

BANTAY CEASEFIRE₂

GRASSROOTS MISSION

**An Assessment of
Displaced Communities
in Pikit, Cotabato and
Pagalungan, Maguindanao**

JULY 13-15, 2003

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CONTEXT

The assessment of the status of displaced communities in Pikit and Pagalungan is part of a series of peace-building initiatives of Mindanao civil society to end conflict and bring peace to Mindanao. These initiatives were started in January with the “Bantay Ceasefire (Ceasefire Watch) Grassroots Mission” in the provinces of Cotabato, Maguindanao, the two Lanaos (Norte and Sur) and Sultan Kudarat. The mission aimed at investigating reported violations of the August 7, 2001 ceasefire agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The mission report was lobbied before leaders of the government and the MILF in hope that violations would be reported and acted on according to the ceasefire guidelines and the ceasefire would hold.

Then came the fateful month of February, when government troops assaulted MILF positions in Pikit, Cotabato especially the so-called “Buliok complex”. The large-scale attacks caused the evacuations of up to 120,000 people from North Cotabato and the neighboring villages of Maguindanao which is only separated from Pikit by the Pulangui river.

Massive evacuations in Cotabato and Maguindanao are nothing new. In Pikit, for example, villagers had fled wars between the Government and the MILF in 1997, the “all-out” war in 2000 and in November 2001. At least two villages in Pagalungan, Maguindanao were abandoned since the year 2000; the villagers are unable to return because of the presence of troops in the occupied areas and have become in a sense “permanent” evacuees. The prolonged stay of the evacuees in the evacuation areas- some as long as half a year- meanwhile resulted in a high death toll due to disease, congestion and inadequate food.

The return of the evacuees was then largely left to time and chance. They went home when their areas were declared safe by the military, although troop presence in their communities exposed civilians to potential crossfire in the event of an MILF attack. Without a ceasefire or troop and armed groups pull-out to ensure their safety, the evacuees endured life in the evacuation centers or with relatives, or went elsewhere to restart their lives.

This year the story was much the same. Civilian casualties especially among the children mounted in the evacuation centers of Pikit, Cotabato and Pagalungan and Pagagawan in Maguindanao while the evacuees waited for political developments that would allow them to return safe and permanently.

Then starting June 9, with government assurances that they would be safe back in their communities, evacuees in the Pikit side returned home. An estimated 866 families however sensed conditions were not ripe for return and merely transferred to the main evacuation camps in nearby Pagalungan.

With school starting in June and no return yet in sight, evacuees made plans with non-government organization (NGO) support groups to start protest actions to get the ears of both government and the MILF. The evacuee organization “Suara Kalilintad” (Voice of Peace) spearheaded the protest actions on June 24-26 that came to be known as the “Bakwit Power”. As many as 8,000 evacuees and their NGO supporters staged a rally on June 24 in Pagalungan and handed over to a Cabinet member sent by Malacañang a six-demand “evacuees manifesto”; over the next few days, the group held highway protest actions demanding a bilateral ceasefire and the return of the GRP and the MILF to the negotiating table.

A better atmosphere for peace started on June 2, when the MILF declared a 10-day suspension of offensive military actions (SOMA) and extended it later by another ten days. Although the government replied with an offer of a “permanent ceasefire”, the lull in the fighting in the next four weeks created better conditions for peace initiatives and confidence-building measures between the parties in conflict.

Sensing better conditions for return, the evacuees and NGO support groups planned to visit the villages abandoned since February to get first-hand information about the returned evacuees, the security situation in the villages, and the physical and livelihood conditions that would await future returnees.

The information was hoped to enable evacuees (specially), caregivers and government officials with data to decide whether evacuees could already return safely and remain more or less permanently.

