

PRELATES BACK BILL ON MANDATORY BIBLE-READING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MANILA -- Members of the clergy on Friday showed support for a bill seeking to make Bible-reading mandatory in public elementary and secondary schools.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes expressed hope that House of Representatives Bill 2069, filed by Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr., would be approved.

"This is very good. I hope this gets approved. A good news for us to read the good news of God," Bastes added.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) - Episcopal Commission on Youth (ECY) Executive Secretary Fr. Congundo Garganta noted that the bill would support the declaration of the significance of the Bible, which the country celebrates every January.

“This is great news and (a) relevant act. This will support the Presidential Proclamation on the significance of the Bible, which we celebrate every year, especially during the month of January,” Garganta said, referring to Proclamation 124, issued by President Rodrigo Duterte in January 2017, declaring the month of January every year as National Bible Month.

"It will help support the churches in (their) task to help the faithful to be rooted in the Word of God," he added.

While expressing support for the measure, Calocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David said other students' religions should be considered.

"I would understand making Bible-reading mandatory in schools run by Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, Pentecostals, etc. (But) it will not be right to make Bible-reading mandatory for students in public schools who are Muslims, Buddhists, or Animists," David said in a statement.

David noted that though the intention of the bill in Congress is good, it should

respect other students' religious beliefs.

"It would be (a) great idea to include an elective (meaning optional) subject on the Bible in junior or high school, if only to get students to appreciate how most, if not all, our good human values are drawn from this sacred book," he said.

“There is nothing wrong about religious instruction being allowed in public schools, if it is done in a

Purchase of Gulfstream jet vital part of AFP modernization

MANILA -- Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Friday refuted allegations that the Gulfstream G-280 jet is a luxury plane, saying the acquisition of the aircraft is a necessary component of ongoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) modernization program.

"I would like to make some clarifications on the acquisition of the Gulfstream G-280 aircraft for the Philippine Air Force, which has been in the news the past few days. Let me emphasize that we do not consider the G-280 as a luxury aircraft, but a necessary component of the AFP modernization program for command and control of our Armed Forces to manage operations on air, land, and sea," he said in a press statement.

The G-280 will be utilized as command-and-control aircraft, DND spokesperson Arsenio Andolong earlier said.

"This type of aircraft is necessary for a 24/7 real-time command-and-control, especially during crisis situation. The Gulfstream

manner that is respectful of the students' religious affiliations," he added.

David, meanwhile, acknowledged that the country's public education system has not yet been influenced by the ideology of western secularism.

"We are a country that respects religious freedom. We are happy enough that our public education has yet to assume the ideology of western secularism, which totally forbids religion in

public spaces and institution(s)," he said.

“Proof to that is the fact that Catholic students are allowed to receive religious instruction (catechism) in public schools, just as Muslim students are allowed to receive instruction in the Muslim faith through the Madrasah,” he added.

Abante, a pastor, filed the bill seeking to make Bible-reading a part of the curriculum of public schools. (PNA)

used for flights to ferry wounded soldiers and critically ill civilians that need to be quickly transported to hospitals.

"Other Cabinet secretaries and high government officials in their official trips around the country could also use it," Lorenzana said, noting the plane will also facilitate the country's diplomatic and humanitarian efforts with its Asean neighbors.

As regards to whether the Chief Executive will be using the aircraft, Lorenzana said all assets of the AFP are at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief.

"Will the President be using it? As the Commander-in-Chief all assets of the AFP are at his disposal when he needs them. The Filipino people can rest assured that, contrary to what is being passed around in an obvious attempt to discredit the national leadership, the acquisition of the Gulfstream aircraft is not a frivolous pursuit, but rather a result of careful planning with due consideration to the needs of our Armed Forces," he added. (PNA)

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Prayer for Healing

JESUS, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will. Amen.

O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH
FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF
JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR
US, I TRUST IN YOU!



*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy
Immortal One, Have Mercy on us
and on the whole world. Amen.*

3 O'CLOCK PRAYER

“You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.”

“O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!”

**“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One
have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (3x)
Amen.**

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

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