



PRESS RELEASE

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Joint DND-AFP New Year's Call held



To start the working year, the traditional joint DND-AFP New Year's Call was held at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club at Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

Secretary Gazmin, in his message, urged all DND offices and units to continue working towards earning ISO certifications.

"It is the time for us to build upon our modest accomplishments. Let us continue to work towards earning the ISO Certification for our bureaus, agencies, units and offices, as the ISO Certification is the emblem of a professional organization," Gazmin said.

Secretary Gazmin said that the Defense Department will continue to pursue the AFP Modernization Program to upgrade the AFP's capability. "I have high expectations for our armed forces that, through the AFP Transformation Roadmap and the AFP Governance and Strategy Management, it will continue to institutionalize professionalization and modernity," he said.

Gazmin also said that national government, through congressional initiatives, will continue to ensure the welfare of soldiers.

The Defense Chief urged the soldiers to sustain the IPSP “Bayanihan” and follow the delicate conditions required of them in the peace process agreement with the MILF. “We should reaffirm our pledge to protect human rights, respect International Humanitarian Law, and obey the rule of law,” Secretary Gazmin added.

The Secretary, however, reminded the AFP to strictly abide by its constitutional mandate and not get involved, directly or indirectly, with partisan politics, especially as the election period draws near.

“Let us begin the New Year by placing into motion our patriotic pledge to work for the ultimate wellbeing of our nation,” Secretary Gazmin said in closing. ###