



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 | **E-Mail:** publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com

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

Date Released: 15 July 2018

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

Defense Secretary Lorenzana's statement on Joma Sison's reaction to localized peace talks

Sison's rejection of localized peace talks comes as no surprise to us. Unfortunately for him, what he thinks and says are immaterial because we have now brought the discourse to the local insurgents sans Mr. Sison. I consider Sison's rejection and rant as just a noisy distraction, like the barking of a dog that is best ignored. Did he think that the government would stop just because the "mighty" Sison rejects it? Fat chance Mr Sison. Do you really think that you still hold sway over events here in the Philippines? Dream on Mr. Sison. Hold on to your misguided dreams because they are all that's left for you. The world has moved on while you continue to wallow in your delusions of grandeur. The reality on the ground is that your fighters, whom you have abandoned in order to seek the comforts of the Netherlands are wizing up and returning to the folds of the law in great numbers.

The local talks a waste of money?

If the money given to those returning to society so that they will have stable and sustainable livelihoods, so that their families will have medical care, so that their children can go to school, so that they will have the resources to start new lives and put food on their tables is a waste of money, so be it. Let us waste more money on these kinds of endeavors then.

Your problem Mr. Sison is that you consider money that is not spent to prop up your gargantuan ego is money wasted. I'll tell you Mr. Sison what money is really being wasted: the monies that you and your cohorts have extorted under the guise of your so-called "revolutionary taxation scheme" that are never accounted for. While we are at it, let us also include the money spent to maintain your luxurious lifestyle in the Netherlands. Now, that is a real waste of money. ###--