

**GLORIA MACAPAGAL – ARROYO Administration
(2001 - 2010)**

HISTORICAL NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Letter for DECS Secretary

On February 16, 2001, the Project Organizer wrote to DECS Secretary **Raul S. Roco**:

“Congratulations for having been selected to head the Department of Education, Culture and Sports – the institution that provides the foundations for our values as a nation.

“As you may have noted, the need to mobilize a national consensus for peace and unification is once again urgent. While President Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo has consistently called for ‘healing’ and ‘building’ the nation, divisiveness has apparently become the order of the day. Moreover, the ugly head of violence is again rearing its head beneath the peaceful nature of the Filipino people that was once again exhibited in EDSA. xxx

“In this regard, may we humbly request for a few minutes of your precious time to discuss with you the merits of the campaign and how this can be an instrument in transforming students – with the pro-active participation of DECS under your dynamic leadership – into modern day heroes who will lead this nation to our shared vision of an era of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.”

The letter was received by received by Mr. **Franklin Ramirez**. No reply nor acknowledgement was received from Secretary Roco.

Executive Order No. 3, s. 2001

On February 28, 2001, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 3, “Defining Policy and Administrative Structure for Government’s Comprehensive Peace Efforts”.

Among its premises are the following:

“WHEREAS, a just, comprehensive and lasting peace requires not merely the end of armed conflicts, but just as importantly the resolution of root causes of the armed conflicts and social unrest, transformation of Philippine society to one characterized by justice, equity, tolerance, harmonious pluralism, and full respect for human rights;...
(*Underscoring ours*)

‘WHEREAS, there is a need to further enhance the contribution of civil society to the comprehensive peace process by institutionalizing the people’s participation.’ (*Underscoring ours*)

EO No. 3, s. 2001 reiterated the Three Principles of the Comprehensive Peace Process and the Six Paths to Peace stipulated in Executive No. 125, s. 1993 upon which the campaign was anchored, to wit:

1. “PURSUIT OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS. It involves the vigorous implementation of various policies, reforms, programs, and projects aimed at addressing the root causes of internal armed conflicts and social unrest. This may require administrative action, new legislation, or even constitutional amendments.
2. “CONSENSUS-BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT FOR PEACE. It includes continuing consultations on both national and local levels to build consensus for a peace agenda and process, and the mobilization and facilitation of people’s participation in the peace process.
3. “PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH THE DIFFERENT REBEL GROUPS. It involves the conduct of face-to-face negotiations to reach peaceful settlement with the different rebel groups. It also involves the effective implementation of peace agreements.
4. “PROGRAMS FOR RECONCILIATION, REINTEGRATION INTO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY AND REHABILITATION. It includes programs to address the legal status and security of former rebels, as well as community-based assistance programs, to address the economic, social, and psychological rehabilitation needs of former rebels, demobilized combatants, and civilian victims of the internal armed conflicts.
5. “ADDRESSING CONCERNS ARISING FROM CONTINUING ARMED HOSTILITIES. It involves the strict implementation of laws and policy guidelines, and the institution of programs to ensure the protection of non-combatants and reduce the impact of the armed conflict on communities found in conflict areas.
6. “BUILDING AND NURTURING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO PEACE. It includes peace advocacy and peace education programs, and the implementation of various confidence-building measures.”

Therefore, the campaign moved on banking on the foregoing and her statement in her letter dated January 09, 1995 to the Project Organizer, “Rest assured that I would always be supportive of this worthy cause that you seek to propagate.”

Open and Multi-Lateral Forum

On March 2, 2001, an Open and Multi-lateral Forum on DiYES FOR PEACE was held at the Benitez Hall, College of Education in the University of the Philippines - Diliman.

For the first time since the campaign was initiated in 1988, the Project Organizer extensively discussed the campaign in public by answering frequently asked questions, to wit:

1. “What is **DiYES for PEACE**?”

“**DiYES for PEACE** is a participatory (*Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan*) peace education and advocacy campaign - to bring to the national consciousness an existing yet unexpressed people’s consciousness on peace - conceptualized by students of the University of the Philippines System on 16 December 1988. It seeks to solicit the responses of at least **10 Million** Filipinos to **10** questions touching on different forms of violence - physical, psychological, socio-economic, environmental and political. It also aims to build a database of a constituency for a culture of peace and non-violence.

“It was developed and test-implemented during the “Decade of Peace” - 1990 to 2000 - declared by then President Corazon C. Aquino. It was incorporated into the 5-Year (1997-2001) Master Plan for Peace and Order as one of the causes of insurgency and was test-implemented during the incumbency of President Fidel V. Ramos.

“Resolutions unconditionally supporting the campaign have been adopted by two successive Committee(s) on People’s Participation - 9th and 10th Congress - of the House of Representatives and filed by the incumbent Chairman of the Senate Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation.

2. “Who can participate in the **DiYES for PEACE** campaign?”

“All Filipinos - **10** years and older - can participate.

3. “How does **DiYES for PEACE** differ from other actions and call for Peace?”

“First, **DiYES for PEACE**, is a non-discriminatory and non-partisan direct people’s action that will not require the physical mobilization of people. Nevertheless, it will empower those who wish to be part of enriching the democratic processes but cannot afford to absent themselves from work and classes to join rallies and other forms of traditional mass actions to likewise be heard and therefore participate in the peace, unification and reconciliation process.

“Second, institutions and individuals from all conflicting forces have participated in the development process of **DiYES for PEACE**.”

4. *“Why do we need **DiYES for PEACE**?”*

“Wars of Filipinos against Filipinos have long been waged in the name of the Filipino people - it is the duty of the government and military to protect our sovereignty; the MILF are fighting for the right of Muslims to live according to their faith; the NDFP-CPP-NPA are struggling for the rights of the Filipino people, etc. Unfortunately, the supposed beneficiaries - the Filipino people - have long borne the huge costs and suffered the consequences of these wars!

“Therefore, there was a need for the Filipino people to categorically state their rejection of the use of violence as a means to protect, fight and struggle for nation’s interests even before the nation was divided and polarized by the events that that forced impeached President Joseph Ejercito Estrada - charged by the House of Representatives of Bribery; Graft and Corruption; Betrayal of Public Trust; and Culpable Violation of the Constitution before the Senate which acted as an impeachment court - to leave Malacañang.

“After People Power II – triggered by the walk out of public and private prosecutors of the impeachment trial because of what was alleged to be a blatant collusion of eleven (11) Senators to keep the truth from the people – snowballed and became irreversible, the Armed Forces of the Philippines withdrew its support for the popularly convicted President; the Philippine National Police vowed to protect the people’s welfare; a number of Cabinet Members publicly declared their resignation; some of the eleven (11) Senators extended their hands of reconciliation; the Supreme Court resolved to allow Chief Justice Hilario S. Davide, Jr. to administer the oath to act as President of the Republic of the Philippines on Vice-President Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo at noon of 20 January 2001; and finally, impeached President Estrada left Malacañang without resigning!

5. *“Why do we need **DiYES for PEACE** now?”*

“On one hand, President Arroyo, in her Inaugural Speech stressed that, “This is a time to heal.” And “This is a time to Build.” a nation that was divided by the process of popularly but peacefully forcing a President to step down from office. She also assured the nation that justice will be served through the existing judicial system.

“On the other hand, President Estrada declared in his signed statement issued before leaving Malacañang that he does not want to be a stumbling block to the national healing process even as he expressed his doubts on the constitutionality of his ouster from office.

6. *“How will **DiYES for PEACE** be implemented?”*

“DiYES for PEACE will primarily be implemented through the formal educational system supplemented by a tri-media information campaign.

“Campaign forms and materials donated by peace loving institutions and individuals shall be delivered to elementary and high schools – private and public – throughout the country by the Philippine Postal Corporation. Guidance Counselors and/or peace and values education teachers will ask students from 4th to 10th grade – to each answer a campaign form. Students will then be tasked to solicit the responses of their parents and other persons residing with them.

7. *“How will **DiYES for PEACE** responses be processed and used?”*

“Solicited responses shall be tabulated at classroom level and summarized at school level. Responses and summaries shall be accepted as official mail – postage free – in all offices for delivery to the Office of the Postmaster General. The **10 Million** or more responses to the **DiYES for PEACE** will be data based with the end view of publicly announcing the results.

“Leaders of all contending forces will be asked to seriously consider – as an earnest proof that they are indeed protecting, fighting and struggling for the interests of the Filipino people – the results of the campaign as the framework for open and multi-lateral peace negotiations that may be held in any campus of the University of the Philippines System and facilitated / mediated by representatives of Civil Society who are acceptable to all parties to the conflicts.

8. *“How significant can the process be in the International Community”*

“The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared the period 2001 to 2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World” in response to an appeal from Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. Its Member States, including the Philippines, are invited ‘to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and nonviolence is taught at all levels of their respective societies, including in educational institutions’.

“It can serve as the Philippines’ concrete contribution – in addition to People Power – to the **Global Movement for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence**. Moreover, its successful implementation can be used as a model to ‘ensure the transition of a culture of war, of violence and of discrimination to a culture of peace, of non-violence, of dialogue and of solidarity.

9. *“What is expected from those who will support and participate in the process?”*

“It is expected that they will help pave the path towards an enduring and just peace by living in accordance with our collective answers to the **10** questions. It is envisioned that the positive results of the campaign will encourage them to be more pro-active in the identification and implementation of sustainable development programs.

10. *“How can peace-loving Filipinos help?”*

“By discussing, exploring, agreeing and doing with relatives, neighbors, friends and classmates whatever you can – individually as well as collectively – afford to do to **‘Heal the Nation’**. **DiYES for PEACE** can serve as an initial step to inculcate upon all Filipinos the importance of direct people’s participation in identifying, planning and implementing programs and projects to **“Build the Nation”**.

