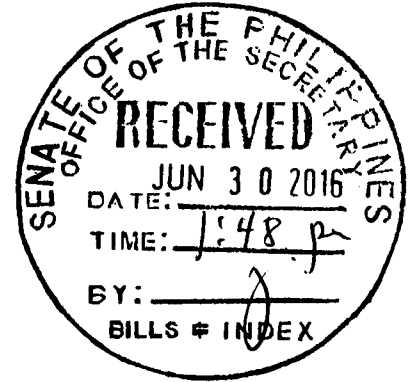


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
S. No. 26



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Introduced by **SENATOR GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING A NATIONAL PEACE POLICY THEREBY CREATING A  
COMMISSION ON PEACE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This measure seeks to institutionalize a National Peace Policy that is governed by the following principles:

a) A comprehensive community-based peace process reflecting the sentiments, values, and principles important to all Filipinos. Thus, it shall be defined not by government alone, nor by the different contending groups only, but by all Filipinos as one community.

b) A comprehensive peace process that aims to forge a new compact for 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.

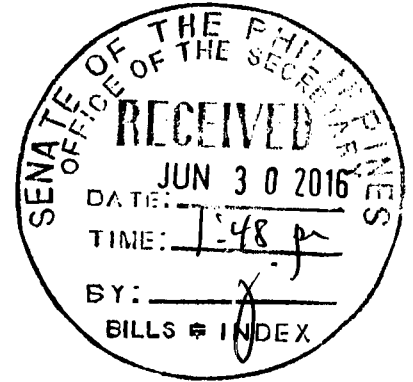
This bill likewise provides for the creation of a Commission on Peace that will be tasked to assist the President in the active pursuit for a comprehensive peace process which will inculcate social, economic and political reforms, consensus-building and empowerment for peace and peaceful negotiated settlement with the different rebel groups. Moreover, programs for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society, rehabilitation, addressing concerns arising from the continuing armed hostilities, building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace are also introduced in this measure.

In light of the foregoing, immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly requested.



**GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**  
Senator

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



SENATE

S. No. 26

---

Introduced by **SENATOR GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**AN ACT**

**DECLARING A NATIONAL PEACE POLICY THEREBY CREATING A COMMISSION ON PEACE**

1       **SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "National  
2 Peace Policy Act of 2016".

3       **SEC. 2. Constitutional Policy on Peace** - The national peace policy  
4 shall be pursued in the light of the following constitutional mandates:

5           a) The sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of the Almighty God, in  
6 order to build a just and humane society and establish a government that shall  
7 embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and  
8 develop our patrimony and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of  
9 independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth,  
10 justice, freedom, love, equality and peace.

11           b) The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and  
12 property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the  
13 enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy.

14       **SEC. 3. Principles Underlying the Comprehensive Peace Process**

15       – The comprehensive peace process shall be governed by the following  
16 underlying principles:

17           a) A comprehensive peace process shall be community-based,  
18 reflecting the sentiments, values, and principles important to all Filipinos. Thus, it  
19 shall be defined not by government alone, nor by the different contending  
20 groups only, but by all Filipinos as one community.

1           b) A comprehensive peace process aims to forge a new compact for a  
2 just, equitable, humane and pluralistic society. It seeks to establish a genuinely  
3 pluralistic society where all individuals and groups are free to engage in peaceful  
4 competition for predominance of their political programs without fear, through  
5 the exercise of rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, and where  
6 they may compete for political power through an electoral system that is free,  
7 fair and honest.

8           **SEC. 4. Components of the Comprehensive Peace Process** – The  
9 comprehensive peace process shall include, but not limited to, the following  
10 components:

11           a) **PURSUIT OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS**

12 - This component would allow the Commission on Peace to act as a coordinative  
13 body of the various policies, reforms, programs and projects aimed at addressing  
14 the root causes of internal armed conflicts and social unrest. This may require  
15 administrative action, new legislation or even constitutional amendments.

16           b) **CONSENSUS-BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT FOR PEACE** –

17 This component shall include the continuing consultations on both the national  
18 and local levels to build consensus for a peace agenda and process and the  
19 mobilization and facilitation of people's participation in the peace process.

20           c) **PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH THE**

21 **DIFFERENT REBEL GROUPS**– This component involves the conduct of face-  
22 to-face negotiations to reach peaceful settlements with the different rebel  
23 groups.

24           d) **PROGRAMS FOR RECONCILIATION, REINTEGRATION INTO**

25 **MAINSTREAM SOCIETY AND REHABILITATION** – This component shall  
26 include programs to address the legal status and security of former rebels, as  
27 well as community-based assistance programs to address the economic, social  
28 and psychological rehabilitation needs of former rebels, demobilized combatants,  
29 and civilian victims of the internal armed conflicts.

30           e) **ADDRESSING CONCERNS, ARISING FROM THE**

31 **CONTINUING ARMED HOSTILITIES** – This component involves the strict  
32 implementation of laws and policy guidelines, and the institution of programs to

1 ensure the protection of non-combatants and reduce the impact of the armed  
2 conflict on communities found in conflict areas.

