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NEWS CLIPPINGS

27 April 2018

Friday

FGS



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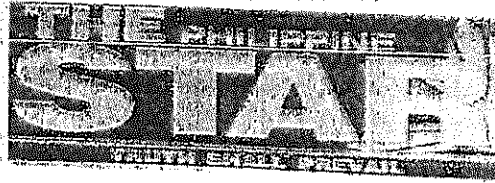
Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST APRIL 27, 2018 (FRIDAY)

EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY
at 4:00 am - April 26, 2018

ALABANG	24 - 32 °C	☀️
BAHAY	15 - 24 °C	☀️
BARANGAY	25 - 33 °C	☀️
TRINIDAD	22 - 30 °C	☀️
GENERAL	26 - 32 °C	☀️
GENERAL	26 - 33 °C	☀️
GENERAL	26 - 32 °C	☀️
GENERAL	28 - 33 °C	☀️

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 28 SAT	APR 29 SUN	APR 30 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 28 SAT	APR 29 SUN	APR 30 MON
METRO MANILA	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 °C 36 °C	23 °C 36 °C	24 °C 36 °C	ALBINO BAGUIO	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
IADAG	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 24 °C	WALDERA	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
SBMA (LARK)	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	GENERAL	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 °C 30 °C	21 °C 31 °C	21 °C 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 34 °C	25 °C 35 °C
LEGAZPI	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 35 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C



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PH TO KUWAIT: EXPLAIN EXPULSION OF ENVOY

STORY BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

Foreign Secretary Cayetano says the expulsion of Ambassador Villa has led to the suspension of Manila's effort to forge an agreement with the Gulf state for the protection of Filipino workers.

A2

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Leila B. Salaverria**
@Team_Inquirer

The Philippines on Thursday demanded an explanation after its ambassador to Kuwait was expelled, shocking authorities in Manila and deepening a diplomatic row over the treatment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the oil-rich Gulf state.

The dispute has led to the suspension of the Philippines' effort to sign a deal with Kuwait for the protection of Filipino workers, Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano told reporters in Singapore.

The two countries had been working to resolve differences sparked by the murder of Filipino housemaid Joanna Demafelis, whose body was found in a freezer in an apartment in Kuwait abandoned by her Arab employer earlier this year.

But relations plunged after the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait released videos last week of embassy staff helping Filipino maids flee from allegedly abusive employers, which Kuwait considered a violation of its sovereignty.

Cayetano and Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa apologized on Tuesday, but Kuwait announced on Wednesday it was expelling Villa and recalling its own ambassador, Musaed Saleh Ahmad Althwaikh, from Manila for consultations.

A week to leave

Kuwait's foreign ministry said in a statement that it had given Villa a week to leave and three days to provide the names of Filipino residents in Kuwait who had "kidnapped" OFWs from their employers' homes.

Kuwait security forces "will continue to chase down those who violated the security of the country" and put them on trial, the ministry added.

On Thursday, the Philippines expressed its "strong surprise and great displeasure"

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over Kuwait's action.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said it served a diplomatic note on the Kuwaiti Embassy "conveying its strong surprise and great displeasure over the declaration of Ambassador Renato Pedro Villa as persona non grata, the continued detention of four Filipinos hired by the Philippine Embassy, and the issuance of arrest warrants against three diplomatic personnel."

The DFA had planned to summon Althwaikh "first thing in the morning" for an explanation, but the Kuwaiti envoy was already gone.

Althwaikh left the country on Wednesday night, a couple of hours after the DFA announced its plan to call him.

Wrong expectation

Cayetano apparently had expected that the diplomatic row had eased after his meeting with Althwaikh in Manila on Tuesday, a day after President Duterte met with the Kuwaiti ambassador in Davao City following news of protests against the Philippines in Kuwait and the arrest of Philippine Embassy employees for enticing Filipino maids to escape from their employers' homes.

In an interview with reporters in Singapore on Wednesday, ahead of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit this weekend, Cayetano said the Kuwaiti government had no plan to expel Villa and he had no intention to recall the ambassador.

No request

"There is no request [to recall him]. He is doing a good job and the Kuwaitis said he was welcome to stay," Cayetano said.

In its statement, the DFA said Kuwait's action on Wednesday was "deeply disturbing" and "inconsistent with the assurances" of Althwaikh to Cayetano during their meeting in Manila on Tuesday that both sides wanted to "move forward."

