

## **FactCheck/ Information Brief on Peace Process (GPH/MILF) and an Autonomous Bangsamoro**

Western Mindanao has been experiencing an armed conflict for more than forty years, which claimed more than 150,000 souls and numerous properties. As of 2016 and in spite of a 17-year long truce between the parties, war traumas and chronic insecurity continue to plague the conflict-affected areas and keep the ARMM in a state of under-development, thus wasting important economic opportunities for the nation as a whole.

Two major peace agreements and their annexes constitute the framework for peace and self-determination. The Final Peace Agreement (1996) signed by the Moro National Liberation Front and the government and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (2014), signed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, both envision – although in different manners – the realization of self-governance through the creation of a (genuinely) autonomous region which would allow the Moro people to live accordingly to their culture and faith.

The Bangsamoro Basic Law is the emblematic implementing measure of the CAB. It is a legislative piece which aims at the creation of a Bangsamoro Political Entity, which should enjoy a certain amount of executive and legislative powers, according to the principle of subsidiarity. The 16th Congress however failed to pass the law, despite a year-long consultative process and the steady advocacy efforts of many peace groups. Besides the BBL, the CAB foresees the normalization of the region, notably through its socio-economic rehabilitation and the demobilization and reinsertion of former combatants.

The issue of peace in Mindanao is particularly complex because it involves: □- Security issues: peace and order through security sector agencies (PNP/ AFP), respect of ceasefires, control on arms; □- Peace issues: peace talks (with whom? how?), respect and implementation of the peace agreements; □- But also economic development; □- And territorial and governance reforms to achieve regional autonomy.

For that reason, the platforms, positions and track records of the candidates must be examined directly regarding their stands on peace issues (position regarding the peace agreements for instance), but also on how they imagine the future of Mindanao and how their vision matches with the peace agreements (autonomous, not autonomous, federalism, economic development, normalization, etc.). An attention will also be paid to the candidates' general understanding of the Moro question (religion, identity).

### **Presidential candidates' positions on the peace process**

All candidates assured their commitment to secure peace in Mindanao. Three out of five candidates (Roxas, Poe, Duterte) have vowed to pursue the ongoing process, or at least a part of it. Surprisingly, the Bangsamoro Basic Law – which faced insurmountable difficulties before the 16th Congress – has been accepted by the three as a means of peace which they would support if elected. All three however implied that the version of the BBL which they would sponsor should previously be refined, particularly to allow for the inclusion of other sectoral and/or indigenous groups' inputs.

However, neither Poe nor Duterte mentioned whether they would also implement the other provisions of the Agreements, notably those pertaining to normalization. Some of their public statements on the contrary seem to indicate that they would rather re-open the negotiations with the MILF and other armed groups until a final peace agreement is found. Duterte is moreover

clear and steady about his intention to instore federalism if elected, a measure which does not comply with either the FPA or the CAB.

Binay and Santiago for their part rejected the BBL and endorsed Senator Marcos' substitute bill which rather organizes a "super-LGU" instead of an autonomous region. It is worth noting that Poe was also counted among the opponents of the draft BBL.

Besides the implementation of the peace agreements, all candidates, except Defensor-Santiago, cited socio-economic development as the (one of the) key solution(s) for peace in Mindanao. They particularly mentioned their intentions to invest in infrastructures and basic services. As of now, only Roxas has been involved in such projects: as director of DILG, he piloted the PAMANA program which provided 679 peace and development projects to 48 conflict-affected provinces.

Duterte, Poe and Santiago associated security issues deriving from the proliferation of armed groups (terrorist organizations, private armies) to their platform on Mindanao. Duterte's negative track-record regarding human rights' violations might however lead to greater destabilization if he were to pursue a counter-insurgency policy in the zone. Regarding Poe's propositions, the simple use of the expression "all-out war against terrorists" – the same used by former President Arroyo to describe her offensive against the MILF in 2003 -- shows either her "indelicacy" or blatant lack of historical knowledge about the conflict. A full-scale mobilization of the security forces in Mindanao might furthermore not be the wisest move in a context of accrued tensions, but to reflect on this necessitates to have a general idea of the realities on the ground, which does not seem to be the case of Poe.

In fact, a common point between the candidates (except for Duterte, the sole Mindanaoan candidate) is their limited knowledge about and interest in the Moro question. Binay, for instance, has never been involved in any process related to conflict during his terms as Makati mayor and Vice-President. He also recognized that he "ha[s] not read the entirety of that BBL." Santiago, for her part, assured that a solution to the conflict would be to "adopt the customary traditional law into our Western style of the justice system" ... which is in fact already envisioned by, among other texts, the PD 1083 and the Organic Act of the ARMM. Roxas (due to his position against the MOA-AD) or Poe (Chairperson of the Senate Committee investigating on the Mamasapano incident) are even perceived by some people among the concerned populations as anti-Muslim.

#### Vice-Presidential candidates' positions on the peace process

All vice-presidential candidates included peace in Mindanao in their programs, either in coordination with their tandem, or as the result of their personal advocacy. All agree on the necessity to stay in the path of peace process, but only Leni Robredo is explicit about her support to the current administration's efforts. She is also the only one who has been supportive of the original BBL.

All the other candidates opposed the proposed bill, supposedly because of constitutional flaws. Marcos notably authored a substitute resolution which was criticized for organizing a Bangsamoro Autonomous Region which would not be more than a super-LGU. Out of the five candidates who hold senatorial positions, only Escudero did not sign the Marcos' bill. He however expressed reservation, if not opposition, to the original text. Honasan, Cayetano, Escudero and Trillanes envision the possibility of returning to the negotiation table to circumvent the dead-end created by the non-adoption of the BBL by the Congress. The mistrust of some of the candidates against the MILF (particularly Cayetano) might however be an obstacle to the discussions. Cayetano, Escudero, Robredo and Marcos also cited socio-economic development but none of them have

track-record in implementing such measures in the region.

Looking more generally at the VP candidates' involvement in Mindanao and Mindanaoan issues, only Honasan has a field experience as he served as a military officer of the AFP in the region. Robredo has an indirect knowledge of the region through her husband's contribution to the peace process.

#### Sources:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/781643/mar-leni-victory-will-propel-peace-process-says-moro-bet>  
<http://www.philstar.com:8080/opinion/2016/02/08/1550762/where-do-our-candidates-stand-bbl>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/127753-bigger-chance-bbl-pass-roxas>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/126583-mar-roxas-zamboanga-cebu-debate>  
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/642488/mar-roxas-says-bbl-is-mindanaos-last-chance-for-peace>  
<http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/03/31/roxas-milf-bbl-agreement.html>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace>  
<http://www.manilatimes.net/binay-vows-to-pursue-peace-if-elected-president/217457/>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/85772-binay-bangsamoro-law-should-not-be-only-option-for-peace>  
<http://manilastandardtoday.com/news/-main-stories/top-stories/186338/binay-backs-marcos-bbl-version.html>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/129704-mindanao-religious-leaders-endorse-binay>  
<http://www.manilatimes.net/islamic-leaders-support-binay/256567/>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace>  
<http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/02/12/presidential-candidates-platform-of-government-elections.html>  
<http://www.philstar.com:8080/opinion/2016/02/08/1550762/where-do-our-candidates-stand-bbl>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130616-presidential-debate-pangasinan-winner-editors-pick>  
<http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/02/22/dutertes-rebuttal-to-poe-on-the-bangsamoro-shows-she-needs-to-study-more/>  
<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/02/1579025/so-you-want-be-president-close-look-those-who-want-lead>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace>  
<http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/02/28/duterte-pass-bbl-and-make-bangsamoro-an-example-for-the-rest-to-follow/>  
<http://www.canadianinquirer.net/2016/04/25/duterte-administration-willing-talk-rival-groups-mindanao-bring-peace/>  
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/781450/mindanao-will-be-priority-says-duterte>  
<http://www.mb.com.ph/duterte-to-reach-out-to-armed-groups-to-end-conflict-in-mindanao/>  
<http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/04/23/pass-bbl-in-2-years-make-bangsamoro-pilot-for-federalism/>  
<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/03/1579413/duterte-revolutionary-govt-if-congress-will-make-it-hard-me>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace>  
<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/04/1579671/so-you-want-be-president-close-look-those-who-want-lead>  
[http://miriam.com.ph/newsblog/plan-of-action/#CRIMINALITY\\_TERRORISM\\_PEACE\\_AND\\_ORDER](http://miriam.com.ph/newsblog/plan-of-action/#CRIMINALITY_TERRORISM_PEACE_AND_ORDER)  
<http://www.opapp.gov.ph/milf/news/deles-best-way-disconnect-legitimate-rebel-movements-terrorist-groups-thru-peace-process>  
<http://orangemagazine.ph/2016/gringo-honasan-on-his-platform-taxes-bbl-and-foi/>  
<http://news.abs-cbn.com/halalan2016/nation/03/30/16/honasan-sets-foot-in-milf-camp-vows-peace-for-mindanao>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/108938-gringo-honasan-leader-i-want>  
<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/07/02/1472389/cayetano-bbl-may-lead-secession-civil-war>  
<http://alanpetercayetano.com/news/2015/05/statement-of-sen-alan-cayetano-on-the-proposed-bangsamoro-basic-law>  
<http://www.update.ph/2016/04/federalism-can-bring-peace-to-mindanao-cayetano/4151>  
<http://www.mb.com.ph/pilipinasdebates2016-cayetano-pushes-for-federalism-to-achieve-peace-in-mindanao/>  
<http://interaksyon.com/article/123282/duterte-cayetano-develop-mindanao-to-end-discord-neglect>  
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/672100/alan-peter-cayetano-were-talking-peace-to-milf-but-they-protected-marwan>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/111582-alan-peter-cayetano-leader-i-want>  
<http://news.abs-cbn.com/halalan2016/nation/12/30/15/duterte-cayetano-promise-peace-in-mindanao>  
<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/01/28/1547249/cayetano-vows-bring-back-order-and-security-vp>  
<http://interaksyon.com/article/123282/duterte-cayetano-develop-mindanao-to-end-discord-neglect>  
<http://www.mb.com.ph/duterte-cayetano-to-resign-if-peace-drugs-corruption-still-not-solved-in-6-months/>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/83523-cayetano-deles-clash-milf-terror-links>  
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/711730/marcos-17-senators-sign-report-on-proposed-bangsamoro-law/>