Thus was conducted the July 13-15 “Bantay Ceasefire 2” (an assessment of displaced communities) in Pikit, Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao where the bulk of evacuees originated. The site surveys were conducted in the villages of Inug-og, Talitay, Rajamuda, Bago Inged, Bulod, Buliok, Barongis and Kabasalan in Pikit; and in barangays Ingu-og, Kudal, Talitay, Kalbugan, Bago-inged and Buliok in Pagalungan. (note: separated by the Pulangui river, most of the villages have a Pikit side and a Pagalungan side, governed by a separate set of village and municipal officials).

There was special focus on Brgy. Inug-og, Pagalungan – a main evacuation area- which was declared by Malacañang as a “sanctuary of peace” last 13 June 2003. The mission aimed at assessing the impact of the declaration on the village.

Site surveys of Brgys. Dalgan and Dungguan in Datu Montawal (formerly Pagagawan) in Maguindanao were scrapped due to time and resource constraints.

The assessments focused on the areas of security, human rights, education, livelihood and public health. Because evacuations are caused by war, the mission tried to locate when possible the army/Marine/paramilitary encampments, as well as the reported MILF positions, and their impact on the security of the returning evacuees.

Although the interviews were mainly sourced from the returned evacuees, information in the Pagalungan side (where there were no community returns yet) came from barangay officials who were themselves displaced and living in the town centers. A valuable source was Inug-og Barangay Captain Muhamad Andoy, also the Chair of the Pagalungan ABC (Association of Barangay Captains). Interviews were also conducted from officials of the Marines (7th and 8th Marine Battalions, First Marine Brigade) who took part in the Pikit assault or were deployed starting March; and from the MILF's 105th Base Command (formerly the First Field Division) whose area of operations includes Pikit and Pagalungan.

The mission was composed of some 50 participants, including officials of the evacuee organization "Suara Kalilintad", barangay officials and the Mindanao Peoples' Caucus (MPC), a tri-people grassroots group. NGO support came from the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID); BALAY Rehabilitation Center; Balik-Kalipay; Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFD); United Youth of the Philippines (UNYPHIL); the Mindanao Peoples Peace Movement (MPPM), the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute (GZOPI), Mennonite Central Committee and Immaculate Conception Parish in Pikit.

The mission was conducted while large parts of ten Maguindanao towns including the sites were still underwater from rainy season flash floods in the first week of July. The floods reached evacuation centers in Maguindanao and forced the evacuees to abandon the camps and transfer their makeshift shelters nearer the highway.

It is also helpful to note that three days after the mission, government and the MILF agreed on an indefinite bilateral ceasefire (starting July 19) and other confidence-building measures that were expected to open the way to another round of GRP-MILF peace negotiations in Malaysia within the same month.

GENERAL FINDINGS

1. Human Security

Fear and insecurity among civilians

There is a general feeling of fear and insecurity among evacuees who returned to their barangays in Pikit since June 9. Residents claimed in interviews that they were forced by the Pikit local government to return to their communities even if there was no bilateral ceasefire yet at the time. The return was imposed upon the evacuees combining promises, persuasion and threats such as stopping relief supply in the evacuation centers, bulldozing the centers, non-provision of core shelters and even physical harm. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the local government assured returnees that weekly relief supplies will be provided to them in the next three months. As of July 15, 2003, around 80% of the evacuees in Pikit have already returned.

Back in their communities, the civilians face a bigger problem—living side by side with military troops whose camps were put up within the barangays. The mission members saw that Marine camps are approximately located from 50 to 100 meters from the core shelters built by government. Given this proximity, it is very likely that civilians will be caught in a crossfire in the event of armed clashes with the MILF.

The relationship between returnees and the Marines in Pikit and Pagalungan is generally good. Residents said that the Marines are disciplined and respectful to them and so far, no abuse has been reported. The Marines meanwhile said they initiated confidence-building measures towards the civilians, among them assisting civilians in transporting their harvest to the poblacion and buying fish and vegetables from civilians at prices higher than the market rates.

But even with this good relations, civilians say they still prefer these troops to immediately reposition away from their communities so that they could go back to normal lives. War trauma is still present among the returnees. Families cannot sleep well at night. Children are hesitant to return to school because they want to be with their mothers in case bombings and fighting return and they need to evacuate again.

Marine camps situated within civilian communities

The mission concludes from actual site visits that that the camps/detachments of the First and Second Marine Brigades are located within civilian communities. In Buliok for instance, the 6th Marine Battalion detachment is located within 15 meters from the elementary school. In Bulol, the Marine camp was built within the residential compound of the Barangay Captain which is less than 30 meters away from civilian houses.

Marine officers explained that it is easier to protect people when they (people) are closer to them. The officers assured they won't harm civilians but said they cannot guarantee the safety of the civilians because they have no control over the MILF.

Two MILF field commanders who were interviewed during the mission meanwhile accused the military of using the civilians as buffer or human shields. They said they only hit military targets but there is no assurance civilians near the targets will not be also hit.

The civilians meanwhile reason that it is dangerous for the military to be near them because the military has an enemy, the MILF, who might attack them anytime. In contrast, they said, the people have no enemies.

While the mission finds that rehabilitation efforts at constructing core shelters for the evacuees to be laudable, it finds it quite disturbing that the shelters were built near the military camps. What appears to be a purely humanitarian effort has been tainted with a military objective. But this proximity has compromised the civilians safety instead of offering long-term security to the civilians.

Clustering of civilian houses

Women evacuees in Barangay Buliok, Pikit expressed dissatisfaction with the clustering of the core houses which are only about 5 meters apart. The close quarters offers little privacy and is likely to cause conflict among neighbors and prevents livelihood initiatives such as raising vegetables or domestic animals. Tuwaw Abdulraham Raof, 45 years old and a mother of five, said that she formerly lived in a ¼-hectare area where she grew vegetables like talong, okra, sekula, amplaya and tended chickens and ducks.

LOCATION OF MILITARY CAMPS AND DETACHMENTS IN PIKIT & PAGALUNGAN		
Location of Camps	Unit	Approximate Distance from Civilian
Bulol	Marine detachment – 2 nd marine brigade	Within the compound of Brgy. Captain
Bulod	Marines-26 Marine company	20 meters from the houses
Gli-gli	Marines	Road side; 50 meters away
Bago Inged	Marines- 36 Marine company	30 meters away from clustered houses
Buliok	Marines	10-15 meters away from elementary school
Talitay	40IB	200 meters away
Rajah Muda	40IB	50 meters away from school
Kabasalan	Marines	100 meters away from core shelter mosque within the detachment occupied by marines
PAGALUNGAN AND PAGAGAWAN		
Kudal (Sitio Kakal, Bago Inged Elem. School Sitio Talab)	Marine detachment 1 st Marine Battalion 7 th Marine Battalion 8 th Marine Battalion	Riverside
Buliok	Marine camp Obrero / Islamic Center	Riverside
Buliok, Sitio Sapakan	Marines	Riverside
Buliok Proper	Marines	Riverside
Brgy. Inug-og	Marines	Riverside

Unexploded bombs, land mines, ordnance and booby traps

A major war leaves many unpleasant residues, among them unexploded bombs, land mines, ordnance and booby traps in the communities, thus endangering returning civilians. Many villages in Pikit and Pagalungan were the battlegrounds in the February war and both the MILF and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officers acknowledged the strong possibility of becoming victims of unexploded war materials in the communities.

Hadji Faisal, Intelligence Officer of the 105th Base Command of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), claimed that there are unexploded .105 mm., 81 mm. shells and bombs dropped from OV-10 Bronco air force planes in Kudal, Pagalungan; and in Barangays Bago Inged and Kabasalan, both in the Pikit and Pagalungan side. He said communities need to be cleared by bomb experts to defuse or deactivate any remaining bombs.

The Marine 7th IB commander assigned in Pagalungan also saw the need to conduct clearing operations to secure the civilian areas from these hazardous war implements.

The mission documented reports to show that the threat is real. Last June in Barangay Talitay, Pikit, a returnee named Tatuan Mamadra was injured when a 105 mm. howitzer shell exploded in his farm. Mamadra was burning dried grass to clear his farm for replanting when the blaze apparently set off the shell embedded on the ground.

