

PRRD may consider opposition to Security of Tenure bill

MANILA – Before he decides whether to sign or veto the Security of Tenure (SOT) bill, President Rodrigo Duterte may first consider opposition from a coalition of business groups, Malacañang said on Thursday.

“The President is always appreciative and considerate on whatever opposition or concerns raised by any sectors in this country relative to any bill passed in Congress and subject to his signature or veto,” Panelo said in a Palace briefing.

In a joint statement, the business groups claimed that the proposed measure goes against the constitutional rights of businesses because it increases the cost of doing business which may hinder their operations.

The group further explained that the bill could even push employers to eliminate the low-skilled jobs and instead prefer using technologies such as automation and artificial intelligence.

The SOT bill, which was transmitted to Duterte’s office early this month, may lapse into a law if the chief executive fails to sign it.

Panelo explained that the President sometimes allows bills to lapse into law due to his busy schedule.

“There are so many documents he has to sign and at the same time, he has so many activities that he has to attend to -- out of town trips, he visits one place and then another place,” Panelo said.

“Meanwhile, documents pile up. Kaya kung minsan, di niya nakikita yung iba (That’s why sometimes, he fails to see the others),” he added.

Earlier, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) expressed hope that Duterte would sign the SOT bill soon noting that ensuring the workers’ security of tenure is among the President’s priorities.

“We are anticipating the signing of the SOT bill, which is landmark legislation under the Duterte administration,” Bello said in a statement.

The SOT bill seeks to prohibit all illegal employment schemes and subcontracting of Filipino workers. (PNA)



AMADEO FOLKS GET FREE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: Almost 500 Amadeo folks get free medical assistance from the health outreach program spearheaded by the OPG-Extension Office and the Provincial Health Office thru the request of Municipal Tourism Office on July 15, 2019 at the Municipal Covered Court. Doctors and dentists from PHO and its satellite hospitals provided free check-up, consultation and dental services in partnership with Amadeo Municipal Health Office together with barangay health workers and nutrition scholars who voluntarily assisted in the activity. Mayor Redel John Dionisio along with 7th District Board Members Ping Remulla and Lito Langit welcomed the mission team and expressed gratefulness to the provincial government for giving priority to public health programs for all Caviteños.--PICAD

Duterte approves promotion of 9 PNP officials

MANILA -- A total of nine officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP), including its spokesperson, were promoted to the next higher rank.

In a letter dated July 17, President Rodrigo Duterte approved the promotion to Major General (two-star rank) of Brigadier General Timoteo Pacleb and promoted to Brigadier General (one-star rank) were Colonels Bernard Banac, the PNP spokesperson, and Walter Castillejos.

Prior to his designation as PNP spokesperson, Banac was the assistant chief of the PNP Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies, the police group which regulates security agencies.

PRRD to only face PH court

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte has no intention to face the international tribunal stressing that he would only answer to the Philippine courts.

Duterte made this comment after the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted a resolution seeking to look into human rights violations in the country in relation to the administration’s anti-illegal drugs campaign.

“Look, as I have told you before ladies and gentlemen of the world, kasali na ‘yang (including) --- and all the governments there, I will only face a -- be tried or face a trial in a Philippine court presided by a Philippine, Filipino judge, prosecuted by a Filipino,” said Duterte in a TV interview with Pastor Apollo Quiboloy early Wednesday morning.

“I will not answer a Caucasian asking ques-

tion, or white man there. You must be stupid. Who are you? I am a Filipino, we have our courts here. Why would you have to bring me somewhere else? I would not like that,” he added.

He said he does not see the need to face the international tribunal since Philippine courts were functioning.

“It’s working, I know it’s working, justice is working here,” Duterte

said. Duterte, a former prosecutor, said they could only prosecute him if there is a “total breakdown of justice in the country” and if Philippine courts are not willing to prosecute him.

Moreover, he said the international tribunal had no idea about the “real situation” going on in the Philippines and that he is willing to lecture them on the finer points of international law.

MANILA – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Wednesday evening condemned the ambush in Surigao City that killed its officer, Felixberto Loayon, and wounded two others.

In a statement sent to the media, the LTO Central Office said LTO-Caraga Administrative Region (CAR) regional director Nordy Plaza went to Surigao City that

same evening to extend support to the families of Loayon and his companions, Rene Cenangote and Freddie Wabina, who were both hospitalized after sustaining injuries.

“The LTO sends its deepest condolences to the bereaved family of Officer Loayon, and it wishes for a full recovery for the wounded enforcers,” the statement read.

The LTO reported that its regional office in Caraga Region is working with the Philippine National Police to immediately identify the persons responsible for the attack so they may be brought to justice.

The incident is currently under investigation.

On Wednesday morning, an LTO team led by Loayon, with assistant team leader Es-tribo Belarmino and team members Cenangote and Wabina, was

7K nabbed since PRRD campaign vs. illegal drugs: PCOO

MANILA-- The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) on Thursday released for the first time the government figures on arrested high-value targets under the Philippines’ campaign against illegal drugs.

From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019, PCOO Assistant Secretary Marie Rafael said law enforcers have nabbed some 7,054 high-value targets.

Of this figure, 189 are foreigners, 282 are elected officials, 76 are uniformed personnel, 323 are government employees, 1,975 are target-listed, 687 are drug group leaders/members, 57 are armed group members, 689 are drug den maintainers, 190 are wanted-listed, eight are celebrities/prominent personalities, and 2,578 are from high impact operations.

LTO condemns shooting of personnel in Surigao

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Three years since the campaign was launched, Rafael said the government has launched at least 134, 583 anti-drug operations, where a total of 193,086 drug personalities were arrested and about 5,526 were killed.

The official also noted that 421,724 drug surrenderers have been undergoing rehabilitation since, while 13,752 of the 42,045 total barangays in the Philippines have been declared drug-cleared for the same period.

Meanwhile, a total of 348 dens and clandestine laboratories have been dismantled since July 2016, with around PHP34.75 billion-worth of drugs and laboratory equipment seized, Rafael said.

Presenting the latest data on the government’s anti-drug program, Philippine Na-

tional Police deputy spokesperson, Lt. Col. Kim Molitas said it is evident the Philippines is “winning the drug war” despite the criticism against the initiative.

“I think despite all the criticisms... that’s why we are winning this war. I think criticisms are good, it put us on our toes, it keeps us grounded, it allows us to look at what we’re doing good and (those that are lacking) and we can look at that and put some more effort,” she told reporters in an interview.

“Rest assured that the Philippine National Police will do its job and will never be resting on the accomplishments that we have gained over the last three years, we look forward to three more years working with the president and this government,” she added. (PNA)

onboard a patrol vehicle on their way back to the LTO Surigao District office when they were ambushed by unidentified armed men.

The attack occurred in Sitio Biorbojan, Barangay Rizal in Surigao City, killing Loayon and wounding both team members Cenangote and Wabina.

Belarmino did not suffer any injuries.

This was following an anti-colorum operation in Surigao City in response to a complaint made through the 8888 hotline about rampant illegal public utility vehicles in the region.

Aside from Loayon’s team, LTO enforcers Rene Aquino and Paul Henry Dona drove captured colorum vehicles during the operation for impounding at the Surigao district office. (PNA)