

Interesting Times

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INC sets 4 world records for May 6 Worldwide Walk; INC now has 24 Guinness records in all

The Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) has set its fourth record title for its historic May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty with the announcement from Guinness that the INC had broken its own record for the largest charity walk in multiple venues.

Guinness awarded on Tuesday, June 12, the official certificates for the four new world record titles that the INC had set for its historic global march.

With this, the Iglesia Ni Cristo now has four Guinness world record titles for its May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty, and had set a total of 24 Guinness world records, in all, since July 2012.

The four official Guinness world record titles that the INC had set for its May 6 global march was for the largest human sentence with 23,235 participants, the largest picture mosaic formed by people with 9,000 participants, the largest charity walk in a single venue with 238,171 participants, and the largest charity walk in multiple venues with 773,136 participants.

The announcement was made by Guinness official adjudicator Paulina Sapinska who came from the Guinness headquarters in London to award the latest four Guinness validated certificates to the INC on Tuesday, June 12, at the Church's Central Office in Quezon City, Philippines.

“Iglesia Ni Cristo beginning July 7, 2012, had already set 20 Guinness world record titles,” Sapinska announced during the event as the audience applauded.

“On May 6, 2018, Iglesia Ni Cristo set four additional titles, including the largest human sentence consisting of 23,235 participants. The sentence read, ‘Proud to be a Member of the Iglesia Ni Cristo,’” she continued.

“The second Guinness world record title that was set was the largest picture mosaic formed by people consisting of 9,000 people which doubled the previous record of 4,500,” she said.

The picture mosaic formed was the Church's green, white and red flag with the biblical golden menorah in the middle.

“The largest charity walk run consisting of 238,171 people was also set. This record was previously held by Iglesia Ni Cristo, so the record was once again broken. The previous one was for 175,509 which was set on the 15th of Feb 2014,” Sapinska said.

“The fourth record title was for the

Israel ambassador reaffirms Israel's friendship with the INC in 2nd courtesy call to INC Executive Minister



Israel's Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Effie Ben Matityau visits Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the INC Central Office in Quezon City, Philippines. This is Ambassador Matityau's second courtesy call to the INC Executive Minister. (Photo courtesy INC Public Information Office)

largest charity walk/run in multiple venues which was 773,136,” she announced.

This latest record beat the INC's previous record of 519,221 participants set on February 15, 2014 during the first INC Worldwide Walk which benefited victims of super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in the Philippines.

“You are officially amazing,” Sapinska announced after she had given all four official verified certificates validated by Guinness to INC ministers who were members of the Church's council or Sanggunian led by INC General Auditor minister Glicerio B. Santos Jr.

Getting four Guinness world record titles that involved a lot of coordination and teamwork was a feat in itself, she noted.

“I think with any record there's a lot of organization and teamwork that needs to come together to break it, so it says a lot when records are broken especially by such large numbers. It shows a real sense of community,” Sapinska said in an interview after the

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Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Effie Ben Matityau visited the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) Central office on Monday, June 11, 2018, to make a courtesy call to INC Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo for the second time, two months before the end of his tour of duty in the Philippines.

Ambassador Matityau, who first served as ambassador to the Philippines in August 2014, said he will be leaving the country with fond memories of Philippine warmth and hospitality, as well as the special “great friendship” between Israel and the Iglesia Ni Cristo.

“The INC is indeed one of our pillars of friendship in the Philippines,” Ambassador Matityau said.

The Israeli ambassador was also warmly greeted by a crowd of INC Central Office ministers and other volunteer workers who excitedly waved small flags of Israel and the INC, when he arrived before 9 a.m. for his courtesy call to the INC Executive Minister.

The visit was significant as it strengthened the friendly relations between Israel and the Church Of Christ.

The first time that the Ambassador visited the INC Central Office was in September 2016.

INC protocol officer Brother Joel San Pedro said Ambassador Matityau's second visit, just before his tour of duty ended, reaffirmed his friendly relations with the INC Executive Minister, as well as the good relations between Israel and the Church Of Christ.

“Since Ambassador Effie Ben Matityau is closing his tour of duty as ambassador of Israel to the Philippines, he wanted to have the opportunity to see again Brother Eduardo Manalo because of the friendly relationship that he has with the Executive Minister and that relation that Israel has with the Iglesia Ni Cristo,” INC minister San Pedro said.

He said that the Israeli ambassador was aware of how busy the INC Executive Minister will be with the upcoming Church activities related to the Church's celebration of its 50 years in the West.

The INC or the Church Of Christ, which was registered in the Philippines on July 27, 1914, held its first worship service in Hawaii and California in July 1968 through then INC Executive Minister Brother Eraño G. Manalo.

Those same missions that began as small groups in Hawaii and California have rapidly expanded to a worldwide mission that now encompasses over 140 countries and territories, including Israel.

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The Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) now has a total of 24 Guinness world record titles after the awarding on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 of four additional Guinness records achieved during the historic May 6 INC Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty (Photo by Jojo Camillo, Eagle News Service)

**Mexico and Brazil Ambassadors visit INC Executive Minister**
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**Trump, Kim share historic handshake; Trump predicts “terrific relationship” ahead**
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**Supreme Court rules Sereno ouster as Chief Justice final**
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INC sets 4 world records for May 6 Worldwide Walk; INC now has 24 Guinness records in all



The Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) now has a total of 24 Guinness world record titles after the awarding on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 of four additional Guinness records achieved during the historic May 6 INC Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty (Photo by Jojo Camillo, Eagle News Service)

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announcement and the awarding of Guinness certificates.

She noted that even the latest Guinness world record title that the INC had set – for the largest charity walk in multiple venues – was already a big achievement, and the number of participants at 773,136 was already hard to overcome.

“Yes, it’s a really large number, and it’s difficult to coordinate so many people around the world. That’s why we can only announce the record title now,” she said.

“I’ve worked with the Iglesia Ni Cristo over all, (there was) a lot of paper work as well. They had people on site at all of the locations. There’s actually 10 adjudicators involved around the world on this one record attempt,” the Guinness official said, explaining the difficulty of the process of validation and verification for the attempt on the largest charity walk in multiple venues.

The Church’s worldwide walk to fight poverty had more than 300 sites across 18 time zones around the world that participated in the simultaneous event on May 6, 2018.

Because of the tedious process involved with the Guinness verification and val-

idation of all sites involved, it took more than a month after the event itself for Guinness to make the announcement and award the record title.

“Iglesia Ni Cristo had set 20 Guinness world record titles in the past. And then today I have awarded four titles. In total, there had been 24 that had been set,” Sapinska said. INC General Auditor, INC minister Glicerio B. Santos Jr., accepted the verified certificate for the largest charity walk in multiple venues from Sapinska.

He raised the Guinness certificate which represented the 24th Guinness record title set by the Church since it started setting world records in July 2012, mostly for socio-civic actions that aimed to help the poor and those in need.

“Yung nakamit natin sa Guinness world record ay 24 certificates. Sabi nga ng iba, yung pagkakaroon natin ng 24 certificates ay record na yun. (What we got from Guinness world records are 24 certificates. As what the others have said, having 24 certificates is a record by itself),” Santos noted.

Santos said the various victories of the Church was because of God’s help. Because of this, he said, the whole Church Of Christ will be praising God for these blessings to the Church.

He said that there were

also other “amazing” victories and achievements that the Church had achieved, through God’s help, and that these involved other works that showed how the Church administration and the whole of the Church membership is showing their love for their fellowmen.

“Ang lahat ng kagila-gilalas at kamanghamanghang mga tagumpay na nangyari sa Iglesia Ni Cristo ngayon, ang lahat ng ito ay ibinabalik natin ang kapurihan sa ating Panginoong Diyos,” said the INC General Auditor after the Guinness certificates had been awarded.

(All these awe-inspiring and amazing victories that are happening in the Church Of Christ today, we bring back the glory to God and we praise Him for all of these.)

God guiding INC Church Administration-

Santos said this also served as a testament as to how God was guiding INC Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo in his stewardship of the Church, as all these victories were happening during the time of his administration of the INC.

“Sa panahon ng kanyang Pamamahala ay nangyayari ang lahat ng mga tagumpay at kahanga-hangang mga gawang ito ng Diyos sa Iglesia. Ito

ang katanayan na ang kapatid na Eduardo Manalo ay hawak ng ating Panginoong Diyos,” he said.

(It is during his [Brother Eduardo’s] administration that all these victories and amazing works of God is happening in the Church. This is testament that our Lord God is guiding Brother Eduardo Manalo.)

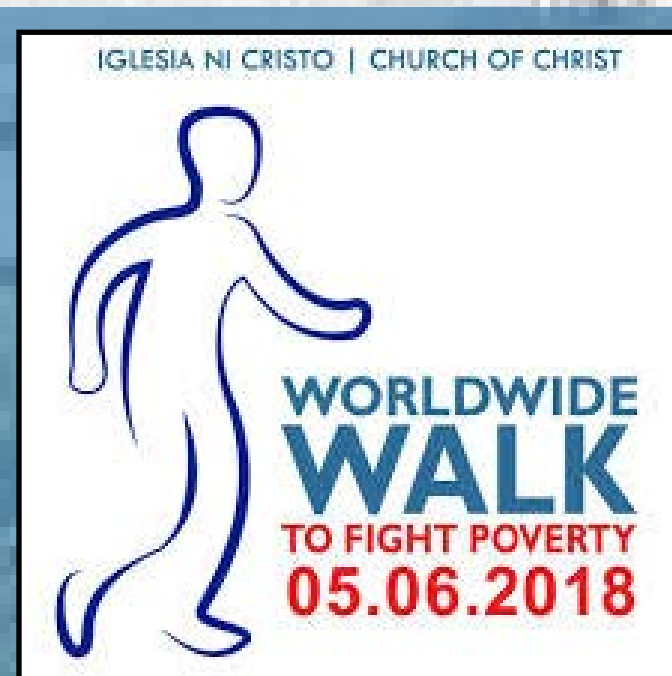
The INC’s May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty was held in more than 300 sites across 18 time zones that will benefit poor communities in Africa.

