan, Ms. Chantou Boua of Kampuchea and MCW's Chair/CEO, Ms. Irene Santiago as speakers. Amb. Lauro Baja, Head of the Philippine Mission to the UN provided valuable support to the symposium. Please note that the work of the Mindanao Commission on Women was included in the Report of Sec. Gen. Kofi Annan about the implementation worldwide of the Beijing Platform for Action. Ms. Santiago and I were part of the official delegation to the CSW meeting – Beijing + 10. We provided inputs on the chapters on Women and Armed conflict and women and politics.

Now to speak of why this conference today. MCW strongly believes that women's voices must be heard in the ongoing Peace Talks between the government and the MILF. This slide shows how women can be involved in peace processes. Through Mothers for Peace and the Peace Circles, women can share their aspirations for peace. We lobbied for our Vice-Chair for Peace & Multiculturalism to be a member of the GRP. Then, this project – "If Women Negotiated the Peace Agreement" - which I will explain in a little while.

The Commission is also in the forefront of the advocacy for the adoption of multiculturalism since Mindanao is a melting pot of many cultures. We believe that our diversity must be the basis for harmony and productivity and not the source of conflict.

We also facilitate processes so that our Moro sisters and our sisters from IP communities are able to take their rightful place where important decisions are made. Together with our Moro and IP sisters, we convene a Muslim Women's Assembly and a Lumad Women's Assembly every year.

We also include in our work the young women leaders. Last October, we organized the 1st Mindanao Young Women Leaders Conference where 75 young women leaders from all over Mindanao gathered together to make their voices heard. This way, we create a critical mass of individuals and groups committed to multiculturalism as policy and as practice.

We started the "If Women Negotiated the Peace Agreement..." Project with a dialogue with MILF and MNLF leaders, who were supportive with it. Eight consultations were conducted to gather data, ideas, lessons learned and experiences to come up with a position paper. These consultations were held in Cotabato City for Kutawato ares, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Iranum areas, Liguasan, Basilan, Jolo and with the IPs from November to December.

The project is in coordination with the Bangsamoro Women Solidarity Forum, Federation of United Mindanawan Bangsamoro Women, Sarangbangon Foundation, Mindanao Council of Lumad Women and the Teduray Women's Organization.

The succeeding photos show the women in our past Kamindawan conferences wearing their traditional Filipino attires. Indeed, women are strong and play a potent role to achieve Another Mindanao!

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT POSITION PAPER

The presentation was made in plenary, read by five women in the following order:

1. Casimira V. Balandra, MCW Regional Commissioner Region X
2. Tarhata M. Maglangit, Steering Committee Member and Commissioner, Bangsamoro Women Solidarity Forum
3. Bai Farida M. Pendatun , MCW Commissioner Region XII
4. Nida P. Dans, MCW Commissioner region IX
5. Ava Patricia C. Avila, Mindanao Young Women Leaders Forum

The Conference Statement/Draft Position paper was read while the text is being run on screen.

WORKSHOP MECHANICS

By: Arlene A. Lozano

The plenary was divided into seven (7) workshop groups, according to regions, with the following facilitators:

- Region IX - Facilitators: Nida P. Dans and Zenaida Lim
Region X - Facilitators: Melchora J. Ambalong and Anita T. Sescon
Region XI - Facilitators: Clarita P. Galagala and Marivic Daray
Region XIIA - Facilitators: Sheila G. Algabre and Adele Nayal
Region XIIB - Facilitators: Bai Farida M. Pendatun and Jenita Eko
Caraga - Facilitator: Arlene A. Lozano
ARMM- Facilitators: Tarhata M. Maglangit and Fatmawati Salappudin

Workshop Procedure

Time Limit: 1 ½ hours

1. Group members introduce themselves (limited to names and organizations only). Note: An attendance sheet is passed around for members to sign in for documentation purposes.
2. The facilitator will explain that the group output serves as the regional output/position which will be taken up in plenary session following the workshop.
3. The group assigns a rapporteur and a documentor. The group is reminded that there will be no group reporting during the plenary but it

is the role of the rapporteur to present points agreed upon by the region as the position paper is taken up.

4. To facilitate discussions, the following shall be tackled in sequence:
 - 4.1 Clarificatory questions first (no discussions yet, only clarifications). If questions cannot be answered by the facilitators, they are noted and included in the group report)
 - 4.2 Points the members agree on and should be adopted
 - 4.3 Points to be revised (this should include suggested re-wording of sentences, phrases, etc.)
 - 4.4 Points which would be deleted
 - 4.5 Other comments/suggestions

Documentation: The documentor must make a record of the following for reference of the rapporteur and for submissions after the plenary to the secretariat:

1. Clarificatory questions (raised during the workshop which have not been answered)
2. Suggested revisions/re-wording of terms, phrases, sentences
3. Suggested deletions
4. Suggested additions

Important: The members of the group must agree on the revisions/additions/deletions to be proposed on the draft position paper as discussions during the plenary will be on the basis of regional inputs/agreements rather than individual.

ADOPTION OF THE POSITION PAPER

Proposed Revisions

Line	Suggestions/Deletions/Other Comments	Discussion Points	Action
23-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equality is an important social goal in itself and crucial factor for achieving sustainable peace. – Removal of the word "gender," use instead: "equality in the treatment of persons..." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender should be retained. We are here because we want gender equality. • Islam encourages equality among men and women; the word "gender" should be removed • If we use "gender" it encompasses a bigger perspective, includes roles... • The reason we are here is because of the reality that there are inequalities between men and women and in gender relations; using the word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved and seconded: Retain the word "gender" approved

		<p>"persons," "nalulusaw ang babae"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are looking at gender equality in a general perspective; must not deviate from what we are here now; we are talking about the position paper as regards the GRP-MILF negotiations such that what we have in mind now is to say "equality in the treatment of persons in Mindanao (whether Moslem or non-Moslem, IP, etc.)" so as not to agitate the senses of the people in Mindanao... 	
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... economic divisions which underlie the Mindanao conflict. Women are victims of the armed conflict. But....(Comma after second "conflict") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the sentence is perfectly done...there's no need to change the punctuation or whatever... our teachers don't advise us to start sentences with "But" (prepositions) what we need is a semi-colon we leave this and talk about issues formal papers like this should be clear on that but we shouldn't take long change "but more than that" to "however" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded: change "but more than that" to "however"
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "...goal in itself and crucial factor for achieving sustainable peace.." - Add "a" before the word "crucial" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded: add "a"
31-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If women negotiated the peace agreement <i>in partnership with men</i>, it <i>can</i> be more than just a settlement. It <i>can be</i> fair and <i>lasting</i>. It is wise and it can finally resolve the conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatchie: <i>With due respect, siguro kami ang pinaka-apektado ng giyera. ...On our behalf as Bangsamoro women, we always emphasize that the peace negotiation is by both men and women, we cannot do it without the men...We need to have room for imperfection...kaya proposal lang namin is "and", parati naming emphasize is: "If we negotiated the peace agreement in partnership with men." Kasi hindi namin kayang i-resolve ang problemang yun..we cannot resolve the problems of Mindanao without the men.</i> Pat: <i>How do we drive home the point that women are absent in</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded: approval of the paragraph, subject to the recommendations of the steering committee.

