



PRESS RELEASE

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Spare the AFP from partisan politics, Defense chief says

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro today appealed to sectors of the society to spare the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from partisan politics and allow them instead to focus on the twin threats of terrorism and insurgency on the countryside.

“While protest rallies are legitimate expression of public opinion, let’s stop sowing intrigues and luring our military to take sides in the proposed charter change. The AFP should be insulated from partisan politics. Our responsibility is to serve the interest of the nation above our own and let us leave political exercise to the politicians,” Teodoro said.

He said the AFP would remain non-partisan and would not meddle with the political affairs of the government, adding that politics and the armed forces are two separate entities.

“The AFP should be non-partisan because political affairs of the government are separate from the AFP. The military will not take any sides in the proposed charter change,” he said.

Instead of meddling into political affairs, the defense chief said the DND and AFP would remain focused on its job.

“There are many things that need to be done in the DND and AFP. We have to stay focused on our target to make insurgency insignificant by 2010,” he said.

The defense chief expressed confidence that military adventurism is a thing of the past and the AFP now is a solid and professional organization.

“There is no need to worry right now as our military is solid and united behind the Constitution,” he said.

He reminded the AFP leadership to keep its men and women within the Constitution and not allow any partisan quarters to undermine the chain of command.