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016>  
<https://poeescudero.wordpress.com/2016/03/31/chiz-pushes-for-peace-process/>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/107991-leni-robredo-leader-i-want-2016>  
<http://www.opapp.gov.ph/milf/news/deles-best-way-disconnect-legitimate-rebel-movements-terrorist-groups-thru-peace-process>  
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/113106-antonio-trillanes-leader-i-want>  
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/778863/trillanes-on-lasting-peace-go-back-to-negotiating-table>  
<http://www.trillanes.com.ph/media/press-releases/trillanes-makes-vp-run-official-to-continue-fight-against-corrupt-officials-and-advocacy-for-peace-and-order/>  
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/711730/marcos-17-senators-sign-report-on-proposed-bangsamoro-law>

*Other documents:*

Roxas' answer to the letters of the Ateneo School of Government

Poe's answer to the letters of the Ateneo School of Government

Duterte's platform

Marcos' platform

Senate archives

Robredo's speech, cited in RCBW, GroupAid Support Systems, Inc. (prepared by) (2016). First ARMM Bangsamoro Women Leadership Summit (Documentation report), Cotabato City.

***Attachment: FACT CHECK – SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR THE BANGSAMORO AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IPS)***

**“Critical agenda”: Peace process (GPH/MILF) and positions regarding an autonomous Bangsamoro**

Western Mindanao has been experiencing an armed conflict for more than forty years, which claimed more than 150,000 souls and numerous properties. As of 2016 and in spite of a 17-year long truce between the parties, war traumas and chronic insecurity continue to plague the conflict-affected areas and keep the ARMM in a state of under-development, thus wasting important economic opportunities for the nation as a whole.

Two major peace agreements and their annexes constitute the framework for peace and self-determination. The Final Peace Agreement (1996) signed by the Moro National Liberation Front and the government and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (2014), signed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, both envision – although in different manners – the realization of self-governance through the creation of a (genuinely) autonomous region which would allow the Moro people to live accordingly to their culture and faith.

The Bangsamoro Basic Law is the emblematic implementing measure of the CAB. It is a legislative piece which aimed at the creation of a Bangsamoro Political Entity, which would have enjoyed a certain amount of executive and legislative powers, according to the principle of subsidiarity. The Congress however failed to pass the law, despite a year-long consultative process and the steady advocacy efforts of many peace groups. Besides the BBL, the CAB foresees the normalization of the region, notably through its socio-economic rehabilitation and the demobilization and reinsertion of former combatants.

The issue of peace in Mindanao is particularly complex because it involves:

- *Security issues*: peace and order through security sector agencies (PNP/ AFP), respect of ceasefires, control on arms;
- *Peace issues*: peace talks (with whom? how?), respect and implementation of the peace agreements;
- But also *economic development*;
- And *territorial and governance reforms* to achieve regional autonomy.

For that reason, the platforms, positions and track records of the candidates must be examined directly regarding their stands on peace issues (position regarding the peace agreements for instance), but also on how they imagine the future of Mindanao and how their vision matches with the peace agreements (autonomous, not autonomous, federalism, economic development, normalization, etc.). An attention will also be paid to the candidates' general understanding of the Moro question (religion, identity).

Data  
 Presidential candidates

ROXAS	References
<i>Position</i>	
<p>A former assistant secretary for Muslim Affairs and Special Concerns of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Ambolodto said a peace constituency among Filipino voters, not just those from Bangsamoro, wanted assurance that the BBL would be passed under a Roxas presidency.</p> <p>“Secretary Mar Roxas’ commitment to peace is unwavering, so we are assured of peace and progress in Mindanao, when he becomes President,” she said.</p> <p>Critics allege that Roxas is among anti-Muslim politicians, who blocked the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD), which the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo forged with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The deal would have given the MILF a larger area to govern.</p> <p>In March, during the second presidential debate, Roxas drew more flak when he described Nur Misuari’s men—who laid siege to Zamboanga City—as “Muslim na mananakop (occupiers).”</p> <p>That statement, various individuals said, fanned the “mutual bias” between the country’s minority Muslim and majority Christian population.</p>	<p><a href="http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/781643/marleni-victory-will-propel-peace-process-says-moro-bet">http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/781643/marleni-victory-will-propel-peace-process-says-moro-bet</a></p>
<p>Together with PNoy, he has staunchly supported the peace process—counting the agreement with the MILF among the administration’s major successes.</p> <p>In 2010, a religious leader from Marawi City chided him for opposing the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD). In 2013, Fatima Kiram—nominal princess of the Sultanate of Sulu—criticized him for allegedly siding with the Malaysian government in the Sabah standoff. Most recently, Norodin Lucman Alonto, a current Senatorial candidate for the opposition, objected to Roxas being accorded the title of honorary Datu on the grounds that he was allegedly “anti-Muslim.” All of these remain, however, unsubstantiated allegations.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.philstar.com:8080/opinion/2016/02/08/1550762/where-do-our-candidates-stand-bbl">http://www.philstar.com:8080/opinion/2016/02/08/1550762/where-do-our-candidates-stand-bbl</a></p>
<p>Does he (Murad) think the BBL stand a better chance under a Roxas presidency? Murad said: “We are optimistic na mas malaki ang tsansa (that the chances are higher) because there would be a right atmosphere to really analyze at titignan kung ano (analyze and see) objectively ang impact at saka ang kabutihan ng (the impact and advantages of) BBL.”</p> <p>Roxas has vowed to push for the passage of a BBL should he win.</p> <p>Earlier, while speaking to Quevedo and members of the Friends of Peace – an organization composed of the religious, civil society organizations, and the academe – Roxas emphasized the need to consult different stakeholders on a future BBL.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/127753-bigger-chance-bbl-pass-roxas">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/127753-bigger-chance-bbl-pass-roxas</a></p>

	Quoting Murad, Roxas noted that peace talks “are not part of the national agenda.”	
	<p>Many too, saw the irony in Roxas being one of the candidates who has staunchly supported the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), the product of negotiations between the current administration and the MILF.</p> <p>In a chance interview with reporters the next day, Roxas said the term wasn't meant as an insult to all Muslims and that he was only referring to the rebels who attempted to take over Zamboanga.</p>	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/126583-mar-roxas-zamboanga-cebu-debate">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/126583-mar-roxas-zamboanga-cebu-debate</a>
	<p>(2014)</p> <p>Interior Secretary Mar Roxas appealed for support for the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) at a gathering of pro-Aquino reform groups here, saying it was the last chance to bring about lasting peace in Mindanao.</p> <p>Roxas, the presumptive presidential candidate of the ruling Liberal Party in 2016, said that while it was possible that the draft BBL might not be perfect, the people should not accept the alternative—status quo.</p>	<a href="http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/642488/mar-roxas-says-bbl-is-mindanaos-last-chance-for-peace">http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/642488/mar-roxas-says-bbl-is-mindanaos-last-chance-for-peace</a>
	<p>Liberal Party standard-bearer Manuel "Mar" Roxas II signed a peace covenant with leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Thursday (March 31).</p> <p>Roxas is open to revisiting the proposed BBL, and to make revisions that will increase its chances of passing in Congress.</p> <p>"Any BBL that will comply with the provisions of the CAB ay walang problema sa'min because the major concern is the implementation of the CAB," said MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim.</p> <p>He added the decommissioning of firearms, a crucial step in the normalization process, can only happen through the BBL.</p>	<a href="http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/03/31/roxas-milf-bbl-agreement.html">http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/03/31/roxas-milf-bbl-agreement.html</a>
	<p>He said he would continue with the Aquino administration's initiative of pursuing the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. He lamented that the Bangsamoro Basic Law was not passed by Congress.</p> <p>Other part of the solution would be the pursuit of development in Mindanao.</p> <p>He argued that the Aquino administration's investments in Mindanao infrastructure are double that of the past two administrations.</p>	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace</a>
<b>Platform</b>		
	<p><i>Note: Mar's platform is anchored on the principles of Daang Matuwid, gearing towards realizing his vision of a Philippines where everyone is free from hunger, free from fear, and free to dream.</i></p> <p>We vow to end conflict and violence in conflict-affected areas by means of aggressive peace-building. All of these areas need massive investments in infrastructure to spur development that can lead to their people's prosperity. Government services such as education and healthcare should reach the people, especially in the less-developed</p>	Submission of Mar Roxas to ASOG

