

In the Name of Allah  
The Beneficent, The Merciful

### **Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities**

Whereas, peace talks are now being undertaken between representatives of the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF);

Whereas, while an informal ceasefire has been observed between the GRP and the MILF, with the end in view of finding a just and lasting solution to the centuries old problem of the Bangsamoro and native inhabitants of Mindanao, it becomes necessary that peace and order be assured;

Whereas, in view of the foregoing, it becomes imperative for the GRP and the MILF to enter into an agreement for general cessation of hostilities and to agree to continue the formal peace talks,

Now, therefore, the GRP and the MILF, through their undersigned authorised representatives, agree, as they hereby agreed on the following:

1. To commit the armed forces of the GRP and the MILF to a General Cessation of hostilities.
2. To direct their respective Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities to meet on 30 July 1997, and on such dates thereafter, but not to exceed two (2) months, to draw and finalise guidelines and ground rules for the implementation of this Agreement; and
3. To resume and proceed with the formal peace talks in a venue to be mutually agreed upon between the GRP and the MILF Panels.

This Agreement shall take effect on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1997.

So agreed.

Done in the City of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1997.

For the GRP:

Amb. Fortunato U. Abat  
Chairman, GRP Panel

For the MILF

Ghazali Jaafar  
Vice-Chair of Political Affairs  
Central Committee, MILF

Chairman, MILF Panel