

PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN
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MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday led the 121st Independence Day rites at the Lanao del Sur military camp, reminding Filipinos that freedom is only as strong as the resolve to remain free.

“It was here in Malabang, Lanao del Sur that then Acting President, Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos, was executed by the Japanese for refusing to cooperate with them during the invasion of the Philippines,” Duterte said in his speech as he explained the significance of holding Independence Day rites at the heart of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

“A true patriot even to the last moment, he told his son to be brave and not to cry for it is an honor to die for one's country as not everybody has that chance. What beautiful words,” he added.

Duterte said he found

it “fitting” that the Independence Day rites are held at the Headquarters of the Philippine Army’s 6th Infantry Battalion, lauding soldiers for their valor.

“Known as the ‘Redskin Battalion,’ this unit has been engaged in our government’s fight against the Dawiah Islamiyah, the Maute Group, and other lawless elements that continue to threaten the region,” Duterte said.

“On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank the brave men and women of the Redskin Battalion for your bravery, selflessness service, and unconditional love of country. Your valor has indeed earned you a place among the valiant heroes who built this nation 121 years ago,” he added.

Duterte, meanwhile, urged Filipinos to pay tribute to past and present patriots by “safeguarding

the democratic institutions.”

“Let us honor them by keeping in mind that the freedom that they won back then – the same freedom that we continue to enjoy today – is only as strong as our determination to [remain] free from any form of subjugation or oppression,” Duterte said.

While the heroes of the

past faced “colonial powers”, Duterte said the country now faces “modern problems of poverty, corruption, environmental degradation, terrorism, criminality, and illegal drugs.”

“These threats, just like the threats our nation faced centuries ago, have infringed on our inalienable right to live peaceful, safe, comfortable, and meaningful lives,” Duterte said.



Binondo, Maynila. Masayang umuwi ang mga bisita matapos makapakinig ng mga salita ng Dios at tumanggap ng lingap mula sa ginanap na "Lingap Pamamahayag" ng Iglesia Ni Cristo, nito lamang nakaraang linggo. (Julius Julian)

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PDEA denies P74-M unsupported travel expenses

MANILA -- The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) denied on Friday reports that it has incurred around PHP74 million in local travel expenses in 2018, noting that the agency only incurred PHP22.45 million travel expenses last year.

“I would like to clarify, for it will bring misconception to the public that public funds were being used in violation of the existing rules of the Commission on Audit (COA),” PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino said, adding that only PHP22.45 million worth of liquidations reports lacked documents.

The COA, in its 2018 audit report, said PHP51.83 million in PDEA expenses were unsupported with official receipts while the other PHP22.45 million worth of liquidation reports had insufficient supporting documents.

“We are adhering to all COA rules and regulations. However, pagkabayad naming sa suppliers through bank deposits, hindi na sila nagbibigay ng official receipts (whenever we pay our suppliers through bank deposits, we were never given official receipts),” Aquino added.

Aquino said on several occasions, he asked the COA to reconsider check issuance as the mode of payment to make sure that PDEA will be issued Official Receipt (OR) upon release of payment.

To date, PDEA has sent communications to all suppliers to immediately issue the lacking official receipts. (PNA)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.” – James 4:7