The Church had set eco-farming sites in Ladybrand and another site in Africa to help poor communities in the region.

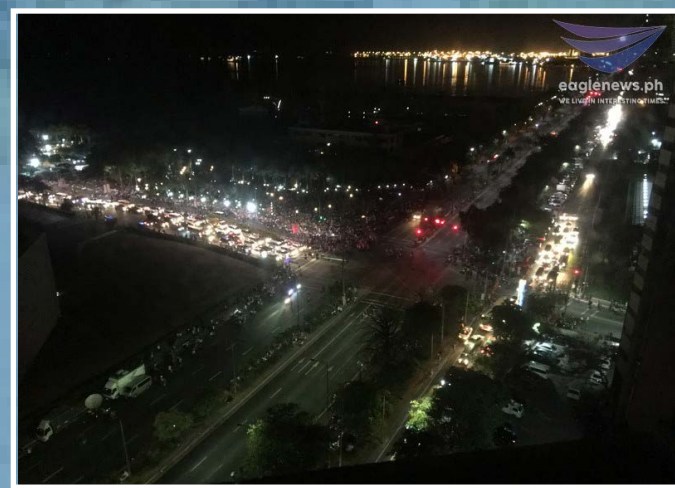
He said that the Church, under the leadership of INC Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, will continue to conduct outreach and socio-civic activities all over the world.

Next week, he said, the INC will also hold more outreach activities in Africa, particularly in Malawi and Kibera in Kenya.

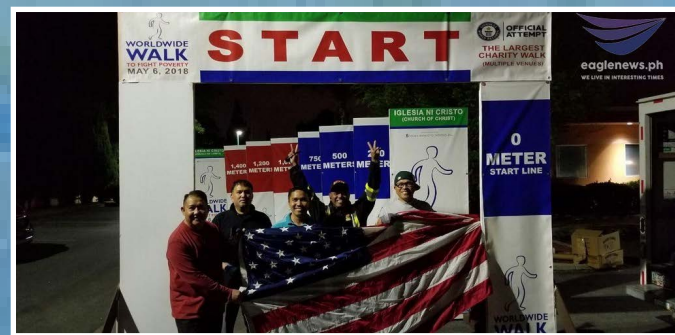
Santos said the whole Church membership is showing their unity to support the Church Administration’s programs, including those that would help people in need as part of the biblical teaching for Church members to love their fellowmen. (Eagle News Service)



Preparations...



INC members from different provinces are seen arriving in Manila for #INCwalktofightpoverty/Photo by Eagle News Service/Meannne Corvera, Nestor Magpile, Marina Ferrer, Jun Regoso



INC members in San Jose, California prepare for Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty/Photos by Don Orozco/Eagle News Service



Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty preparations in George Bush Park, Texas/Photos by Minerva Cortez/Eagle News Service



Members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo prepare for #INCwalktofightpoverty in San Antonio, Texas/ Photos by Flo Corpus/Eagle News Service



Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty preparations in Monrovia, Liberia, Northern Africa/ Photos by Hilmer Barbecho/Eagle News Service

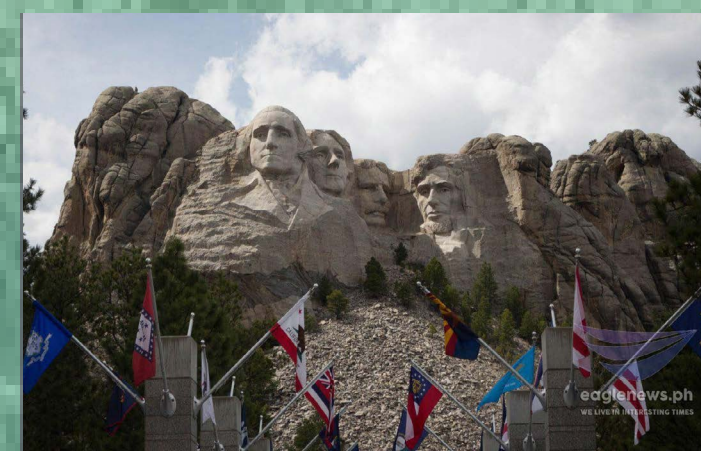
More than 300 sites across the world joined INC worldwide walk vs poverty on May 6



Members of religious group Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) participate on the second “Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty” along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on May 6, 2018. The event hopes to break a world record for the largest charity walk done by Iglesia Ni Cristo in 2014 recognized by The Guinness Book of World Records participated by 519,221 members. / AFP PHOTO / NOEL CELIS



Iglesia ni Cristo members patiently await the start of the Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty in the Cultural Center of the Philippines vicinity early Sunday, May 6. / Earlo Bringas/Eagle News Service/



The iconic Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota, United States which was one of the 300 sites of the Iglesia Ni Cristo’s Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty. (Eagle News Service)



INC members in Tiarac join Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty despite heavy rain



Philippine Ambassador witnesses INC WorldwideWalk in Brazil



Members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) in the Johnsonville, Connecticut site in the United States participate in the Church’s Worldwide Walk to fight Poverty” on Sunday, May 6, 2018. (Eagle News Service)



INC members in Malawi (L) Kampala, Uganda (R) join Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty



Young and old, Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) members in South Dakota excitedly join the INC Worldwide Walk To Fight Poverty at the foot of the iconic Mt. Rushmore. (Eagle News Service)



INC members in Malawi (L) Kampala, Uganda (R) join Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty



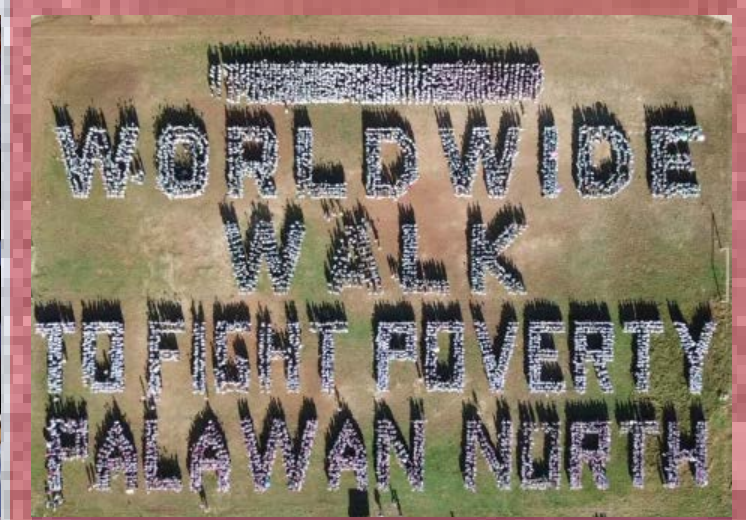
Members of religious group Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) participate on the second “Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty” along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on May 6, 2018. The event hopes to break a world record for the largest charity walk done by Iglesia Ni Cristo in 2014 recognized by The Guinness Book of World Records participated by 519,221 members. / AFP PHOTO / NOEL CELIS



Athens, Greece



Zambales South - Human Monogram



Palawan North - Human Monogram



Nairobi, Kenya

Kabihug tribe members, once beneficiaries of INC's housing and livelihood projects, join Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty



Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty preparations in Monrovia, Liberia, Northern Africa/ Photos by Hilmer Barbecho/Eagle News Service

Supreme Court rules Sereno ouster as Chief Justice final

The Supreme Court has decided with finality to remove Maria Lourdes Sereno as Chief Justice.

This was after the High Court voted to junk Sereno's motion for reconsideration of the May 11 SC ruling that ruled in favor of the quo warranto petition filed against her.

In the quo warranto petition, Solicitor General Jose Calida argued Sereno's appointment as Chief Justice should be nullified because she lacked the integrity required of applicants to the position in the first place.

He said this was after Sereno did not file her Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth when she was a law professor at the University of



Philippine's Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno gestures during "Women vs Strongman: Filipinas Resisting" forum at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Manila on March 22, 2018. / AFP PHOTO / NOEL CELIS

the Philippines.

Voting 8-6, the High Court junked Sereno's

appeal "for lack of merit" in a resolution penned by Associate Justice Noel

Tijam, a media briefer released to reporters on Tuesday, June 19, said.

The eight justices who voted to uphold the May 11 ruling were the

same justices who voted in favor of the quo warranto petition.

These were Tijam, Justices Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Francis Jardeleza, Samuel Martires, Andres Reyes and Alexander Gesmundo.

In junking Sereno's appeal, the High Court said she did not raise new arguments that warrant a reversal of its earlier decision.

The SC as such declared Tuesday, June 19, as the start of the 90-day period to fill the vacancy of chief magistrate.

Sereno is the first Chief Justice to be removed from office via a quo warranto petition. (Maira Encina, Eagle News Service)

On 120th PHL independence day rites, Duterte gives Reds 60 days to talk peace; invites Sison to return home



President Rodrigo Duterte vows to work for peace during his speech commemorating the 120th Philippine independence day in a program held at Kawit, Cavite on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. (Photo grabbed from RTVM video)

President Rodrigo Duterte vowed to work for peace with groups considered "enemies of the state" as he gave peace talks with communist rebels a timeframe of 60 days to come up with an agreement.

During his speech commemorating the 120th Philippine independence, Duterte said that he is "ready to talk" with exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison if he would come to the country.

"Itong mga komunist, I'm ready to talk to them. Why? Because they're more or less fighting for something which is a matter of principle," he said during a program in Kawit, Cavite where Philippine independence was first declared 120 years ago.

President Duterte said it was important to put things in the "proper perspective."

He said that is why he is willing to talk to Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Sison who was once his political science professor.

"I said I will talk to the enemies. That is why I am talking to Sison. Sabi ko, 'we can talk. Bumalik ka dito. Ako ang sasagot sa lahat ng gasutin'," Duterte said during his speech.

"We will talk and we will give each other 60 days to agree," he said describing this as a "small window of opportunity" to come together to arrive at a peace agreement.

"Kaya mahal ko ito sila," he said referring to the communists who, he said, supported him during his presidential campaign.

