

Minutes of the Meeting of the Mindanao Conversations Executive Committee

March 8, 2014

de la Costa House, Quezon City

Present:

Fr. Joel Tabora, SJ (Chair)

Fr. Braulio Dahunan, SJ - IP Jesuit Ministry

Ms Gail de la Rita - XU Research and Social Outreach

Atty. Jaime G. Hofileña - ADMU VP for Social Development

Mr. Mussolini Lidasan - ADDU, Al Qalam Institute

Fr. Wilfredo Samson, SJ - ADZU Asst to the President for Formation

Mr. Romulo Vinci Bueza (Secretary)

Agenda:

1. Address of Fr. Provincial

- Fr. Provincial Tony Moreno, SJ addressed the members of the Execom.
- Fr. Provincial thanked everyone for organizing the group. He said that it was already the 3rd Mindanao Conversation, but little was done in the previous conversation in terms of action.
- He said that we raised expectations during the last conversation and the province is very keen putting up enabling mechanisms to make plans into realities. He assured the Execom that the Mindanao Conversations Action Points will be one of his priorities.
- He said that that Execom will turn to the consultants for input, and the Execom will implement.
- The Mindanao Conversations Action Points will form part of the province roadmap.
- He added that 2 or 3 very very crucial points from the Action Points that we pursue will be very good.
- He raised a comment on the Action Points pointing out that the absence of the IP. He suggested that the Execom members can upscale what the society is currently doing for the IP through the parishes and schools, by creating a leadership institute for them. He stressed that this concern for the IPs should be the priority among the priorities in the action points.
- He stressed the importance of the Mindanao mission in light of the 200th anniversary of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus when they were charged to "go to Mindanao and Jolo".
- He shared that Cardinal Quevedo of Cotabato City has given his support to the Action Points.

2. Introductions

- Members of the Execom shared their experiences and works especially in the context of Jesuit Apostolate in Mindanao.

3. Way of proceeding

- Fr. Tabora suggested that the Execom first talk about what their way of proceeding will be. How will the Execom make decisions? What will its role be relative to Fr. Provincial? How will it deal with the Board of Consultants. What will its role be relative to our respective institutions. In what respect are we an executive committee, and not just a recommendatory committee.

- Fr. Tabora said that the support of the Presidents of the Ateneos will be crucial. He added that the other Presidents of the Ateneos have basically agreed to the action points during the December Mindanao Conversations.
- Fr. Tabora said that support from the parishes and others involved in Mindanao will also be vital. This includes inputs from the parishes and other missions in Bukidnon. (i.e. Bendum, Bukidnon).
- Fr. Tabora said that if ever the Execom has difficulty talking to parties (parish priests, etc), Fr. Provincial will help with the said communication.
- He also shared that Fr. Bert Alejo wants to build a leadership institute. It will be directed towards training for capacity-building of IP leaders in LGUs, NGOs, etc.
- Fr. Tabora mentioned that the proposal of engaging with Pamulaan is not quite a good idea. In addition, he also added that Fr. Alejo was offered land somewhere in North Cotabato and manifested that he wanted to work with Assisi Foundation and Ylawan both under Ben Abadiano.
- He suggested that the Execom should have a timetable. At added that this timetable will help guide the province operations because at certain points, Jesuits would be out to assume other mandates.
- Fr. Tabora also shared that Fr. Jojo Fung of JCAP was also very interested to become a partner because of similar issues in Asia Pacific.
- He also added that the Indigenous People's agenda is frontier area for the Society of Jesus and that partnering with other institutions and congregations will be of value.
- On budget, Fr. Provincial requested that the Execom present a proposal for the budget.
- Fr. Tabora shared that not all the action points are implementable at the same time. Therefore, he asked that the Execom focus on the do-ables and get them done.
- In line with this, he suggested that the Execom begin with a list of do-ables and other action points will follow.
- Fr. Tabora also stated that a lot of our conversations will be online.

4. On the Action Points

- The Mindanao Conversations had ten "action points." At the request of Fr. Provincial, these have been streamlined; redundancies have been eliminated. The Action Points have been reduced to seven.
- Fr. Tabora enumerated the said Action Points and several comments surfaced.
- On "Forming Leaders for Mindanao and the Common Good," Ms. de la Rita said that she observed that many students do not want to lead in their campus (i.e. Central Student Government). She added that for quite some time now, there is not much interest in running for the highest office, and campus elections are not as vibrant and as supported as before by the students.
- Fr. Samson said that there are many paradigms to address the particular action point. The challenge for the Execom is in using one lens or paradigm.
- Fr. Dahunan stressed that the action point is important especially in the context of lumads in Mindanao
- On the point "Jesuit Universities and Institutions in Mindanao as Convenors and Consensus Builders," Ms de la Rita asked if this action point included the RH issue?
- Fr. Samson answered Atty. Hofilena and said that there are issues where bishops impose on the universities but there is also academic freedom.
- On the point "Reject old paradigms of wealth creation in Mindanao," Fr. Tabora said that there should be a combination of research and advocacy. He added policy formulation is also important.
- On "Institutional support for social movements and advocacies," Ms de la Rita commented that there might be a clash between Action Points 6 and 2 (i.e. Institutions as consensus builders).

- Fr. Samson replied that there are some issues where we need to be prophetic and where we need to take positions.

5. Other Matters.

- Fr. Tabora said that the Executive Committee will have to work on a consensus among its members. A majority vote should be executed if necessary.
- Fr. Tabora also added that since the mandate for the Action Points came from the Fr. Provincial, therefore Fr. Provincial can override any decisions made by the Execom. He also reminded the Execom that they are in the service of the Provincial.
- The Execom agreed to meet once a month.
- The next meeting will be on April 14 in Cagayan de Oro to be hosted by Xavier University.
- Fr. Tabora asked that the Execom study the deliverables and find consensus on the short term goals.
- The members also agreed that a webpage be set up. The content of which will include what's being done in the Action Points and discussion fora. Essays can also be published in the said webpage.
- Fr. Tabora also suggested to shorten the name of the committee to "Mindanao Execom".

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.