

SoKor thanks anew PH military assistance in Korean War

MANILA – South Korean Ambassador Han Dong-man on Wednesday thanked anew the Philippines for being the first Asian country to send combat forces to help his beleaguered country in fighting communist invasion.

Han made the remarks in a speech before surviving members and families of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK) at the Diamond Hotel in Manila on Thursday.

The Philippines sent 7,240 Filipino troops when war broke out to the Korean Peninsula in 1950, making it the first Asian country to respond to the call of the United Nations (UN) to help South Korea when it was invaded by Chinese communist forces.

Han said South Ko-

rea will never forget the goodness of the Filipino people for helping his country at a time it needed most.

He lauded the sacrifices of the Filipino troops during the Korean War that preserved freedom and democracy.

Han said such a magnanimous act has “deepened the strong ties” between South Korea and the Philippines through the years.

During the war, Filipino troops from the 10th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 1st Battalion Combat Teams (BCTs) fought side by side with South Koreans and allied forces against Chinese and North Korean troops.

PEFTOK president, 97-year-old retired Maj. Max Young, led Korean War veterans during the ceremony at Dia-

mond Hotel.

Young was a tank commander of the 10th BCT during the war where his unit figured in the great Battle of Yultong.

Other PEFTOK members who displayed their outstanding fighting capability were Capt. Conrado Yap, who was killed in action when he tried to rescue his men trapped in the fighting, and then Lt. Fidel V. Ramos, who led his troops in overrunning Eerie Hill occupied by Chinese forces.

Also during the program, retired Lt. Gen. Ernesto G. Carolina, administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), cited the strong friendship between the Philippines and South Korea that continues to flourish through the years. (PNA)

DepEd 'strongly condemns' slay try on Bukidnon teacher

MANILA -- The Department of Education (DepEd) on Thursday strongly condemned the shooting of Zhydee Bitago Cabañelez, an elementary teacher at the Dalit Elementary School in Valencia City, Bukidnon on October 15.

"DepEd calls on the authorities to conduct an exhaustive investigation of the gruesome incident and expects results that will bring the perpetrators to justice," it said in a statement.

The agency also enjoined the community, local officials, and law enforcement agencies to work closely in ensuring the safety of schools, learners, and teachers.

Some four unidentified armed men attacked Cabañelez and her husband, Ramil, with the pupils still inside her classroom at

around 8 am of Oct. 15.

The husband managed to escape while the victim sustained serious physical injuries.

Initial police reports from Valencia City police chief Surki Sereñas showed the victim suffered multiple gunshot wounds but is now in stable condition at a hospital and will be provided with psychological first aid.

Schools Division Superintendent of Valencia City Dr. Victoria Gazo reported that the local DepEd office has already conducted stress debriefing to pupils, parents, and teachers in Dalit Elementary School a day after the incident.

The Division Office also postponed the conduct of the school's 2nd periodical test supposed to be on Oct. 17 and 18.

"During coordination meeting, the Barangay and Sitio leaders committed to assigning CVO (civilian volunteers organization) and purok leaders to serve as security officers during school hours," the agency assured.

The teachers would be accompanied in coming to school and going home at least up to the Pulangi River, it added.

Likewise, the DepEd Central and local offices have collected financial contributions to augment funds for the hospitalization of the victim.

Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones instructed DepEd Regional Office 10 and the Schools Division Office of Valencia City to submit complete incident reports and to obtain investigation reports from the authorities. (PNA)

PH soldiers bag silver medal in UK Cambrian Patrol

MANILA -- Eight Philippine Army (PA) Scout Rangers, who participated in the United Kingdom's Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2019 (Ex CP 2019) held in Wales, were awarded the Silver Medal for their feat Wednesday.

This was bared by PA spokesperson Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala in a statement Thursday.

"For 51 sleepless hours, the Army's eight-man team successfully accomplished its

mission by performing various military operations along the rugged Cambrian Mountains of Mid-Wales, with loads of logistics and minimal food and water," Zagala said.

This year, around 130 teams from different countries participated in the exercise.

They also underwent a 21-day pre-training before the exercise proper that started last October 14.

