



# PRESS RELEASE

Public Affairs Service – Department of National Defense

DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, 1110 Metro Manila

**Website:** [www.dnd.gov.ph](http://www.dnd.gov.ph) | **E-Mail:** [dnd.opa@gmail.com](mailto:dnd.opa@gmail.com)

**Tel:** (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | **Fax:** (+632) 911-7113

Date Released: July 22, 2016

Releasing Officer: **ARSENIO R. ANDOLONG, MNSA**  
Chief, Public Affairs Service

## SND releases guidance to DND, its civilian bureaus and the AFP

In his first officially issued guidance as Secretary of National Defense under the new administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana articulated the priorities that would chart the Department's future direction and policy development.

As a whole, the guidance reflects the pronouncements of the president, particularly in streamlining bureaucracy, cutting red tape, fighting crime and pursuing an independent foreign policy, among others. It also highlights the fulfillment of the DND's set milestone for its transformation into: a credible defense organization that ensures Philippine security, sovereignty and territorial integrity; a reliable partner in national development, and a strategic player in the Asia Pacific region.

**In terms of territorial defense**, the SND's guidance is for the improvement of DND's capabilities to perform its mandated tasks and fully support other government agencies to address the challenges posed by the complex and dynamic security environment.

In addition, Defense cooperation with ASEAN and other key allies was identified as critical to stability and progress of the region and protection of a rules based international order.

**On the internal security and peace process**, the Department shall relentlessly focus military operations against terrorist groups and terrorist cells and likewise intensify its support to law enforcement agencies. At the same time, it shall remain supportive of the peace process, especially in the implementation of signed and future peace agreements.

The AFP shall also continue to uphold and adhere to the principle of human rights, international humanitarian law and rule of law in the performance of its assigned tasks.

The AFP's Internal Peace and Security Plan "Bayanihan" which is coming to a close this 2016 will be assessed in relation to the AFP transformation Roadmap with the goal of strengthening the professional character of the military institution.

**On modernization and capability development**, the SND's guidance is to continue the implementation of the AFP Modernization Program. The Department shall also expedite acquisition activities on the pipeline and prioritize acquisition projects intended to enhance internal security operations capability.

In line with the decision of President Duterte to convert the BRP Ang Pangulo into a hospital and the utilization of air assets of the 250<sup>th</sup>, Presidential Airlift Wing, the AFP has been directed to submit proposals and prepare other requirements.

**As for humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR)**, the DND shall improve the capacities of selected AFP units for their roles as first responders and improve coordination with other agencies and non-government organizations.

Secretary Lorenzana also provided for the enhancement of support services for soldiers and veterans with the planned creation of an office that shall cater to the welfare of deceased soldiers in order to fast track the release of benefits to their dependents.

The SND also emphasized good governance, the importance of the comprehensive Philippine Defense Transformation (PDT) Roadmap that institutionalizes the proper stewardship of public funds as well as reform programs that eliminate opportunities for graft and corruption.

## END ##