



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

Public Affairs Service, DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110

**Website:** [www.dnd.gov.ph](http://www.dnd.gov.ph) | **E-Mail:** [publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com](mailto:publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com)

**Tel:** (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | **Fax:** (+632) 911-7113

**Date Released:** 12 July 2018

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

## Sultan Kudarat Province welcomes 106 Former Rebels



DND Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu, Task Force Balik-Loob Head; Sultan Kudarat Governor Datu Pax Mangudadatu; Sultan Representative Suharto Mangudadatu; and E-CLIP partner agency representatives pose with Former Rebels (FRs) and beneficiaries of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP).

**12 July 2018, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat** - In what seemed like a grand homecoming, 106 former rebels were happily welcomed back to the society yesterday by local government officials and the people of Sultan Kudarat at the Provincial Capitol here, where they received assistance from the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) of the government.

The immediate livelihood financial assistance to the FRs were awarded by Defense Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu who heads Task Force Balik Loob, and witnessed by Governor Datu Pax Mangudadatu, and First District Representative Suharto Mangudadatu.



*Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu, Task Force Balik-Loob Head, inspects the firearms surrendered by former rebels in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on July 11.*

They were also joined by Usec. Bernardo C. Florece, Undersecretary for Peace and Order from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), DILG Region XII Director Reynaldo M. Bungubung, CESO IV, Dir. Leocadio T. Trovela, CESO IV of the National Ba-rangay Operations Office - DILG, and Elenita L. Saavedra, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer of Sultan Kudarat.

Members of the Regional Peace and Order Council XII, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, mayors from different municipalities, and other peace stakeholders were also there to welcome back the former rebels. AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez was represented by MGen Rene Glen O Paje, Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations.

The presentation of FRs was facilitated by Philippine Army units which received them and assisted in facilitating their benefits under the ECLIP.



*FRs from Sultan Kudarat receive immediate and livelihood assistance as part of the E-CLIP in a ceremony attended by peace stakeholders at the Isulan Provincial Capitol on July 11.*

The FRs are mostly members of the Indigenous Peoples/ Cultural Communities and minors. The presence of the latter is proof that the CTG committed a clear violation of the 1999 UN Security Council Resolution 1261 condemning the targeting of children in armed conflicts including the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

In his welcome message, Rep. Suharto Mangudadatu underscored the importance of peace and order, and enjoined the people of Sultan Kudarat to give their all out support for Pres. Duterte, who is their fellow Mindanaoan, to achieve lasting peace. “The success of Pres. Digong as the first Mindanaoan President is also the success of Mindanao,” he added.

Addressing the FRs, Usec. Florece said they will not regret their decision to leave behind violence since their government, the society and the nation will be supporting their path to peace.

Thanking the former rebels for returning to the fold of law, Gov. Pax Mangudadatu said he is planning to match Pres. Duterte’s pledge of housing units for former rebels with livelihood assistance. “Para sa mga fishermen, yung mga malapit sa dagat, bibilhan ko kayo ng lantsa at yun namang malalayo, bibilhan ko kayo ng mga aalagaang baboy para meron kayong kabuhayan,” the Governor said.

TFBL Head Mapagu, for his part, also thanked the FRs, the Provincial Government of Sultan Kudarat under the leadership of Gov. Mangudadatu, and all the agencies that contribute to the peace agenda of the President.

“The President has extended his hand in peace to all factions who are against the government- the insurgents, secessionists, and other armed groups, just so we can all work together to achieve lasting peace and bring development to our nation. Kapag tayo po ay nagkaroon ng kapayapaan, hindi lang tayo ang makikinabang kundi pati na rin ang ating mga anak at ang susunod pang henerasyon.”



*Task Force Balik-Loob Head Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu speaks to an FR during the awarding of E-CLIP benefits in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on July 11.*

He shared with the audience the recent incident in Abra wherein the captured NPA rebels are all young members of indigenous groups in Bukidnon, who were tricked by certain groups into joining an activity in NCR, then ended up fighting against government forces in the mountains of Cordillera.

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 communist NPA terrorists with the collective effort of TFBL's programs. ###