		<p><i>the panel... when we had a dialogue with the MILF, Jaffar asked, "what if women really negotiated the peace agreement, sabi ni Margie, "we will give you 30% membership in the panel, sabi ni Jaffar, "di ba puwedeng 50?" This is without a smack of arrogance... It is the decision of the MILF na walang women doon and we respect that... but we just want to stress that "what if women negotiated the peace agreement..."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daray: Process check: Are we in the position to really change everything. Not all of us were in the peace consultations. We in the Region 11 are aware that we were not consulted. Those in the conflict areas should be the one to comment on it. 	
42-48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunity to achieve peace based on justice in Mindanao. • in the hope that the comprehensive peace agreement will address the root causes of the <i>Bangsamoro</i> struggle. • include "i.e." after "policies and programs" • wrought by certain policies and programs Philippine government administrations such as those pertaining to land ownership and ancestral domains that not only failed to rectify but indeed exacerbated Spanish and American colonial policies and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved and seconded: approval of corrections • Carried, refer to steering committee • Let the paragraph stay; the only correction is the addition of the word "certain"
54-63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affirming the right of the <i>Bangsamoro</i> people to their self-determination, history, their distinct cultural identity, their religious, political, and socio-economic systems; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved and seconded: as proposed
66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the MILF definition of "Bansamoro" encompasses all native inhabitants of Mindanao, we propose that indigenous non-Islamized peoples should be recognized and respected as a distinct identity and be given the option to be included as <i>Bangsamoro</i>. • Proposal to include the IP concern for recognition of their distinct identity in the bullets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to retain original statement • Moved and seconded to leave it to the steering committee with due recognition of

			the results of the IP consultation
71-78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will therefore entail the inclusion of the MNLF in the current peace negotiations as a <i>concerned</i> party. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried
80-85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A strong political will is needed to implement a peace accord.</i> The peace talks are being carried out when the country is in deep political crisis. <i>We acknowledge</i> that the substantive points of agreement on territory, resources and governance will certainly entail amending the Constitution <i>but at an appropriate time.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st issue – to agree that there is a need to amend the Constitution 2nd issue – to agree not to amend the Constitution at this time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded to adopt the corrected version.
92-101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Comprehensive</i> economic programs must lead the Bangsamoro <i>and the indigenous peoples</i> out of the mire of poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded
178-180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision-making body of the Special Fund for Women must include representatives <i>from (delete "major")</i> Mindanao women's groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried
182-193	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add: introductory course or subject on Shari'ah to be integrated into the formal educational system; integration of Madrasah; teaching of comparative religion in the elementary and high schools outside of Moslem-dominated communities; ...non-traditional skills for women <i>and youth...</i> Add Environmental Preservation as a separate bullet Promotion of a culture of peace <i>and indigenous ways of conflict resolution and transformation</i> Other basic services (including housing, <i>rural infrastructure, access to potable water system, electricity</i>) Adopt as a separate bullet:: access to fair justice system Add: Gender and Development Add: Youth Development Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried
197	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... referendum <i>supervised by the U.N. and the O.I.C.</i> is the best... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried
199	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there must be <i>consultation and</i> massive information campaign using various communication modes ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried
215-220	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rephrase last sentence: <i>We call on the continuous meaningful dialogue with the women of Mindanao.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain original statement
222-228	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We link our arms in solidarity with all our sisters and brothers in Mindanao who are working for peace and development.</i> We, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c/o Steering Committee

	members and partners of the Mindanao Commission on Women, <i>vow/commit</i> to continue to facilitate processes that will provide opportunities for the women of Mindanao...		
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PRESENTATION CEREMONY – FEBRUARY 17

INVOCATION

Guests and participants were welcomed by a song composed by the Mebuyan Peace Project. They also led the singing of the National Anthem and rendered a new version of the Kababaihan Makapangyarihan.



WELCOME REMARKS

By: Margie Moran Floirendo



Sec. Jesus Dureza, Sec. Silvestre Afable, His Excellency Ambassador Tony Hely of Australia, Her Excellency Ambassador Annika Markovic of Sweden, Atty. Lanang Ali, a member of the MILF Peace panel, Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Sylvia Paraguya of the GRP Peace Panel, Patricia Sarenas, Deputy Director of the Mindanao Commission on Women, Hja. Bainon Karon and our keynote speaker Monina Andik Lumenda, a Muslim woman leader.

Maayong buntag kaninyong tanan
Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatulahi
Wabarakatuu

Good Morning!

Welcome to the Mindanao Women’s Peace Summit. As you are all aware, the title of this Summit is “If Women Negotiated the Peace Agreement...” is designed to educate and train women to participate in the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in order that the voices of the women of Mindanao are heard.

Women's voices need to be heard because women are not only victims of the armed conflict, they are also involved in rehabilitation and peace-building in the communities they belong to. More importantly, for peace to be sustainable, the social development of both women and men, as major actors for peace cannot be overemphasized.

Today's summit is the culmination of eight consultations in eight conflict affected areas where women members and sympathizers of the MILF and the MNLF and one consultation with IP women to meaningfully participate in a consultative process, their desires in a peace agreement.

We invited the MNLF women because their needs needed to be addressed since the 1996 peace agreement has yet to be fully implemented as well as what can be built on that agreement, weak and inadequate as it is. The IP women had their own consultation because they are also stakeholders in this negotiation.

There were 325 women who participated in very interesting sharing of ideas that touched their hearts and soul. We realized that their being part of the discussions is a meaningful effort to peace-building.

In this Summit, 120 powerful women leaders and MCW Commissioners representing all the regions in Mindanao finalized the position paper yesterday after 6.5 hours of dialogue that included negotiating issues to be added, deleted or amended. It was democratic because we divided the house on issues we could not agree on. We recognized in this exercise that women are easy to talk to, they listen to opinions of others, they are passionate but they also argue little, and are flexible. Hence, if women were to negotiate the peace agreement, it would have long been signed.

Guests, the women of Mindanao have a vision for peace according to the perspective of a woman. Our vision is a Mindanao that is free of poverty and violence, where women and men are enabled to fully participate in and benefit from peace and development. In our quest for sustainable and just peace, women are ready to work actively to bind the wounds of conflict, engage in political reform and economic development, and strengthen relations between and among peoples to achieve social solidarity.

We are thankful to Alhaj Kagi Murad, for allowing their MILF women partners to participate and to the MILF resource speakers, Atty. Lanang Ali, Datu Jun Mantawil, and Dr. Alpha Amirulhaj and MNLF Vice Chair Jimmy Labawan as well as our sponsors Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) for their support in this Mindanao Women's Peace Summit.

This morning, we will be presenting the position paper to the Philippine Government and MILF Negotiating Panels and we will have the opportunity to listen to the statements of support of Ambassadors Tony Hely of Australia and Annika Markovic of Sweden.

Gentlemen, Your Excellencies, May I make a particular reference to a proposal in the position paper for a Special Fund for Women because gender cross-cuts the ethnic, cultural, religious, political and economic divisions underlying the Mindanao conflict. Women have been in the forefront of peace-building, hence, they should also benefit from post conflict reconstruction and development.

May I welcome then our guests, to listen to the voices of a critical mass of women, as stakeholders of the peace process. Because for the peace in Mindanao to be sustainable, the process must be participatory.

I wish you all a good morning.

Thank you.

Ladies, guests.

Our Chair and CEO, Irene Santiago, regrets that she is not here today. She is currently in a three month British Government Fellowship at the University of York in the United Kingdom to take a course on Conflict Management and Post-Conflict Recovery.

However, she is with us in spirit because she has prepared her message before leaving.

May I present the Mindanao Commission on Women Chair and CEO.

