

## JOINT STATEMENT

THE 8TH GRP-MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 1998 AT THE DA'WAH CENTER, CROSSING SIMUAY, SULTAN KUDARAT, MAGUINDANAO.

FOLLOWING ARE THE SALIENT POINTS DISCUSSED AND AGREED AT THE MEETING:

1. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT) RELATIVE TO ITS FIELD INVESTIGATION IN UPPER MINABAY, BULDON, MAGUINDANAO.
2. ADHERENCE TO THE FEBRUARY 6, 1998 AGREEMENT TO SUSTAIN THE QUEST FOR PEACE. SPECIFICALLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE REPOSITIONING OF GOVERNMENT FORCES PURSUANT TO THE FIVE KILOMETERS DISTANCE FROM BANGANAN RIVER IN UPPER MINABAY AS PROVIDED IN THE SAID AGREEMENT. THE FIVE KILOMETER DISTANCE SHALL BE DETERMINED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE QRT WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS FROM TODAY. THE QRT SHALL REPORT THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ON THE REPOSITIONING TO THE GRP-MILF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (SCCH) BEFORE ITS MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, 1998. LIKEWISE, THE GRP WILL FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF COTABATO TIMBER COMPANY INCORPORATED (CTCI) GUARDS FROM UPPER MINABAY.
3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES OF BOTH SIDES.

AT THE MEETING, THE MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SUBMITTED A LISTING OF ITS MAJOR AND OTHER CAMPS AND AGREED TO PROVIDE THE GRP WITH THE PARAMETERS AND CRITERIA IN DETERMINING THE SAME. PURSUANT TO THIS, BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE SUB-COMMITTEES ON CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (SCCH) SHALL MEET ON OCTOBER 6, 1998 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER, AT A VENUE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

THESE MATTERS WERE TAKEN UP IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE SMOOTH DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FORMAL PEACE TALKS.

BOTH SIDES AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT EN BANC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 22-23, 1998, AT A VENUE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.


For the GRP:

  
USEC. ALMA R. EVANGELISTA  
Chairperson, GRP Technical Committee

  
MGEN. SANTOS B. GABISON JR.  
Chairperson, GRP Sub-Committee on  
Cessation of Hostilities

For the MILF:

  
SHEIKH MONER BAJUNAID  
Chairperson, MILF Technical Committee

  
ATTY. LANANG ALI  
Chairperson, MILF Sub-Committee on  
Cessation of Hostilities