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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 November 2017

Sunday

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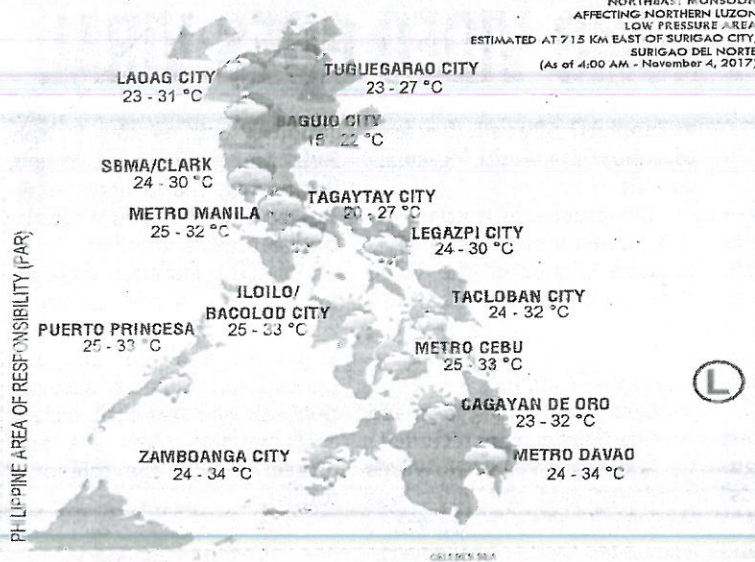










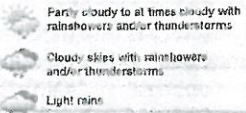
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS



TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 5, 2017 | SUNDAY




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 715 KM EAST OF SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE (As of 4:00 AM - November 4, 2017)

SUNRISE 	SUNSET 
5:53 AM	5:26 PM
MOONRISE 	MOONSET 
6:37 PM	6:39 AM
FULL MOON NOV 4 1:23 PM	LAST QUARTER NOV 11 4:36 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 3:39 PM 0.39 Meter	HIGH TIDE 10:25 PM 1.10 Meter
 <p style="font-size: x-small;">Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms Light rains</p>	

	NOV 5	NOV 7	NOV 5	NOV 7	NOV 6	NOV 7		
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	19 - 27 °C	21 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 28 °C	23 - 29 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 32 °C	24 - 30 °C
LADAG	23 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 33 °C	24 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 23 °C	15 - 24 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 - 30 °C	23 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 33 °C	25 - 31 °C	 		



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM



WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

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INQUIRY

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TIGHT SECURITY IN PLACE FOR ASEAN SUMMIT

STORY BY JULIE M. AURELIO AND JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE

Authorities have declared a “no sail zone” in a wide expanse of Manila Bay starting on Sunday and banned all trucks and closed vans from Edsa, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) and North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) from Nov. 12 as security preparations for next week’s Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit shifted into high gear in Metro Manila and Pampanga.

A10

Tight security for summit: 'No sail zone' in Manila Bay, truck ban on expressways



FROM A1

By Julie M. Aurelio
and Jeannette I. Andrade
@Team_Inquirer

Authorities have declared a "no sail zone" in Manila Bay starting on Sunday and banned all trucks from Edsa and two expressways north of Manila from Nov. 12 as security preparations for next week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit shifted into high gear.

In an advisory issued on Saturday, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said no watercraft, not even fishing bancas, would be allowed to sail in Manila Bay, which would be patrolled by Navy and Coast Guard vessels and assault craft.

"A 'no sail zone' will be set one mile from the shoreline of H2O Hotel in Manila to Okada Hotel in New Seaside Drive in Parañaque City from Nov. 5 to 16," the PCG said.

The 12-day sailing ban is the first of several measures to be implemented to secure the venues for the dignitaries attending the three-day 31st Asean Summit from Nov. 10 to 14.

The entire Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, designated as "Asean Delegates Zone," will be closed to traffic from Nov. 10 to 15.

Security officials said some



SECURING ASEAN
Members of the SWAT police team begin security watch. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

60,000 police and military personnel would be deployed to areas in Metro Manila and Clark Field in Pampanga, where the majority of heads of state would be flown in.

A still undetermined number of Army battalions and armor would be deployed near the venues in Manila and Pampanga, the officials added.

The truck ban, which will be lifted three days later on Nov. 15, covers the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) and Edsa, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government officer in charge Catalino Cuy.

Cuy said that trucks and closed vans would not be allowed to pass through SCTEx and NLEx, between Clark Freeport and Balintawak. They would also be banned from Edsa between Balintawak and Magallanes.

The truck ban would ensure the smooth flow of traffic for the delegates' convoys, he said.

Cuy also advised motorists to expect intermittent traffic stops from Nov. 11 to 15 in Asean lanes in Makati City, particularly on Arnaiz Avenue, Makati Avenue and Parkway Drive.

"We urge the public to veer away from the said areas and take alternate routes to avoid being inconvenienced by the heavy traffic while the Asean Summit is ongoing," Cuy said.

Traffic disruptions are also expected during the same period on Pasay Road and portions of Edsa in Pasay, Makati, Mandaluyong and Quezon City.

Rerouting will be undertaken on the same dates on Sen. Jose W. Diokno Boulevard as well as on Jalandoni, V. Sotto, Bukaneg and A. Dela Rama Streets in Pasay City.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said work crews were expected to finish sprucing up Metro Manila's major roads and alternate routes by Friday.

