

WB ranking shows rising business confidence in PH: House leaders

MANILA -- Two House leaders on Thursday said the country's improved rankings in the World Bank's ease of doing business report is a testament to the rising business confidence in the reforms instituted by the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

In the just-released Doing Business Report, the Philippines improved by 29 notches, ranking 95th from the previous 124th out of 190 economies surveyed by the WB.

"This signifies the business community's confidence in the structural re-

forms being implemented by the Duterte administration to propel our economy to greater heights," House Majority Leader Martin Romualdez said in a statement.

The Leyte 1st District lawmaker said the country's "great leap" in the worldwide rankings is also a big boost to the country's quest for more foreign and domestic investments.

"The improvement will definitely lead to more investments, which translate to more jobs for our people. Hopefully, these jobs will not benefit only the urban ar-

eas, but also the rural communities in far-flung villages.," Romualdez said.

Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Salceda shared Romualdez's sentiments.

"The numbers, taken with ratings of Filipino's trust, appear to be a vote of confidence on our leaders, especially the President and Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, who have been the most active in pursuing reforms," he said in a separate statement.

The chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means said the improved WB ranking also showed

that the reforms aimed at thrusting the country into a more competitive economy are now "surely and quickly" gaining traction.

"The Philippines' significant improvement in the Ease of Doing Business rankings is the logical conclusion of the government's efforts to create a business environment that truly encourages good business," Salceda said.

"We give the President due credit for his resolute determination to prepare a national business landscape that will enable growth for generations to come," he added. (PNA)

Indian Navy ships' visit to PH shows desire for regional peace

MANILA -- The goodwill visit of two Indian Navy vessels to the Philippines highlights their desire for regional peace, stability, and maritime cooperation, a Philippine Navy (PN) official has said.

"(The) Indian Navy regularly visits the country and engages with their Filipino counterparts, which manifest a sustained promotion of regional peace and stability and enhancement of maritime cooperation. It further highlights the military facet of India-Philippines relations established in 1949 and further cemented with the signing of (the) Treaty of Friendship in 1952" Navy public affairs office chief, Lt. Commander Maria Christina Roxas, said in a statement on Wednesday.

The "Shivalik"-class guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri (F-49), and anti-submarine corvette, INS Kiltan (P-30), docked at Pier 15 South Harbor, Manila for a four-day visit from Wednesday to Saturday.

Both ships are part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command.

The visit of the two Indian naval ships and the 350-man contingent manning the vessels coincided with the recent state visit of Indi-

an President Ram Nath Kovind, which added significance to the commemoration of the two countries' 70th year of diplomatic relations, Roxas added.

The Indian naval contingent, headed by Capt. Ashwin Arvind, was warmly welcomed by PN delegates headed by the Sealift Amphibious Force commander, Capt. Ernesto Baldovino.

Arvind described the relationship of India and its Navy with the Philippines as "very important", which is "evident from the high-level

exchange of visit", citing the recent state visit of their president.

He further specified the importance of maintaining "beyond just professional" friendship with the PN as strategic since "the importance of (the) Indo-Pacific region is intricately linked" with the Philippines.

Their arrival to the country is part of Indian Navy's overseas deployment to Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. Before heading to the Philippines, the two vessels aided Ja-

pan after being battered by Typhoon 'Hagibis'.

INS Sahyadri has a displacement of 6,200 tons, a length of 142.5 meters, and a beam of 16.9 meters, and is armed with a variety of missiles, torpedoes, and rockets for anti-ship, anti-air, and anti-submarine missions along with a 76-mm. automatic cannon.

Meanwhile, INS Kiltan has a displacement of 3,000 tons, a length of 109 meters, and a beam of 12.8 meters, and is armed with guns, torpedoes and rockets. (PNA)

66 distressed OFWs from Kuwait back in PH

MANILA – A total of 66 distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Kuwait have been repatriated and arrived in the country on Wednesday night, an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The group forms the eighth batch of OFWs assisted by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait through the Embassy Assisted Repatriation Program (EARP).

"Our determined efforts have brought home some 425 distressed Filipinos from Kuwait to date," DFA

Undersecretary Sarah Lou Arriola said in a statement.

"Our repatriation program is part of our mandate to protect Filipinos in distress abroad," she added.

A total of PHP9.2 million has been spent for the repatriation of OFWs from Kuwait, the DFA said.

Arriola urged Filipinos in Kuwait with issues regarding their visas "to take advantage of the help offered by the Duterte administration and come home."

Last month, the Embassy repatriated a total of 63

undocumented and distressed Filipinos from the Gulf state.

The EARP is a project of President Rodrigo Duterte with the DFA and the Department of Labor and Employment in cooperation with the Illegal Residency Monitoring and Immigration Departments of the Kuwait Ministry of Interior.

The program facilitates the repatriation of OFWs with expired visas or absconding cases in Kuwait and provides airfare tickets from Kuwait to the Philippines. (PNA)

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!