OVERVIEW

By: Irene M. Santiago

(Presented in a video presentation)

Assalamulaikum
warahmatulahi
wabarakatuu

Maayong buntag sa inyong
tanang. Good morning!

Welcome to the Mindanao
Women's Peace Summit!

We are very pleased indeed that you have come to participate in this very significant event for the attainment of peace for all in Mindanao.



I am sorry that I cannot be with you at this Summit which is being held back-to-back with our annual Mindanao Women's Conference. By the time the Summit is held, I shall be at the University of York in England on a British

Government Fellowship to take a short course on conflict management and post-conflict recovery. It was a difficult decision to miss this peace summit seeing as how MCW and its partner organizations had worked long and hard to make it possible. But as we are about to enter the post peace agreement stage (and I sincerely hope that will be soon), this course will help us prepare for that very critical period.

The title of this Summit is "If Women Negotiated the Peace Agreement." A few months ago, while I was taking my daily walk, a male friend stopped me and said, "You're right, Inday, it would be different if women negotiated the peace agreement." How so? I asked him. "Well, for one, it would be finished by now. It would also be practical and easier to implement."

That brief conversation set me to thinking that indeed, while I had spoken many times about why women should be part of peace negotiations, it was now time to do something about making sure that women's voices were heard.

Sure, there was Sylvia Paraguya in the government panel. Sylvia is the vice chair for peace and multiculturalism of the Mindanao Commission on Women and a perfectly capable negotiator. But Sylvia was the only female among 10 members of the combined GRP and MILF peace panels.

My long experience in the women's movement told me that it was difficult for the women's perspective to be heard unless there was a critical mass. One woman among nine men was certainly not a critical mass.

And so we decided we would do something dramatic to make sure we were heard. Thus this Mindanao Women's Peace Summit.

Our first step was to see Kagi Murad, the MILF chairman, in his office in Simuay Crossing. We told him that we planned to hold consultations with women in the conflict-affected areas to get their views and recommendations on what the peace agreement should contain. He was very open to the idea and said that the MILF was going to cooperate with us.

The next step was to form a steering committee. There were Bangsamoro women, stalwarts in the struggle like Bainon Karon, Tarhata Maglangit, Zeny Lim, Noemi Pasandalan, MCW Commissioners from ARMM Najemah Mokiin Malna and Baicon Macaraya; Margie Moran Floirendo, Pat Sarenas, Arlene Lozano who have all worked on peace and gender issues in Mindanao; Melchie Ambalong of Iligan who works on issues of multiculturalism; Jojo Andot who was the executive director of the GRP peace panel secretariat; and Myla Leguro of Catholic Relief Services who has been successfully running the Mindanao Peace Institute for many years now.

It was clear from our first meeting that we couldn't start with the MILF peace negotiations without reviewing what went before – and that meant going back to the GRP-MNLF peace accords of 1996. It became very apparent to us that peace is indeed a PROCESS. The work is not over just because a peace agreement has been signed. There are very important issues of

implementation or lack of it. So we asked Atty. Randolph Parcasio, executive secretary of the ARMM when Nur Misuari was governor, to give us his analysis of the implementation of the 1996 GRP-MNLF peace accords.

In the meantime, the GTZ or the German Technical Cooperation and AusAID agreed to support the peace summit and the 8 consultations in the following areas: the Kutawato area, Iranun area, Liguasan, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Basilan and Jolo. We held a separate consultation with indigenous women because it was important that they also spoke with their own voice.

We appreciated the substantive participation of the MILF and MNLF in the consultations where they gave us the background on the peace negotiations and the 1996 peace accords, respectively.

You have the results of the consultation in your kit. I hope you will find time to go through them to gain insights into how women view the peace process and what their role would be.

The substance of the consultations is before you in the position paper. However, let me share with you one of the lessons we learned from the consultations - that while women are eager to participate in peacemaking and peace building, they need knowledge and skills to enable them to participate effectively. As one woman said: *Mahirap pakiaalaman ang bagay-bagay na wala kaming alam.* Any future activities involving consultations must therefore include education and training.

It was clear to the women that the reason the 1996 peace accords did not fulfill its promise of peace and development is that we dropped the ball. After the peace agreement was signed and the doves were released, we all believed that it was over. Well, we know that the peace agreement is not worth the paper it is written on unless there are the requisite constitutional amendments, legislation, resources, implementation mechanisms, etc. . We also saw that the participation of women was hardly ever there from peace negotiations to the peace agreement and the structures that were established for implementation.

So we have agreed that the network of women and women's organizations throughout Mindanao under the Mothers for Peace movement will continue to expand. Women will develop skills in monitoring, project management, legislative lobbying. We will also develop leaders that will make the Bangsamoro, the indigenous peoples – in fact, all of us Mindanawons – proud. The general public – not just in Mindanao, but also in Luzon and the Visayas – need to be engaged in open discussions about the peace agreement. This is so necessary so that the entire country, especially the Christian majority, will understand the beneficial effects of the peace agreement to the entire nation

The dreams of women are simple. For their children to play and go to school without fear. For their children to grow up knowing what is right and what is wrong. To be free from ignorance. To be food secure. To live in dignity. In fact, they also dream what the Chilean economist, Manfred Max-Neef, has

called the freedom to be idle: *araw-araw nakalipstick pa!* To have time to reflect and listen to the muses.

But they are also crying for moral leadership: from our national leaders and their own leaders. And they are also willing to step up and be those types of leaders.

Our aim in the Mindanao Commission on Women is not to move a women's agenda but a Mindanao agenda from a women's perspective. Tomorrow you will discuss our campaign called "Mindanao Will". We chose to call it MINDANAO *WILL!* because *Will* is Resolve, Decision, *Will* is Power, Self-Governance, *Will* is Heritage, Legacy. The two-year "Mindanao *Will*" campaign is founded on the three PRINCIPLES of power:

1. Mindanao, as a united, synergized, and non-factionalized people, asserting its rightful place in the country as a self-determining region;
2. Mindanao as wealth-creating, and culturally and economically productive. Its wealth and productivity are shared equitably.
3. Mindanao as a every Mindanawon's personal and civic duty in our people's collective journey of transformation.

There are many people to thank for making this summit possible: the MILF, especially its chairman, Kagi Murad, the MNLF, the GRP and MILF peace panels, the members of the steering committee and our resource persons, our funders GTZ and AusAID especially Ambassador Tony Hely. I thank UNDP and the World Bank for their participation here, and ABS-CBN Davao for generously providing us the facilities for this videotaping. I would like to say a special thank you to Ambassadors Lise Favre of Switzerland and Annika Markovic of Sweden for believing in and supporting our cause and getting the other female Ambassadors to come here today. It was Ruth Pearce, then Australian Ambassador, whose idea it was to get the female Ambassadors to give their support to our struggles of women in Mindanao. Most of all, I would like to say my deepest thank you to all the women in the conflict-affected areas who participated in the consultations. Battered by war and violence for so many years, they were generous not only with their time but also with their trust. And because of this I am truly confident that together Mindanao Will! Yes, Mindanao's women will take their place alongside other Mindanawons to attain a just and lasting peace for all. Salam. Have a fruitful Summit!

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By: Bai Farida M. Pendatun



Monina belongs to a family of peace-builders. Her father and mother are proud to have four women children professionals in the family, all working with NGOs. "what I do not have, I try to make up for my children," Bapa Kadtong would tearfully say. During the local peace negotiation between the warring parties in the Nalapaan 2000 war, her father had been in the frontline. Her mother was quietly doing the background support. She and two other sisters were also involved in the relief and disaster management in the area.