"We've done almost everything. We repainted roads and patched small potholes, and installed lights in Ayala Tunnel," said Melvin Navarro, DPWH director for the National Capital Region.

In its advisory, the PCG said they would also enforce a "controlled zone" 1.6 kilometers from H2O Hotel to the mouth of Pasig River.

"All vessels passing the controlled zone may not sail in the area unless permitted and escorted by PCG personnel," it said. INQ

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Trump to extend stay in Phl for E. Asia meet

By JANVIC MATEO and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Trump From Page 1

He's not skipping the East Asia Summit (EAS) after all. United States President Donald Trump will extend his stay in Manila next week – contrary to an earlier announcement by the White House – to attend the EAS and other meetings on Nov. 14.

"The White House confirmed that President Trump will be attending the East Asia Summit on Nov. 14," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Robespierre Bolivar told **The STAR** in a text message.

President Duterte felt "overwhelmed" by Trump's decision, said Philippine ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez.

Trump, who left the US on Friday for a trip to various Asian nations, confirmed that his delegation would be "staying an extra day in the Philippines."

The White House earlier said Trump will be in Manila to attend the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Nov. 12 and the ASEAN-US summit the following day. He was originally scheduled to skip the EAS summit and leave on Nov. 14. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was supposed to represent Trump at the EAS.

Before flying to Manila, Trump will visit Japan, South Korea, China and Vietnam.

His first official visit to Asia would be the longest made by

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a sitting American president in over two decades, according to reports.

The US President is also expected to have a bilateral meeting with President Duterte on Nov. 13.

Meanwhile, Romualdez said Trump's decision to attend the gathering of world leaders in Manila "is a good development for our relations with the United States."

Trump's decision will also improve further not just the Philippine-US relations, but also US relations with the other ASEAN and East Asian countries.

Singapore and Japan are also eagerly looking forward to Trump's attendance at the EAS, Romualdez added.

The EAS is a forum held annually by leaders initially of 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian regions. Membership expanded to 18 when the US and Russia joined the group

in 2011. EAS meetings are held after ASEAN leaders' meetings. The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Dec. 14, 2005.

Duterte, who had announced his "separation" from the US and pivot to China, was very happy upon receiving news on Friday evening that Trump would extend his stay in Manila, Romualdez said.

Duterte, he added, was looking forward to his bilateral meeting with Trump.

Narco-terrorism

One of the major issues the President hopes to discuss with Trump is narco-terrorism, Romualdez said.

Duterte had earlier lauded Trump's decision to declare a national emergency over opioid abuse in the US, which the US leader called a "national shame."

The Chief Executive has been vocal about eliminating the drug menace which, he said, has fueled terrorism

in the country, especially in Mindanao as highlighted by the siege of Marawi City.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, for his part, said the ASEAN and EAS summits would provide a perfect time for ASEAN and partner countries to tackle unresolved issues.

He also hailed Trump's decision to attend the EAS.

"The Palace welcomes the announcement of the White House that President Donald Trump would extend his stay in the Philippines to attend the East Asia Summit," Andanar said.

He said Duterte "looks forward to engaging President Trump in the productive dialogue at the ASEAN-US Commemorative Summit and the EAS."

"The Philippines, as host, chairman of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings, is set to welcome all foreign leaders and delegates and to ensure that they would experience their Filipino hospitality at its finest," he added.

Andanar also appealed to

the public to cooperate with authorities and follow stricter security and traffic rules during the ASEAN summit.

"Of course, during that day or those days *na meron tayo sa ASEAN*, we also expect the cooperation of the public," he said.

"We should show our best foot forward (because) this is the time that we can show the whole world that we are a very good country, a very nice country, disciplined people and we are very warm, *alam na naman ng lahat 'yan* (everyone knows that). And we are very orderly," Andanar added. Trump began his five-country Asian trip on Friday.

Trump left Joint Base Andrews, just outside Washington, for Hawaii. His next stop is Japan, followed by South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines.

In his departure speech, Trump announced that he decided at the last minute to extend his stay in Asia, in the wake of criticism that he was not very serious about strengthening ties with Asian

allies.

Prior to the ASEAN summit in Manila, Duterte and Trump are also expected to meet in Danang, Vietnam on Nov. 10 for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings.

APEC is the premier leaders-level forum for promoting cooperation in efforts to reduce barriers to trade and investment throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

With stricter security measures being readied for the ASEAN and EAS summits, thousands of workers are preparing nonetheless to welcome Trump with mass protests, especially in Metro Manila.

Elmer Labog, chairman of the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS), said yesterday they are expecting around 10,000 protesters to meet Trump on Nov. 12.

"After threatening to unleash 'fire and fury' and 'calm before the storm,' Trump would be in for a surprise," Labog said at a news forum in Quezon City, referring to

Trump's statements against North Korea.

Labog said they are set to hold a rally outside the US embassy in Manila on Nov. 10 as an initial salvo against Trump.

The ILPS will also hold a press briefing on the same day at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, expected to be attended by anti-war activists from South Korea, Japan, China, Australia and other countries.

Among the delegates to the conference is Erdelan Baran, a member of the Kurdistan National Congress who led campaigns against terrorism in Syria and Iraq.

Another participant is Toshide Fujiwara of the Asia-Wide Campaign who is slated to share his insights regarding the presence of US military bases in Japan.

Labog said rallies will also be held on Nov. 13 in the vicinity of the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City and in Clark Field, Pampanga on Nov. 14.

