

Executive Committee of the Mindanao Conversations

Cebu Business Hotel, Cebu City

May 25, 2014

Members Present

Fr. Joel Tabora (Chair)

Datu Mussolini Lidasan

Fr. Bong Dahunan

Fr. Willy Samson

Ms Gail de la Rita

Atty. Jimmy Hofileña

Mr. Vinci Bueza (Secretary)

1. Prayer

- Fr. Tabora led the prayer.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Appended to the minutes were the resolutions of the previous meeting.
- Atty. Hofileña moved for the approval of the minutes of the April 14 meeting.
- The motion was seconded.
- The Minutes were approved as presented.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

On the MindanaoSJ website and the Online Survey

- Mr. Bueza was asked by Fr. Tabora to present the MindanaoSJ website to the members of the Executive Committee. Mr. Bueza presented the website, with url: www.mindanaosj.org. Each page was described and the uses and objectives of each page explained.
- Fr. Tabora inquired about the Online Survey in the home page. Mr. Bueza referred the members to Resolution no. 2014-003 on the “inventory of leaders that the Mindanao institutions are currently engaged with” and the survey on leadership formation programs among the Jesuit institutions. Ms. de la Rita asked about what kind of leader they should put in the website. Fr. Tabora answered that it can be a barangay chair, a councillor, or any influential member of a community. Fr. Tabora clarified that it would be helpful if the leaders are working for or have bearing in Mindanao. Fr. Tabora added that the leaders included in the list should be an ally not just a leader.
- Atty. Hofileña asked who is supposed to answer the online survey. Is it an office, institute, a chairperson? Mr. Bueza explained that in Ateneo de Davao’s case, Mindanawon [Initiatives for Cultural Dialogue] is answering the survey for tribal communities, Al Qalam Institute for Islamized Indigenous groups and the ADDU Leadership Center is answering the survey on leadership formation.
- Ms de la Rita asked if they can brief their students how to answer the survey so they can also contribute. Fr. Tabora answered yes and said for the long term they have to know how to work with the Youth sector.
- Fr. Joel asked that they agree on a deadline for the survey so that they can discuss the list when they meet again. He suggested the end of June. The members agreed.

On the announcements and reports in the MindanaoSJ website

- Mr. Bueza mentioned that if their institutions have any announcements they can send it to him in PDF and also a link to any website page regarding that announcement.
- Atty. Hofileña asked if the announcements are only about Mindanao issues. Fr. Tabora answered that they must be related to the Action Points of the Mindanao Conversations. He added that it

would also be good if after the event it is followed up by a report that may be posted in the website. Fr. Tabora said that documentation is very useful because they can always look at their minutes. He added that the provincial is always looking at the minutes because the idea is to always share what's going on.

- Ms de la Rita asked if the announcements are necessarily initiated by the institution or can it also be activities engaged by other multi-stakeholders. Fr. Tabora answered that as long as there's a link to the Jesuit apostolate in Mindanao and affecting some form of implementation of the Action Points, it will fit. Jesuit-initiated events may be posted in the website.
- Fr. Samson suggested if it is possible that they also include a section where they can also share good stories from what they have initiated that will inspire people? Mr. Bueza agreed and said stories can be another section of the home page. Fr. Tabora said that it would be good if the stories are related to the action points so it could be a sub-category to what they have done, what needs to be done and what they are doing.
- Atty. Hofileña asked how far back the reporting in the website will be. Mr. Bueza answered that it will be 3 years back.
- Fr. Tabora said that the website is a tool that can be helpful to them so that they can always have an overview on what is happening and they can be able to invite more action and more activity.

On Sports for Peace program, CEAP-NABEI Volunteer Teacher Program and the Invitation to the Pope

- Fr. Tabora reported on some of the resolutions approved during the previous month's meeting. These included the trip to Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), Mindanao State University - Marawi (MSU), visit to Cotabato Cardinal Quevedo, and MILF Chairman Al Hadj Murad in Camp Darapanan
- Fr. Tabora mentioned that he brought with him three proposals for the trip. One was the idea of an all-Mindanao sports league riding on the idea of peace. MSU-IIT and MSU-Marawi have good resonance. The idea of the proposal was to gather athletes and to use them to stir dialogue on the ground.
- Fr. Samson said that July 1 to 6 [2014] is the inter-Ateneo Jesuit Higher Education Commission (JHEC) gathering for formation. He said that they will bring the proposal to that meeting.
- Fr. Dahunan also said he can bring the proposal to the schools in Bukidnon. Fr. Tabora said that for now they are working on the collegiate level but they can go to that direction in the future.
- Fr. Tabora continued on to the second idea: the CEAP-NABEI volunteer teacher program. This was resolved by both the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and the National Association of Bangsamoro Education, Inc. (NABEI). This will be like a Jesuit Volunteer Program (JVP) in which a volunteer will live in the community to learn the culture, language and religion of the Muslims. They will teach Department of Education (DepEd) - content subjects in the madaris [Islamic schools]. Tabora added that Al Qalam has already appointed a person to coordinate with the program. They have to understand first the security and the welcome from the community. They do not want to send them to areas with internal conflicts because the aim is to find a home within the Muslim communities.
- Ms de la Rita shared her meeting with Fr. Yap regarding XU's Year of Service Program and to help in the CEAP-NABEI program.
- Fr. Samson shared that they have teachers who cannot teach in 2016 because of the K to 12 program. He asked if they can join the volunteer program. Fr. Tabora answered yes, but reiterated that it is a volunteer program with allowance.
- Mr. Lidasan asked if they need a MoA with the NABEI and who will be the signatory in the part of CEAP. Fr. Tabora answered that it is not necessary as of now because they are currently working on the resolutions of both associations and the paper [proposal] presented. He said that it would start next academic year.
- Hofileña asked if JVP will include this in their own program. Fr. Joel answered that he has not yet talked with the JVP.
- Fr. Joel Tabora presented the third idea, that is, inviting the pope. Fr. Tabora mentioned that he already talked to Cardinal Quevedo and Abp. Villegas. The invitation will come from the MILF.