The DFA said Althwaikh had "committed measures that

will immediately respond to the urgent requests by Filipino nationals" in Kuwait.

The measures, the DFA said, include the "release of Filipino nationals hired by the Philippine Embassy who were taken into custody in recent days for their involvement in the actions taken by the embassy in responding to the calls for assistance by Filipino nationals in distress, and ensuring that diplomatic personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs who are still in Kuwait are allowed to return to Manila without incident at the soonest possible time."

Palace 'disturbed'

Malacañang said it was "disturbed" by Kuwait's action, as it believed the dispute over the rescue mission for abused maids had been resolved during President Duterte's meeting with Althwaikh and the subsequent apologies of Cayetano and Villa.

The Palace, however, wants ties between Kuwait and the Philippines to remain, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque told reporters.

"We hope this development [will] not lead to a further worsening of bilateral ties between the two countries," Roque said.

Reason for tensions

President Duterte said his administration's determination to protect Filipino migrant workers in the Middle East was the reason for the diplomatic tensions with Kuwait.

"I cannot accept that our fellow Filipinos there—that's why I'm cursing—[are abused]," Mr. Duterte said in a speech in Buluan, Maguindanao province.

The two countries have been working on an agreement to protect OFWs after Mr. Duterte banned their dispatch to Kuwait following reports of abuse and the murder of Demafelis. —WITH REPORTS FROM

CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, ALLAN NAWAL, GEOFFREY MAITEM, AFP AND REUTERS INQ

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NPA militarization claim 'out of desperation' – Army

BACOLOD CITY – The Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division hit back at the New People's Army (NPA) for condemning the supposed militarization in central Negros.

Brig. Gen. Dinoh Dolina, commander of the 3rd Division, said in a statement on Thursday such claim is obsolete and repetitive which indicates the absence of issues they can use to jeopardize the activities of the army and the government.

They have been tossing the issue at us out of desperation, he added.

The 3rd ID official was reacting to the statement of the NPA's Leonardia Panaligan Command through its spokesperson JB Regalado issued to the media here earlier this week, assailing the operations of the 303rd Brigade in some hinterland areas in Negros Island and the alleged violations committed by troops of the 62nd and 79th Battalions against the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and

Humanitarian Law.

Dolina said it is their mandate, as the legitimate Armed Forces, to safeguard the people and the land against the NPA, who are truly responsible for the militarization and terrorism against the people.

"Our presence in the hinterlands is a response to the cry of the community who are victims of your endless and ruthless criminal activities. Does helping the community bring their issues and concerns to the local government units and other government agencies now mean militarization?" the 3rd ID chief added.

The killings of a retired police officer and a soldier in Moises Padilla town, which the NPA admitted as their own doing, are evidence of the communist rebels' barbaric acts of terrorism, Dolina said.

He added that communities warmly welcomed and are grateful for the presence of the government troops as they have been living in fear of the NPA's vicious activities.

PNA

27 April 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 1

BIFF hold-outs urged to yield

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military yesterday told members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters to surrender and take advantage of President Duterte's offer of housing, education and other benefits.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, commander of the Army's 6th Civil Military Operations Battalion and spokesman of the Joint Task Force Central, said those who won't surrender will face the military might.

"Benefits await them. Aside from education, there is also a livelihood assistance and housing promised by the President for them (if they surrender)," said Besana.

Besana said the JTF Central, currently headed by the 6th Infantry under the command of Maj. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, and the government is sincere in giving the BIFF members a chance to leave a normal life.

"We're treating them as victims of wrong teachings by radical groups or extremist groups," said Besana of the BIFF members. "We want to give them a chance to live a new life, just like the NPA (New People's Army) rebels.

"General Dela Vega said that if they don't want to live a new life, they will face the full force of the law," said Besana.

Besana said the BIFF has about 300 members, mostly former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Operating in Central Mindanao, the BIFF was established in 2010 and later pledged allegiance with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

On Wednesday, the military presented four BIFF members who recently surrendered and 963 loose firearms that were surrendered by residents, through the local government, to Duterte during a visit in Maguindanao.

Besana said the military expects more BIFF members to surrender.



