JOINT STATEMENT

The Special Meeting of the Panels proceeded today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as previously scheduled.

The Parties opened the meeting by expressing deep sympathy and grief for the loss of lives in the early morning of January 25, 2015 in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

In accordance with the statements made by President Aquino and Chair Murad in relation to this tragic incident, the Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the attainment of peace that has long eluded Mindanao. In this vein, they resolved to strengthen their cooperation and coordination in addressing security concerns in the most effective and appropriate manner, and also in rebuilding trust and public confidence in the peace process.

They also support the conduct of investigations by the Board of Inquiry and the MILF's Special Investigative Commission.

The Parties commended the members of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and the Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities of the Government and the MILF for their determination that led to the reinstatement of the ceasefire in the affected areas. Their courageous efforts prevented further loss of life and put to safety those who might have been put in harm's way had the fighting escalated.

Standing by their commitment to achieve the objectives of the normalization process, the Parties finalized and signed the Protocol on the Implementation of the Terms of Reference of the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) in the presence of the Malaysian Facilitator, Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, the Chair of the IDB, Ambassador Haydar Berk, and the members of the International Contact Group from Japan, Republic of Turkey, the United Kingdom, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Conciliation Resources, Muhammadiyah, and Community of Sant'Egidio.

They likewise renewed the mandate of the IMT for another year until March 2016.

The Parties will continue discussions on the agreed agenda until the 31st of January.

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Done this 29th day of January 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

For the GPH:

PROF. MIRIAM CORONEL FERRER

GPH Panel Chair

For the MILF:

MOHAGHER IQBAL MILF Panel Chair

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

TENGKU DATO' AB GHAFAR TENGKU MOHAMED

Malaysian Facilitator