



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Secretary Gazmin meets with Malaysian Defense Minister, Hon. Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi**

Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin received Malaysian Defense Minister, Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi during the latter's visit to Camp Aguinaldo on 9 August 2010. The said meeting was part of the Malaysian Defense Minister's three-day visit to the Philippines from 8 to 10 August 2010.

During the meeting, the two parties reiterated the great importance of RP-Malaysia defense partnership and their commitment to strengthen such relationship especially in the areas of counter-terrorism, maritime security, and education and training. Secretary Gazmin expressed appreciation for Malaysia's effort in facilitating the ongoing peace negotiations between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) by spearheading the International Monitoring Team (IMT) which was tasked to watch over the cessation of hostilities between the GRP and the MILF. Secretary Gazmin also conveyed to the Malaysian Defense Minister updates on the new administration's efforts to peacefully resolve the conflict in Mindanao, such as President Aquino's appointment of Atty. Marvic F. Leonen as the government's chief negotiator in pursuing peace talks with the MILF and Ms. Teresita Deles as the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

The two ministers also shared their views on the upcoming ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) to be held on 11 and 12 October 2010 respectively. Both parties noted the importance of the ASEAN especially the ADMM as the primary venue for defense cooperation in the region. The two ministers also expressed their optimism in the outcome of the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus and stated their enthusiasm in meeting each other and other invited Defense Ministers this October.