

DFA calls out EU NGOs for funding communist insurgency

MANILA -- Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. has called out non-government organizations in the European Union (EU) for funding the decades-long communist insurgency in the Philippines.

"EU funding continues for the widely detested, nowhere supported, and foredoomed communist insurgency composed of the last dregs of the New Khmer Rouge, as US intelligence branded them in the late 80s," Locsin said during the Ministerial Segment of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics and Drugs on Thursday in Vienna, Austria.

Locsin said the insurgency being waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) continues to threaten Philippine society and national security.

"In this endeavor, EU non-government organizations support a cause unquestionably lethal but to-

tally unredeemed by any prospect of success," Locsin said.

"Their generous contributions promise at best the prospect of a small and ragged parade under a cracked marble arch to the strains of a broken Hallelujah. As always, the Philippines fights its battles alone; it needs no help; it fears no opposition from any quarter; but it wouldn't mind a little understanding," he added.

In its official statement, the EU delegation in Manila said the bloc continues to recognize the communist group as a terrorist organization.

"The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army are on the EU's list of terrorist organizations since 2006 and are treated as such in all respects by the European Union at this point," its statement read.

The EU and the US have listed the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group.

Presidential Task Force on

Media Security Executive Director Undersecretary Joel Egco, who was part of the Philippine delegation that conducted a series of engagements in Brussels in February, said the National Task Force to End the Communist Insurgency created by President Rodrigo R. Duterte is set to hold several meetings to address the issue and further engage the bloc.

"Definitely, it is being discussed by the National Task Force as to what moves should be taken next. We will send them evidence, that's the requirement they've set," he told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) in an interview on Friday.

Belgian officials, during a meeting last month, informed the Philippine delegation that it was the "first time" that they have heard about their fundings reaching CPP-NPA's front organizations, Egco said.

As the government takes its war against local communist armed conflict a step further, Egco said the NTF got the assurance of European officials who vowed to look into the information presented by the Philippine government on the reported funding of CPP-NPA activities.

Data presented by the Philippine delegation showed that communist front organizations receive funds from groups in the guise of marginalized and pro-poor programs.

"May seven na Belgian NGOs na nakikipag-connect sa NGOs natin dito (There are seven Belgian NGOs that are connected with some Philippine NGOs). The Armed Forces of the Philippines has a list of organizations that are fronting for CPP-NPA and when they (Belgian officials) crosschecked, the same local NGOs are in their list," Egco said. "The status for it at present is that they are going to look for it seriously," he added. (PNA)

their meeting on Thursday.

He noted that all of the 27 barangays of Mandaluyong were already affected by the water shortage as Manila Water implemented a new cut-off schedule in Metro Manila.

The barangay officials will submit resolutions recommending a state of calamity declaration to the city government, which will then be transmitted by Mayor Carmelita Abalos to the city council for approval, he said.

A state of calamity would allow the local government to tap its emergency funds to buy items to help them address the water shortage. (PNA)

EPD deploys cops to ensure orderly water distribution

MANILA -- The Eastern Police District (EPD) has instructed all police chiefs under its jurisdiction to deploy cops to monitor and ensure a peaceful and orderly distribution of water in areas affected by water service interruptions.

In a statement Friday, EPD Acting Director, Brig. Gen. Christopher Tambungan, said the presence of police officers in water distribution areas in the cities of Pasig, Marikina, Mandaluyong, and San Juan would prevent any possible commotion caused by the

water shortage.

"The EPD will intensify police presence and assure that there will be a peaceful and orderly distribution of water supply within Metro-East in the midst of (the) water crisis," he said.

The Manila Water, which provides water in Metro Manila's east zone, has cut supply in several areas of the metropolis as the water level in La Mesa Dam dropped.

"Over the years, Manila Water has served as the water supplier for the whole Metro-East but unfortunately, we are currently experi-

encing water shortage for the past (few) days," he added.

Meanwhile, the city government of Mandaluyong is looking to declare a state of calamity amid the water shortage in the area.

City Information Officer Jimmy Isidro said the city government was only waiting for the recommendation of barangay officials for a declaration of state of calamity.

Isidro said 12 barangay officials have already expressed intent to recommend a declaration during

BI to deport S. Korean swindler

MANILA -- A South Korean fugitive wanted for swindling through voice phishing is set to be deported by the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

BI Commissioner Jaime Morente said Friday the bureau's fugitive search unit (FSU), armed with a mission order, arrested Kim Youngin, 40, inside his unit at the One Rockwell condominium tower in Makati City last Wednesday.

The mission order was issued by the BI chief after the South Korean Embassy informed the bureau about the fugitive's crimes that caused the victims to lose more than half a million US dollars.

"He (Kim) no longer holds a valid passport because it was already cancelled by the Korean government. He will thus be deported for being an undocumented and undesirable alien," Morente said in

a statement.

South Korean authorities alleged that Kim established and headed a voice phishing organization named "Hoon-yi", which engaged in telecommunications fraud in Incheon (Korea), Weihai (China), and Cambodia from April 2012 to March 2015.

By pretending to be a counselor of a company called D-REX that offered low-interest loans to pro-

spective customers, Kim and his cohorts reportedly defrauded their victims in the three countries of more than USD530,000.

On the other hand, BI-FSU chief Bobby Raquepo said Kim is also an overstaying alien as he failed to extend his stay since he last arrived in the country as a tourist in August 2015.

He added that Kim was issued an arrest warrant by a South Korean court after he was indicted for large-scale fraud and swindling. (PNA)

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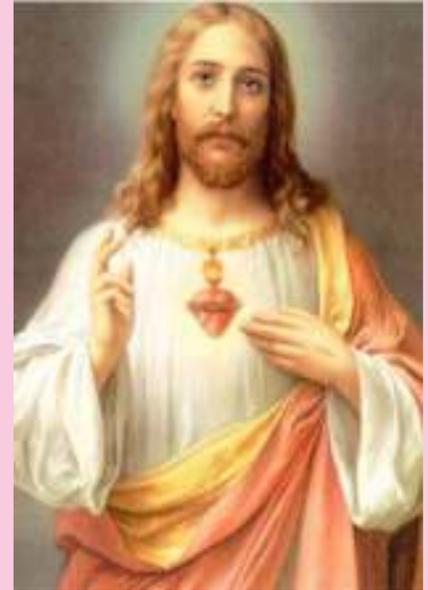
PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

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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