

TRANSITION COMMISSION

Members' Profiles

The Transition Commission (TC) was created by virtue of President Benigno Aquino III's issuance of Executive Order 120 in December 2012. It is mandated to draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law provided for in the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) that was signed by the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in October 2012.

CHAIR



Hon. Mohagher Iqbal

Iqbal is a Maguindanaoan from Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. He obtained both his bachelor's and master's degrees on political science at the Manuel Quezon University. Right after his return from Manila in August 1972, he immediately joined the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). In 1977, he decided to join the MILF then known as the New MNLF Leadership. Until this day, he is still with the Bangsamoro struggle after forty years of uninterrupted service to his people.

He served the MNLF and MILF in various capacities. Currently, he is a member of the MILF Central Committee, sitting as chair of its committee on information, as well as chair of its peace negotiating panel since July 2003. He was nominated by the MILF as head of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission.

He wrote two books: *Bangsamoro: A Nation Under Endless Tyranny* and *The Long Road to Peace: Inside the GPH-MILF Peace Talks* under the pen name Salah Jubair. He also wrote many pamphlets on the Bangsamoro struggle.

MEMBERS



Hon. Ibrahim Ali

Ali is a regular member of the Central Committee of the MILF and has been with the organization since the 1970s. He was educated in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, studying at the Arabic Language Institute of the King Abdul Aziz University in Mecca from 1980-1982, College of Islamic Law at Ummol Qura University in Mecca in 1982-1987, and at the King Saud University in Riyadh for a post-graduate academic degree ("diploma") in 1994-1995. He was Director at the Kutawato Islamic Institute in Cotabato City in 1989-1993. He is a member of the Darul Ifta of the MILF and a permanent member of the Board of Trustees of Hayatul Ulama of the Philippines. He sits in the Board of Consultants of the MILF peace panel.



Hon. Maulana Alonto

A writer and activist from Lanao del Sur, Alonto joined the MNLF as a young Moro student and fought against the Marcos dictatorship as head of the information and propaganda of the Northern Mindanao Regional Revolutionary Committee (NMRC). In 1981, Maulana left the MNLF and joined the 'above-ground' anti-Marcos movement. When former MILF chair Sheikh Salamat Hashim came home from exile in the mid-80s, Maulana gravitated towards the MILF and Sheikh Salamat's Islamic revolutionary leadership. In 2000, he joined the MILF Peace Negotiating Panel as member of its Technical Committee when peace negotiations were held in Tripoli, Libya. In 2003, he was elevated to full panel membership. He is also a member of the MILF central committee.



Hon. Talib Abdulhamid Benito

A practicing Shari'ah lawyer, Benito is a former Dean of the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies at the Mindanao State University in Marawi City from 2008 to 2012. He is a long-standing member of the Philippines Shari'ah Bar since 1985 and has served as a legal researcher and professor, specializing in Muslim procedural law and Muslim law of personal and family relations. Benito is a Muslim and Maranao by ethnicity.



Hon. Abdulla Camlian

An alternate member of the MILF Peace Panel since 2010, Camlian has been an erstwhile member and later chairman of the MILF Technical Committee. He finished BS Military Science in 1965 in Cairo Military Academy. Camlian hails from Basilan and is of Sama-Bangingi-Tausug descent.



Hon. Pedrito Eisma

Eisma is a prominent figure in local Basilan media, being a host of a news program aired in Basilan Today TV. He has been recognized twice as an Outstanding Municipal Councilor, being an awardee of the Gawad Parangal ng Bayan in 1999 and the Excellence in Public Service Award in 2000. Eisma has the distinction of authoring the resolution which led to the conversion of the municipality of Isabela into a component city. He serves as a college instructor of Political Science and concurrently Director of Student Affairs at the Claret College of Isabela in Basilan. He finished his Bachelor of Law at Silliman University. Eisma is a Roman Catholic and is a native of Basilan.