	areas.  As such, we will continue the process of achieving true and lasting peace in Mindanao through the establishment of a progressive and inclusive Bangsamoro region.	
Track Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>DILG</b> – Provided 679 peace and development projects to 48 conflict-affected provinces, benefitting 134,000 constituents under Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA);</li> <li>- <b>Senate</b> – Filed the petition opposing the MOA on Ancestral Domain in the SC and lauded the SC in striking down the MOA-AD based on its unconstitutionality;</li> </ul>	Submission of Mar Roxas to ASOG
<p><b>Summary:</b> Mar Roxas has vowed to pursue the ongoing peace process engaged between the MILF and the previous administration. In a peace covenant which he recently signed with the MILF, he affirmed that he would not, if elected, renege the peace agreements (FAB/CAB) et would seek their full implementation. In that sense, Roxas would sponsor the passage of a Bangsamoro Basic Law before the Congress. He however mentioned during the meeting with the MILF that he would likely convene new public hearings to get additional voices to input in the bill, thus implying its possible re-writing. In addition to the adoption of a BBL, Roxas would “end conflict and violence in conflict-affected areas by means of aggressive peace-building”, which would take the form of “massive investments” in infrastructure and governmental services.</p> <p>In fact, Mar Roxas’ vision for the future of Mindanao is principally anchored in the idea that development is the key to peace and security, a position which is not surprising coming from an economist. In that regard, Roxas has already directly contributed to the development of the region: as director of the DILG, he piloted the PAMANA program which provided 679 peace and development projects to 48 conflict-affected provinces, benefitting 134,000 constituents. Roxas’ positions on Moro self-determination however remain confused.</p> <p>Although in his quality of member of the LP and staunch supporter of the Aquino’s administration, he has always supported the ongoing process, which among other things aims at the realization of autonomy for the Bangsamoro, Roxas does not personally seem to fully approve autonomy as a means of peace. Indeed, Roxas, during his term in the Senate, signed the petition opposing the MOA-AD based on its alleged unconstitutionality. In 2014, he expressed some reservations about the original BBL, which might “not be perfect.” While Roxas’ political opposition to Arroyo might explain his position regarding the MOA-AD, some Moro leaders have already labeled the LP’s bet as “anti-Muslim.” This allegation was recently brought back to the forefront when Roxas mentioned the 2013 Zamboanga standoff by using the term of “<i>Muslim na mananakop.</i>”</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Roxas has a relatively positive track-record on the peace process. However, his ambiguous positions on autonomy and his platform and track-record’s focus on socio-economic development rather than on self-determination as means of peace might become an issue when new discussions on the BBL will be open.</p>		

BINAY	References
<i>Position</i>	
<p>VP Jejomar Binay’s plans for Mindanao would for their part include increased government spending for social services and infrastructure, a bigger share from national taxes, and more foreign investors in agriculture and power. Binay also said during a conference organized by Kusog Mindanao that he would “explore reorganizing governance, including enhanced decentralization.” This affirmation however referred to an augmentation of the number of LGUs and, despite saying that he was committed to secure peace in Mindanao, Binay did not make any mention of a Bangsamoro autonomous region.</p>	
<p>(2015) Binay on Tuesday promised that his presidency would address the root causes—poverty, inequality and injustice—of armed conflict that sank areas in Mindanao in deep and decades-old conflict. Binay said he would work with all organizations and sectoral groups in creating “a shared national agenda” that will address the core issues I intend to pursue peace negotiations In March, Binay said the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), should not be the only option toward establishing a lasting peace in Mindanao.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.manilatimes.net/binay-vows-to-pursue-peace-if-elected-president/217457/">http://www.manilatimes.net/binay-vows-to-pursue-peace-if-elected-president/217457/</a></p>
<p>(2015) The proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) should not be the only option towards establishing lasting peace in Mindanao. Vice President Jejomar Binay made the statement in an interview on Bombo Radyo Dagupan on Tuesday, March 3, when asked if he favored the proposed law. “I have not read the entirety of that BBL but there are some who are saying that provisions in the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain that were declared unconstitutional were included in the BBL. If that is true, that is too much.” Binay said it is not only the MILF that should play an active role in the process – other groups such as the Lumads and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) should also be engaged.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/85772-binay-bangsamoro-law-should-not-be-only-option-for-peace">http://www.rappler.com/nation/85772-binay-bangsamoro-law-should-not-be-only-option-for-peace</a></p>
<p>VICE President Jejomar Binay defended on Saturday the alternative Bangsamoro bill being proposed by Senator Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.</p>	<p><a href="http://manilastandardtoday.com/news/-main-stories/top-stories/186338/binay-backs-marcos-bbl-version.html">http://manilastandardtoday.com/news/-main-stories/top-stories/186338/binay-backs-marcos-bbl-version.html</a></p>
<p>A group of religious leaders from Mindanao (Sabiell Almuhtadeen Foundation-Philippines) endorsed the presidential bid of Vice President Jejomar Binay on Saturday, April 16. “[Binay] can help solve the Mindanao agenda for lasting peace and he can erase the issue of discrimination and</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/129704">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/129704</a></p>

	<p>injustices against Muslims in the southern Philippines," said the group's secretary-general Sahie Udjah. "And we know that with his administration, and backed up by his senators-to-be, that the Muslim agenda in Senate or in the House of [Representatives] will be addressed politically, administratively and religiously so that peace in Mindanao will be in the hands of the Filipinos," Udjah added.</p> <p>Sulu Princess Jacel Kiram, who is advocating the Philippine claim on Sabah, is one of the senatorial bets of UNA.</p>	<a href="http://www.mindanao-religious-leaders-endorse-binay">-mindanao-religious-leaders-endorse-binay</a>
	<p>Binay received the support of the Grand Mufti and Ustadz of Region 9 and Basulta (Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi) during their meeting in Zamboanga City Saturday.</p> <p>The Vice President stressed that he was against candidates whose platforms promote fighting crimes with violence and cautioned the group that a vote for Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte would not bring peace to Mindanao.</p>	<a href="http://www.manilatimes.net/islamic-leaders-support-binay/256567/">http://www.manilatimes.net/islamic-leaders-support-binay/256567/</a>
	<p>Latest news would rather give Binay or Duterte as leading the race for the forthcoming elections in these areas. The 1Bangsamoro movement, composed of members of the Islamic academe, businessmen, and prominent Mindanao families, said they would now root for Binay, as he is "the only presidential candidate who can fulfill the wishes of the Bangsamoro people." Although this affirmation would certainly make some raise eyebrows, it can be explained by the <b>traditional alliances between vice-president and the Mangudadatu (Cotabato) and the Emano (Cagayan do Oro)</b>. Head of the Islamic Society of the Philippines and former Tawi-Tawi governor Al Tillah also conveyed that the Muslim vote will either go to Binay or Duterte. Concerning the latter, the strengths of his platform would be his long-term advocacy for federalism – Al Tillah also suggested that only federalism and not the BBL could end the conflict -- and his alleged anti-system position, which could seduce those who were disappointed by the current administration.</p>	
	<p>Binay's solution to the Mindanao conflict is anti-poverty programs.</p> <p>"Lasting peace ay makakamit kung mahaharap natin ang problema ng kahirapan. 'Yan ang pinagmulan. Kaya may gustong umalis," he said. (<b>Lasting peace can only be achieved if we confront the problem of poverty. That is the root cause. That's why some groups want to separate.</b>)</p>	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace</a>
<b>Platform</b>		
	<p>As far as the vice president is concerned, Gary Teves, former Finance secretary and current UNA treasurer, said Jejomar Binay wants to continue higher economic growth by investing more in infrastructure and ensuring that action is taking place quicker. "We first have to generate more resources externally by inviting foreign investors and making sure that environment is really conducive to foreign investments," said Teves. "We were amending economic provisions of the Constitution to allow foreign investors to invest in areas that have been disallowed or limited — land, public utilities. He will also emphasize on inclusive growth, and provide emphasis on health and education."</p>	<a href="http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/02/12/presidential-candidates-platform-of-government-elections.html">http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/02/12/presidential-candidates-platform-of-government-elections.html</a>
Track Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Makati Mayor – obviously nothing</li> <li>- Vice-presidency – peace / Mindanao not part of the VP's advocacies</li> </ul>	

**Summary:** Jejomar Binay affirmed that he is committed to secure peace in Mindanao but does not have a differentiated platform for the region. According to his interventions during the presidential debates, the conflict must be resolved by means of economic development through liberalization and foreign investments, which are the same measures that those featured on its platform at the national level. He also mentioned during a Kusog Mindanaw Conference that he would, perhaps, also “explore reorganizing governance, including enhanced decentralization.” This affirmation however refers to an augmentation of the number of LGUs and not to the creation of a Bangsamoro Political Entity. Binay actually opposed the original BBL and defended Marcos’ substitute bill which only foresees the creation of an “hyper-LGU” for Muslim Mindanao. Binay is nonetheless supported by traditional Moro and Muslim leaders who claimed that he is the only one capable of carrying the Muslim agenda to the national level and to bring about peace in Mindanao. It is however worth noting that such support is not based on a particular track-record of Binay in the domains of peace and/or Muslim issues, but on traditional family alliances.