The President said Sison "can choose a camp where he can stay" and that he will "contribute to (his) subsistence" for the entire 60 days.

"Sana naman maawang Diyos sa atin. If this succeeds, my only problem will be the rebellion in Mindanao," Duterte said.

He said he is also talking to Nur Misuari of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"So I'm talking. Sabi ko, I will talk peace with the enemies of the State - verily they are vis a vis with the legitimate elect-

ed government, they are enemies of the State," he explained.

Duterte stressed he is just fulfilling what he had promised in the campaign, including his pledge to fight crime and corruption, and to work for peace.

President Duterte in ending his speech vowed to "work the extra mile for peace."

He said that the military knew that the New People's Army and the Left supported him.

But he said that when he became the President of the country, his friendship with the Left had been affected.

"This I will guarantee, kayong mga Left, if the talks will not succeed with the Communist Party of the Philippines, I will keep my word of honor, ihatid ko si Maria Sison sa airport. Now, as to his coming back, that's out of the question kasi may kaso po," Duterte said.

"But I am willing to work the extra mile towards peace in our land," he added. (Eagle News Service)

Malacanang welcomes Trump-Kim summit, says PHL gov't supports move that will stabilize region



File photo of Philippine presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque. (Malacanang photo)

Malacanang welcomed the landmark summit between United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, saying the Philippines is supportive of these efforts towards peace.

"We welcome the landmark summit between US President Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore," said Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque Jr.

Roque said that this development "has underscored in the strongest terms the value of diplomacy and peaceful dialogue."

He said the Trump-Kim summit on June 12, the first-ever meeting between a US President and a North Korean leader, "augurs well for the peace, security and stability in the region and the world."

"History has indeed been written. At the same time, this is but the beginning of a process. The Philippines is ready and willing to lend its support toward bringing it to fruition," Roque said.

Earlier, Trump stressed the importance of his talk with Kim which he said prevented a "potential nuclear catastrophe."

The US President said that his talk with Kim was a great move for peace.

"The World has taken a big step back from potential Nuclear catastrophe! No more rocket launches, nuclear testing or research! The hostages are back home with their families. Thank you to Chairman Kim, our day together was historic," he said in his tweet on the heels of his historic summit with the North Korean leader in Singapore.

Trump also thanked Kim for his "bold step," saying that their summit proved that "real change is possible."

"I want to thank Chairman Kim for taking the first bold step toward a bright new future for his people. Our unprecedented meeting - the first between an American President and a leader of North Korea - proves that real change is possible!" the US leader said. (Eagle News)

Palace: Policemen only arrest loiterers if they violate laws

Malacañang clarified on Thursday, June 21, that loiterers are arrested only if they violate existing laws.

These laws, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said, include ordinances against smoking, drinking in public places, among others.

"Lilinawin ko lang po na itong kampanya laban sa tam-

bay is really a part of crime prevention. It is in line with the President's role as chief implementer of the law," he said.

No arrest of 7000 loiterers therefore, took place, contrary to what some media reported, he said.

He said the loiterers were merely told to go home.

"We don't have the space for that given that mayroon na

nga tayong overcrowding sa jail facilities natin," he said.

Should there be police officers who violate the rights of some individuals during operations, Roque said the public should file charges against them.

"It's about time that we promote this kind of discipline without sanctioning human rights violations," he said. (Eagle News Service)

PHL in talks with China to address issue of Chinese Coast Guard getting Filipino fishermen's catch

Malacanang has said it is already "taking pro-active measures" to address the problem of Filipino fishermen and Chinese Coast Guard as it noted that the Chinese ambassador to the Philippines and the Department of Foreign Affairs have also been talking about the issue.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said that the Philippine government has officially relayed the problem to the Chinese government to address this issue, and provide solutions, including possible sanctions to members of the Chinese Coast Guard if their "inappropriate" action would be proven during the investigation.

"Mayroon pong problema pero hiningan na po namin ang gobyerno ng Tsina na gumawa ng mga hakbang para bigyan ng solusyon ang problemang ito," Roque said in a previous press briefing.

"At kinonfirm ko po na nakapag-usap na po si Secretary Alan Cayetano at si Ambassador Zhao hinggil sa insidenteng ito," the official said.

Roque said that he was also assured by the Chinese ambassador

that what the certain members of the Chinese coast guard did, in boarding Philippine fishing boats and selecting the best fish from their catch, was "not a policy of China."

"We are demanding that the Chinese take steps to stop the coast guard from doing these acts," Roque told reporters.

"That is unacceptable. That is why we informed the Chinese we will not allow fish to be taken from our countrymen."

Chinese ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua, said that this was an "isolated" case and added that the Chinese government would look into the matter.

-Beijing action pressed-

"Inassure rin po ako ng Ambassador na hindi po ito polisiya ng Tsina, na nagiimbestiga ang Beijing, at kung mapapatunayan itong mga sinasabi ng mga mangingisda ay may kaparusahang ipapataw dito sa mga Chinese Coast Guard na ito," Roque said.

In a Palace press briefing, Roque admitted

that there was indeed an incident where Chinese Coast Guard took fishes from Filipino fishermen in Scarborough Shoal.

During that briefing, Roque was joined by three fishermen - Delfin Egana, Romel Cejuela, and Jurry Drio.

But he clarified that what happened in the seas was some sort of barter trading between the Filipino fishermen and the Chinese Coast Guard who gave the fishermen noodles, cigarettes and most importantly drinking water in exchange for the fish they got.

"Ang sumatatol po ay totoo po na nagkaroon ng insidente na kinuhanan ng isda ang ating mga mangingisda sa Scarborough, pero sangayon po sa kanila mayroong ibinibigay na kapalit," Roque said.

"Kada kinukuhanan sila ng isda, binibigyan sila ng noodles, sigarilyo, at pinakaimportante tubig dahil palagi silang nagkukulang sa tubig," he explained.

The Presidential spokesperson said that in one of the bilateral talks between President Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping, both leaders have arrived



Filipino fishermen wave from a fishing boat bound to fish near Scarborough Shoal in Masinloc, Zambales, May 10, 2012. REUTERS/Erik De Castro

at a decision that Filipino fishermen are already allowed to fish in Scarborough Shoal.

In contrast, he said, Filipinos were barred from fishing in the Scarborough Shoal by China before.

"Ang pangangisda po sa Boro (Scarborough) ay hindi lang naging ruling ng Aribital Tribunal, ito po ay naging usapin sa panig mismo ni President Xi (Jinping) at President Duterte na pupwede nang mangis-dang muli ang ating mga

mangingisda doon sa tinatawag na Boro," Roque said.

Roque also noted that this issue is but a dent and will not, in any way, affect the bilateral relations between the two countries developed during Duterte administration.

"Naniniwala po kami na hindi ito official policy dahil mayroon nga pong kasunduan sa panig ni President Xi at President Duterte," Roque said.

"Napakaliit na bagay po ito para maapektuhan

ang kabuuan ng bilateral relations natin sa Tsina," Roque added.

The three fishermen, meanwhile, thanked the Duterte administration for a quick response regarding this dilemma.

"Nagpapasalamat kami kay President Duterte na nakakapasok na kami diyan sa loob, nakakapangisda na kami ulit diyan. Hindi na kami hinaharangan [ng Chinese Coast Guard]," said fisherman Romel Cejuela. (Eagle News Service with a Malacañang release)

Sison: NPA, gov't troops reach "stand down" agreement; preliminary ceasefire agreement to start on June 21

The New People's Army and government troops will be ordered to "stand down" on June 21 "to stimulate the resumption of formal peace talks."

This is according to Jose Maria Sison, chief political consultant to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, who issued a statement on Wednesday, June 13.

According to Sison, the preliminary ceasefire agreement, which means that both sides will be required to "stay where (they) are" and to not shoot, was a result of success-

ful back-channel negotiations in the Netherlands between the government and the communists.

"The stand-down agreement...is also to prepare for the coordinated unilateral ceasefires, which are a more advanced form of ceasefire," Sison said.

He said the agreement was reached even after a plan to declare a ceasefire on June 14 was postponed "because of the delayed court permission for the six NDFP consultants to surface and travel."

He was apparently re-

ferring to consultants Benito Tiamzon, Rafael Baylosis, Alan Jazmines, Randal Echanis, Vicente Ladlad and Adelberto Silva, who were allowed by the courts to travel for the talks last week.

Sison said formal peace negotiations were slated to start on June 28, in Oslo, Norway.

Earlier, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered his officials to work toward the resumption of peace talks.

Last year, Duterte canceled the talks following what he said were the abuses com-



Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison. /www.ndfp.org/

mitted by the communist rebels despite ongoing negotiations. (Eagle News Service)

NEDA: Workers' skills must meet Build Build Build's needs

By Phoebe Salvador
Eagle News Service

Projecting over a million of new jobs created yearly due to the government's massive infrastructure program, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) emphasized the need to ensure that the laborers' skills and competencies match the industry's needs.

"To fully maximize gains from 'Build Build Build,' the Philippine labor market should be ready to meet the infrastructure program's requirements. Bodies governing the education and labor sectors have a crucial role in this," Socioeconomic Plan-

ning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said.

Pernia pointed out that key government agencies such as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) should coordinate with industries to identify appropriate skills for construction-related activities.

Pernia noted that education programs like the K to 12 should produce a more appropriately trained and skilled workforce, adding "The K to 12 program requires a strong academe-industry linkage to prepare students after graduation. 'Build Build Build' pres-

ents real opportunities for those in search of work."

Similarly, Pernia stressed that attention should also be given to returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who are skilled or need re-training to be absorbed in the construction industry.

NEDA likewise proposed that all job requirements of the "Build Build Build" program be posted on www.PhilJobsNet.gov.ph, the Philippine government's official online job site so that returning OFWs are kept abreast of new opportunities in the country.

"Apart from closing the country's infrastructure gap, our aim is to create many employment opportunities and assist Filipino families in achieving the kind of

life that they desire," Pernia said.