The Ex CP is an an-

nual international military exercise hosted by Headquarters 160th (Welsh) Brigade. It is tagged as the British Army's premier patrolling event that provides mission-focused and scenario-based exercise to enhance each participating unit's operational capabilities.

"The Philippine Army recognizes the achievement of our Scout Rangers, which is a manifestation of the perseverance and

toughness of the Filipino soldier. Their display of character in the international scene reflects our nation's aspirations to become a truly world-class Army," Zagala said. (PNA)

Bocaue interchange.

"To increase capacity to two-lane per direction and help alleviate traffic congestion along Governor F. Halili, the construction of additional lanes of the bridge structure at Bocaue Interchange is also on-going," Villar said.

The ongoing second phase of the Ciudad De Victoria Interchange Project involves the construction of the southbound acceleration and deceleration lanes for vehicles going to Philippine Arena. The project is in partnership with NLEX Corporation.

"Eventually, a 1.91-kilometer road from MacArthur Highway to Bocaue Municipal will be improved and a 1.3-kilometer road from the Philippine Arena to the existing Patubig Road in Marilao, Bulacan will be constructed," Villar said.

A huge turnout of visitors is expected at the opening ceremony of the biennial regional multi-sport event on November 30, 2019.

On the other hand, Villar reported that a southbound entry, as well as northbound entry and exit toll plazas, are being constructed at Barangay Tambubong, Bocaue.

The NLEX Tambubong Entrance/Exit Project of DPWH Region 3 and NLEX Corporation involves the construction of 3 connecting ramps with 20 meters average width on NLEX northbound entry with a length of 180.00 meters, 240.14 meters northbound exit, and 290 meters southbound entry.

DPWH speeds up construction of interchange leading to PH Arena

MANILA -- The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Thursday said it is fast-tracking the interchange project with road access connecting to the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) in Bocaue, Bulacan in time for the country's hosting of the 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games next month.

According to DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, the completion of Ciudad De Victoria Interchange Overpass Bridge and Bypass Road worth over PHP200 million will

provide direct access to the Philippine Arena, is being rushed before the regional sports event which is set from November 30 to December 11.

"With all girders for the 80 lineal meters overpass bridge crossing NLEX completely installed and the round-the-clock construction works for a 1.12 kilometer 4-lane bypass road connecting the Manila North Road and the Sta. Maria to Bocaue By-pass Road as part of the Ciudad De Victoria Interchange Project Phase 1, we will have better accessibility to

Philippine Arena come SEA Games grand opening in November," he said in a statement.

"The PHP260.8 Million Ciudad De Victoria Interchange Overpass bridge implemented by the DPWH Regional Office 3 headed by Regional Director Roseller Tolentino is envisioned to serve as an alternate road to the heavily-congested Governor F. Halili Road in Sta. Maria, Bulacan," Villar added.

The project will also address the usual heavy traffic situation and queuing of vehicles entering the

Ranking gov't officials conduct 1st 'simulation exercise'

MANILA -- In line with efforts to ensure that the government is capable of making a unified decision in times of major calamities, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), through the Office of Civil Defense, and the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) conducted a "simulation exercise" (SIMEX) along with other Cabinet secretaries and ranking officials Wednesday.

The activity, which was presided by Defense Secretary and NDRRMC chairperson Delfin Lorenzana and NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad, took place at the NDRRMC Operations Center in Camp Aguinaldo,

Quezon City.

The objective of the exercise is to demonstrate the leadership and unified decision-making of national leaders after a major disaster, he added.

"The scenario of the SIMEX focused on a magnitude 7.2 earthquake generated by the West Valley Fault that devastated Metro Manila, CALABARZON and Central Luzon," Jalad said.

Based on the scenario, the alternate government command-and-control center was utilized as the emergency operations center situated in New Clark City, Tarlac.

And from there, the harmonized national contingency plan was activated.

The top government officials provided necessary strategic actions taken on the aspects of life and safety and disaster response considering the massive impacts of the earthquake.

The scenarios and injects were developed by the technical representative from the NDRRMC member agencies to prompt responses from key government offices specifically the lead agencies in response and disaster management.

The activity is a historic undertaking of the Philippines and the ASEAN region as the first simulation exercise involving top government officials as key players.