The Project Organizer then recognized and appreciated the participating Institutions that have helped in developing the campaign since it was conceptualized in 1988:

- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- University of the Philippines System
- Department of Education, Culture and Sports
- Department of Interior and Local Government
- Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
- Philippine Postal Corporation
- National Social Action Council
- National Peace Conference
- National Peace and Order Council
- National Youth Commission
- Coalition for Peace
- Philippine Information Agency
- Commission on Higher Education
- Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
- Girl Scouts of the Philippines
- Boy Scouts of the Philippines
- Land Bank of the Philippines
- Philippine Guidance Counselling Association, Inc.
- UP College of Education’
- Armed Forces of the Philippines
- Philippine National Police
- Veterans Federation of the Philippines – Sons and Daughters Association, Inc.
- Foundation for Local Autonomy and Good Governance, Inc.
- UP Vanguard Fraternity
- Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity
- Epsilon Chi Fraternity
- Pan Xenia Fraternity
- Pi Sigma Fraternity

The questions were reformulated in accordance with UN Resolution 53/243 - Declaration on a Culture of Peace in lieu of the International Declaration on Human Rights and the 1987 Constitution.

Table No. 9 shows the DiYES FOR PEACE Questions (English and Filipino) vis-à-vis Reference Provisions of UN Resolution 53/243.

Table No. 9. DiYES FOR PEACE Questions (English and Filipino) vis-à-vis Reference Provisions of UN Resolution 53/243

English	Filipino	UN Resolution 53/243
1. Do we need to agree not to use weapons against each other – for as long as it can be avoided – and understand one another as siblings so that we can all help pave the path fit for us?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating magkasundo na huwag gumamit ng mga sandata laban sa isa't isa – hangga't ito ay maiiwasan – at mag-unawaan bilang magkakapatid para makatulong tayong lahat sa paglalata ng landas na nararapat sa atin?</i>	<i>Article 1. (a) Respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation;</i>
2. Do we need to teach our children well to enable them to help nurture the positive changes that will be brought about by being Pro-God, Pro-Environment, Pro-People and Nationalist?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating turuan nang mabuti ang ating mga anak para makatulong sila na pagyamanin ang magagandang pagbabagong maidudulot ng pagiging Maka-Diyos, Maka-Kalikasan, Maka-Tao at Maka-Bansa?</i>	<i>Article 1. (a) Respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation.”</i> <i>Article 2. Progress in the fuller development of a culture of peace comes about through values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life conducive to the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and nations.</i> <i>Article 4. Education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace. In this context, human rights education is of particular importance.</i>
3. Do we need to recognize and respect each other's different beliefs and culture to enable us to establish a system where freedom is guaranteed?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating kilalanin at igalang ang iba't-ibang paniniwala at kultura ng bawat isa para makapagtatag tayo ng sistemang ganap ang kalayaan?</i>	<i>Article 1 (i). Adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society</i>
4. Do we need to develop our country and enrich the environment	<i>Kailangan po ba nating paunlarin ang ating bansa at pagyamanin ang</i>	<i>Article 1 (e). “Efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of</i>

English	Filipino	UN Resolution 53/243
through positive traits inherent in us?	<i>kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng mga positibong katangiang na likas sa atin?</i>	present and future generations.”
5. Do we need to change our educational system to the real need of our country to discard the irrelevant foreign thoughts that we picked-up from colonizers?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating itugma ang sistemang pang-edukasyon sa tunay na pangangailangan ng ating bansa para maiwaksi natin ang mga walang kabuluhang kaisipang banyaga na napulot natin mula sa mga dayuhang mananakop?</i>	Article 4. “Education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace.”
6. Do we need to repeal all laws that to continue to prevail even if these are already outdated and are no longer suited to our need to empower all sectors of society?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating palitan ang mga batas na patuloy na pinairal sa atin kahit pinaglumaan na ng panahon at hindi na angkop sa pangangailangang palakasin ang lahat ng sektor ng ating lipunan?</i>	Article 3 (k). “Increasing transparency and accountability in governance.”
7. Do we need to strengthen the foundations of a truly reformed government that recognizes, respects and implements equality of human rights among all Filipinos?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating patibayin ang pundasyon ng isang tunay na na repormadong gobyerno na kinikilala, iginagalang at isinasakatuparan ang pagkakapantay-pantay ng mga karapatang pantao ng lahat ng mgs Filipino?</i>	Article 1 (c). Full respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms Article 3 (c). Promoting democracy, development and universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; Article 5. Governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace.
8. Do we need to establish as New System of integrating programs and projects that will open and expand opportunities for all Filipinos?	<i>Kailangan po ba nating bumuo ng isang Bagong Sistema ng pagbubuklod ng mga programa at proyekto na magbubukas at magpapalawak ng mga oportunidad para sa lahat ng mga Filipino?</i>	Article 1 (e), Efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations; Article 5. Governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace. Article 6. Civil society needs to be fully engaged in fuller

English	Filipino	UN Resolution 53/243
		development of a culture of peace.
9. Should we let the leaders of government as well as of different sectors know that the peace process relies on their cooperation in identifying and implementing development programs and projects?	<i>Dapat ba nating ipaabot sa mga lider ng pamahalaan at iba't-ibang sektor na ang prosesong pangkapayapaan ay nakasalalay sa kanilang pagkakaisa sa pagtukoy at pagpapatupad ng mga programa at proyektong pangkaunlaran?</i>	Article 3 (e). Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring full participation in the development process; Article 8. "Civil society needs to be fully engaged in fuller development of a culture of peace."
10. Should we stand united to live without violence - physical, sexual, psychological, economic and social - and not to kill nor attempt to kill our fellowmen?	<i>Dapat ba tayong magkaisang mamuhay nang walang karahasan - pisikal, seksuwal, sikolohikal, ekonomikal at sosyal - at huwag pumatay o huwag magtangkang pumatay ng ating kapwa?</i>	Article 1 (a). "Respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation."

Insights were solicited from the following speakers who have been in the forefront of the quest for peace during the Multi-Sectoral forum:

1. Hon. **Roberto M. Pagdanganan** - President, Foundation for Local Automy and Good Governance
2. Atty. **Firdausi Abbas** - Chief Legal Counsel, Moro Islamic Liberation Front
3. Mr. **Satur C. Ocampo** - President, BAYAN MUNA

1. Foundation for Local Autonomy and Good Governance

Mr. **Roberto M. Pagdanganan**, former Provincial Governor of Bulacan and President of the Foundation for Local Autonomy and Good Governance – a supporter of the campaign in its initial stage – discussed salient points of R.A. 7160, s. 1991, better known as the **1991 Local Government Code** principally authored by former Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Sr. It initiated the decentralization process in the Philippines by empowering local governments through autonomy.

He discussed the importance of local autonomy and good governance to the quest for peace.

He stressed that because of the Local Government Code, they were empowered to allocate resources independent of the national government. They were also given the freedom to manage local public affairs.

Finally, he discussed the importance of good governance in managing local government units. He said that many problems of problems of insurgency are rooted in the lack of accountability, transparency and openness and the abuse of power of elected local government officials who use their positions for their personal and commercial interests.

2. Moro Islamic Liberation Front

Atty **Firdausi Abbas**, Chief Legal Counsel of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) gave an informative background on the armed conflict between the government and the MILF.

The MILF was established by Hashim Salamat on December 26, 1977. It separated from the Moro National Liberation Front – MNLF led by Nur Misuari. It rejected the peace agreement signed by the Philippines government and the MNLF in Manila on September 2, 1996 as well as the consequent establishment of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

After almost 20 years of conflicts which have displaced thousands of individuals, representatives of the government and MILF began peace negotiations on January 7, 1997. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was then enabled to provide emergency humanitarian assistance for those displaced by the conflict.

Amidst peace negotiations, President Fidel Ramos declared a state-of-emergency in eight towns in the ARMM on July 1, 1997. Shortly thereafter, government and MILF representatives signed a ceasefire agreement in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines on July 18, 1997. The cessation of military hostilities went into effect on July 21, 1997. Government and MILF representatives resumed negotiations on July 30, 1997.

After more than a year of negotiations, representatives of the government and the MILF signed the *General Framework of Agreement of Intent* on August 27, 1998.

Representatives of the government and MILF began peace negotiations in Maguindanao province on October 25, 1999.

Unfortunately, armed hostilities continued and President Joseph Estrada declared an “all-out war” against the MILF on March 21, 2000.

The MILF announced a 48-hour temporary ceasefire on May 6, 2000. Government troops and MILF rebels clashed on the island of Mindanao on May 26-29, 2000, resulting in the deaths of some 43 rebels and two government soldiers.

Government troops captured the MILF’s Camp Bushra on May 29, 2000 which forced MILF rebels agreed to resume negotiations with government representatives on May 29, 2000.

The MILF withdrew from peace negotiations with the government on June 15, 2000. Government troops captured the MILF headquarters (Camp Abu Bakr) on the island of Mindanao on July 9, 2000, resulting in the deaths of 30 rebels and eight government soldiers.

Between March and July 9, 2000, some 300 rebels and 200 government soldiers were killed. More troublesome is the fact that some 500,000 individuals were displaced during the government's military offensive against the MILF.

The peace negotiations between the government and the MILF remains to be precarious. The ARMM continues to be led by its governor, Nur Misuari.

3. Bayan Muna / National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)

Mr. **Satur C. Ocampo**, President of Bayan Muna, a party-list organization openly affiliated with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) reiterated his views expressed during the early stages of the campaign in UP Diliman:

“...the right of the people to use violence should not be curtailed if they are oppressed by the state, foreigners and powerful class in society.”
and

“... if the people have agreed on the principles that should be established to develop, those who oppose should follow.”

Mr. Ocampo then laid down the position of the National Democratic Front (NDF) on the resumption of peace talks:

“We do not engage in armed struggle because we glorify war or bloodshed. If the masses are so receptive of the revolutionary movement, it is because the reasons for armed struggle are still prevalent in Philippine Society. Conditions in our country are such that exploitation and oppression are pervasive. These conditions are becoming worse year after year. If these conditions for revolution are not present, we could cry ourselves hoarse and nobody would listen. (Underscoring ours.)

“As revolutionaries, we firmly believe that victory in the armed struggle will provide the optimum political and economic conditions to realize the national and democratic demands of the people and to pursue a socialist revolution. But we undertake peace talks on the chance that the two of us - the GRP and the revolutionary organizations which support the NDF program - may reach agreement across the table.”
(Underscoring ours.)