In fact, Binay shows little knowledge about and interest in the Moro question, which he never examined during his terms as Makati mayor and Vice-President. His unfamiliarity with the issue is for instance illustrated by sentences such as “I have not read the entirety of that BBL” or “Lasting peace can only be achieved if we confront the problem of poverty. That is the root cause. That’s why some groups want to separate.” This last phrase clearly indicates his poor understanding of the MILF’s claims for self-determination. In general, Binay has also been particularly wary of the MILF (because of his privileged links with traditional families, closer to the MNLF?), an attitude which can become problematic in the perspective, if he is elected, of a re-opening of the negotiations, to “create shared national agenda” on peace.

POE	References
<i>Position</i>	
<p>Poe has been critical of Malacañang's version of the law. She claims that it would create a separate republic within the country. She also opposes the opt-in provision that would allow any local government in Mindanao and Palawan to join the Bangsamoro unless an "opt-out" provision was also included. She recognizes the need for more jobs and infrastructural development for the region and that, as president, she would fast track the creation of power plants to address power shortages.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.philstar.com:8080/opinion/2016/02/08/1550762/where-do-our-candidates-stand-bbl">http://www.philstar.com:8080/opinion/2016/02/08/1550762/where-do-our-candidates-stand-bbl</a></p>
<p>The would-be presidential team formed by Grace Poe and Chiz Escudero also already expressed their opposition to the BBL in July 2015, notably denouncing the possibility of an opt-in clause (note: this clause is no longer included in the substitute versions of the chambers.)</p>	
<p>Bringing peace to Mindanao requires a double strategy of continuing peace talks and addressing development. She plans to wage an "all-out-war" on threats to development. Poe was the only candidate to address the terrorist threat brewing in some parts of Mindanao. She said she would pursue bilateral talks with other countries facing the same threat.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace</a></p>
<p>All-out war against terrorists, she said, should go hand in hand with all-out developments in the region, particularly for medical supplies. Poe stressed government should not hold negotiations with terrorists. The terror threat is real in Mindanao.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130616-presidential-debate-pangasinan-winner-editors-pick">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130616-presidential-debate-pangasinan-winner-editors-pick</a></p>
<p>Poe did not say anything about the BBL but talked of a "transparent, inclusive at sustainable na pag-uusap at kasunduan" (negotiations and agreement), giving the audience the impression that she would go for another peace negotiations, even as there is already an existing agreement.</p> <p>What I want is a transparent, inclusive and sustainable negotiations and agreement. What is needed in the crafting of a new agreement or pushing it is to include all groups – MILF, MNLF, all groups not just the Maguindanaon but Tausug and Maranao, Badjao, also IPs (Indigenous Peoples) and Christians here in Mindanao, Poe said.</p> <p>While negotiations are going on, Poe said, these should be accompanied by projects, including the Mindanao Railway project, job generation, power generation, rehabilitation of Agus (she referred to it as Angus) and Pulangui dams, roads, tourism.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/02/22/dutertes-rebuttal-to-poe-on-the-bangsamoro-shows-she-needs-to-study-more/">http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/02/22/dutertes-rebuttal-to-poe-on-the-bangsamoro-shows-she-needs-to-study-more/</a></p>
<p>Peace process with the MILF</p>	<p><a href="http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/">http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/</a></p>

	<p>Yes, (I will pursue peace talks) and I think it should be an inclusive peace process, not just confined to one group. Let's include other groups in Mindanao as well, the MNLF, the indigenous peoples, the Christians, they are part of it.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/05/02/1579025/so-you-want-be-president-close-look-those-who-want-lead">05/02/1579025/so-you-want-be-president-close-look-those-who-want-lead</a></p>
<b><i>Platform</i></b>		
	<p>Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) shall assure the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that the GPH will not renege from its commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB).</li> <li>- The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will seek a review of coordinating mechanisms, such as the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) and the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH), to ensure that they are <b>clear and unambiguous</b>.</li> <li>- The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will engage the Congress as a partner in drafting a BBL that is faithful to the FAB and CAB, to the 1996 FPA, and to the Constitution.</li> <li>- The President, as the Commander in Chief, shall direct the armed units of the government, such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), to comply with existing coordination protocols. We likewise expect that the MILF and MNLF shall do the same.</li> </ul>	<p>Submission of Grace Poe to ASOG</p>
<b><i>Track Record</i></b>		
	<p>Resolutions Co-Authored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRN 283: Commending the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police</li> <li>• SRN 792: Honoring and commending The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) of 2014</li> <li>• SRN 1204: National Day of Healing For Unity And Peace</li> <li>• SRN 1240: Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and/or The International Monitoring Team (IMT)</li> <li>• SRN 1052: Celebration of The International Human Rights Day</li> </ul> <p>Participated Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation meeting on BBL with Senen Bacani on May 7, 2015</li> <li>• Meeting on BBL with Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer and Chair Mohagher on August 12, 2015</li> <li>• Book drive for Lumad schools entitled "Libro sa bawat Kamay: A Book Drive for the Lumad Schools in Mindanao" in partnership with Save our Schools Network for 26 beneficiary schools on August 25 – September 15, 2015</li> </ul> <p>Media Releases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poe to probe general peace and order situation, December 31, 2013</li> <li>• Poe files resolution to review dev't program for Mindanao, November 24, 2013</li> <li>• Poe greets Muslims on Eid'l Adha, October 14, 2013</li> <li>• Poe on Cotabato bombing, August 6, 2013</li> </ul>	<p>Submission of Grace Poe to ASOG</p>

2015

- January 29: Transcript of Sen. Grace Poe's dzMM Interview with Mr. Ted Failon on the Mamasapano Incident
- January 26: Transcript of Sen. Grace Poe's ambush interview at the Session Hall on the Mamasapano Incident
- February 1: Transcript of Sen. Grace Poe's dzBB interview with Ms. Nimfa Ravelo on the Mamasapano Incident
- February 4: Grace Poe Ambush Interview Transcript on the Mamasapano Incident
- February 6: Transcript of Sen. Grace Poe's dzMM interview with Ted Failon on Stand on Proposed BBL
- February 9: Opening statement of Senator Grace Poe for the public hearing on the Mamasapano incident
- February 9: Poe: Truth our responsibility - At Public Hearing on Mamasapano Incident
- February 9: Grace Poe dzMM interview transcript on Mamasapano Incident
- February 11: Grace Poe Bombo Radyo Cebu interview transcript on Mamasapano Incident
- February 12: Grace Poe's Questions at the Mamasapano Hearing
- February 12: GRACE POE OPENING STATEMENT - At Public Hearing on Mamasapano Incident
- February 16: Grace Poe Balitanghali Interview Transcript on Mamasapano Incident
- February 17: Grace Poe ambush interview transcript on Mamasapano Incident
- February 22: Grace Poe dzBB interview transcript - On Public Hearing on Mamasapano Incident
- February 23: Grace Poe's opening statement - On Public Hearing on Mamasapano Incident
- February 23: Grace Poe ambush interview transcript - On Public Hearing on Mamasapano Incident
- February 24: Grace Poe closing statement - At Public Hearing on Mamasapano Incident
- March 25: Grace Poe statement on the MILF report (commending the MILF leadership for completing their investigation on the Mamasapano incident without further delay
- March 19: Grace Poe Headstart interview regarding the Mamasapano incident
- March 10: Grace Poe ambush interview transcript regarding the Mamasapano incident
- March 10: Grace Poe Aksyon Radyo interview transcript regarding the Mamasapano incident
- March 9: Grace Poe ambush interview transcript regarding the Mamasapano incident
- March 7: Grace Poe interview transcript RMN Cebu with Atty. Ruphil Banoc regarding the Mamasapano Committee report and Poe's position in BBL
- March 6: Grace Poe interview transcript regarding the Mamasapano Committee report and Poe's position in BBL
- March 3: Grace Poe ambush interview transcript regarding the Mamasapano incident
- March 2: Grace Poe ambush interview transcript regarding the Mamasapano incident
- June 9: Grace Poe Manifestation On Sen. Marcos Speech about Purisima on Mamasapano Incident
- July 17: Grace Poe message for Eid'l Fitr
- September 9: Poe seeks probe into Lumad killings
- November 24: Poe joins kin of Maguindanao massacre victims in quest for justice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1: Poe seeks gov't protection for Indigenous Groups amid coal projects</li> </ul> <p>2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 27: Poe denounces burning of lumad dorm, reiterates call for demilitarization of IP communities</li> <li>• February 21: power, rail among Poe's priorities for Mindanao</li> <li>• February 19: Poe bares plan for agricultural development</li> <li>• January 27: Poe on Mamasapano: Highest tribute for SAF 44 is finding truth</li> <li>• January 27: Sen. Grace Poe opening statement re-opening of the Mamasapano inquiry</li> <li>• January 22: Poe calls on resource persons to attend Mamasapano probe</li> <li>• January 16: Poe wants more budget, economic opportunities for Mindanao</li> <li>• January 8: Grandstanding not allowed in Mamasapano hearing - Poe</li> </ul> <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Headed the Senate probe and commissioned the Committee report on the Mamasapano event</b></li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Did not author the SB 2408 (draft BBL)</b></p>	Senate archives
	<p><b>Signed the Marcos' bill (SB 2894)</b>  Sen. Poe and Sen. Villar for <b>instance said they only signed the bill to allow it to reach the plenary session.</b></p>	Senate archives
<p><b>Summary:</b> Grace Poe's stand on the peace process is particularly ambiguous as her official platform seems to contradict her public statements and interventions during presidential debates. Her platform is very clear about her intention to pursue the ongoing peace process, including the passage of a future BBL, based on the framework laid down by the FAB and the CAB. The sole modifications of the agreements, still according to her platform, should be limited to a clarification of the coordinating mechanisms' mandates.</p> <p>Yet, Poe, during the third presidential debate, did not mention the previous administration's efforts to pursue peace, and rather gave the audience the impression that she would go for another round of negotiations. The impression is confirmed by the interview she gave to Philstar in which she affirms that "Yes, (I will pursue peace talks) and I think it should be an inclusive peace process, not just confined to one group. Let's include other groups in Mindanao as well, the MNLF, the indigenous peoples, the Christians, they are part of it."</p> <p>In fact, Poe, as a Senator, did not prove to be particularly supportive of the proposed BBL. Firstly, she was not among the co-authors of SB 2408. Secondly, she signed Marcos' substitute bill. In between, Poe has been critical of Malacañang's version of the law, which, she claimed, would create a separate republic within the country. She also opposed the opt-in provision. Poe furthermore chaired the Senate committee on the Mamasapano incident, and was responsible for the re-opening of the probe, a move which many interpreted as a form of anti-Muslim harassment.</p> <p>The rest of her platform for Mindanao involves a two-pronged strategy based on an "all-out war" against terrorists, and "all-out development" policy. The simple use of the expression "all-out war against terrorists" – the same used by former President Arroyo to describe her offensive against the MILF in 2003 -- shows either Poe's "indelicacy" or blatant lack of historical knowledge about the conflict. A full-scale mobilization of the security forces in Mindanao might furthermore not be the wisest move in a context of accrued tensions, but to reflect on this necessitates to have a general idea of the realities on the ground, which does not seem to be the case of Poe.</p>		