The Andik family hails from Nalapaan with kin in the neighboring barangays of Lagunde and Pagangan. These are places, where the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) held series of skirmishes and gunfights, making Taya and her family victims, caught several times in the cross fires. Like any other survivors from Pikit, Taya played a very significant role in settling conflicts and peace education work. She had focused her time helping heal traumatized people as well as with the psycho-social interventions in affected communities. Later, she was hired by Balay, Incorporated as a case worker. She is a woman who feels that trauma to little kids is devastating. Gifted with two kids who were born during the two successive wars of 2000 and 2003, she would not introduce a toy gun to them, instead sets the day care center in her donated peace of land for a child peace learning center.

Taya, after working for four years in an NGO, focused on psycho-social activities. She realized that her past experiences as an Internally Displaced Person made her commit onward to peace-building and development work. Taya chose to finish her course in social work and be more proud and equipped with integrity to find a place in the sun. She is now in her fourth year of study. She believes that the Moro people, especially the women, have to be more assertive of their rights. They need to have their stories heard and to be counted not only among women for peace, but also become a part of the Mindanao Herstory.

Monina Andik-Lumenda is a simple woman, quiet but strong in her convictions. She believes that peace can be done in a

negotiated settlement. Conflict can only be resolved through continuous dialogue done in the grassroots level. In Mindanao, women will play that very important role in peace-building and will highlight their skills in development work. We are proud to introduce to you our keynote speaker, who does not consider herself ruined by war but a survivor and an advocate for peace.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

By: Monina Andik-Lumenda

To our honorable guests, distinguished visitors, co-peace advocates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and assalamu alaykum (peace be with you).

First, I would like to thank the Mindanao Commission on Women for convening this hundreds of women in this peace summit. Secondly, I would like to express my gratitude for giving this opportunity to speak about my first hand experience as an internally displaced person, and of course, as a woman.

I came here to share my story, to tell our ordeal of war and conflict experienced in the past, by internally displaced persons like us especially the case of Pikit. Since then, Pikit has become the center of a continuing scene of violence, since government declared war against the Bangsamoro rebels. Pikit and the nearby municipalities experience more than 30 years of major devastations caused the people to suffer. The armed conflict has affected lives and properties and more so, on the relationship of diversified cultures and religious affiliations. I believe that relational damages have been destroyed and more difficult to bring it back whole again.

The military operation in our place against the Bangsamoro rebels, and guise of running after the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang, or the Abu Sayyaf were intensified. In fact, we experienced several times being caught in the cross fires. I and my family run several times and human rights violations against the non-combatants have piled up unresolved. Many children, women and elderly suffered from this conflict. Many women lost their husbands and many children became orphans.

Although many of us were victimized, we are proud to be survivors. We do not want to be called victims because we have survived several wars already. We already realized that we need to move on despite those remarkable and painful experiences.



Consequently, many survivors like us couldn't even get the justice due because the root cause of the problem is still unresolved. Political analysts and peace and development advocates would invariably trace back sources of conflict from the long festering historical roots of injustice, prejudices and discrimination that have led to continuing violent armed conflict and localized outbreaks of violence. But who are the victims? They're not the affluent people but we...the poor and marginalized sector of society, of which women, children, and elderly are considered most vulnerable.

The theme of today's gathering is a significant push to women like us, to women victims of armed conflict in Pikit and other affected communities and to women who dream for a brighter future for our children. I do not want that my kids experience anymore the bitterness of conflict. If women negotiated the peace agreement maybe it's too exaggerated if I would say "*na tapos na sana...*" Well, it is not yet too late for us to participate and be heard. With the painful experience I have which really caused trauma and pain I realized that I need to move on...to face challenges. I have become an active peace educator and peace builder, and attaining higher level of education.

It is therefore important that women who have consequently become victims and are vulnerable sectors in times of war and conflict are now given opportunities to be part of the agenda for peace building processes and bear a recognition of our leadership and nurturing capacity to mediate and negotiate for settlements of conflict. Many of our men fear that women talk so much, and we are unreliable because of that. But we, women can do also significant things for society and facilitate peace accordingly not only in our home, but also in the forefront of negotiation. We should be a part of the peace agenda to ensure women's and children's benefits and welfare as well.

If we are not included in the deliberations, we cannot be silent about how we feel to become a part of the post peace agreement plan and implementation. Women play an active role in peace building and in the rehabilitation as well as on the developmental activities. Women are believed to be just patching the little pieces but we can also perform bigger roles of making the scattered pieces whole again.

Today, we are challenged by presenting a concrete manifestation of reconstruction processes. We appeal to the both sides that our participation in decision making especially in the deliberation and implementation of post agreement and results be recognized and given such entitlement to become not only a part but lead in some ways. We still have lots of stories to tell, but some will remain untold, because we were not given the chance.

Thank you and wassalam...and *mabuhay ang kababaihan!*

POSITION PAPER

Presented by Hja. Bainon Karon and Margie M. Floirendo

"IF WOMEN NEGOTIATED THE PEACE AGREEMENT..."

MINDANAO WOMEN'S PEACE SUMMIT

Davao Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City

16-17 February 2006

POSITION PAPER FOR THE PEACE NEGOTIATING PANELS

OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT

BACKGROUND

For decades, Mindanao has been wracked by complex problems of seemingly intractable conflicts, widespread poverty and weak governance. Women and minority groups have been particularly affected. This situation has greatly diminished Mindanao's capacity to achieve peace and development.

*Clearly, there is a need for an alternative paradigm of development, one where the empowerment of people – women and men both – is at its center and its motive force. Women's voices need to be heard because gender cross-cuts the ethnic, cultural, religious, political and economic divisions which underlie the Mindanao conflict. Women are victims of the armed conflict. However, they have the capacity and the will to become major actors for peace in the various levels in which they are located. **Gender equality is an important social goal in itself and a crucial factor for achieving sustainable peace.***

If women negotiated the peace agreement, it would be more than just a settlement. It would be fair and enduring. It would be wise. It would aim to finally resolve the conflict. To bring the voices of women of Mindanao into the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the MILF, the Mindanao Commission on Women facilitated the holding of eight community-level consultations throughout the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.

The following is the position paper adopted at the Mindanao Women's Peace Summit held in Davao City on February 17, 2006.

We, the women of Mindanao, gathered together for the Mindanao Women's Peace Summit in Davao City on February 16-17, 2006, hereby present this position paper to the peace panels of the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. We believe that the current peace

negotiations between the government and the MILF present us with a distinct opportunity to achieve peace based on justice in Mindanao. We make these proposals to the two panels in the hope that the comprehensive peace agreement will address the root causes of the Bangsamoro struggle.

To achieve this, there must be, *first and foremost, a recognition* of the profound impact on the Bangsamoro people - women and men both – of the injustice wrought by certain policies and programs of Philippine government administrations that not only failed to rectify but indeed exacerbated Spanish and American colonial policies and programs.

Such a recognition would entail

- acknowledging the need to provide appropriate restitution for these historical wrongs;
- affirming the right of the Bangsamoro people to self-determination, and recognizing and respecting their distinct cultural identity and history, and their religious, political, and socio-economic systems; and
- acknowledging the resistance of the Bangsamoro people as a struggle for freedom and self-determination.

While the MILF definition of “Bangsamoro” encompasses all native inhabitants of Mindanao, we recognize the indigenous non-Islamized peoples as peoples with distinct identities and respect their rights to decide to be included or not as Bangsamoro. Furthermore, the IPs’ ancestral domain claims must be harmonized with those of the Bangsamoro people.

