



OFFICIAL STATEMENT
ON CONCERNS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON THE BANGSAMORO
12 March 2026

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) reiterates its steadfast commitment to the full and faithful implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and to the shared aspiration of achieving a just, durable, and meaningful peace in the Bangsamoro homeland.

As we commemorate the 12th year of signing of the CAB, we recognize the earnest efforts of the National Government and MILF who have worked together through the years to implement the peace agreement. The CAB was able to endure for more than a decade, and is lauded internationally as one of the longest standing peace agreements in the world, in part due to the strong partnership and mutual trust between the peace panels.

That is why it is with much regret that the MILF Peace Implementing Panel now stands alone in this dance that was meant for two. The absence of an empowered and functioning GPH Peace Implementing Panel due to the recent resignation of its Chairman has left a gaping hole in the implementation of the peace agreement at this very crucial stage in the transition period. The importance of the MILF Peace Implementing Panel's government counterpart cannot be countenanced. Hence, in the exercise of prudence MILF deems it appropriate to declare a temporary pause in several aspects of engagement under the peace implementation mechanisms until a full-fledged Chairman of the GPH Peace Implementing Panel is appointed.

We maintain this position as a matter of fundamental procedural requirement within the peace architecture established by the Parties that demands jointness, bilateral actions, and mutuality. The peace implementation mechanisms were designed to function through officially mandated representatives of both Parties. In the absence of a formally designated Chair of the GPH Peace Implementing Panel, the MILF finds itself unable to proceed with substantive engagements that require formal commitments and authoritative decisions. The MILF Peace Implementing Panel cannot negotiate and engage with a headless counterpart.

The MILF likewise emphasizes the importance of maintaining clarity in mandates, roles, and structures within the peace implementation framework. We have taken note of indications that the GPH may be moving toward further mainstreaming the peace process within the broader structure of government institutions. In particular, there appears to be a more visible role being played by the

Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, and more recently, the Office of the Special Assistant to the President. While institutional support from these offices can contribute positively to coordination and policy direction, the formal mechanisms established under the CAB—particularly the Peace Implementing Panels of the Parties—remain central to the conduct of official engagements and decision-making.

For the integrity of the process and for the protection of the fragile peace and security already achieved, the MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities and Ad Hoc Joint Action Group shall continue to function and address any infraction of tranquility on the ground.

On the side of the MILF peace mechanisms led by the MILF Peace implementing Panel, it shall continue to engage local, national, and international friends of the peace process on matters not requiring jointness, mutuality and bilateralism with those mechanisms from the GPH.

The gains of the peace process are the product of long years of negotiation, sacrifice, and mutual trust. Preserving these gains requires that the mechanisms agreed upon by the Parties be fully respected and properly operational.

The MILF continues to hope for the prompt designation of a duly mandated GPH Peace Implementing Panel Chair so that the shared work of completing the implementation of the CAB may proceed with clarity, certainty, and renewed momentum. Such appointment will help restore the normal functioning of the established mechanisms and enable the Parties to address pending matters in a timely and constructive manner.



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