



SEMINAR FOR MEN ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND MEN at Reserve Command, Philippine Army, Camp Gen. Mariano Riego de Dios, Tanza, Cavite

As part of its ongoing Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives, LBP Resources and Development Corporation (LBRDC) hosted a seminar titled “Seminar for Men About Violence Against Women and Men” at the Reserve Command, Philippine Army, Camp Gen. Mariano Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite on May 3, 2025.

This seminar aimed at raising awareness among male participants about their vital role in preventing and eliminating violence against women (VAW). The event also welcomed female participants, emphasizing the importance of inclusive dialogue and joint efforts in promoting gender equality and respect. This seminar sought to:

- a. Promote understanding of various forms of violence covered under the Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act);
- b. Foster gender sensitivity by challenging harmful stereotypes and traditional gender roles;
- c. Encourage men to become proactive allies in the fight against gender-based violence;
- d. Support the creation of safe, respectful, and inclusive environments both in the workplace and in the community;
- e. Align with national GAD mandates, including Executive Order No. 273, which institutionalizes gender mainstreaming in government programs and policies.





The seminar's success was made possible through the strong support and collaboration of the Philippine Army Reserve Command, which generously hosted the event at Camp Gen. Mariano Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite. The program commenced with a warm introduction by Mr. Louis Anthony Mabeza, Acting Chief of Division, Personnel and Admin Unit, followed by opening remarks from Lt. Gen. Antonio Ramon A. Lim PAF (Ret.), Chairman of the Board. Ms. Joyce Ashley Agarin, HR Assistant, then introduced the esteemed resource speaker, Ms. Sweet Marvelous U. Rafinian, MAPsy, RPsy, RPm, who delivered a compelling and empowering presentation on the psychological, social, and legal dimensions of violence against women, and how men can be active agents of change.

The Reserve Command's involvement extended beyond logistics; Major Eduardo Benson (INF), PA, Deputy, actively engaged in the afternoon discussion, enriching the dialogue with knowledge about their programs. Also present during the event was Director Abner Malabanan. The program culminated with a certificate and token awarding ceremony, graced by Major General Ramon P. Zagala, PA, Commander, who joined President and CEO Mr. Ricardo C. Juliano and Chairman Antonio Ramon A. Lim in presenting awards.

The seminar concluded with heartfelt closing remarks from President and CEO Mr. Ricardo C. Juliano, who reaffirmed the organization's unwavering commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace. He emphasized the importance of camaraderie, mutual support, and continuous education in building a work environment where everyone feels valued, protected, and empowered. To complement the seminar and reinforce its themes, interactive team-building activities were conducted by the Army Reserve Command, including: a. Towering Game b. Firing Relay Game c. Obstacle Goals These activities were designed to promote physical engagement and camaraderie and symbolize the importance of teamwork, unity, discipline, and mutual respect—critical values in building a culture that rejects violence and embraces equality. The participation of both male and female attendees further strengthened the message of collective responsibility in combating violence and fostering a gender sensitive environment.

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