

NORTH SOUTH JOURNAL

PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN
YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Taon 10 Blg. 13 MARSO 11-17, 2019 P10.00

Mail Permit No. 2C-17-07-528
Office of Entry: Bacoor City, Cavite
Entered as 2nd Class

MANILA -- Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra on Wednesday backed the move of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) officials to restrict privileges for inmates in jails, following reports that a convicted felon continues to run his drug empire online despite being in detention.

"I was not advised much sooner about the planned action, but I believe that Director General Nicanor Faeldon had good reasons for its immediate implementation," Guevarra told reporters.

"I also believe that these measures are temporary in character, as the BuCor intensifies its campaign to rid our prison facilities of illegal drug activities," the DOJ chief added, referring to visitation privileges.

Guevarra on Tuesday formally directed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to work with the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and investigate the drug lord.

In Department Order 092, Guevarra tasked the two agencies to file periodic reports on

their investigation.

"The NBI through Director Dante A. Gierran and in collaboration with and assisted by the BuCor, is hereby directed and granted authority to conduct an investigation and case build-up on the alleged illegal drugs activities of inmate Rustico Ygoy y Repuela while serving sentence inside the premises of the NBP (New

Bilibid Prison), and if evidence warrants to file the appropriate charges against persons found responsible therefor," the order said.

Under Republic Act 10867 or the National Bureau of Investigation Reorganization and Modernization Act, the Secretary of Justice may direct the NBI to undertake an investigation of any crime when pub-

lic interest so requires.

On the other hand, Republic Act 10575 or the Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013 provides that the agency is in charge of ensuring that national inmates are completely incapacitated from further committing criminal acts and are totally cut off from their criminal networks while serving their sentences inside the national penitentiary. (PNA)

PH, Vietnam adopt new action plan to boost ties

MANILA -- The Philippines and Vietnam have adopted on Wednesday a new five-year plan of action mapping specific commitments the two nations will jointly undertake to bolster various areas of cooperation.

The document, which covers the period 2019 to 2024, builds on the series of inter-agency consultations and thorough bilateral negotiations between the two nations in the past few years.

"It comprehensively maps out specific commitments we will undertake jointly in the political, security, economic, and cultural spheres, as well as in

other various areas," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said in a press briefing after the 9th Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) meeting with Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh.

During the discussion, Minh noted that the political and diplomatic relations between the two countries "have grown positively with a higher level of trust, as evident in the substance and outcomes of the frequent visits and contacts between our high-level leaders."

On economic cooperation, Minh said Vietnam stands ready

to "further step up" the already thriving aspect of relations.

The Vietnamese official said Philippines and Vietnam's bilateral trade turnover in 2018 alone amounted to USD4.72 billion, up 18 percent against 2017.

In the years ahead, the two top diplomats agreed to target a 20 percent bilateral trade turnover annual growth.

"Both our countries are among the fastest growing economies in Asia, and that is conducive to further promoting our trade and investment relations in the years ahead," he said. (PNA)

PRRD thumbs down legalization of marijuana

MANILA -- President Rodrigo R. Duterte on Friday thumbed down the idea of legalizing marijuana in the country, including its possible use for medicinal purposes.

"You must remember that heroin, cocaine, and the derivatives are products of opium poppy plant. So matagal masyado magtama, if at all. Talagang mabuang (It takes time to be absorbed, if at all. You get crazy). Plant 'yan eh (That's a plant). Marijuana. They are cultivated," Duterte said in his speech at the campaign rally of Partido Demokratiko Pilipino - Laban ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) in Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

Duterte said considering marijuana as a medicinal drug equates to condoning wrongdoings.

"I am ignorant of that kind of research, I must admit. And I do not read it and I do not intend to legalize it. Ayaw ko (I do not want to). Gawain mo lang excuse 'yan eh (Legalization would be used as an excuse). Magtatanim ka ng iyo. Sabihin mo, 'Medicinal man kaya 'to (People might cultivate it and say it is for medicinal purposes)," he said.

The President said drug traders can use this measure as an excuse to continue their illegal businesses.

"Sabihin medicinal. Lahat na lang mag-medicinal na. (They say it's medicinal. Suddenly, everything will become medicinal.) That would be an excuse. Hindi ako pumayag (I did not agree). Not in my time. Not in my time. Some other president, maybe," he said. (PNA)

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