Mr. Ocampo moved on to discuss the NDFP's view on the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Respect for Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL)”

“The CARHRIHL is a document that is based on the interests, aspirations and concrete situation of the Filipino people, especially the workers, peasants, urban poor, women, youth, fisherfolk, national minorities and other struggling sectors of Philippine society. In the words

of the Church, it makes preferential option on the side of the poor, deprived and oppressed.

“Work for the CARHRIHL started in June 1996 and it was signed on March 16, 1998 in The Hague, the Netherlands in the presence of then Speaker of the House of Representatives **Jose de Venecia** and **Jose Maria Sison**, Chief Political Consultant of the NDFP.

“Subsequently, **Mariano Orosa**, Chairperson of the NDFP approved the CARHRIHL on April 10, 1998. Former President Joseph Estrada likewise did on August 7, 1998.

“Unfortunately, no implementation of the CARHRIHL was done during the Estrada administration, inspite of demands from different people’s organizations and individuals. As a Matter of fact, the war in Mindanao and in other parts of the country saw many violations of the agreement such as the displacement of the civilian population and indiscriminate bombings.”

Mr. Ocampo then proceeded with his extensive discussion and quoted the second, third and eighth paragraphs of the NDFP’s 40-page draft proposal for a Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) composed of twelve parts with a total of 181 articles, to wit:

“Considering that the persistent subordination to imperialism, industrial backwardness and agrarian character of the Philippine economy and the consequent massive poverty and the grossly iniquitous socio-economic relations are the fundamental causes of the prolonged armed conflict. (Underscoring ours.)

“Acknowledging that the aforementioned national and social problems are engendered and perpetrated by the drive of the foreign monopoly corporations and banks, multilateral agencies and the dominant foreign economic powers led by the United States and their domestic allies - the big comprador or trading bourgeoisie, the big landlords and the big bureaucrat capitalists - to extract the most profit from the country and its people. (Underscoring ours.)

“Cognizant of the need for the basic masses, the workers and the peasants, and their organizations, to assume decisive role in the formulation and implementation of national socioeconomic plans and programs and for all patriotic and democratic classes and sectors to contribute to the building of a just and prosperous society.” (Underscoring ours.)

Request for Support of President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo

On May 11, 2001, the Project Organizer wrote to H.E. Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo:

“This is to respectfully propose to Her Excellency the national government’s adoption of the ... campaign as an initial step towards national reconciliation and a just and lasting peace.

“Given the recent events that have divided the nation, I sincerely hope that you will still find your statement in a letter addressed to the undersigned dated 09 January 1995 that, ‘Since the quest for peace is a gargantuan task which could only be achieved through the active participation of as many peace-loving citizens as possible, your *Diyes for Peace* might be the venue for our people’s participation in the peace process.’ still valid.

“Thank you very much in anticipation of whatever Her Excellency may choose to extend to the **d’YES for PEACE** – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan that you have considered to be a worthy cause which you will always be supportive of during its infancy stage when you were still a Senator.”

Notably, the title of the campaign was adjusted from “**Di-YES for PEACE** – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan” to “**d’YES for PEACE** – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan” due to a critique that “**Di-YES**” can mean “*Hindi YES* or Not YES”. On the other hand, “**d’YES**” can only mean “The YES”.

Attached to the letter was a copy of President Arroyo’s letter to the Project Organizer dated 09 January 1995 when she was still as Senator.

Also attached were **10** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at that time (in Filipino) and the respective answers. The contexts of some questions were different than the FAQs asked prior to the Open and Multi-Lateral Forum held at the UP College of Education on March 2, 2023.

The FAQs and answers follow:

1. “*Ano ang **d’YES for PEACE**?*”

“Ang **d’YES for PEACE** ay isang Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan upang itala ang sagot ng hindi kukulangin sa **10 Milyong** Filipino sa **10 katanungan**. Ang resulta nito ay magsisilbing batayan ng pagkakaisa ng Sambayanang Filipino.

2. “*Sinu-sino ang pwedeng makibahagi sa **d’YES for PEACE**?*”

“*Lahat ng Filipino mula 10 taong gulang.*”

3. “*Paano tayo tutulong sa pagpapalaganap ng **d’YES for PEACE**?*”

“*Sa pamamagitan ng pagsagot sa 10 katanungan ng kampanya, pagkopya ng campaign form nito at pagkumbinsi sa ating mga kamag-anak, kapitbahay, kaibigan, kaklase at mga ka-opisina na gawin din ito.*”

*“Ipadala po ang mga nasagutan nang **d’YES for PEACE** sa pinakamalapit na Post Office o ipakisuyo po sa ating mga kartero.*

4. *“Bakit kailangan ang **d’YES for PEACE**?*

“Ang mga giyera ng mga Filipino laban sa kapwa Filipino ay nagaganap sa ngalan ng Sambayanang Filipino.

“Katungkulan ng gobyerno at militar na pangalagaan ang kasarinlan at soberaniya natin. Ipinaglalaban raw ng MILF ang karapatan ng mga Muslim na mamuhay nang ayon sa kanilang mga paniniwala, ipinagtatangol raw ng NDFP-CPP-NPA ang mga karapatan natin, atbp.

“Ayaw man natin, apektado tayong mga pangkaraniwang mamamayan sa tuwing may giyera. Kailangang na nating ipaalam sa kanilang lahat na hindi sang-ayon ang masa sa paggamit ng dahas at sandata uopang pangalagaan, ipagtanggol at ipaglaban ang interes ng Sambayanang Filipino.

5. *“Bakit kailangan ang **d’YES for PEACE** ngayon?*

“Ang ika-100 araw ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo ay sinalubong ng madugong pagsubok na pababain siya sa puwesto.

“Maagap mang naipagtanggol ng pinagsanib na piwersa ng AFP at PNP ang pagtatangkang ito, nanatili ang posibilidad na mahati ang bansa at magpatuloy ang kaguluhan at karahasan kung kaya’t idineklara ni Presidente Arroyo ang National Capital Region na nasa State of Rebellion.

6. *“Ano ang ipinagkai-iba ng **d’YES for PEACE** sa iba pang pagkilos at panawagan para sa Kapayapaan?*

“Marami nang mga pagkilos tulad ng mga rally, martsa at iba pang mga uri ng mobilisasyon ang isinagawa upang ipahayag ang isinagawa upang ipahayag ang pagtutol ng mga mamamayan sa pagpapatuloy ng mga mamamayan sa pagpapatuloy ng giyera at upang hilingin and pagtahak ng mapayapang paraan tungo sa hinahangad na na pagbabago sa sa pulitika at Lipunan. Bagama’t higit na marami pang mga Filipino ang nakikiisa sa mga panawagan at pagkilos na ito, hindi sila makalahok sa mga ito dahil sa pangangailangan nilang asikasuhin muna ang kanilang pang-araw-araw na kabuhayan.

*“Ang **d’YES FOR PEACE** ay isang kongkreto at makabuluhang paraan para isadokumento ang paninindigan ng mga Filipino para sa mapayapang solusyon sa mga problemang kinakaharap ng ating bansa. Gayunpaman, hindi na kakailanganin pang umalis ng kanilang mga tahanan, opisina o eskuwelahan ang mga makikibahagi rito.*

7. “Ano ang gagawin natin sa makakalap na mga tugon sa **d’YES for PEACE**?”

“Ipapaabot natin ang **10 Milyon** o mahigit pang **d’YES for PEACE** sa lahat ng mga kinauukulan upang magsilbi itong batayan ng kanilang mga negosasyong pangkapayapaan na maaaring isagawa sa anumang kampus ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (UP).

8. “Ano ang hihilingin ng **d’YES for PEACE mula sa mga** namumuno ng iba’t-ibang puwersang nagtutunggali?”

“Hihilingin nating makinig sila sa kolektibong pananaw ng mga tumugon sa **d’YES for PEACE**.

“Kung talagang interes natin ang kanilang pinangangalagaan, ipinagtatanggol at ipinakikipaglaban, kailangan nilang pakinggan tayo at tanggapin ang ating pananaw ukol sa pagkamit ng pinapangarap na makatarungan, komprehensibo at pangmatagalang kapayapaan. Sa ganitong paraan, mailalantad natin kung sino sa kanila ang tunay na kumakatawan sa atin at kung sino ang isinasangkalan lamang ang Sambayanang Filipino para makamit ang kanilang pansariling interes.

9. “Paano gagamitin ang resulta ng **d’YES for PEACE**?”

“Maaaring gamitin itong batayan ng mga hakbang tungo sa kapayapaan ng mga nagtutunggaling puwersa bilang patunay na talagang ang interes ng Sambayanang Filipino ang kanilang inaalagaan, ipinagtatanggol o ipinaglalaba.

10. “Ano pa ang inaasahan mula sa mga tutugon sa **d’YES for PEACE**?”

“Inaasahan na tutulong tayong lahat sa paglalalatag ng landas tungo sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa pamamagitan ng pamumuhay nang ayon sa mga sagot natin.”

No reply nor acknowledgement of the receipt of the letter was received from the Office of the President.

Conduct of Campaign Through DECS Held in Abeyance

Notably, the conduct of the campaign through the formal educational system was held in abeyance pending the issuance of a DECS Memorandum by Secretary Roco.

Resolution of the 4th Congress of the National Peace Conference

On July 22, 2001, the 4th Congress of the National Peace Conference unanimously adopted the campaign. It states:

“Abiding by the principles and guidelines of the National Peace Conference, hereinafter referred to as **NPC**.

1. “True peace is the fruit of justice and development arising from people’s collective and sustained sacrifices, struggles and missions.
2. “The Conference is committed to create peaceful paths to a just peace in the country, to work for the attainment of lasting peace by ways of peace.
3. “In promoting the use of peaceful means in pursuing lasting peace, the processes of dialogue, consensus-building and appropriate solidarity action will be upheld...