NEDA earlier stated that it expects an average of 1.1 million jobs to be generated annually, mostly from the construction sector, in line with the "Build Build Build" program of the Duterte administration. For this year, around 820,000 new jobs are specifically projected with a number of infrastructure projects breaking ground.

Citing data from the Philippine Statistics Authority's Labor Force Survey, NEDA reported that 420,000 jobs in construction were created in 2017, a 13.2 percent increase from 2016's figure. (Eagle News Service)

Paolo Duterte to sue Trillanes for libel

Former Davao Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte said he would file complaints against Senator Antonio Trillanes IV for “viciously destroying my name, maligning my reputation and integrity, and for deliberately manufacturing lies and spreading black propaganda against me.”

The libel charges stem from Trillanes’ statements implicating the presidential son in the P6.4-billion shabu shipment mess in May 2017 last year.

Trillanes had alleged in a Senate inquiry into the shabu shipment mess that the younger Duterte was a member of the so-called Davao Group that is involved in



Former Davao Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte



Senator Antonio Trillanes IV

smuggling activities.

The lawmaker also claimed the presidential son was part of the “triad,” or an international crime syndicate, based on a supposed tattoo the younger Duterte had on his back.

The presidential son denied all allegations.

“Senator Trillanes manufactured lies and deliberately spread these lies with the obvious intention of destroying my name and maligning my reputation, with a view to impacting negatively against our beloved President,” the younger Duterte said.

According to him, Trillanes was “apparently em-

boldened by his false reliance on and abuse of his parliamentary immunity.”

“But this immunity does not apply to libelous remarks made during media interviews, clearly as these attacks were done outside the halls of the Senate — and definitely not when these were discharged with the pure intention of destroying me,” the younger Duterte said.

In a television interview, Trillanes said he would face the charges to be filed against him even if they would have “no basis.”

“I was able to establish the direct link and other circumstantial link sa major players na nag-import ng droga,” he alleged. (Eagle News)

PNP tightly guarding AFP-PNP housing in Rodriguez, Rizal; warns Kadamay not to ever enter area



The housing units for personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Rodriguez, Rizal

Policemen are now tightly guarding housing units meant for personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Rodriguez, Rizal, round-the-clock after members of the urban poor group KADAMAY on Wednesday, June 13, tried to forcibly enter and take over several housing units in the area.

Even the homeowners’ association in the area vowed not to let their guard down.

Policemen are now on a 24/7 routine, along with the homeowners’ association members, guarding the housing area to protect units that are meant for cops and soldiers.

Whereas before the policemen tried to keep their silence when KADAMAY first occupied their housing units in Pandi, Bulacan, this time the policemen “won’t allow this to happen again.”

PNP Region 4-A director

Chief Supt. Edward Carranza stressed that the life of a policeman and a soldier is so difficult and it would be unfair for Kadamay members to grab their housing units.

“We will not allow na itong mga pabahay para sa sundalo – alam nyo mahirap mabuhay ang sundalo’t pulis, aagawin pa ng iba, and good na-reinforce din yung drive naming kasi may nangyari na nga before sa Bulacan,” he said.

President’s instructions

Carranza welcomed the pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte that he would not allow Kadamay members to occupy another housing unit reserved for the AFP and the PNP, after the incident in Pandi, Bulacan in March 2017.

“Good that the President already gave us instructions na ano na yun, Yung nangyari doon sa Bulacan yun ang

una’t huli (What happened in Bulacan will be the first and the last [incident of Kadamay take-over]),” the PNP regional director said.

The members of the housing association also vowed to help the PNP in guarding the housing units.

They said that they will be guarding the housing area 24/7 so that Kadamay members won’t be able to enter again.

Counter-force in place

Carranza said that the PNP now has a “counter-force” so that Kadamay won’t be able to do another take-over.

“Baka naman i-employ nila yung principles na ginagamit ni Hitler, yung blitzkrieg, e ayaw natin yun.. so meron tayong counter-force para hindi na mangyari na bumalik pa sila rito,” he said.

He also appealed to the members of the Kadamay not

to grab housing units which are not meant for them, saying that this was an injustice.

“Yun namang mga grupo ng Kadamay, maging parehas din kayo.. Kung hindi nyo bahay. Huwag nyong agawin. Eh gusto nyo justice you’re not doing justice,” the PNP official stressed.

Susan Nonato, regional manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA) said that it was clear to even the Kadamay members that they would only be given housing units if these are not assigned to any AFP or PNP beneficiary.

She stressed that all the AFP and PNP beneficiaries have followed the process, and it was not right for Kadamay members to just seize housing units.

“Nakikipagmeeting sila sa opisina, nakikipag-usap pero kung talaga pong meron pang bakante. Pero nakikita po natin na ito ay para sa AFP PNP. So sila naman dumaan rin sa proceso. Hindi po yung lusub-lusob lang,” she added.

PNP region 4 director Chief Supt. Carranza said that they would organize the residents in the AFP/PNP housing.

“Kahit wala na rito yung grupo ng Kadamay, ang ikinakatakot natin, ina-avoid natin ay yung kailang blitzkrieg tactics na bigla silang dudumog dito na pagkarami-rami, walang magawa nga ang mga residente rito, but kailangang ngang orgnisahin. Madali naman i-organize ito dahil puro pulis at sundalo,” he said. (with Gerald Rañez, Eagle News Service)

Duterte orders investigation into reported “tanim-bala” incident at NAIA



Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Photo courtesy: wikimedia.org)

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered an investigation into a reported “tanim-bala” incident at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In a Facebook post, Special Assistant to the President Bong Go said the “concerned agencies” have been ordered “to address” the incident reported by one Kristine Moran “within 24 hours.”

Moran, who claimed she was a government employee, said in a social media post that the incident took place on July 15, as she and her relatives were headed to Zamboanga at the NAIA Terminal 3.

“Upon check in going to Zamboanga and passing by X-ray I was held by the officer that my bag was to be for opened for inspection. I obliged thinking that they saw the ‘black box’ that I have inside it (a black box is a small equipment in Physical Therapy we use for treating our patients). I placed my bag and the man with the grey sweater help me and even help me opened my bag. He opened it and got an item my daughter’s jumpsuit saying ‘etu yun’ but there was nothing in it. The other officer said ‘buksan pa natin’ to my shock and dismay I saw a bullet inside the front pocket of my baggage. It was I tiny bullet (9 mm) goodness!!!” she said.

According to Go, “we are expecting (the concerned agencies) to comply or face the consequences.”

“Sinabi na ng Pangulong Duterte noon, na pag nangyari pa ito, ipapakain niya yung bala sa taong gumawa, and I assure everyone, he will really do it. Bukas ang tanggapan namin para tumanggap ng reklamo. Magtulungan po tayong para matigil ang ganitong klaseng panloloko,” he said.

The “tanim-bala” modus in the country’s airport was first reported in a travel website in 2012.

Then-President Benigno Aquino III ordered a probe into such incidents amid public outcry.

The incidents, however, continued.

When Duterte assumed office, he threatened to fire the entire airport police if another such incident took place. (Eagle News Service)

Avoid corruption, fight illegal drugs, President Duterte tells newly promoted uniformed personnel

President Rodrigo Duterte warned police officials and other uniformed personnel not to even think about engaging in corruption or illegal drug operations, as he swore in 59 newly promoted personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

He said that illegal drugs and corruption are

the two things that he will not tolerate during his term.

“Corruption talagang ayaw ko at lahat kayo dumaan ng Davao, alam ninyo ‘yan. All of you who sojournd Davao at one time or another in your career, alam ninyo ‘yan na ayaw ko talaga ‘yang corruption,” he said in his speech during the oath-taking ceremony in Malacanang on Wednesday, June 13.

Duterte, who ran under a campaign promise that he will work to eradicate illegal drugs, criminality and corrup-

tion, warned the officials not to even think of using their position to protect illegal drug activity.

“I only promised you and if you kindly remember, I said I’d stop corruption, I will go against drugs, that I will talk to the enemies of the state so that we can have at least peace in our generation. And I said hindi ako makialam sa mga transaksyon sa gobyerno. Sa totoo lang ginawa ko lahat ‘yan at ginagawa ko hanggang ngayon,” he said during his speech.

The President told the police, coast guard, jail and fire officials, that he had already removed many of his cabinet men — even his friends — for even a whiff of corruption, citing a former cabinet official handling the Philippine National Police (PNP), sacked Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael “Mike” Sueno.

“Corruption, marami na akong tinanggal. Even the Cabinet secretary handling the pulis, kayo, pati ‘yung excessive travels and everything,

‘Yung corruption talagang, you know, hinihiritan ko and I have fired several guys, those even with me during my mayorship days in 1988. I was mayor for 22 years and most of you dumaan ng Davao, at least Mindanao. Kaya wala akong ano. I said I will stop corruption tapos hihiritan ko itong droga because it is destroying the nation. Marami itong corollary effects sa buhay ng Pilipino. Napakasakit. Then I said the law and order but I have to talk to the enemies of the state,” he said.

“Basta ako hindi ko know, hinihiritan ko and I have fired several guys, those even with me during my mayorship days in 1988. I was mayor for 22 years and most of you dumaan ng Davao, at least Mindanao. Kaya wala akong ano. I said I will stop corruption tapos hihiritan ko itong droga because it is destroying the nation. Marami itong corollary effects sa buhay ng Pilipino. Napakasakit. Then I said the law and order but I have to talk to the enemies of the state,” he said.

Albayalde: Suspects will no longer be presented to the media

By Meanne Corvera
Eagle News Service

The Philippine National Police will no longer present arrested suspects before the media.

PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde said on Monday, June 11, that the policy was in line with a memorandum issued by the PNP leadership in 2008 that said that such a presentation was a violation of the rights of the suspects.

Albayalde made the statement on the same day the Eastern Police District announced the arrest of 29 personalities over drug-related offenses since Saturday, June 9.

Of the 29, Senior Supt. Orlando Yebra Jr., Pasig City chief of police, said seven were caught in a pot session, 12 were arrested for illegal drug possession, and 10 were arrested in buy-bust operations.