DUTERTE	References
<i>Position</i>	
<p>(2015)</p> <p>Davao City mayor Rodrigo Duterte, accordingly to his long-term advocacy in favor of federalism, already announced that he would propose a federal form of government instead of granting the autonomy which is foreseen by the BBL. The federalist option already raises a number of questions and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If elected, will Duterte be able to amend the sacrosanct Constitution of 1987 in order to reorganize the Philippines under a federal state?</li> <li>- What kind of federalism is Duterte going to implement? Knowing that he cited France as an example of federalist country which he would look into... knowing that France which basically invented the unitary form of government and is as of this date one of the most centralized countries in the world.</li> <li>- Will this federalism be acceptable to the MILF? And will the MILF, the MNLF and other groups have a word to say in the organization of this federal state?</li> </ul> <p>But more urgent is the examination of Duterte's position regarding the BBL. Indeed, although he openly affirmed his opposition to the bill, he did not specify whether this opposition would be active or passive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active: He will actively and specifically fight against the passage of the BBL while proposing federalism.</li> <li>- Passive: He will let the BBL pass or be passive about it while he will push for federalism, considering that federalism will <i>de jure</i> repulse the BBL.</li> </ul> <p>Duterte's position on the BBL and more specifically on the peace process cannot be ignored as he is running in front of the polls and allegedly enjoys a wide support among Mindanaoan leaders (almost 80 percent of them, including LP members.)</p>	
<p>(Latest)</p> <p>He would ensure the passage of the BBL. He also said he would talk to the different groups fighting in Mindanao to bring about peace. There will be no peace, there can never be a federal government until we talk to the NPA (New People's Army)," he said.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace</a></p>
<p>A Duterte presidency will push for the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and make the Bangsamoro an example for the rest to follow under a federal system of government, Davao City mayor and Presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte told a crowd of supporters at the plaza here Saturday afternoon.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/02/28/duterte-pass-bbl-and-make-bangsamoro-an-example-for-the-">http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/02/28/duterte-pass-bbl-and-make-bangsamoro-an-example-for-the-</a></p>

	<p>To bring lasting peace in Mindanao, the government must be able and willing to talk and negotiate with the warring groups in the region.</p> <p>By groups, he was referring the New People’s Army, Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.canadianinquirer.net/2016/04/25/duterte-administration-willing-talk-rival-groups-mindanao-bring-peace/">rest-to-follow/ http://www.canadianinquirer.net/2016/04/25/duterte-administration-willing-talk-rival-groups-mindanao-bring-peace/</a></p>
	<p>Duterte assured the audience he would put the Mindanao conflict on top of his agenda.</p> <p>He said it was his desire to unite all Christians, Muslims and lumad under his administration.</p>	<p><a href="http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/781450/mindanao-will-be-priority-says-duterte">http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/781450/mindanao-will-be-priority-says-duterte</a></p>
	<p>“We will continue the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and strive to work towards the establishment of a mutually acceptable Bangsamoro political entity within the framework of a federal system of government,” Pimentel (PDP-Laban president) said.</p> <p>As for the faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by its founding chairman Nur Misuari, “he will be encouraged to actively take part in any dialogue for peace in Muslim Mindanao,” he added.</p> <p>On the other hand, a Duterte administration will run after the other armed groups who will sow terror and try to dismember the country.</p> <p>Pimentel pointed out that Duterte is trusted by the NPA as shown by their recent move to release five Davao City policemen whom they abducted and held captive for less than a week.</p> <p>“The long-term solution to armed conflict in Mindanao, as we see it, is socio-economic development that would reduce poverty incidence and substantially improve the living conditions of everyone, whether Muslim, Christian or indigenous peoples,” Pimentel added.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mb.com.ph/duterte-to-reach-out-to-armed-groups-to-end-conflict-in-mindanao/">http://www.mb.com.ph/duterte-to-reach-out-to-armed-groups-to-end-conflict-in-mindanao/</a></p>
	<p>A Moro civil society leader said the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) needs to be passed “not later than two years from now” in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), to <b>allow for the establishment of the new Bangsamoro political entity that can be the pilot project for the shift to a federal form of government.</b></p> <p><b>Guiamel Alim</b>, executive director of <b>Kadtuntaya Foundation (MNLF?)</b> and a member of the Council of Elders of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS) told a press conference here Friday that the BBL has to be passed within this period as the CAB provides for a transition period of at least one year for the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) that would prepare for the establishment of the Bangsamoro, the new autonomous political entity that would replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/04/23/pass-bbl-in-2-years-make-bangsamoro-pilot-for-federalism/">http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/04/23/pass-bbl-in-2-years-make-bangsamoro-pilot-for-federalism/</a></p>

<b>Platform</b>	
<p>*Federalism. We shall pursue via Constitutional Convention the shift to parliamentary-federal system of government to avoid the vicious cycle of concentrating legislative powers, and to a certain extent, economic powers to highly developed regions of our country. The system will expedite the development of the entire country by unleashing the forces of constructive competition among the regions (states). It will give equal opportunities for each and every region (state) to grow on its own to attain self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-governance. This is the ultimate meaning of local autonomy and decentralization.</p> <p>PEACE AND ORDER Reform of the PNP (remuneration++) Respect of Human rights (lol)</p> <p>INSURGENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY *We shall continue to negotiate with the insurgents and the separatists until a final peace agreement shall have been forged without compromising our national territorial integrity and constitutional processes. We shall integrate into the national social, economic and political mainstreams those who returned to the folds of the law.”</p> <p>*AFP Modernization. We shall produce, manufacture/ procure and build all the necessary modern military equipment and communication facilities for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) not only to combat insurgency efficiently and effectively but also to readily and adequately resist any foreign military adventurism.</p> <p>NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN 2018: No precision</p>	<p>Du30’s platform</p>
<b>Track Record</b>	
<p>Duterte personally knows a number of MNLF’s personalities</p>	
<p>He said he has talked with the leaders of MILF, whom he said were disgusted about the outcome of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/03/1579413/duterte-revolutionary-govt-if-congress-will-make-it-hard-me">http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/03/1579413/duterte-revolutionary-govt-if-congress-will-make-it-hard-me</a></p>
<p>Sole Mindanaoan of the presidential race, 7 terms as Davao mayor</p>	
<p><b>Summary:</b> Rodrigo Duterte’s positions on the Bangsamoro Peace Process and more particularly on the BBL have been as volatile as his decision to run for President. The only thing which has remained steady is his pledge for federalism as a means to achieve peace and economic development. Pursuant to this platform, he announced at the beginning of the campaign that he would propose a federal form of government instead of granting the autonomy which is foreseen by the BBL. He however did not specify whether his opposition to the BBL would be active or passive (Active: He will actively and</p>	

specifically fight against the passage of the BBL while proposing federalism / Passive: He will let the BBL pass or be passive about it while he will push for federalism, considering that federalism will *de jure* repulse the BBL.)

But his latest statement reversed his primary position: he indeed affirmed that a Duterte presidency will push for the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and make the Bangsamoro an example for the rest to follow under a federal system of government.” At the same time, Duterte did not specify the kind of BBL (original, substitute bills, new draft) he wanted to see passed. Duterte’s focus on the BBL through the prism of federalism and, on the contrary, the complete absence of any reference to the normalization process also cast serious doubts on Duterte’s willingness to implement the existing peace agreements.

His official platform in fact states that “we shall continue to negotiate with the insurgents and the separatists (*e.g. the Moro fronts*) until a final peace agreement shall have been forged without compromising our national territorial integrity and constitutional processes.” He confirmed his intention to open the discussion to all Moro groups and even to the communists in subsequent communiqués. Duterte actually already demonstrated his ability to personally engage with rebel leaders (NPA, MNLF, MILF), whom he learnt to know during his long experience as a Mindanaoan mayor. On the other hand, a “Duterte administration will run after the other armed groups who will sow terror and try to dismember the country” (Pimentel), a policy which could paradoxically lead to greater destabilization in the zone, especially regarding the Mayor’s negative track-record in terms of human rights’ violations.

In all cases, Duterte assured that the resolution of the conflicts in Mindanao will be tagged as the first priority of his agenda if and once elected, a promise which seems sincere coming from a Mindanaoan candidate.

DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO		References
<b>Position</b>		
	<p>"First, dismantle private armies...Second, to stop the conflict in Mindanao we have to adopt the customary traditional law into our Western style of the justice system," she said.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/130655-presidential-debate-mindanao-peace</a></p>
	<p>How will you deal with:</p> <p>Peace process with the MILF</p> <p>First of all, we have to <b>find out who is the real representative of the Bangsamoro</b>...there are many groups. If you chose one, all the rest will rise up in revolution against us. They have to have their own internal procedure for choosing which is one is representative of the Bangsamoro people.</p> <p>Next, the <b>Bangsamoro bill was not passed in part because of my opposition to it</b>... It is setting up a sub state; they are a complete government. Our Constitution allows only for regional autonomy. This Bangsamoro Basic Law went beyond that. But <b>certainly we have to consider all the previous documents and (agreements)</b>.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/04/1579671/so-you-want-be-president-close-look-those-who-want-lead">http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/04/1579671/so-you-want-be-president-close-look-those-who-want-lead</a></p>
<b>Platform</b>		
	<p>CRIMINALITY, TERRORISM, PEACE AND ORDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dismantle private armies created by government officials</li> <li>• Improvements in the Philippine National Police</li> <li>• Invest in better equipment and training for the police force</li> <li>• Improve unmanageable, gigantic police pension systems</li> <li>• Leaner military and police force</li> </ul> <p>RULE OF LAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforce and implement the law but respect due process</li> <li>• End the practice of impunity</li> <li>• Resolve Maguindanao Massacre, Mamasapano, Lumad Eviction and Killings</li> </ul> <p>NATIONAL TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assert national territorial integrity</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://miriam.com.ph/newsblog/plan-of-action/#CRIMINALITY_TERRORISM_PEACE_AND_ORDER">http://miriam.com.ph/newsblog/plan-of-action/#CRIMINALITY_TERRORISM_PEACE_AND_ORDER</a></p>
<b>Track Record</b>		

	<p><b>Senate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISION OF CODES on SB 2894.</b> The report delivered by her Senate committee on constitutional amendments furthermore illustrates her general opposition to the very idea of autonomy, which she tries to justify by an imperious but refutable technical legal jargon.</li> <li>- Plenary debate: The Senators (without distinction) proved to be particularly prolific in using this method (make their counterparts run out of time), thus showing the radical position of this chamber regarding the issue of peace – and most specifically of regional autonomy. Indeed, even though some analysts argued that the BBL had all its chances to be passed on the endorsement of the President alone before the Mamasapano incident, implying that it was only because of this event that the bill was finally distrusted by the legislators, it was actually from its very introduction that the Senators allied to postpone all discussions in order to never have to proceed to the vote (endless public hearings (Marcos), postponing of the submission of the substitute bill (Marcos), <b>interpellations by Senators who are on the side of Marcos’ bill, just to prolong the debates (Santiago), etc.</b>).</li> </ul>	Senate archives
<p><b>Summary:</b> Although “supportive” of peace, Miriam Defensor-Santiago does not have a clearly defined plan regarding the resolution of the conflict in Mindanao. She is known to be a staunch opponent to autonomy. A point of her platform is for instance directly dedicated to “assert[ing] national territorial integrity.” As a senator and the Chairperson of the Committee on constitutional amendments and revision of codes, she opposed the proposed BBL, whose adoption, she claimed, would <i>de facto</i> have amended the Constitution by creating a sub-state. She also participated in the filibustering against the substitute bill at the Senate level.</p> <p>During the presidential debate, she mentioned that the solutions to bring about peace in Mindanao would be to “dismantle private armies” (no precision) and “adopt the customary traditional law into our Western style of the justice system”, which is in fact already envisioned by, among other texts, the PD 1083 and the Organic Act of the ARMM.</p>		

*Vice-presidential candidates*

<b>HONASAN</b>		References
<i>Position</i>		
	<p>"It's important that <b>we stay the course on the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law,"</b> Senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, a former military officer, said.</p> <p>Honasan said that he understands the public sentiment over the Mamasapano incident, and the call of some quarters to launch a full-scale war in retaliation for the death of the 44 police special forces. However, he cautioned that it is <b>unwise to succumb to emotions and stop the entire peace process.</b></p> <p>"We cannot inflict [a halt to] the peace process. The long-term cost might be too high to bear," he advised.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.opapp.gov.ph/milf/news/deles-best-way-disconnect-legitimate-rebel-movements-terrorist-groups-thru-peace-process">http://www.opapp.gov.ph/milf/news/deles-best-way-disconnect-legitimate-rebel-movements-terrorist-groups-thru-peace-process</a></p>
	<p>On the Bangsamoro Basic Law that is being pushed by several quarters and largely supported by the present administration.</p> <p>□ <b>In its present form, I feel the BBL will not do enough good even if it gets approved.</b> For instance, there are infringing violations of the constitution. That's why we at the senate continue to debate on some provisions and I don't see any end in sight, □ Honasan explained.</p> <p>□ You know, when we talk about BBL, you cannot make it synonymous with the peace process because the peace process does not simply mean an end to the armed conflict. The more difficult part comes after and <b>that is developing these communities and making sure they receive even the most basic of services.</b> These will address food, clothing, shelter, education and health services. And unless we find a way to address that, whether you are Muslim, Christian, or Lumad— the BBL will not serve its purpose. □</p> <p>The senator said that <b>as a soldier, he spent many years fighting in Mindanao and he knows what happens when government and the rebels go into what he calls a vicious cycle</b> □ from peace talks to violation of the peace process.</p> <p>□ The worst part is displacement of innocent civilians and destruction to lives and property.</p>	<p><a href="http://orangemagazine.ph/2016/gringo-honasan-on-his-platform-taxes-bbl-and-foi/">http://orangemagazine.ph/2016/gringo-honasan-on-his-platform-taxes-bbl-and-foi/</a></p>
	<p>Vice Presidential candidate, Senator Gringo Honasan, on Tuesday <b>visited the camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to discuss the peace agenda of the opposition</b> party United Nationalist Alliance. But during his address before the MILF leaders, Honasan said if his running mate, Vice President Jejomar Binay, wins the presidential race, <b>all the concerns of the strife-torn Mindanao will be addressed with or without a BBL.</b></p> <p>"We are committed to a path of peace for Mindanao. We believe that by focusing on poverty and injustice, we will be able to break the decades-long unrest in the region," Honasan said.</p>	<p><a href="http://news.abs-cbn.com/halalan2016/nation/03/30/16/honasan-sets-foot-in-milf-camp-vows-peace-for-mindanao">http://news.abs-cbn.com/halalan2016/nation/03/30/16/honasan-sets-foot-in-milf-camp-vows-peace-for-mindanao</a></p>
<i>Platform</i>		

