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CSAFP MEETS AGFO: 'WE WILL PROTECT THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE'

Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City – The Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) together with the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Commanding General Philippine Army, Vice-Chief, Philippine Navy, Commander Civil Relations Service, The Judge Advocate General and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence held a breakfast forum at the Officer's Clubhouse today.

The forum dubbed as "Kape-Kape with CSAFP" was presided by CSAFP Gen Delfin Natividad Bangit together with the Commanding General Philippine Army LtGen Reynaldo B Mapagu, Navy Vice Commander Rear Admiral Danilo Cortez, Civil Relations Service Commander BGen Francisco N Cruz Jr, The Judge Advocate General BGen Gilberto Jose C Roa and Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence RADM Victor Emmanuel C Martir. The forum was intended to reiterate the stand of the AFP in this time as the nation prepares for the coming national elections.

Gen Bangit stated, "We will not make decision for the people, we will protect the voice of the people. We cannot intervene with the decision makers. We will prevent bloodshed and when we are pushed to the wall, we will still practice self-preservation. From now to June 30, we wish that the elections be conducted properly and that there will be a smooth transition".

"What for if we are called the Armed Forces if we will not defend the Constitution? We have so much time left. I am very eager to see a next president for the next six years. I am very eager to see a better future for our children." Bangit said.

"Now that we are 72 hours away from the election, the Armed Forces has been very clear and consistent in its stand – protect the people and the Constitution, ensure a smooth transition, no military takeover, we will not decide for the people, and we will respect and support the result of the elections" Bangit continues.

The AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Emilio C Marayag said, "We are here to seek guidance and to send the message of the AFP on where it stands. We intend to establish a peaceful environment for the people".

"We are one in supporting the Constitution," Navy Vice Admiral Cortez added.

The retired generals were enlightened to what lies ahead for the AFP and were assured that the AFP will respect and support the results of the elections by protecting the people and the Constitution.

Retired General Raul S Urgello, AGFO president said they were happy that the CSAFP reiterated their loyalty to the people and to the Constitution.

The meeting was not the first of its kind. Gen Bangit has started consultations with the retired generals since the Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) days to listen to their wisdom and to learn from their experiences.

Present in the forum were retired LtGen Raul S Urgello, retired RAdm Rodolfo R Rabago, retired BGen Miguel C Sol, Ismael F Musico, Romulo R Cabantac, Liberato A Manuel, Felix A Brawner Jr, Galileo C Kintanar and retired PDir Raymundo L Logan.