

**RODRIGO R. DUTERTE Administration
(2016 - 2022)**

HISTORICAL NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Repackaging in Accordance with New Thrust on the Peace Process

The campaign was repackaged to YES FOR PEACE – BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN para sa Mapayapa, Maunlad at Masaganang Pilipinas pursuant to statement of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, “More than 40 years of armed struggle, and thousands of lives lost is too much to bear.”

Table No. 1 shows the questions posed vis-à-vis UN Resolution 53/243.

Table 1.

**YES FOR PEACE Open Referendum Questions Formulated in 2017
vis-a-vis UN Resolution 53/243**

Reformulated Questions	English	UN Resolution 53/243
<p>1. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na permanente nang itigil ang labanan sa pagitan ng mga sundalo ng gobyerno at ng mga armadong rebolusyonaryo para mailaan na ang bilyon-bilyong pisong pondo na nauubos sa giyera ng mga Filipino laban sa kapwa Filipino para magamit natin ito sa higit na makabuluhang mga serbisyo-publiko tulad ng edukasyon, kalusugan, pabahay, pagsugpo ng kahirapan, pagpapalakas ng kababaihan, pagpapaunlad ng kanayunan, depensang panglabas at iba pa?</i></p>	<p>Do you agree to the permanent cessation of hostilities between the soldiers of the government and armed revolutionaries so that the billions of pesos spent in the war of Filipinos against fellow Filipinos can be used for more sensible public services such as education, health, housing, eradication of poverty, women empowerment, community development, external defense, etc.?</p>	<p>“Recognizing that peace not only is the absence of conflict, but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation.”</p> <p><i>Article 3, g.</i> “Promoting sustainable economic and social development.”</p>
<p>2. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na dito na sa Pilipinas ipagpatuloy ang peace talks imbes na sa ibang</i></p>	<p>Do you agree that peace talks be held here in the Philippines instead of other countries and</p>	<p><i>Article 3 e.</i> Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring full</p>

Reformulated Questions	English	UN Resolution 53/243
<i>bansa at gawing hayagan at partisipatibo ang proseso nito para makalahok ang lahat ng sektor ng Sambayanang Filipino at ang mga mambabatas natin sa pagbalangkas, pagpapa-apruba at pagpapatupad ng mga kasunduan?</i>	make the process transparent and participatory to enable all sectors of the Filipino people and our legislators to participate in formulating, approving and implementing agreements?	participation in the development process;
3. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na amyendahan na sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga probisyon ng konstitusyon at mga batas na balakid at hadlang sa pagsasakatuparan ng mga kasunduan at mapagkakasunduan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng mga armadong reboluyonaryo?</i>	Do you agree to amend constitutional provisions and laws that hamper and obstruct the implementation of existing agreements and future agreements between the government and armed revolutionary forces as soon as possible?	<i>“Recognizing that peace not only is the absence of conflict, but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation.”</i>

Note of Appreciation from PAPP Secretary Jesus C. Dureza

On 28 July 2016, PAPP Secretary Jesus C. Dureza wrote, “We note with appreciation the peace advocacy efforts of this citizen-led initiative that you are pursuing and congratulate your unwavering efforts to support the peace process.”

Statement of UP President Danilo L. Concepcion

In an undated statement, UP President Danilo L. Concepcion wrote,

“Just and sustainable peace serves as a central source of continued development, and around it revolves critical aspects of good governance from efficient delivery of social services, equitable dispense of justice, and effective eradication of social ills like poverty and disease.

No nation can move forward without peace, and this peace knows no race, color, religion, or social status.

“On this note, I would like to congratulate Yes for Peace-Bayanihan ng Bayan in its staunch commitment to the proactive involvement and collective participation of the Filipino people in the attainment of a lasting sense of peace across the archipelago.

“UP will likewise remain a committed partner in building on these gains that keep us united despite diversity, strong despite adversity, and resilient despite calamity. These ideals are essential to cultivating a democracy that welcomes all citizens regardless of the language they speak, the food they eat, or the prayers they speak.”

A Call for Bayanihan Towards a Peaceful, Progressive and Prosperous Philippines

On October 13, 2016, eighteen (18) Learners of the Integrated Gabay ng Paglilingkod (I-GABAY) Training Course Session XXVI signed “A Call for Bayanihan Towards a Peaceful, Progressive and Prosperous Philippines’ which states:

“**Bearing** in mind the ‘DESIRED OUTCOMES of the GRP AND NDFP RCWs-SER COMMON DRAFT CASER FRAMEWORK AND OUTLINE’ signed on 07 October 2016 in Oslo, Norway.

“**Considering** the following statements embodied in the Declaration of Principles in the draft Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms proposed by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP)”

‘It is the common good, welfare and interest of the Filipino people that is the foremost concern in the efforts to resolve the armed conflict and achieve a just and lasting peace. The active participation of the people, therefore, must be sought in pursuing the common good.’, and

‘... the enhancement of people’s participation in all aspects of development promotes social justice and full development should, therefore, involve the participation of all sectors of society, including its poorest and marginalized sectors.’

“**Taking** into account the following statements in the Declaration of Principles in the draft Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms proposed by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP):

‘The Parties are motivated to forge a comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms by the need to solve the fundamental problems of exploitation, oppression, backwardness and thereby lay the ground for a just and lasting peace.’, and

‘The Parties assert that in order to harness the full potential of the workers, peasants and other producers and small traders, socioeconomic planning must be undertaken in democratic consultations with organs of people’s power from grassroot level upward.’

“**Noting** that **Eleven Million Two Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen (11,236,918)** Filipinos, 10 years and older, in the education and advocacy phase of the YES FOR PEACE campaign that were gathered by the Department of Education (DepEd); currently being safe kept by the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) and waiting to be processed to build a constituency for peace were symbolically turned over by its Organizer by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process;

“**Agreeing** with the following goals of the YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan ng Bayan para sa Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran at Kasaganahan:

‘Permanent cessation of armed hostilities between the soldiers of the government and armed revolutionary groups;

‘Conduct of open and participative peace negotiations here in the Philippines; and

“Filipinos mediate the peace talks.”

“**Committing** ourselves to help disseminate information on projects and programs of different government agencies to alleviate poverty and uplift the lives of the poor;

“**WE, learners of the Integrated Gabay ng Paglilingkod XXVI (I-Gabay XXVI)**, respectfully inform the negotiators of both the GRP and the NDFP of the following existing programs that if integrated and holistically delivered can help give flesh to the foregoing principles quoted above:

1. “Department of Education

- a. “Peace Education and Advocacy campaign (YES FOR PEACE)
- b. “Establishment of Elementary and High Schools with active community involvement
- c. “Education 360 - comprehensive education program (A replicable best practice from Valenzuela City

2. “Philippine Postal Corporation

- a. “Peace constituency building (Databasing of KaBayanihans of Yes for Peace)

3. “Cooperative Development Authority

- a. “Organization and supervision of Multi-purpose Cooperatives

4. “Department of Social Work and Development

- a. “Kabit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI)
- b. “Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS)
- c. “National Community Driven Development Program (NCDDP)
- d. “Sustainable Livelihood Program
- e. “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)
- f. “Social Pension (sickly, disabled and frail elderly with no existing pensions)
- g. “Supplementary Feeding Program

5. “Department Agrarian Reform

- a. “Land Tenure Services
- b. “Agrarian Legal Services
- c. “Technical Advisory Support Services
 - i. “Inclusive Partnerships for Agricultural Competitiveness

6. “Department of Natural Resources

- a. “Community Based Forestry Management Program
- b. “Watershed Development Program
- c. “National Greening Program
- d. “Residential and Agricultural Free Patent
- e. “Spring Development Program (proposal-NWRB)

7. “Department of Agriculture

- a. “Agricultural Credit and Financing Programs
 - i. “Sikat Saka Program (SSP)
 - ii. “Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program
 - iii. “Agri-Microfinance Program (AMP)
 - iv. “Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP)

- b. "Training and Extension Services
- c. "Agribusiness and Marketing Services
- d. "Agriculture and Fisheries Information Services

8. "National Irrigation Administration

- a. "Communal Irrigation Systems

9. "Department of Trade and Industry

- a. "Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development

10. "Department of Tourism

- a. "Community-based Eco-Tourism

11. "Department of Public Works and Highways

- a. "Farm to Market roads and bridges
- b. "Potable Water Impounding Systems

12. "Local Waterworks Utilities Administration

- a. "First, Second and Third Level Water Systems

13. "Department of Energy

- a. "Multi-purpose small and medium scale hydro-electric dams
- b. "Electric Cooperatives

14. "Department of Health

- a. "Doctors to the Barrios program
- b. "Nurses Deployment program
- c. "Mandatory community immersion of medical and nursing students of State Universities (proposal)

15. "Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- a. "Doctors to the Barrios program

16. "Bureau Department of the Interior and Local Governments

- a. "Payapa at Masananang Pamayanan (PAMANA)
- b. "E-Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP)
- c. "Bottom-up Budgeting

17. "Department of Science and Technology

- a. Technology Transfer and Commercialization/Innovation System Support
- b. S&T Services such as Technical Consultancy, Packaging and Labeling Services,
- c. S&T Human Resource Development - Scholarship programs for S&T Priority Courses

18. “Department of National Defense

- a. Internal Peace and Security Plan

“**Believing** that Bayanihan or collective involvement and participation is the key to open the locks restraining the Filipino people from realizing a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Philippines we all dream of, we call on all peace-loving Filipinos, including Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) and other government officials and employees to the call of **YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan para sa Mapayapa, Maunlad at Masaganang Pilipinas** to pro-actively observe the ongoing peace talks and participate in the comprehensive peace process to the best of their respective abilities.

The call was signed at the D’Hotel in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte by the following:

Ernesto A; Alcanzare	Mario S. Baquilod
Angel L. Borja	Lorenzo M. Dizon
Aristarco M. Daroy	Riduan P. Harijimudin
Clement T. Laboy	Lilibeth G. Lee
Renato C. Limjuco	Rachel R. Llana
Madelyn L. Macalling	Arlen M. Magelen
Miriam M. Marcelo	Lorenzo E. Mendoza
Marina S. Salamanca	Aleli P. Sudiactal
Manuela S. Tolentino	Adora May P. Urot

Results of Test Implementation Among Participants to the National Security Forum Organized by Rotary Club of Camp Aguinaldo

On November 16, 2016, the Rotary Club of Camp Aguinaldo in partnership with the Civil Relations Service, AFP held a National Peace Forum during which AFP Spokesman Col **Edgard Arevalo** declared that the military fully supports the current peace process and stands by its unilateral ceasefire declaration.

Department of National Defense Assistant Secretary **Teodoro Cirilo Toralba III** reiterated, “There is a need to get all Filipinos on board the peace process to reinforce various forums held to disseminate information on the

ongoing peace process as well as avoid the repetition of the challenges faced by the draft Bangsa Moro Law to be enacted into law.”

Those present in the forum - Rotarians, military officers and peace advocates were requested to answer the YES FOR PEACE questionnaires. The results shown in Table No. 2.

Table No. 2.
Results of Test Implementation Among Participants to the National Security Forum

Questions	YES (%)	NO (%)
1. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na permanente nang itigil ang labanan sa pagitan ng mga sundalo ng gobyerno at ng mga armadong rebolusyonaryo para mailaan na ang bilyon-bilyong pisong pondo na nauubos sa giyera ng mga Filipino laban sa kapwa Filipino para magamit natin ito sa higit na makabuluhang mga serbisyo–publiko tulad ng edukasyon, kalusugan, pabahay, pagsugpo ng kahirapan, pagpapalakas ng kababaihan, pagpapa-unlad ng kanayunan, depensang panglabas at iba pa?</i>	92.85%	7.15%
2. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na dito na sa Pilipinas ipagpatuloy ang peace talks imbes na sa ibang bansa at gawing hayagan at partisipatibo ang proseso nito para makalahok ang lahat ng sektor ng Sambayanang Filipino at ang mga mambabatas natin sa pagbalangkas, pagpapa-apruba at pagpapatupad ng mga kasunduan?</i>	86.67%	13.33%
3. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na amyendahan na sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga probisyon ng konstitusyon at mga batas na balakid at hadlang sa pagsasakatuparan ng mga kasunduan at mapagkakasunduan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng mga armadong rebolusyonaryo?</i>	78.57%	21.43%

On 17 November 2016, Secretary Jesus Dureza, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process was informed of the activity described above by the campaign organizer and Mama S. Lalanto, al Haj. They looked forward to working with Secretary Dureza “to ensure that the goal of establishing an era

of a just and lasting peace can be forged within the term of President Rodrigo R. Duterte.”

Govergence – Career Executive Service Board

The YfP-BB campaign was proposed in response to PRRDs request for support of CESOs / NUCESO to PRRD’s Six Point Peace and Development Program presented by OPAPP during the 15th Career Executive Service (CES) Convention held from November 23 to 25, 2016 at the Villa Caceres Hotel, Magsaysay Avenue, Naga City with this year's theme "Convergence for Change: Inspiring Leadership, Integrity in Innovation, Inclusive Development":

1. “Meaningful implementation of the FAB and CAB towards healing in the Bangsamoro;
2. “Completion of implementation of remaining commitments under the GPH-MNLF Peace Agreement for a just closure;
3. “Accelerated signing and implementation of the accords with communist insurgents;
4. “Immediate conclusion of the peace process with the CPLA and the RPMP-RPA-ABB;
5. “Peace promoting catch-up socio-economic development in conflict affected areas; and
6. “Building a culture of peace and conflict sensitivity.”

Pursuant the Govergence concept of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB), Career Service Officers came up with an extensive Menu of Available Government Services for Peace, Development and Social Transformation that can be used by 40,086 Barangays in the whole country in their respective development and investment planning pursuant to the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) approach to the preparation of agency budget proposals of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The CESB expressed support and hopes that the YfP-BB campaign will lead to convergence of the Filipino people.

