

## PRRD believes corporal punishment still effective

**MANILA** -- Malacañang on Friday said President Rodrigo R. Duterte still believes that corporal punishment is an effective way of disciplining children that is why he vetoed a bill banning its practice.

In a statement, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo cited the Philippines' unique culture and parenting experience as the reasons for the President's stand.

"As a parent to four children, the President believes that responsible parents can administer corporal punishment in a self-restrained manner. While taking into consideration the growing trend in Western countries which perceive corporal punishment as an outdated mode of reprimanding children, PRRD believes that such measure is still an effective form of discipline -- uniquely Filipino -- that resulted in many children becoming law-abiding citizens of the country," he said.

Panelo cited specific loopholes in the measure passed by Congress.

"The proposed law also fails to properly distinguish between reasonable and excessive corporal punishment, noting that it will be destructive to children if the corporal punishment is excessive which may amount to child abuse and eventually lead to indiscriminate physical abuse. We thus believe that the current legal framework as regards this matter is already in order for now. We have laws, for example, which penalize parents who inflict cruel and unusual punishment upon their child," he said.

But even if the President vetoed the bill, Panelo, also Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, said there are still measures to penalize abuse by parents.

"As we value and respect the discretion of parents in raising their children,

## PNP beefs up patrols on PH coasts vs. drugs, crimes

**MANILA** -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) continues to beef up its capability in airborne and seaborne operations to guard the country's coastline against intrusions by international drug smugglers, poachers and other lawless elements.

PNP Chief, Police General Oscar Albayalde, said through its capability enhancement program, the police force is set to acquire more floating and flying assets for its Maritime Group and Aviation Security Group to boost the response against criminal activities in coastal waters, including the recent recovery of cocaine in the country's eastern waters.

Albayalde said as police operations will be intensified against the supply of illegal drugs and organized crimes, it entails an upgrade of resources to cope with the additional functions. A total of PHP1,134,388,799.98 was allotted for sea and air assets.

Specifically, the PNP Bids and Awards Committee has approved the procurement of 28 units of high-speed tactical watercraft amounting to PHP336 million, seven of which had been delivered and are currently in service.

An additional 18 units of similar high-speed tactical watercraft are programmed under the 2019 procurement program as additional equipment for maritime operations, police visibility in the shorelines, and maritime law enforcement and public safety operations.

we remind them that despite the veto of the President, there are penal laws which can be used against them if they resort to abusive measures at their homes," he said.

Duterte on Thursday vetoed Senate Bill 1477/ House Bill 8239, entitled "An Act Promoting Positive and Nonviolent Discipline, Protecting Children From Physical, Humiliating or Degrading Acts as Form of Punishment and Appropriating Funds Therefore." (PNA)

At present, the PNP's fleet of watercraft include 107 police rubber boats, 19 coastal craft, 25 fast boats, four speedboats, and 10 gun boats or dauntless boats being used by 17 Regional Maritime Units, three Maritime Special Operations Units, and other police maritime stations nationwide.

In support of seaborne maritime patrol operations, the PNP is also adding five more single engine turbine and training helicopters, with a total price of PHP798,388,799.98, to its fleet that is expected to be delivered in August to bolster its anti-terrorism operations and air support to maritime patrol operations in high seas.

## 'Pacman' honored for latest win, other achievements

**MANILA** -- For his latest victory over American challenger Adrien Broner and other outstanding achievements, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) paid tribute to Filipino boxing icon and Senator Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao at the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City Friday.

AFP Chief-of-Staff, Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana awarded the AFP Meritorius Achievement Medal to Paquiao for his triumphant defense of the WBA Welterweight World Title against Broner last January 20 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Aside from the medal, the AFP also granted the senator an honorary membership in the Philippine Army Scout Ranger.

Becoming a Scout Ranger requires strong will, gallantry, and willingness to offer one's life for the sake of mission accomplishment.

