



Office of the President  
**Anti-Terrorism Council**  
Malacañang, Manila

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

The Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) approved on 23 June 2021 ATC Resolution Nos. 20 and 21, which embody the ATC's determination of probable cause sufficient to designate 20 local terrorist group (LTG) individuals and the National Democratic Front (NDF) also known as National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) as terrorists and a terrorist organization, respectively. These were issued in accordance with Section 25(3) of Republic Act No. 11479, otherwise known as the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 (ATA), and with relevant provisions of the law's Implementing Rules and Regulations on domestic designations.

The ATC determined that the 20 LTG individuals, who belong to various groups (such as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), the Maute Group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), the Turaifie Group, and the Hassan Group) most of which are also affiliated with the Daulah Islamiyah, have violated Sections 4 (terrorism), 5 (threat to commit terrorism), 6 (planning, training, preparing and facilitating the commission of terrorism), 7 (conspiracy to commit terrorism), 8 (proposal to commit terrorism), 9 (inciting to terrorism), 10 (recruitment to and membership in a terrorist organization), and 12 (providing material support to terrorism) of the ATA. The ASG had also been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations Security Council, and had been locally proscribed as such under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9372, or the Human Security Act of 2007.

In addition, the ATC determined that the NDF is a terrorist group of persons that has committed, is attempting to commit, or is conspiring in the commission of acts defined and penalized under Sections 7, 10, and 12 of the ATA.

The NDF was formed under the auspices of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in April of 1973, and is currently organized, operated, and controlled by the CPP – a designated terrorist organization per ATC Resolution No. 12 (s. 2020). The NDF has also been found to be acting on behalf of the CPP or at the latter's direction for more than five decades already, due in part to the fact that almost all the CPP Central Committee members designated per ATC Resolution No. 17 (s. 2021) are also ranking NDF members.

The ATC also found that Article X of the 2016 Constitution of the CPP identifies the NDF as a core consolidated group that provides support to the activities of the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

This year, CPP founder **Jose Maria Sison** identified the NDF as an allied organization of the CPP and NPA in his message for the NDF's 48<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. His wife, **Juliet De Lima-Sison**, who was recently appointed as the interim chairperson of the NDF negotiating panel, stated in her message that the CPP-NPA-NDF is not subject to the authority of the government of the Republic of the Philippines. The Sison spouses were also designated as terrorists under ATC Resolution No. 17 (s. 2021).

This designation of the NDF is a blow to the ongoing terrorist activities of the communist terrorist group, since this enables the Philippine Government to interrupt the financing and material support that facilitates the NDF's recruitment and propaganda efforts. In accordance with this designation, the assets of the NDF and the 20 individuals affiliated with the Daulah Islamiyah and other groups as mentioned above shall be subject to the authority of the Anti-Money Laundering Council for freezing without delay – pursuant to Sections 35 and 36 of the ATA, and Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10168, otherwise known as the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012.

The designated parties, their assigns, or successors-in-interest may file a verified request for de-listing before the ATC within fifteen (15) days from the publication of the resolution evincing their said designations.

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