He added that the matter is now on the hands of the MILF Central Committee. Fr. Tabora shared that the letter mentioned that the Central Committee wants the pope to pray with them, to bless the peacemakers and challenge the Muslims to be better Muslims and the Christians to become better Christians.

4. Agenda: Continuation on the Action Points deliverables

Review the thrusts of our Colleges of Business, Management and Governance

- Fr. Tabora suggested that the members discuss Short Term Deliverable no 8 [Review the thrusts of our Colleges of Business, Management and Governance] because they already discussed numbers 1 to 7 in their previous meeting.
- Fr. Tabora shared that in Ateneo de Davao they have the School of Business, Management and Governance. He added that they advocate social justice but their School teach profit-mode orientation. In his experience with the teachers, the latter do not like to be told that they are educating students not just for profit.
- Fr. Samson added that they have the same problem in Ateneo de Zamboanga and there is just an attempt at integrating peace education in the syllabus. As with ADDU, the college is also more on profit-mode orientation.
- Fr. Tabora suggested that they discuss this with the JHEC because even in the *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis abhors the current economic system. In Ateneo de Davao the solution taken is to talk more of social entrepreneurship, which is also wrong, because they cannot have social entrepreneurship without entrepreneurship. Business schools must teach the students how to create wealth but students must do it in a context of service of sustainable businesses which keep people employed.
- Ms de la Rita said that in XU there is a separate institute for Governance, and that the School of Business and Management have integrated Service Learning program in the curriculum. She also said that the students accompany the farmers and capacitate them to treat their farms as business enterprises. Fr. Tabora asked if the students use their management knowledge to accompany the farmers. Ms de la Rita answered yes. Fr. Joel made a follow up question by asking if students have ever made money yet. Ms de la Rita answered that the students have made money.
- Atty. Hofileña also said that ADMU has the Integrated Ateneo Formation - a social formation for students - but the program is independent of, though supplemental to, the School of Management-specific curricula
- Fr. Samson said that in ADZU, there is a dichotomy between the major business courses and the religious studies and no integration in the subjects.
- Fr. Tabora said that students should not be taught that the whole point of business is the maximization of profit. He also said that there are many values a businessman must have, like respect for labor and respect for the common good, so maximization of profit cannot be the major mover of the school. At the same time, profit is important because without it, you lose the job. Entrepreneurs create jobs and teach values for people. He added that there are businessmen who are very serious about profit and social justice. He suggested that they discuss it with the JHEC and it might be good to bring major representatives to come together for a conversation specifically for this point. First, profit mode vs social justice, and second, entrepreneurship vs social entrepreneurship.
- Fr. Dahunan said that in Pamulaan, they also have a social enterprise program. Pamulaan is helping the IP communities.
- Fr. Samson suggested to revisit also the curriculum and content of religious studies/theology in terms of this very basic need of social justice because religious studies in Manila is very different from Mindanao considering that we have different cultures, backgrounds, setting.
- Fr. Samson accepted that ADZU will make the design for the meeting of the representatives of the colleges of business, management and governance.
- Fr. Tabora asked if they can do something on Shariah Finance because that is also the topic that they should understand.
- The members agreed that shariah finance will also be discussed in the meeting.

2014-007

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee agrees to convene representatives of the Colleges of Business, Management and Governance of the different Jesuit higher education institutions to be held in Ateneo de Zamboanga University on 11 July 2014. The representatives will discuss the thrusts of the business colleges and the issues of profit mode vis-à-vis social justice, and entrepreneurship vis-à-vis social entrepreneurship in the curriculum.

Use the St. Ignatius Spirituality Center in Samal

- Fr. Tabora discussed about the St. Ignatius Spirituality Center in Samal. He said that the center was used beginning April 2014 for both peace purposes – Spiritual development and Interreligious spirituality development. The idea was also to invite the Muslims in a type of program where the Muslims can also be integrated. He added that all the 48 cottages were already constructed. As a complement to that, electricity and water services are being finished by the end of May. In June, they will be doing preliminary landscaping. He assured that certainly by July it will be ready for operation. Blessing will be on the third week of July. The design is made to be used also by their Muslim brothers and sisters. All of the signs and symbols are removable.
- Ms de la Rita asked if they are invited for the blessing. Fr. Tabora said yes, they are all invited.

