DND kicks off 75th ‘diamond’ anniversary celebrations

The Department of National Defense kicked off its 75th "Diamond" Anniversary in a simple flag ceremony held at the AFP GHQ canopy today, August 18, 2014, in Camp Aguinaldo.

Defense Secretary Gazmin in his message highlighted the DND's contribution and importance.

"Defense of our nation and its people was given due importance by our forefathers. As an important step to nation building, we needed to prove to the rest of the world that we Filipinos can hold and protect what we own, stand by our ideals, and ensure the safety of our people and country,” Gazmin said.

With the theme, "75 Taong Sandigan ng Mamamayan, Tapat na Naglilingkod sa Bayan," the DND aims to highlight the Department of National Defense’s commitment "to honor the past, secure the present and plan for the future."

“Seventy-five years later, we are standing here as members of this great institution, continuing the work started by the very first defense personnel led by Secretary Teofilo Sison. Our duties and responsibilities may have expanded and evolved over time, but the core reason why we exist remain the same,” the Defense chief added.

To celebrate its diamond jubilee, the DND will hold a series of activities from August to November. As part of its commitment to sustainable development of the environment, the Department will conduct tree-planting activities for around 300,000 seedlings in various sites across the country. Among the planting sites are the DND Proper, the National Defense College of the Philippines, the AFP General Headquarters, Mt. Samat Shrine, Capaz National Shrine, Camp Gen Peralta Jr. in Capiz, and Office of Civil Defense in Region 12.

DND-wide bloodletting activities will also be held to benefit retirees, veterans, and active-duty soldiers: on August 20 and 27, 2014, at Fort Bonifacio General Hospital; on August 28, 2014, at the Philippine Navy Officers’ Club & Ledesma Fort San Felipe Cavite City; on September 4, 2014, at the Villamor Airbase; and on November 4, 2014, at the PVAO Covered Court in Camp Aguinaldo.

In the week leading to the 75th Anniversary Celebration on November 10, a Recognition Day on November 3 will also be held to honor the contribution of outstanding leaders and employees of the organization.
To allow the public to better know the Defense Department, a static display, exhibits and drills will be held from November 9 to 10. These activities aim to showcase the services and programs of the various bureaus of the DND. Furthermore, the DND will open its doors to qualified and deserving Filipinos who want to serve the nation as part of the Defense organization through a Job Fair on November 9 at the AFP Parade Grounds.

In the kick off ceremony, winners of the anniversary theme and logo contests were also awarded. Ms. Marina Agustin and Ms. Joyce Azurin won the anniversary theme contest while Mr. Perry Florendo won the logo contest.

“As your 35th Secretary of National Defense, it has been my honor to lead our Department of National Defense in the pursuit and fulfillment of our constitutional mandate as citizens of the state,” Gazmin said.