“Taking note that the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 2001 to 2010 as the **“International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World”** and invited its Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and nonviolence is taught at all levels in their respective societies, including educational institutions,

“Expressing deep concern that the Filipino people have long suffered the consequences of the internal armed conflict and political divisiveness that its perpetrators invariably claim are waged to protect, uphold and fight for the inviolable rights of the people,

“Considering that direct people’s participation in the comprehensive peace process is still minimal despite consultations conducted to solicit inputs to the peace process and agenda,

“Contemplating deeply why peace negotiations that are conducted for and in behalf of the Filipino people should be held separately and behind closed doors outside the country away from the supposed beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the comprehensive peace process,

“Recognizing that the ***DiYES for PEACE - Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan***, hereinafter referred to as ***DiYES for PEACE***, is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-discriminatory peace education and advocacy campaign that might be able to:

1. “Provide a venue for the Filipino people to participate in the comprehensive peace process and revitalize the Bayanihan spirit.
2. “Promote the voice of the silent majority of the Filipino people and thereby,
 - Forge the basis of national unity;
 - End the armed conflicts wage in the name of the Filipino people;
 - Pursue peaceful means to establish a just and enduring peace;
 - Build and nurture a culture of peace and nonviolence; and

- Assert the Filipino people's constitutional sovereignty
- 3. "Encourage as many peace-loving Filipinos - 10 years and older - as possible to help implement the comprehensive peace process.

"UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS the **DⁱYES for PEACE** and commit ourselves, individually and collectively, to help,

1. "Harness and allocate material and human resources to maximize public awareness and response.
2. "Guide all pupils from Grades IV to VI and students from first to fourth year high school in both public and private schools in answering **10** questions on various general issues affecting peace and providing basic personal and postal information asked for in the campaign forms.
3. Encourage pupils and students to solicit the responses of their parents and other relatives to the campaign.
4. Tabulate and process responses and offer these as the general framework for peace negotiations.

- and -

"EARNESTLY INVITES the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines to assist in monitoring and evaluating the national implementation of **DⁱYES for PEACE** pursuant to the **"International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World"** and in line with the "Declaration on a Culture of Peace" and the "Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly.

- and -

"RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS the Honorable Eduardo R. Ermita, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process to recommend that H.E. President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo,

1. "Consider the adoption of **DⁱYES for PEACE** as one of the programs to implement the comprehensive peace process.
2. "Direct the mobilization of government resources needed to ensure the solicitation, tabulation and processing of **at least 10 Million** responses.
3. "Call on civil society to,
 - "Augment available government resources to enable as many peace loving Filipinos as possible to participate in the campaign;

- “Actively participate and contribute to the implementation of the comprehensive peace process; and
- Fully engage in the fuller development of a culture of peace and nonviolence.”

Request for Support of PAPP Eduardo R. Ermita

On April 5, 2002, the Project Organizer wrote to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (PAPP) Eduardo R. Ermita:

“... to discuss how we can collectively implement the campaign in accordance with the **Medium Term Philippine Development Plan?** Among others, we would like to seek your guidance regarding the possibility of the President’s adoption of **DiYES for PEACE** in line with Executive Order No. 3 and endorsing the campaign to key agencies that can be mobilized to ensure maximum success (**10 Million in 10 Days**) of campaign ***without requiring the transfer of funds*** through a function related-task specific action plan, to wit:

1. “**Department of Education** - to enjoin all elementary and high schools, to undertake the campaign as part of its peace education and values formation program;
2. “**Philippine Postal Corporation** - to provide postal and other related services to the campaign and use the responses as source of data for the National Postal Address System;
3. “**Philippine Information Agency** - to implement the Media as an in-house activity;
4. “**National Printing Office** - to print at least **10 Million** campaign forms and other materials;
5. “**AFP** and **PNP** - to provide transport support in critical of far flung areas; and
6. “**Inter-Agency Technical Working Group** - to reconvene and coordinate campaign activities.

“With your help, we hope that as many peace loving Filipinos as possible can finally transcend political, ideological, social and economic differences to give flesh to the President’s inaugural call, “**As we begin to tear down the walls that divide, let us build an edifice of peace, progress and economic stability.**”

Repackaging DiYES for PEACE to YES FOR PEACE

Upon the guidance of Secretary Ermita, an Inter-Agency Technical Working Group composed of the following was organized in April 2002:

1. Mr. **Ernesto A. Alcanzare** - Project Organizer, YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan ng Bayan
2. Undersecretary **Severo S. Catura**, Executive Director of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
3. Undersecretary **Fe A. Hidalgo** - Department of Education
4. Mr. **Carlo S. Argana** - Philippine Postal Corporation
5. Mr. **Nilo A. Mamaclay** - Office of the Press Secretary - Philippine Information Agency
6. Ms. **Sylvia Banda** - Administrative Officer, Office of the Press Secretary - National Printing Office
7. Ms. **Gloria B. Echaluze** - National Executive Director, Girl Scouts of the Philippines
8. Mr. **Carlos C. Escudero** - Secretary-General, Boy Scouts of the Philippines
9. Mr. **Rodolfo R. Salazar** - Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns, Alpha Phi Omega International (Phils) Inc
10. Atty. **Domingo B. Alidon** - President, Department of Education Central Office Employees' Union

The Inter-Agency Technical Working Group repackaged the campaign from **DiYES for PEACE - Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan** to **YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan**. The questions were reformulated in accordance with UN Resolution 53/243 - “**Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.**” and the 1987 Constitution.

Table No. 10 shows the YES FOR PEACE Questions vis-à-vis Reference Provisions of UN Resolution 53/243.

Table No. 10. YES FOR PEACE Questions (English and Filipino) vis-à-vis Reference Provisions of UN Resolution 53/243

English	Filipino	UN Resolution 53/243
1. Should we establish a culture of peace and non-violence in our homes, communities, schools and government?	<i>Dapat ba nating itaguyod ang isang mapayapa at hindi marahas na kultura sa ating mga tahanan, komunidad, paaralan at pamahalaan?</i>	“... Declaration on a Culture of Peace to the end that Governments, international organizations and civil society may be guided in their activity by its provisions to promote and strengthen a culture of peace...”
2. Should we unite to nurture the positive values brought about by being Pro-God, Pro-Environment, Pro-People and Nationalist?	<i>Dapat ba tayong magkaisang palaganapin ang magagandang katangiang dulot ng pagiging Maka-Diyos, Maka-Kalikasan, Maka-Tao at Maka-Bansa?</i>	<i>Article 2.</i> “Progress in the fuller development of a culture of peace comes about through values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life conducive to the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and nations.”
3. Should we recognize and respect each other’s different beliefs	<i>Dapat ba nating kilalanin at igalang ang iba’t-ibang paniniwala at kultura ng</i>	<i>Article 1 (i).</i> “Adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity,

English	Filipino	UN Resolution 53/243
and culture?	<i>bawat isa?</i>	cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations; and fostered by an enabling national and international environment conducive to peace.”
4. Should we enrich our environment through positive traits inherent in us for the sustainable development of our country?	<i>Dapat ba nating pagyamanin ang kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng mga positibong katangian na likas sa atin para masustinihan ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa?</i>	<i>Article 1 (e).</i> “Efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.”
5. Should we change our educational system to keep pace with the international economy brought about by advancements in science and technology?	<i>Dapat ba nating baguhin ang sistemang pang-edukasyon upang makasabay sa pagsulong ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya dulot ng pagbabago sa larangan ng siyensiya at teknolohiya?</i>	<i>Article 4.</i> “Education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace.
6. Should we support reform programs of the government to address the causes of disunity and armed conflicts in society?	<i>Dapat ba nating suportahan ang mga programang pangreporma ng pamahalaan upang malunasan ang mga sanhi ng hindi pagkakaisa at ng mga armadong pagtutunggali sa lipunan?</i>	<i>Article 3 (k).</i> “Increasing transparency and accountability in governance.”
7. Should we participate in building the foundations of a comprehensive peace process?	<i>Dapat ba tayong makibahagi sa pagbuo ng mga batayan ng isang komprehensibong prosesong pangkapayapaan?</i>	<i>Article 3 (d).</i> “Enabling people at all levels to develop skills of dialogue, negotiation, consensus-building and peaceful resolution of differences.”
8. Should we inform all parties to the armed conflicts of the value of peace and unity for the benefit of the Filipino people?	<i>Dapat ba nating ipaalam sa lahat ng mga nagtutunggaliang puwersa ang kahalagahan ng kapayapaan at pagkakasundo sa kapakanan ng Sambayanang Filipino?</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.”
9. Should we let the leaders of government as well as of different sectors know that the peace process relies on	<i>Dapat ba nating ipaabot sa mga lider ng pamahalaan at iba’t-ibang sektor na ang prosesong pangkapayapaan ay</i>	<i>Article 8.</i> “A key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious bodies and groups, intellectuals,

English	Filipino	UN Resolution 53/243
their cooperation in identifying and implementing development programs and projects?	<i>nakasalalay sa kanilang pagkakaisa sa pagtukoy at pagpapatupad ng mga programa at proyektong pangkaunlaran?</i>	those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative and artistic activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations.”
10. Should we stand united to live without violence - physical, sexual, psychological, economic and social - and not to kill nor attempt to kill our fellowmen?	<i>Dapat ba tayong magkaisang mamuhay nang walang karahasan - pisikal, seksuwal, sikolohikal, ekonomikal at sosyal - at huwag pumatay o huwag magtangkang pumatay ng ating kapwa?</i>	<i>Article 1 (a).</i> “Respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation.”

Support of the Office of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

On September 11, 2002, PAPP **Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita** wrote to the Project Organizer:

“We have thoroughly reviewed the draft Memorandum of Undertaking for the national implementation of the **YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan Program** and have found the project in step with the need to continue and institutionalize a consultation process on peace as defined by the Government’s comprehensive peace process agenda under Executive Order No. 3, series of 2001.

“As envisioned, an inter-agency undertaking would indeed be the most practicable direction to take in pushing for this program and in order to maximize resources and encourage participation from key agencies in Government.

