



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Filipino Community in Texas Sends Gifts to Soldiers Wounded in Marawi

Members of the Filipino Community in Texas, USA, expressed their gratitude and support to soldiers fighting terrorists in Marawi City through a gift-giving project for those who were wounded-in-action and presently confined at the Heroes' Ward of the AFP Medical Center, V. Luna Road, Quezon City on 22 August 2017.

"This is actually a reflection of the good reputation that the Armed Forces has, *hindi lang dito sa Pilipinas kung 'di sa abroad. Mataas na ang ating prestige doon kasi lahat tayo sumusunod sa batas,*" said Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana of the Department of National Defense (DND) who was the guest of honor and speaker in the said activity.

The Defense Chief thanked the San Angelo, Texas, Filipino Community and Mrs. Rhea Agatep-Hale who initiated the collection of donations from community members. "*Sabi nga niya, 'Nag-umpisa 'lang sa bahay ito. Then lumaki nang lumaki hanggang sa dumami na 'yung participants and they had to transfer to a convention center.... So, from a Hundred Thousand Pesos o Two Thousand Dollars' worth, naging US\$7,000 (Php350,000.00) na,*" Lorenzana added.

The turn-over of gifts to the patients was facilitated by the Defense Intelligence and Security Group (DISG) of the DND headed by Ltc Estrellito P. Romero. It is part of the month-long series of activities in celebration of the DISG's 26th Anniversary which included the SND's Cup, an invitational shooting competition held to raise funds for the beneficiaries of the AFP Educational Benefit Systems Office (AFPEBSO). DISG was able to raise P150,000.00 which was formally turned over on August 16, 2017, to AFPEBSO to help fund the education of children of soldiers who were killed or wounded in action.

Secretary Lorenzana likewise thanked the officers and enlisted personnel of the DISG for facilitating the gift-giving to their fellow soldiers. He also lauded them for ensuring safety in the department, providing the necessary physical protection to the Secretary of National Defense and other DND officials, and rendering critical intelligence support. He also commended its members for regularly conducting community and environment-related activities.

Established in 1991, the DISG has evolved from an *ad hoc* security unit created under the then Ministry of National Defense to a recognized support unit of the DND. It will culminate its anniversary celebration on August 24, 2017, with a simple program at the DISG Mini Park with the launch of its first-ever coffee table book, "Inside the Vest and Armor," which tells the story of the DISG's evolution and its tireless efforts in contributing to the DND's mandate of guarding the nation against external and internal security threats.

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