

## **The Negotiations for Peace**

In February 1992, even before former President Fidel V. Ramos's election to office, he already made overtures for peace when he traveled to Tripoli, Libya to discuss the possibilities of a renewed peace settlement in Mindanao with Libyan Leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi.

On 28 July 1992, the President issued Proclamation 10-A, creating the National Unification Commission. It was an ad-hoc advisory body which subsequently formulated and recommended a viable amnesty program and peace process.

Executive Order 19 empowered the NUC to provide the framework for negotiations with all rebel groups. The NUC formulated the "Six Paths to Peace", which Executive Order 125 (subsequently dated 15 September 1993) adopted.

At the end of its term in 1993, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) was created to continue the work started by the NUC.

The MNLF and the Government held their first exploratory talks in Tripoli, Libya on 2-3 October 1992. A second round of exploratory talks was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 14-16 April 1993. Both parties had agreed to hold formal peace negotiations on an agenda focussing on the establishment of autonomy for the Muslims in Mindanao, within the realm of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippine republic, and in accordance with the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) also participated in the formal talks as an observer.

After 47 months of negotiations, the Final Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front was finally signed on 2 September 1996 in the Ceremonial Hall of Malacanang Palace.

## **The Implementation of the Agreement**

Administrative Order No. 295, dated 7 October 1996, provided for the implementation of Section 20 of the Final Agreement. This order describes the integration of 5,750 regulars in the AFP, 250 of whom shall be absorbed in the auxiliary services. Thereafter, Department of National Defense Order No. 139 and AFP Letter of Instruction (LOI) 41/96 "Pagsasanib" were issued outlining the manner in which the integration of the MNLF forces into the AFP was to occur.

To further ensure the smooth and coordinated implementation of the integration of the MNLF members into the AFP, a Joint AFP-MNLF Secretariat Office (JAMSO) was created. In implementing Section 20 of the Final Peace Agreement, JAMSO acts as a monitoring, liaising, coordinating and supervising office for the integration process, particularly in processing, individual