- With Rhodina Villanueva

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Armed men go on burning binge in Dole plantation

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Heavily armed men swooped down on a banana plantation early Friday and set ablaze portable banana processors and buildings in Barangay Casisang, Malaybalay City in Bukidnon, a report reaching this camp said on Saturday.

An initial report said the men, armed with automatic rifles and handguns, arrived at 12:20 a.m. on Friday, and proceeded to burn the portable processors and buildings of the banana plantation.

The plantation is reportedly owned

by DOLE Philippines.

After setting on fire the said facilities, the perpetrators immediately fled to nearby upper Casisang mountainous area of that same agricultural city of Malaybalay.

No one was reported harmed among the workers of DOLE Philippines.

Banana processors are used for cleaning, grading and in the selection process of bananas before they are packed.

DOLE Philippines is still validating and assessing the exact amount of damaged facilities.

“We cannot still determine as of this time the identities of the perpetrators or group doing this terroristic act and even the motive of this incident,” said 403rd Infantry Brigade Civil Military Operations officer Capt. Norman Tagros, in a phone interview with The Manila Bulletin on Saturday.

However, he said there are bandits, extortionists and New People’s Army (NPA) rebels known to operate in the area, that have harassed business and local folk in the past.

“We cannot still determine the real motive and identities of the arsonists on pre-dawn attack on Friday,” stressed

the 403rd CMO officer.

He said the Malaybalay City Police Station is still conducting a thorough investigation on the said incident while combat maneuvering troops of the 1st Special Forces Battalion (1st SFB) are still pursuing the fleeing perpetrators who reportedly ran away toward the upper Casisang of that same city.

Col. Eric C. Vinoya, commanding officer of the 403rd Infantry Brigade, also ordered the deployment of more combat maneuvering troops to augment the pursuing troops of the 1st SFB in Casisang area, he added.

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Pahina. 6

Banana plantation sinunog ng NPA

NORTH COTABATO – Umaabot sa miiyong halaga ng ari-arian ang naabo makaraang sunugin ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang plantasyon ng Dole Philippines Incorporated sa Barangay Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon kamakalawa. Gayunman, nasa ligtas na kalagayan ang mga kawani ng kompanya kung saan sinunog ang portable banana processors mismo sa loob ng plantasyon. Inamin ni Capt. Norman Tagros ng 403rd Infantry Battalion ng Phil. Army na nalusutan sila kasama ang pulisya ng mga suspek kahit nasa high alert ang state forces at mayroong combat operations laban sa NPA rebs sa hindi kalayuan sa nasabing lugar. Napag-alaman na nasa full alert status ang militar at pulisya dahil sa intelligence information na magsasagawa ng malawakang pag-atake ang mga rebeide dahil sa nalalapit na anibersaryo ng NPA rebs sa Disyembre. **Rhoderick Beñez**

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4 NPA rebels surrender

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA

FOUR members of the New Peoples' Army (NPA) have decided to return to the fold of the law to start a normal and peaceful life with their families in Bukidnon.

This was confirmed yesterday by Philippine Army's 403rd Infantry Brigade spokesperson Captain Nor-

man M. Tagros.

Tagros said one of the NPA members surrendered to the 1st Special Forces Battalion on November 1 while the three others surrendered to the 8th Infantry Battalion.

The first rebel returnee turned over his garand rifle with ammunition while the three others gave their M16 rifle, garand rifle and one caliber .30 carbine rifle

with ammunition.

During their custodial debriefings, the NPA members said they are tired of living in the mountains. They even disclosed the hardship that they experienced while they were with the bandit group who, according to them gave false promises.

Brig. Gen. Eric C. Vinoya AFP, Commander of the 403rd Infantry Brigade, lauded the battalions under the Brigade for facilitating the surrender of the four NPA members.

He also called upon those NPA members who still remain with the ill-motivated group to go down and surrender.

"I congratulate the 1st Special Forces Battalion and the 8th Infantry Battalion for facilitating the surrender of our four misguided brothers who finally decided to go back to the folds of the law after being given false promises by the NPA and its leaders," Vinoya said.

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Pahina. 6



Nagsisuko sa militar ang walong rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) kung saan bitbit ang kani-kanilang armas.

8 NPA balik-loob sa pamahalaan

NORTH COTABATO - Walong rebeldeng New Peoples Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa militar sa Barangay Kuden, bayan ng Senator Ninoy Aquino sa Sultan Kudarat, kamakalawa. Ayon kay Captain Rogelio Agustin Jr. ng Charlie Company ng 33rd Infantry Battalion ng Phil. Army, nagsisuko ang walo bitbit ang dalawang M16 Armalite rifles, dalawang landmine at mga bala. Naunang sumuko sina Ka Bobby at Ka Jimboy ng Clouphone Platoon ng NPA kung saan sila ang naging daan at tumulong para magbalik-loob sa gobyerno ang walong rebelde. Nangako naman ang mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan na tutulungan ang mga sumukong NPA rebs at bibigyan ng pangkabuhayan na proyekto. Sa kasalukuyan ay umaabot na sa 60 NPA rebs ang sumuko mula sa bayan ng Senator Ninoy Aquino sa Sultan Kudarat. **Rhoderick Beñez**

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NPA child warriors lumulobo sa Cotabato

KASABAY ng sunod-sunod na pagsuko ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA), nagpahayag ang militar ng pagkabahala dahil sa madami na ang sumusukong child warriors.

Una rito, sumuko ang dalawang NPA kamakalawa kung saan edad 16 lamang ang isa.

