

Senators denounce 'acts of inhumanity' by Chinese crew

MANILA -- Three senators on Thursday denounced the reported abandonment of Filipino crewmen by the Chinese vessel that hit their boat in the West Philippine Sea, saying the Chinese crew committed acts of inhumanity in violation of international laws and treaties.

In separate statements, Senators Richard Gordon, Franklin Drilon and Aquilino Pimentel III said the abandonment of the Filipino crew by the Chinese vessel that rammed their boat is a clear violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Both China and the Philippines are signatories to the treaty.

"I take umbrage at the Chinese crew's act of leaving and abandoning the Filipino crew after their boat collided with the latter's vessel and sank. They committed acts of inhumanity by leaving and abandoning people who are in peril of the sea and they should answer for it," Gordon said.

"I hope anybody in the West Philippine Sea or anywhere in the world would understand that there are responsibilities by all peoples for those who are in peril of the sea," he added.

Meanwhile, Drilon said the Chinese vessel's action is "deplorable" and can no way be justified.

"The Philippine government and the Filipino people should call out China for not honoring its obligations to rescue any person in distress at sea or in danger of being lost at sea, in accordance with international laws and treaties," Drilon said.

The Senate Minority Leader pointed out that under Article 98 of the UNCLOS, every state is required to render assistance to any person in distress or in danger of being lost at sea.

Under the UNCLOS, Drilon said it is the duty of the state to oblige masters of vessels flying their flag to follow the provision; therefore, both State-owned vessels and private vessels flying the State's flag are mandated to render assistance to people in distress at sea.

"The duty to rescue individuals applies without distinction and with no regard to the nationality and status of the person/s in need of rescue at sea. The status or activity in which the individual/s needing rescue is/are engaged is irrelevant," Drilon said.

The only exception un-

der the UNCLOS is that when it would endanger the rescuing vessel, he said.

"The failure to act on duty to rescue gives rise to state responsibility. Such duty is so critical that it is even imposed during wartime," he added.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) should file a diplomatic protest against China for this latest incident in the WPS.

"I urge the DFA to file a diplomatic protest immediately. This incident demands strong and immediate action. We cannot let this incident pass. No self-respecting nation will allow that," Drilon said.

Like Gordon and Drilon, Pimentel also pointed out that the rescue of all persons in distress at sea is a matter of humanitarian duty.

"No matter who was at fault, the crew of a sinking ship must never be abandoned by an able ship. The rescue of all persons in distress at sea is not only an obligation under international maritime law, but it is also a matter of humanitarian duty," Pimentel said.

He noted that under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), there is a general obligation to proceed to the assistance of ships in distress.

"Logic dictates that such

duty becomes more pronounced if it is your ship that caused the distress. In this case, there was a total breach of that duty to help," he said.

"I urge the authorities to immediately find out the Flag State of the offending vessel so that the Philippines can file the appropriate diplomatic protest," Pimentel said.

The latest incident involving Philippine and Chinese vessels happened near Recto Bank on the night of June 9.

According to reports, the Philippine ship, F/B GIMVER1, was anchored when it was hit by the still unidentified Chinese vessel, endangering the lives of 22 Filipino fishermen.

Instead of rescuing the Filipino crew, the Chinese vessel immediately left the scene, leaving the 22 fishermen at the mercy of the elements.

They were later rescued by a Vietnamese fishing vessel in the area.

Pimentel said the crew of the Vietnamese vessel should be commended for their actions.

"We thank the crew of the Vietnamese vessel that assisted our fellow Filipinos to safety. They must be commended for responding to the call of duty," Pimentel said. (PNA)

thorities for the speedy arrest of the suspect," Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Fernandez said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Philippine government will exert all efforts to ensure that justice is served," he added.

Kuwaiti authorities have issued a warrant of arrest against rape suspect Fayed Naser Hamad Alajmy, a 22-year-old Kuwaiti police officer.

The DFA did not identify the Filipina nor provide

Job fairs give local, overseas work to Pinoys: Bello

MANILA — Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre Bello III on Wednesday said job fairs are effective in providing local and overseas employment opportunities to Filipino jobseekers.

Bello said in the last Labor Day job and business fairs, where the main event was held in Pampanaga, some 9,000 applicants were hired.

"Malaking bagay 'yun tsaka ito ay (This is a big deal and this is) regular employment," he said in an interview at the 2019 Kalayaan Job Fair at the San Andres Sports Complex in Manila.