2014-008

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee agreed to the use of the St. Ignatius Spirituality Center in Samal for the purpose of spiritual development of administrators, faculty, students, and community partners. The blessing of the centre will be announced to the members of the Executive Committee.

Appoint offices or councils that will watch over bills

- Fr. Tabora said that another resolution to make is to bring the representatives of the three Mindanao Ateneos together to address this deliverable. These representatives may form a joint council on congressional advocacies on Mindanao legislation.
- Each of the schools will have to nominate people who might be a member of this joint council. The parishes are also highly enjoined to attend the meeting.
- Atty. Hofileña asked if this will be brought up with JHEC first. Fr. Joel answered that it is not necessary. He also said that one of the goals is to develop allies in Congress.
- The Executive Committee agreed that ADMU will host the said meeting.

2014-009

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee agrees that each institution will nominate two representatives each who would be involved in an inter-school-parish body for monitoring and lobbying/advocacy action points regarding current and future legislations pertinent to Mindanao. These representatives are invited to attend a meeting on 28 June 2014 in Ateneo de Manila University.

Establish Universities and Colleges Athletics Association of Mindanao (UCAAM) for values and leadership formation for peace

2014-010

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee approves the establishment of a sports program for values and leadership formation for peace.

Support the newly formed National Association for Bangsamoro Education, Inc.

2014-011

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee expresses support to the National Association of Bangsamoro Education, Inc. (NABEI). The Executive Committee further recognizes NABEI as a legitimate association of Madaris.

2014-012

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee also expresses support to the CEAP-NABEI teacher volunteer program.

- Fr. Tabora then invited the members to deliberate on the long-term deliverables of the Action Points.

Universities to support studies and researches on the market that provide the basis for the creation of a new economic system anchored on the principles of accountability, transparency, good governance, social justice, environmental responsibility and the common good.

- Fr. Tabora discussed the proposed research institute on the Mindanao Economy in ADDU. He shared that he has communicated with Dr. Germelino “Boying” Bautista, retired faculty of the ADMU department of Economics. Dr. Bautista is a long term professor of AdMU. He has economic researches on Mindanao and has done research on mining in Mindanao. Fr. Tabora shared that for this semester, Dr. Bautista will try to think about the program, by the end of semester it should be done and will be assessed by the Executive Committee. Fr. Tabora also shared that he received a recent communication from Dr. Bautista. He related some points from that communication: 1. The impact of the climate change in the region is already here with us and this can be related to vulnerability and poverty in particular provinces and sectors. 2. Given current economic demographic trends, expected investment flows in the Philippines. A research in this area will consider not only the macro-regional outcomes, but also special focus on strategic sectors, such as agriculture, fishery, forestry and minerals, energy industry and services and the impact in the environment and marginal sectors. 3. An investigation of prospects for alternative inclusive and sustainable development on the micro- ground level sectors. Fr Tabora also shared that Dr. Boying is planning to bring in two young researchers who are also from Mindanao.
- Ms de la Rita said that there is already a group or association that focuses in the fisheries sector. Fr. Tabora said that there is nothing determined as of now and Dr. Boying would be open to suggestions.
- Fr. Samson also said they have lots of research with regard to environment. Fr. Tabora answered that both ADZU and XU can email to Mr. Bueza the contact people and the list of economic studies that have been done in their institutions.

Propagate best practices and initiatives in entrepreneurship

- Fr. Tabora shared that the idea for this deliverable is to propagate entrepreneurship. It is not just to document, but to give them examples of what work in our communities. Tabora said that institutions must promote best practices and experiences which will become part of wealth generation.
- Tabora: help us ideate on how to propagate best practices.

2014-013

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee agrees that institutions will gather stories on best practices and initiatives in entrepreneurship that each institution is engaged with.

Institutional support for Mindanao 2020

- Fr. Tabora shared that the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) has a research agenda now and they've called a meeting on the said agenda. Mr. Lidasan confirmed that it is scheduled on May 29. Fr. Joel asked Mr. Lidasan if he is going. Mr. Lidasan answered yes, with Ms Bing Chan of AdDU Research Council. Mr. Lidasan will give a report during the June meeting.

Promote micro-finance to support socially just wealth creation; Harmonize it with Sharia-compliant finance programs.

- On this deliverable, Mr. Lidasan shared that Al Qalam is already working on it. He shared that in the past two days, they have formulated a concept paper for Islamic finance in the Philippine setting. He said that they plan to copy and involve the Indonesian NGO that provides micro finance, supports the poor and social support like hospitals.
- Several questions on Islamic finance and Shariah compliant microfinance schemes were raised. Mr. Lidasan suggested that they have a different session to discuss and explain Islamic finance.
- The members agreed.

2014-014

RESOLVED, that Mr. Lidasan will give inputs on Islamic finance during the next meeting in June.

5. Other Matters

- Next Meeting: June 28 in ADMU.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

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