

NCRPO deploys 456 cops for field training program

MANILA -- The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said it has more than 400 new police recruits who will undergo Field Training Program (FTP) to strengthen the region's police force.

NCRPO director, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar led the send-off ceremony Thursday for the 456 new cops for Field Training Exercise of Public Safety Basic Recruit Course (PSBRC) Classes 2018-01 NCRPO, 2016-02 Headquarters Support Service, Aviation Security Group (AVSEGROUP) and the Field Training Officer Service Duty.

Eleazar said the police trainees underwent PSBRC training for six months at the Regional Training Center (RTC) and will be turned over to Field Training Officers, who will directly supervise and orient them on the first-hand scenarios and police field duty.

He said this will be their initial exposure to the police community and actual police work.

The NCRPO covers five districts-- the Manila Police

District (MPD), Quezon City Police District (QCPD), Northern Police District (NPD), Southern Police District (SPD), and Eastern Police District (EPD).

Eleazar said he is confident that this batch of police recruits will reinforce the members of NCRPO in the campaign against any form of criminality and the Internal Cleansing Program.

Their performance rating within the training will be their requirement to get their permanent status in the National Police.

“They were hired to uphold high standards of in-

tegrity and take this chance to serve the public better and make the NCRPO proud," Eleazar said.

The NCRPO chief challenged the Field Training Officers and senior police officers to do their part in the improvement of the training system. "Field Training Officers, I challenge you to improve the system," the Metro Manila top cop said.

Eleazar reiterated his vision of an improved recruitment and training culture in the PNP as he believes that this is one of the entry points of misfits in the organization. (PNA)

Intramuros-Binondo Bridge construction ongoing: DPWH chief

MANILA — Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar said on Monday the construction of the PHP4.2-billion Binondo-Intramuros Bridge is ongoing.

“The construction is ongoing. We’ve been consistently coordinating with the NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts)

to address all the issues," Villar in a media interview.

Villar also reported that the project is now 10 percent complete after the groundbreaking in July 2018.

"We are looking at 2021 to finish it," the DPWH chief added.

Villar admitted that there were changes made and they will make an adjustment if they can still afford it.

“The NCCA has given their approval to the project. There were some changes to accommodate, in terms of where to lower the bridge going to Binondo but those are some in coordination for

DOLE to study 14th month pay for private workers

MANILA — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Thursday welcomed the proposed bill requiring the grant of 14th-month pay to private sector employees.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, however, noted that they will study the proposed measure to consider the interest of both labor and management, as well as its impact on the country's economic stability.

“We support anything that benefits our workers and their families. However, we must ensure that the proposal will not cause an

imbalance between the needs of labor and the capability of employers. We must study it very well," Bello said in a statement.

Aside from studying the proposed bill, Bello said it must undergo a tripartite assessment to find out its viability under the country's present economic situation. Bello said there is a need to consider the capability of the employers, considering that the country's economy largely depends on the sustainability of its micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

"We must take note that around 90 percent of the businesses in the country are MSMEs, so we must always consider the capability of the employers to bear extra expenses," he said.

"We do not want to give our workers with false expectations that might result to industrial controversy," Bello added.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III has re-filed Senate Bill No. 10, otherwise known as

with a viaduct structure over Estero de Binondo.

The China Grant-Aid Bridge is financed by the People's Republic of China through bilateral cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines.

Earlier, reports said the proposed bridge may cause the delisting of San Agustin Church and three other Churches from the list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

“An Act Requiring Employers in the Private Sector to Pay 14th Month Pay”.

The bill seeks to give 14th-month pay to "rank-and-file employees regardless of their employment status, designation, and irrespective of the method by which their wages are paid provided that they have worked at least one month during the calendar year".

The proposed measure has been pending in the Senate since July 2016.

Currently, private sector workers are receiving 13th-month pay, which is mandated under Presidential Decree 851.

AFP, DSWD ink pact on peace, countering communist threat

MANILA -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that seeks to enhance the cooperation of the two agencies, especially in peace-building programs and ending the threat posed by the conflict with the communists.

Military public affairs office chief, Col. Noel Detoyato, said AFP Chief-of-Staff, Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, signed the MOU together with Social Welfare Secretary Joselito Bautista at the General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. "The MOU complements efforts to institutionalize Executive Order (EO) No. 70 that adopts the Whole-of-Nation approach, directing all government agencies to collaborate in ending the communist armed conflict," Madrigal said in a statement Friday.

It also formalizes an ongoing partnership in the effective and efficient delivery of social services to the public,

especially those that are affected by calamities and conflict and are vulnerable to radicalization. EO 70, signed by President Rodrigo Duterte in December last year, mandates the creation of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and directs all government agencies to render all the necessary support to peace-building programs, plans, and activities for the campaign.

During his assumption as AFP chief, Madrigal committed the AFP's support to the task force, stressing the need for government agencies to come together to eradicate the root causes of conflict and violence.

"We have made significant progress and have made headways in our campaign to end insurgency. But to reach what we can call a complete victory, we need to create communities that are conflict-resilient and we need local and national government agencies to attain this," he added. (PNA)

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