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27 April 2018

INQUIRER

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RICHELY UMEL

BATTLE ZONE Soldiers inspect a section of Marawi City where members of the Maute terror group and Abu Sayyaf bandits engaged government forces in a five-month battle last year.

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Lorenzana blasts Reds' 'wrong notion of peace'

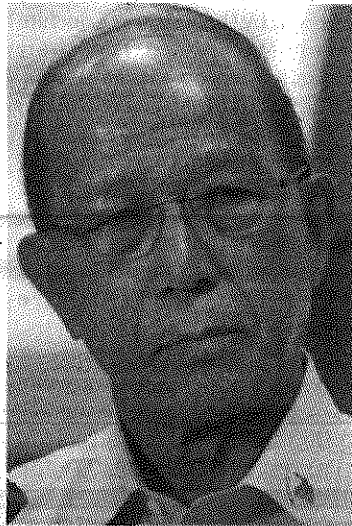
By Mario J. Mallari

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday assailed the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, which celebrated its 45th anniversary on Tuesday – saying the NDFP represents the communist group's "wrong notion of peace."

At the same time, Lorenzana said the NDFP – the negotiating arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), does not know the realities on the ground – particularly the atrocities committed by rebel forces while talking peace.

"As the negotiating arm of the CPP-NPA, the NDFP represents what is wrong with the communist notion of peace. They talk peace with government far removed from the realities on the ground," said Lorenzana.

"While NDFP representatives negotiate with government in a foreign land, their armed comrades perpetrate deceptive and coercive recruitment and, at the same time,



LORENZANA

continue the conduct of extortion, kidnapping, murder, destruction of property, and other criminal acts, exposing their true terrorist nature," he added.

As the NDFP celebrated its 45th anniversary on Tuesday, NPA rebels burned down a heavy equipment being used in the construction of road network in Capiz.

Brig. Gen. Dinoh Dolina,

commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division (ID), condemned the latest NPA attack.

"Burning of a roller compactor used for rehabilitation of the roads on the said barangay is a clear indication of economic sabotage. Yet, they are proving once again, that they are anti-people, anti-development and anti-peace," Dolina said.

A former Army general, Lorenzana also stressed that the NDFP has nothing to celebrate in its 45 years of existence.

"What is there for you to celebrate on your 45th anniversary when you have done nothing for the peace and development of our country. You have done nothing good to fellow Filipinos," said Lorenzana.

The defense chief said that whenever the NDFP negotiators, led by Luis Jalandoni, talk peace with the government, the CPP-NPA intensifies its recruitment and extortion activities, thus only taking advantage of the silencing of the guns.

However, Lorenzana said that

with the sincere efforts of President Duterte to achieve lasting peace in the country even without formal peace talks, the NDFP is becoming insignificant.

"With the government's sincere efforts to achieve peace even without the formal talks, the NDFP is fast becoming irrelevant. Through the government's various programs for reintegration, thousands of former rebels have rejoined society," Lorenzana said.

"Under the President Duterte's guidance, we are more determined than ever to extend our call for peace and unity – a call for the remaining CPP-NPA to lay down their arms, rejoin their families, fulfill their dreams, and serve as active partners for peace, development and community empowerment," he added.

This year alone, the military claimed that more than 3,000 communist rebels, supporters and sympathizers have surrendered and availed of the government's integration program. Some woman-rebels were even sent by Duterte to Hong Kong.



27 April 2018

Manila
Standard

Page: A2

Duterte: No talking to terrorists ever

By Nash B. Maulana
and Vito Barcelo

BULUAN, Maguindanao— President Rodrigo Duterte says his administration could talk to the Moro secessionists and to the communist insurgents, but not to the terrorists.

He says the terrorists do not belong here. "I talk to the Bangsamoro, but I cannot talk to terrorists. You [terrorists] have your own war. If you believe that there should be war, get out; do not do it here," Duterte said here on Wednesday.

In other developments:

• Special Assistant to the President Christopher Go on Thursday appealed to the Communist Party of the Philip-

pines-New People's Army to show their sincerity when the government and the rebels resume the peace talks.

"The peace talks will soon start and I hope the NPA will respect the agreement. So I'm reiterating my appeal to be sincere with the peace discussion," Go said here.

• Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the 45th founding anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on April 24 was a reminder of the cycle of exploitation, abuse and deception committed by the communist movement and their supporters against the Filipino people.