“We just want to (implement) the policy that no suspects would be paraded,” Albayalde said.



PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde (Photo grab from Net25)

NCRPO: Ban on police presentation of nabbed suspects to media not new



Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar, National Capital Region Police Office head, at the set of Net 25’s “Sa Ganang Mamamayan” on Thursday, June 14, /Eagle News Service/

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) clarified on Thursday, June 14, that the recently announced ban on the police’s presentation of arrested suspects to the media was not a new directive.

NCRPO chief Guillermo Eleazar said in an interview with Net 25’s Sa Ganang Mamamayan that Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Albayalde only ordered his men to comply with a 10-year-old memorandum implemented since 2008, under then-PNP chief Director General Jesus Verzosa.

“Hindi siya [referring to Albayalde] nagbibigay ng bagong guidelines. Kumbaga, yung mga dati lang iniimplement niya,” he said.

He said Albayalde decided to re-im-

plement the order after considering the concerns of human rights advocates about the basic rights of the arrested suspects and their relatives, such as rights to privacy and due process of the law.

According to Eleazar, instead of presenting suspects in a “firing squad” manner, the PNP will provide the media with mugshots and records of actual operations.

He added the media were also still allowed to shoot action videos and request for interviews with the arrested suspects.

“Maganda naman ‘yun [referring to the directive] dahil ‘yun naman po ay pinag-aralan before and so we respect the wisdom of the leadership— yung pagbabalik po nitong implementasyong ito...ito’y maganda rin para sa karapatan ng bawat lahat,” he said. (Eagle News Service)

Mother, son nabbed after P163-M shabu seized in Manila

By Mar Gabriel and Phoebe Salvador
Eagle News Service



Ian Akira Calabio (L) and Ruby Calabio (R) were arrested in Sta. Ana, Manila for possession of illegal drugs, on June 12, 2018 / eaglenews.ph

A mother and her son were arrested after anti-drug operatives seized shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride worth P163 million in a buy-bust operation in Sta. Ana, Manila on Tuesday, June 12.

The Northern Police District reported that Ruby Calabio, 61, and Ian Akira Calabio, 20, were arrested for

possession of a luggage bag containing 24 kilograms of shabu that were wrapped in tea packaging.

According to Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Albayalde, the said illegal drugs were likely imported abroad.

“This [is] indicative doon sa nakuha din nating 650 kilos na shabu that was being

Authorities discover “mini-plantation” of marijuana in Marikina City

A “mini-plantation” of marijuana was discovered by authorities in Marikina City on Thursday, June 7.

Two people, Miguel Joseph Arias and Danica Joyce Tapar, were arrested following the discovery of the plantation in SSS Village, Barangay Concepcion that housed P4 million worth of marijuana at 10 p.m.

A 17-year-old was also placed under custody.

Marikina City Police Chief Sr. Supt. Roger Quesada said the discovery was made after Arias transacted with a poseur-buyer in the area.

He said 800 grams of suspected marijuana leaves



Authorities discovered a “mini-plantation” of marijuana in Marikina on Thursday, June 7, EPD/

with fruiting tops, 31 pots of grown marijuana plants, three medium-sized pots of grown marijuana, five small glasses of grown marijuana, one plastic sealer, three jars containing dried marijuana leaves, one digital weighing scale, and two P500 bills used as buy-bust money, among others, were recovered.

The two suspects are slated to face criminal charges. The minor will be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. (Eagle News Service)

★★★★

DOTr to start distribution of fuel vouchers to jeepney drivers next month

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) will start the distribution of fuel vouchers to jeepney drivers next month.

According to Transportation Undersecretary Tim Orbos, the vouchers are to

help mitigate the effects of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law on drivers.

A Php 2,000 fuel voucher will be given to each driver every month.

In a year, vouchers worth Php 26,000 can be used by

each driver for the purchase of diesel.

According to Orbos only legitimate franchise holders will benefit from the program.

Orbos said the subsidies are retroactive. (Eagle News Service)

★★★★

BOC seizes P4.5 million worth of smuggled onions from China

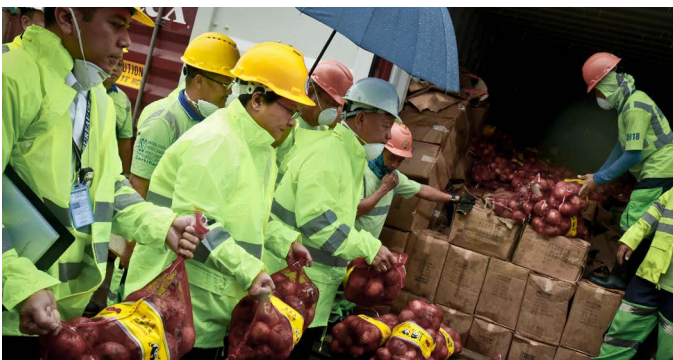
The Bureau of Customs has seized P4.5 million worth of smuggled onions from China.

In a statement on Monday, June 11, BOC Commissioner Isidro Lapena said the three-footer containers that held the onions arrived on May 22 and were confiscated after an X-ray scan by the X-ray Inspection Project.

The BOC said the shipment was consigned to Precious Prince Enterprises supposedly located on 15320-B Street corner Michael Street, San Agustin Village, Moonwalk, Parañaque City.

The broker was Reymund Ledesma Cigaraya.

“Scanned image showed other items that do not correspond to the declaration which are mugs, sau-



The Bureau of Customs has seized P4.5 million worth of smuggled onions from China, the agency said in a statement issued on Monday, June 11, /BOC/

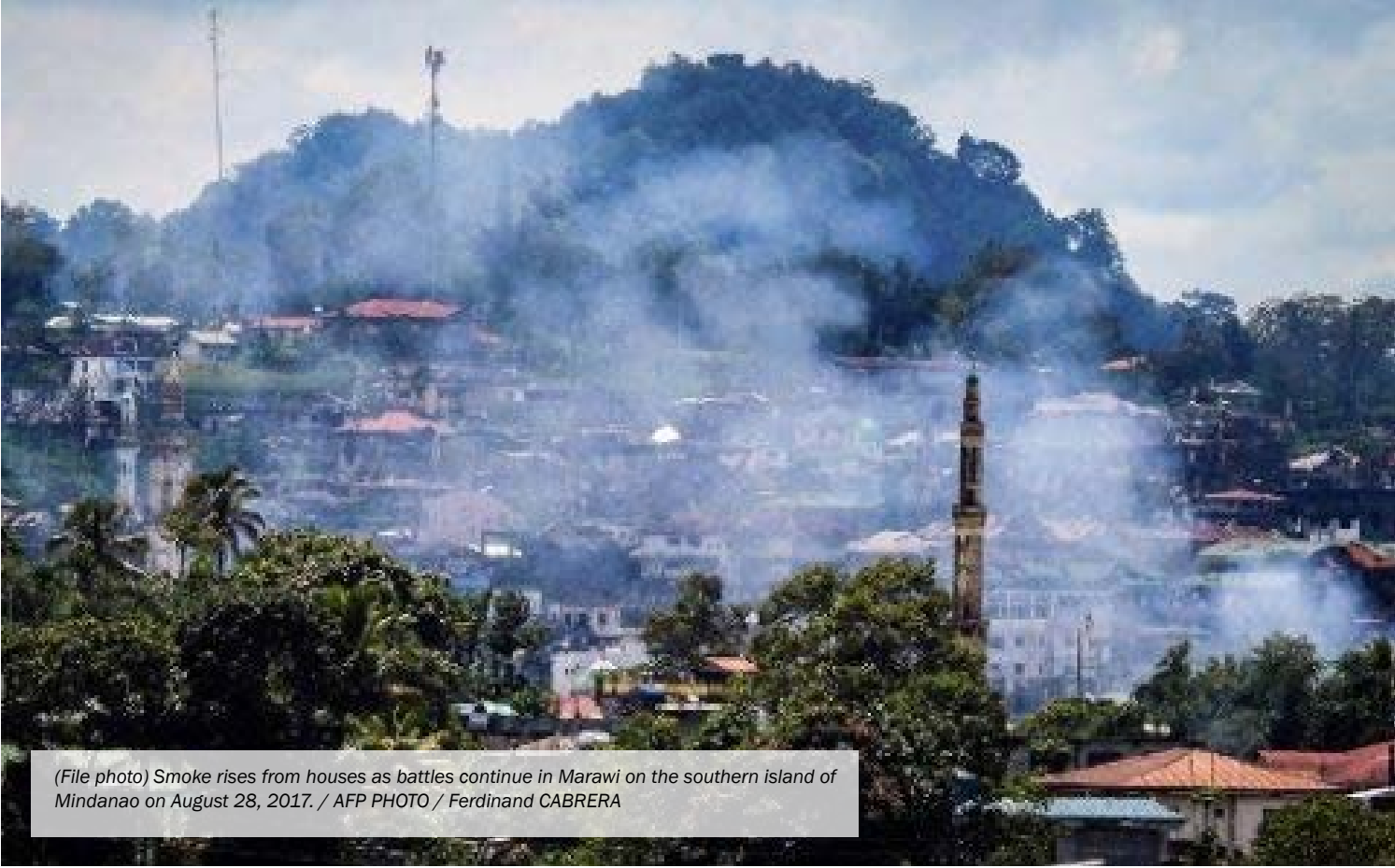
cer, and decors,” Lapena said.

According to the BOC, XIP Chief Atty. Zsae Carrie de Guzman recommended the issuance of an alert order, which District Collector Atty. Erastus Sandino Austria issued to prevent the release of the smuggled goods from Customs’ custody.

“A warrant for seizure and detention will be issued against the P4.5-million worth shipment for violating Section 1400 in relation to Sections 1113 and 1401 of the Customs Modernization Tariff Act,” Lapena said.