Hon. Raissa Jajurie

Jajurie is a Tausug who hails from Jolo, Sulu. She obtained a political science degree at the Ateneo de Manila University and then finished law at the University of the Philippines in 1994. She has worked with marginalized sectors and identities even while in college, and then moved on to full-time human rights lawyering after passing the bar in 1995, working specifically on issues of workers, women, and later on, on peace in Mindanao, indigenous peoples, and the Moros. She handles cases of Moro political detainees and human rights defenders, and works on the prosecution of human rights violations. She sits in the Board of Consultants of the peace panel of the MILF and is a member of the MILF's technical working group on the annex on wealth-sharing.



Hon. Froilyn Mendoza

Mendoza is a Teduray who hails from South Upi, Maguindanao. She is a member of the all-women contingent of the Civilian Protection component of the International Monitoring Team. She obtained her degree in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, Cotabato and earned another degree as registered midwife in Northern Cotabato College in Kabacan. She was the Project Manager of the special project for the advocacy of Lumad women's rights in the ARMM by UNIFEM (now UN Women). Currently, she is the advocacy specialist of the special project of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance for the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples in the ARMM. She is one of the founding members of the Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization Inc.



Hon. Hussein Munoz

A native of Davao Oriental, Munoz is a graduate of AB Political Science at the University of Mindanao in Davao City. He is the Deputy Chief of Staff at present of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces and is a respected base commander. Also known as "Sonny Davao," he is fluent in English and Tagalog, as well as in Maguindanao, Tausug, and Bisaya. Munoz is a Muslim and hails from Lupon, Davao Oriental.



Hon. Akmad Sakkam

Sakkam, a lawyer, has built a distinguished career in diplomatic relations. He served as an ambassador to three Islamic states within a period of nearly two decades—to Iraq from 1986 to 1992; to Bahrain from 1994 to 1999; and to Oman from 1999 to 2003. Sakkam is a recipient of the Presidential Award of Merit given by former President Cory Aquino for his “outstanding service to the country in the safe evacuation of Filipino workers in Kuwait and Iraq during the first Gulf War of 1991.” Earlier in his career, he served as labor attaché to Saudi Arabia from 1976 to 1981. Very recently, he was a recipient of an outstanding service award from the DFA for exceptional performance and contributions to foreign policy formulation. Sakkam is a Muslim and a native of Sulu.



Hon. Fatmawati Salapuddin

Salapuddin is a peace advocate and woman leader. She worked in the area of peace-making in the civil society sector before serving as the Director of the Bureau of Peace and Conflict Resolution under the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos since 2010. She also served as a member of the Consultative Assembly of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD), the transition mechanism of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement with the MNLF. Salapuddin is a native of Sulu.



Hon. Said Shiek

Shiek is currently the head of the MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities. He finished his degree in Secondary Education at the Lanao National College and practiced his teaching profession in the province. Shiek is a Muslim and a Maranao by ethnicity.



Hon. Asani Tammang

Tammang is a proud son of the town of Pamanao Province of Sulu. He came from a humble yet respected family of the municipality to become one of the most outstanding trial lawyers of the province. He served as an assistant provincial prosecutor before he was elected to the House of Representatives for three consecutive terms—the 9th, 10th, and 11th Congress. He is a happy family man with three wonderful children. The two daughters are doctors of medicine.



Hon. Timuay Melanio Ulama

An Indigenous Peoples (IP) consultant of the MILF, Ulama is a Teduray leader who heads the Organization of Teduray and Lambangian Conference. He finished BS Agronomy in Upi Agricultural School in 1986 and took his master's degree in Public Administration in Notre Dame University. Ulama hails from Upi, Maguindanao.



Hon. Johaira Wahab

Wahab is Maguindanao and is the youngest member of the Transition Commission. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Philosophy, minor in Psychology at the University of the Philippines (Diliman) magna cum laude in 2005 and also finished her law degree (Juris Doctor) at the same university in 2009. She is a member of the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the board of Nisa Ul Haqq Fi Bangsamoro. She is also actively engaged in advocacies for gender justice in Islam and minority rights, and sits as a member of the International Advisory Group of Musawah. She has been the head of the legal team of the Government Peace Negotiating Panel since July 2010, upon the resumption of the peace talks with the MILF under the Aquino administration.