The military leadership believes that the 'Pambansang Kamao' embodies all these characteristics.

"As a man of admirable strength and physical endurance, we in the AFP truly hold you, sir, in high esteem and regard for your accomplishments. Majority of the Filipino people look up to you as a source of inspiration: a living example of a man who rose up from the adversities of life through hard work and perse-

verance," Madrigal said.

The eight-division World Champion was also accorded with a Manifesto Plaque.

This is in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of sports, furtherance of the welfare of veterans and reservists, and for being an exemplary source of inspiration to the Filipino nation.

"We would like to thank you for through your efforts and support, legislations that are significant to the development of our nation's security have been filed, especially the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act or 'Restoration of the ROTC Bill' for Grades 11 and 12 students," Madrigal said.

Prior to the ceremony at the Lapu-Lapu Grandstand, the AFP rendered arrival honors to the Senator at the General Headquarters Canopy.

He then made a courtesy call on Madrigal at the AFP Hall of Flags.

In December 2017, Pacquiao was promoted to the rank of a full-fledged colonel after finishing his General Staff Course.

Prior to this, his promotion to lieutenant colonel was approved in September 2011 as recommended by Army officials.

He first enlisted in the Army Reserve Force with the rank of Sergeant in 2006 upon the recommendation of then AFP chief-of-staff, General Alexander Yano. Pacquiao was then promoted to technical sergeant in the same year, rising through the ranks when he became a master sergeant in 2009. (PNA)

## Phivolcs not expecting aftershocks from 5.1 DavOcc quake

**MANILA** -- The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said it is not expecting aftershocks and damages from the magnitude 5.1 earthquake that jolted Davao Occidental on Friday morning.

Phivolcs said the tectonic quake hit 42 km southwest of Sarangani at around 9 a.m.

It had a depth of 175 km but there were no reported intensities.

Last February 12, a magnitude 5.1 earthquake also jolted Davao Occidental, and struck 103 km southeast of Sarangani. (PNA)

## Ex-rebel group backs localize peace talks

**MANILA** -- As President Rodrigo Duterte signals the resumption of peace talks, a group of former rebels staged a picket rally in Manila on Friday, supporting the government's efforts to push for the localization of peace talks for a guaranteed positive result.

The coalition of former rebels, led by Ka Dario, said peace talks will progress if it is held in the country and not in some third-party country that recognizes "the belligerent National Democratic Front (NDF)" as a political entity.

"Nagtitipon kami upang

igiit ang isang localize peace talks. Ito at hindi sa foreign country na kinikilala ang CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) na isang political entity ang solusyon para matapos na ang limang dekadang panggugulo ng teroristang grupo (We gather here to call for localized peace talks. It is the solution and not a peace talk hosted by a third-party country that recognizes terrorist group CPP-NPA-NDF as a political entity that would solve the five decades of troubles by a terrorist group)," Ka Dario said.

"Kahit kailan hindi na exercise ng CPP-NDF ang kanyang pamumuno o soberanya sa kahit anong teritoryo ng Pilipinas sa kahit sinong miyembro ng lipunang Pilipino (The CPP-NDF never exercises rule or sovereignty in any territory of the Philippines and to any member of the Filipino community)," the anti-terrorists group leader added.

The group also condemned the CPP-NPA-NDF's criminal activities, such as the extortion, kangaroo court system, and its use of minors as combatants.

"Ang mga ito ay matagal nang kinondena ng Geneva Convention gaya ng paggamit ng landmines [na patuloy pa nilang ginagamit] (These were long condemned by the Geneva Convention, including the use of landmines [that these terrorists still do today])," he said.

President Duterte earlier ordered the country's law enforcement agencies to let National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili come home and resume the peace talks with the government.

Agcaoili, NDFP senior adviser Luis Jalandoni, and NDFP negotiating panel member Coni Ledesma called off plans to be Manila in November to conduct informal talks with the government due to security concerns. (PNA)