We believe that peace is a process, not a commodity. We must therefore learn from the lessons of the implementation of the GRP-MNLF Peace Accord of 1996. However inadequate the implementation of the 1996 agreement has been, the current negotiations must build on this agreement between the government and the MNLF. The structures of good governance envisioned in the current peace negotiations must be built on the structures that have already been established by the 1996 Peace Accord. **This will therefore entail the inclusion of the MNLF in the current peace negotiations as a concerned party.**

A strong political will is needed to implement a peace accord. The peace talks are being carried out when the country is in deep political crisis. We acknowledge that the substantive points of agreement on territory, resources and governance will certainly entail amending the Constitution, but at an appropriate time.

Beyond strictly constitutional, territorial and security issues there are key development issues that have to be addressed in the peace agreement, particularly the substantive participation of women in post-peace agreement political decision-making, reconstruction and recovery.

Post-peace agreement reconstruction and recovery must include establishing institutions for democratic self-governance, rebuilding trust among divided communities and peoples, and developing capacities for conflict resolution without resorting to violence. Comprehensive economic programs must lead the Bangsamoro and the indigenous peoples out of the mire of poverty. So thoughtful consideration must be given to the economic development model to be pursued so that it does not lead to the impoverishment of others. The new institutions and mechanisms must not ignite new divisions – whether political, social and economic –not only in Mindanao but also throughout the rest of the country. All this requires the committed participation of local people, including women.

THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR OTHER SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

On Implementing Mechanisms

1. The **Bangsamoro Development Agency**, as the agency tasked to identify, implement and monitor development programs, must be an open and inclusive agency. At least thirty percent of the Board, as the decision-making body, should be composed of women.
2. **Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE)**
 - ❑ In planning the establishment and entrenchment of government institutions in the Bangsamoro homeland with defined executive, legislative and judicial powers and functions, existing ARMM structures must be built on and enhanced;
 - ❑ The authority of the BJE to create its own tax base, rates, customs duties and collections should not be less than what is provided for by the Local Government Code and the Autonomy Act. In addition, revenue powers must be transferred from the national government to the BJE;
 - ❑ The BJE must be provided powers over budgeting and allocation of funds for governmental functions, development and public services. But for the BJE to have genuine fiscal autonomy, we propose automatic block appropriations from the national budget;
 - ❑ There must be substantial and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of the BJE in the drafting of the Organic Act and in program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
 - ❑ To ensure that the products and income from the administration and development of natural resources benefit the general public—including women—the following principles must be followed: transparency and accountability, people's participation, and multi-stakeholders' partnership.
3. The **Mindanao Trust Fund** should also include at least 30 percent women in its decision-making structure. While we anticipate that the Mindanao Trust Fund will adhere to guidelines on mainstreaming

gender into all its programs, projects and activities, we strongly recommend the establishment of a **Special Fund for Women**. This recommendation comes from the lessons learned from the nine years of implementing the UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund after the signing of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Accord where women were able to access a miniscule percentage of the funds but showed that their projects were the most sustainable. The decision-making body of the Special Fund for Women must include representatives from Mindanao women's groups with constituencies in the conflict-affected areas.

In the identification of programs and projects, the women of Mindanao demand meaningful participation in all levels of decision-making for programs/projects and policies even as we call for priority attention to be given to the following:

- ❑ Formal education (free and quality education) and non-formal education (including non-traditional skills for women and youth, and adult literacy); Integration of the Madrasah into the mainstream educational system, including the study of the Shari'ah and the teaching of comparative religion in all elementary and secondary schools
- ❑ Livelihood support (including skills training and marketing assistance) and employment
- ❑ Health programs
- ❑ Rural farm and rural non-farm development, including aquaculture development
- ❑ Environmental preservation
- ❑ Technology training and support
- ❑ Promotion of a culture of peace and indigenous ways of conflict resolution and conflict transformation
- ❑ Access to fair justice system
- ❑ Gender and development (including the promotion of women's rights, and the prevention of violence against women and children)
- ❑ Youth development program
- ❑ Other basic services (including housing, rural infrastructure, access to potable water system, electricity)

On Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR)

We do not propose adherence to the standard demobilization, disarmament and reintegration model where rebel groups are made to disband and disarm their forces. Instead, we propose that the GRP and MILF agree on a de-militarized Mindanao. The process of achieving this must take into consideration not only the need for security but, more importantly, socio-cultural realities and reservations and how these can be overcome. International organizations as well as local communities, NGOs and women's groups shall be called in as facilitators, rather than as compliance monitors. A **Joint Commission on a De-militarized Mindanao** may be formed to develop a flexible and realistic approach in consultation with multi-sectoral stakeholders. The armed conflict between the two parties is only one aspect of the

violence experienced by our people. Various other types and levels of violence are committed due to militarization, the proliferation of arms, a weak justice system, and inadequate structures to ensure peace and order. We also propose for a reduction of troops

particularly in the BASULTA (Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi) and other war-stricken areas. This includes the pull-out and non-accommodation of foreign military contingents, particularly the US military forces.

We do not believe that reintegration must lead again, as it did with the GRP-MNLF Peace Accord, in absorbing MILF combatants into the Philippine armed forces. This goes against our stand that the military presence in Mindanao must be downsized. The reintegration program must provide a total environment where the former combatants and their families become productive and active citizens of their communities once again. Apart from programs to provide formal and non-formal education, health, as well as livelihood and entrepreneurial skills, they must also be given life skills to develop their feelings of self worth. Subsistence support to families must be provided while livelihood skills are being developed. Psychosocial therapy to be provided to the families must also include discussions of gender roles and non-violence. It is critical that activities are put in place for the community to accept the ex-combatants back into civilian society.

Procedures to be followed during the process of transition

1. We propose that the transition period cover at most 10 years.
2. We agree that a referendum supervised by the U.N. and the OIC is the best modality to determine the future political status of the Bangsamoro people. However, for this exercise to be credible, there must be consultations and massive information campaign using various communication modes to reach the grassroots.
3. We agree that a Constitutional Committee be formed to deliberate on and draft the Organic Charter of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE). As this exercise is of great importance, women must form at least 30 percent of the members of the Committee. The Committee must be multi-sectoral and must include the youth.

Monitoring the implementation of the comprehensive agreement

We propose that a multinational third party be formed to monitor the implementation of the agreement in partnership with grassroots organizations, including women's groups. This third party may be an international human rights group or the UN Committee on Decolonization. It will have the power to arbitrate, make findings and apply sanctions.

Conclusion

We express our deep appreciation to the GRP and the MILF panels for their continuing and committed efforts to successfully maintain the cessation of hostilities in the conflict affected areas as they persist in their work to forge a Peace Agreement that will provide the framework for a just and lasting peace in Mindanao. We call on both panels to consider our

recommendations and continue to keep the doors open for meaningful dialogue with the women of Mindanao.

We link our arms in solidarity with all our sisters and brothers in Mindanao who are working for peace and development even as we, members and partners of the Mindanao Commission on Women, commit to continue facilitating processes that will provide opportunities for the women of Mindanao to articulate their deep aspirations for and contribute to the building of a **Mindanao that is free of poverty and violence, where women and men, from all sectors of society, participate fully in and benefit from peace and development.**



Margie Moran Floirendo and Bainon Karon presented Position Paper to Sec. Silvestre Afable Jr. of the GRP Panel and Atty. Lanana Ali of the MILF Panel



REMARKS

Sec. Silvestre C. Afable, Jr.

