

## Philippine Assessment Team to the UNDOF Begins Mission in Lebanon



*The PHL Assessment Team to the UNDOF in Lebanon with the Philippine Embassy in Beirut (from L to R): UNDOF Chief of Staff Colonel Cirilito Sobejana, Third Secretary and Vice Consul Dennis John C. Briones, AFP Colonel Pablo M. Lorenzo, Mr. Ricardo D. Ruiz, DND-AFP Major General Jeffrey F. Delgado, Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz, Major General Natalio C. Ecarma III (Ret.), DFA-OMEAA Executive Director Nathaniel G. Imperial, Third Secretary and Vice Consul Rona Beth Goce and DFA-UNIO Director Raphael S.C. Hermoso.*



*The PHL Assessment Team to the UNDOF at the Lebanese side of the border with Syria (from L-R): NYPM Second Secretary Robert Eric A. Borje, DFA-OMEAA Executive Director Nathaniel G. Imperial, Mr. Ricardo D. Ruiz, Major General Natalio C. Ecarma III (Ret.), Damascus PE CDA Ambassador Nestor N. Padalhin, Beirut PE Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz and DND-AFP Major General Jeffrey F. Delgado.*

18 June 2013 – The Philippine Embassy in Beirut reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Philippine Assessment Team to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights arrived in Lebanon on Saturday, 15 June 2013, en route to Damascus, Syria.

Major General Jeffrey F. Delgado of the Armed Forces of the Philippines leads the independent assessment team to the UNDOF. The team members are: Executive Director Nathaniel G. Imperial (DFA Office of the Middle East and African Affairs), Director Raphael S.C. Hermoso (DFA Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations), Second Secretary Robert Eric A. Borje (Philippine Mission to New York) and Colonel Pablo M. Lorenzo (Armed Forces of the Philippines). Retired Major General Natalio C. Ecarma III, former Force Commander of UNDOF and concurrently its Head of Mission, serves as the Assessment Team's Adviser.

The Philippine delegation was provided a political and security briefing on Lebanon by Ambassador Ruiz before the UNDOF, led by its Chief of Staff, Colonel Cirilito Sobejana, escorted them by land to Syria. In coordination with the Philippine Embassies in Beirut and Damascus, the Team returned to Lebanon on Monday, 17 June 2013 en route to Amman, Jordan after completing its mission in Syria.

Ambassador Ruiz and Beirut PE officials welcomed back the Team at the Masna'a border and escorted them all the way to the Rafik Hariri International Airport where she bid them goodbye and best wishes for the rest of their mission as they boarded their flights to Amman.

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