"As the negotiating arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, the NDFP represents what is wrong with the communist notion of peace. They talk peace with government far removed from the realities on the ground," Lorenzana said Thursday.

Duterte was here late Wednesday afternoon to receive two commanders of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters who yielded to the military and local officials led by Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu and his son Board Provincial Member Jazzer Mangudadatu.

"If you cannot absorb what I am saying, let's try it with your heart. Just see what it can do in the time of the young generations, when we are no longer here," Duterte said.

"I am for the Filipino people, period. I am for the Moro people, period."

The elder Mangudadatu said Maguindanao under him has had an unrelenting peace campaign, winning against the culture of guns among the Maguindanao people.

Residents had also surrendered hundreds of unlicensed firearms to the military and civilian authorities, said Major-

General Arnel de la Vega, commander of the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division in Awang, Maguindanao.

"While gun ownership is part of the [Moro] culture, we cannot just allow loose firearms to proliferate. We have nowhere to go if we would just kill each other," Duterte told about a thousand residents and local officials gathered at the Municipal Gymnasium here.

Mangudadatu expressed optimism peace could continually prevail with more of the province's young people being won back into the fold of education through the Maguindanao Program on Educational Assistance and Community Empowerment.

The President said terrorism does not belong to the Filipino people.

"Terrorism is not ours; it's not in the Islam that I heard from my grandmother. If you fight, it should not be here," he said.

With PNA

OFFICE OF THE ARMY

55 Local: 5285, 5295

27 April 2018



Pahina. 1

Peace talks sa NPA magsisimula na

MAGSISIMULA na ang pag-usap ng government peace panel sa counterpart nito sa rebeldeng grupong New People's Army.

Umaasam si Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go na magiging maunlad ang peace talks sa Mindanao, lalo na sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front at New People's Army.

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na noong alkalde pa lang si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa Davao City ay kapwa sila umakyat ng bundok upang makipag-usap sa mga makakaliwa.

Mayroon na aniyang tiwala sa pagitan ng magkabilang panig kaya kahit walang bodyguards ay malaya silang nagpupunta ni Pangulong Duterte sa base ng NPA.

Ang matapat na approach aniya ay magmumula sa ilang proyekto ng pamahalaan.

"May ino-offer po ang local government na livelihood," aniya pa rin.

Sa kabilang dako, inatasan na ni Pangulong Duterte ang TESDA na kausapin ang local government units at military na tulungan ang NPA rebels para sa pagbabagong buhay ng mga ito.

Kinalampag din ng Pangulo ang Department of Agrarian Reform na pag-aralan kung paano sila makakatulong sa pamamahagi ng lupain.

Ang MILF aniya ay kinikilala ang ginagawa ng Office of the SAP para sa ikatalagumpay ng kampanya ni Pangulong Duterte ukol sa usapang pangkapayapaan sa rehiyon. **KRIS JOSIE**

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AFP also securing MRT-3 vs threats

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is securing the vital Metro Rail Transit-3 (MRT-3) through intelligence and information monitoring of possible security threats, its spokesman said yesterday.

“As requested by (retired) Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, general manager, MRT-3, DoTr (Department of Transportation), the AFP can provide support to the present railway guards and the police in the monitoring of possible security threats through intel and info monitoring,” Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Datuin said in a text message when sought for comment on how the military is helping protect this important communication infrastructure.

Earlier, Garcia had said the AFP is already assisting the DoTr-MRT-3 in securing their facilities, “not only through the CRS (Civil Relations Service) but also with the Intelligence Service of the AFP.”

Last Wednesday, the MRT-3 signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the AFP for the provision of free rides to all of its active military personnel.

The MoA stipulates that all active military personnel, even in civilian attire, are entitled to ride the MRT-3 (North Ave.-Taft) free of charge upon showing their AFP identification cards as access pass.

This is in recognition of the sacrifices made by men in uniform.

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PNA

uty.

27 April 2018

Manila Standard

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AFP securing MRT 3 vs security threats

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“As requested by [retired] Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, general manager, MRT 3, DOTr [Department of Transportation], the AFP can provide support to the present railway guards and the police in the monitoring of possible security threats thru intel and info monitoring,” Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Datuin said in a text message to the Philippine News Agency, when sought for comment on how the military is helping protect this important communication infrastructure.