Chair, GRP Panel



If women negotiated the peace agreement, I believe women are capable of solving the problem. There would be a better agreement. Emotionally centered and integrative, rather than distributive, problem solving rather than positioning. Let me comment on the points made in the paper.

I believe we have to bring the causes of the Mindanao women to the peace process. I also know it is better said than done. I also know that women stay home to take care of their children. Working in evacuation centers, teaching and serving the community has prevented women from leadership roles in the political arenas. But peace will solve the problem. Peace will free women from a lot of other things. This is not an empty statement. In

all parts of the world, women lived in two worlds. A world where there is peace and war. I can give examples based on my personal experience. I have two children who graduated in a public school and I observed when I attended their graduation, in the top 10, 82% were women. Women are taking on top rank positions in different fields. In the 2003 PMA graduation, out of the top 5, 2 were women. More women will come into the peace process as stability is gained. I assure you that women of Mindanao don't have to fight for peace so much.

On the statement of restitution: I think this could be a symbolic statement. I just found out in Malaysia that after the war, the Japanese gave them two maritime ships that started the shipping industry in Malaysia. Restitution must come in a meaningful way. Free choice for the indigenous peoples and for every Filipino. The GRP supports this. And we are trying to explore all kinds of restitution.

Inclusion of the MNLF. Built in the 1996 peace agreement. I personally agree that Nur Misuari has a big role in the peace negotiations today. All this, of course, are subject to all legal processes he is now facing.

In the charter change, we will extract the full force and participation of the IPs.

Rebuilding a sense of community that cannot be defined in the letter of a peace agreement but must be there in the spirit.

A demilitarized Mindanao, as mentioned in your paper, must be based on the rule of law. If we reduce fire arms, it must be across the board. We are not trying to offer DD, we just what to get more of the guns under control maybe destroy them. These guns must come from all the groups in contention.

Powers of the BJE: substantial, based on autonomy devoid of impositions. I believe transparency and accountability must come hand in hand. Peace is also based on integrity. Even as we try to see, we must look into ourselves to be accountable.

I endorse the request for a special fund for women especially on the field of micro enterprise. I think women will lead in micro enterprise. I believe that small and micro enterprises are they key for development.

The 30% women participation in the decision-making structure must be based on the values of men and values of women. There is always a solution that once we have peace among peoples of Mindanao and Bangsamoro land, we shall be able to open more avenues that will naturally give women their voice.

In closing, the panel is always open for consultations. I always cherish occasions like this. I like to convey as I end, in the name of the continuing consultation, the empowerment of women and protection of their families. I thank you.

Atty. Lanang S. Ali

Member, MILF Panel



I was touched by the short speech of our keynote speaker from Pikit, North Cotabato. I am here to receive in behalf of the MILF this position paper of the peace negotiating panels of the GRP and the MILF.

I cannot yet give (my comments). I have to submit this to the central committee for them to scrutinize but I am sure that everything here will be considered by the MILF. As I scan it and heard from point to point, I don't see any reason why the MILF will not respect this document.

We cannot disregard the role of women in Mindanao. The role of women has been revealed in the Koran. To respect the role of women. Empowerment is already there also. We need to consult our Ustadz what specific verses in the Koran that emphasize the empowerment of women. Ex: A woman is the assistant of the man. The man is always the head

of the family. It is *haram* if the woman heads the family. The man also heads the prayer. That is *haram* for a woman to lead the prayer. It cannot be that the woman will always be the head of the state. As long as there is a male capable to head the state then he should lead. There is always an exemption to the rule. A female may be allowed to rule the nation but only as such time that the male cannot perform. By nature women are emotional. That is why females are discouraged to rule the nation.

On DDR: It must be placed in its proper perspective. Just peace and just development. The problem should be addressed first. Natural law must be implemented based on its natural sequence.

Let us not place the cart ahead of the horse. If that will be followed then we will not have any problem.

I am not against demobilization, disarmament or reintegration but they must be placed in the proper perspective to attain just peace and development. *Ang* important here is two things, just peace and just development. We cannot attain total just peace if there is no just development.

Those areas badly affected by the conflict must first enjoy the benefits of development. It will not look good if those less affected *yan ang mauna*. That is unjust. *Yung* badly affected by the conflict, their problem should be addressed first.

I agree with the remarks of my counterpart here Secretary Afable, I don't think there is a point of disagreement regarding this position paper. If this position paper is placed in a proper perspective, I think there will be no more problem. The MILF always respects the recommendations of all sectors of society. We always leave options for the settlement of the conflict in Mindanao. As far as the MILF is concerned, all recommendations are options in looking for a political settlement of the problem in Mindanao.

The GRP and MILF peace panels have already agreed on the definition of the Bangsamoro. They are the Moslems and the non-Islamized indigenous peoples... The two panels have already agreed that the indigenous peoples are given free choice whether they are called bangsamoro people or not... they have freedom of choice... These IPs who are non Moslems can choose to be not governed by the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity. We do not intend to force it even if they are in the so-called bangsamoro homeland.

If this position paper is put into a proper perspective then there is hope. All recommendations are options in the political settlement of the conflict in Mindanao. All long as it is peaceful, just and lasting. It is acceptable to the Bangsamoro people.

The culprit of the conflict in Mindanao is only one – how to solve the problem of the Bangsamoro people. Bangsamoro people are the Muslims and non-Muslims. The IPs are non-Muslims who have not yet accepted Islam. The IPs are given free choice whether to join the so-called Bangsamoro people. These IPs who are non-Muslims can choose to be not covered. They will be

following the existing Philippine laws. They will be covered by IPRA. For those who will accept they will be covered by what will be agreed upon by the two panels.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

H.E. Amb. Annika Markovic

Ambassador of Sweden to the Philippines



Dear ladies and members of MCW. It is a pleasure to be here with you. Also good morning to the gender sensitive men in this room.

I am here because I am a woman and I am here because the government of Sweden is very supportive of the peace process in Mindanao. I am also here to represent the female ambassadors. Sweden has been peaceful for 200 years and we have realized that the struggle to share power (*women sharing power with men*) doesn't stop when there is peace.

I have traveled quite extensively around Mindanao and around the country. I would like to congratulate the peace panels for having agreed to the ceasefire agreement because when you travel on the ground especially in the conflict-affected areas, you can actually see that the ceasefire agreement has made a difference.

I have said already before that the Sweden government support for the peace process is very strong. We have stated at several occasions that we are supportive of the peace process, and when a peace agreement is signed, we will be there as donor to try to help in developing Mindanao.

This position paper that you have presented is a very interesting paper. What I think you need to do now as a result of coming together is to ask yourself how each of you will be involved in the peace process. Make sure that you will take responsibility in implementing this position paper, that in the implementation of the peace agreement, you will know your role. What can I do to change? What can I do to make this happen? The only way for there to have peace in Mindanao is that every person must determined to do his or her part in the peace.

I congratulate you for putting together this position paper. Mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the peace process or in any development activity

is not women's responsibility only. Men also need to take responsibility. It is their responsibility to bring the gender perspective into the peace process, to pursue women's rights, and to support the representatives of the peace panel to promote gender issues and mainstream gender sensitivity in the peace talks.

H.E. Amb. Tony Hely

Ambassador of Australia to the Philippines

Secretary Afable, distinguished representatives of the Mindanao Commission on Women and other participants, colleagues and friends.

