



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Statement of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in response to NDFP on Martial Law Implementation in Mindanao

We would like to make it clear that in the implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will not specifically target the New People's Army as alleged by NDFP Chief Consultant Jose Maria Sison.

We will fully comply with the directives of the President that martial law was declared to address radical Islamic terrorism and narco-terrorism in Mindanao. We are conducting our operations in accordance with the rule of law and respect for human life. Law-abiding citizens in Mindanao need not fear the increased military presence and activities in their localities. Government security forces are there to protect the populace, maintain peace and order and go after criminal elements.

Let me emphasize, however, that members of the CPP-NPA who will engage in criminal and illegal acts such as kidnapping, extortion, murder, and the destruction of property will be dealt with or without martial law.

*Gusto ko lang liwanagin ang mensahe ko sa CPP-NPA. Huwag na kayong makigulo pa sa nangyayari ngayon sa Mindanao.* Do not force the government's hand. Immediately stop all illegal activities and abide by the true spirit of the peace process. This is the only way we can move forward.

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