The almost eight hundred (800) participants to the convention with the theme, “Convergence for Change: Inspiring Leadership, Integrity in Innovation, Inclusive Development” enriched the list of available programs and projects listed by the learners of the Integrated Gabay ng Paglilingkod ng Paglilingkod (I-GABAY) XXVI class of the CESB issued were enriched by participants in “A Call for Bayanihan Towards a Peaceful, Progressive and Prosperous Philippines”, to wit:

1. Department of Education

- a. BRIGADA ESKWELA
- b. Adopt-A-School Program
- c. Alternative Learning System (ALS) Expansion Program to Remote Barangays
- d. Establishment of Indigenous People's Schools in Convergence Areas for Peace and Development
- e. Partnership with Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) to bring Out of School Youth / Adults who are members of 4Ps
- f. Multi-Dimensional Support for Last Mile Schools (additional classrooms, Teacher Items)
- g. Establishment of Peace Pacts in Schools
- h. Gulayan sa Paaralan at Tahanan
- i. ALS Livelihood and Skills Development
- j. From Arms to Farms (in MILF Camps)
- k. Opening of Schools in Hinterlands (From "Battleground to School Ground")
- l. Conversion of Elementary Schools to Integrated Schools in Hinterlands
- m. Abot-Alam Program
- n. Community Learning Centers
- o. Values/Peace Education for Kinder to Grade 6
- p. Values/Peace Integration Across Learning/Subject Areas
- q. BSP/GSP Program Implementation Youth Formation in Communities
- r. Moral Recovery Program

2. Cooperative Development Authority

- a. Organization and supervision of community-based multi-purpose livelihood cooperatives
- b. Registration and regulation of cooperatives
- c. Training and education
- d. Provision of technical assistance
- e. Legal assistance to cooperatives
- f. Project development assistance to cooperatives
- g. Accreditation of service providers (external auditors and training providers)

3. Department of Interior and Local Government

- a. E-Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP)

- b. Bottom-up Planning and Budgeting

4. Philippine Statistics Authority

- a. National Identification System

5. Philippine Postal Corporation

- a. LGU Post Offices / Barangay Postal Stations

6. National Irrigation Administration

- a. Communal Irrigation Systems

7. Local Waterworks Utilities Administration

- a. First, Second and Third Level Water Systems

8. Department of Social Work and Development

- a. Kabit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI)
- b. Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS)
- c. National Community Driven Development Program (NCDDP)
- d. Sustainable Livelihood Program
- e. Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)
- f. Social Pension (sickly, disabled and frail elderly with no existing pensions)
- g. Supplementary Feeding Program

9. Department of Agriculture

- a. Training and Extension Services
- b. Agribusiness and Marketing Services
- c. Social preparation
- d. Production and livelihood
- e. Marketing assistance and enterprise development
- f. Provision of Production Loans
- g. Agriculture and Fisheries Information Services
- h. Agricultural Credit and Financing Programs
 - i. Sikat Saka Program (SSP)
 - ii. Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program
 - iii. Agri-Microfinance Program (AMP)
 - iv. Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP)

10. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- a. Community-based Aquatic Resources Development
- b. Provision of Fishing Gears and Paraphernalia to Fisherfolk

- c. Provision of Fish (Tilapia and Milkfish) for Grow-out Farms
- d. Technical Assistance and Technical-Demo project
- e. Access to production loans, marketing assistance and post-harvest technologies
- f. Fish seeding of rivers, lakes and water impoundments

11. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- a. Community Based Forestry Management Program
- b. Community Based Bio-friendly Enterprises
- c. Watershed Development Program
- d. National Greening Program
- e. Residential and Agricultural Free Patent
- f. Spring Development Program (proposal-NWRB)

12. Mines and Geosciences Bureau

- a. Minahan ng Bayan
- b. Social Development and Management Programs

13. Department of Agrarian Reform

- a. Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)
 - i. Land distribution
 - ii. Adjudication
 - iii. Installation
- b. Support Service:
 - i. Farm Equipment
 - ii. Fertilizer
- c. Support Service:
 - i. Land Tenure Services
 - ii. Agrarian Legal Services
 - iii. Technical Advisory Support Services
 - iv. Inclusive Partnerships for Agricultural Competitiveness

14. Department of Energy

- a. Multi-purpose small and medium scale hydro-electric dams
- b. Electric Cooperatives

15. Department of Trade and Industry

- a. Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development
- b. Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay
- c. Shared Service Facility Delivery

16. Department of Transportation

- a. Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program
- b. 5K Pantawid Pasada
- c. MOTOR TAXI

17. Department of Tourism

- a. Community-based Eco-Tourism

18. Department of National Defense

- a. Internal Peace and Security Plan

19. Department of Trade and Industry

- a. Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development

20. Department of Health

- a. Doctors to the Barrios program
- b. Nurses Deployment program
- c. Mandatory community immersion of medical and nursing students of State Universities (proposal)
- d. Immunization Program
- e. Mental Health Programs
- f. Tutok Gamutan for Tuberculosis (DOTS)

21. Department of Public Works and Highways

- a. Farm to Market roads and bridges
- b. Potable Water Impounding Systems

22. Department of Science and Technology

- a. Small and Medium Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program
- b. Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST)
- c. Technology Transfer and Commercialization/Innovation System Support
- d. Technical Consultancy, Packaging and Labelling Services
- e. Testing and Laboratory Services
- f. Technology Trappings
- g. Science & Technology Human Resource Development
- h. Scholarship programs for Undergraduate Science & Technology Courses
- i. Research and Development

23. Department of Labor and Employment

- a. Integrated Livelihood Program

24. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

- a. Community-Based Training Programs for Vulnerable Sectors with Value Chain Components
- b. Institution, Center and Community-Based Skills development, scholarships, learning facilitators (teachers and trainers) development
- c. Technical and Vocational Education
- d. Skills Development Programs
- e. Assessment and Certification

25. Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority

- a. Fiber Expansion and Rehabilitation
- b. Livelihood Training
 - i. Basic / Upgraded Weaving
 - ii. FFS on Abaca

Third Round of Formal Talks Between the GRP and the NDFP

From January 19 to 25, 2017, the third round of formal talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was held in Rome City. It was facilitated by the Royal Norwegian Government in cooperation with the Italian Government.

Jose Ma. Sison was hopeful that “within six months, the CASER shall already be ready for signing”

The two parties “agreed to strictly comply with the CARHRIHL”.

Sustained Support of DepEd NEU

In March 2017, the DepEd NEU National Executive Officers and Board of Trustees requested DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones to issue a DepEd Memorandum for the national implementation of the YFP-BB campaign.

National Security Policy 2017-2022

In April 2017, the National Security Policy 2017-2022 was published.

It defined **Socio-Political Stability**, “This is a condition where peace prevails even in diversity and where cooperation and support exist between the Government and the people under the atmosphere of mutual respect and empathy, bound by a strong notion of nationhood and a sense of duty to respect the rule of law and serve the common good.”

It went on to define **Cultural Cohesiveness**, “National unity is an essential cornerstone of nationhood and national survival. Without it, there is no future for the country Filipinos must continue to embrace the values and belief systems, the moral and ethical standards, the traditions and cultural heritage which have made them truly distinct and earned a respected place in the community of nations. Amid diversity, such qualities have served as the invisible but potent force that teaches the Filipino to care and work for the common good and to help their fellow Filipinos especially during times of tragedies and disasters. The Government must continue to fully harness these attributes and value systems in order to strengthen the Filipino family, promote national harmony and keep the spirit of patriotism and national pride – the most fundamental pillars of national unity – alive in the hearts and minds of every Filipino.”

It then defined **Moral and Spiritual Consensus**, “This component speaks of a moral and spiritual consensus among Filipinos on the wisdom and righteousness of the national vision. As enunciated by the country’s leadership. It presupposes the people’s trust and confidence in the Government’s commitment and capability to lead the nation toward this desired national vision. Such trust and confidence inspire and motivate the citizens to get involved and to participate vigorously in the implementation of government programs that promote peace and development.

The **Strategic Objectives** to strengthen public safety, law and order, and the administration of justice include, “Empower citizen’s organizations to actively participate in governance, in the implementation of public policies, in cultivating a culture of peace, and in safeguarding the safety of the people.”

Moreover, the **Strategic Objectives** to sustain and enhance socio-political stability include, “Promote the primacy of peace process to end internal armed conflicts” and “Strengthen the integrity of national institutions by promoting transparent, participatory and accountable governance.”

Furthermore, the **Strategic Objectives** to bolster solidarity-based and sustainable economic development include, “Ensure peaceful and conducive environment to achieve our national vision and socio-economic development agenda.” and “Contribute in the pursuit of sustainable growth through inclusion, education, and infrastructure development and protection.”

The Strategic Communication and Implementation Program of the NSP 2017-2022 states, “To a large extent, the success of the implementation of the NASP depends on a strong national consensus and shared understanding or appreciation of the national security goals and objectives. This becomes the basis for collective action which will pave the way for a truly collaborative national campaign to address the country’s most pressing national security concerns.”

Toward this end, “The Government shall quickly respond to the public’s constant appetite for clear and accurate information.”

Executive Order No. 16

On April 4, 2017, PRRD issued Executive Order No. 16, “Directing all Government Agencies, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations and Local Government Units to Adopt the National Security Policy 2017-2022 in the Formulation and Implementation of their National Security Related Plans and Programs”

It stated:

“WHEREAS, consistent with the President’s vision of a secure, peaceful and prosperous Filipino nation, the National Security Policy (NSP) 2017-2022 was formulated, providing guidance and a comprehensive approach in addressing national security challenges;
xxx

“**Section 3. Support from All Sectors.** All sectors of society are encouraged to participate in this national endeavor for the purpose of achieving a holistic approach in addressing national security issues and priorities.”

Once again, the President reiterated the need for the participation of all sectors of society in addressing national concerns.

DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017

On April 6, 2017, Secretary Briones issued DepEd Memorandum No. 066, s. 2017 which states:

“The Department of Education (DepEd) has sustained its commitment and active participation in the **Yes for Peace**, a peace

education and advocacy campaign which is adopted and incorporated in the *Education for All Program*, in all public and private elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

“Unfunded, the Yes for Peace campaign proved that a national consensus can be established through *Bayanihan* or the pro-active involvement and collective participation of the Filipino people built upon the concepts of being inclusive, citizen-led, non-partisan, and multi-sectoral, anchored on the core values of DepEd – *Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Makakalikasan, at Makabansa.*” xxx

It then cited, “President Rodrigo R. Duterte has adopted the **Six Point Peace and Development Agenda** that include *Peace promoting catch-up socio-economic development in conflict-affected areas*, and *Building a culture of peace and conflict sensitivity.*” (*Highlighting and italics supplied*)

xxx “Recent events have once again underscored the importance and indispensability of the following three principles underlying the comprehensive peace process:

- a. “A comprehensive peace process should be community-based, reflecting the sentiments, values, and principles important to all Filipinos. Thus, it shall be defined not by the government alone nor by the different contending groups only, but by all Filipinos as one community.
- b. “A comprehensive peace process aims to forge a new social compact for a just, equitable, humane, and pluralistic society. It seeks to establish a genuinely pluralistic society where all individuals and groups are free to engage in peaceful competition for predominance of their political programs without fear, through their exercise of rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and where they may compete for political power through an electoral system that is free, fair and honest; and
- c. A comprehensive peace process seeks a principled and peaceful resolution to the internal armed conflicts, with neither blame or surrender, but with dignity to all concerned.”

“To inculcate the *Bayanihan* spirit, and attain the goal and objectives of Yes for Peace among Filipinos, and to ensure that the target of at least **Thirty Million (30,000,000)** respondents to the campaign is attained from the 18.4 million school children from Grades 4 to 11 in public and private schools by **September 2017**, the officers of Supreme Pupil Governments (SPGs) and Supreme Student Governments (SSGs)

are enjoined to undertake the activities listed in Enclosure No. 1, under the guidance of *Araling Panlipunan (AP)*/Social Studies and *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP)*/Values Education (VE) teachers with the supervision of heads of public and private elementary and secondary schools.”

CHED Memorandum to Engage HEIs

On June 2, 2017, CHED Commissioner **Ronald L. Adamat** who was then OIC of the Office of the Chairperson issued a Memorandum which states:

“In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (R.A.) 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education on 1994.”... the Commission hereby requests dissemination to engage HEIs on the promotion of YES for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan.

“To date, 12,290,695 Filipinos, 10 years and older, have responded to the campaign, which have proven the overwhelming support of majority of the Filipino people for: permanent cessation of hostilities between the government and armed revolutionary groups; the conduct of peace talks here in the Philippines instead of abroad; and Bayanihan or the collective involvement and collective participation of the Filipino people for the effective implementation of the peace agreements.

“Further, attached is a one-page survey to be disseminated by HEIs to its students to answer, to further raise people’s participation in the national comprehensive peace process.

“CHEDROs are requested to facilitate distribution of questionnaires to the HEIs.”

Information Materials Submitted can Serve as Reference of OPAPP for Current Peace Process

In July 2017, Ms. Keliza Farrah Dureza - Uy, Chief of Staff / Head Executive Assistant of OPAPP was pleased to note, “information materials on YES for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan... can serve as reference for the current peace process as well as future peace constituency-building of OPAPP.

Courtesy Call of Rotary Club of Camp Aguinaldo with AFP Chief of Staff

On August 7, 2017, the Rotary Club of Camp Aguinaldo (RCCA) made a courtesy call with Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff **Eduardo M. Año**, AFP. The RCCA members present during the courtesy call were: Col. **Jose Vargas**, Ms. **Tess Tendilla**, Ms. **Beth Directo**, Ms. **Racquel Santos**, Ms. **Rose Mae Reneido**, Gen **Vic Castro**, Mr. **Ernesto A. Alcanzare**, and Mr. **Trephon Caincay**.