It is great to see such a large gathering of distinguished women here today. It is the clearest possible signal of your commitment to peace and development in Mindanao. So it is a pleasure to join with you today and to be able to deliver a brief, but genuine statement of support, both for the Mindanao Commission on Women (MCW) and the great work it does, and for this Mindanao Women's Peace Summit



Since its inception in 2001, Australia has been supportive, including financially, of the MCW's active lead role, in articulating and promoting, a new paradigm for peace and development in Mindanao; pursuing a Mindanao agenda from a woman's perspective, not just a women's agenda, per se (as Irene said).

In this context, we congratulate the MCW for its observer status in the formal peace talks between the Government of the Philippines and the MILF.

Australia believes in the objectives of the MCW's current bridging program on "creating scenarios for Another Mindanao"; and we hope to carry on our partnership with MCW in a new 5-year program on Another Mindanao, if possible, that will enable MCW to continue pursuing its advocacy role in peace and development in Mindanao.

Back to this Peace Summit, we congratulate MCW for its organization. Through the Australian AID Agency (AusAID), we are pleased to have been in a position to support it. The objective of bringing the voices of Mindanao Women into the ongoing peace process is laudable. We support the position paper, and the principles it espouses, that has been adopted by this Summit, and which is the product itself, of extensive community consultations, in the most conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Women's voices must be heard. This Summit and its outcome paper are important steps in this direction. Congratulations and good luck.

MINDANAO RISING CAMPAIGN

PRESENTATION

BY: Patricia M. Sarenas

Please see Annex B for the slide presentation of the Mindanao Rising! Campaign

MINDANAO RISING!

Rising is Emergence

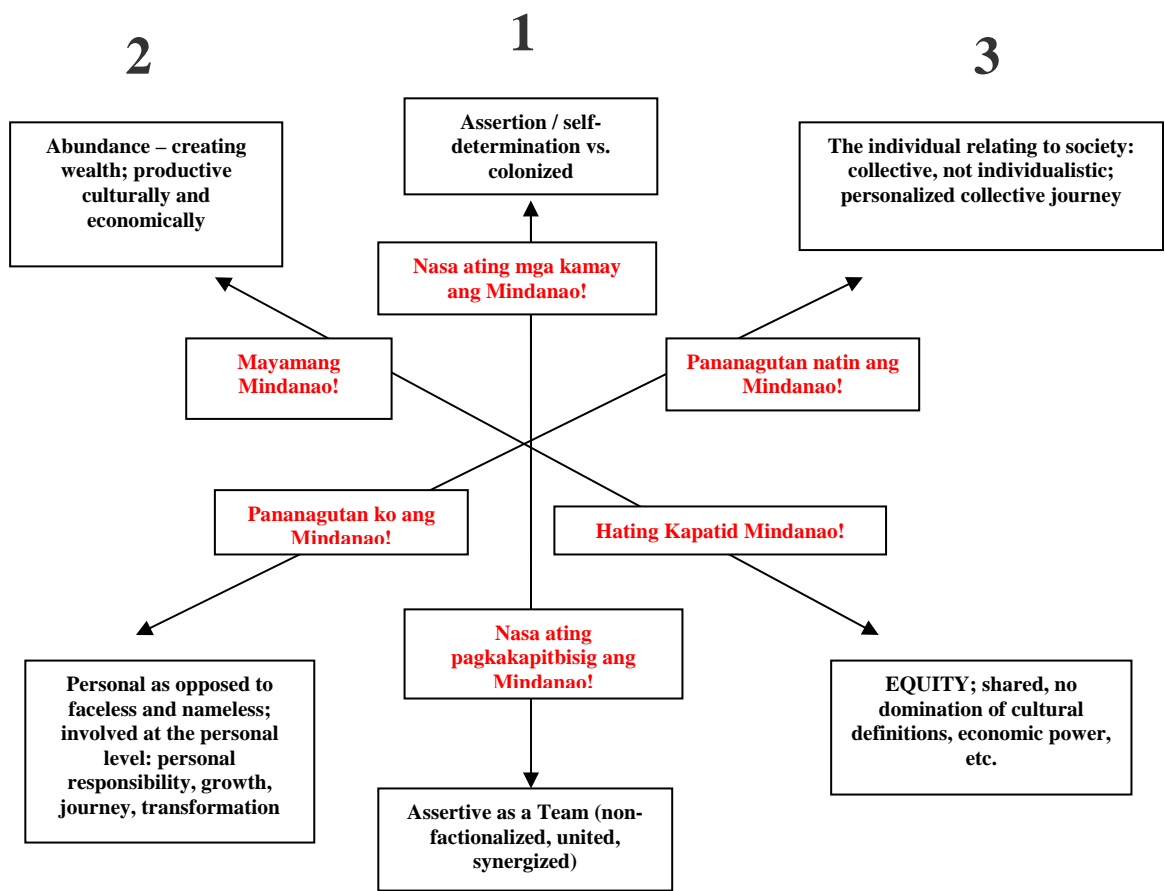
Rising is Ascent

Rising is Victory

Rising is Pride in being a Mindanawon by blood and by heart

The 3-year “Mindanao Rising!” campaign is founded on the
three PRINCIPLES on which power rests

- 1 Mindanao as a united and synergized people,
asserting its rightful place in the country as a self-determining region.
- 2 Mindanao as wealth-creating, and culturally and economically productive;
its wealth and productivity shared equitably.
- 3 Mindanao as every Mindanawon’s personal responsibility,
in our collective journey of transformation.



Campaign Cultural Success Indicators

That a significant number of Mindanawons will have affirmed:

1. A Unified Mindanao Vote: Nasa ating mga kamay ang Mindanao! / Nasa ating pagkakapitbisig ang Mindanao!
2. That life is comfortable and enriching in Mindanao: Mayamang Mindanao! / Hating kapatid, Mindanao!
3. That Mindanao is peaceful and progressive because of one's personal efforts, and because of one's cooperation with the rest of society. Pananagutan ko ang Mindanao! / Pananagutan natin ang Mindanao!

The Framework: Human Security

Human Security is a birth right.

It is a state where fundamental freedoms are expressed and celebrated.

It is the thread that cuts through all forms of development and movements that sustain human life.

The Vision: A Healthy and Educated People that governs an Economically Sustainable, Politically Stable, Peaceful, Gender-sensitive, Ecologically Balanced, Multicultural Mindanao

1. A Healthy and Educated People

- Provision of Basic Services (free and quality health care and education, decent housing, and reliable and affordable water and electricity supply) as the foundation for birthing and sustaining the core developers of the region's wealth: its people.
- Multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholders' involvement and cooperation in all aspects of human development
- Recognition of and support for the development and empowerment of women, youth, and the marginalized sectors of society as key contributors in the region's progress
- Media that provide a truthful and balanced depiction of Mindanao

2. Economically Sustainable

- Unified agro-industrial development that benefit and benefit the people of Mindanao.
- Encouragement and support for community-driven development of natural resources such as small-scale mining
- Accelerated infrastructure development in priority areas
- Development of local good entrepreneurship
- Development of competitive Mindanao SMEs
- Advanced Information Technology (Mindanao as a Hub for E-services in the BIMP- EAGA)
- Generation of local and foreign investments
- Policy reforms propelled by government
- Development in scientific and technological research and utilization of appropriate technology
- Human resource development
- Development of marketing support services and credit facilities
- Provision of basic services: housing, water, health and sanitation
- Development and decisive participation of women in economic enterprises

