



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

DND Public Affairs Service | Segundo Avenue, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110, Philippines

Phone: (+632) 982-5679; 911-6001 ext. 8229 | dnd.gov.ph | Email: public.affairs@dnd.gov.ph

Date Released: 23 November 2017

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

DND signs agreement with East Avenue Medical Center on drug testing for DND and AFP employees



Undersecretary for Defense Policy/ Chairman of the DND Drug-Free Workplace Assessment Committee (DND DWAC) Ricardo David Jr and East Avenue Medical Center Chief Dr. Emmanuel Bueno at the ceremonial signing of the MoA for the DND's collaboration with the EAMC for the drug testing of DND employees.

The Department of National Defense (DND) has taken a major step in ensuring that the Department is a drug-free workplace, with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) for the drug testing of the employees of the DND and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Defense Undersecretary for Policy Ricardo David Jr. and East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) Chief Dr. Emmanuel Bueno led the joint signing of the agreement with EAMC's National Reference Laboratory (NRL) during the ceremony held in Camp Aguinaldo on 23 November 2017.

“Today we officially seal the covenant between the DND and the EAMC-NRL on the engagement of quality drug testing for DND employees and of course, AFP personnel,” said Undersecretary David.

“This is a milestone for the Department, in the pursuit of a drug-free environment in compliance with Republic Act 9165 also known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002... And the pursuit of a drug-free workplace as approved by the Secretary of National Defense on the 17th of July 2017,” the concurrent Chairman of the DND Drug-Free Workplace Assessment Committee (DND DWAC) added.

The agreement aims to further strengthen the anti-illegal drugs effort of the Department through the conduct of the annual mandatory and random drug tests of the civilian and uniformed personnel of the DND regardless of the status of position.

Moreover, the agreement would serve as the reference point for the engagement of drug testing services of the EAMC-NRL, and ensure that the Department would be able to tap into qualified, competent, and sufficient number of personnel to conduct the drug tests.

Undersecretary David extended the Department’s sincerest appreciation to the EAMC-NRL, headed by Dr. Bueno, for extending their services to the DND personnel, and hoped to continue the partnership in further enhancing the systematic implementation of RA 9165.

###