

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1452

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR.

A RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE TROOPERS OF THE 53rd INFANTRY BATTALION, PHILIPPINE ARMY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF LTC. JO-AR A. HERRERA INF (GSC) PA, FOR THEIR VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY, ANTI-VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND SUCCESSFUL DISMANTLING OF GUERRILLA FRONTS OF COMMUNIST TERRORIST GROUPS IN WESTERN MINDANAO

WHEREAS, the Army's 53rd Infantry "Matapat" Battalion (53IB), Philippine Army covers twenty-two (22) municipalities and one city, the City of Pagadian in its area of operations (AO). Twenty-one (21) of those municipalities are in Zamboanga del Sur and one (1) is located in Zamboanga del Norte;

WHEREAS, the 53rd IB is an active member of the Local Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (LTF-ELCAC), both at the provincial and municipal levels, in addressing the 52-year long problem in communism and terrorism in its AO;

WHEREAS, the unit has facilitated the opening of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) that connected conflict-affected areas (CAAs) and geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). The construction of these FMRs helped revitalize economic activities in the area by shortening the time for transporting goods and crops from the mountains to the market, providing access to basic government services, and creating more job opportunities;

WHEREAS, in the 2nd District of Zamboanga del Sur, particularly in the municipalities of Guipos, San Miguel, Dumalinao, Kumalarang, and Lakewood, the unit was able to facilitate the construction of roads through the help of Army Engineers, which have a direct impact on the communities and the enemy therein. The communities now feel empowered and have withdrawn their support for the Communist-Terrorist Groups (CTGs). The CTGs, on the other hand, lost their former mass bases, safe havens, and supporters;

WHEREAS, partnered with relentless and sustained conduct of Army operations, prompted the Joint AFP-PNP Intelligence Committee (JAPIC) to recommend the dismantling of HQ KALAW and Main Regional Guerilla Unit

(MRGU) of Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee (WMRPC)—the CTGs operating in the unit's AO;

WHEREAS, these achievements are by-product of exemplary performance of every trooper through the guidance and leadership of their Battalion Commander LTC Jo-Ar A. Herrera INF (GSC) PA;

WHEREAS, the Filipino People, through their elected Representatives, would like to convey their sincerest gratitude to the *Matapat* troopers of the 53rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army for doing their mandate, truly a manifestation of their motto "serving the people, securing the land".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to commend the 53rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army for its achievements in Counter-Insurgency, Anti-Violent Extremism and Successful Dismantling of Guerrilla Fronts of Communist Terrorist Groups in Western Mindanao.

ADOPTED,



LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR.
Representative

2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur