

INTERNAL CONFLICTS in the PHILIPPINES

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- What are examples of internal armed conflicts in the Philippines?
- How does the government address these internal armed conflicts and what are the ramifications for the security sector and security sector governance?
- What role can parliamentarians play in addressing these conflicts?

LONG-RUNNING INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Communist insurgency
 - Communist Party of the Philippines/ New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF)
- Moro separatist movement
 - Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)
 - Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)

COMPARATIVE FEATURES

Features	CPP/NPA/ NDF	MNLF/MILF
<i>Year Founded</i>	CPP - 1930/1968 NPA - 1969 NDF - 1973	MNLF - 1972 MILF - 1984
<i>Root Cause</i>	Land/Agrarian	National self-determination
<i>Ideology</i>	Marxism- Leninism- Maoism	Islam: free and independent Islamic state

COMPARATIVE FEATURES *con'd*

Features	CPP/NPA/NDF	MNLF/MILF
<i>Territorial scope</i>	National	Mindanao - Muslim Mindanao
<i>Alleged links with terrorism</i>	Placed in US and EU terrorist listing	Despite outright denials, alleged links with JI/ASG
<i>Status of peace process</i>	Stalled since 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1996 GRP-MNLF FPA under tripartite review •MILF - impasse since 2006

GOVERNMENT APPROACHES

- From “all-out war” to peace talks to “comprehensive peace process”
- 1987 Constitution renounces war as policy of the state
- Pres. Aquino “Defining the Systemic Approach and the Administrative Framework for the Peace Process” (1987)
- Pres. Ramos “6 Paths to Peace” (1993),
2 signed Final Peace Agreements

GOVERNMENT APPROACHES

con'd

- Multi-track approach / “Many tables”
- Chapter 14 of MTPDP (under Arroyo)
 - Peacemaking and Peacekeeping
 1. Peace negotiations
 2. Full implementation of all final peace agreements
 3. Support for people’s initiatives to immediately reduce level of armed hostilities (peace zones)
 - Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention
 4. Rehabilitation and development of conflict areas
 5. Catch-up plan/Affirmative action for Muslims
 6. Inter-faith/tri-peoples dialogue, community-based healing and reconciliation

GOVERNMENT APPROACHES

con'd

Examples of Major Good Practices:

- Persistence of civil society participation
- Third-Party
 - Formal and informal
 - Local and foreign
- Multi-Track and Many Tables

GOVERNMENT APPROACHES

con'd

Nevertheless, recurring violence –

- Flawed, unfinished implementation of Final Peace Agreements
- “All-out war” declared under –
 - Pres. Aquino (1987)
 - Pres. Estrada (2000)
 - Pres. Arroyo: “the glue that binds our governance” (2006)
- Waging war for “political survival”

RAMIFICATIONS ON SECURITY SECTOR

- Human rights violations/culture of impunity
- Traffic in firearms/loose, uncontrolled firearms
- Oversized military budget and role of military in political discourse
- Misplaced priorities in military allocations/focus
- Distortion of war vs. terror

ROLES OF PARLIAMENT

- Advisory to Government Peace Negotiating Panels
- Accompaniment/joint commitments regarding political settlements (legislation, budgetary)
- Oversight on compliance with peace agreements/international treaties
- Clarification of policy/policy frameworks
- Oversight of security sector / Addressing legislative gaps (e.g., rule of law, security sector reform, rights of marginalized groups and minority peoples)

STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE CAPACITIES

No short-cuts to peace:

- **STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!**
- Strengthening legislative staffs / political party policy institutes
- Linking with academe / civil society policy think tanks / advocacy groups
- Sharing of knowledge / experiences / learnings / best practices across countries, starting in ASEAN

THANK-YOU!