Maliban dito, inihayag ni 2nd Lt. Col. Radjan Palacio, tagapagsalita ng 27th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army, na sa lahat ng mga sumuko sa kanila, mayroon umanong mga menor de edad o 'di kaya'y bata pa noong na-recruit.

Dagdag pa nito, umaamin din ang mga ba-

tang rebelde na sila'y kasama na sa mga extortion activities at pang-aatake sa hanay ng gobyerno sa kanilang murang edad.

Samantala, sumuko umano ang mga ito dahil nakita nilang walang ibinubungang maganda ang kanilang pakikipagbakbakan sa gobyerno at walang naitutulong ang komunista at rebeldeng grupo upang maiahon sila sa kahirapan.

Sa ngayon, nasa kostudyiya na ng South Cotabato Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office ang menor de edad habang inihahanda na ang tulong upang muling makapagsimula ng normal na buhay.

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Reds: Rody's localized peace talks won't work

By JAIME LAUDE

Belittling the offer of housing and jobs for every New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla that surrenders to the government as nothing but "silly incentives," the National Democratic Front (NDF) predicted that the localized peace talks President Duterte wants with the communist left would surely fail.

The offer, according to the NDF, is a very shallow appreciation of the social problems in the Philippines and a waste of people's time and money.

It added that this follows the "divide and rule" tactic and aims to break the unity

of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NDF and NPA, which have been fighting the government for decades.

Duterte earlier called on rebels to settle down and live normal lives by laying down their arms and surrender to the government. In return, the government would provide them with housing units and livelihood incentives.

CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison, who is in exile in the Netherlands, has yet to issue an official statement on the latest government offer.

But the NDF, in a statement, reported that Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte recently created a Davao City Peace

Committee to negotiate with the local forces of the NPAs." Similar efforts by the 8th Infantry Division were also done in Eastern Visayas.

It rejected the invitation for localized peace talks and reiterated its call for the resumption of the 5th round of negotiations to pursue discussions on the release of all political prisoners and the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER).

To show goodwill, Duterte ordered last year the release of key NPA personalities, including couple Benito and Wilma Tiamzon who would act as consultants to the peace talks

held in Oslo, Norway.

Meanwhile, the government has put the NPA and its front organizations in Pampanga and Metro Manila under close monitoring as part of the overall security preparations for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

Major Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, said the NPAs are "out there looking for an opportunity to be able to commit inimical acts against the people and the state."

He added that the group has been focusing its efforts on the kind of violence it would

be doing.

"They will even forge a tactical alliance (with other threat groups) if necessary for as long as it is helpful to advance their own cause," Padilla said.

World leaders are arriving in the country next week for the ASEAN summit, an event that would be primarily secured by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and supported by the AFP.

In Sorsogon province, members of the Gubat town police repulsed an NPA attack Friday evening.

Senior Supt. Marlon Tejada, the province's police director, said the rebels have been trying to overrun police

formations since September, prompting him to place all his units on high alert status.

Although no one was reported hurt in the incident, he noted several attacks done by the NPA since September, including the killing of PO2 Dennis Garbida, who was shot while defending an outpost in front of the Gubat public market in October, and torching of six motorcycles outside the camp of the 3rd Maneuver Company.

"They are active in Gubat because they can easily evade government troops running after them because of many exit points," he added.

– With Celso Amo

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Alleged private army disarmed

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat- Police arrested yesterday seven suspected members of a private armed group including two former soldiers during simultaneous raids in Senator Ninoy Aquino, Sultan

Kudarat.

Senior Supt. Raul Supiter, Sultan Kudarat police director, identified the suspects as retired M/Sgt. Rufino Lama, retired Staff Sgt. Rodolfo Ecija, Augusto Terosa, Calvin Lakandula, Joel Gardose, Glenn Brillantes, and Richard Devaras.

Police seized from the suspects

10 M-16 Armalite rifles; 4 M-14 rifles; a Garrand rifle; 2 Carbine rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher; an Ingram sub-machine gun; a 12-gauge shotgun and several ammunitions.

Supiter believes the suspects were involved in criminal activities in the region.

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Palace, AFP downplay Aussie travel alert

By Ted Tuvera

Australia's latest travel warning on the Philippines, notwithstanding, there is no specific terrorist threat in the country after the government declared the end of hostilities in Marawi City last Oct. 23.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, in a statement, said that the Philippines remains a safe place for visiting foreigners.

"The Philippine government has no information about any increased terror threat in the county and we assure our foreign friends that local authorities have

been enforcing tight security measures, especially in populated areas while we urge everyone to continue being aware of one's surroundings," Roque said.

"We reiterate that generally it is safe to work, study, do business, and travel in the Philippines," he added.

An expert on international law, Roque said the Palace has already clarified the matter with Australian officials.

"We understand the concern of the Australian government cautioning its citizens on the Philippines safety or security risks," Roque said.



ROQUE

"We verified with Australian officials and that the advisory is not a response to any specific threat," he added.

The Palace official said Australia's concern for their Philippines is due to the threat caused by Islamic State (IS)-inspired bandits' attempt to establish a caliphate in the Philippines.

The Islamist militants' attempt was thwarted by government troops after a five-month bloody siege in the Islamic City of Marawi.

"Australia's general threat assessment has remained the

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Palace, AFP downplay Aussie travel alert

From page 1

same as it was the height of the Marawi rebellion, which we all know has already been resolved by our government forces," Roque said.

Roque noted that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has "coordinated with other embassies and there is no change in travel advisories on the Philippines issued by other countries."

