



# **NDF Anniversary Declaration: Uphold the Program, Constitution, and Structures of the 1990 Congress**

National Council elected at the NDF Congress  
in July 1990

**W**e have gathered on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the National Democratic Front as members of the National Council elected at the NDF Congress in July 1990.

We call on all elected officials, member organizations and units of the NDF, inside and outside the Philippines, to renew our commitment to the national democratic revolution.

The crises in Philippine society and in the world justify our continuing struggle for an alternative society and government, instead of merely hoping for changes within the ruling power structure and social system. But the crises in different revolutionary and progressive forces and projects also challenge us to creatively search for new directions and new visions.

While we engage in this search, we retain our common reference point: the NDF Program and Constitution and other documents approved by the July 1990 Congress. Together with the structures established by the NDF Congress, they represent the cumulative efforts of over 20 years, and reflect the democratic participation of numerous national democratic activists and allies.

There is a need to reaffirm the validity and integrity of the 1990 NDF Congress and its decisions because the internal conflict in its leading member organization, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), is being used by some to undermine the NDF.

In the service of their inner-party struggle, a powerful faction of the CPP is waging a campaign against the NDF Program, Constitution, and organizational structure. They have illegitimately suspended the operations of the full NDF National Council and the full National Executive Committee, and have arrogated the powers of the NDF leadership to a small group that is not accountable to these leadership bodies, much less to all NDF member organizations and units.

In the last few months, this group has decreed the abolition of many NDF structures in the Philippines and abroad. They have disauthorized NDF international representatives and have illegally taken over the NDF International Office.

As members of the National Council and the National Executive Committee inside the Philippines, we declare these acts as illegal and invalid, and call on these NDF units and representatives to continue their work.

These factional moves have weakened the NDF's position in the peace process. Nevertheless, we challenge the Ramos government not to use these moves as an excuse to delay further the progress of the peace negotiations. We also remind the current NDF negotiators to hew faithfully to the policies determined by the NDF Congress and to remain accountable to the full leadership bodies of the NDF.

This reminder is necessary, because the same group within the CPP have drafted an alternative NDF program and constitution, supposedly to correct their flaws. But in effect, they are changing the crucial points of unity arrived at during the Congress, and would reverse the progress in the NDF's thinking and practice.

Instead of the principle of democratic pluralism, they propose a return to a one-party dominated political and social order.

Instead of a mixed economy with a socialist perspective, they propose a return to a centralized state-monopolized economic model.

Instead of a revolutionary federation within which the independence and initiative of member organizations have full play, they propose a return to a primitive conception of the NDF as a mere 'front' of the CPP.

We acknowledge the valuable and leading role the CPP has played and continues to play in building the NDF. We think that its efforts to continuously earn and renew its leadership will not be helped by institutional and constitutional guarantees of its leading role as Stalinists have done in other countries.

We call on all leaders and units of the CPP, particularly those responsible for these violations of the NDF's integrity, to desist from undermining the work to which they themselves have contributed.

The National Democratic Front is our common effort and achievement. We build on its achievements and struggle to correct its weaknesses in the same spirit that have united us these past 20 years -- no monopoly by any organization or group, but cooperative effort based on mutual recognition and accountability.

We uphold the program, constitution and structures decided upon by the 1990 NDF Congress, and recognize the NDF leaders and members who do the same. We call on all NDF member organizations, units, and allies, inside and outside the Philippines, to persevere in the struggle for national democracy.

We pledge our commitment, in the service of the Filipino people, and in memory of our revolutionary martyrs:

**National Exec. Committee**

Fermin G. Rubre  
Rex Amante  
V. Aguilar  
Alexis Malvar  
Ike Guerrero

**National Council**

Ike de los Reyes (CMR Mindanao)  
Kadir Muzzafar (Moro)  
Armando Magbanua (Visayas)  
Julian Lazaro (MMR)  
Apolonio de la Cruz (PKM)  
Alberto Martin (CNL)  
Roberto Palomar (Kasama)  
Gabriel Rodriguez (Kaguma)  
Chris Santos  
A. Ben Reyes  
Mario Villareal  
Leni A. Bulosan (Chairperson NDF-USA)  
Ricardo Rodriguez  
Bro. John D.G.M. Malaya (WE)