In Sitio Butilen, Kabasalan, Pikit, three civilians- Budsal Sambalang, Nards Maulana and an unidentified resident of Butilen -- were injured when they accidentally stepped on booby traps (likely punji sticks) placed near a Marine camp.

Some of the Marines interviewed by mission members said they have in fact requested civilians to coordinate with them as there are still specific locations planted with land mines.

Militarization and the recruitment and training of paramilitaries and partisans

The mission notes that at the time of the mission on July 13-15, five months after the February assault in Buliok, the municipalities of Pikit, Pagalungan and even the adjacent municipality of Pagagawan remain highly militarized. There are three Marine brigades In Mindanao; two Marine brigades (the First and Second Brigades) were deployed to Pikit and Pagalungan (the Third Marine Brigade is in Sulu). Even if the Marine officers claim the deployed brigades are undersized, the mission was not able to get exact deployment figures.

The army's 40th Infantry Battalion also maintains headquarters in Pikit poblacion.

Pikit, Pagalungan and Pagagawan are also under the operational area of the MILF's 105th Base Command which claims to have 20,000 armed regulars. However, the 105th Base Command's area also

extends to North Cotabato (Tulunan, Matalam, Carmen, Kidapawan, Banisilan and Alamada); Sultan Kudarat (Columbio) and Maguindanao (Sultan sa Barongis, SK Pendatun).

Aside from these armed groups, the local government units are also recruiting and training Civilian Volunteer Organizations (CVO) in Pikit, with the the first batch of 150 CVOs completing their training last June 26. Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) are also being trained under the Army's 40 IB.

In contrast, Pikit, Pagalungan and Pagagawan have an estimated combined population of about 140,000 or roughly 15,000 families.

Confronted with this militarization, many residents proposed to the mission that the military eventually withdraw or at least reposition away from civilian communities. Kagawad Ismael Usman of Brgy. Kudal said: "Now that there is a ceasefire, the military and MILF should go back to their camps so that the civilians can also go back to their own barangays."

The presence of troops render meaningless the March 4, 2003 declaration by the Cabinet of 15 barangays in Pikit as "zones of peace", and the well-publicized June 13, 2003 declaration by the President of Brgy. Inug-og, Pagalungan, as a "sanctuary of peace".

Restriction on civilian movement

Col. Alexander Balutan, commander of the 7th Marine Battalion deployed since March 2003 in Pagalungan, claims that the civilians can freely return to their own barangays. But they are required to log in and out at Marine detachments to ensure their security while inside their barangays and also to prevent the theft of other people's crops.

Majority of the residents in Pagalungan and Pagagawan have not yet returned to their own barangays. Those who do harvest crops during the daytime only but log out before nightfall. While residents understand the security measures, many said they feel like thieves sneaking in and out of their own farms. Others complain they don't have enough daytime hours to harvest crops.

Marines staying in civilian houses, damage to properties

Some civilians in Sitio Sapakan, Buliok in Pagalungan and in Brgy. Kabasalan, Pikit complained that their houses are currently occupied without their consent by the Marines. Returnees to Kabasalan said

they were directed to occupy the new core shelters, not their old areas. Kabasalan residents also complain they cannot pray in their mosque because of soldiers camped in the mosque vicinity and a temporary fence constructed as part of Marine security measures.

The mission also noted extensive damage to properties in the fifteen barangays in Pikit, Pagalungan and Pagagawan that the mission visited. A significant number of houses, schools and mosques were damaged either by direct hits from small arms fire, from mortar or artillery shelling, from bombs dropped by planes or from gunship rockets. Civilian houses were burned from aerial bombings and shelling and there were strong indications that many houses were intentionally torched. Farming and fishing implements like fishing boats were also put to the torch.

Barangay Captain Samad Mamoalas of Kalbugan, Maguindanao (who accompanied the mission) claims that up to 100 houses were burned in Kalbugan, aside from the PTA building and the village mosque.