Other employment fairs were also held simultaneously in 21 areas nationwide in celebration of the 121st anniversary of Philippine Independence with a theme "Tapang Ng Manggagawa, Malasakit sa Mamamayan."

Meanwhile, more than

19,000 job applicants have registered in the 2019 Independence Day Job Fair sites located in 16 regions throughout the country.

DOLE partial figures showed that as of 5 p.m., a total of 19,109 applicants have registered, while 12,909 of them have qualified for the positions they have applied for.

The initial number of hired-on-the-spot (HOTS) is 2,193. Of the number, a total of 2,082 were given local jobs while 111 were employed overseas.

The total number of near hires is at 6,450 (5,433, local and 1,017, overseas) or those who have to undergo further interviews or have to submit additional requirements.

According to the Bureau of Local Employment, there are a total of 68,893 local and overseas jobs available in the event, from the 560 participating employers (461 local, 99 overseas). (PNA)

PNP celebrates valor of past, present-day heroes

MANILA -- Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde on Wednesday urged the 190,000 men and women of the police organization to remember the heroism of those who fought for the country's independence against foreign invaders. In his Independence Day message, Albayalde urged the police officers to ignite their passion and heart for service so that the country may finally solve the ills of the society and achieve the change that it wants.

"Para sa Pambansang Pulisya, panahong muli upang paigtingin ang ating pagkakaisa, at samasamang isulong ang ating misyon tungo sa kaayusan, kapayapaan at kaligtasan ng bawat lansangan at komunidad sa buong bansa (For the national police, it's about time to strengthen our unity and collectively fulfill our mission towards order, peace and safety of every street and community in the country)," said Albayalde in a statement read by Lt. Gen. Fernando Mendez Jr., deputy director for administration, shortly after the flag-raising ceremony held in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies were also held in various police camps nationwide for the celebration of the country's 121st Independence Day with theme "Kalayaan 2019: Tapang ng Bayan, Malasakit sa Mamamayan."

"Sa araw na ito, ipinagdiriwang natin hindi lamang ang kagitingan at katapangan ng ating mga bayaning lumaban para makamit ang kalayaan kundi ang ating makabagong bayani na patuloy ding naglilingkod at nag-aalay ng dugo't pawis para sa kaligtasan, kaayusan at kaunlaran ng ating bayan.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **RUBEN L. BALAN**, who died on November 17, 2013 at Kawit, Cavite. That the parties hereto succeeds by representation Ruben L. Balan in the estate of Ruben L. Balan's parents, Jose O. Balan and Beatriz Lontoc Balan, who died intestate respectively, on July 24, 1996 and November 28, 1988 at Kawit, Cavite. That the deceased at the time of his death, left real properties, among which are parcels of land located in Kawit and Noveleta, Cavite, described as follows:

A. Transfer Certificate of Title No. (T-1046624) T-25379, containing an area of Twenty Thousand (20,000) Sq. Meters;

B. Transfer Certificate of Title No. (T-646) TCT-0025636, containing an area of One Thousand Five Hundred and Five Square Meters (1,505), more or less;

C. Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-613686, containing an area of Fifty (50) Square Meters;

D. Transfer Certificate of Title No. (T-89060) TCT 2014000969, containing an area of Three Hundred Eighty One (381) Square Meters, more or less;

E. Transfer Certificate of Title No. (T-89064) TCT-2014000972, containing an area of Two Hundred and Twenty Nine (229) Square Meters, more or less. That the parties hereto have likewise agreed to hereby NAME, APPOINT and CONSTITUTE **ELEANOR BALAN LOPEZ AND/OR ELEANOR LOPEZ ATIENZA** to be their true and lawful ATTORNEY-IN-FACT and has been extrajudicially settled as per Doc.No. 251; Page No. 106; Book No. II; Series of 2019 Before Atty. Abigail Azcarraga-Portugal, Notary Public.

North South Journal: June 10, 17, 24, 2019

PH seeks speedy arrest of suspect in Pinay rape case in Kuwait

MANILA -- The Philippine government is hoping for the speedy arrest of the suspect in the rape case of a Filipina household worker in Kuwait.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Philippine embassy in Kuwait continues to monitor the case with local authorities in the Gulf state.

"The Philippine government, through the Philippine embassy in Kuwait, is closely coordinating with Kuwaiti au-