

**Autonomy for
MUSLIM MINDANAO:**

**Untold
THE REG₁ STORY**

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Madale**

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DEDICATED TO

**OUR FAMILIES WHO KNOW AND
TOLERATE OUR ACTIONS;**

**THE PRESIDENT WHO HAS TO KNOW
THE ADVISERS' TOLERATED ACTIONS;**

AND

**THE *UMMAH* WHO MUST KNOW
WHAT IT HAS TO TOLERATE**

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PREFACE

Jihad, although misconstrued at times, is a struggle towards good. It does not necessarily mean War. Our Jihad is towards Peace. It can come in two ways, through *force* or through the *pen*. We opted for the latter.

According to a friend, if one takes the course of force, he must be prepared to be hit by it in return. In like manner, those choosing the other course, that of the pen, must be prepared to be hit by it as well.

With this book, we might be "penned" as undesirables, outcasts, or even criminals. We will not "pen back" because one purpose of this work is merely to relate an untold story. It is not intended to malign anything or anybody; only to awaken people to realities.

Our appointments as Commissioners of the Regional Consultative Commission for Muslim Mindanao provided us the opportunity to serve as middlemen between the Protagonists of the Mindanao Problem — the *beneficiaries* and the *benefactors* of the autonomy being crafted. This work, therefore, is based on a first hand information about the uncovered feelings of these protagonists — the formers' eagerness to receive and the latters' selfishness to give.

The Commission was a replica of the interplay among the actual forces involved in the resolution of the Problem. What we witnessed gave us a perspective clearer than any illustration of the situation conveyed by the voluminous literature written on the subject. Our role now is how to impart what came before our eyes. Conscience dictates that we perform such role.

There is a need to document the workings of the Regional Consultative Commission for Muslim Mindanao since the efforts of the Members are noble in purpose, and the Government emphasizes the "transparency" of its programs. Whatever such efforts contribute to the initiative of the different sectors of society towards PEACE hinges on the perception of both the law-makers and the protagonists of the so-called Mindanao Problem on the developments that occur day in and day out.

This volume is intended to be a feedback to the officials of the National Government for consideration in the conceptualization and the implementation of policies vis-a-vis the Muslims in the Philippines. On another level, the Muslims have to take cognizance of the weaknesses they show while the Problem is being considered for resolution. Both the National Government and the Muslims contribute to the complication of the Problem, and only by shunning from such adverse roles can the nagging Muslim Problem in the Philippines be put to rest.

The Authors wish to acknowledge the assistance extended by those who made possible the publication of this modest work. Here is hoping and praying for an eventual reign of Peace in Muslim Mindanao.

Through circumstances beyond our control, our efforts in the RCC were seemingly put to naught. This book explains how and why. Since we failed to contribute significantly to our history as a united people, we are then settling for this story to tell!

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August 1989

JIHAD as a guiding inspiration, this volume explores the long road towards **AUTONOMY** and **PEACE** in Muslim Mindanao. Taking the Regional Consultative Commission (RCC) as a springboard, various inquiries are clarified:

- * From deep intimacy, why was there lost love between the National Government and its creation, the RCC?
- * Why does the MNLF insist on the participation of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in all negotiations?
- * How is the present Muslim-Christian relationship in the South?
- * What are the present policies of the Government regarding the Muslims in the Philippines?
- * How do the Presidential Advisers implement the policies of the BOSS?
- * What roles do the Protagonists of the Mindanao Problem play vis-a-vis the issue?
- * What are the prospects of **PEACE** reigning again in the Land of Promise?
- * And many more . . .

This volume is the first of a series of accounts the authors, who were RCC Commissioners, will be exposing as their contribution to the so-called "transparency" of Government programs and operation, particularly those affecting the Muslims in the Philippines.