



# TITAYAN: Bridging for Peace

INCLUSIVE POLITICAL TRANSITIONS IN THE BANGSAMORO



# Keynote of Cardinal Quevedo

Looking at  
the future...

... with  
hope



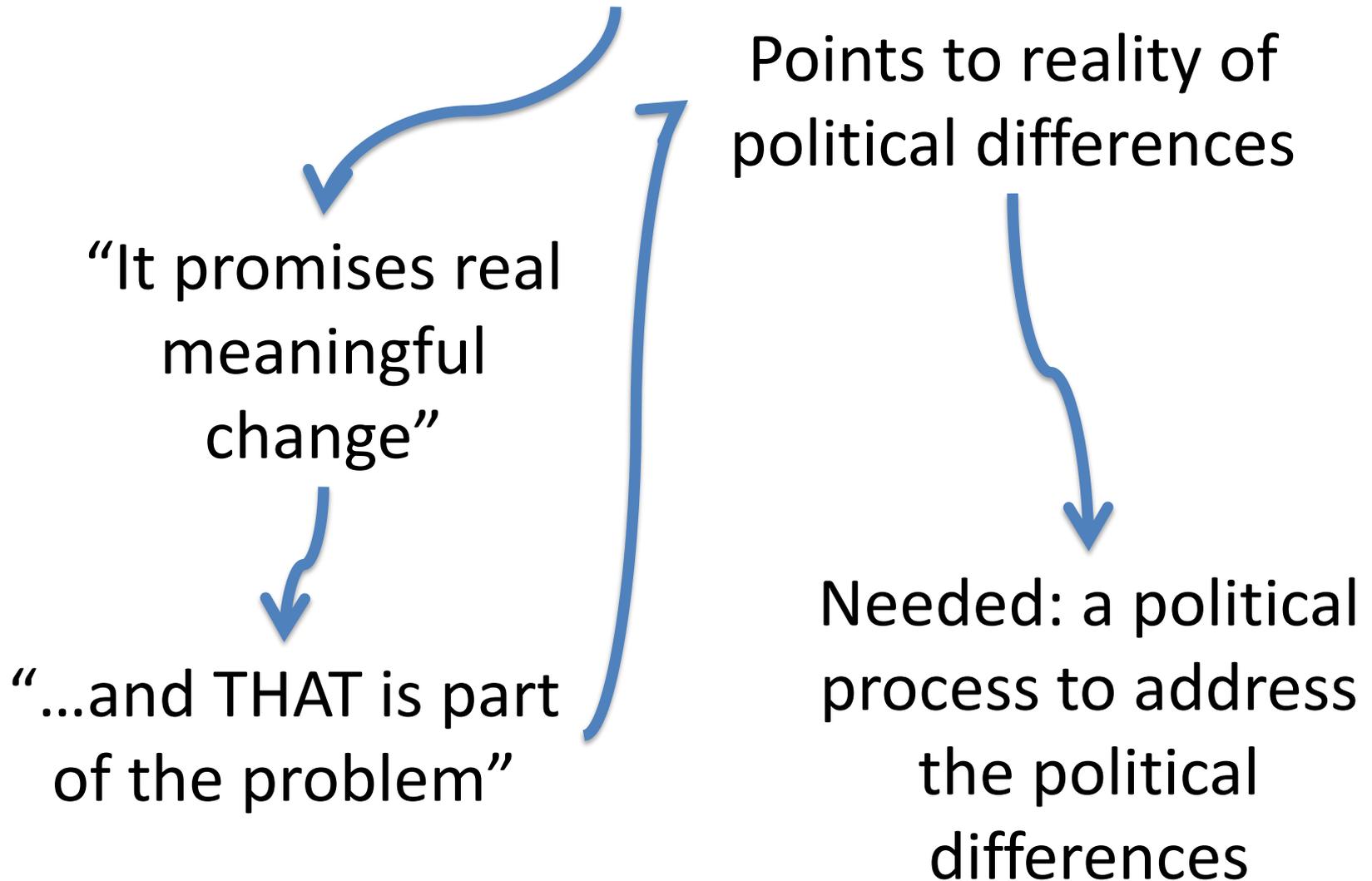
Looking  
at the  
present

Learning  
from the  
past

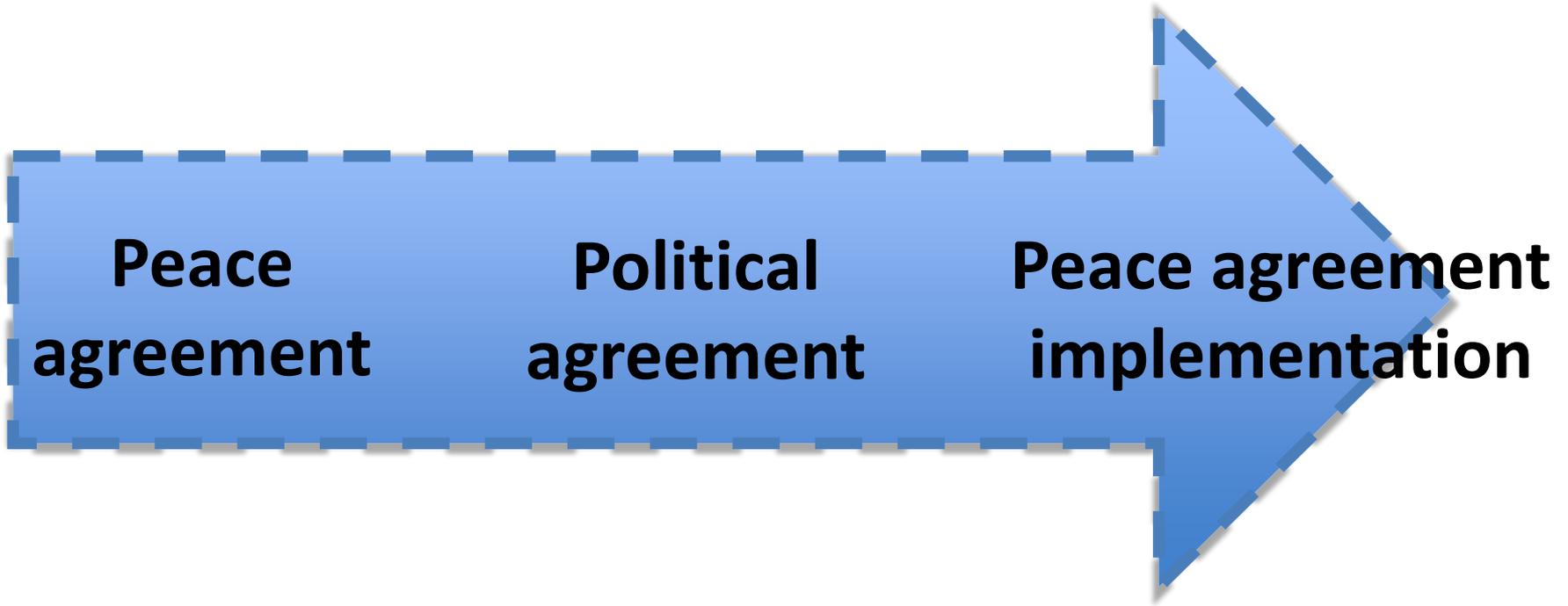
# What are we titaying/bridging?

- “We are in the midst of a **political** transition
  - From a government that negotiated the fundamental bases for a just and lasting peace to a new government whose peace interests are still to be known”
- But also an opportunity to transition
  - From the fear, confusion and pessimism of the past and present, and building on present gains, to the future
  - From peace agreement to political agreement

# “What is wrong with CAB?”



# Transitions



# From Peace Agreement to Political Agreement

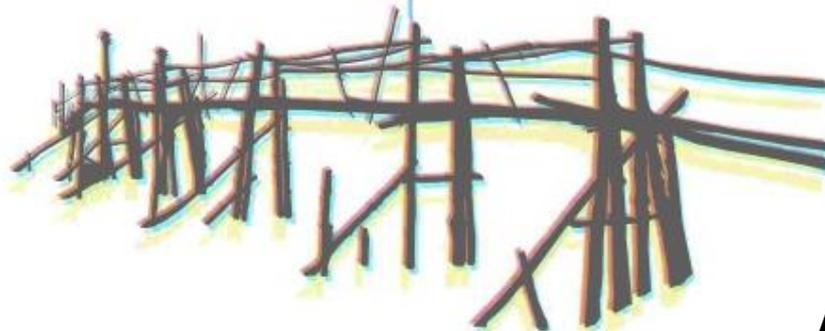
- Significant shift from negotiations (often externally facilitated) to implementation (national/local)
  - From “safe” spaces for negotiations outside, to political and hence “unsafe” spaces back home
    - Existence of “players that are not powerful but can veto/stop” implementation
  - Requires a **shift** in methodology of work
- **Bad news** → more questions, challenging and probing of the peace agreement
  - **Is actually good news** → better chances that the peace agreement will survive
- Importance of political pressure → to be able to say to the new administration that “enough people care, there is common cause here, even if we do not agree on everything”

# Political Process for a Political Agreement

- What is the political agreement platform?
  - What is the structure/mechanism for authentic dialogue?
  - Who are the actors at the table?
- For the participation and conversation of
  - Not only political actors (political parties)
  - But a broad array of people
  - So that the peace agreement can be translated into a political implementation path