?????		
<b>Track Record</b>		
Soldier:		<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/108938-gringo-honasan-leader-i-want">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/108938-gringo-honasan-leader-i-want</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fought in Mindanao as a young lieutenant.</li> <li>- Lebak, Jolo and Zamboanga</li> </ul>		
Senate:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The senator said he supports the peace process, even after the January 25 Mamasapano tragedy that killed 67 Filipinos.</li> <li>- Honasan participated in the Senate hearings into the issue.</li> <li>- Honasan was a co-author of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL)</li> <li>- The senator though signed the committee report of Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago questioning the constitutionality of the draft BBL.</li> <li>- In the Senate hearings on the Mamasapano incident, Honasan said the military and the police must help bring justice to the “mutilated” Special Action Force troopers.</li> </ul>		
Signed Marcos’ bill.		Senate archives
<p>Summary: Honasan, as a former soldier, experienced the war in Mindanao and has in this regard a reality-based perspective – although biased by his involvement in the AFP. In a general manner, he is supportive of the peace process, but his position regarding the BBL is ambiguous. While he co-authored the original BBL at the senatorial level, he also signed both Santiago’s opposition report and Marcos’ substitute bill. Lately, he declared that the parties should stay in “the course of the passage of the BBL.”</p>		

CAYETANO		References
<b>Position</b>		
2015		<a href="http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/07/02/1472389/cayetano-bbl-may-lead-secession-civil-war">http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/07/02/1472389/cayetano-bbl-may-lead-secession-civil-war</a>
Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano branded the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) as an instrument that benefits only the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and a measure that may later lead to secession or civil war.		
“Hopefully, with a fuller discussion of this law, there will be a better understanding of what is in there for everybody. We’ve always said that we’re relying on the collective wisdom of the members of both houses (of Congress) to come up with a law that will basically satisfy the aspirations of the Bangsamoro and one that will be in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB),” he said.		
Cayetano also warned of the danger in the opt-in provision, which for him will only lead to instability as the MILF, with all the funds that will be granted it, can easily invite the barangays not part of the Bangsamoro and finance a plebiscite.		
2015		
Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano is drafting a bill that seeks to replace the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) with either a stronger Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) or two autonomous		

	<p>regions in the South.</p> <p>In a phone interview and text messages, Cayetano told the Inquirer that the measure was a result of consultations as early as February with Mindanaoans as well as Christian and Muslim scholars. Cayetano had been vocal in his criticism against the BBL, even questioning the loyalty of government peace negotiators, led by presidential peace adviser Teresita Deles and professor Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, to the country after accusing them of siding with the MILF camp. <b>Cayetano said many Mindanaoans have “distrust” with the MILF and its true intentions.</b></p>	
	<p>But the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law as framed mainly points to giving the Moro Islamic Liberation Front more power and access to billions, all without any clear and definite accountability to our national government. Instead of continuously debating the contentious and constitutional issues found in the BBL any further, let us instead commit the funds intended for the establishment of the BBL to the approved Mindanao Development Plan. It is the delayed implementation of the plan by our government that helps justify the armed conflicts in Mindanao.</p>	<p><a href="http://alanpetercayetano.com/news/2015/05/statement-of-sen-alan-cayetano-on-the-proposed-bangsamoro-basic-law">http://alanpetercayetano.com/news/2015/05/statement-of-sen-alan-cayetano-on-the-proposed-bangsamoro-basic-law</a></p>
	<p>Vice presidential candidate Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said <b>only federalism can bring peace to war-torn Mindanao.</b> He made the statement during the Pilipinas Debates for the vice presidential bets held at the University of Sto. Tomas, Manila Sunday.</p> <p>This is in response to how he proposes to achieve lasting peace in Mindanao. He said he believes in Mayor Duterte that “nothing short of federalism can solve the problem in Mindanao.”</p> <p>Back in January, Senators Grace Poe and Francis “Chiz” Escudero rejected Duterte’s and Cayetano’s call for federalism. They said that it would not work well in the Philippine setup, a statement which Cayetano dubbed as a “classic Manila-centric” attitude.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.update.ph/2016/04/federalism-can-bring-peace-to-mindanao-cayetano/4151">http://www.update.ph/2016/04/federalism-can-bring-peace-to-mindanao-cayetano/4151</a></p>
	<p>During the vice presidential debate on Sunday, April 10, 2016, Cayetano was asked, “How do you propose to achieve lasting peace in Mindanao?” <a href="http://www.mb.com.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/10_duterte.jpg">http://www.mb.com.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/10_duterte.jpg</a> Cayetano said, “Sabi nga ni Mayor Duterte, na aking pinaniniwalaan, <b>nothing short of federalism can solve the problem in Mindanao.</b>”</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mb.com.ph/pilipinasdebates2016-cayetano-pushes-for-federalism-to-achieve-peace-in-mindanao/">http://www.mb.com.ph/pilipinasdebates2016-cayetano-pushes-for-federalism-to-achieve-peace-in-mindanao/</a></p>
	<p>Cayetano said an <b>important part of addressing the country's disorder is to develop Mindanao</b>, where 13 of the 20 poorest provinces in the country are located.</p> <p>The senator said underdevelopment breeds disorder. He pointed to federalism as a possible solution to systematically address the region's decades-old problems on economic instability and armed rebellion. To improve health care services in the region, Cayetano hinted at <b>establishing specialty hospitals in Mindanao.</b> He also expressed the commitment to complete the <b>Mindanao Railway System.</b></p>	<p><a href="http://interaksyon.com/article/123282/duterte-cayetano-develop-mindanao-to-end-discord-neglect">http://interaksyon.com/article/123282/duterte-cayetano-develop-mindanao-to-end-discord-neglect</a></p>
	<p>Like his elder sister Sen. Pia Cayetano, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano also took offense at the absence yesterday of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) at the Senate hearing on the bloody Jan. 25 commando operation in Maguindanao province, saying it was a tactical move that left Philippine military and police officials pointing</p>	<p><a href="http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/672100/alan-peter-cayetano-were-">http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/672100/alan-peter-cayetano-were-</a></p>

	<p>fingers at each other.</p> <p>Cayetano also asked the members of the peace panel if the Aquino administration was negotiating with terrorists, to which Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, head of the government panel that negotiated a peace deal with the MILF last year, replied that the MILF had not been listed as a terrorist organization.</p> <p>“The bigger question for this hearing: Why is the MILF territories becoming a haven for terrorism here in Asia?” Cayetano said.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/111582-alan-peter-cayetano-leader-i-want">talking-peace-to-milf-but-they-protected-marwan</a></p>
	<p>“We are in trouble because our peace negotiators don’t even know we cannot negotiate with terrorists.”</p> <p>Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano sought to link the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) with terror groups, blaming the group for the Mamasapano clash while the Senate and other bodies are still investigating the encounter.</p>	
	<p>He believes the BBL, in its current form, would just give more power to MILF and other armed groups in Mindanao. He demands that MILF disarm before Congress passes BBL.</p> <p>But more recently, he said he would support an amended BBL. In the meantime, he believes the government should focus on effectively implementing the Mindanao Development Plan which would at least address some of the socio-economic ills that could be fuelling the armed struggle.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/111582-alan-peter-cayetano-leader-i-want">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/111582-alan-peter-cayetano-leader-i-want</a></p>
<b>Platform</b>		
	<p>Duterte said Wednesday that if elected, he and Cayetano will increase government security forces. “I will add 3,000 more regular men in the Armed Forces, and train them either as scout rangers or special forces to combat lawless elements. “</p> <p>The senator said their tandem will push for a Mindanao Peace and Development Plan, which will address the region’s decades-old problems on economic instability and armed rebellion, among others. Allocate at least P800 billion worth of guaranteed funds for 10 years in order to harness the potentials of various sectors in the region, including education, health, agriculture, livelihood, housing, tourism, infrastructure, and transportation. On top of this, we plan to allot P1 billion per region, particularly to Mindanao, for micro, small, and medium enterprise financing,” Cayetano explained.</p> <p>Cayetano added that they are pushing for federalism as a unifying peace framework in Mindanao. They said any discussion about peace and development in Mindanao must be based on a just, inclusive and lasting framework among all stakeholders.</p>	<p><a href="http://news.abs-cbn.com/halalan2016/nation/12/30/15/duterte-cayetano-promise-peace-in-mindanao">http://news.abs-cbn.com/halalan2016/nation/12/30/15/duterte-cayetano-promise-peace-in-mindanao</a></p>
	<p>Senator Alan Peter Cayetano has vowed to bring back order and security to the lives of Filipinos should he be lucky to get elected as the country’s next vice president. But we need to build first the suitable condition by cracking down on crime, drugs and government corruption,” he said.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/01/28/1547249/cayetano-">http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/01/28/1547249/cayetano-</a></p>