“However, due to the current belt-tightening measures of the national government, the Program Organizers are urged to seek potential sponsors and or partners who will provide material and service requirements of the campaign.” (*underscoring ours*)

“Please feel free to coordinate Dir. Severo S. Catura to further review the said Memorandum of Undertaking and finalize the same as soon as possible to give all partner agencies and institutions enough time to work out its implementation before the end of the year.

“Thanking you in keeping faith in the government’s sincere efforts to sustain people’s participation in the comprehensive peace process.”

Inter-Agency Memorandum of Undertaking

On December 10, 2002, the following entered into an Inter-agency Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU):

1. **Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process** represented by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process **Eduardo R. Ermita**;
2. **Department of Education** represented by its Secretary **Edilberto C. de Jesus**;
3. **Philippine Postal Corporation** represented by its Postmaster General **Nicasio P. Rodriguez, Jr.**;
4. **Office of the Press Secretary - Philippine Information Agency** represented by its Director General **Renato S. Velasco**;
5. **Office of the Press Secretary - National Printing Office** represented by its Director **Melanio S. Torio**;
6. **Girl Scouts of the Philippines** represented by its President **Cynthia P. Zagala**;
7. **Boy Scouts of the Philippines** represented by its President **Jejomar C. Binay**;
8. **Alpha Phi Omega International Philippines, Incorporated** represented by its National President **Blo Umpar Adiong**; and
9. **Ernesto Angeles Alcanzare**, Organizer, **YES for PEACE - Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan**.

The MOU states:

“Noting that the APO of the University of the Philippines – Diliman adopted the DiYES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign and launched its research and development stage on 16 December 1988 as a ‘service to the nation as fully participating citizens’ as a response to AO No. 30 and in line with the United Nations’ declaration of ‘Children as Zones of Peace’ and the ‘Universal Declaration of the Rights of Children’. It was recognized as a parallel effort of Students towards the declaration of the Philippines System a ‘Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality’ in December 1992;

“Keeping faith in the efforts of the DepEd to sustain and enrich its peace education program in the classroom pursuant to the declaration of the period 1990 – 2000 as the Philippines’ ‘Decade of Peace’;

“Recalling that the Philpost Board of Directors adopted the DiYES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan in September 1995 in response to the call made by HIS EXCELLENCY FIDEL V. RAMOS for government and non-government support to the comprehensive peace process in terms of activities inherent to their respective functions;

“Believing that people’s participation which is essential for the realization and institutionalization of the United Nations’

General Assembly declaration of the period 2001 to 2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World” can be generated and sustained;

“Reaffirming the definition of a comprehensive peace process as stipulated in Executive Order No. 3, Series of 2001 signed by HER EXCELENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL – ARROYO on February 28, 2001;

- “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.
- “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 the 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.
- “A comprehensive peace process seeks a principled and peaceful resolution to the internal armed conflicts, with neither blame nor surrender, but with dignity for all concerned.

“Realizing the indispensability of voluntary people’s participation in generating reliable data for the national postal address system in line with the postal modernization program of the PhilPost;

“Knowing the need to create an enlightened citizenry to enable them to improve their quality of life and to participate, meaningfully, in the democratic process, the OPS-PIA undertakes communication support activities which will provide the people timely, accurate and adequate information on government policies and programs;

“Taking into account that the OPS-NPO is committed towards the satisfaction of the printing needs of the national and local government as well as government owned and controlled corporations;

“Recognizing that YES for PEACE (formerly know as ^DYES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign) is a non-government initiated peace education and advocacy campaign;

“Having been informed that, in cooperation with various government institutions upon the endorsement for action by the OPAPP in 1996, the DiYES FOR PEACE was developed and test implemented –

involving 2,439,104 Filipinos – in line with the primary objective of the government to attain “a just, comprehensive and enduring peace under the rule of law and in accordance with constitutional processes”;

“Taking into account the following objectives of the – YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan:

1. “To provide the Filipino people a venue to re-affirm the comprehensive peace process pursuant to Executive No. 125, Series of 1993; Executive Order No. 115, Series of 1999; and Executive No. 3, Series of 2001.
2. “To encourage as many peace loving Filipinos – 10 years and older – to speak as one and actively support the comprehensive peace process along six major peace-making and peace-building components otherwise known as the Six Paths to Peace, to wit:
 - “Pursuit of social, economic and political reforms to address the root causes of internal armed conflicts and social unrest;
 - “Consensus-building and empowerment for peace through consultations and people’s participation;
 - “Peaceful, negotiated settlement with the different rebel groups and the effective implementation of peace agreements;
 - “Programs for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society and rehabilitation of former rebels and their communities;
 - “Addressing concerns arising from continuing armed conflicts such as the protection of non-combatants and the reduction of the impact of the armed conflicts on communities; and
 - “Building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace through peace education and advocacy programs and confidence building measures.
3. “To support the United Nations’ declaration of the period 2001 to 2010 as the ‘International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World’ and the government’s thrust to enhance public awareness on a culture of peace and nonviolence; and
4. “To reinforce and enrich the DepEd’s continuing peace education program.

“Believing that the objectives of the YES for PEACE can best be attained through inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

“Responding to HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO’s call, ‘All concerned Government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, as well as members of the private sector and civil society groups, are hereby enjoined and encouraged to initiate and participate in relevant and meaningful activities in celebration of ‘National Peace Consciousness Week’ (February 28 to March 06)’ to instill greater consciousness and understanding among the Filipino people of the comprehensive peace process and culture of peace agenda.’;

“Envisioning that the results of the YES FOR PEACE campaign may convince all protagonists in the armed conflicts to rethink their convictions that the problems of terrorism and poverty can be solved through violence and war.;

“Anticipating that the collective success of the sovereign Filipino people in implementing YES FOR PEACE campaign and in working together to maximize people’s participation in the comprehensive peace process may serve as a model and inspiration for other nations that have committed to undertake activities toward the realization of the vision and objectives of the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.”

“NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties to this Memorandum of Undertaking hereby agree and stipulate the following:

“ARTICLE I

“OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF COOPERATION

“The Contracting Parties, subject to the scope of their respective mandates under existing laws, administrative orders, procedures and practices shall cooperate and coordinate their efforts towards the realization of the objectives of YES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign.

“ARTICLE II

“COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

“The following shall compose the Executive Committee of the YES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign:

1. “Secretary, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
2. “Secretary, Department of Education
3. “Postmaster General, Philippine Postal Corporation
4. “Director-General, OPS - Philippine Information Agency
5. “Director, OPS – National Printing Office

6. “National President, Girl Scouts of the Philippines
7. “National President, Boy Scouts of the Philippines
8. “National President, Alpha Phi Omega Philippines Incorporated
9. “Organizer, YES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan

“ARTICLE III

“CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF AN INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

“To ensure the effective and efficient national implementation of the YES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign, an Inter-Agency Technical Working Group composed of representatives of the members of the Executive Committee shall be organized.

“The OPAPP, in coordination with the YES FOR PEACE, shall oversee the activities of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group to ensure that these are situated within the context of the Philippine comprehensive peace process.

“The members of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group shall be responsible for the preparation and submission of regular status reports for the signatories to this Memorandum of Undertaking.

“The Inter-Agency Technical Working Group may request the support of and coordinate with concerned institutions – government and non-government – that may be able to help implement, monitor and evaluate the results of the campaign.”

“ARTICLE IV

“MISSION, FUNCTION AND SCOPE OF COVERAGE

“The Inter-Agency Technical Working Group shall be responsible for organizing and coordinating all activities to solicit no less than 10 Million responses to the YES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign from Filipinos, 10 years and older.

“ARTICLE V

“DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. “PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS

- 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."

2. "DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- a. "Provide the following data to the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group:

- "Name and school addresses of Heads/Principals of public and private Elementary and High Schools
- "Current enrollment per school (Grade IV to 4th Year)

- b. "Enjoin teachers and schoolchildren from Grade IV to 4th Year of public and private elementary and high schools to undertake the following activities:

- "DAY 1 (Friday)

"Homeroom teachers shall guide students (Grades 4 to 6 and 1st to 4th year) in answering / filling-up on YES FOR PEACE questionnaire xxx each during their homeroom period.

"Students shall be asked to bring home YES for PEACE questionnaires and solicit the responses of their parents, out-of-school siblings, housemates, other relatives and neighbors.

- "DAY 2 – 3 (Saturday and Sunday)

"Students shall solicit responses of their parents and out-of-school siblings and housemates

- "DAY 4 (Monday)

"The following activities shall be conducted simultaneously in all public and private elementary and high schools:

- "10 student leaders (or five Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts) shall read one question each before students who shall be encouraged to verbally answer each question *en masse* during flag ceremonies.
- "Homeroom advisers shall collect responses solicited by students from their parents and housemates.

- “Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts shall count solicited responses and prepare two Copies of Homeroom Tabulation of Responses xxx under the supervision of homeroom advisers.
- “Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts shall securely wrap the responses solicited by their respective Homeroom and for mailing and address these as shown below:

Grade/Year Level _____
 School _____
 Address _____

THE INTER-AGENCY THEMATIC WORKING GROUP
 YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan ng Bayan
 c/o Office of the Postmaster General
 Manila Central Post Office
 Liwasang Bonifacio
 1000 MANILA

- “Homeroom teacher shall submit wrapped responses, together with two (2) certified Homeroom Tabulation of Responses, to the School Principal.
- “School representatives of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts shall fill-up two (2) copies – one for mailing and one (1) for school file of the School Summary of Responses xxx based on received Homeroom Tabulation of Responses.
- “School Principals shall certify the two (2) School Summary of Responses and attach one copy each of all Homeroom Tabulation(s) of Responses to each summary.
- “School representatives of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts shall fold and secure one (1) set of School Summary of Responses and Homeroom Tabulation(s) of Responses for mailing and file one (1) set.