Australia's warning came days close to the country's hosting of the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit on November 13 to 15.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief General Oscar Albayalde said that members of the police force are on high alert for potential retaliation from IS-inspired militants following their defeat in Marawi City.

"The threat on terrorism remains due to the possible retaliatory attacks from threat groups supportive of the Maute-ISIS," Albayalde said.

"We continue to strengthen our intelligence fusion with other agencies as well as our target hardening measures and we continue to conduct joint exercises with other law enforcement agencies to ensure our readiness in any eventuality," he added.

Citing intelligence reports, Albayalde added that there are "no clear or imminent danger on any planned terrorist attack that could disrupt this historic event."

While Marawi City has been "liberated," President Duterte himself has warned of possible retaliation from IS-inspired stragglers.

"They might strike in five places at the same time. It could be in Zamboanga, maybe Basilan and Isabela. These are the buzz that has reached my office," the Commander in Chief said in a speech last October 11 in Bulacan.

A mere Aussie reiteration – AFP
Australia's travel advisory is merely a reiteration of that issued last May during the height of the Maute Group attacks in Marawi City, the spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said.

"The AFP has verified the matter with the Australian Embassy and has found out that the travel advisory is a reiteration of a previous travel advisory issued earlier in May. It was reissued in a more succinct manner and may have an update next week following the end of combat operations in Marawi," Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

Australia, in its November 3 travel advisory to the Philippines, said there is a high threat of terrorist attack in the country, including Manila.

"Exercise heightened caution at this time. Be alert to possible threats around locations that have a low level of protective security and places known to be possible terrorist targets," the advisory

added.

The United Kingdom (UK) likewise said its existing travel advisory regarding terror threats in the Philippines remains in effect. The alert in its official website, updated Nov. 3, was identified as "still current" on November 4.

"Militant groups in rural areas throughout the Philippines. Armed clashes between security forces and militant groups can occur at any time without warning. Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in the Philippines, including in Manila," the advisory stated.

It warned UK nationals against visiting places frequented by foreigners, such as airports, shopping malls, public transport, including the metro system, and places of worship.

The UK government advised its nationals that before traveling to rural areas, "research the area thoroughly".

Fighting in Marawi City was declared over after military forces killed Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, one of the founders of the Maute Group, last October 23.

The fighting, which began May 23, killed an estimated 920 terrorists and their allies along with 165 soldiers and 47 civilians.

When asked if there are still terror threats in the country, Padilla said the AFP has yet to detect any at the moment.

"Nothing, this is just a reiteration. The threat that they

perceived in May is the same," he added.

Padilla added the Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTFNCR) headed by Brig. Gen. Jesus Manangui Jr. will act as the lead security unit of the military in working closely with concerned agencies to ensure the safety of the participants in the Asean Summit.

JTFNCR has devised Oplan Asean Leaders' Summit (ALS) wherein five groups will be deployed to perform security and emergency response operations in support of other government agencies during the conduct of the summit.

More than 20 world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, are expected to attend the event.

JTFNCR will also provide augmentation forces to the National Capital Region Police Office and the Presidential Security Group.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government earlier said close to 60,000 soldiers and police will be deployed for the ASEAN summit.

Security personnel will be assigned to man airports, venues, and major thoroughfares.

Padilla said the JTFNCR will also provide Emergency Response Units, such as Search, Rescue and Retrieval Units and Ambu-Medic Units, to provide rescue and health support to delegates and all deployed forces.

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INQUIRER

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Palace on Aussie warning: No threat here

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jeannette I. Andrade @Team_Inquirer

As far as Philippine authorities are concerned, there is no credible terror threat in the country.

Malacañang said yesterday that Australia's issuance of a travel advisory on Friday, which warns its citizens of a "high threat of terrorist attack in the Philippines," had no content basis.

In a statement, acting presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said that the Duterte administration understood Australia's concern for its citizens' safety but, at the same time, the administration was able to verify from Aussie officials that the latest advisory was not based on

any specific threat.

"Their general threat assessment has remained the same as it was (at) the height of the Marawi rebellion, which we all know has already been resolved by our government forces," Roque said.

Roque issued the assurance apparently to dispel any security concerns as the Philippines is hosting from Nov. 12 to 15 a summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

World leaders attending

Besides the 10 Asean leaders, also attending the summit are United States President Donald Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, United Nations Secretary General Antonio

Guterres and European Council President Donald Tusk.

Officials in the country have no knowledge of any new dangers, but remain vigilant and continue to enforce strict security measures, Roque said, adding:

"The Philippine government has no information about any increased terror threat in the county and we assure our foreign friends that local authorities have been enforcing tight security measures, especially in populated areas while we urge everyone to continue being aware of one's surroundings."

Roque disclosed that other embassies had not issued new advisories concerning the Philippines.

"We reiterate that generally it is safe to work, study, do business and travel in the Philippines," he stressed.

Rehash

Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana downplayed the latest Australian travel advisory, basically describing it as rehash of a previous advisory.

In a statement he issued on Saturday, Lorenzana noted that the travel advisory was merely a "reiteration of an advisory they (Australian government officials) issued in May of this year."

"This should not be a cause for undue alarm since issuing regular travel advisories to citizens is commonly practiced by many countries, including Aus-

tralia, especially in the light of the spate of violent incidents that have been happening all over the world in recent times," Lorenzana said.