The RCCA requested for assistance to follow-through compliance to DepEd Memorandum No. 066, s. 2017. One of the projects discussed was Yes for Peace.

General Año endorsed the request to the Civil Military Operations, J-7.

Regrets from OPAPP

On August 10, 2017, Ferdinand G. Jovita, Director IV, Conflict Prevention and Monitoring Unit of OPAPP, wrote to the Lead Organizer wrote:

“This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 July 2017 addressed to the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process requesting specific actions from OPAPP to help ensure the success of you Bayanihan or pro-active involvement and collective participation of the Filipino people, to wit:

1. *“Follow-up calls by one of your staff to Regional Directors of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). We believe that these would considerably increase compliance to the DepEd memorandum no. 66, s. 2017...”*
2. *“Enjoining all OPAPP personnel to respond to our campaign by accomplishing the campaign questionnaire...”*
3. *“Advising all parties who will inquire about our campaign to coordinate with any of the undersigned...”*

“Please be informed that we have noted all your requests. However, we regret to inform you that we cannot directly accede to your requests. OPAPP as a government institution overseeing the peace process cannot just meddle in private campaigns. Moreover, as we have mentioned to you during our previous meeting that it would be in your best interest to maintain neutrality and independence, hence making the results of your campaign more credible.”

Mr. Jovita was obviously not aware of the Memorandum of Undertaking entered into on December 10, 2002 by then PAPP Secretary **Eduardo R.**

Ermita which states the following duties and responsibilities of the OPAPP in the national implementation of the campaign:

- a. "Oversee the cooperation of the parties to this Memorandum of Undertaking and the coordination of all activities leading to the solicitation of responses to the YES for PEACE campaign.
- b. "Use the process as a means of measuring the degree of awareness and participation of the public in the comprehensive peace process."

Support of AFP

On August 16, 2017 Deputy Chief of Staff for CMO, J-7. Deputy Chief of Staff for CMO MGen **Melquiades L. Feliciano** issued an **AFP Message Form OJ-A3-17-08-05** from **CSAFP** to Commanders, Unified Commands (Attn: U7s) drafted by LTC **Pedro C. Balisi, Jr.** (GSC) Chief, Operations Division.

"2. ...THE **YES FOR PEACE - BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN**, A PARTNER ORGANIZATION OF THE AFP IN THE PEACE ADVOCACY, IS REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AFP TO FOLLOW-UP THE COMPLIANCE OF **DEPED** AND **CHED OFFICIALS** ON THE **DEPED MEMORANDUM NO. 66, SERIES 2017 DATED 06 APR 2017, SUBJECT: YES FOR PEACE - BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN** AND **CHED MEMORANDUM FROM THE COMMISSIONER DATED 02 JUNE 2017, SUBJECT: YES FOR PEACE** THAT WERE ISSUED BY THE **DEPED SECRETARY** AND **CHED COMMISSIONER**, RESPECTIVELY. THE MEMORANDA STATED ABOVE MANDATED THE CONCERNED DISSEMINATION OF THE **ONE-PAGE SURVEY** TO BE ANSWERED BY THE ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE TARGET OF **THIRTY MILLION (30,000,000)** RESPONDENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN IS ATTAINED BY **SEPTEMBER 2017**.

"3. THE AFP AS AN ACTIVE PARTNER OF THIS CAMPAIGN, CAN HELP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPED AND CHED MEMORANDA BY ENJOINING/URGING DEPED OFFICIALS (REGIONAL DIRECTORS [RDs], SCHOOL DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS [SDSs], DISTRICT SUPERVISORS [DSs] AND PUBIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY HIGH SCHOOL HEADS/PRINCIPALS) AND CHED OFFICIALS (CHED AND REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, PRESIDENT/HEADS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) TO FAST TRACT THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPLIANCE ON THE AFORESAID MEMORANDA.

“4. ITR TO DIRECT YOUR **U7s** AND **SEVENs (7s)** OF YOUR **OPCON UNITS (INF BDEs, INF BNs, CMO BNs)** TO ENGAGE THEIR COUNTERPART **DEPED** AND **CHED OFFICIALS** STATIONED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AORs BY ENJOINING/URGING THEM TO COMPLY THE DEPED/CHED MEMORANDA.”

“5. FOR UTMOST COMPLIANCE AND WIDEST DISSEMINATION.”

Opposition of Alliance of Concerned Teachers

On August 22, 2017, barely six (6) days from the issuance of the AFP Message, Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT-Teachers) Representative France Castro opened the discussion on DepEd Memorandum No. 66, 2017.

Suspension of DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017

On 29 August 2017, Secretary Briones issued DepEd Memorandum No. 142, s. 2017 suspending the implementation of the DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017 citing unspecified “issues raised by some various stakeholders”.

Notably, the 2017 Campaign activities were scheduled in July 2024. Thus, the suspension of the implementation of the activities embodied in DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017 was made one month after these have supposedly been implemented!

DepEd Secretary Informed of AFP Support

On September 11, 2017, the Project Organizer and Atty. **Domingo B. Alidon**, President of DepEd National Employees Union, informed DepEd Secretary Briones of **AFP MESSAGE OJ7-A3-17-08-06**.

Results of Responses Generated Through DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s 2017

Immediate dissemination of the Memorandum was desired. Compliance was not desired, expected nor directed as had been in previous DepEd Memorandum for the implementation of the campaign. Nevertheless, **1,053,778** responses were generated in compliance with DM No. 66, 2017 within the timeframe of the given schedule.

Answers to the three (3) questions are summarized in Table No. 3.

Table No. 3

Results of Responses Generated Through DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s 2017

Question	YES	%	NO	%
1. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na permanente nang itigil ang labanan sa pagitan ng mga sundalo ng gobyerno at ng mga armadong rebolusyonaryo para mailaan na ang bilyon-bilyong pisong pondo na nauubos sa giyera ng mga Filipino laban sa kapwa Filipino para magamit natin ito sa higit na makabuluhang mga serbisyo-publiko tulad ng edukasyon, kalusugan, pabahay, pagsugpo ng kahirapan, pagpapalakas ng kababaihan, pagpapa-unlad ng kanayunan, depensang panglabas at iba pa?</i>	978,433	92.85	75,345	7.15
2. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na dito na sa Pilipinas ipagpatuloy ang peace talks imbes na sa ibang bansa at gawing hayagan at partisipatibo ang proseso nito para makalahok ang lahat ng sektor ng Sambayanang Filipino at ang mga mambabatas natin sa pagbalangkas, pagpapa-apruba at pagpapatupad ng mga kasunduan?</i>	913,309	86.67	140,469	13.33
3. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na amyendahan na sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga probisyon ng konstitusyon at mga batas na balakid at hadlang sa pagsasakatuparan ng mga kasunduan at mapagkakasunduan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng mga armadong rebolusyonaryo?</i>	827,953	78.57	228,825	21.43

Notably, those who replied NO were a minority. However, in real numbers, the figures were staggering.

Considering that the population of the Philippines stood at 106.7 Million, approximately 74.9% or 79.9 Million of which were 10 years and older, the number of those who could answered NO are as follows: a) Question No. 1 - 5.8 Million (7.15%); b) Question No. 2 - 10.7 Million (13.33%); and c) Question No. 3 - 17.2 Million (21.43%).

It is therefore not surprising that efforts towards the following goals were easily derailed by those who believe that armed struggle is the only means towards meaningful societal change:

- a) Permanent cessation of armed conflicts;
- b) Conduct of peace talks here in the country instead of abroad; and
- c) Amendment of laws and provisions of the constitution that have impeded the implementation of peace agreements.

Request and Endorsement for Symbolic Turn-over of Results to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

On September 11, 2017, the Project Organizer and Atty. Alidon wrote to Assistant Executive Secretary **Maria Feliza C. Marquez**, Office of the Appointment Secretary:

“We are pleased to inform you that millions of responses to the **YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan ng Bayan** have thus far been received. These prove that the Filipino people are supportive of the President’s objective of forging an era of peace during his term.

“To call media attention and facilitate the attainment of the target **Thirty Million** (30,000,000), could you kindly arrange for a symbolic turn-over of responses on hand to the President on 21 September 2017 as our contribution to the celebration of the United Nations’ International Day of Peace?”

“We are confident that such a simple event (in a time and date that you may deem most appropriate) and some words from the President will greatly boost people’s awareness that their individual and collective contribution to the over-all peace process is key to its success.”

On September 15, 2017, Assistant Executive Secretary Marquez endorsed the request – to symbolically turn-over the Yes for Peace thus far received to the President on 21 September 2017 – to PAPP Secretary Jesus Dureza.

Support of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

On September 15, 2017, Police Director Ronald dela Rosa responded favorably to the request for assistance to follow-through compliance to DepEd Memorandum No. 066, s. 2017.

Directorate for Police Community Relations Officer in Charge Police Chief Superintendent **Ericson T Velasquez** issued a Memorandum to RDs, PROs 1-13, COR, NCRPO and ARMM:

“... you are requested to coordinate with your respective Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education regional offices on appropriate support your office can extend concerning the national implementation of Yes for Peace.”

Proposal to Turn-over Results to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte by OPAPP

On September 19, 2017, to follow through the endorsement made by Assistant Executive Secretary Marquez, a letter – signed by Ernesto A. Alcanzare, Lead Organizer, Yes for Peace; Mama S. Lalanto, al Haj, CESO III, Adviser, Yes for Peace; Atty Domingo B. Alidon, President, DepEd National Employees’ Union; and Johnny G. Balawag, Chairman, DepEd National Employees’ Union – to OPAPP Secretary Dureza, Attention: Ferdinand G. Jovita, Director, Conflict Prevention and Management Unit of OPAPP stated:

“We are writing to follow-up the PRRD Appointments Office’s endorsement to you dated 15 September of our letter dated 11 September 2017 to symbolically turn-over the Yes for Peace we have thus far received to the President on 21 September 2017.

“First, we respectfully express our deepest appreciation of your reiteration of the hands-off stand on Yes for Peace adopted by former PAPP Ma. Teresita Quintos - Deles in direct contravention to the support given by her predecessors former Ambassador Manuel T. Yan who endorsed the campaign to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports; the Commission on Higher Education; and the National Youth Commission that all favorably acted on the campaign in 1996 and former Congressman Eduardo R. Ermita who facilitated and entered into an Inter- Agency Memorandum of Undertaking in 2002.

“Attached, for your information and future reference, documents would show that Yes for Peace is not a mere private undertaking as you have concluded inasmuch as the 4th National Peace and Order Summit sought to “Establish the framework for peace negotiations through the national implementation of the ‘Di-Yes for Peace Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan” stipulated in the 5 Year Master Plan for Peace and Order (1997-2001).

“Moreover, we are pleased to inform you that recently, Armed Forces of the Chief of Staff Eduardo Ano and Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa have responded favourably to our request for assistance in following through compliance to DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017 and CHED Memorandum from the Chairperson dated 02 June 2017 in contrast to your outright rejection of our simple request quoted in Director Jovita’s letter dated 10 August 2017.

“Since the President will be very busy on the date we have requested, we are respectfully coordinating with you to set a more appropriate date for such an event preferably at the Philippine Postal Corporation Central Post Office where hard copies of responses, tabulations and summaries were mailed by educators from across the nation.

“We look forward to working closely with you in giving flesh to the President’s call ‘Let us unite against those who promote violent extremism, sow division, hatred and terror among our people. Let us stand firm and resolute as we work together for a just, unifying and lasting peace in our country.’”

No acknowledgment was received from Secretary Dureza or Director Jovita.

Letters Requesting for Issues Raised and Stakeholders that Caused Suspension

On October 10, 2017, the Lead Organizer wrote to Secretary Briones regarding DM No. 142, s. 2017 – Suspension of the Implementation of DepEd Memorandum 66, s. 2017 (Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan):

“Could you kindly briefly inform us what issues were raised and please identify the stakeholders who raised these?”

“It is noteworthy that these were raised days after the **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)** and the **Philippine National Police (PNP)** decided to follow through actions taken by our educators throughout the country to comply with DepEd Memorandum 66, s. 2017 and shortly before President Rodrigo Roa Duterte called on all peace loving Filipinos, “**Let us unite against those who promote violent extremism, sow divisions, hatred and terror among our people.**”

“Please note that no issues were raised against the implementation of Yes for Peace ever since it was incorporated into the Education for All Program of the Department more than two decades ago.”

Follow-up letters addressed to Atty Nepomuceno A. Malaluan were received by the Office of the Secretary of DepEd on October 13 and 24, 2017.

While all three letters were routed to concerned officials, the questions raised were not answered. These were not even acknowledged.

Excerpt of Minutes of Appropriations Committee that Led to the Suspension of Implementation of DepEd Memorandum 66, s. 2017

A DepEd official hinted that the suspension was caused by a protest raised by Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT-Teachers) Representative France Castro during a House of Representatives hearing on the DepEd budget on August 22, 2017, barely six (6) days from the issuance of the AFP Message that declared. "THE AFP AS AN ACTIVE PARTNER OF THIS CAMPAIGN..."

Claiming that she was not aware of DepEd Memorandum 66, s. 2017, Secretary Briones referred the subject to Undersecretary **Jesus Lorenzo R. Mateo** because she was not familiar with it.

Rep Castro then addressed her questions to Usec Mateo – "What organization is Yes for Peace? Is it under DepEd?" The latter did not utter a word despite fact that Item 15 of Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017 lists **Jesus Lorenzo R. Mateo**, Undersecretary, Planning and Field Operations as the first of contact persons for more information.

Secretary Briones assured Rep Castro that they "will the look into it because not a single person here in the panel are familiar with that interesting and mysterious memo."

Rep Castro then showed a copy of the memorandum bearing the signature of Secretary Briones.

