

National Comprehensive Peace Program to seek a peaceful resolution of armed conflict, with neither blame nor surrender, but with dignity for all."¹³³

The other principle was to conduct the Formal Talks under the mandate of the Constitution and the laws of the land. In addition to these two principles, instructions were also given concerning such others issues as:¹³⁴

- finding a solution to the problem, taking into consideration the existence of the ARMM, other Muslim rebel groups and the sentiments of affected communities and sectors;
- establishing common ground with the OIC; and
- finding common ground between the aspirations of the MNLF and the political, social and economic programs of the Government.

The objectives as outlined by then President Ramos were:¹³⁵

- the return of the MNLF into the national mainstream;
- the attainment of lasting peace and security under the meaningful program of Muslim autonomy; and
- the establishment of a fair and constructive consensus with the Islamic world to attain these objectives.

Such guidelines and directions were evidently derived from the six institutional paths that defined the Government's overall peace program. In brief, these were:

1. the pursuit of social, economic and political reforms;
2. consensus-building and empowerment for peace;
3. peaceful, negotiated settlement with the different rebel groups;
4. programs for reconciliation, reintegration and rehabilitation
5. conflict management and protection of civilians caught in armed conflict; and

¹³³ *Ibid*, p. 30.

¹³⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 30-1.

¹³⁵ *Ibid*. p. 30.