

## JOINT STATEMENT

With the facilitation of the Malaysian Government, the Government of Republic of Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Panels have finalized today the final draft of Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD). Having restarted the talks today, relying on the deep reservoir of goodwill and cooperation of both sides, the two Panels have crafted an important document that would contribute immeasurably to peace in Mindanao, progress and prosperity for the Philippines, and strong affirmation of Malaysia - Philippine bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation for peace.

The conclusion of today's session marks the end of the negotiations on the third aspect of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001. Both sides reached a consensus to initial the final draft pending its official signing by the Chairmen of the two Peace Panels in early August 2008, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The ceremony will be witnessed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Foreign Minister of Malaysia.

The Parties look forward to continue the negotiation on the Comprehensive Compact and finally address the Bangsamoro problem and the conflict in Mindanao.

The Panels conveyed their appreciation to H.E. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi for the Malaysian Government's continued assurance in keeping the peace process on track, and to H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's unwavering commitment in pushing forward the Mindanao peace process.

Done on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

FOR THE GRP:



RODOLFO C. GARCIA  
GRP Panel Chair

FOR THE MILF:



MOHAGHER IQBAL  
MILF Panel Chair

WITNESSED BY:



DATUK OTHMAN ABDUL RAZAK  
Special Adviser to the Prime Minister