**This Symposium is part of the political conversation**

# Learnings



**Philippines**

**Yemen**

**El**

**Salvador**

**Aceh**

**Ireland**

**Tunisia**

**Different conditions: with/without war, with/without peace process; with/without political agreement**

# **Bring the Learnings to Bear on the Imperatives to Bridge for Peace from the Aquino Administration to Next**

1. Protection of the CAB from Constitutional challenges
2. Sustained implementation of the CAB to address the root causes of the conflict
3. Continuing to transform the relationship between the center and autonomous regions
4. Interim political arrangements, including coordination and coherence, for the political transition
5. Widening participation of political and civic actors in the peace process
6. Delivery of meaningful peace dividends to conflict-affected communities
7. Maintaining security during the period of transition

# Focusing on “Doables” (but are also Challenges)

- Theme: Widening participation of political and civic actors in the peace process

Many good local practices; doables/challenges are:

- Owning the essential components of the peace process and of a BBL
- Projecting the peace process into the national consciousness
- And making the search for lasting peace a national concern
- Building peace constituencies
- Widening participation civil society in the peace process
- Enhancing closer collaboration among peace networks

# Inclusive

- Role of parliamentarians
- Role of religious
- Role of media
- Role of academe
- Addressing vulnerability of youth to radicalism and educating them on the importance of the peace process
- Reaching out to peace spoilers (who may not necessarily see themselves as such)
- Harnessing the wisdom of the “old folks”

## **Focusing on Doables (but are also Challenges)**

- Theme: Sustained implementation of the CAB to address the root causes of the conflict
  - Continuing education on the fundamental bases of Bangsamoro aspirations for self-determination
  - Be aware of the gains of the peace process
  - Restorative and transformative justice
  - Imperative of maximizing key multipliers: academe and media

## Focusing on Doables (but are also Challenges)

- Theme: Continuing to transform the relationship between the center and autonomous regions
  - Focusing the ARMM on highlighting, enhancing, and implementing the concept of autonomy
  - Engaging ARMM officials to enact laws, constitutionally sound, for the Bangsamoro, that are contained in the CAB-BBL

# Focusing on Doables (but are also Challenges)

- Theme: Maintaining security during the period of transition
  - How to address the culture violence?
    - ‘Idle state’ (no jobs, empty stomach) of former combatants can lead to more violence in the future
      - Provide spaces where they can resolve problems non-militarily; but in a manner that touches the military structure
    - How can the State address/improve on its own culture of violence?
  - How to address the same fears of both non-State groups and State : “loss of power” and “loss of love” of supporters
  - Dealing with splinter groups
  - How to sustain initiatives when the “peace warriors” get transferred?
    - Institutions within the AFP and PNP; chain of command within the MILF → are these sufficient?

# Focusing on Doables (but are also Challenges)

- Theme: Interim political arrangements, including coordination and coherence, for the political transition
  - Striving towards a consensus in the new ARMM government with regard to an acceptable Bangsamoro Basic Law and lobbying for it at the national level?

# Focusing on Doables (but are also Challenges)

- Theme: Protection of the CAB from Constitutional and other challenges
  - Engaging the new government in resuming the **drafting** and approval of a BBL that is CAB-compliant?
- Theme: Delivery of meaningful peace dividends to conflict-affected communities
  - How are communities experiencing and benefiting from peace dividends?

# And what about these?

- Rethink a thesis of the peace process: the role and powers of the chief executive to deliver on the peace agreement
- An un-travelled road - establishing a peace pact through local mediators and facilitators

# Observations

- Topics were inter-related:
  - Panel 1 (protection and implementation of peace agreements) was clearly linked to Panels 2 (maintain momentum and security) and 3 (widening participation and peace dividends)
- But also a variety of experiences, for example in Panel 2:
  - In Aceh: highlighting the agreement between Achenese civil society and GAM to continue the ceasefire into a peace agreement
  - In the Philippines: highlight was on the mandate of the the CCCH; civil society/civilian efforts were not adequately included in the narrative

OBVIOUSLY THE CONVERSATION IS  
NOT FINISHED

**NEED: CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE TOPICS  
UNDER THE TRANSITION THEMES**

# Transition

And other  
spaces  
where  
Symposium  
participants  
are active



To the  
Workshop

From the  
Symposium

# To titay/bridge today and next days

- Today:
  - **Learn** from good practices, both local and international, in complex political transitions
- Tomorrow, Saturday and the next days:
  - **Enhance** a broad-based process for wider and more sustained participation in the peace process
  - **Agree** on a framework bridging various post-election scenarios
  - **Strengthen** and **restore** trust among the parties and critical stakeholders

# Can our titayan get us to the other side?

Draw from the discipline of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

**1. Important to use available materials (practices, lessons, mechanisms)...**

**2. Use culturally appropriate design (relevant processes)...**

**3. That will allow many to use and benefit from it (participation and benefits)...**

**4. Enable us to get to the point where we can take back images deemed disastrous (like the Tukanalipao titayan)...**

**...and BBB (Build back better) in the CAB implementation and in the BM**



**Keep on talkin' and actin' together  
for peace because...**

“There is no such thing as too  
many efforts in a peace  
process” – R. Guiam

**DAGHANG SALAMAT! SHUKRAN!**