

DUTERTE TO SPEAK TO TRUMP IF US SENATE ADOPTS PROPOSED ENTRY BAN

MANILA -- President Rodrigo R. Duterte dismissed as “unripe” a proposal of two US senators to bar Philippine government officials involved in the imprisonment of Senator Leila de Lima from entering the United States.

“I have the best adjective for that pero (but) at this time, I will just... Hilaw pa ‘yan eh. (It’s still unripe). When it becomes ripe, then I will say my piece,” Duterte said in a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) before his departure to Russia on Tuesday night.

Earlier, US Senators Dick Durbin and Patrick Leahy filed an amendment to the 2020 State and Foreign Operations (SFOPs) appropriations bill to include a ban on the entry to the US of Philippine govern-

ment officials involved in de Lima’s imprisonment.

Duterte said he did not consider the two US senators’ proposed amendment as interference and refused to comment further, pointing out that they were only “voices of members of a committee” and not an act of state.

“I do not deal individually with the congressman or senators there. Hindi pa hinog ‘yan (That’s not ripe yet). It is not an act of state. It does not carry the mandate of the entire Senate. So if there is one or two or three who says that these things exist in the Philippines, let them,” Duterte said.

Duterte, however, said that should the Senate adopt the proposal of the two senators, he would speak to either the US State Department or US President Donald Trump.

“I cannot help them in their ignorance. So if they decide to report it out of the committee to the plenary for adoption and it becomes -- it is now ripe, it becomes a matter now between two states, then that is the time maybe the State Department or Trump and I will have to talk. And I will talk,” Duterte said.

Meanwhile, Duterte said he saw no need for the Philippine government to conduct a probe into the two US senators’ proposed ban or ban US government officials from the Philippines as well.

“Those are proposals and proposals are what they are --- simply proposals,” Duterte said.

“We will waste our time. Why would I waste my time investigating two (US senators)--- ?” he added.

Earlier, Presidential

Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said he remains unfazed by the possibility that he and other Philippine government officials may be barred from entering the United States.

However, unlike Duterte, Panelo considered the US senators’ proposed amendment as a brazen attempt at “interference” oo Philippine sovereign affairs.

Panelo insisted that there was nothing wrongful about de Lima’s imprisonment because she was accorded due process.

Although foreign officials have the right to criticize, Panelo said they could not make assumptions based on information fed by de Lima, supporters, and other critics of the administration.

Panelo further said the US government only had the right to bar entry in the US of individuals who have committed transgression of their laws.

De Lima, one of Duterte’s staunchest critics, has been in detention since February 2017 for her alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade. However, she denied these charges. (PNA)

DFA warns vs. fake websites posing as PH gov't agencies

MANILA -- The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Tuesday warned Filipinos and foreign nationals against transacting with entities posing as a Philippine government agency following the spread of fake websites online.

In a bulletin, the DFA said there have been reports of a website that posed as a Philippine government agency that handles public procurements in the Philippines.

The said website solicits businesses and companies transact with it regarding the procurement of goods and services for the Philippines.

“Please note that government procurement in the Philippines is implemented through the Government Procurement Reform Act of

2003 (Republic Act No. 9184) which mandates the use of streamlined procurement processes and monitoring of government procurement activities by the public,” the DFA said.

“More importantly, RA 9184 created the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPBB) as the central policy and monitoring body in all government,” it added.

The agency also underscored that notices of bids for government procurement contracts in the Philippines are posted on PhilGEPS (<https://www.dti.gov.ph/transparencyseal/philgeps-procurement>).

PhilGEPS is the sole centralized electronic portal that is the official and definitive source of information of Philippine government procurement.

“For assurance of the legitimacy of any Philippine government organization that wishes to transact with foreign-based businesses

and companies, concerned parties may get in touch with the Philippine Embassies and Consulates General abroad,” it noted. (PNA)

Senate commends Filipino teachers

MANILA -- The Senate on Tuesday approved a resolution honoring and commending the Filipino teachers for their hard work and commitment to shaping learners of all generations.

The approval of Senate Resolution No. 142 came in light of the celebration of the National Teachers’ Month from September 5 to October 5. Senator Bong Revilla, the author of the resolution, said Filipino teachers take on an “indispensable role” in molding the country’s future. Revilla called on all Filipinos to use the occasion to pay tribute to the “indelible” contribution of teachers in educating the youth to maximize their potentials and become productive and globally-competitive citizens.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, who co-sponsored the resolution, reaffirmed his commitment to the teachers and promised that the chamber will work hard to institutionalize the pay increase basic education teachers this 18th Congress.

“This National Teachers’ Month is a recognition of all that work, inside and outside the classroom. But a month is hardly enough recognition, given how the teaching profession demands full devotion. One does not just work as a teacher—one is a teacher, day in and day out,” Zubiri said.

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PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

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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