It should be noted that these damage to civilian properties were committed after the people had evacuated and abandoned their villages, hence the difficulty to substantiate the allegations. Civilians however claim that the AFP troops were the only ones left in the interior barangays after the people had evacuated.

Status of the Islamic Center

A mission team was able to get entry to the Islamic Center in Buliok, which the Marines had converted into “Camp Obrero”, headquarters of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 8. Up to 90 evacuees had already returned to Sitio Midsayap in Buliok, Pagalungan and the Barangay Captain himself had reportedly requested the Marines to put up a detachment in the area to secure the civilians.

Lt. Col. Puruji Maang, tactical commander of the Marine 8th Infantry Battalion, informed the mission that the Islamic Center had already been turned over to Sultan Abas Pendatun, who had been designated its caretaker by the President herself. This “turnover” however does not appear to be substantial. The area is still effectively controlled by the Marines; military permission is needed to enter the center and visitors are required to log-in and log out at the Marine guard post located at the camp entrance. Maang in fact had required the mission to get a clearance pass from the Commanding General of the 6th Infantry Division in Cotabato City to get inside the camp. It appears that Sultan Abas Pendatun’s caretaker mandate has been limited to maintenance of the Islamic Center.

The mission confirmed media reports that the Marines had indeed moved out of the Islamic Center’s 1,000-square meter area, but Marines still control the vicinity. Meanwhile, Buliok residents and barangay

leaders interviewed by the mission want the Islamic Center turned over to the barangay officials, who will define responsibilities and authority over the custody of the Islamic Center. This arrangement, they said, will enable Muslims to resume religious activities within the center and encourage the return of civilians living in the vicinity.

Barangay Inug-og

The declaration of Barangay Inug-og as a “Sanctuary for Peace” was well-publicized with no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Cory Aquino, along with Cabinet members, diplomats and media present during the launching of the sanctuary last June 13, 2003.

Despite the declaration, however, residents are still afraid to return to Inug-og. Some work on their farms during the day but return to their evacuation centers at night for safety. They said they will not return to Inug-og until there is a pull-out of troops there because of the possibility of fighting (a major battle occurred this year at the Inug-og bridge where the MILF had set up battle lines.) Inug-og is currently under the operations area of the 7th Marine Battalion.

Barangay Kagawad Ali Muray said a sanctuary for peace means that there should be no armed forces whatsoever present in Inug-og. But the June 13 declaration remains, for him, Inug-og’s vision or dream for the future, not what they have now.

There is also confusion on whether the MILF recognizes the declaration of Inug-og as a sanctuary for peace and will keep away their forces from there.

Some residents of Inug-og interviewed by the mission said they were promised houses by government and NGOs like Tabang Mindanao. According to barangay leaders in Sitio Proper, Tabang-Mindanao promised to build some 200 houses and to give three sacks of rice per house built as payment for the people’s labor in the construction. As of now, no single house has been built.

2. Education

Schools opened nation-wide on June 16 this year. Schools also opened that day in the war-affected barangays in Pikit, except for Brgys. Bulol and Kabasalan. To the credit of the DepEd, a school was opened in Brgy. Bulod for the first time since, although it is only for first grade.

Expectedly, there was a decrease in enrollment in Pikit as a direct effect of the war in February. Some families have relocated; some children need to help out their parents livelihood, some are still too traumatized to go to school (where they are away from parents). Still another reason is that parents chose not to enroll their children because of the uncertainty of school during war. When evacuee families do return, other immediate concerns like food and housing crowd out education as the priority.

Like many other areas in central Mindanao there is in Pikit a shortage of classrooms, school buildings, teachers and schoolbooks (estimated book-user ratio is 1:10). Students especially the children of evacuees lack notebooks, ballpens, pencils, writing paper and other classroom materials.