3. “GIRL SCOUTS and BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

“The GSP and the BSP shall:

- a. “Assist YES FOR PEACE in identifying potential Resource Integrators and Resource Contributors;
- b. “Coordinate with school principals and local Postmasters to ensure that campaign materials are delivered to schools before Day 1 of the campaign proper;
- c. “Assist principals and teachers in school level activities of the campaign;
- d. “Coordinate with the Postmaster of the nearest Post Office to ensure that solicited responses and School Summary of Responses with attached Homeroom Tabulation(s) of Responses are picked-up by the concerned Letter Carrier or mailed at the nearest post office on Day 5 of the campaign proper. (*N.B. Principals may ask local Barangay or Municipal / City Peace and Order Council and/or PNP or AFP unit for support in terms of transportation facilities.*); and
- e. “Monitor the conduct of the campaign, in coordination with APO, in schools within their respective communities, municipalities and cities.

4. PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION

“The PhilPost shall:

- a. “Categorize campaign materials as Official Business mail as a component of the ZIP CODE education and awareness program and deliver these to public and private elementary and high schools;
- b. “Retrieve or pick-up responses, Homeroom Tabulations and School Summaries and postmark these upon receipt at the nearest Post Office;
- c. “Use the acceptance, processing and delivery data that will be generated by the campaign to scientifically determine the quality of service delivery and establish sustainable mail delivery standards;
- d. “Undertake or cause the data-basing of responses per School / Municipality / Congressional District / Province / City in coordination with the YES FOR PEACE; and

5. “OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY - PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

“The OPS-PIA shall provide technical assistance for the implementation of a media plan to generate public awareness and support for the YES FOR PEACE.

6. “OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY - NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE

“The NPO shall provide the labor and facilities for the printing, packaging and labeling 2,000 packages of campaign materials xxx or as many as can be printed with materials (paper, ink, packaging materials and mailing labels) that may be provided by Resource Integrators through the YES FOR PEACE.

7. “ALPHA PHI OMEGA INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED

a. “Assist YES FOR PEACE in identifying potential Resource Integrators and Resource Contributors;

b. “Mobilize its collegiate chapters to spearhead the campaign in their respective colleges and universities in cooperation with Student Councils;

c. “Monitor the conduct of the campaign through its area-based alumni associations in coordination with the GSP and BSP in schools within their respective communities, municipalities and cities; and

d. “Develop and Maintain the YES FOR PEACE website.

8. “YES for PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan

a. “Organize, in cooperation with the APO, BSP and GSP, the integration of private sector contributions of campaign forms and materials as well as professional services through linkages established with peace loving institutions – government and non-government – and individuals to supplement the resources that the government can provide;

b. “Facilitate, in coordination with PhilPost, the preparation of mailing labels based on information provided by the DepEd and as much as possible, in accordance with the preferences of contributors, to ensure minimum wastage of campaign materials;

c. “Coordinate the data-basing, [processing and evaluation of responses per School/ Municipality / Congressional District / Province / City with the PhilPost and concerned parties; and

- d. “Coordinate and monitor the campaign, in coordination with the OPAPP campaign activities/developments.

The signing of the Memorandum of Undertaking was witnessed by the following:

1. Undersecretary **Severo S. Catura**, Executive Director of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
2. Undersecretary **Fe A. Hidalgo** - Department of Education
3. Atty. **Rizalino E. Quiaoit, Jr.** - Chief of Staff, Philippine Postal Corporation
4. Mr. **Nilo A. Mamacalay** - Office of the Press Secretary - Philippine Information Agency
5. Ms. **Sylvia Banda** - Administrative Officer, Office of the Press Secretary - National Printing Office
6. Ms. **Gloria B. Echaluze** - National Executive Director, Girl Scouts of the Philippines
7. Mr. **Carlos C. Escudero** - Secretary-General, Boy Scouts of the Philippines
8. Mr. **Rodolfo R. Salazar** - Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns, Alpha Phi Omega International (Phils) Inc
9. Mr. **Orlando Paolo F. Casimiro**, Grand Chancellor, UP APO Fraternity
10. Ms. **Mona Liza Ignacio Adviento** - Grand Chancellor, UP APO Fraternity
11. Atty. **Domingo B. Alidon** - President, Department of Education Central Office Employees’ Union
12. Dr. **Leticia Peñano - Ho** - Adviser, YES for PEACE

Target number of responses remained at **Ten Million (10,000,000)**. Notably, it remained to be an unfunded program that relied primarily on the commitment and delivery of services of participating institutions as specified in the Memorandum of Undertaking. The policy that “CASH DONATIONS ARE DISCOURAGED” was maintained.

Notably, no time frame was set.

The MOU was notarized by Atty. **Patrick M. Velez**, IBP No. 554107 / 1-31-02 Q.C.

Hands-off Stand of PAPP Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles

The mantle of leadership of OPAPP was turned-over by Secretary Ermita to Teresita Quintos - Deles in simple ceremonies held at the Quezon Memorial Circle in September 2003. She answered a YES FOR PEACE Questionnaire. It was mistakenly construed that she committed herself to contribute to the best of her abilities, personally and officially to the campaign.

Unfortunately, however, despite the National Peace Conference Resolution which she signed as a member of the Governing Council of the

National Peace Conference in 1998; the Resolution of the 4th Congress of the National Peace Conference which she pushed for and signed; and the Inter-Agency Memorandum of Undertaking entered into by OPAPP represented by Secretary Ermita in December 2002, PAPP Secretary Deles inexplicably took a hands-off stand and ignored the campaign.

PAPP Secretary Deles refused to help in its implementation and unofficially and effectively dissuaded OPAPP staff assigned to the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group to perform their tasks. She never convened the Executive Committee organized by the Memorandum of Undertaking entered into by her predecessor in December 2002.

Notably, she was one of the members of the so-called HYATT 10, a group of Cabinet Members who resigned in July 2005 and called for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo.

The YES FOR PEACE campaign was effectively sidetracked by the unwritten and unexplained withdrawal of support of the person given “the authority to coordinate and integrate, in behalf of the president, all existing peace efforts. As such, the PAPP shall have direct supervision and control over the specific structures and programs designed for the implementations of the comprehensive peace process” and who “shall have the following functions and responsibilities: xxx “Supervise the government agencies and instrumentalities, to include their program and activities, purposely created for the implementation of various components of the comprehensive peace process xxx”

All subsequent communications with OPAPP were not replied to nor even acknowledged in accordance with existing laws.

DepED Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004

On September 9, 2004, DepED Secretary **Florencio B. Abad** issued DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004 – NATIONAL PEACE CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH. It states:

“The Department of Education (DepED) is committed to actively participate in the national implementation of the YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan campaign in all public and private elementary and secondary schools nationwide. (Underscoring ours)

“The campaign aims to encourage as many peace-loving Filipinos – 10 years and older to speak as one and actively support the national comprehensive peace process as well as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World” and to reinforce and enrich the DepED’s continuing peace education program.(Underscoring ours)

“President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared the month of September 2004 and every year thereafter, as “National Peace Consciousness Month” through Presidential Proclamation No. 675.

“President Arroyo thereby enjoined and encouraged all concerned Government agencies, including local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, as well as members of private sector and civil society groups to initiate and participate in relevant and meaningful activities in celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Month. The aim is to create greater consciousness and understanding among the Filipino people of the comprehensive peace process and the Culture of Peace agenda.” xxx (*Underscoring ours*)

The questions formulated by the Inter-Agency Technical Working group in 2002 based on provisions of UN Resolution 53/243 were posed.

The Masthead of the Questionnaire bore the campaign Title: “YES FOR PEACE – BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN”: the calls of the campaign: “NO TO POVERTY!”, “NO TO VIOLENCE!”, “NO TO WAR!”, AND “NO TO KILLING” as well as the Official Logo of the Province of Bulacan and the Department of Education.

Figure No. 18 shows the obverse side of the questionnaire fielded through DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004.

NO TO POVERTY! NO TO VIOLENCE! NO TO WAR! NO TO KILLING!
YES FOR PEACE
BAYANIHAN PARA SA KAPAYAPAN

(PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS)
Name _____ Gender _____ Civil Status _____
Birthdate _____ Religion _____ Occupation _____
Mailing Address(Home) _____ Zip Code _____ Cell # _____
School (if student) _____

(Lagyan po ng XE ang sagot sa bawat tanong. Tig-isang YES for PEACE lang po ang katilagang sagutan ng bawat Filipino 10 taon gulang pataas.)

Bilang mga Filipino:

- Dapat ba nating itaguyod ang isang mapayapa at hindi marahas na kultura sa ating mga tahanan, komunidad, paaralan at pamahalaan? YES NO
- Dapat ba tayong magkaisang palaganapin ang magagandang katangiang dulot ng pagiging Maka-Diyos, Maka-Kalikasan, Maka-Tao at Maka-Bansa? YES NO
- Dapat ba nating kilalanin at igalang ang iba't-ibang paniniwala at kultura ng bawat isa? YES NO
- Dapat ba nating pagyamanin ang kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng mga positibong katangian na likas sa atin para masustinhin ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa? YES NO
- Dapat ba nating baguhin ang sistemang pang-edukasyon upang makasabay sa pagsulong ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya dulot ng pagbabago sa larangan ng siyensiya at teknolohiya? YES NO
- Dapat ba nating suportahan ang mga programang pangreporma ng pamahalaan upang malunas ang mga sanhi ng hindi pagkakaisa at ng mga armadong pagtutunggali sa lipunan? YES NO
- Dapat ba tayong makibahagi sa pagbuo ng mga batayan ng isang komprehensibong prosesong pangkapayapaan? YES NO
- Dapat ba nating ipaalam sa lahat ng mga nagtutunggaliang puwersa ang kahalagahan ng kapayapaan at pagkakasundo sa kapakanan ng Sambayanang Filipino? YES NO
- Dapat ba nating ipaabot sa mga lider ng pamahalaan at ng iba't-ibang sektor na ang prosesong pangkapayapaan ay nakasalalay sa kanilang pagkakaisa sa pagtukoy at pagpapatupad ng mga programa at proyektong pangkaunlaran? YES NO
- Dapat ba tayong magkaisang mamuhay nang walang karahasan – pisikal, seksuwal, sikolohikal, ekonomikal at sosyal – at huwag pumatay o huwag maglangkang pumatay ng ating kapwa? YES NO

A Itiklop o Guptin

Proseso ng Pagkalap ng YES FOR PEACE

- Gagabayan ng mga teacher ang lahat ng estudyante mula grade 4 hanggang 4th year sa pagsagot sa YES FOR PEACE.
- Mag-utawi ng YES FOR PEACE ang mga estudyante para pasagutan sa kanilang mga magulang at kasambahay, 10 taon gulang pataas.
- Dadalin ng mga estudyante ang mga nasagutang YES FOR PEACE sa kanilang mga homeroom.
- Ita-tabulate ng mga estudyante sa tulong ng kanilang mga homeroom advisers ang mga sagot sa 10 tanong ng YES FOR PEACE. Isa-summarize ng mga principal ang mga resulta.
- Dadalin ng mga Boy Scouts at Girl Scouts ang mga school summaries, homeroom tabulations, at YES FOR PEACE sa pinakamalapit na Post Office.

