

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	16 AUGUST 2016

Philippine peace panel visits Najib

NST- 16/8/2016

BANGSAMORO DEAL:
Delegation includes officials involved in Mindanao peace process

PUTRAJAYA

PHILIPPINE presidential adviser to the peace process Jesus Dureza and other delegates paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak here yesterday.

The delegation, which included Philippine Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno,

Presidential Communications Operations Office's Martin Andanar and Philippine ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya, arrived at Perdana Putra at 9.15am.

Also present were Philippine Government Implementing Panel head Irene M. Santiago and panel members Diosita T. Andot, Nabil A. Tan, Rolando Asuncion and Dickson P. Hermoso.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said Najib was confident that the Mindanao peace process would move forward under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's leadership.

It said Najib believed economic development in Mindanao was vital for long-lasting peace and stability.

"In addition to the peace process,

the prime minister also highlighted the need for regional cooperation to address the growing threat posed by Daesh (Islamic State), extremist elements, kidnap-for-ransom groups and transnational crime," the statement said.

It said Najib wanted Malaysia and the Philippines to strengthen bilateral ties and he looked forward to Duterte's visit to Malaysia this month.

It was reported that members of the Philippine government's new implementing panel and representatives of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front held a meeting in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend to formally relaunch the implementation phase of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro.

Bernama