Charges will be filed against the importer and the Customs broker, Lapena added. (Eagle News Service)

Firefight erupts between military troops, Maute members in Lanao del Sur



(File photo) Smoke rises from houses as battles continue in Marawi on the southern island of Mindanao on August 28, 2017. / AFP PHOTO / Ferdinand CABRERA

Roque: Charges to be filed vs people who will forcibly occupy NHA units

Those who will insist in forcibly occupying National Housing Authority units will be charged.

This is according to Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, who made the pronouncement a day after around 500 members of the Montalban Homeless Association, a local chapter of the urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, trooped to a housing project in Rodriguez, Rizal but were driven away by local policemen.

The project was intended for the military and other uniformed personnel.

"A warning has been given by the President..They will

have to deal with the full extent of the law" if that happens again, Roque said.

He said the President has "given directives to the police that Kadamay should not be allowed" to occupy the units.

Restraint

In a statement, Senator JV Ejercito, chair of the Senate housing committee, urged Kadamay leaders to "restrain their members."

He said "unlawful acts like this, instead of helping, will only add confusion."

"I understand the magnitude of the housing problem; the fact that many of our ka-

babayans still do not have a house they can call their own. But as we are in the process of addressing this problem—including the creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is envisioned to address problems such as this...sa harap ng mga problemang kinakaharap natin, hindi solusyon ang paglabag sa batas at pagyurak sa karapatan ng iba," he added.

According to Roque, Duterte also ordered the NHA to explain why there are "idle" housing units, and asked them when they intended to give the housing units to the beneficiaries.

This is not the first time members of the urban poor group barged in an NHA project.

Members of Kadamay occupied government housing projects in Pandi town, Bulacan province and Rodriguez last year.

This prompted the President to appeal to soldiers and policemen, who were supposed to be beneficiaries of the units, to give way to the protesters.

He promised to build nicer and bigger houses for the uniformed personnel instead.

(With a report from Meanne Corvera, Eagle News Correspondent)

Australian gets life imprisonment in Philippine child sex abuse case



Scully leaves the court handcuffed to another inmate (L) after his arraignment in Cagayan de Oro City on June 16, 2015. / AFP /

An Australian man has been sentenced to life in a Philippine prison as part of a notorious child sexual abuse case in which prosecutors say he chained the victims like dogs.

Peter Scully still faces another trial and dozens of more charges, including allegations he made child pornography and murdered a young girl.

The Philippines has become a key hub for a billion-dollar, global child cybersex industry, police have warned, with operators helped by widespread poverty.

Scully was convicted Wednesday of trafficking and rape by a court in the southern Philippines, three years after he was arrested there and accused of sexually abusing and filming girls including an 18-month-old baby.

The Cagayan de Oro court sentenced Scully and his Filipina partner to life in prison without parole and imposed a fine of five million pesos (\$93,700) for trafficking Filipino girls then aged ten and 12, the regional prosecutor said.

"This is a big victory for us. This sends a very strong signal to traffickers that this government is serious in pursuing and prosecuting these cases," Merlynn Uy, officer-in-charge of the regional prosecutor's office, told AFP.

"These girls were lured into his apartment and they said that they were chained on the neck, like dogs on a leash."

Scully was also found

guilty of rape, which carries a minimum of six years behind bars.

He was arrested in 2015 in Malaybalay after fleeing from Australia in 2011. He had come to the Philippines to escape fraud charges in his home country.

He then set up a cybersex business, filming teenage girls from impoverished families as he had sex with them or used sex toys, investigators said.

The videos were allegedly sold to customers in Germany, the United States, and Brazil.

Most of the people who pay to view these types of sex videos are abroad, with potentially thousands of children being abused, often with their parents' consent, authorities said.

Scully faces another trial for the second batch of 60 charges including the rape of an 18-month-old baby girl and the rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl. It is not clear when those proceedings will start.

The social welfare department said Scully's victims remained in government custody.

"The children have been traumatized. We provide them therapy to help them prepare for a normal life," regional social welfare director Nestor Ramos told AFP.

Australia's foreign affairs department told AFP it was providing consular assistance to Scully but declined to comment further citing "privacy obligations."

(Agence France-Presse)

Trump, Kim share historic handshake; Trump predicts "terrific relationship" ahead

by Andrew BEATTY / Richard CARTER
Agence France Presse

Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un made history Tuesday, June 12 becoming the first sitting US and North Korean leaders to meet and shake hands, as they seek to end a tense decades-old nuclear stand-off.

The two men strode toward each other and shared the momentous handshake beneath the white-washed walls of an upscale hotel in neutral Singapore, before sitting down for a half-day of meetings with major ramifications for the world.

They shook hands for several seconds, Trump reaching out to touch the North Korean leader on his right shoulder.

As they sat down for their one-on-one meeting, the US leader predicted a "terrific relationship" with Kim.

The extraordinary summit was unthinkable only months ago.

Then, the two nuclear-armed foes appeared on the verge of conflict, as Kim conducted nuclear and missile tests and the two leaders slung personal insults.

Trump had cajoled the international community to exert "maximum pressure" to buckle Kim's regime and threatened to unleash "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if Pyongyang did not disarm.

For his part, Kim called the US leader "mentally deranged" and a "dotard" as he



US President Donald Trump (R) gestures as he meets with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (L) at the start of their historic US-North Korea summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore on June 12, 2018. Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un have become on June 12 the first sitting US and North Korean leaders to meet, shake hands and negotiate to end a decades-old nuclear stand-off. / AFP PHOTO

fired off a series of provocative weapons tests.

That seemed a distant memory amid the palms of the ultra-exclusive Capella Hotel.

It is a potentially legacy-defining meeting for both men — comparable to president Richard Nixon's 1972 visit to China, or Ronald Reagan's summit 1986 with Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik.

And it is part of what Trump calls a "one-time" offer to resolve the stand-off

through diplomacy.

"We will all know soon whether or not a real deal, unlike those of the past, can happen!" Trump tweeted shortly before departing for the summit.

Hugely symbolic talks

The pair — Kim in his thirties and consolidating his dictatorship, Trump in his seventies and struggling to bend Washington to his impetuous will — are unlikely protagonists, both instantly recognizable, so

much larger-than-life as to be cartoonish.

But their work today is deadly serious.

They represent nations that are still technically at war, even if the mortars, carbines and gunships of the bloody 1950s conflict have long since fallen silent.

But that frozen Cold War-era conflict risks being thawed by North Korea's increasingly potent weapons programs.

The totalitarian regime is on the cusp of marrying nuclear

and missile technology that would put Los Angeles, New York and Washington within striking distance of a nuclear holocaust.

The United States says that is unacceptable and will be dealt with, one way or another.

For North Korea the talks are hugely significant.

Standing beside the US president in front of a phalanx of cameras is an enormous step toward ending decades of international isolation and legitimises a regime which is

among the world's most ruthless.

'Brighter future'

Still, it remains far from clear that Pyongyang is willing to give up its nukes — weapons that may be the ultimate guarantee of regime survival.

On the eve of the meeting, aides for both men were still scrambling to narrow yawning differences over "denuclearisation", which means vastly different things to the two parties.

Trump will use what he says are legendary instincts to see whether Kim is bluffing, buying time or is serious.

In return, his administration may be willing to offer secular normalizations, normalisation of relations, sanctions relief and economic aid that would transform North Korea from the sick man of Asia.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on the eve of the summit that the United States is willing to offer the regime "unique" security guarantees.

"We will take actions to provide them sufficient certainty that they can be comfortable that denuclearization is not something that ends badly for them," Pompeo said.

"Just the opposite. That it leads to a brighter and better future for the North Korean people."

Kim and Trump will first meet one-on-one in a closed session, before a larger meeting with key advisers, US officials said. (Agence France Presse)

Acting Chief Justice Carpio condemns killing of judge in Camarines Sur



Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio

Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio on Wednesday, June 13, condemned the killing of a Camarines Sur judge on Tuesday, June 12.

In a statement, Carpio said he condemned "in the strongest terms" the killing of Judge Ricky Begino of the Metropolitan Circuit Trial Court of San Jose-Lagunoy.

Begino was shot by one Wilfredo Armea in the judge's own house in Barangay Sta. Maria, Present-

acion town, around 5 p.m., police said.

He was rushed to the hospital for treatment but died later in the day.

Armea was arrested in a follow-up operation.

Carpio called on the authorities to "take the necessary steps with all deliberate speed to do justice for Judge Begino by fully investigating his killing."

I extend my condolences to Judge Begino's family, he said. (Eagle news Service)

Duterte to decide on whether to allow open-pit mining or not "before December"

President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday, June 14, said he would decide on whether or not to allow open-pit mining in the country.

The President made the announcement during the oath-taking of newly elected barangay chiefs in the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon region in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The President did not lift the ban on open-pit mining imposed by then-Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, after he rejected the proposal of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council for the same in November 2017.

In April, Duterte said the ban might still be in place by 2019. "Matagal na akong mainit sa mining pero may mining law and if I am the president, I have to execute the laws," he said.

"Before December I will decide," he said. (Eagle News Service)

★★★★

Authorities nab former Air Force member for illegal drug possession, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition

A former member of the Philippine Air Force was arrested after authorities recovered suspected shabu, among others, from his house in Batangas on Wednesday, June 13.

The suspect was identified as Avelino Bautista.

According to the authorities, apart from the two sachets of suspected shabu and drug paraphernalia, a blank bullet from an M-16, a caliber 45 gun with seven bullets, among others, were found in Bautista's house in St. Joseph Subdivision in Barangay Tambo at 10:20 pm.

The house, the authorities said, was the subject of a search warrant.

The suspect is now facing charges for violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

He is detained in the Lipa City custodial facility. (Ghadz Rodelas, Eagle News Correspondent)

UN chief urged to raise Ukrainian prisoners in talks with Putin



(FILE) Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Saint Petersburg on June 2, 2017. / AFP Photo / Tass Host Photo Agency / Stanislav Krasilnikov

The United States, France, Britain and 35 other countries asked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday to raise the case of jailed film director Oleg Sentsov and dozens of other Ukrainian prisoners during his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin next week.

The UN chief will hold talks with Putin on Wednesday and attend a Portugal-Morocco match during the World Cup that Russia is hosting.