NO TO POVERTY! NO TO VIOLENCE! NO TO WAR! NO TO KILLING!
YES FOR PEACE
BAYANIHAN PARA SA KAPAYAPAN

Participating Institutions

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
Department of Education
Philippine Postal Corporation
Philippine Information Agency
National Printing Office
Boy Scouts of the Philippines
Girl Scouts of the Philippines




Figure No. 18. Obverse Side of the Questionnaire (DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004)

The following information were asked from respondents:

1. Name;
2. Gender;
3. Civil Status;
4. Birthdate;
5. Religion;
6. Mailing Address (Home); and
7. School (if Student).

The process of soliciting responses were expressed in Filipino, to wit:

“Proseso ng Pagkalap ng Yes for Peace

1. “Gagabayan ng mga Teacher ang lahat ng mga estudyante mula Grade 4 hanggang 4th Year sa pagsagot sa YES FOR PEACE.

2. *“Mag-uuwi ng YES FOR PEACE ang mga estudyante para pasagutan sa kani-kanilang mga magulang at kasambahay, 10 taong gulang pataas.*
3. *“Dadalhin ng mga estudyante ang mga nasagutang mga YES FOR PEACE sa kani-kanilang mga homeroom.*
4. *Ita-tabulate ng mga estudyante sa tulong nga kanilang mga homeroom advisers ang mga sagot sa 10 tanong ng YES FOR PEACE. Isa-summarize ng mga principal ang mga resulta.*
5. *“Dadalhin ng mga Boy Scouts at Girl Scouts ang mga school summaries, homeroom tabulations at YES FOR PEACE sa pinakamalapit na Post Office.”*

The **Participating Institutions** listed were the following:

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
 Department of Education
 Philippine Postal Corporation
 Philippine Information Agency
 National Printing Office
 Boy Scouts of the Philippines
 Girl Scouts of the Philippines

Figure No. 19 shows the reverse side of the questionnaire fielded through DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004.

A commitment/statement of respondents therein follows:

“MAHAL KONG MGA KAPWA FILIPINO:

“Tulad Ninyo, naniniwala rin po ako na magiging epektibo ang pagpapatupad ng anumang programa o proycto sa karahasan at kahirapan kung aktibo ang mga mamamayan sa pagtukoy at pagpapatupa nito.

“Asahan po ninyo ang aking aktibong suporta sa mga mapagkakasunduan sa “open and multilateral peace talks” sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng mga rebeldeng grupo.”

Lagda

Pangalan

MAHAL KONG MGA KAPWA FILIPINO:

Tulad ninyo, naniniwala rin po ako na higit na magiging epektibo ang pagpapalapat ng mga programa at proyekto sa kahirapan at kahirapan kung aktibo ang mga mamamayan sa paglalarawan ng mga pakikipag-ugnayan. Asahan ninyo ang aking aktibong suporta sa mga mamamayan ng buwanang pagtatagpuan sa "open and confidential peace talks" sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng mga rebelde.

Karagdagang Impormasyon:

_____ Ang bilang ng nakatira sa bahay namin.

_____ Ang bilang ng 18 taon gulang pataas.

P _____ po ang buwanang ibinabayad namin para sa kuryente.

_____ Lagda

_____ Pangalan

NO TO POVERTY! NO TO VIOLENCE! NO TO WAR! NO TO KILLING!
YES FOR PEACE
BAYANIHAN PARA SA KAPAYAPAN

INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
 YES FOR PEACE – Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan

c/o The Postmaster General
 Philippine Postal Corporation
 3rd Floor Central Post Office
 Liwasang Bonifacio
 1000 MANILA

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE PHILIPPINES

Patuloy ang Pagsulong para sa Kapayapaan

Inaanyayahan po namin ang lahat ng mga Bulakenyo na makilahok sa kampo ng YES FOR PEACE. Sa pamamagitan ng aktibong pakikipag-ugnayan sa kanilang mga mamamayan, ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa kanilang mga mamamayan ay maging mas epektibo at magiging mas epektibo ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa kanilang mga mamamayan. Maraming salamat po sa inyong pakikipag-BAYANIHAN para sa KAPAYAPAN.

Gov. Josie M. Dela Cruz
 Bulacan

Vice-Gov. Rely S. Plamenco
 Bulacan

USE THE ZIP CODE

Figure No. 19. Reverse Side of the Questionnaire (DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004)

Executive Order No. 570, s. 2006

On September 26, 2006, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 570, 2006, "Institutionalizing Peace Education in Basic Education and Teacher Education"

It states:

“WHEREAS, the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is a paramount agenda of the Government as spelled out in Executive Order No. 3, series of 2001, and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010, as well as in support of the United Nation’s Declaration and Programme of Action to promote and strengthen a culture of peace in the new millennium; (Underscoring ours)

“WHEREAS, EO No. 3 calls for building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace through peace advocacy and peace education programs; (Underscoring ours)

“WHEREAS, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has established partnership with public and private schools and non-government organizations in promoting and implementing peace education; (*Underscoring ours*)

“WHEREAS, OPAPP and the Department of Education (DepEd) have developed elementary and high school peace education exemplars, which were launched in September 2005;”

It then ordered:

“Section 1. The DepEd shall mainstream peace education in the basic formal and non-formal education curriculum, utilizing the existing peace education exemplars and other peace related modules, and enhance the knowledge and capability of supervisors, teachers and non-teaching personnel on peace education through the conduct of in-service trainings. (*Underscoring ours*)

“Section 2. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall introduce and mainstream peace education in teacher education.

“Section 3. The OPAPP, in collaboration with DepEd and CHED shall strengthen linkage with private schools in promoting peace education.

“Section 4. The OPAPP, DepEd and CHED shall establish/enhance mechanisms and appropriate funds in their respective departments to ensure the sustained implementation of peace education in the educational system.”

Reinvigoration and Relaunching to Mobilize People Participation

The campaign was reinvigorated in 2008 to underscore the need for people participation in the comprehensive peace process after the rejection of the BJE-MOA-AD (Bangsamoro Juridical Entity - Memorandum of Agreement - Ancestral Domain) between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) without the participation of OPAPP to monitor and oversee participation of partner agencies.

Agreement of MILF Central Committee

On August 4, 2008, the YES FOR PEACE was presented to the MILF Central Committee during a Press Conference on the BJE-MOA-AD held in Camp Darapanan, Maguindanao. The MILF Central Committee agreed to the YES FOR PEACE proposal for open (transparent) and participatory (participative) peace negotiations.

DepEd Memorandum No. 374, s. 2008

On August 6, 2008, DepEd Undersecretary **Vilma L. Labrador** issued DepEd Memorandum No. 374, s. 2008.

It states:

“The campaign aims to encourage as many peace-loving Filipinos - 10 years and older, to speak as one and actively support the national comprehensive peace process as well as United Nations’ Resolution 53/243, ‘Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,’ and to reinforce and enrich the DepED’s continuing peace education program.” (*underscoring ours*)

“...The aim is to create greater consciousness and understanding among the Filipino people of the comprehensive peace process and the Culture of Peace agenda.”

The questions formulated by the Inter-Agency Technical Working group in 2002 based on provisions of UN Resolution 53/243 were used.

Figure No. 20 shows the obverse side of the questionnaire fielded through DepEd Memorandum No. 374, s. 2008.

(Enclosure No. 2 to DepED Memorandum No. 374 s. 2008)

NO TO POVERTY! NO TO VIOLENCE! NO TO WAR! NO TO KILLING!

DepED YES FOR PEACE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **BAYANIHAN PARA SA KAPAYAPAN**

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Name _____ Gender _____ Civil Status _____

Birthdate _____ Religion _____ Occupation _____

Mailing Address (Home) _____ Zip Code _____ Cell # _____

School (if student) _____

Bitang mga Filipino:

1. Dapat ba nating itaguyod ang isang mapayapa at hindi marahas na kultura sa ating mga tehanan, komunidad, paaralan at pamahalaan? YES NO
2. Dapat ba tayong magkaisang palaganapin ang magagandang katangiang dulot ng pagiging Maka-Diyos, Maka-Kalikasan, Maka-Tao at Maka-Bansa? YES NO
3. Dapat ba nating kilalarin at igalang ang iba't-ibang paniniwala at kultura ng bawat isa? YES NO
4. Dapat ba nating pagyamanin ang kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng mga positibong katangian na likas sa atin para masustituhin ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa? YES NO
5. Dapat ba nating baguhin ang sistemang pang-edukasyon upang makasabay sa pagsulong ng pandaigdigang ekonomiya dulot ng pagbabago sa larangan ng siyensiya at teknolohiya? YES NO
6. Dapat ba nating suportahan ang mga programang pangreforma ng pamahalaan upang malutasin ang mga sanhi ng hindi pagkakaisa at ng mga armadong pagtutunggali sa lipunan? YES NO
7. Dapat ba tayong makibahagi sa pagbuo ng mga balayan ng isang komprehensibong prosesong pangkapayapaan? YES NO
8. Dapat ba nating ipaalam sa lahat ng mga nagtutunggaliang puwersa ang kahalagahan ng kapayapaan at pagkakasundo sa kapakanan ng Sambayanang Filipino? YES NO
9. Dapat ba nating ipaabot sa mga lider ng pamahalaan at ng iba't-ibang sektor na ang prosesong pangkapayapaan ay nakasalalay sa kanilang pagkakaiba sa pagtuloy at pagpapalapat ng mga programa at proyektong pangkaunlaran? YES NO
10. Dapat ba tayong magkaisang mamuhay nang walang karehasan-pisikal, seksuwal, sikolohikal, ekonomikal at sosyal - at huwag pumatay o huwag magtangkang pumatay ng ating kapwa? YES NO

Proseso ng Pagkatap ng YES FOR PEACE

1. Gagawain ng mga teacher ang lahat ng estudyante mula grade 4 hanggang 10-yeat sa pagpapal sa YES FOR PEACE.
2. Mag-unlad ng YES FOR PEACE ang mga estudyante para pagpapal sa kani-kanilang mga magulang at kaarawan, ito lahat galing patas.
3. Dikilatin ng mga estudyante ang mga hanapang YES FOR PEACE sa kani-kanilang komunidad.
4. Itatutulong ng mga estudyante sa tulong ng kanilang mga homeroom advisers ang mga magat na 10 taon ng YES FOR PEACE. Isa-salaminan ang mga prinsipal ang mga magat.
5. Dikilatin ng mga Boy Scouts at Girl Scouts ang mga lokal na suporta, homeroom advisers, at YES FOR PEACE sa pamamagitan ng Field Office.