3. Politically Stable

- Mindanao as a self-governing region, able to self-determine its multi-people economic, political, and cultural paths.
- Federalism as a stepping stone towards self-determination and decentralization of national governance

- Strengthening of local governance
- Community empowerment for good governance
- Forging of alliances among civil society groups, churches, government agencies; and local communities

4. Peaceful

- Institutionalization of peace education
- Promotion of non-violent ways of conflict resolution
- Promotion of support for peace zones and peace sanctuaries
- Consciousness-raising about all forms of violence against women and their children
- Multi-stakeholders' peace process
- Demilitarization
- Promotion of peace and respect in the family and home

5. Gender-sensitive/Gender-responsive

- Recognition of women's role in nation-building and peace-building
- Consciousness-raising about gender issues and concerns and action-planning to transform sexist structures, programs/projects and policies
- Provision of support systems and enabling mechanisms for women
- Promoting women's empowerment and meaningful participation in decision-making

6. Ecologically Balanced

- Adoption and enforcement of policies for environmental protection
 - Banning of logging concessions and stopping of their continued operations
- Enhancement of natural resources' carrying capacity and integrity
- Scientific researches conducted to determine natural resource's limits to productivity
- Promotion and adoption of safe and clean production technologies, recycling, and waste minimization
- Utilization of renewable/non-conventional energy sources, appropriate technology, and the promotion of energy conservation
- Community-driven natural resource management and development

- Community access and control of common natural resources, such as water and biodiversity

7. Multicultural

- Respect and support for various culture-based economic, political, and judiciary systems such as the Shari'ah Courts, Tribal Councils, Zakat (*Islamic Tax*), among others
- Institutionalization of Educational Curricula that incorporates multicultural histories and traditions; includes re-writing of Mindanao History
- Mainstreaming, accreditation and support for the *Madari* (Arabic schools) and Schools of Indigenous knowledge and traditions
- Strengthening, promotion and popularization of the various traditional and contemporary literary and art forms
- Respect for, preservation and development of cultural monuments and heritage
- Continuous and sustained Multicultural Dialogues

PROGRAM PLANS

Three simultaneous workshops were facilitated by the Vice Chairs of each of the program areas. Myra Balandra and Sheila Algabre for poverty reduction; Sylvia Paraguya and Melchie Ambalong (in lieu of Jojo Andot) for peace and multiculturalism; and Maribel Gonzales for politics and governance.

Below are the workshop plans presented to the plenary:

Poverty Reduction

Commitments:

1. Document the best practices of MCW networks on poverty reduction.
2. Lobby for the:
 - Institutionalization of LGUs commitment for the health program
 - Focus on poor Muslim/Moro areas and IPs
 - It is the obligation of the government to give quality elementary and secondary education to the less fortunate.



Poverty reduction workshop

Peace and Multiculturalism

1. Affirmation of what is already written in the previous thematic consultations
2. Cultures of peace/peace education
 - Integration of culture of peace, peace education, culture of dialogue in schools (some of the modules are available, conduct of teachers trainings)
 - Integration of culture of peace in local government units, and among those involved in law enforcement agencies particularly the PNP
 - Peace circles – healing, reaching out to communities, community-based, how to heal somebody who has to shift from war mode to peaceful mode; can address violence against women, even the GAD budget (reinforce in LGUs)
 - Establish, strengthen Mothers for Peace initiated by MCW
 - Documentation and replication of peace sanctuaries, zones of peace, spaces of peace
 - Bantay “Amerikano;” plus monitoring of hostilities in our areas
 - Networking with other peace advocates and other development organizations
3. Interfaith Dialogue
 - Ecumenical prayer circles
 - Linkages with organizations involved in interfaith work

- Gender and development and Islamic values
 - Study of Qur'an and Islamic values
4. Mainstreaming Multiculturalism
- Integration of multiculturalism in schools
 - Multiculturalists structures and practices within local government units (e.g. Higaonon-Moro office in Iligan, Friday prayer attendance, Hariraya festival)
 - IP schools
 - Codification of Traditional Laws
 - Preservation / Respect of cultural monuments and heritage
5. Anti-Rido
- Women have become mediators; look at capacity-building of women in terms of being mediators;
 - Drugs now becoming a component /cause of the rido
6. Pushing forward the position paper
- Continued advocacy and participation in GRP-MILF talks
 - Lobby for participation in the BDA
 - Lobby for the organization to be an observer in the talks (e.g. BWSF)
7. Disarmament
- Security (policing) that may not need to use guns (e.g. use of "batuta")
8. Organizing
- Continued organizing
 - Second-level organizing
 - Forums/alliances
9. Capacity-building
- for women and youth, and religious groups (includes series of trainings on the culture of peace and gender equity among religious groups)
10. What can we do together?
- Come up with a resolution calling for the release of Chairman Nur Misuari in the spirit of reconciliation



Peace and multiculturalism workshop

Politics and Governance

Creating a Women's Vote

Activities:

- 1) Conduct Education Campaigns/Activities
 - Conduct advocacy activities to make more women unite as voters
 - Conduct of consciousness-raising activities on women's rights e.g. RA 9262, RA 9208
 - Development and dissemination of IEC materials
 - Holding of Women's Bonding/ "Kapihan ng Kababaihan" sessions
 - Integration of women's participation in politics and governance in the Madrasah system; conduct of seminars on rights of women in the context of Islam
 - Conduct capability-building seminars/activities:
For women as voters:
 - Gender Sensitivity Training
 - Skills training
 - Women's Vote training
 - Resource mobilization for information campaign and training
- 2) Organize women; organize or strengthen Local Councils on Women, Mothers for Peace

- 3) Federate women's organizations in Mindanao (should be inclusive and open for all organizations)
- 4) Establish networks/ links among various women's groups across sectors within Mindanao

Increasing Women's Political Participation

Activities:

- 1) Identify possible women candidates
- 2) Groom women leaders/ individuals who would carry out the Women's Agenda; capacitate women to be at par with men in terms of participation in politics and governance
 - CB for women as prospective candidates:
 - (i) Gender Sensitivity Training
 - (ii) leadership training
 - (iii) skills training
 - (iv) public leadership
 - (v) "How to Win in Elections"
- 3) GAD budgeting-lobby with local chief executives on how to access the budget for women; recommend for the enhancement of the GAD Budget policy at the local level to make it more accessible and responsive to women.
- 4) Create GAD focal points in every department; GFP to: advocate for inclusion of gender concerns in LGU programs, projects and activities; make the head of offices understand the importance of coming up with a budget for women.
- 5) Make a GAD plan for the year. Make it thorough: from planning, execution, to monitoring
- 6) Lobby for the inclusion of women in local special bodies and local development council; come up with a position paper to be presented to the Local Councils re: women's representation in local special bodies and local development council and present; (refer to Marawi experience)
- 7) Organize a forum with 4L (lady legislators)



Politics and governance workshop

Closing Remarks

By Margie M. Floirendo

This has always been the vision of Inday. Three years ago, we submitted a position paper. But today, we have earned our credibility that is why we have high-powered guests. I was told by Tata that we are the most-welcomed NGO by the MILF and MNLF. Don't worry with what Atty. Lanang Ali told you this morning.

I would like to thank Bangsamoro Women Solidarity Forum, Inc., Federation of United Mindanawon Bangsamoro Women-MPC, Sarangbangon Foundation, Mindanao Council of Lumad Women and Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization who have coordinated with us.

I thank the German Technical Cooperation, Australian Agency for International Development and Catholic Relief Services for their support.

I'd like to thank you all for being here.