Rep Castro then opined that the questions were not prepared by a teacher she was certain that a teacher will not ask leading questions. She once again asked what the organization is and how is it related to DepEd.

Rep Castro then read the first question, "*Sang-ayon po ba kayo na permanente nang itigil ang labanan sa pagitan ng mga sundalo ng gobyerno at mga armadong reboklusyonaryo para mailaan na ang bilyon-bilyong pisong pondo na nauubos sa giyera ng mga Filipino laban sa kapwa Filipino para magamit natin ito sa higit na makabuluhang serbisyo publiko, **et cetera, et cetera?***" She then asked if that was the first question.

Secretary Briones replied, "Your Honor, Madam Chair, Your Honor."

The Presiding Officer recognized Sec Briones, "Yes, Secretary Briones."

Secretary Briones said, "We will trace that. And if it exists, we will revoke it."

Rep Castro then read the second question, “*Sang-ayon po ba kayo na dito sa Pilipinas ipagpatuloy ang peace talks...*”

The Presiding Officer interjected, “The Secretary has already answered the question of Your Honor. Can you please wrap up your final question?”

Secretary Briones then declared, “We will remove that if it exists.”

Rep Castro said, “*Oo, kasi... hindi, kailangan lang po nating makita na dapat ay iyong ganitong memo po ay nainitindihan.*”

The Presiding Officer replied, “Yes, the Secretary has already manifested that they will look into it.”

Rep Castro continued, “*So, siguro, Madam Chair, iyong pangatlong tanong, para sa atin ito, eh – “Sang-ayon ba kayo na amyendahan na sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga probisyon ng Konstitusyon at mga batas na balakid at hadlang...? So, **ito iyong mga tanong na tingin natin hindi ito pwedeng sagutin at very misleading at mis-educating** sa ating mga estudyante. Salamat po doon sa pagtugon Ninyo na ito po ay iyong iri-revoke itong memo na ito.*”

Presiding Officer concluded, “Thank you. Thank you for that question.”

Sec Briones said, “*Kung sino man ang nag-circulate niyan...*”

Indeed, the questions were leading to the following:

- a. Permanent cessation of hostilities between government soldiers and armed revolutionaries so that billions of pesos wasted in a war of Filipinos against Filipinos can be used to more relevant public services, including, among others, education;
- b. Resumption of open and participative peace talks here in the Philippines; and
- c. Amendment of Constitutional provisions and laws that impede the implementation of peace agreements.

To cut the story short, Secretary Briones categorically denied knowing anything about Yes for Peace and the issuance of DepEd Memorandum 66, s. 2017.

It was a tearjerker considering that fourteen issuances for the implementation of Yes for Peace that generated **14,528,609** responses over twenty-two (22) years. No issue against it has been raised.

Resolution of 11th DepEd NEU National Congress

On December 7, 2017, the 11th DepEd NEU National Congress unanimously adopted, “RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND REITERATING THE SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EMPLOYEES’ UNION TO THE YES FOR PEACE – BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN”.

Follow Through Letter for PAPP

On March 16, 2018, Ernesto A. Alcanzare, Lead Organizer, Yes for Peace; and Mama S. Lalanto, al Haj, CESO III, Adviser, Yes for Peace wrote to Secretary Dureza, to inform him that based on insights and suggestions of resource persons, the questions were reformulated to “make it more relevant to the current status of the comprehensive peace process”, to wit:

1. *“Sang-ayon po ba kayo na mag-Bayanihan ng Bayan ang Sambayanang Filipino upang permanente nang matigil at matuldukan na ang mga giyera sa pagitan ng mga sundalo ng gobyerno laban sa iba’t-ibang mga armadong grupo at nan mailaan at magamit na sa edukasyon, kalusugan, pabahay, pagsugpo ng kahirapan, pagpapalakas ng kababaihan, pagpapaiunlad ng kanayunan at iba pang makabuluhang serbisyo-publiko ang bilyon-bilyong pisong pondo na nauubos sa digmaang bayan ng mga Filipino kontra sa kapwa Filipino?”*
2. *“Sang-ayon po ba kayo na kung muling matuloy ang peace talks ay dito na sa Pilipinas na ito ganapin imbes na sa ibang bansa at gawing hayagan at partisipatibo ang proseso nito para makalahok ang lahat ng sektor ng Sambayanang Filipino at ang mga mambabatas natin sa pagbalangkas, pagpapa-apruba at pagpapatupad ng mga kasunduan?”*
3. *“Sang-ayon po ba kayo na amyendahan na sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga probisyon ng konstitusyon at mga batas na balakid at hadlang sa pagsasakatuparan ng mga kasunduan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at grupong nagsusulong ng digmaang bayan upang ipaglaban daw ang mga karapatan ng Sambayanang Filipino nang hindi man lang nagpaalam sa atin at sa mga anak natin?”*

Also, the plan for a “Ten-Week Peace and Development Caravan” was submitted to Secretary Dureza for information, perusal and consideration.

The writers looked forward to working with the PAPP towards the President's call to action, "Let's us stand firm and resolute as we work together for a just, unifying and lasting peace in the country."

No reply nor acknowledgement was received from Secretary Dureza.

Endorsement of the CHED Officer-in-Charge

On April 16, 2018, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Officer-in-Charge **Prospero de Vera** endorsed the Ten-Week Peace and Development Caravan for the support and participation – on a VOLUNTARY basis – of all concerned "in accordance with pertinent provisions of Republic Act (R.A.) 7722, otherwise known as the '*Higher Education Act of 1994*'.

Assistance of the CESB

On May 9, 2018, Career Executive Service Board (CESB) Executive Director **Maria Anthonette C. Velasco – Allones**, CESO I, informed the lead organizer that they have referred the campaign to the National Union Career Executive Service Officers (NUCESO).

She also reminded the lead organizer, "... all activities of a national government agency should be in consonance with their respective mandates and aligned with the agency programs and projects enumerated in the General Appropriations Act, especially so is such activities will involve the use of government resources."

Support of the AFP

On July 4, 2018, MGen **Rene Glen O Paje**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines directed:

A. "Unified Commands

- 1) "Direct ROTC Units under your operational control to send contingents to attend the scheduled Peace and Development Forum in your respective Area of Operations (AOs); and
- 2) "Coordinate with the Organizer and School Administrator for the setting-up of information booths showcasing the AFP's peace initiatives activities during the scheduled caravan in your respective AOs; and
- 3) "Submit after activity report to this HQS (Attn: J7) one (1) week after the activity.

B. “CRSAFP

- 1) “Organize the members of Youth for Peace and Graduates of Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) to attend the Peace and Development Forum on 08 August 2018 at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila;
- 2) “Coordinate with the Event Organizer and School Administrator of Polytechnic University of the Philippines for the setting-up of information booths showcasing the AFP’s peace initiatives activities during the scheduled caravan; and
- 3) “Submit after activity report to this HQS (Attn: J7) one (1) week after the activity.”

Greetings from PRRD

On July 27, 2018, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte wrote in a Message:

“Cultural differences, political disputes and other socio-economic challenges are some of the reasons why our country cannot totally move forward. These issues have slowed down our nation’s growth

“I recognize this noble undertaking of Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan because it promotes a newfound culture of harmony and cooperation among our communities and across our regions...

“Together, let us show our solidarity in effecting real and lasting change in our society.”

Message from Vice President Leni Robredo

In September 2018 Vice President Leni Robredo wrote:

“In a time marked by widespread division and polarization, leaders all over the country are called upon to take a stand against the growing culture of hate and apathy, and instead return our focus to the weak, the powerless, and the defenseless

“We, in the Office of the Vice President, believe that long term and stability are only possible through collaborations to make peace talks, agreements, and community development initiatives more implementable and efficient. It is my deep hope that through this campaign, you will find ways to spark more active participation in order to give voice to our *kababayans* who suffer in the margins of society.”

Messages from Senators

In September 2018, Members of the Philippine Senate issued Messages.

1. Senator Vicente C. Sotto III

Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III wrote:

“I am one with you in this timely objective as we are in an era where both local and international hostilities are plaguing the land...

“Again, you have my unwavering support for peace and stability in our country. Continue to educate and empower our citizens that they may be able to protect themselves and the nation as a whole, with their vigilance and awareness.”

2. Senator Bam Aquino

Senator Bam Aquino wrote:

“In these ever divisive times, we need organizations like yours to remind us that progress and prosperity for all can only be achieved when we look past our differences and work together for our countrymen, especially those who have the least in society.

“May you serve as inspiration for more Filipinos to live with an open mind and a heart for service.

“Maraming salamat sa inyong walang tigil na pagtatrabaho para itaguyod and kapayapaan sa ating bansa.

“Maasahan ninyo ang aming suporta sa Senado. Nakikiisa kami sa inyong layuning lumikha ng mapayapa, maunlad, at masaganang Pilipinas.”

3. Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

“Your project is indeed commendable, as we need peace in our country, for everyone to steadily develop and forge ahead. We can focus more on our programs for economic stability which will lead to the improvement of the lives of our countrymen.

“I am pleased to know that your efforts are gaining momentum as more people, organizations in government and private sectors are participating in this project so as to attain **“peace”**.

“I am confident that with your perseverance and determination, as well as the collective efforts of our fellow Filipinos, we can finally gain ground to live peacefully in our country and work towards a peaceful world.”

4. Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay

“We reaffirm our commitment to ending the decades-long fight between government and armed groups, as well as bringing lasting and permanent peace, especially in areas of conflict.

“Government is continuously addressing the concerns and other blocks that slow our peace building efforts. Peace means saving many lives, especially women and children trapped in the conflicts. Peace also means saving the future of the people - Christian Muslim and Lumad - from the cycles of strife and displacement.”

5. Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

“Peace does not come easy... the road to peace is a long and arduous one, paved with sharply conflicting ideas, the blunt edges of which are eventually softened by compromise, compassion and understanding.

“But though the work toward peace is difficult and exhausting, it is an undertaking that we commit to because there is no other choice but to say *yes to peace* as Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan has so succinctly put it. I am enthused by and share in your vision of a peaceful future, and your efforts to involve all sectors of the Filipino people in the discourse surrounding peace development. We in national office are grateful to have as our partners organizations who immerse themselves in the grassroots level, who magnify the voice of the people so that it is heard and heeded by the whole nation.

“I have nothing but the deepest respect for this peace campaign, and you can trust that you have in me an ally in your continued work toward a better Philippines.”

6. Senator Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero

“Your ‘Yes for Peace’ initiative is indeed a laudable movement intended to promote harmony throughout the land, starting from the barangay level, up to the national level.

“As the legendary singer John Lennon has said: ‘Peace is not something you wish for; it’s something you make, something you do, something you are and something you give away.’ I am therefore honored to congratulate you on this undertaking as you are undoubtedly not simply yearning for peace in one quiet corner, but you are out in the fields, working tirelessly for your cause so that every Filipino may one day live in a peaceful and progressive nation.”

7. Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao gave his affirmation of the campaign:

“With the increasing conflicts and differences that transpire across and outside our nation, the concept of peace has become far-fetched and abstract.

“But despite its being merely theoretical, we must not stop dreaming and acting for it to materialize.

“It cannot be denied that this entails a grand task. The persistent sprouting of crimes and insurgencies have continued to hamper the growth and development of our country.

“Indeed, I am affirmative with YES FOR PEACE - BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN as it seeks to establish permanent cessation of hostilities by allocating more government funds for peace and development and by conducting inclusive and participative talks.

“Our Constitution itself adheres to the policy of peace not only within our territory but with all nations.

“With this, let us constantly work together by employing a harmonious and high measured public service to imprint a tangible peace.”

8. Senator Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara

Senator Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara expressed his solid support:

“Di po lingid sa ating kaalaman ang patuloy na par-iral ng dibisyon o paksyon sa ating lipunan dahil sa iba’t ibang paniniwalang pulitikal na kadalasan ay pinaaalab pa ng iba’t ibang suliraning pambansa.

“Dahil po rito, nagsasakripisyo ang dapat sana’y tuloy-tuloy na pagsulong ng ating Inang Bayan at ng ating kabuhayan. Kaya’t ako po, bilang isa sa inyong mga mambabatas na lubos na sumusuporta sa katahimikan at kapayapaan ay kaisa ninyo sa inyong mabuting adhikain...”

“Bilang patunay ng aking pakikiisa sa inyong adhikain, ako po’y solidong sumusuporta sa mga hakbang na nagtutulak ng pagkakaisa sa ating lahat tungo sa tunay na pag-unlad. Ipagpatuloy po ninyo ang inyong makabuluhang adbokasiya.”

9. Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

Senator Francis N. Pangilinan was non-committal:

“Like freedom and democracy, peace is both a journey and a destination, Peace paves the way for investments, jobs, economic growth, and true progress -- all of which improves the individual’s and the community’s life. And that is the peace we strive for.

“The Philippines has been at war with itself for decades now. Self-determination toward sustainable development has been a common demand of insurgents. When we all work together to meet everyone’s rights to food, water, shelter, health services, education, and other basic needs to a decent life, we work toward ending conflict and for lasting peace.

“Your initiative is a call for all of us work hand-in-hand so that we may achieve a sustainable and lasting peace in our country and elsewhere.

“Your success in your pursuit for peace is everyone’s success.”

Request for Support from the DILG

On September 10, 2018, the organizer wrote to DILG Officer-in-Charge Eduardo M. Año requesting for support for the Upward Declaration of “Yes for Peace” Zones.

Recommendation from Presidential Political Adviser

On September 11, 2018, Presidential Political Adviser Secretary Francis N. Tolentino wrote:

“This office recommends that you work closely with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). This way, it is believed that your request to the President will be facilitated well and the more when you have OPAPP’s support and recommendation. You might as well consider providing a draft of said letter for reference to assist for quicker evaluation.

“Likewise, as you pursue this peace advocacy and education campaign as well as the future identification and implementation of community-based peace and development programs and projects, it is suggested that you continue to work with Peace and Order Councils (POCs) of the respective local government units...”

Secretary Tolentino concluded, “It is herein assured that this office strongly supports genuine efforts for the preservation of peace and order in the country.

Reply of DILG to Request for Support

On September 11, 2018, DILG Assistant Secretary for Barangay Affairs and Partnership Roosque B. Calacat replied to the letter-request dated September 10, 2018. “We highly appreciate your interest in our Department. Truly your objectives are aligned with our mandate and current programs...”

Request for Schools Division Summary Reports on Responses

On November 20, 2017, Atty. Domingo B. Alidon, National President of the DepEd National Employees’ Union (DepEd NEU) wrote a Memorandum for All Schools Division Superintendents:

“In line with the commitment of the Department of Education National Employees’ Union to the National Development Agenda of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte xxx

“Your cooperation will underscore the education sector’s full support to President Duterte’s call for people’s participation in the comprehensive peace process amidst the continued threat of violence from those who claim to be fighting for our rights as peace-loving people.”

Proposal to Conduct Peace Talks with CPP-NPA-NDF in the Philippines

On December 16, 2018, it was proposed that peace negotiations be resumed here in the Philippines, particularly in any campus of UP which is supposedly the bastion of intellectual support of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

Unfortunately, Joma Sison and the CPP-NPA-NDF ignored the results of the campaign and rejected PRRD's expressed offer to resume the peace talks here in the Philippines instead of abroad. This was exacerbated by an ambush on a presidential convoy that was confirmed and claimed by no less than by Joma Sison himself.

Having completely lost trust and confidence on the sincerity of the CPP-NPA-NDF to negotiate for a just, inclusive, sustainable and lasting peace, PRRD eventually decided to shut the doors on the bilateral peace talks and opted for the conduct of localized peace talks.

Notably, the initiative to amend the constitution lost steam and eventually fizzled out.

Executive Order No. 70

On December 4, 2018, President Duterte issued Executive Order No. 70, **"Institutionalizing the Whole-of-Nation Approach in Attaining Inclusive and Sustainable Peace, Creating a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, and Directing the Adoption of a National Peace Framework"**

EO No. 70 cited Article II of the 1987 Constitution which served as the foundation of the development of DIYES FOR PEACE in 1988, to wit:

1. "The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy;
2. "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy; (Underscoring ours) and
3. The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." (Underscoring ours)

EO No. 70 states, among other premises, the following:

“WHEREAS, there is a need to reframe and refocus the government policy for achieving inclusive and sustainable peace by recognizing that insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions, and other armed conflicts and threats are not only military and security concerns, but are symptomatic of broader social, economic and historical problems, such as poverty, historical injustice, social inequality, and lack of inclusivity, among others;... (*Underscoring ours*)

“WHEREAS, the Whole-of-Nation approach addresses the root causes of the insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions, and other armed conflicts and threats by prioritizing and harmonizing the delivery of basic services and social development packages by the government, facilitating societal inclusivity, and ensuring active participation of all sectors of society in pursuit of the country’s peace agenda;... (*Underscoring ours*)

“WHEREAS, to ensure comprehensive orchestration of related peace efforts and initiatives of national government agencies, local government units and various sectors of civil society, there is a need to formulate a National Peace Framework anchored on the Whole-of-Nation approach, which shall include, among others, a mechanism for local peace engagements or negotiations and interventions that is consistent with constitutional integrity and national sovereignty, responsive to local needs, and sensitive to realities on the ground.” (*Underscoring ours*)

It also recognizes Convergence as a key element and thus states,

“**Section 6. Convergence.** All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, or instrumentalities of government, including GOCCs and SUCs, are hereby directed to render the necessary support to the Task Force. (*Underscoring ours*)

“The private sector, non-government organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate in all peace-building programs, plans and activities, in the implementation of the Framework.” (*Underscoring ours*)

Evaluation of Open Referendum Questions Posed Through DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011 vis-à-vis Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018

Inasmuch as EO 70 was focused in ending the local communist armed conflicts, the questions formulated in 2010 and fielded through DepEd

Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011 were evaluated and assessed vis-à-vis Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018.

The matrix of the open referendum questions formulated in 2010 and fielded through DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011 vis-à-vis Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018 is shown in Table No. 4.

Table No. 4.

YES FOR PEACE Open Referendum Questions Formulated in 2010 and Fielded Through DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011 vis-à-vis Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018

DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011	English	Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018
1. <i>Dapat po bang itigil na ang mga giyera sa pagitan ng gobyerno at mga rebelde ngayong 2012?</i>	Should the wars between the government and rebels stop this 2012?	“WHEREAS, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides for the following State principles and policies: i. “The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy.” xxx
2. <i>Dapat po bang isaayos natin sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga nawasak ng mga giyera?</i>	Should we rehabilitate communities destroyed by armed conflicts as soon as possible?	“WHEREAS, one of the objectives of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 is to attain inclusive and sustainable peace through intensified development and other peace-building initiatives in conflict-affected and -vulnerable communities.”
3. <i>Dapat po bang gamutin na ngayon ang mga sugat sa puso ng Sambayanan at pagkasunduin na ngayon ang mga sangkot sa mga giyerang ipinaglalaman daw nila para sa kapakanan natin?</i>	Should the wounds in the heart of the Filipino people be healed and reconcile those involved in the armed conflicts waged supposedly for our benefit now?	“WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 16 (s. 2017) adopted the National Security Policy 2017-2022, which calls for the end of all armed threats in the Philippines and recognizes that internal socio-political stability rests upon healing the rifts that divide the nation by promoting participatory governance, synergy of government development efforts, and enhancing the

<p style="text-align: center;">DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018</p>
		<p>participation and responsibilities of local government units (LGUs);”</p>
<p>4. <i>Dapat po bang palawakin natin ang hanay ng mga Kabayani para sa Kapayapaan na nag-YES FOR PEACE at palakasin ang partisipasyon ng Sambayanang Filipino sa prosesong pangkapayapaan?</i></p>	<p>Should we broaden the ranks of heroes for peace who have responded to YES FOR PEACE and strengthen the participation of the Filipino people in the peace process?</p>	<p>“WHEREAS, the Whole-of-Nation approach addresses the root causes of insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions, and other armed conflicts and threats by prioritizing and harmonizing the delivery of basic services and social development packages by the government, facilitating societal inclusivity, and ensuring active participation of all sectors of the society in pursuit of the country’s peace agenda.</p>
<p>5. <i>Dapat po bang baguhin ang mga umiiral na kalakarang panlipunan, pang-ekonomiya at pampulitikal para matigil na ang mga armadong pagututunggali at kaguluhan sa lipunan?</i></p>	<p>Should we change the existing social, economic and political systems now to stop the armed conflicts and strife in society?</p>	<p>“WHEREAS, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides for the following State principles and policies:</p> <p>iii. “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”</p>
<p>6. <i>Dapat po ba nating buuin ang batayan ng pagkakaisa para sa</i></p>	<p>Should we lay down the basis of unity for peace through consultations and the participation of the</p>	<p>“Section 5. The National Peace Framework. The Framework shall contain principles, policies, plans</p>

<p align="center">DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011</p>	<p align="center">English</p>	<p align="center">Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018</p>
<p><i>kapayapaan sa pamamagitan ng konsultasyon at partisipasyon ng Sambayanang Filipino?</i></p>	<p>Filipino people?</p>	<p>and programs that will bring inclusive and sustainable peace, and address the root causes of insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions as well as other armed conflicts and threats in identified areas. The framework shall be responsive to the needs and sensitive to the realities on the ground. To this end, the Framework shall include a mechanism for localized peace engagements or negotiations and interventions that is nationally orchestrated, directed and supervised, while being locally implemented.”</p>
<p>7. <i>Dapat po bang magkaroon na ng pangkalahatang kasunduang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng lahat ng rebeldeng grupo at epektibong maisakatuparan ang mga ito sa lalong madaling panahon?</i></p>	<p>Should there be a comprehensive peace agreement between the government and all rebels and effectively implement these as soon as possible?</p>	<p>WHEREAS, to ensure comprehensive orchestration of related peace efforts and initiatives of national government units and various sectors of civil society, there is a need to formulate a National Peace Framework anchored on the Whole-of-Nation approach, which shall include, among others, a mechanism for local peace engagements or negotiations and interventions that is consistent with constitutional integrity and national sovereignty, responsive to local needs, and sensitive to realities on the ground;”</p>
<p>8. <i>Dapat po bang ipagpatuloy ang mga programa</i></p>	<p>Should the programs to reintegrate rebels into society be continued to</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">DepEd Memorandum No. 277, s. 2011</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018</p>
<p><i>para makabalik sa lipunan ang mga rebelde at nang makapamuhay sila nang matiwasay sa kani-kanilang mga komunidad?</i></p>	<p>allow them to live peaceably in their respective communities?</p>	
<p>9. <i>Dapat po bang protektahan ang mga hindi armado at bawasan ang pinsalang dulot ng mga giyerang para daw sa ating mga komunidad?</i></p>	<p>Should the unarmed be protected and the damages brought by wars supposedly waged for our communities be minimized?</p>	<p>“Section 1. Institutionalizing the Whole-of-Nation Approach. The Whole-of-Nation approach is hereby institutionalized as a government policy for the attainment of inclusive of inclusive and sustainable peace. Towards this end, the Government shall prioritize the delivery of basic services and social development packages in conflict-affected and -vulnerable communities, facilitate societal inclusivity in the pursuit of the country’s peace agenda.”</p>
<p>10. <i>Kailangan bang bumuo ng kaayusan tungo sa kapayapaan sa pamamagitan ng pagtuturo at pagsusulong ng kapayapaan at ng mga hakbang tungo sa pagtitiwala sa pagitan ng gobyerno at mga rebelde?</i></p>	<p>Do we need to build the conditions to peace by teaching and advocating for peace and through steps towards the restoration of trust and confidence between the government and rebels?</p>	<p>“WHEREAS... xxx, the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Manila last 05 August 2017, reaffirmed the importance and effectiveness of the Whole-of-Nation approach as opposed to a purely military option in combating terrorism and violent extremism.”</p>

Table No. 4 shows that EO No. 70 undeniably responded favorably to the sentiments of those who responded to the questions formulated in

cooperation with Bayan Muna and the IBON Foundation that has generated a substantial number of responses.

Right to Peace: On the Peace Process and People Participation

On December 12, 2018, the Project Organizer presented the YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan ng Bayan campaign as a Resource Person in the Knowledge Sharing Exercise (Human Rights Series) for officers and personnel of the Office of the President Proper in observance of the 2018 National Human Rights Consciousness Week of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Invitation of NTF ELCAC for Inclusion into the National Plan to End the Local Communist Armed Conflict

On February 22, 2019, National Security Adviser and Director General of the National Security Council Hermogenes V. Esperon, Jr. wrote to the Project Organizer:

“On 04 December 2018, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed the Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018 titled *‘Institutionalizing the Whole-of-Nation Approach in Attaining Inclusive and Sustainable Peace, Creating a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), and Directing the Adoption of a National Plan Framework.’* This is the Philippine government’s decisive action in response to the National Security Policy 2017-2022 which calls for the end of all armed threats in the Philippines and recognizes that internal socio-political stability rests upon the healing the rifts that divide the nation (NSP Chapter4, p. 11). It likewise adopts the strategic goals and objectives expressed in the National Security Strategy 2018 which call for a “Whole-of-nation approach” in guaranteeing public safety and good governance (NSS Chapter 5, bullet 9, p. 42)

“Through the NTF-ELCAC which is chaired by the President himself the EO70 primarily envisions to formulate a Whole-of-Nation approach-driven National Peace Framework which contains principles, policies, plans and programs that will bring inclusive and sustainable peace and address the root causes of insurgencies and other armed conflicts. It also aims to ensure interagency convergence and promote participatory governance. Thus, the immediate adoption of the National Plan to End the Local Communist Armed Conflict (NP-ELCAC) is a strategic imperative as this will serve as the blueprint to realize the said objectives.

“Accordingly, the NTF-ELCAC is organizing a series of inter-agency planning workshops to formulate and adopt the NP-ELCAC in March 2019. It aims to craft a comprehensive implementation plan (IMPLAN) for the 12 Operational Clusters (Lines of Effort) identified in the NP-ELCAC with clear and measurable Key Result Areas (KRAs), Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), timeline and budgetary requirements to advance the desired end state of the Task Force. It also intends to operationalize the “Whole-of-nation approach” to achieve clear targeting by agencies and mainstream/institutionalize their respective programs/activities. xxx

“In this regard, we strongly seek for your participation in said activities in order to get your agency’s inputs in the draft NP-ELCAC for inclusion in its immediate adoption and submission to the President. Likewise, your valuable insights will greatly aid the NTF-ELCAC to easily harmonize and synchronize the various programs and cluster of agencies with the aim of addressing the gaps and creating an inter-operable environment among different government units.”

Representatives of the Yes for Peace campaign – the Organizer, **Mama S. Lalanto, al Haj** and **Alpha Copada Dasmariñas** –participated in the workshops and technical working group activities of the Sectoral Unification, Capability-Building, Empowerment & Mobilization (SUCBEM) Cluster of the NTF-ELCAC.

The implementation plan of the campaign was presented to the SUCBEM cluster which submitted its output for adoption and inclusion into the National Plan and submission to the President.

Incorporation of YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan into Approved National Plan to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NP ELCAC)

In March 2019, the SUCBEM Cluster stipulated its Mission:

“The Sectoral Unification, Capability-Building, Empowerment & Mobilization cluster shall engage, unify, capacitate, empower, and mobilize all sectors of society to be free and resistant to the CTGs mass base building operations and infiltration activities, as well as to positively assert genuine people’s sovereignty and government authority for the effective and efficient implementation of programs to strengthen and reinforce the realization of good governance, enduring peace and sustainable development as well as to significantly contribute to the total eradication of the local communist armed conflict by 2022.”

