

[MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 83, September 02, 2015]

**CREATING THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE FOR THE DISBANDMENT
OF THE PRIVATE ARMED GROUPS IN THE AREAS OF THE
PROPOSED BANGSAMORO AND THE ADJACENT REGIONS IX TO
XII**

WHEREAS, Section 24, Article XVIII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the dismantling of private armies and other armed groups not recognized by duly constituted authorities;

WHEREAS, for purposes of implementing this mandate, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) referred to private armies as "private armed groups" or PAGs and defined a PAG as "an organized group of two (2) or more persons, with legally or illegally possessed firearms, utilized for purposes of sowing fear and intimidation, and violence for the advancement and protection of vested political and economic interest;"

WHEREAS, the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) provided for a comprehensive approach towards achieving security and peace in the proposed Bangsamoro core territory as well as adjacent areas in Regions IX to XII, which includes as one of its highlights, the disbandment of such armed groups;

WHEREAS, the law enforcement agencies have been waging a relentless campaign against PAGs that has resulted in the dismantling of some identified groups and the improvement in the peace and security in these regions and other parts of the country;

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, the PAG menace remains because the major causes which primarily contribute to its proliferation such as very low level of human security, gun culture, "rido" or clan war, political dynasties and the use of military and police auxiliaries, still exist in some affected communities;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the creation of the National Task Force that would focus on disbanding the PAGs in the proposed Bangsamoro core territory and adjacent regions in order to stabilize the security situation and effectively implement the other measures stipulated in the CAB, particularly the gradual and phased decommissioning of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

NOW, THEREFORE, the concerned agencies are hereby directed as follows:

SECTION 1. Creation of the National Task Force for the Disbandment of the PAGs in the Proposed Bangsamoro and Adjacent Regions. The National Task Force for the Disbandment of the PAGs in the Proposed Bangsamoro and Adjacent Regions (NTF-DPAGs) is hereby formally established with the following members:

Chairperson: Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local