



Pieter Feith discussed reintegration with former GAM commanders

Press release – 29 November 2006

Banda Aceh, Indonesia. On Wednesday 29 November 2006 the Head of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), Mr. Pieter Feith, participated in a discussion on international community support for the continued reintegration process with Aceh Transitional Committee (KPA) representatives from across Aceh. The meeting with the former rebel leaders that was organised by Forum Bersama (Forbes) took place at the Forbes secretariat in Banda Aceh and was also attended by representatives of the European Commission (EC), International Organisation of Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank (WB).

In the meeting Pieter Feith talked about the future of the peace process and the role and responsibilities of the participants. In this regard he stressed the importance of direct communications between the parties. *“The key to successful implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) lies in face to face dialogue between the parties”*, said Pieter Feith.

Participants discussed the reintegration process and recognized that as a long term process it will continue post-AMM. Pieter Feith pointed out that the international community will remain engaged in Aceh and continue to support the peace process in the future. *“Our departure does not mark the end of EU, ASEAN and international community’s commitment to Aceh and the peace process”*, stated Feith.

The AMM Head of Mission also expressed his appreciation for the KPA’s commitment to the peace process and their public announcement to accept and support the outcome of the local elections to be held on 11 December 2006. Summing up, he said *“The conflict is over. The peace process is on an irreversible track. As the parties have shown the rest of the world, violence is not the answer”*.

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Note for editors:

1. The objective of AMM, which is a civilian mission comprising of monitors from the EU and five ASEAN countries, is to monitor and assist in the implementation of the commitments made by the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement in the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Helsinki on 15 August 2005.

2. The EU and ASEAN fully respect the territorial integrity of Indonesia and see the future of Aceh as being within the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. The AMM is completely impartial by nature and does not represent or favour any of the parties.

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