Its Cluster Intents are as follows:

1. “To engage, unify, capacitate, empower, and mobilize all sectors of society to be free and resistant to the CTGs mass base building operations and infiltration activities;
2. “To decisively address sectoral issues and concerns through dynamic and direct agency programs and interventions; and
3. “To build, nurture, and mobilize the proactive involvement and collective participation of the people as purveyor of citizens’ movement toward meaningful social change.”

The cluster adopted the framework as shown in Figure No. ____:

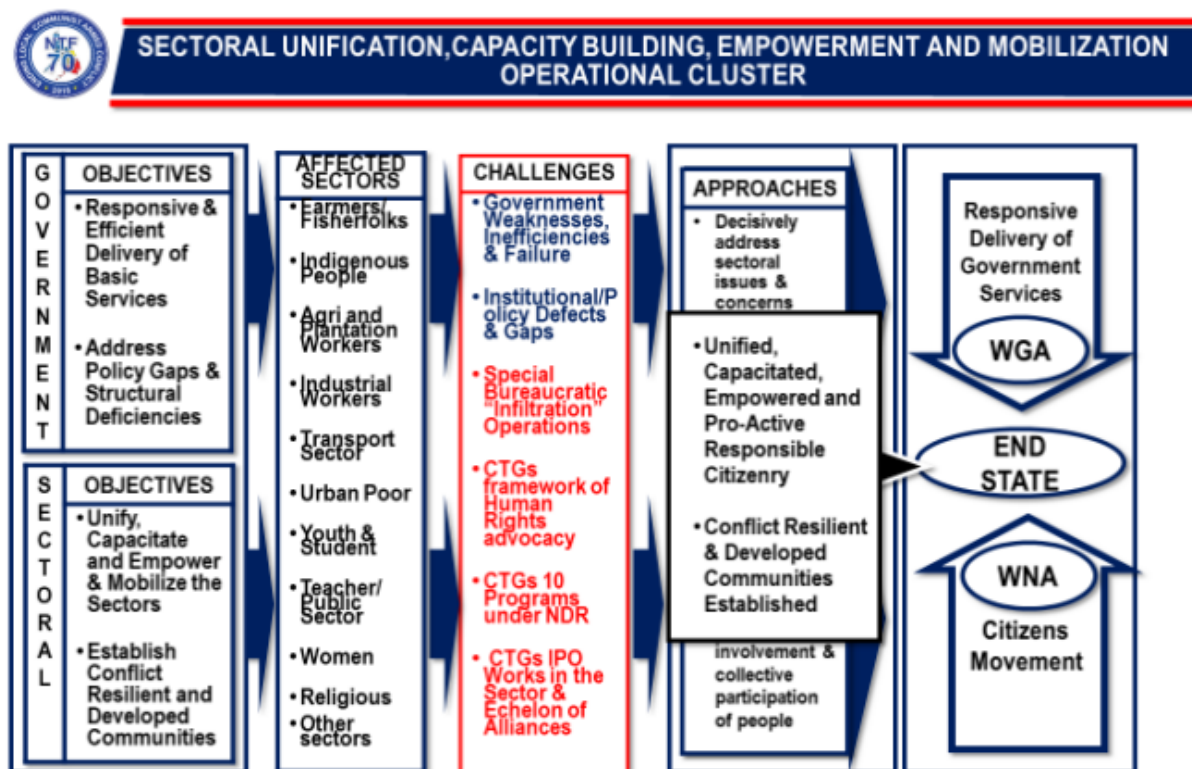


Figure No. 1. Framework of Sectoral Unification, Capability-Building, Empowerment & Mobilization (SUCBEM) Cluster

The cluster further recommended, “Adapt, refine, and facilitate the implementation of **YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan**, La Liga Independencia, and Sambayanan as Whole-of-Nation undertakings primarily through the DEPED, CHED, DILG, NCIP, PHILPOST, OPAPP, NCMF and other National Government Agencies.”

The YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan Road Map is shown in Figure No. 2.



Figure No. 2. YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan Road Map

The involved agencies in the preparation of the SUCBEM input to the NP ELCAC are:

- 1) Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD);
- 2) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 3) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- 4) Department of Fisheries and Natural Resources (DENR);
- 5) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 6) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 7) Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT);
- 8) Department of Education (DEPED);
- 9) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 10) National Youth Council (NYC);
- 11) Philippine Commission on the Urban Poor (PCUP);
- 12) National Housing Authority (NHA);
- 13) Philippine Commission on Women (PCW);
- 14) Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP);
- 15) National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- 16) Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO);
- 17) Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);
- 18) Philippine National Police (PNP); and

19) Yes for Peace

Notably, Yes for Peace was the only non-government entity among the participating agencies.

The NP ELCAC consisted of 312 pages. The SUCBEM Cluster input was 89 (pages 201 to 289) pages while the **YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan** Implementation Plan was 26 pages (pages 224 to 250).

In April 2019, PRRD approved the NP ELCAC. He concluded his Message, “Victory is our goal. To facilitate the realization of our collective aspirations for our beloved country, we must implement our plans on the ground with the whole-of-nation approach, guided by the principles of good governance.

Curiously, while the NP ELCAC calls for a Whole-of-Nation approach, the document was classified “SECRET”.

Submission of Documents / Refined Proposals to NTF-ELCAC

On May 16, 2019, the Lead Organizer wrote to Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr (Ret), National Security Adviser and Vice Chairman, NTF-ELCAC:

“Respectfully submitted are the following working documents / proposals (as of 15 May 2019) of the **YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan** as our humble contribution to the Whole-of-Nation approach to end the local communist armed conflict pursuant to Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018:

1. “Questionnaire / Commitment Form
2. “Implementation, Communications and Social Marketing Plan
3. “Peace and Development Caravan

“You will note that the foregoing are refined versions of the proposal we submitted to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. These were enriched based on inputs and learning accumulated during workshops and meetings primarily of the Sectoral Unification, Empowerment, Capability Building and Mobilization cluster since the last week of March 2019.

“We look forward to converging with the following clusters of the NTF-ELCAC to further fine-tune our working documents:

1. “Local Government Empowerment
2. “Basic Services
3. “Local Peace Engagements
4. “Strategic Communications

“With closer coordination, I am confident that the plans can easily be implemented within the mandates and with least cost and operational hassle for all participating institutions – government and non-government.

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with representatives of various government agencies to come up with a plan of our proposed Whole-of-Nation undertaking.”

Reformulation of Questions and Results of Test Implementation Among Members of the Career Executive Service

Based on inputs gathered from members of the SUCBEM Cluster of the NTF-ELCAC, the questions for the proposed “open referendum” component were once again reformulated and were tested among members of the Career Executive Service who attended the First CES (Career Executive Service) Public Leaders’ Summit with the theme, “Are You Game For CHANGE? Innovation, Inclusion, Inspiration” organized by the Career Executive Service Board from May 29-30, 2019 in Cebu City.

The results are shown in Table No. 5.

Table No. 5
Results of Test Implementation Among Members of the Career Executive Service during Public Leaders’ Summit

QUESTION	YES	NO
<i>1. Sang-ayon po ba tayo na kailangan nating Kilalanin ang Karapatan sa Kapayapaan (Right to Peace) ng Sambayanang Filipino; tutulan ang paggamit ng armas at karahasan para isulong ninuman ang kanilang paniniwala, adhikain, ideolohiya o relihiyon; at tuldukan na ang mga giyera sa pagitan ng gobyerno at mga armadong grupo?</i>	100.00%	0.00%
<i>2. Sang-ayon po ba kayo na sariling wika natin ang gamitin at dito sa Pilipinas ituloy ang mga bukas, hayag, inklusibo at partisipatibong Usapang Pangkapayapaan (Peace Talks) -- pambansa man o lokal -- at nang matugunan na ang mga pangangailangan ayon mismo sa mga komunidad at batayang sektor ng lipunan?</i>	97.83%	2.17%

QUESTION	YES	NO
3. <i>Sang-ayon po ba kayo na itugma ang umiiral na mga batas sa mga kasunduan tungo sa Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran at Katatagan na hayagang mapagkakaisahan ng gobyerno; ng mga kinatawan ng gobyerno; ng mga armadong grupo; at ng Sambayanang Filipino?</i>	100.00%	0.00%

The results were encouraging and were thus proposed as the set of questions to be fielded as part of the Implementation Plan of Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan in the National Plan of the NTF ELCAC.

Refinement of Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan Implementation Plan

Upon the suggestion of Secretary Esperon, the implementation plan was "**refined**" independently of the activities of the NTF-ELCAC but within its working parameters particularly focused in mobilizing people for pro-active involvement and collective participation as a component of the Whole of Nation approach to ending the local communist armed conflict.

To get glimpses of the thrusts and direction as well as keep abreast of the developments of the NTF-ELCAC, the campaign Organizer joined Usapang Pangkapayapaan Usapang Pangkaunlaran (UP UP) Pilipinas, and online peace and development radio program of the Philippine Air Force and hosted by BGen Gerardo M. Zamudio, Jr. aired from Monday to Sunday, 5:00-6:00 pm, in 1134 khz DWDD (Armed Forces Radio) - Manila, 99.9 DWGV FM - Batangas, and 1134 khz DWGV AM - Pampanga. The program is a social as well as mainstream media platform of the NTF-ELCAC. NTF-ELCAC Spokesmen are regular guests of the program.

In response to the suggestion of Undersecretary Severo S. Catura, Executive Director of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights Secretariat and inputs gathered during live inter-action with guests of UP UP Pilipinas, the open referendum instrument was repackaged and the questions were reformulated along the thrusts of NTF-ELCAC.

The adopted call for action was, "An inclusive non-violent movement of the Filipino people to establish an era of a just, unifying, sustainable and lasting Peace."

The reformulated open referendum questions were fielded among participants to the following: DepEd NEU Luzon Cluster Assembly (July 23 to 25, 2019); DepEd NEU Visayas Cluster Assembly (August 28 to 29, 2019); DepEd NEU Mindanao Cluster Assembly;

The results are shown in Table No. 6.

Table No. 6
Results of Test Implementation Among Participants to
2023 DepEd NEU Cluster Assemblies

QUESTIONS	YES	NO	No Answer
1. <i>Sang-ayon po ba tayo na kailangan nating kilalanin at isulong ang mga Karapatan ng Bawat Bata (Rights of the Child) at Karapatan sa Kapayapaan (Right to Peace) ng Sambayanang Filipino alinsunod sa mga deklarasyon ng United Nations General Assembly?</i>	1,288	2	6
2. <i>Sang-ayon po ba tayo na dapat na nating tutulan at hadlangan ang terorismo at ang paggamit ng armas o karahasan para isulong ninuman ang kani-kanilang mga paniniwala, adhikain, ideolohiya o relihiyon?</i>	1,282	6	6
3. <i>Sang-ayon po ba tayong kailangan ang tulong at pagsang-ayon ng maaapektuhan at makikinabang na mga mamamayan sa pagtukoy, pagpapalano, at pagsasagawa ng mga proyekto at programa tungo sa hinahangad na Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran at Kasaganaan ng bawa't komunidad?</i>	1,281	5	10

The results were encouraging. A set of consensus-building questions that would deliver a clear message to the communist as well as other armed groups that the Filipino people does not support the armed revolution waged in their name had finally been formulated.

Moreover, 100% of the respondents committed:

*“Kung kakailanganin, **Laging Handa** po akong makikipag-**BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN** – sa abot ng aking kakayanan – sa pagtukoy, pagpapalano, at pagsasagawa ng mga proyekto at programa tulad ng edukasyon, kalusugan, pabahay, pagsugpo ng kahirapan, pagpapaunlad ng kabuhayan, pagpapalawak ng kooperatibismo, pagpapalakas ng kababaihan at iba pang mga makabuluhang serbisyo-publiko dito sa aming komunidad.*

*“Ipinahihintulot ko rin po na isama ang pangalan ko sa listahan ng mga Filipino na kumikilala at nagsusulong ng mga **Karapatan ng mga Bata***

*at ng indibidwal at kolektibong **Karapatan sa Kapayapaan ng Sambayanang Filipino** para isumite kay **President Rodrigo Roa Duterte** at ipaalam sa **United Nations General Assembly.**”*

DepEd NEU National Board of Trustees Resolution Urging DepEd Secretary to Renew DepEd Participation

On August 28, 2019, the National Board of Trustees adopted DepEd-NEU-NBOT Resolution No. 22, s. 2019 - “Resolution Urging Secretary **Leonor Magtolis - Briones** to Renew the Participation of the Department of Education to the Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan”.

It states:

“WHEREAS, the Department of Education’s commitment to the implementation of **Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan** is vital to instill nationalism and patriotism among the youth as well as openly and democratically support the national government’s national objective of ending all armed conflicts.

“Now, therefore, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that the DepEd-NEU National Board of Trustees (NBOT) requests Secretary Leonor Magtolis – Briones to issue a Department Memorandum to renew participation of the the Department of Education to the YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan.”

Submission of DepEd NEU Resolution to Renew DepEd Participation

On September 16, 2019, DepEd-NEU-NBOT Resolution No. 22, s. 2019 was submitted by Atty Alidon and Mr. Balawag to DepEd Secretary Briones copy furnished President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unification Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., and the Project Organizer. The letter stated:

“To address the concerns raised by former Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) Representative France Castro that the questions fielded through DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017 were too complicated for pupils and students, the consensus and constituency building questions have been reformulated. Notably, all three questions elicited a 100% response among participants who responded during... Cluster Assemblies. Thus, the new campaign instrument coupled with the proven distribution and retrieval system... could serve as a cost-effective and resource efficient means to establish a national consensus on how

to approach unpeace in our country and make our youth more resilient and less vulnerable to recruitment of organizations pushing for the overthrow the duly constituted government. xxx

“We look forward to the lifting of the suspension of and the renewal of DepEd’s participation in our campaign that we believe will reinforce Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Carlito G. Galvez’ statement during the opening of this year’s peace month, “Our journey to long-lasting and enduring peace had been nothing but inspirational.” which he says, “... comes from our common aspiration of achieving peaceful, progressive and resilient communities by banking on our nation’s greatest resource – our people.”

