



PRESS RELEASE

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Davao Oriental's Former Rebels (FRs) receive E-CLIP benefits



Former Rebels (FRs) flash the peace sign in solidarity with Davao Oriental Governor Nelson Dayanghirang, local government leaders, Task Force Balik Loob Head Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu, and government agency representatives during the E-CLIP Benefits Awarding Ceremony on July 11, 2018, in the Provincial Capitol of Davao Oriental.

11 July 2018, Mati City, Davao Oriental — Fulfilling President Rodrigo Duterte's commitment to provide Former Rebels (FRs) a good life once they return to the folds of society, the inter-agency Task Force Balik-Loob (TFBL), awarded various benefits to 241 FRs under the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in the Provincial Capitol here.



Former Rebels (FRs) receive their TESDA NC-II certificates from Task Force Balik Loob chairman Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu, Gov. Nelson Dayanghirang, and other government agency representatives during the E-CLIP Benefits Awarding Ceremony on July 11, 2018 at the Provincial Capitol of Davao Oriental.

The FRs received livelihood and immediate assistance checks and firearms remuneration from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), cash assistance for business starter kits worth Php 4.76 million from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and completion certificates for NC-II technical / vocational skills training from the Technical Education and Skills Development Agency (TESDA).

DOLE's grant to the Davao Oriental FRs was a result of the province's excellent performance in implementing the agency's assistance program for FRs through the efficient liquidation of funds.

The E-CLIP is a strategic flagship program of Pres. Duterte as an effective means of achieving the government's peace and development agenda.

The awarded benefits were facilitated through the combined efforts of TFBL agencies and the Davao Oriental Provincial Government, headed by Governor Nelson Dayanghirang.

Taking pride in having established the Happy Home in his province, the first and only operating half-way house that serves as a transition shelter for FRs, Gov. Dayanghirang encouraged all local government units nationwide to emulate Davao Oriental and its best practices in accepting and caring for FRs in order to strategically address insurgency in their respective localities.

For his part, LtGen Benjamin Madrigal, Jr., AFP, Commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, shared how the Happy Home was established when he was Brigade Commander of the 701st Infantry, Philippine Army, with the help of the LGU, civil society and the community.

Meanwhile, DILG Assistant Secretary Manuel Felix who represented Secretary Eduardo M. Año, congratulated the ECLIP beneficiaries. Quoting Sec. Año's speech, he said, "*Hindi lamang po kayong magbabalik-loob ang magkakaroon ng bagong buhay kundi pati na rin ang inyong mga pamilya ay maibabalik na rin ang kapayapaan sa inyong buhay... Sisikapin po namin na alalayan kayo hanggang sa kayo ay makabalik sa buhay na malaya sa karahasan, malaya sa poot at malaya sa maling paniniwala.*"

In addition to the awarded benefits, FRs will also be enrolled in the PhilHealth national health plan through the PAMANA sponsorship of the Office for the Presidential Adviser for Peace Process (OPAPP).

Likewise, they are being given psychosocial intervention by experts through counseling and stress debriefings, as well as moral recovery with the assistance from the religious sector.

FRs are also assured of employment and medical assistance, shelter, legal assistance and continued security protection.

In response, one of the FRs spoke on behalf of those present, saying, "Andito ako ngayon, buong loob na isinuko ang sarili sa gobyerno na tumanggap sa akin, ang gobyernong iba ang ideolohiya sa kabila. Nagkasala kami dati sa gobyerno pero ang pagtrato nila sa amin ay normal lang naman ang makagawa ng pagkakasala. Sila ang tunay na nagmamalasakit at tutulong sa atin."

The DILG may grant Php 5-M for the establishment of halfway houses in other parts of the country, modeled after the Happy Home, which aims to provide an environment for total healing and preparation of rebel returnees for reintegration into mainstream society.

Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu of the Department of National Defense, who heads the TFBL, conveyed Sec. Delfin Lorenzana's commendation to the local government of Davao Oriental for institutionalizing the E-CLIP through the Happy Home transition shelter. Addressing the FRs, Usec. Mapagu said, "*Iparating ninyo sa mga dati ninyong kasama na nananatili pa rin hanggang ngayon sana mga kabundukan at kanayunan na walang magandang kinabukasan sa madugong digmaan. Panahon na para magbalik-loob at makapiling muli ang kanilang mga pamilya.*"

Task Force Balik-Loob brings together different government agencies in providing FRs free housing, livelihood opportunities, and free education for their children. Since the President issued a directive in 2017 to craft the E-CLIP as a concrete program for the reintegration of FRs, there has been an upward trend in the number of surrenderees from the communist NPA terrorists with the collective effort of TFBL's programs. ###