Education is a problem in the Pagalungan side because evacuees have not been able to return, villages have been abandoned and no schools have opened. Many of the schools have been damaged by the February 2002 war (either from direct hits by artillery or by bombs dropped from planes or gunships, as in the case of Sitio Balongis, brgy. Kalbugan, Pagalungan) or from disuse in the last five months (Brgys. Kudal and Bgo-Inged which were abandoned since 2000). But residents said they have not been told of specific rebuilding plans or budgets.

In some cases, soldiers wanted to encamp beside the school (the case of Brgy. Inug-og central elementary school where Marines approached school officials of their plan).

3. Livelihood

If they decide to return now, evacuees will be facing the problem of flooding during the rainy season and will need continued food assistance like rice because they cannot harvest and plant much. Fishing is their main food source and livelihood during the rainy season, but they need bancas (small boats without outriggers); fishing gear (fishhooks, fishlines); and fishnets.

Expectedly, the farms and crops abandoned since February have rotted or been overgrown by vegetation. Replanting is urgently needed.

On the Pikit side, an alternative source of income for returned families are sari-sari stores but only few families have the start-up capital. Most residents still need to buy from the poblacion which entail transportation costs.

Some returnees complain that security procedures (logging in and out, time limits 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.) are constraining their time to harvest their crops especially coconuts.

There were also complaints that the core shelters are constructed far from their farms, using up time to go and return from their farms.

SEED PIKIT (Socio-Economic Enhancement and Development for Pikit) is a project sponsored by the Provincial Government of Cotabato to help in the rehabilitation of war-affected barangays in Pikit. It was expected by evacuees as a source of loans, rice seeds and fertilizers. However, the only reported impact in Pikit was in Brgy. Bulod where 9 beneficiaries received a sack each of rice seeds and 4 sacks of fertilizers; and in Talitay where tractors were employed.

Generally, the government infrastructure projects (building roads, steel bridge from Bago Inged, Pikit to Pagalungan) is seen as not matching the immediate needs of residents for food and livelihood assistance.

4. Public Health

Major concerns centered around the difficulty in getting potable water during the rainy season. Because of floods, many potential sites for installation of manual pumps are underwater.

The flash floods this month has also inundated many public toilets/latrines/compost pits and has forced residents to dispose of human wastes into the floodwaters or into open areas, raising the risk of diseases.

The floods also raise the risk of mosquito-carried diseases like malaria and dengue fever. It was feared that the stagnant waters and uncut vegetation in the abandoned villages will attract mosquitoes and other pests.

According to barangay officials, the most common ailments in their communities were diarrhea caused by dirty water, coughs and colds, fevers, and scabies (kaluli).

At the time of the mission, the villages of Pagalungan remain abandoned. Returning evacuees will certainly need health professionals or midwives. Before the evacuations, people relied on medicines provided by the municipal governments. But the buying centers (for example, a Botika ng Masa cooperative store in Brgy. Talitay) are already run down from disuse in the last five months.

5. Housing

There are no houses to return to in the Pagalungan villages. In Brgys. Kudal and Bago Inged which were totally abandoned during the 2000 “all-out” war and has not been inhabited since, there are no standing structures to live in. House building will be the priority concern in the Pagalungan side.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Human Security

1. In the interest of human security for the civilian population, it is strongly recommended that the military reposition its camps to the highways in Pagalungan, Pagagawan and Pikit to provide a normal and secure living condition for evacuees who have returned and to convince those still in the evacuation centers to finally return. In the light of the re-declaration of a bilateral ceasefire between government and the MILF last July 18, there is no more excuse for the huge deployment of armed troops within these areas. As aptly said by a barangay leader, “the military and MILF should now go back to their barracks and in turn, the civilians should go back to their own communities.”
2. Mine clearing operations should be undertaken in the affected barangays for unexploded landmines, bombs, ordnance and booby traps that could endanger returning civilians. Although mine-clearing operations can be assisted by independent groups with expertise in mine-clearing, both the MILF and the government should cooperate in this clearing operation for the benefit of the people they both avow to protect.
3. Local leaders from the Barangay, Municipal, Provincial and the Regional (i.e, ARMM) levels should be enabled to exercise leadership and authority with regards to the governance of their respective political units. The military should cease from exercising control over these areas as if it is still a war zone. Restrictions with regards to the ingress and exit of people should be lifted.
4. Core shelters constructed by government must be re-clustered and transferred to the original homes and farm lots of the evacuees. At the least , residents must be given an option between staying in the clustered core shelters or going back to their original communities. In the Pagalungan side, houses should be constructed in the original lands of the residents.
5. For the Marines to immediately turn over houses which they are presently occupying to the owners. This also applies to the mosque in Kabasalan, Pikit so that the local Muslim population can resume their religious activities.
6. The Islamic Center should be immediately turned over to the barangay officials in Buliok, Pagalungan.