The 38 countries wrote in a letter to Guterres that the case of Sentsov, who has been on a hunger strike since May 14, should be raised as a "matter of urgency" and appealed to him to try to mediate a solution.

"The UN's engagement on these concerns is welcome and we would encourage further steps to address the plight of all those unlawfully detained," said the letter seen by AFP.

Among the signatories were Australia, Canada, many EU countries along with Turkey, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

Ukrainian Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko on Thursday presented Guterres with the letter and a list of dozens of detainees including trade unionist Oleksandr Kolchenko, historian Stanislav Klykh and politician Mykola Karpuk.

The most high-profile case is that of Sentsov, a 41-year-old filmmaker who is serving a 20-year sentence in a Russian jail on charges of plotting terrorist attacks. He denies the charges.

Putin has recently hinted that talks were taking place with Ukraine on a prisoner swap that could take place during the World Cup.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in the war in east Ukraine between government forces and pro-Russian separatists.

A political deal reached in 2015 and backed by France and Germany has failed to yield progress toward ending the conflict. (Agence France-Presse)

Hundreds of homes destroyed by volcano lava in Hawaii



This image obtained June 5, 2018, from the US Geological Survey (USGS) shows the lava flow originating from Fissure 8 (not visible in photograph) entering Kapoho Bay on June 4, 2018. / AFP PHOTO / US Geological Survey

Hundreds of oceanfront homes have been destroyed by lava flow from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano, officials said Tuesday.

"We lost hundreds of homes in Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland overnight, but we don't have exact figures," Janet Snyder, a spokeswoman for Hawaii County, told AFP.

She said the lost homes were in addition to 117 others destroyed since the volcano began erupting on May 3, forcing the evacuation of 2,500 people.

The latest two communities affected by the lava flow had been ordered evacuated beforehand and there were no immediate reports of any casualties.

One of the homes lost was that of Hawaii County Mayor Harry Kim, Snyder said. "His second home was claimed by lava," she said.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said that an overflight early Tuesday confirmed that lava had completely filled Kapoho Bay, inundated most of Vacationland and had covered all but the northern part of Kapoho Beach Lots.

It said that a series of earthquakes had rattled the island for most of Monday night and into Tuesday morning, including one with a magnitude 5.5 that generated an ash plume.

Lava has engulfed an area of about eight square miles (20 square kilometers) since the volcano — one of five on Hawaii's Big Island — began erupting.

Scientists believe that volcanic activity can be a precursor to a major eruption, similar to the Kilauea eruption in the mid-1920s. (Agence France-Presse)

Israel ambassador reaffirms Israel’s friendship with the INC in 2nd courtesy call to INC Executive Minister

from page 1

“Before Ambassador Matityau’s first visit to Brother Eduardo Manalo in 2016, the INC Executive Minister had officiated a special worship service which included the ordination of ministers in Jerusalem, Israel,” INC minister San Pedro said.

He also noted that the Ambassador’s efforts in sharing his country’s innovations and technological know-how in agriculture, technology and education was very much appreciated.

Ambassador Matityau commended INC’s efforts to develop eco-farming communities not only in the Philippines, but also in other countries.

He said that these are also contributing to the efforts in poverty alleviation in the world.

“Agriculture is something that is going to be with us for

ever. People cannot eat pixels. They cannot eat dot-coms. Nothing digital can be edible,” he said in a separate interview.

“So we need to make sure that farming and the farming community is not going to be associated with poverty, but rather turn it into a most viable and strong community that adds to the economy, that adds to society, and is a part of growth,” the Ambassador said.

“Today, unfortunately, in the developing world, much of the farming is associated with poverty,” he observed. “We have to change this formula. And it is within our capacity. It is in our hands and we can do that.”

The INC has at least 29 eco-farming communities in the Philippines and in Africa, and more sites are being eyed for development as the Church is committed to its efforts to fight poverty.

Last May 6, it conducted

a worldwide walk to fight poverty which was participated in by more than 300 sites across 18 time zones.

The Israeli ambassador said that he considered these efforts of the INC to set up eco-farming communities, as commendable.

He said that Israel will always be ready to help in opening up avenues to share their knowledge in agriculture, technology and other innovations.

He stressed that Israel will always welcome and treat overseas Filipinos working there fairly as he noted that Filipinos are welcome to visit his country. In fact, there are no visa requirements for Filipinos who want to take a tour of Israel for a maximum of 90 days.

Ambassador Matityau also expressed admiration with the Iglesia Ni Cristo under the leadership of Brother Eduardo for extending the Church’s care to Filipinos all



Israel’s Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Effie Ben Matityau is greeted by Iglesia Ni Cristo volunteer workers and ministers at the INC Central Office during his second courtesy call to INC (Church Of Christ) Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the INC Central Office in Quezon City, Philippines. (Photo courtesy INC Public Information Office)

over the world, including those in Israel, through various outreach projects.

The INC had been conducting various socio-civic and outreach activities in various

parts of the world, including in Israel.

“You are friends and we consider you as friends. And you can look at us as friends and we look forward to a good

partnership on our friendship,” he said on the special friendship between Israel and the Church Of Christ. (courtesy Iglesia Ni Cristo Public Information Office)

France challenges Beijing in South China Sea

by Daphné BENOIT
Agence France Presse



This photo was taken on April 21, 2017 shows an aerial shot of a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands on April 21, 2017. Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana flew to a disputed South China Sea island on April 21, brushing off a challenge by the Chinese military while asserting Manila’s territorial claim to the strategic region. / AFP PHOTO

France is increasing its military presence in the Indo-Pacific region, sending warships through the South China Sea and planning air exercises to help counter China’s military build-up in disputed waters.

In late May, the French assault ship Dixmude and a frigate sailed through the disputed Spratly Islands and around a group of reefs that China has turned into islets to push back against Beijing’s claim to own most of the resource-rich South China Sea.

“Our patrol involved passing close to these islets to obtain intelligence with all the sensors it is possible to use in international waters,” the Dixmude’s commanding officer, Jean Porcher, told reporters in a video interview.

Writing in The Wall Street Journal, a researcher from the Hudson Institute think-tank who was onboard, said that “several Chinese frigates and corvettes” tailed the French vessels.

Porcher said the ship maintained “cordial” radio contact with Chinese military vessels, “which were present in the area until we left”.

So far the United States has taken the lead in confronting China over its territorial claims in the South China Sea, which are contested by several neighbors, particularly Vietnam.

But France, which along with Britain is the only European nation to regularly send its navy into the region, has also waded into the dispute, sending its ships into

the South China Sea three to five times a year.

In August, the air force will stage its biggest-ever exercises in Southeast Asia as part of a strategy to mark France’s presence in a region that is home to 1.5 million French citizens in the country’s overseas territories.

Three Rafale fighter jets, one A400M troop transporter and a C135 refueling tanker will fly from Australia to India, with several stop-offs along the way.

The sea and air operations follow a visit by President Emmanuel Macron last month to Australia, where he spoke of the need to protect the Indo-Pacific region from “hegemony” — a veiled reference to Beijing’s growing might.

He stressed that France, which will be the last country in the EU after Britain leaves the bloc to have territories in the Pacific, did not want to antagonize China.

But a “strong Indo-Pacific axis” was needed to ensure respect for freedom of navigation and aviation in the region, he told Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

— Supporting arms customers —

Macron appears to be “realistically assessing the growing Chinese challenge”.

“This region is also our home,” current Defence Minister Florence Parly said during a visit to Singapore in early June.

Valerie Niquet, an expert on the Asia-Pacific region at

Japan PM hails Trump-Kim agreement as ‘first step’

Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday welcomed a document signed by North Korea’s leader at an unprecedented summit with US President Donald Trump as a “first step” towards denuclearisation.

Speaking briefly hours after Kim Jong Un and Trump held historic talks in Singapore, Abe also said he was pleased that the US leader had raised the emotive issue of Japanese abducted by Pyongyang.

“Through this US-North Korea summit, Chairman Kim Jong Un’s intent for the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was confirmed in writing,” Abe told reporters.

“I support this as a first step to the comprehensive resolution of issues concerning North Korea.”

Kim and Trump signed a document after their talks in which the North Korean leader reaffirmed his commitment to “work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula”, without giving further details.

change from his predecessors, who were enthralled by the business and investment opportunities in China,” he wrote in The Wall Street Journal.

But France had already begun to push back against China’s expansionism before Macron took power.

Since 2014, the navy has sailed regularly through the South China Sea as part of its stated bid to uphold a rules-based maritime order.

In 2016, the French defense minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (now the foreign minister) called on other European navies to develop a regular and visible presence in the South China Sea.

Besides protecting navigation, France has cited the need to defend the interests of its citizens scattered across five French territories in the Pacific, including New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

“This region is also our home,” current Defence Minister Florence Parly said during a visit to Singapore in early June.

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It made no reference to other weapons capabilities, including the missiles that North Korea has fired over Japan.

The document also refers to the repatriation of the remains of prisoners of war and people killed during the fighting but makes no specific reference to people abducted by North Korea.

Japan has repeatedly called for the issue to be raised in discussions with Pyongyang, and Trump said at a press conference on Tuesday afternoon that he had discussed the issue with Kim.

“I highly appreciate the fact that President Trump firmly touched upon what I told him recently about the abduction issue which is very important to us, to Japan,” Abe said.

“I want to hear the details by phone (from Trump). I will continue aiming to resolve concerns such as the abduction, nuclear and missile issues,” he added.

Japan has maintained a hardline position on North Korea despite a whirlwind of di-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a press conference at the conclusion of the G7 Summit in La Maltaille, Canada on June 9, 2018. The leaders of the G7 failed to heal a tariff dispute that has pushed them to the brink of a trade war, as Donald Trump quit their summit early and warned Canada, Japan, and Europe that “the gig is up.” / AFP PHOTO

plomacy towards Pyongyang in recent months and has been left largely on the sidelines as South Korea and the United States have held talks with Kim.