		<a href="#">vows-bring-back-order-and-security-vp</a>
	He pointed to federalism as a possible solution to systematically address the region's decades-old problems on economic instability and armed rebellion. To improve health care services in the region, Cayetano hinted at establishing specialty hospitals in Mindanao. He also expressed the commitment to complete the Mindanao Railway System	<a href="http://interaksyon.com/article/123282/duterte-cayetano-develop-mindanao-to-end-discord-neglect">http://interaksyon.com/article/123282/duterte-cayetano-develop-mindanao-to-end-discord-neglect</a>
	Presidential candidate and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and runningmate Senator Alan Peter Cayetano vowed to resign if they cannot solve the country's problems on peace, drugs, and corruption within six months, if elected in the upcoming May 2016 polls.	<a href="http://www.mb.com.ph/duterte-cayetano-to-resign-if-peace-drugs-corruption-still-not-solved-in-6-months/">http://www.mb.com.ph/duterte-cayetano-to-resign-if-peace-drugs-corruption-still-not-solved-in-6-months/</a>
<b>Track Record</b>		
	Cayetano was initially a co-author of the administration-backed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which aims to create an expanded region in Muslim Mindanao as part of the government's peace process with the MILF. The senator withdrew his support for the bill in the wake of the January 25 clash that killed 44 elite cops and at least 17 MILF members, and sparked public outrage.	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/83523-cayetano-deles-clash-milf-terror-links">http://www.rappler.com/nation/83523-cayetano-deles-clash-milf-terror-links</a>
	<b>Signed Marcos' bill:</b> "Senator Alan Cayetano made it clear that his vote for the proposed BBL was no. "Yes to strengthening the autonomous region that will result in a just, inclusive and lasting peace. To BBL in present form, no " he said.	<a href="http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/711730/marcos-17-senators-sign-report-on-proposed-bangsamoro-law">http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/711730/marcos-17-senators-sign-report-on-proposed-bangsamoro-law</a>
	<b>Participated in the Senate hearing on the Mamasapano incident</b> – interpellated the peace panel's members	
Summary: The Duterte-Cayetano tandem has tagged peace in Mindanao as a major priority of their future administration. Regarding the details of their platform, Cayetano embraces his running mate's views on federalism, socio-economic development and security by means of force as the solution to the conflict. On a personal basis though, Cayetano is a staunch opponent of the BBL, which, he claimed, is "an instrument that benefits only the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and a measure that may later lead to secession or civil war." More generally, Cayetano distrusts the MILF, which he linked to terrorist groups during the Senate hearing on Mamasapano, and seeks to re-open talks with other rebel groups.		

ESCUDERO		References
<b>Position</b>		
	among the many lawmakers who have apprehensions about the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law. Among the questionable provisions for him are the P70 billion budget to implement the law once enacted, and the creation of a separate entity from the national government.	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i</a>

		<a href="https://poeescuderodaily.wordpress.com/2016/03/31/chiz-pushes-for-peace-process/">want-2016</a>
	<p>The next administration has the “golden opportunity” to pursue a comprehensive, all-inclusive peace and economic program for Mindanao through a Bangsamoro framework that promotes true inclusivity, vice presidential aspirant Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero said.</p> <p>Escudero said regardless of who wins in the upcoming May elections, the country’s next leaders must build on the Aquino administration’s gains in the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and achieve the elusive peace in Mindanao.</p> <p>Escudero said that while he is in favor of proposals to amend the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Charter to give them wider authority, this should be compliant to the provisions of the Constitution. “And the government should conduct wider consultations with all stakeholders in this move, whether they are Christians or Muslim, within or outside of the ARMM jurisdiction,” said Escudero, running mate of Sen. Grace Poe in the May 2016 elections.</p> <p>“The next administration will have a golden opportunity to cure the glitches, loopholes and shortcomings of the proposed legislation, which we all envision to bring peace and economic development in Mindanao,” the lawmaker stressed.</p>	<a href="https://poeescuderodaily.wordpress.com/2016/03/31/chiz-pushes-for-peace-process/">https://poeescuderodaily.wordpress.com/2016/03/31/chiz-pushes-for-peace-process/</a>
<b>Platform</b>		
	<p>Escudero said he wants the budget to be placed under line-item budgeting to better monitor the expenses. He also pushed for the inclusion of a detailed timeline of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s decommissioning of high-powered weapons.</p> <p>Escudero said Congress has to thoroughly study the measure so as to avoid the mistakes with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.</p>	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016</a>
	<p>As for the Mamasapano incident that killed 44 elite policemen, Escudero insisted it was a massacre, not a misencounter, as the national government labeled it.</p>	<a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/106049-chiz-escudero-leader-i-want-2016</a>
<b>Track Record</b>		
	Did not sign the Marcos Bill	
<p>Summary: Escudero’s platform on peace is close to Poe’s, his running mate. He affirmed that the next administration should pursue the path of the peace process, notably through a possible amendment of the ARMM Charter (he did not precise whether this should take the form of a BBL) and the re-opening of the peace talks to include other rebel groups. As a member of the Senate, Escudero took position against the original BBL, which he criticized for being too costly and because of the creation of a separate entity from the national government. However, he was not among the</p>		

signatories of the Marcos' substitute bill. Escudero was also part of the Senate committee on Mamasapano.

ROBREDO		References
<b>Position</b>		
<b>Platform</b>	Liberal Party's platform.	
<b>Track Record</b>		
	<p>Robredo voted <a href="#">in favor</a> of the <a href="#">proposed Bangsamoro basic law</a> (BBL). She also signed a <a href="#">statement</a> calling for the swift passage of the law that would "fulfill the promise of change in Mindanao in the form of a just and lasting peace."</p> <p>Robredo also backed <a href="#">House Bill 5442</a>, which sought the creation of a Citizens' Commission for Justice in Mamasapano, an investigative body that would probe the bloody January clash between elite cops and Muslim rebels in Maguindanao</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/107991-leni-robredo-leader-i-want-2016">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/107991- leni-robredo-leader-i- want-2016</a></p>
	<p>She was not a part of the committee on BBL, nevertheless, she always attended because BBL is close to her husband's heart. So she tried to find a deputy speaker to commission her so that she could vote. Many people criticized her for voting for BBL, saying she did not do justice to her husband's death. They were not aware how her husband loved peace in Mindanao.</p>	<p>Report of her speech during ARMM summit on bangsa women</p>
<p>Summary: Leni Robredo, as the official Liberal Party Vice-Candidate, is bound by her party's platform on peace which is to pursue the ongoing process. As a congresswoman, she has always been steady in supporting the BBL. Although she was not part of the Ad Hoc Committee on the BBL, she found a deputy speaker to commission her so that she could vote. She approved the measure during the Committee's voting session – but only had the chance to vote on the Committee's version of the bill. Even though she was not herself directly involved in the peace process, her late husband used to work with the ARMM when he was DILG Secretary.</p>		

MARCOS		References
<b>Position</b>		
<b>Platform</b>	<p><u><a href="#">Bangsamoro</a></u>  <a href="#">Continuing the process to achieve peace in Mindanao</a>, especially in the Bangsamoro region is crucial in achieving social justice and economic and prosperity not just in the affected region but in the entire island. SB 2894 or the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region was submitted in lieu of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). The substitute bill seeks to provide an <a href="#">alternative legislation which would address the constitutional infirmities and the implementation issues surrounding the BBL</a>. The ultimate goal is to achieve lasting peace where legitimate concerns of the various stakeholders are acknowledged and addressed.</p>	<p>Marcos' platform</p>

	<p>Simultaneous to the quest for peace through the peace process is an envisioned plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Full scale pacification and law enforcement program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Massive infrastructure modernization</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advancement in public transportation including a railway system</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Modernization of the civil service and public services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other improvements in various sectors of governance</li> </ul>	
<i>Track Record</i>		
	<p>Marcos' name landed on headlines when he filed <a href="#">another version of the Bangsamoro Basic Law</a> (BBL), meant to implement the peace deal between the government and rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). He <a href="#">opposed</a> the earlier version, first drafted by the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, because he said it was unconstitutional and would lead only to more bloodshed instead of the promised peace.</p>	rappler
<p>Summary: Marcos' platform includes a section on how he imagines peace in Mindanao. The document refers to the "continuation of the peace process", but does not specify whether the existing peace agreements will be preserved. Marcos did not mention whether he would open a new round of negotiations with the rebel group(s), but has been vocal about the alleged lack of inclusivity of the originally proposed BBL. He himself engaged with a series of peace stakeholders during the consultative process on the BBL he conducted as Chairperson of the Senate committee on Local governments. This procedure resulted in the submission to the Senate of a substitute bill, which envisions a Bangsamoro Autonomous Region that is amputated of at least 80% of governmental powers compared to the original bill, and</p>		

TRILLANES		References
Position		
	<p>The same point was also raised by another former military officer, Sen. Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV who said that the southern peace process is very "crucial" especially since the two parties have already signed a peace agreement and is currently on the implementation stage.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.opapp.gov.ph/milf/news/deles-best-way-disconnect-legitimate-rebel-movements-terrorist-groups-thru-peace-process">http://www.opapp.gov.ph/milf/news/deles-best-way-disconnect-legitimate-rebel-movements-terrorist-groups-thru-peace-process</a></p>
	<p>Following the killing of 44 police officers by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Maguindanao, Trillanes said the</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/113106-antonio-trillanes-leader-i-want">http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/113106-antonio-trillanes-leader-i-want</a></p>

	<p>passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law <u>should not be rushed</u>.</p> <p>Despite being an ally of the Aquino administration that wants the BBL passed, Trillanes said passing the BBL in its current form could give the MILF too much power and resources.</p>	
Platform		
Track Record		
Summary:		