

Is a Bangsa Moro State within a Federation the Solution

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48 ATENEO L.J. 290 (2003)

SUBJECT(S): CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

KEYWORD(S): BANGSA MORO, FEDERALISM, MINDANAO

While a discussion on the federalization of the Philippines as the constitutional solution to the many problems of the state and governance, especially in the light of the peace of process in Mindanao between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a discussion on federalism should not be limited to the peace process alone because the two are completely separate issues. The federal system can be adopted independently of the peace process of Mindanao.

This Article seeks to answer the question of whether a federal state for the Bangsa Moro people is the best option for a peaceful political solution leading to a lasting peace in Mindanao. An affirmative answer would thereby mean that federalism would be the best way to attain peace and should be the goal in order to achieve the final status agreement with the Bangsa Moro people. In examining the different political options available, the Article takes into account Islam, the Muslim faithfully, and the history of the Bangsa Moro people as an anti-imperialist and anti-colonial State seeking for national liberation.

By concluding that a federal government may ultimately provide for genuine peace and a comprehensive political solution, there remains a need to establish a Bangsa Moro state or states to the satisfaction of the Bangsa Moro, Mindanaoans, Lumads, and the Filipino people as a whole.