

**AGREEMENT ON A STAND-DOWN
FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE FORMAL PEACE TALKS**

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP)

AND

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP)

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), particularly the Executive Department, including its Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), and its armed auxilliary forces,

and

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), including the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People's Army (NPA), and its people's militia,

hereinafter the "Parties,"

HEREBY AGREE to a Stand-Down of their respective armed units and personnel in consideration of the forthcoming resumption of the formal peace talks, in order to provide through goodwill and confidence-building measures, the positive atmosphere conducive to moving forward and completing the peace negotiations and the implementation of agreements entered into or may be entered into.

The Stand-Down shall be declared and announced simultaneously by both Parties one (1) week before the agreed date of resumption of the formal talks.

Stand-Down shall be understood to mean temporary cessation of hostilities in which the contending armed units and personnel of the Parties stay where they are ("as is where is"), take an active defense mode, and shall not commit any offensive action or operation against combatants and civilians.

The Stand-Down shall be subject to the provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), especially the protection of the civilian population and civilians together with their property.

Any movement of the respective armed troops and personnel of any Party which may be considered as a provocative and/or hostile act must be avoided.

Each Party shall designate one of its Panel members to coordinate on matters related to the implementation of the Stand-Down. They shall work on measures to prevent the escalation of hostilities that may arise from certain incidents. No retaliatory act shall be taken by either Party.