Education

7. Immediate repair of damaged school buildings.
8. For private institutions/groups to “adopt” schools.
9. Involve LGUs/barangay officials and the private sector. Some schools are just barangay schools or annex units of bigger schools and do not need DepEd to open.
10. Request DepEd to keep the military away from schools.
11. Continue psycho-social programs for children.

Livelihood

12. Food assistance should continue at the least for the next 3 months while returnees replant and wait for harvest. The promised assistance of 6 kilos of rice per family weekly is not enough.
13. Provide returnees with bancas, fishing gear and fishnets.
14. Expand SEED-Pikit coverage. The program should be partial to evacuees and their special needs for doleouts and loan moratorium for the meantime.
15. More assistance to LGUs/barangays in conflict-affected areas (disaster funds).

Public Health

16. DOH to prioritize the construction of potable water systems.
17. Involve LGUs/barangays in installing water systems.
18. Education/orientation campaign on public hygiene.

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11. Kag. Migkasing Amin, *Brgy. Talitay, Pikit Cotabato*
12. Kag. Imad Hapid, *Brgy. Talitay, Pikit Cotabato*
13. Kag. Takoan Amin, *Brgy. Talitay, Pikit Cotabato*
14. Benjie M. Guiamaludin, *Brgy. Talitay, Elementary School*
15. Nasser Sepi, *Brgy. Talitay, Elementary School*
16. Amira Ismael, *Brgy. Talitay Elementary School*
17. Tayubang H. Rahim, Principal, *Brgy. Rajamuda Elementary School*
18. Mrs. Wafa H. Tahir, *Brgy. Rajamuda Elementary School*

Military

1. ~~Col. Alexander F. Balutan~~, Commander, *7th Marine Battalion*
2. Lt. Col. Puruji Maang, *Tactical Commander, 8th Marine Battalion*
3. Capt. Hernani Abayon, *Battalion Staff Officer, 7th Marine Battalion*
4. Sgt. Edmundo S. Pabilona, *Brgy. Talitay, 40IB*
5. Cpl. Greg A. Pilapil, *Brgy. Rajamuda, 40IB*
6. Lt. Desingño, *2nd Lieutenant, 36MC MBLT-6*
7. Lt. Christopher C. Bareng, *2nd Lieutenant B Coy 548ECB, 54E Battalion, PA*

MILF

1. “Hadji Faisal”, *Intelligence Officer of the 105th Base Command (formerly the First Field Division) of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF)*
2. “Kumander Eddie”, *Operations Commander, 105th Base Command*

Evacuees and Residents

1. Tuwaw Abdulrahman Raof, *Barangay Buliok, Pikit*
2. Olanan Samola, *Barangay Kabasalan, Pikit*
3. Benjie Mangundong
4. Subia Akub, *Brgy. Buliok, Pikit*
5. Tamubabay Batan, *Brgy. Kabasalan, Pikit*
6. Hadji Muhammad Mustapha, *Brgy. Bago Inged, Pkit*
7. Macmod Edris, *Brgy. Bago Inged, Pikit*

CONVENORS

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Immaculate Conception Parish, Pikit (ICP)

Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)

Mindanao People's Peace Movement (MPPM)

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