

Interim Cessation of Hostilities in Buldon, Maguindanao

Whereas, the attainment and preservation of peace and order is a universal concern and aspiration of all individuals;

Whereas, it is incumbent on the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to maintain and ensure the enforcement of all its laws, rules and regulations;

Whereas, recent events in the Municipality of Buldon, Maguindanao have disturbed the peace and order in the area;

Whereas the return to normalcy in the Municipality of Buldon is a general concern of the GRP, MILF and all sectors as it will insure the delivery of vital resources and services and complement efforts towards the attainment of peace in the area;

Now, therefore, the Technical Committee on Cessation of Hostilities of the GRP and the MILF hereby covenant and agree;

Witnesseth:

1. The Provincial Governor of Maguindanao will provide assistance to insure the return to office of the Municipal Mayor of Buldon, Maguindanao.
2. The GRP and the MILF forces will maintain "as is, where is" positions within the area of conflict in Buldon, Maguindanao, prior to further discussions on the matter on February 9, 1997.
3. The PNP elements in the Municipality of Buldon, Maguindanao, assisted by local CAFGU elements, shall continue its mandated role to enforce all laws and maintain peace and order within the area.
4. The MILF will remove and shall not establish checkpoints, detachments, roadblocks, and other similar points along the road networks from Parang to Buldon, Maguindanao.
5. The AFP and MILF will refrain from making provocative actions against each other such as sniping, strafing, mortar shelling and deployment of additional troops.
6. All AFP forces deployed in Buldon, Maguindanao from January 1, 1997 up to the present will be withdrawn from the area at the option of the AFP based on its evaluation of the peace and order situation.
7. The Provincial Government of Maguindanao, within its mandate, will assist the concerned government agencies in the relief and rehabilitation of evacuees, and the re-opening of schools in the affected areas.

Entered this 27th day of January 1997 at Dawah Center, Crossing Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Signed:

M/Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP
Chairman, GRP Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

Atty. Lanang Ali
Chairman, MILF Committee on Cessation of Hostilities