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ONLINE NEWS

27 APRIL 2018

www.dwdd.com.ph

STOP COMMUNIST TERRORISM | NPAs militarized and terrorized the people in Negros

Alvin Santiago

CAMP PERALTA, Jamindan, Capiz (DWDD) – The 3rd Infantry “Spearhead” Division under the leadership of Brigadier General Dinoh Dolina brushed off the allegation of the Leonardo Panaligan Command of the CPP-NPA Terrorist that the Army is responsible for the militarization of Central Negros.

“This is an obsolete and repetitive issue that they have been tossing at us out of desperation. This clearly indicates the absence of issues they could use to jeopardize the Army and the government.”

“As the legitimate Armed Forces, it is our mandate to safeguard the people and the land against you who are truly responsible of militarization and terrorism against them. Our presence in the hinterlands is a response to the cry of the community who are victims of your endless and ruthless criminal activities. Does helping the community to bring their issues and concerns to the LGUs and other government agencies now mean ‘militarization’? How about slaughtering helpless civilians, burning of properties and conducting extortion even against less fortunate individuals, what do you call that? If there is an appalling word than ‘terrorist’, that is you!”

“Evident to this is your barbaric acts of terrorism; killing retired police officer and soldier in Moises Padilla recently who are now living as civilians; continuous and ceaseless forced taxation against the local populace. If there is someone who needs to vacate those communities, it is you. Because your mere presence alone is enough to terrify the people.”

“Communities warmly welcome our occurrence, in fact, they are grateful of our presence cause they have been living scared for a long time because of your vicious intentions and activities.”

“We commend the people’s cooperation in fighting against these terrorists; it is a clear indication that they are tired of the senseless and bloody armed struggle being waged by the CPP-NPA Terrorist. We are calling the people to remain vigilant and continue reporting the activities and whereabouts of the enemy.” **3DPAO / MCAG**



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LAUNCHING | Maguindanao Balik-Baril Program

Alvin Santiago

BULUAN, Maguindanao (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte made a heart-to-heart appeal to Muslim Filipinos, stressing that trusting the national leadership is the only hope to attain lasting peace in Mindanao.

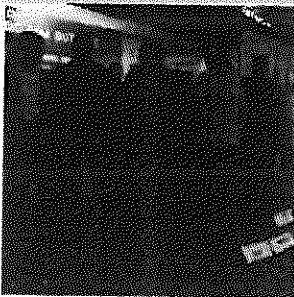
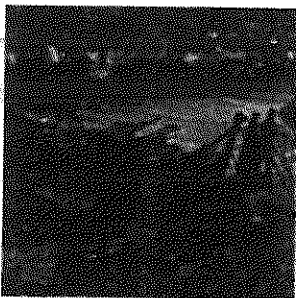
During the event, the Chief Executive viewed 900 loose firearms that were displayed at the Buluan Municipal Gymnasium in Buluan, Maguindanao.

The weapons, which are from various towns in Maguindanao, were surrendered in exchange of livelihood assistance, scholarship grants, and weaving tools.

President Duterte underscored that weapons should not be used to wage war against one's own country.

During his speech, Duterte announced that he is willing to declare Mindanao as a land reform area.

For his part, the President said he would provide tractor and seedlings.



With regard to the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), the Chief Executive promised that the measure would get the green light before May ends.

At the same time, he expressed hopes that the peace talks with the rebels would be successful as well.



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"I'm trying to talk to the NPAs. Baka — well, by the grace of Allah baka ma-successful din. 'Pag mawala ito, iimprove ang Mindanao. Sabihin ko sa'yo, I will be fair in the distribution of the taxes," he said.

Meanwhile, the President discussed his openness to accept criticisms from Filipinos.

However, the President said he will never agree to take criticisms from foreign nationals.

"But I will never, never agree itong mga puti tapos magpunta dito, murahin," he said.



"Pero 'yung foreigner magpunta dito 'yung mga pari pati... hindi 'yan pwede ganun na hindi ka naman Pilipino, hindi ka naman nakabayad sweldo ko, bakit ganunin mo ako?" he noted.

Duterte concluded his speech by highlighting his intention to keep his promises.

"I made promises. I intend to keep it. Sigurado 'yan," he said. PCOO / MCAG



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