'Heightened caution, possible threats'

In the travel advisory, Australia urged its citizens to "exercise heightened caution at this time. Be alert to possible threats around locations that have a low level of protective security and places known to be possible terrorist targets. The level of our advice has not changed."

It further advised Australian nationals to "exercise a high degree of caution in the Philippines overall," particularly in some parts of the country

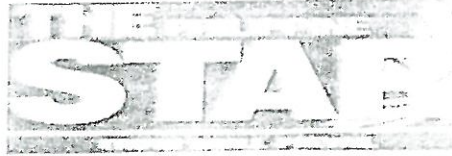
where it noted a "deterioration in security."

The advisory then warned its citizens against traveling to Central and Western Mindanao, including Marawi City, which was declared by President Duterte on Oct. 17 as "liberated" from Maute and Abu Sayyaf forces, five months after the fighting started. But the Islamic city remains a conflict zone due to the presence of around 36 militant "stragglers."

However, Lorenzana urged the public to remain vigilant.

"Let us all be mindful of our surroundings and work closely with government security forces to ensure that terrorism and violent extremism do not take root in our villages, towns and cities," he said. INQ

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Palace allays terror fears: Phl is safe

It's "generally safe" for foreigners to travel, work or study in the country, Malacañang said yesterday as it allayed fears sparked by Australia's alerting its citizens to possible terror attacks in the Philippines, including in Metro Manila.

"We understand the concern of the Australian government cautioning its citizens on the Philippines' safety or security risks," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said.

"We verified with Australian officials and they said the advisory is not a response to any specific threat," he said.

He stressed it was normal for the Australian government to show concern for the welfare of its citizens traveling overseas.

"Their general threat assessment has remained the same as it was at the height of the Marawi rebellion, which we all know has already been resolved by our government forces," Roque pointed out.

On Friday, Australia said threat of terror attack was prevalent in the whole country, including

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Palace From Page 1

Manila. It advised its nationals to exercise "a high degree of caution" when going to areas with low protective security.

The travel advisory came as the country is preparing for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia summits and other meetings from Nov. 12 to 14.

World leaders including US President Donald Trump are set to attend the meetings.

Roque assured the public that there are no monitored terror threats so far in Manila and elsewhere in the country.

"The Philippine government has no information about any

increased terror threat in the country and we assure our foreign friends that local authorities have been enforcing tight security measures, especially in populated areas while we urge everyone to continue being aware of one's surroundings," he said.

Roque noted that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has coordinated with other embassies and that there is no change in travel advisories on the Philippines issued by other countries.

"We reiterate that generally it is safe to work, study, do business and travel in the

Philippines," he stressed.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa also downplayed the Australian terror alert, saying Canberra was just being extra cautious.

"Maybe these people are just being extra careful," Dela Rosa said in an interview over dzBB radio.

He said what Australia issued was actually a general alert.

He also said they have not monitored any specific threats and that Australia could just be expecting possible retaliatory attacks from terrorist groups following the defeat of Islamic State-inspired rebels in Marawi City.

What intelligence authori-

ties from the police and the military are monitoring is the possibility of "lone wolf" terror attacks.

Dela Rosa said there has been no documented attack in the country by so-called "lone wolf" terrorists who, he admitted, were "the most difficult to track down."

Lone wolf terrorists usually get indoctrinated or radicalized through browsing of websites of terror groups, he said.

Dela Rosa maintained their foreign counterparts in the intelligence community are helping them ensure the safety of leaders and delegates in the coming ASEAN and EAS meetings.

"We have intelligence fusion and exchanges between

our Philippine intelligence community and foreign counterparts," Dela Rosa said.

For Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejandro and Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin, however, the military and the police should take seriously the Australian embassy's advisory on terror threats.

"Terrorists have no bounds and they can strike anytime and anywhere. The physical defeat of ISIS-inspired Maute in Marawi could trigger retaliatory attacks, especially against soft targets in areas other than Marawi," Alejandro said.

"I am confident that our security forces are doing their duties to make sure that the people are safe from terrorists'

threats without unnecessarily creating panic among them. I trust that our government resorts to careful contingency planning," he said.

Villarin said the Australian embassy advisory is "highly credible."

"Citizens' vigilance and good, real-time intelligence work are needed to deter such threats. The safety of everyone is of paramount importance. It seems that the Duterte administration has not addressed decisively the terror threat despite martial law and vows to crush these terror groups. A purely military solution has emboldened, not cowed militants," Villarin said. – Christina Mendez, Jess Diaz, Emmanuel Tupas

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'Lone wolf attack an int'l security concern'

By JAIME LAUDE

Security officials are not ruling out the possibility of a lone wolf attack in key areas of the country, including Metro Manila.

Department of National Defense spokesman Arsenio Andolong said a lone wolf attack is also the concern of security forces worldwide, particularly during a high profile event.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana stressed the possibility of a lone wolf attack during the Association of Southeast Asia Defense Ministers Meeting (ADDM)-Plus held last month at Clark Field in Pampanga.

On Friday, the Australian embassy issued an alert to its citizens, warning of a high probability of terror attack in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

The Australian alert was issued more than a week ahead of the holding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Sum-

mit and Related Meetings to be hosted by the Philippines.

Andolong described the Australia terror alert as normal procedures of foreign governments.

Andolong noted foreign embassies' advisories to their nationals overseas following the recent "lone wolf" terror attack in the US.

"I believe that's one of their reactions to what happened recently in New York and there seems to be a pattern emerging because of the incidents that also happened in other countries," Andolong said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Australia's travel advisory was just issued by its embassy in Manila to reiterate its previous travel warning.

