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MANILA -- The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said airports in the Mindanao areas rocked anew by a magnitude 6.6 earthquake on Tuesday morning have reported no damage.

In a statement, the CAAP said the Butuan Airport, Davao International Airport, Cotabato Airport, General Santos International Airport, and Laguindingan Airport found no damage in their infrastructure, tower, runway, passenger terminal building, navigational aid shelter, and other facilities.

It added that officials of the satellite airports in Ozamiz, Camiguin, and Iligan said they did not even feel the effects of the earthquake that hit North Cotabato, with epicenter located inland northeast of Tuluhan town.

The CAAP Security and Intelligence Service, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Air Navigation Service, and the airports' engineering offices conducted inspections after the quake that reportedly killed five people.

Meanwhile, Philippine Airlines (PAL) spokesperson Cielo Villaluna said that the flag carrier's flights to and from Davao, General Santos and Cotabato remain operational and were not affected by the quake.

She said PAL's airport ticket offices and city ticket offices in these three areas, however, were temporarily closed to give way to "structural inspections."

Villaluna said ticket offices in Davao and Matina City remain open. (PNA)

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PRRD ‘serious’ about ‘drug czar’ offer to Robredo: Palace

MANILA -- President Rodrigo R. Duterte is "serious" about his offer to Vice President Leni Robredo to lead his administration's intensified crackdown on illegal drugs, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the President would not waste his time making a public announcement of his latest challenge to Robredo

Palace's Rizal Hall on Monday, Duterte said he would transfer his law enforcement powers to Robredo for six months.

Under the 1987 Constitution, the President is mandated to "ensure that the laws be faithfully executed."

Duterte's pronouncement came after Robredo, in an exclusive interview with Reuters on October 23, asked the President to abandon his anti-narcotics drive, saying it was "not working" in stopping the activities of drug personalities in the country.

In a media interview on Monday, Duterte clarified that he would merely let Robredo assume the post of "drug czar" to see if she can do better in addressing the drug problem.

Panelo, also Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, said the Chief Executive's challenge to Robredo was not unconstitutional.

"He is a Chief Executive and enforcer of the law. He can create task forces and appoint people to run it," he said. Rejection of offer disproves 'failed' drug war

Due to the backlash she had earned following her remarks, Robredo clarified that she only wants a reassessment of the drug war.

Panelo, however, said that Robredo should accept the President's "special assignment" and take it as an opportunity to "show her mettle."

do who earlier called for an end to the "failed" drug war.

"Meron bang hindi serious na ina-announce mo nationally (Is it not serious when you announce it nationally)?" Duterte's spokesman said in an interview at Malacañan Palace.

"Susulutan pa nga eh. Kung hindi ka seryoso, bakit mo pa susulatan (He would even send a letter. Why would you send a letter if you are not serious)?" he added. In a speech delivered at the

Almost 15K barangays cleared of illegal drugs: PDEA

MANILA -- The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Thursday reported that 14,922 out of 42,045 barangays in the country are declared cleared from illegal drugs from July 2016 to September 2019 under the Duterte administration's continuing anti-illegal drugs campaign.

PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino said these barangays have reached drug-cleared status after receiving a certification by members of the Oversight Committee on Barangay Drug-Clearing Program.

The Oversight Committee, chaired by PDEA, is composed of provincial representatives of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Health (DOH) and local government units.

Before declaring that a barangay is free from illegal drug activities, the committee must convene and validate the non-availability of drug supply in the area and the absence of drug transit activity, clandestine drug laboratory and chemical warehouse, marijuana cultivation site, drug den, drug pusher and user.

"Once cleared, we monitor newly-declared drug-free barangays to ensure that they will maintain their status. All our efforts will go to waste if we allow the resurgence of illegal drug activities in these areas," Aquino said.

Aquino said PDEA aims to clear 18,712 drug-affected barangays by 2022.

Aquino said that these barangays represent 44.5 percent out of 42,045 barangays in the country that are still plagued by the drug menace. Out of the 18,712 drug-affected barangays, 7,817 are classified as slightly affected, 10,616 are moderately affected, while 279 barangays are seriously affected.

"PDEA intends to sustain the pace of clearing an average of 6,200 drug-affected barangays every year or 520 barangays every month, for the next three years. The mission of ridding the country's drug problem by 2022 would be a reality," Aquino said.

There are three basic parameters in determining barangay drug-affectation: slightly affected, moderately affected, and seriously affected. Barangays are considered slightly affected if there is a reported presence of drug user/s; moderately affected if there is a reported presence of drug pusher/s and/or user/s; and seriously affected if there is a reported presence of any of the following: clandestine drug laboratory, warehouse, marijuana plantation, drug den/tiangge, drug trafficking or smuggling activities, and drug personalities such as users, pushers, financiers, protectors, cultivators, manufacturers and others.

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