



Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for their Empowerment and Sustainable Development

IP views on the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro raised in Regional Consultative Assembly

Upi, Maguindanao – Ancestral domain, self-governance, justice and human rights, and cultural identity - or what are commonly known as IP rights - and how these will be incorporated into the Bangsamoro Basic Law were points raised by participants of the GPH Panel in the recently-conducted regional consultative assembly for IPs on the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB).

Led by the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and organized by the local government of Upi, Maguindanao, the consultation gave the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) the opportunity to participate in the consultations on the FAB on Saturday, 12th January 2013 in the Upi Municipal Gymnasium.

Delegates from different IP communities within the core territory of the ARMM were present, among them the Teduray, Lambangian, Dulangan Manobo of Maguindanao and the Sama of Tawi-Tawi.

Delegates from IP communities outside the core territory were also present, among them the Arumanen Manobo.

POLICY DECLARATION

The consultation was graced by ARMM OIC Governor Mujiv Hataman, who officially declared that there is no policy conflict in the granting of Ancestral Domain titles in the ARMM. After the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) was passed in 1997, claims have already been submitted to the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the biggest of which involves a unified claim of three IP groups (Teduray, Lambangian, Dulangan Manobo) of 206,000+ hectares.

In a meeting on 7th January 2013, with GPH Panel Chair Ferrer, NCIP Chair Zenaida Brigida Pawid and NCIP XII Director Wuy Lim P. Wong, RG Hataman informed the group that the Solicitor General's Office found no legal impediment in the implementation of RA 8371 in the ARMM. According to the speaker of the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) Atty Rasul Mitmug Jr, it will be reaffirmed through a resolution that will be filed on 15th January 2013 by the RLA.

With that pronouncement, NCIP would now be opening an NCIP Maguindanao Office which will be inside the ORG compound. The setting up of the office would be urgent in nature, as the election ban will take effect in February.

NCIP would now proceed with conducting delineation activities, which will be done with other mandated agencies like DENR etc.



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'Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for the Empowerment and Sustainable Development' (IPDEV) is a project implemented by the consortium: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V., Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG) and DEVCON Development Consultants Inc.



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FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE BANGSAMORO (FAB)

The guest speaker GPH Panel Chair Prof Miriam Coronel Ferrer showed a video where the rights of the Indigenous Peoples are shown; as well as the road map as to what steps will be undertaken towards the creation of the new political entity. The work henceforth entails how these basic IP rights would be incorporated into the Basic Law which will be crafted by the Transition Commission.

The participants were then divided into four workshop groups facilitated by different members of the GPH peace panel. Outputs were documented by the OPAPP staff. The participants also gave their messages of full support to the FAB, highlighting that their presence is already an indication of such support. IP Rights and the Ancestral Domain claim remain to be main message of the participants, who ensured their full participation in the crafting of the basic law regardless of who will be appointed.

The participants also recognized the sincerity of the GPH Panel and the President on their desire to put a closure to the talks; and once again reiterated their expectation from the government to address other conflicts such as Mt Firis and development aggression in the Dulangan Manobo areas, among others.

The participants once again called for peace and unity; and hoped that forums like this consultative assembly will continue and guide everyone towards the fulfilment of peace.

The Consultative Assembly on the FAB was organized by the LGU of Upi, whose Mayor Ramon Piang is also an alternate member for IPs in the GPH Panel.

Next steps will be the creation of a Technical Working Group among the IPs who will help in ensuring that provisions protecting the rights of IPs will be incorporated into the Basic Law.

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IPDEV supports all initiatives geared toward the Recognition and Protection of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for their Empowerment and Sustainable Development.

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