



UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES INC.

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NEWS RELEASE

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ULAP CONDEMNS RECENT AMBUSH OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines on Monday condemned the recent spate of crimes against elected public officials and called for the speedy administration of justice for the victims.

"It is deeply concerning and reprehensible that an individual or a group would attempt to harm an elected representative of the people who has a duty to serve and protect the community. Such an act goes against democracy, rule of law, and basic human decency," ULAP said in a statement.

"Violence and intimidation have no place in a civilized society and any attempt to use force to silence or harm public officials is a threat to the safety and security of all citizens," they added.

On Sunday, Vice Mayor Rommel G. Alameda of Aparri, Cagayan and five of his companions were ambushed and killed by unidentified men allegedly clad in police uniforms and riding in a government car in Bagabag town in Nueva Vizcaya.

Meanwhile, on February 17, an assassination attempt on Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal Adiong, Jr. led to him and a member of his staff, Ali Macapado Tabao, to be injured. His security escorts, Juraj Adiong, Aga Sumandar, Jalil Cosain, and a certain Kobi, were killed.

ULAP also called on authorities to "utilize all legal means available to pursue and bring the perpetrators to the scales of Lady Justice."

"Such a remorseless act of violence is abominable and must not be perpetuated. We must stand together to condemn such acts and support efforts to ensure the safety of our public officials and the people they serve," it added.

Quirino governor and ULAP president Dax Cua decried the commitment of the said crimes, saying these had no place in a democracy.

He also urged the government to swiftly act to apprehend the perpetrators and hold them accountable to reassure the public that the rule of law continues to apply in the country.



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"These acts of impunity have no place in a democracy. Kailangan ang agarang aksyon ng pamahalaan upang mapanatag ang loob ng ating mga kababayan na nananaig ang batas sa ating lipunan," Cua said.

He added that ULAP would conduct a dialogue with its members and the national government "so that these crimes can be avoided in the future."

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ULAP is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and local government officials in country, serving as the focal representative and mouthpiece of the subnational government in all policy and program platforms to amplify our unified advocacy towards the strengthening of LGUs into able partners in nation-building.

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