



# PRESS RELEASE

Office for Public Affairs – Department of National Defense

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## DND seals MoU with Magdalo

Undersecretary Fernando I. Manalo, representing the Department of National Defense (DND), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Friday, January 17, 2014, with Mr. Segundino P. Orfiano, President of the non-government organization (NGO) Samahang Magdalo, Inc., in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Under the MoU, both parties jointly manifest the commitment to uphold and advance the principles of good governance, particularly the promotion of transparency, competitiveness and accountability in the procurement of infrastructure projects, goods, and consulting services by the DND.

In line with this shared vision, the Samahang Magdalo, Inc. will serve as observers in the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) activities of the DND under the agreement.

As such, the NGO is allowed to monitor all stages of the bidding process, particularly pre-procurement and pre-bid conferences, opening of bids, post qualification, contract awarding, special meetings, post-delivery testing, inspection and acceptance, and other procedures that may apply.

Undersecretary Manalo regards the MoU as a timely venture as the defense department is steadily addressing the Armed Forces' capability upgrade. He said that the DND Bids and Awards Committees are doing their best to fast-track acquisitions, while fully adhering to the established rules and procedures set by the law.

"There should be nothing that will prevent you from doing your job as observers. Your responsibility is to our country and to our people," Undersecretary Manalo said, addressing Samahang Magdalo officers and members.

The revised AFP modernization program from 2013 to 2017 has a budget of PhP 85.3 billion which will be spread out over a five-year period. From 2013 to 2017, the Philippine Army will be allocated PhP 8.6 billion, PhP 43.3 billion for the Air Force, PhP 28.2 billion for the Navy and PhP 5.2 billion for the AFP GHQ.

Samahang Magdalo is a socio-civic, non-stock, non-profit organization registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission, which works for the empowerment of the Filipinos through the proper exercise of their rights and the exercise of sustained vigilance against graft and corruption in government.

Also present during the signing were Assistant Secretary Patrick M. Velez, DND Spokesperson and Chief of Staff to the Secretary Dr. Peter Paul Reuben G. Galvez, Chief of the DND Office for Public Affairs Mr. Arsenio R. Andolong, Samahang Magdalo Vice President for International Mr. Norberto E. Santiago, and Samahang Magdalo members Mr. Manuel G. Cabochan, Mr. Christopher P. Orongan, and Mr. Filmore G. Rull.

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