Padilla earlier warned of the possibility of a lone wolf attack, particularly from sympathizers of the Islamic State-linked Maute group who were defeated by government forces in

the five-month battle to retake Marawi City.

Padilla, however, assured the public the military has not monitored any credible terror threats in Metro Manila or in other key areas of the country.

He said the AFP has put forward ample and best forces to work with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other agencies in securing the ASEAN summit.

Padilla said the troops from the AFP Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTFNCR) led by Brig. Gen. Jesus Manangquil Jr. will personally head the military contingent in securing the ASEAN summit in coordination with the PNP.

"JTF-NCR has devised an operational plan where five Joint Task Groups will be deployed to perform security and emergency response operations in support of other government agencies during the conduct of the said summit from Nov. 10 to 14," Padilla said.

The AFP-JTF-NCR will also provide augmentation forces to the Metro Manila-based National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and the President Security Group (PSG).

As metro sentinel of the seat of the national government, Padilla added the JTF-NCR has long been planning and preparing for contingency measures to address any worse case threat scenario before, during and after the ASEAN Summit.

"In case of any natural and man-made disaster occurring during the summit, specialized land, air and sea forces are all set to support all tasked units and delegates of the 31st ASEAN Summit," Padilla said.

Another security official also said the government's security and intelligence apparatus are working to derail possible terror plots.

"On top of the sustained monitoring, we are also conducting an intelligence build-up for possible launching of disruption operations," the anti-terror official said.

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAKAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ ₱8.00

TRAVEL ADVISORY NG AUSTRALIA NILINAW

Walang terror threat sa Metro Manila—AFP

Ni FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Sinabi ng deputy commander ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Joint Task Force National Capital Region (AFP JTF-NCR) na nananatiling normal ang ipinaiiral na alert level sa Metro Manila sa kabila ng bagong travel advisory na inilabas ng Australia laban sa bansa.

Ayon kay Col. Vic Tomas, ang huling travel advisory ng Australia ay bahagi lamang ng global alert warning laban sa posibilidad ng mga lone wolf attack ng mga terorista, gaya ng nangyari sa New York sa Amerika kamakailan.

Dagdag pa niya, upang matiyak na walang mangyayaring hindi maganda sa bansa, partikular sa pagdaraos dito ng ASEAN Summit 2017 sa Nobyembre 13-14, inalerto na ng militar ang standby forces nito upang suportahan ang Philippine National Police (PNP) sa usaping pangseguridad.

Sinabi naman ni AFP Spokesman Major General

Restituto Padilla na nagberipika na ang militar sa Australian Embassy tungkol sa usapin, at nakumpirma na ang travel advisory ay pagbibigay-diin lamang sa kaparehong travel advisory na ipinalabas ng embahada noong Mayo ngayong taon.

Tiniyak din niyang wala silang namo-monitor na banta sa Metro Manila hanggang ngayon.

"It was re-issued in a more succinct manner and may have an update next week following the end of combat operations in Marawi," paliwanag ni Padilla. "Wala (credible threat). This is just a reiteration, the threat that they perceived in May is the same with the current one."

Sa huling travel advisory nito, sinabi ng Australia na may matinding banta ng mga teroristang pag-atake sa Pilipinas, kabilang na sa Metro Manila, kaya pinag-iingat nito ang mga Australian na nasa Pilipinas.

"Be alert to possible threats

around locations that have a low level of protective security and places known to be possible terrorist targets. The level of our advice has not changed. Exercise a high degree of caution in the Philippines overall," saad sa travel advisory ng Australia.

"Do not travel to central and western Mindanao due to the very high threat of kidnapping, terrorist attack, violent crime and violent clashes between armed groups. See Safety and security," bahagi pa ng advisory. "There is a high threat of terrorist attack in the Philippines, including Manila. Exercise heightened caution at this time."

Sinabi naman ni Department of National Defense (DND) Public Affairs Service chief Arsenio Andolong na normal lamang para sa mga pamahalaan ang magpalabas ng travel advisory sa kani-kanilang mamamayan na nasa ibang bansa, sa gitna na rin ng sunud-sunod na terrorist attacks sa iba't ibang pang ng mundo.

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Solon wants Balo-I airport converted into military base

By **CHARISSA M. LUCI**

Lanao del Norte Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo is urging the Duterte administration to convert the Balo-I Airport, known as the Maria Cristina Airport, into a base of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) to augment the security forces in Lanao region.

He asked the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in coordination with the PAF, to convert the airport into an air base for the military.

Dimaporo noted that Balo-I airport has been closed ever since Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental became operational in 2011 to serve the Iligan-Cagayan de Oro corridor.

"The general area of Iligan City, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur is often subjected to attacks from armed groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the more recent Maute Terrorist Group," Dimaporo said in filing House Resolution 1252.

"There is a need to augment the security forces in the Lanao region and the Balo-I airport can be utilized as an Air Force base to stage aerial missions in response to threats," he said.

Balo-I Airport is classified as a secondary airport by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

Despite the military's formal termination of its operations in Marawi City, Mindanao remains under the state of martial law.

Last July 22, the House of Representatives and the Senate, in a special joint session, overwhelmingly approved President Duterte's request to extend martial law in Mindanao until December 31.

A total of 261 Congress members, including 16 senators voted in favor, while 18 opposed the martial law extension.

