

By Allen Abastillas

A total of fourteen (14) barangays under five municipalities of Zamboanga del Sur have been declared drug-free, according to an inter-agency committee organized to assess drug use in the communities.

This was confirmed by Police Regional Office-9 Regional Director Chief Supt. Billy Beltran who also said that seventy-six (76) barangays have also been declared as drug-cleared.

Among the barangays which have been declared as drug-free are 3 barangays in Bayog, 1 barangay in Josefina, 2 barangays in Lakewood, 3 barangays in Tigbao and 5 barangays in Dumalinao.

Meanwhile, the drug-cleared barangays are located in the municipalities of Bayog with 28 barangays, Josefina with 13 barangays, Lakewood with 10, Tigbao with 14 and Dumalinao with 11.

A drug-cleared barangay is a village previously drug-affected and subjected to drug clearing operation and declared free from illegal drug activities pursuant to parameters set forth by the Dangerous Drugs Board under Board Regulation no. 3.

Beltran said that barangays which were never affected by the drug problem are referred to as drug-free.

The inter-agency committee is composed of the Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcer Unit-9, Local Government Unit's, Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council, Department of Health-9, Dept. of Social Welfare and Development-9 and Technical Education Skills and Development Authority-9. (Allen Abastillas)