

Basilan Gov. Jum Akbar said she is grateful with the U.S. troops under the Joint Special Operations Task force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) for the continued humanitarian projects undertaken in the province.

This was the message relayed by Akbar to Undersecretary Edilberto Adan, Visiting Forces Agreement Commission (VFACom) executive director, in a meeting yesterday in one of the hotels in Zamboanga City.

Akbar said the U.S troops, whose stay in the country is government by the Visiting Forces Agreement, have undertaken several humanitarian projects in Basilan.

Akbar said the humanitarian projects include: road rehabilitation and construction; rehabilitation and construction of school buildings; Medical, Dental and Civic Action Programs (MEDCAPs); and, Veterinary Civic Action Programs (VETCAPs).

Akbar said the roads have provided good access to the farmer in bringing to the market their farm produce as well as easy access for travel for the residents while the school buildings provide conducive learning facilities to the students.

The MEDCAPs have given the Basileños the opportunity to avail of free health services while the farmers' working animal were taken cared of through the VETCAPs, Akbar said.

“These humanitarian projects have benefitted several Basileños, especially those who are living in the far-flung areas,” Akbar said.