

## **AGREED MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PHILIPPINES-MALAYSIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF MUSLIM FILIPINOS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1.The First Meeting of the Philippines-Malaysia Joint Committee on Assistance for the Socio-Economic Advancement of Muslim Filipinos was held in Manila, Philippines on 27 May 1996.

2.The Philippine side was led by the Hon. Rodolfo C. Severino, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs. The Malaysian side was led by H.E. Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation lists appears as Annex A.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3.The Meeting adopted the Agenda which appears as Annex B.

### **BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

4.The Meeting was held in Plenary and formed three Working Groups namely: the Working Group on Islamic Banking and Tabung Haji, Working Group on Education and Entrepreneurial Skills and Working Group on Trade and Investment.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEETING**

5.The Meeting recognized the importance of bilateral cooperation for the socio-economic advancement of Muslim Filipinos and welcomed the establishment of the Joint Committee. Both sides also recognized the need for a focal point to facilitate the implementation of such cooperation.

6.The Meeting agreed to recommend to the Joint Commission that the Joint Committee be given the mandate to meet intersessionally.

### **ON ISLAMIC BANKING AND HAJ MANAGEMENT**

1.The Philippine side expressed its desire to learn from Malaysia's experience in Islamic banking and Haj management.

2.The Malaysian side indicated its willingness to share experiences in these fields. The Malaysian side sought clarification on the procedure for the setting up of an Islamic bank in Mindanao and requested the Philippine

Government to identify the areas of expertise required so as to enable Tabung Haji and Bank Islam to offer the necessary assistance in the field of Islamic banking. The Malaysian side also sought clarification with regard to the Philippine Government's position on the management of Haj activities in the Philippines and informed the Philippine side that Tabung Haji is willing to share its expertise in the field of Haj management.