SEC Registration of YES FOR PEACE INC.

In September 2019, Secretary Esperon advised the representatives of Yes for Peace to organize and register a not for profit non-government organization with the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish a juridical entity to manage and coordinate the campaign.

The Securities and Exchange Commission approved the issuance of Company Reg. No. CN201955419 to YES FOR PEACE INC. On September 27, 2019 with the following purposes:

1. “To advocate for the permanent cessation of internal armed conflicts to enable the government to shift and allocate billions of pesos wasted in the internal armed conflicts to education, health, housing, eradication of poverty, cooperative development, empowerment of women and other public services.
2. “To encourage people to document and stand by their stand to reject the use of arms and violence in the pursuit of anyone’s beliefs, ideology and religion.
3. “To push for participative and inclusive peace talks (national and/or local) here in the Philippines instead of abroad to enable all sectors, as well as legislators, to participate in crafting, approving and implementing peace agreements.
4. “To initiate activities leading to the declaration of Schools, Barangays, Municipalities, Cities, Provinces, Regions and eventually, the Philippines as Yes for Peace Zones.”

The term of the corporation is fifty (50) years.

The Incorporators of YES FOR PEACE, INC. are:

1. Ernesto Angeles Alcanzare
2. Mama Simba Lalanto, al Haj
3. Fortunato Gatdula Guerrero
4. Leizel P. Lagrada Rombaua
5. Salvador Rola Villasis
6. Norudin Adam Abdula
7. Rodrick Marcaida de Ocampo
8. Jeremias Cayetano Zapata, Jr.
9. Al Ignaciel Zambrano Redondo
10. Domingo Ballais Alidon
11. Alpha Copada Damariñas

Renewal of DepEd Participation Held in Abeyance Due to Anonymous Allegations

The renewal of the participation of DepEd in the campaign was held in abeyance due to anonymous allegations that the campaign was being used for unallowed fund raising activities.

Unfounded and Grossly Unfair Allegations Refuted

On November 4, 2019, Atty. Alidon, President of DepEd NEU wrote to President Duterte:

“In behalf of the officers and members of the Department of Education – National Employees’ Union, I am writing to express our deep concern on unfounded and grossly unfair allegations that **Yes for Peace** has been has been name dropping to solicit funds and hijack the efforts of the **NTF-ELCAC**, acts that have never even crossed our minds. The truth is, **Yes for Peace** is a non-government initiated peace education and advocacy campaign that has been supported and implemented by the Department of Education; the Philippine Postal Corporation; the National Printing Office; the Philippine Information Agency; the Alpha Phi Omega International Philippines, Inc.; The Boy Scouts of the Philippines; and the Girl Scouts of the Philippines as far back as 1996 upon the endorsement of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Manuel T. Yan.

“All through the years that the **DepEd NEU** has been actively involved in developing Yes for Peace since an Inter-Agency Memorandum of

Undertaking was entered into in December 2002 (please see attached), we have never experienced nor even heard of any solicitation of funds initiated by its proponents albeit campaign materials and services were contributed by participating institutions in the spirit of **Bayanihan** or proactive involvement and collection participation. This can be attested to and validated by Memoranda (please see attached) for its implementation issued by practically all Secretaries from **Ricardo T. Gloria** in 1995 up to **Leonor Matolis – Briones** in 2017. Unfortunately, **France Castro** of the **Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT)** prevailed upon Secretary Briones to suspend its implementation supposedly because teachers have complained that they were being pressured to shoulder the reproduction of campaign materials, an allegation that is likewise untrue.

“We hope that this humble letter will help put matters into its proper perspective so that we can help establish a national consensus to support your goal of ending the armed conflicts within your term.”

National Policy Framework on Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace

On November 11, 2019, DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones issued DepEd Order No. 032, s. 2019, “*National Policy Framework on Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace*”. The framework states:

“C. Zones of Peace

“Learners as Zones of Peace means that (a) their human rights are fully recognized and respected even in situations of armed conflict, and (b) in the exercise of their rights, they actively participate and contribute to building a culture of peace, in the school, community and country.
xxx

“Schools as Zones of Peace means that:

- a. “Schools are recognized as effective instruments in building a culture of peace. Individually, schools working closely with their respective communities shall serve as centers from which the culture of peace shall emanate outward, reaching out to adjacent schools and communities.
- b. “Schools are an integral part of a peaceful and secure environment conducive to effective teaching and learning, which is realized through the collective peacebuilding efforts of all stakeholders. Schools shall be recognized and respected as places for learning, caring and nurturing – a true second home for the learners, where children can receive utmost peace and security.
xxx

“D. Building Blocks

“Education for Peace, Peace for Education, and Crisis Management... are activities and strategies that the Department must undertake while being guided by the principles enumerated in this Policy Framework.

“Education for Peace

“This component recognizes education as an essential tool for building and sustaining a culture of peace, and is a concrete manifestation of the Department’s contributions to securing a just and lasting peace. The implementation of the following strategies, especially in conflict-vulnerable and conflict-affected areas, shall thus be strengthened.

- a. “Peace Education. The Curriculum and Instruction (CI) Strand and the Curriculum and Learning Management Divisions shall lead and support schools in providing transformative education which promotes a culture of peace.

“It entails providing an enabling environment for infusing peace-promoting values, skills and attitudes into the whole life of the school. To be effective, peace education shall be implemented through encompassing all the learning areas, engaging all members of the school community (learners, teachers, other school personnel), and the wider community (local government units, parents, etc.).

“More specifically, peace education shall involve the following:

- “Integration of peace concepts and values in the curriculum;
- “Adoption of cooperative/dialogical teaching-learning methods;
- “Implementation of peace-promoting co-curricular programs;
- “Contextualization and use teaching-learning resources on peace;
- “Enrichment programs for school personnel on peace and conflict resolution; and
- “Creation of peacebuilding programs involving parents and build/sustain participative structures and caring relationships among the school, families and the community.

“Peace concepts and values that promote a culture of peace may include: spirituality, human rights, non-violence, social justice, inter-faith and inter-cultural solidarity, respect for diversity, common humanity, oneness with nature, and human security; critical thinking, conflict resolution, conflict management and transformation skills; and the attitude of caring, empathy, compassion, and non-discrimination, shall be emphasized.

- b. “Conflict-sensitive Education. All DepEd offices and schools, supported by the CI Strand, Planning Service, and the DRRMS and their respective field officers, shall provide educational services which do no harm.

“More specifically, education policies, programs and services especially in conflict-vulnerable and conflict-affected areas shall be informed by adequate conflict analysis that provides a clear understanding of the context of social conflict prevailing in the areas where they operate, and shall be designed accordingly to minimize their negative impacts, i.e., does not exacerbate the conflict, and maximize the positive impacts in said areas.

“Conflict sensitivity shall be applied to all aspects of the educational system. Among the measures to be undertaken include, but are not limited to, the following:

- “Creation and use of processes, policies, plans and programs, activities, as well as teaching-learning resources and lessons that are free of cultural, religious and gender stereotypes, and are not intended for recruitment by armed groups; xxx
- Conduct of school- and/or student-led conflict analysis as part of school-level planning and linked to Barangay and LGU plans;
- Involvement of learners and diverse social groups in key processes such as policy making, planning, program implementation, monitoring and evaluation, research; and
- Ensuring access of all types of learners to safe learning environment and learning resources. xxx

2. “Peace for Education

“A peaceful and secure environment is deemed essential to school participation and effective teaching and learning. The creation and maintenance of said environment through peacebuilding efforts are recognized as a shared responsibility of all stakeholders to include DepEd at all levels, other

government agencies, LGUs, private sector, civil society, the learners and their families/clans/ethnolinguistic groups, among others.

“For its part, DepEd Regional and Division Offices, together with the schools, shall undertake the following especially in conflict-vulnerable and conflict-affected areas:

- a. “Consult, coordinate with, and capacitate concerned organizations, institutions, and community-recognized groups to ensure that peacebuilding efforts take into account the attainment of education outcomes.
- b. “DepEd regional offices, divisions, and schools shall strengthen their linkages with various mechanisms – government (e.g. LGUs and inter-agency bodies) and community groups (e.g. council of elders and religious leaders) – that are mandated and recognized and respected as authorities or leaders in preventing and resolving conflicts. DepEd shall work with these groups to come up with appropriate and effective measures to ensure the protection of learners and schools as zones of peace. These efforts may include the following:
 - “Forging of an agreement or code of conduct among community stakeholders to respect Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace.” xxx

Effects of Covid-19

While the results of pre-tests were encouraging, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country in February 2020. Face-to-face classes were suspended. Thus, the implementation of the YfP-BB campaign through public and private elementary and high schools was no longer doable.

Alternative cost effective and resource efficient means of generating responses through the educational modules of DepEd and the Barangays have been suggested to the spokespersons of NTF-ELCAC through UP UP Pilipinas.

Refinement of Open Referendum Tool

Alongside the development of alternative systems, the open referendum tool was further refined to raise public awareness on Indigenous People’s Rights.

The adopted call for action was, “An initiative to verifiably document a national consensus against terrorism and mobilize the Filipino people’s pro-active involvement and collective participation for the Whole of Nation approach to establish an era of a just, unifying, sustainable and lasting Peace, Progress and Prosperity through Good Governance.”

The new set of questions was launched on 10 December 2020 in celebration of the International Human Rights Day at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, to wit:

1. *Kailangan bang alamin, itaguyod at isabuhay ang mga **Karapatang Pantao** (Human Rights); ang mga at ang **Karapatan sa Kapayapaan** (Right to Peace) alinsunod sa mga deklarasyon ng **United Nations’ General Assembly** at ang mga **Karapatan ng Katutubo** (Indigenous People’s Rights) ayon sa RA No. 8371 ng Republika ng Pilipinas?*
2. *Kailangan bang tutulan, hadlangan at labanan ang pagsusulong at paggamit ng armas, karahasan o terorismo para isulong at ipagpilitan ninuman ang mga paniniwala, adhikain, ideolohiya o relihiyon?*
3. *Kailangan ba ang pagsang-ayon, pakikipagtulungan at partisipasyon ng mga maaapektuhan at makikinabang na mga mamamayan sa pagtukoy, pagpapalano, at pagsasagawa ng mga proyekto at programa tungo sa hinahangad na Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran at Kasaganaan ng bawa’t komunidad?”*

Responses of AFP Personnel

The questionnaires were fielded among units of the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force through a Directive issued by the Department of National Defense.

Also, personnel of the National Security Council responded to the open referendum

The responses are summarized in Table No. 7:

Table No. 7

Results of Test Implementation Among Units of the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force and the National Security Council

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. <i>Kailangan bang alamin, itaguyod at isabuhay ang mga Karapatang Pantao (Human Rights); ang mga at ang Karapatan sa Kapayapaan (Right to Peace) alinsunod sa mga deklarasyon ng United Nations' General Assembly at ang mga Karapatan ng Katutubo (Indigenous People's Rights) ayon sa RA No. 8371 ng Republika ng Pilipinas?</i>	100%	0%
2. <i>Kailangan bang tutulan, hadlangan at labanan ang pagsusulong at paggamit ng armas, karahasan o terorismo para isulong at ipagpilitan ninuman ang mga paniniwala, adhikain, ideolohiya o relihiyon?</i>	100%	0%
3. <i>Kailangan ba ang pagsang-ayon, pakikipagtulungan at partisipasyon ng mga maaapektuhan at makikinabang na mga mamamayan sa pagtukoy, pagpapalano, at pagsasagawa ng mga proyekto at programa tungo sa hinahangad na Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran at Kasaganaan ng bawâ't komunidad?</i>	100%	0%

Just like the previous set of questions, this can very well be used to establish UNITY among the people by documenting a national consensus.

In the meantime, through UP UP Pilipinas, among other media platforms, the spokespersons of the NTF-ELCAC were focused in identifying and exposing the front organizations of the CPP-NPA-NDF that were used for the recruitment of the youth to the NPA. They also actively called for people participation in the Whole of Nation approach to end the local communist armed conflict.

The implementation of the campaign was held at bay because of the pandemic.

Query on Status of Jose Ma. Sison in The Netherlands

On June 22, 2021, a letter on the status of Jose Ma. Sison in The Netherlands was sent to Ambassador Saskia de Lang regarding the alleged asylum and residence permit of Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands.

Reply on Query on Status of Jose Ma. Sison in The Netherlands

On July 26, 2021, Ambassador de Lang replied. She stated, "Your organization's advocacy to promote lasting peace in the Philippines is commendable, especially when done through non-violent means. Your organization's advocacy to promote lasting peace in the Philippines is commendable, especially when done through non-violent means."

She then declared, “Mr. Jose Maria Sison has never been granted asylum, nor has he been given a residence permit in the Netherlands. These matters have been subject to years of legal battle. Competent administrative and judicial authorities in the Netherlands have adjudged that expelling and forcibly returning him are contrary to international law obligations (i.e., non-refoulement) under the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to Status of Refugees and Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ("the ECHR").”