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UNA SA BALITA

Pahina. 3

'Di lahat ng Maute ay terorista

Patuloy pa rin ang mahigpit na pagmamaman ng mga awtoridad sa posibleng tagasuporta at nakikisimpatiya sa grupong Maute.

Pero nilinaw naman ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla na hindi naman lahat ng kaapelyido ng Maute ay sangkot sa paghahasik ng gulo sa Marawi.

Katunayan, ayon kay Padilla, karamihan sa kanila ay lehitimo at tahimik na namumuhay kaya kailangan din ires-

peto ng iba.

"Hindi naman po lahat ng miyembro ng Maute ay involve sa naging rebelyon sa Marawi, marami rin sa kanila na kapanganlan lang, kaapelyido, at maaaring kapag nalalaman ay nagiging suspek kaagad. Pero base sa aming pagtatanong, marami sa kanila ay lehitimo ang pamumuhay, tahimik sila, kaya sana ay nirerespeto natin yan," pahayag ni Padilla.

Sa kabila nito, sinabi ni Padilla na hindi pa rin

dapat nagbababa ng alerto ang publiko dahil ang nagkakaisang pagkilos ang mabisang sandata laban sa anumang banta.

"Hindi tayo dapat magbaba ng pagiging vigilant o pagiging alerto, dapat lagi tayong mapagbantay laban sa anumang banta kaya 'yan lamang ang aming magiging abiso. Kaya 'yung magiging collective action ng ating sambayanan ang magiging panangga natin laban sa anumang banta," paalala pa ni Padilla. (Betchai Julian)

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INQUIRER

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TERROR THREAT

SOLON WARNS PALACE VS KNEE-JERK REACTIONS

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano yesterday warned the Duterte administration against resorting to “knee-jerk reactions” such as declaring martial law to address security issues following Australia’s warning to its nationals of a “high threat” of a terror attack in the Philippines, including the capital, Manila.

“I am confident that our security forces are doing their duties to make sure that the people are safe from terrorists’ threats without unnecessarily creating panic among them. I trust that our government resorts to careful contingency planning than knee-jerk reactions like martial law to security issues,” Alejano said in a statement.

Alejano, a former Marine officer, said that retaliatory attacks by terrorists are possible after the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute terrorist group was defeated by government security forces in Marawi.

The Australian Embassy’s warning should not be taken lightly, Alejano said. Precautionary measures by the security and police must already be in place, he said.

President Duterte has yet to lift martial law in Min-

danao even after top local terror leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute had been killed as they made a last stand in Marawi.

Mr. Duterte, backed by his allies in Congress, claimed that martial law was necessary to flush out terrorists. But he had also warned the country of possible retaliatory terror attacks in different parts of the country.

Alejano and Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin are among the lawmakers staunchly opposed to martial law.

Villarin said that even with the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, the Duterte administration has not addressed “decisively the terror threat despite martial law and vows to crush these terror groups.”

“A purely military solution has emboldened, not cowed militants,” Villarin said.

The Australian Embassy issued the travel advisory on Nov. 3, a few weeks after the military ended the five-month battle to retake Marawi City from the IS-inspired terrorists.

The embassy’s advisory said “there is a high threat of terrorist attack in the Philippines, including Manila. Exercise heightened caution at this time.” INQ

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2 PAF pilots survive emergency landing

By **AARON RECUENCO**

Two pilots of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) were injured when the trainer aircraft they were maneuvering made an emergency landing on a sugarcane plantation in Rosario, Batangas the other day.

A report reaching Camp Crame in Quezon City identified the two pilots as Maj. Gemar Tan-

gacalagan, the pilot, and his co-pilot, 1Lt. Jamaica Ann Acojedo.

The two were taken to a military hospital in Lipa City after they suffered injuries as a result of the emergency landing.

Investigation revealed that at around 5:40 p.m. on Friday, the local police received a report that a T41 trainer aircraft took an emergency landing in Barangay Colongan in Rosario town.

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House raring to pass arms industry investments bill

By **BEN R. ROSARIO**

The House of Representatives has approved on second reading a bill that could bolster the country's bid to be globally competitive in the arms industry.

Congressmen are expected to pass the measure as soon as session resumes this month.

Approved on second reading was House Bill 6525 which provides for the establishment of Special Defense Economic Zone (SpeDEZ) inside the government arsenal industrial estate in Camp General Antonio Luna in Limay, Bataan.

Bataan Rep. Jose Enrique Garcia III, principal author of the bill, said the measure proposes to enhance investment opportunities inside the economic zone, while strengthening the country's defense capabilities.

Garcia said he envisions for the Philip-

pines a globally competitive, centralized government-sanctioned arms industry.

The administration lawmaker said the local arms industry must be able to produce conventional weapons and equipment for domestic use, as well as for export, with emphasis on arms research and development.

"This will lay credence and support for Tiwala sa Gawang Pilipino," said Garcia, adding he wants the country to become "a diverse and multi-investment hub."

The SpeDEZ shall cover the 370 hectares of government arsenal industrial estate inside Camp General Antonio Luna in Limay, Bataan and all other areas which may be declared as part of SpeDEZ in compliance with the Act, including the Government Arsenal (GA) as created by Republic Act No. 1884.

The SpeDEZ shall be accessible for inclusive business prospects and progress in firearm module and technical competency

of the government arsenal that are vital to support the objectives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police

(PNP) and other law-enforcement agencies.

If passed into law, the measure would grant fiscal incentives, includ-

ing the grant of an investor's visa to any foreigner who invests US\$200,000 either in cash and/or equipment in a registered enterprise.

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