

JHMC Board of Directors (Profile)

SILVESTRE C. AFABLE JR.

Chairman of JHMC
Member of the JHMC Board of Directors
DID NOT hold more than five (5) positions in GOCCs and publicly-listed companies

Age: 71, Filipino
Date of First Appointment: July 18, 2011
Date of End of Term of Office: June 28, 2021
Number of Board Meetings attended in CY 2021: 11/11
Number of Board Meetings attended in CY 2020: 21/21
Number of Board Meetings attended in CY 2019: 22/24

Since the early seventies, Afable has served several administrations over a 50-year career in Government. He was JHMC Chairman for almost 10 years from July 18, 2011 to June 28, 2021.

Most of his work from 1970 to 1986 was with the Department of National Defense (DND), which was in the thick of two internal conflicts spanning more than a decade. As a Special Assistant to then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, he learned the ropes in the defense-military establishment at the highest policy levels. He also worked closely with Enrile's key Undersecretaries, the late Carmelo Z. Barbero, and the late Jose M. Crisol on various projects of home defense, civilian relations and human rights. He was appointed as DND Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs in 1984.

After the EDSA Revolution of 1986, he returned to the private sector, where he wrote for the Baguio Midland Courier while engaging in public-private consultancy work. In 1992, he was asked by newly-elected President Fidel V. Ramos to join former Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita in a bid to restart the peace negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Afable eventually landed in the Government peace panel chaired by the late General Manuel T. Yan that signed the 1986 final peace accord with the MNLF, leading to the inception of the ARMM.

He was an active Consultant of the Ramos administration on matters of communication and conflict-resolution. Under the succeeding administration of President Joseph E. Estrada, he was likewise harnessed in the National Security Council, where he worked with then National Security Adviser Alexander P. Aguirre on a comprehensive national security policy for the Philippines.

During the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he was appointed to a succession of sub-Cabinet and Cabinet posts—often in concurrent capacity. These included Undersecretary of National Defense for Operations; Head, Presidential Management Staff; Palace Communications Director; Presidential Spokesperson, Press Secretary; and Chair, Government Panel for Peace Negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). In those positions, he was a mainstay in management, policy assistance and public communications in all key Presidential events, domestic and foreign.

Afable and his team successfully negotiated a comprehensive ceasefire with the MILF that came into force in 2004, cutting violent incidents in Mindanao to almost nil. This resulted in an uninterrupted GDP growth spurt in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao in the five years that followed. He also worked closely with the MILF peace panel to hammer out the principles, policies and standards governing the final peace agreement of 2014 that was signed under the late President Benigno Aquino III. He has been recognized by the international institutions and several countries for advancing peace and development programs for Muslims in Mindanao.

His work in the peace process brought him in contact with experts in several countries from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Meetings with rebel leaders and peace diplomats have brought him to Norway, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Libya, Tunisia, and Burkina Faso and Mali in Central Africa.

At present, he is Chairperson of Propel Manila, a multi-awarded digital marketing outfit serving a wide range of corporate clients and involved in helpful civic projects.

He is an Outstanding Citizen of Baguio City, awarded on September 1, 2002. He is also a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Medal from the Department of National Defense and the Presidential Medal of Merit in 1997. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the Philippines. He is married and has six (6) children.