



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Statement of the Secretary of National Defense on the 45th Anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines

The 45th Anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) last 24 April is a somber reminder of the continued exploitation, abuse, and deception of Filipinos by the communist movement.

As the negotiating arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines – New People’s Army (CPP-NPA), the NDFP represents what is wrong with the communist notion of peace. They talk peace with government far removed from the realities on the ground. While NDFP representatives negotiate with government in a foreign land, their armed comrades perpetrate deceptive and coercive recruitment and, at the same time, continue the conduct of extortion, kidnapping, murder, destruction of property, and other criminal acts, exposing their true terrorist nature.

Sa mga miyembro ng NDFP, ano nga ba ang dapat ninyong ipagdiwang sa inyong ika-45 taong anibersaryo gayong wala naman kayong naitulong sa ikapapayapa at ikauunlad ng ating bansa? Wala naman kayong kabutihang nagawa para sa inyong kapwa Pilipino.

Alam naman nating lahat na tuwing may usaping pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng CPP-NPA-NDFP at ng gobyerno ay walang tigil ang pagpapatupad ninyo ng “dalawang takdang gawain” upang samantalain ang sitwasyon — ang pangingikil para makalikom ng pondo at ang pagre-recruit ng bagong mga miyembro gamit ang panlilinlang o dahas.

With the government’s sincere efforts to achieve peace even without the formal talks, the NDFP is fast becoming irrelevant. Through the government’s various programs for reintegration, thousands of former rebels have rejoined society. Under the President Duterte’s guidance, we are more determined than ever to extend our call for peace and unity – a call for the remaining CPP-NPA to lay down their arms, rejoin their families, fulfill their dreams, and serve as active partners for peace, development and community empowerment. ###