



# PRESS RELEASE

No.

Releasing Officer:

Date

April 27, 2011

EDUARDO G. BATAK

Chief, Office for Public Affairs

*Office for Public and Legislative Affairs, Department of National Defense, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City*  
Telephone Nos: 911-3339 / 911-4529      Catex: 911-6001 to 12, loc. 8445/8444      Fax No.: 911-7113

## **AFP compliant with accountability standards, report shows**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has strictly complied with existing accountability standards as mandated by law, a recent report has revealed.

The report, which was submitted to the Office of the Secretary of National Defense, showed a hundred percent (100%) compliance with the filing of the Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth for 2008 and 2009 among officers of the AFP.

This showed a marked improvement compared to the fifty six percent (56%) compliance from previous periods.

"This is an affirmation of our pledge to be accountable and transparent to the Filipino people. The DND-AFP is committed to tread at all times that straight and narrow path set by our President and Commander-in-Chief," Gazmin said.

The report was prepared by the Office of Ethical Standard and Public Accountability (OESPA) which was tasked to "strictly monitor and oversee" the compliance of AFP personnel such as in the filing of the SALN.

Similar improvements were also found in a review done by the Office of the Internal Audit (OTIA) for the cash advances extended to different AFP units.

There was a recorded eighty four percent (84%) reduction in unliquidated cash advances as of September 2010, from the original amount of 87.4 billion pesos in December 2009.

The improvement of the Cash Advance system was one of the policy recommendations given by the Special DND Investigating Committee (SDIC) which was tasked to tackle the issue of the alleged corrupt practices in the military establishment.

With a considerable amount still not liquidated, Gazmin has ordered the responsible offices to "immediately rationalize and promptly liquidate" the remaining amount.

Gazmin has stressed that the liquidation should strictly comply with existing rules and regulations.

"I have ordered the Office of the AFP Chief of Staff to monitor compliance of orders and submit to me a monthly status report on the matter," he said.

The Special DND Investigating Committee has also called for a strict implementation of laws, prosecution of offenses and enforcement of discipline, including the enhancement of the auditing and monitoring mechanisms.

"We will continue to improve our systems so that we may better serve our countrymen. It is our duty to uphold the integrity of our Defense institution by ensuring just and effective checks and balances that would promote efficiency and transparency," Gazmin said.

###