3 f) **BUILDING AND NURTURING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO**  
4 **PEACE** – This component shall include peace advocacy and peace education  
5 programs and the implementation of various confidence-building measures aimed  
6 at ensuring transparency and good faith in the peace process.

7 **SEC. 5. Creation of the Commission on Peace** – There is hereby  
8 created an independent Commission on Peace which shall be tasked to assist the  
9 President in the active pursuit of a comprehensive peace process.

10 a) The Commission on Peace shall be composed of a Chairman and four  
11 (4) Members who must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the  
12 time of their appointment, at least thirty-five (35) years of age and must not  
13 have been a candidate for any elective position in the elections immediately  
14 preceding their appointment.

15 b) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission on Peace shall  
16 not, during their tenure, hold any other office or employment. Neither shall they  
17 engage in the practice of any profession or in active management or control of  
18 any business which in any way may be affected by the functions of their office,  
19 nor shall be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract with, or in  
20 any franchise or privilege granted by the government, any of its subdivisions,  
21 agencies or instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled  
22 corporations or their subsidiaries.

23 c) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission on Peace shall be  
24 appointed by the President for a term of seven (7) years without reappointment.  
25 Appointments to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the  
26 predecessor.

27 d) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission on Peace shall  
28 receive the same salary as the Chairman and members, respectively, of the  
29 Constitutional Commissions, which shall not be decreased during their term of  
30 office.

31 e) In recognition of the crucial role of civil society in the implementation  
32 of a comprehensive peace process, one (1) member of the Commission on Peace  
33 should come from the civil society.

1           **SEC. 6. Secretariat** – There shall be a Peace Commission Secretariat,  
2 headed by an Executive Director which shall provide all the necessary  
3 administrative and technical support to the Commission on Peace.

4           **SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Commission** – The  
5 Commission on Peace shall have the following powers and functions.

6           1. Formulate policies, programs, guidelines, plans and provide direction in  
7 the implementation of the government's peace process;

8           2. Conduct continuing consultations and dialogues with various sectors of  
9 the citizenry towards ensuring people's direct participation in the government's  
10 peace process;

11          3. Submit an annual report to both Houses of Congress on the process  
12 and implementation of people's recommendations resulting from consultation  
13 and dialogue;

14          4. Request the assistance of the departments, agencies, including  
15 government-owned or controlled corporations in the efficient and effective  
16 implementation of the peace process;

17          5. Perform such other functions as well as exercise such powers as may  
18 be delegated or assigned by the President.

19           **SEC. 8. Citizen Participation** – The State recognizes the vital role of  
20 civil society in the comprehensive peace process. Citizen participation in the  
21 peace process shall be welcomed, enhanced and protected. Mechanisms for this  
22 include the basic sector's peace agenda, peace consultations, citizen third-parties  
23 in the peace talks and community-based peace initiatives including peace zones.

24           **SEC. 9. Transparency and Accountability** – The President and the  
25 administrative structure for carrying on the peace process shall pursue a policy of  
26 transparency and accountability subject to the confidentiality requirements of  
27 peace negotiations.

28           **SEC. 10. Abolition, Transfer of Assets and Personnel** – All agencies  
29 involved in the implementation of the Six paths to peace stated herein such as  
30 the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) created  
31 under Executive No. 125 s. 1993, as amended by Executive Order No. 3 s. 2001,  
32 the National Program for Unification and Development Council (NPUDC) created  
33 under Executive Order No. 152 and the National Peace Forum (NPF) created

1 under Executive Order No. 115 s. 1999 and the Government Peace Negotiating  
2 Panels (GPNPs) are hereby abolished.

3 The unexpended appropriations of the abovementioned agencies are  
4 hereby transferred to the Commission on Peace. All properties, records,  
5 equipment, buildings, facilities and other assets of same shall be transferred to  
6 the Commission.

7 The Commission on Peace may retain such personnel of the OPAPP, the  
8 NPUDC and the NPF and the GRP panels, as may be necessary in the fulfilment  
9 of its powers and functions. Any public officer or employee separated from the  
10 service as a result of the abolition of the said offices affected under this Act shall  
11 receive the benefits to which he or she may be entitled under existing laws, rules  
12 and regulations.

13 **SEC. 11. Transition Period** – Until such time that the Commission on  
14 Peace is fully operational, the OPAPP Secretariat shall continue to provide staff  
15 support to the Commission on Peace. It shall be under the direct control and  
16 supervision of the Chair of the Commission on Peace.

17 **SEC. 12. Appropriations** – The amount necessary to carry out the  
18 provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the  
19 year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

20 **SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – A Technical  
21 Working Group (TWG) composed of the agencies which were abolished and  
22 subsumed under the Commission on Peace shall promulgate the necessary rules  
23 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act ninety (90) days after the  
24 passage of this Act.

25 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause** – If any part or provision of this Act shall  
26 be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not  
27 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect, provided, however,  
28 that no provision hereof shall be construed as a diminution of any peace pact.

29 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause** – All acts, laws, decrees, executive orders,  
30 rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with  
31 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1           **SEC. 16. Effectivity Clause** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
2 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**