



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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## Statement of Defense Secretary Lorenzana on the possible extension of Martial Law until 2022

While we respect the position of our lawmakers and laud their support to the military, we believe that the declaration of Martial Law is an extraordinary power of the President as Commander-in-Chief that must be resorted to only when warranted by our national security circumstances. Our Constitution has prescribed limitations precisely to prevent its being abused as it has implications to the country's peace and order, economy, trade, tourism, and our people's way of life.

As the Administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao, we will follow whatever path will be laid out by the national government.

The Filipino people can rest assured, however, that if martial law is extended, they can continue to trust their defense and security establishments since every decision we make and operation we undertake is anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights. They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest.

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