Participating Institutions

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
 Department of Education
 Philippine Postal Corporation
 Philippine Information Agency
 National Printing Office
 Boy Scouts of the Philippines
 Girl Scouts of the Philippines
 Alpha Phi Omega Int'l Phils Inc

***Siguro, pagdating ng panahon, mas malaki pa ang budget na ilaluan sa edukasyon kung mahabawasan ang conflict. Yes, we all say YES for PEACE.* - DepED Secretary Jesli A. Lupus**

Figure No. 20. Obverse Side of the Questionnaire (DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004)

The Masthead of the Questionnaire bore the campaign Title: “YES FOR PEACE – BAYANIHAN NG BAYAN”: the calls of the campaign: “NO TO POVERTY!”, “NO TO VIOLENCE!”, “NO TO WAR!”, AND “NO TO KILLING” as well as the Logo of the Department of Education and the Centennial Logo of the University of the Philippines.

The following information were asked from respondents:

1. Name;
2. Gender;
3. Civil Status;
4. Birthdate;
5. Religion;
6. Mailing Address (Home); and
7. School (if Student).

The process of soliciting responses were expressed in Filipino, to wit:

“Proseso ng Pagkalap ng Yes for Peace

1. *“Gagabayan ng mga Teacher ang lahat ng mga estudyante mula Grade 4 hanggang 4th Year sa pagsagot sa YES FOR PEACE.*
2. *“Mag-uuwi ng YES FOR PEACE ang mga estudyante para pasagutan sa kani-kanilang mga magulang at kasambahay, 10 taong gulang pataas.*
3. *“Dadalhin ng mga estudyante ang mga nasagutang mga YES FOR PEACE sa kani-kanilang mga homeroom.*
4. *Ita-tabulate ng mga estudyante sa tulong nga kanilang mga homeroom advisers ang mga sagot sa 10 tanong ng YES FOR PEACE. Isa-summarize ng mga principal ang mga resulta.*
5. *“Dadalhin ng mga Boy Scouts at Girl Scouts ang mga school summaries, homeroom tabulations at YES FOR PEACE sa pinakamalapit na Post Office.”*

The **Participating Institutions** listed were the following:

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
Department of Education
Philippine Postal Corporation
Philippine Information Agency
National Printing Office
Boy Scouts of the Philippines
Girl Scouts of the Philippines
Alpha Phi Omega Intl Phils Inc

At the bottom portion of the Questionnaire is a one-liner statement DepED Secretary Jesli A. Lapus. *“Siguro, pagdating ng panahon, mas malaki pa ang ilalaan sa edukasyon kung mababawasan ang conflict. Yes, we all say YES FOR PEACE.”*

Figure No. 20 shows the reverse side of the questionnaire fielded through DepEd Memorandum No. 374, s. 2008.

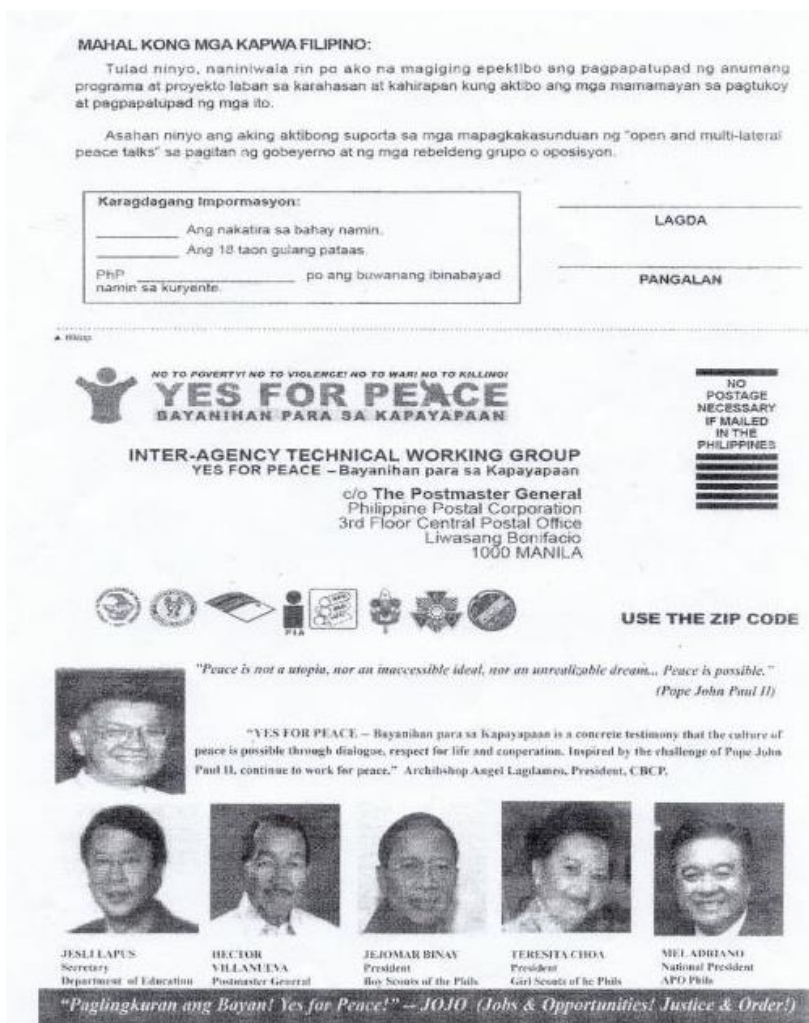


Figure No. 20. Obverse Side of the Questionnaire (DepEd Memorandum No. 382, s. 2004)

With a view to maximize public response to the campaign, the open referendum questionnaire attached to the memorandum featured a quote from Archbishop **Angel Lagdameo**, “ ‘YES FOR PEACE - Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan’ is a concrete testimony that the culture of peace is possible through dialogue, respect for life and cooperation. Inspired by the challenge of Pope John Paul II, continue to work for peace.”

Also featured in the space for donors were the following:

1. DepEd Secretary **JESLI LAPUS**
2. Postmaster General **HECTOR VILLANUEVA**

3. Boy Scouts of the Phils President **JEJOMAR BINAY**
4. Girl Scouts of the Phils **PRESIDENT TERESITA CHOA**
5. APO Phils National President **MEL ADRIANO**

Philpost Memorandum Circular No. 08-96

On September 26, 2008, Postmaster General **Hector R.R. Villanueva** reiterated Philpost's commitment to the campaign through Philpost Memorandum Circular No. 08-96.

Launching of Campaign by DepEd Secretary Jesli A. Lapus

On October 10, 2008, DepEd Secretary **Jesli A. Lapus** launched the campaign at the Rizal High School, the biggest High School, in Pasig City.

The MILF sent Mr. **Al Camlian** and Atty. **Samuel Buat** as its representatives.

DepEd Memorandum No. 125, s. 2009

On March 26, 2009, Secretary Lapus issued DepEd Memorandum No. 125, s. 2009 – CHANGES TO DEPED MEMORANDUM NO. 374, S. 2008 YES FOR PEACE – BAYANIHAN PARA SA KAPAYAPAAN. It reiterated that, “The Department of Education (DepED) is committed to actively participate in the national implementation of the YES for PEACE - Bayanihan Para sa Kapayapaan campaign in all public and private elementary and secondary schools nationwide.”

The Memorandum went on to state, “YES FOR PEACE questionnaires, homeroom tabulation forms to be used in schools in the provincial/city schools divisions and municipal districts of Makati City, Zamboanga City, Davao City, San Pablo City, Isabela, Catanduanes, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Sulu, Basilan, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay were mailed after the schedule indicated.”

For the first time in the history of the campaign, enough questionnaires (**10 Million copies**), Homeroom Tabulation and School Summaries were distributed to hit the mark.

Unfortunately, despite the issuance of DepEd Memorandum No. 374, s. 2008 by Undersecretary Labrador and DepEd Memorandum No. 125, s. 2009 by Secretary Lapus, the campaign was considered by teachers, principals, District Supervisors and Schools Division Superintendents as a mere activity to boost the presidential aspiration of BSP President Jejomar “Jojo” C. Binay because of his decision to declare his intent to run as President on November 11, 2008.

Three Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seven (334,807) responses were generated from October 10, 2008 to 13 August 2009, to wit:

Postal Region I	-	965
Postal Region II	-	13,837
Postal Region III	-	14,244
Postal Region IV	-	58,840
Postal Region V	-	7,927
Postal Region VI	-	-
Postal Region VII	-	-
Postal Region VIII	-	-
Postal Region IX	-	59,032
Postal Region X	-	1,310
Postal Region XI	-	48,649
Postal Region XII	-	28,378
NCR	-	102,511
TOTAL	-	334,807

The certification issued on November 29, 2009 was prepared by **Cecilio Villanueva** and **Arlyn Abueva**, Certified Correct by Postal District Officer **Donabel Asuncion**; and Noted by Assistant Postmaster General for Operations **Mama S. Lalanto, Al Haj**.