Comments and/or Suggestions of DepEd Bureau of Curriculum Development on YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan

On July 29, 2021, Jocelyn DR Andaya, Director IV of the Bureau of Curriculum Development of DepEd wrote a Memorandum for Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo, Undersecretary for Field Operations and Josefina B. Mariano in reply to a request of Usec Escobedo “to review on the *Letter* of Yes for Peace, Inc., relative to their request issuance of a DepEd Memorandum, for their campaign activity in support of the National Peace Consciousness Month this September 2021

The comments and/or recommendations of the Bureau are shown in Table No. 8:

Table No. 8
Comments and/or Recommendations of the Bureau of Curriculum Development, DepEd

<i>Provisions in the Letter</i>		<i>Inputs</i>
1. Paragraph no. 8 – on proposal to include a questionnaire in the SLMs for Araling Panlipunan (AP) and Edukasyon Pagpapakatao (EP)	To inculcate the <i>Bayanihan</i> spirit and minimize the possibility of the youth being recruited into armed terrorist groups <i>Araling Panlipunan (AP) / Social Studies and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP) / Values Education (VE)</i> teacher incorporate the Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan questionnaire into the Self-Learning Modules.	The Department of Education is adamant about protecting its students and employees from all forms of violence, including involvement, recruitment, and participation in armed groups. The National Policy Framework on Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace (DO No. 32, s. 2019) and the Policy Guidelines on the implementation of the K to 12 Basic Education

Provisions in the Letter		Inputs
		<p>Program (DO No. 21, s. 2019) guide us that any orientation given to learners at any grade level with the goal of deepening their knowledge and understanding of social issues related to insurgency and anti-terrorism is best done within the context of peace education integrated into the K to 12 curriculum and in accordance with the pedagogical approaches that are relevant, -age and developmentally appropriate to learners.</p> <p>A list of essential ideas and messages to be incorporated / integrated in the Araling Panlipunan and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao topics subject to BCD and BLD compliance evaluation should be included in the proposal. Since SLMs have already been created, teachers may include the important concepts and messages into their daily lesson plans, which will be reviewed by their individual Head Teachers to verify that the integration is acceptable.</p>
2. Paragraph no. 10 – on the proposed retrieval of the questionnaire with the SLMs from the learners/parents.	Accomplished Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan questionnaires shall be retrieved together with Self-Learning Modules from learners/parents.	SLMs are retrieved according to a timetable set by the school principals. To coordinate the distribution and

Provisions in the Letter		Inputs
		<p>retrieval of questionnaires, a written communication should be supplied.</p> <p>There will be no tarpaulins, brochures, or other activity other than the delivery and retrieval of questionnaires to the learners/parents.</p>
<p>3. Paragraph no. 11 – on the proposed Activity Report to be prepared by the subject teachers to be submitted to the principal;</p>	<p>The enclosed Campaign Activities shall be undertaken to support the celebration of National Peace Consciousness Month in September 2021 or as may be agreed upon by the regional directors (RDs); schools division superintendents (SDSs); district supervisors (PSDSs) and School Principals. Brief Activity Reports shall be prepared by <i>Araling Panlipunan</i> (AP) / <i>Social Studies</i> and <i>Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao</i> (EsP) / <i>Values Education</i> (VE) teachers and submitted to school principals.</p>	<p>Participation of public shall be subject to the no-disruption-of-classes policy in DepEd Order no. 9, s. 2005 entitled <i>Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith</i> and the policy on off-campus activities stated in DepEd Order No. 66, s. 2017 entitled <i>Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Off-campus activities</i>.</p> <p>Teachers' IDLARS may be supplemented by brief reports.</p>
<p>4. Paragraph no. 13 – on the proposed instruction to Bureau Directors, RDs, SDSs and supervisors to oversee the participation of their personnel in the Yes for Peace activity and to be included in the Activity Report SY 21-22</p>	<p>The Bureau Directors, RDs, SDSs and PSDSs shall oversee the participation of their personnel under their jurisdiction during the campaign. Participation in the Yes for Peace – <i>Bayanihan ng Bayan</i> shall be included in the Activity Reports for School Year 2021-2022.</p>	<p>Participation in all activities done by the Department of Education, at all levels of governance, is strongly encouraged. Personnel participation may be monitored using their IDLARS and corresponding MOVs.</p>

Consolidated Comments on Request for Endorsement for the “Yes for Peace, Bayanihan ng Bayan”

On September 6, 2021, DepEd Undersecretary for Field Operations Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo issued a Memorandum to Atty. Domingo B. Alidon:

“This has reference to the request for the issuance of a Department of Education (DepEd) Memorandum for the “Yes for Peace – *Bayanihan ng Bayan*”, a peace advocacy campaign to imbibe the spirit of *bayanihan* and to encourage non-violence among the youth.

“In connection thereto, this office has requested the Bureau of Curriculum Development (BCD) and the Policy Research Development Division (PRDD) through the Publications Division to submit their review and comments on the draft Memorandum proposed by the YES FOR PEACE Movement.

“Their comments and recommendations are as follows:

1. “The proposed activity/initiative requires coordination with the concerned DepEd office and other government agencies. Specifically, it is recommended that coordination be made with the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRMMS), in its capacity as the focal office for the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) as the data collected will be used in the declaration of the “Yes for Peace Zones”.
2. “As to the proposal to include the questionnaires in the SLMs for *Araling Panlipunan (AP)* and *Edukasyon sa Pagkatao/Values Education*:
 - a. “Prior evaluation of the Bureau of Curriculum Development and the Bureau of Learning Development (BLD) of the questionnaires is strongly recommended. Taking into account that the value of *bayanihan* and inculcates non-violence in our learners by providing deep knowledge and understanding of social issues related to insurgency and anti-terrorism. The Department maintains that these lessons should be made within the context of peace education integrated into the K to 12 curriculums through the pedagogical approaches that are relevant, age and developmentally appropriate to learners.

“In addition, the DepEd is guided by the National Policy Framework on Learning and Schools as Zones of Peace and

the Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of the K to 12 Basic Education Program in crafting its SLMs. Hence, our teachers may include the important and messages into their daily lesson plans, which will be reviewed by their individual Head Teachers to verify if the incorporation is acceptable

- b. “A written communication is recommended to be submitted to the school principals for proper coordination in the distribution and retrieval of the questionnaires, since the school principals are tasked to create a time table within which the SLMs are retrieved from the learners/parents

“Likewise, it is recommended that no tarpaulins, brochures, or other activities be made during the distribution and retrieval of the questionnaires.

- c. “Moreover, the proposed reproduction and dissemination of the questionnaires, and its tabulation imposes additional workload to our already overtaxed teaching personnel.
3. “In addition, the personal information of minors collected in the questionnaires require prior review from the concerned government agency or Data Privacy Officer sought to ensure compliance with the Data Privacy Act (DPA) and other pertinent laws, policies, especially Rules IV-VI of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the DPA.
 4. “The participation of the subject teachers and their submission of an Activity Report in relation to the proposed campaign activities undertaken in celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Month require strict observance of the DepEd policies on non-disruption of classes and off-campus activities.
 5. “Further, a clear explanation is requested from the proponent on the use of data collected. Elaboration on the link between answering the survey and the inculcation of the *bayanihan* spirit and prevention of youth recruitment into armed groups are necessary to be made not only for DepEd, but more so to the potential respondents.
 6. “Lastly, consideration is requested on the financial aspect for the reproduction of the questionnaires as the activity/initiative proposed by the YES for Peace is not part of the approved budget of schools. As such, administrative cost for the deployment and

tabulation of the questionnaires may be cumbersome for the schools.

“This Office respectfully submits the above-mentioned comments and recommendations for your favorable consideration.”

The foregoing comments and recommendations have been considered in rewriting the proposed DepEd Memorandum.

Creation of OPAPRU (Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity)

On December 27, 2021, PRRD issued Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021, “Strengthening the Policy Framework on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, and Reorganizing the Government’s Administrative Structure for the Purpose”

It states:

“**WHEREAS**, the attainment of a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace, under the rule of law and in accordance with constitutional processes, is one of the primordial goals of the State in order to build a just, humane and progressive society.

“**WHEREAS**, a just, comprehensive and enduring peace requires not merely the end of internal armed conflicts, but more importantly, the resolution of the root causes of armed conflicts and social unrest, and the transformation of Philippine society to one characterized by justice, equity, tolerance, harmonious pluralism, and full respect for human rights; xxx

xxx “**WHEREAS**, to more effectively build on the achievements of the National Government on peacebuilding engagements over the last decade, there is a need to continually reassess and realign how policies and programs on peace processes are designed, implemented and monitored, and expand the framework on peace to include initiatives that reinforce national reunification and reconciliation, as part of enhancing resiliency, and social, political and economic reengineering;”

xxx “**Section 1. Policy Framework on Peace Reconciliation and Unity.** The framework for the implementation, coordination, integration, monitoring and evaluation of all government peace initiatives on the peace process, reconciliation and unity shall be guided by the following:

- a. “PRINCIPLES. The Comprehensive Peace Process shall be:

- i. *“Conflict-sensitive and peace-promoting.* It shall address the drivers and root causes of the conflict. Peacebuilding interventions, programs and activities shall consolidate peaceful relations and strengthen viable political, socio-economic and cultural institutions to be capable of handling conflict, and enhance the capacity of other mechanisms to create or support the necessary conditions for sustained peace;
 - ii. *“Whole of Society.* There shall be continuing consultations, engagements and dialogues on both national and local levels to build consensus for a whole-of-society peace agenda; and
 - iii. *“Empowering.* The government shall mobilize and facilitate the people’s meaningful participation, especially in the vulnerable groups, towards social healing and reconciliation;
- b. **“OBJECTIVES.** The goals and strategies of the Comprehensive Peace Process shall be anchored on:
- i. *“Embedding Peace, Reconciliation and Unity in the Social Fabric.* There shall be direct and meaningful engagements with the rebel groups and the affected communities at the grass-roots level in order to reach a peaceful settlement, and achieve a more permanent resolution to conflict. Peacebuilding initiatives shall: (1) address the legal status and security of former rebels; (2) ensure the protection of non-combatants and reduce the impact of the armed conflict in affected communities; (3) provide for community-based assistance services that cater to the economic, social and psychological rehabilitation needs of former rebels, demobilized combatants, and civilian victims of the internal armed conflicts, especially women and children.
 - ii. *“Enhancing Resilience for Peace.* Peace agreements shall be strictly implemented, and the enabling environment necessary to realize their goals shall be actively pursued. Peace advocacy and education programs, and the implementation of various confidence-building, healing and reconciliation measures to improve relationships of trust within divided and broken communities, and between citizens and their government institutions, will be at the core of peacebuilding strategies; and (Underscoring ours)

- iii. *“Social, Economic and Political Reengineering. There shall be government initiatives and mobilization of different sectors of society in addressing the root causes of the armed conflicts and social unrest through the passage and implementation of key social, economic and political reforms requiring administrative action, new legislation or conditional amendments.” (Underscoring ours)*

**Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan in the Approved (SECRET)
National Plan National End the Local Communist Armed Conflict**

On April 1, 2022, a copy of the National Plan National End the Local Communist Armed Conflict submitted to and approved by President Duterte was provided to the campaign organizer by the NTF-ELCAC by e-mail.

The approved Road Map and Implementation Plan were thereby revisited and refined to optimize its impact through the most cost effective and resource efficient action plan to arouse, organize and mobilize direct people participation in the Whole-of-Nation approach to end the local communist armed conflict.

It was fine-tuned with due consideration of the plans of the other eleven (11) NTF-ELCAC clusters as well as the principles and objectives stipulated in EO No. 168, s. 2021.

The primary concern was how to arouse, mobilize and organize the pro-active involvement and collective participation of the people in the process of ending not only the armed conflicts of the government with the local communists but also those with other self-proclaimed armed revolutionary groups.

Basically, the refinement of the campaign revolved upon the involvement of the whole government and the people to attain an era of a just, inclusive, sustainable and lasting peace. According to the implementation plan, each government agency shall contribute in accordance with its functions to ensure the most cost-effective and resource efficient means of holistically addressing the identified needs of the people as the means to bring about good governance.

Moreover, the campaign’s people-centered Road Map to Unity and its Implementation Plan with five (5) thematic areas – Arouse, Organize, Mobilize, Governance and Charter Change – was refined and aligned with the **United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** which states:

“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access and justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Submission of Status Report to PRRD

On May 18, 2022, the President and CEO of Yes for Peace, Inc. submitted a 27-page Status Report of the campaign since its inception in 1988. The letter stated:

“Inasmuch as **15,000,000** Filipinos, 10 years and older, have responded to the open referendum of the campaign to end the armed conflicts and armed groups, we believe that it can be a cost effective and resource efficient means to arouse, organize and mobilize people participation in the Whole-of-Nation approach stipulated in Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018.

“To help encourage the pro-active involvement and collective participation of the Filipino people in **Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan**, we are respectfully requesting you to answer the attached questionnaire; issue a brief message on the campaign; and openly declare your call to action for the people to take part in one of your Talk to the People sessions.”

Of the three requests, PRRD granted one. He gave a brief message on the campaign.

Second Message of PRRD on Yes for Peace

On June 16, 2022, fifteen (15) days before the end of his term, PRRD wrote:

“My warmest greetings to the men and women of the **Yes for Peace, Incorporated** as you pursue the **Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan Campaign**.

“Since the start of this administration, we have been firm in our desire and mandate to end internal armed conflicts. Our relevant agencies and other key stakeholders have worked collectively to build on the peace that we have achieved over the past decades.

“I thus recognize and laud the significant impact the Yes for Peace Campaign has made since its creation. Your efforts to engage our people in our pursuit of peace truly need the continued participation, organization, and mobilization of individuals and groups alike, for us to realize the freedom that that we all strive for. (*Underscoring ours*)

“As we transition into a new leadership, I call upon the Filipino people to take proactive involvement in our response to national concerns, and endeavor towards the much-needed unity of our beloved Philippines. May we all continue to work harmoniously towards a more just and free society, especially for future generations.” (*Underscoring ours*)

Number of Responses to Yes for Peace during PRRD Administration

Despite the suspension of the implementation of DepEd Memorandum No. 66, s. 2017, **1,237,780** responses to the campaign were generated during the administration of PRRD.