Abe has suggested re-

cently he could talk with Kim directly in an attempt to resolve the abduction issue, though there has been no substantive movement thus far on potential talks. (Agence France-Presse)

Spanish king’s brother-in-law jailed over graft conviction



In this file photo taken on February 23, 2017 Former Olympic handball player and husband of Spain’s Princess Cristina, Inaki Urdangarin leaves the courthouse in Palma de Mallorca, on the Spanish Balearic Island of Mallorca. / AFP Photo / Jaime Reina

The Spanish king’s brother-in-law was jailed Monday, June 18 after losing an appeal against a graft conviction, the prison authorities said.

Inaki Urdangarin, the husband of King Felipe’s sister Cristina entered the prison in Brieva, just over 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of Madrid at 8:00 am (0600 GMT), a spokesman for the facility said.

The former Olympic handball player was sentenced to five years and 10 months in jail in a case which caused uproar in Spain and tainted the royal family’s image. (Agence France-Presse)

Mexican Ambassador visits INC Executive Minister, expresses appreciation for Church’s projects to fight poverty

Mexican ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Gerardo Lozano Arredondo, visited Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, at the INC Central Office in Quezon City on Wednesday, April 18.

Ambassador Lozano’s visit comes just a week after the visit of the Ambassador of Brazil to the Philippines, H.E. Rodrigo do Amaral Souza, on April 11, and nine months after the courtesy call of the Ambassador of Panama to the Philippines, H.E. Rolando Guevarra, on July 5 last year.

Arriving at the INC Central Office before 9 a.m., Ambassador Lozano was accompanied by the Mexican Embassy’s Vice Consul, Luis Gerardo Regalado, who is also the Embassy’s Head of Cultural Affairs, and the Ambassador’s son, Gerardo Jr.

“The atmosphere was very friendly,” said INC minister and Protocol Officer, Joel San Pedro. He added that the visits of three ambassadors from Latin America in nine months “reflected the Iglesia Ni Cristo’s rapid expansion in Latin America, at the same time that many congregations in North America are preparing numerous Christian activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Church in the West.”

This July, the INC will be celebrating its 104th anniversary since it was first reg-



Mexican ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Gerardo Lozano Arredondo, visited Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, at the INC Central Office in Quezon City on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Ambassador Lozano is the third ambassador from Latin America to pay a courtesy call to the INC Executive Minister. (Photo courtesy INC-Public Information Office)

istered in the Philippines on July 27, 1914, and its 50th year since it established its first overseas congregation in Hawaii on July 27, 1968. Since then, the Church had spread all over the world, and has 6,000 local congregations and missions in 142 countries

and territories. It had also actively engaged in socio-civic and outreach projects to help the poor and those in need in calamity-stricken areas across the globe.

During his visit to the INC Central Office, Ambassador Lozano expressed his appre-

ciation for the Church’s various projects to fight poverty, including the various “Aid for Humanity” programs worldwide. San Pedro mentioned that the Ambassador of Mexico was also informed of the INC’s Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty on May 6, which will

be conducted simultaneously in more than 300 sites worldwide, including Latin America.

In fact, the INC conducted a massive “Aid for Humanity” in Tijuana, Mexico in October 2017, which benefited more than 600 residents in the area. Prior to that, Brother

Eduardo conducted a pastoral visitation in Mexico City where he officiated a worship service on January 21, 2017. Currently, the INC has seven congregations or group worship services in Mexico.

San Pedro said that the Mexican Ambassador “expressed his admiration for how the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, has shown his care for Filipinos all over the world.” Both Ambassador Lozano and the INC Executive Minister “share a deep interest in the welfare and concerns of migrant workers,” as the Mexican diplomat noted that Brother Eduardo Manalo was named Special Envoy for Overseas Filipino Workers. Ambassador Lozano also recognized that programs that aid the poor, like what the INC is doing, help ease many of society’s problems.

“His Excellency, Ambassador Lozano, expressed his appreciation for the Iglesia Ni Cristo’s struggle against poverty,” San Pedro said.

Since July 2016, nine ambassadors from different countries, including South Africa, Israel, New Zealand, Australia, Russia, Panama, the United States, and Brazil, have made courtesy calls to the INC Executive Minister, recognizing the Iglesia Ni Cristo’s presence in their countries as well as the contributions of the Church to helping people worldwide. (Eagle News Service with an INC-PIO report)

Brazil’s Ambassador visits INC Executive Minister; seeks stronger ties with Church



Brazil’s ambassador to the Philippines Rodrigo do Amaral Souza pays a courtesy call to Iglesia Ni Cristo Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. (INC-Public Information Office)

Brazil’s Ambassador to the Philippines Rodrigo do Amaral Souza paid a courtesy call to Iglesia Ni Cristo Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo on Wednesday, April 11, becoming the second Latin American ambassador to visit the INC Central Office.

Ambassador Souza arrived at the INC headquarters minutes before 11 a.m.

The Brazilian ambassador is the second Latin American ambassador to visit the INC Central Office, after Panama’s Ambassador to the Philippines Rolando Guevara Alvarado.

“His Excellency, Ambassador Rodrigo do Amaral Souza’s visit to Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo was because of his growing interest in the Church of Christ,” Brother Joel San Pedro, an INC minister and the INC Central Office Protocol Officer, said.

The Brazilian Ambassador himself described the INC’s growth in places where there are not a lot of Filipinos such as Africa and India as a “miracle,” as he also noted all the magnificent houses of worship he saw in his trips all over the Philippines in his capacity as Brazil’s head of mission in the country.

Ambassador Souza also expressed interest in helping in the migration of Portuguese-speaking ministers, from the United States mostly, to Brazil, in anticipation of the continued expansion of the Church there.

There are INC members in 142 other nations around the world.

During the visit, Ambassador Souza also extended the gratitude of the thousands of families in favelas who benefited from the INC’s Ayuda Para A Humanidade or Aid to Humanity held six months after the Executive Minister’s visit to the Latin American country on January 7, 2017.

More than 20,000 parcels of free food were distrib-

uted to families and residents in the Rio de Janeiro communities of Recreio dos Bandeirantes, Portuguesa, Vila Isabel, and Rocinha during the four-day event.

“During (Ambassador Souza’s) visit to the Executive Minister, he expressed his interest in learning more about the INC, more about the Church of Christ history, as well as developing a strong relationship with the Church,” San Pedro said.

After the courtesy call, Ambassador Souza, accompanied by Brother Eduardo, was warmly welcomed by several ministers and volunteer workers who waved small flags of Brazil and of the INC at the Central Office’s lobby.

San Pedro said a number of ambassadors from different countries in Latin America were also lined up to visit the Executive Minister. (With a release from the INC-Public Information Office)

PHL ambassador to New Zealand visits Iglesia Ni Cristo Executive Minister, explores ways on how to deepen partnership with INC

Philippine ambassador to New Zealand Jesus Domingo visited Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo on Tuesday, April 10, at the INC Central Office in Quezon City and also toured the Church’s museum for the first time.

The Ambassador also emphasized how the appointment of the INC Executive Minister as the Philippine envoy for overseas Filipino concerns would help the Department of Foreign Affairs in its work of addressing the needs of overseas Filipino workers.

“First, I congratulated him on his appointment as special envoy for overseas Filipino concerns. It really cements the actual long-standing partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Iglesia Ni Cristo,” Domingo said after his talk with Brother Eduardo at the INC Central Office.

The Ambassador said he had been invited to several worship services of the INC in New Zealand, including the inauguration of the Church’s house of worship in Christchurch where he first met the INC Executive Minister.

Domingo said that he also extended the greetings of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano on Brother Eduardo’s appointment. He also said he is interested in exploring ways on “how we can really maximize this beautiful opportunity of partnership with the Executive Minister as now the special envoy” of overseas Filipino concerns.

“That will imply we have Ambassador Domingo



Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand Jesus Domingo visits the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo at the INC Central Office in Quezon City, Philippines on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. (Photo courtesy Iglesia Ni Cristo Public Information Office)

the mandate to work together and to have a closer partnership between our embassies and consulates and the Iglesia (Ni Cristo) all over the world,” he said.

He said that the DFA is also looking at ways on “how to operationalize” this partnership.

“That is one of the challenges but also one the things I’m really looking forward to in working closely with the Iglesia,” he said.

Ambassador Domingo also observed that the INC’s various international humanitarian work was truly commendable and is a source of pride for every Filipino.

“I’m so impressed with the international humanitarian work of the Iglesia – from Japan, to South Africa to the Middle East, the Philippines. The work of the Iglesia is a positive reflection on the Filipino nation as a whole,” he said.

said he was also fascinated with the features and the things that he learned during his visit on Tuesday of the INC Museum in Quezon City, that he is recommending for Filipinos, and tourists from all over the world, to include this in their itinerary.

He said that it was something that would surely make Filipinos proud.

“We’re also promoting tourism, so for our friends all over the world, please come to the Philippines. It’s more fun in the Philippines. And also do make it a point to come to the Central (office of the Iglesia Ni Cristo) and visit the Museum. It is something that is not just for the Iglesia, but also for all Filipinos. It also showcases (what) I think is the special role of the Filipino people as laid out in the Bible and in the Christian faith,” Ambassador Domingo said. (with a release from the INC Public Information Office)

A first for the PHL: New Era University signs historic MOU with Moscow State Institute for Int'l Relations

New Era University (NEU) signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding for academic collaboration with the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO) that hopes to "enrich the intellectual environment of both institutions."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo witnessed the signing of the MOU on Monday, May 14, 2018, at the MGIMO campus in Moscow, Russia. The event was organized by the Philippine Embassy in Moscow led by Ambassador Carlos Sorreta.

The MOU with New Era University is the first agreement with a private educational institution from the Philippines for MGIMO.

Dr. Julian Meimban III, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Research of NEU, extended his "appreciation and gratefulness to the leadership and constituents of MGIMO University, headed by Dr. Anatoly Torkunov, for their warm welcome" to the NEU delegation.

"The New Era University takes pride to have engaged in joint endeavors such as this, with one of the most reputable universities in the world. Today's signing of MOU with a Russian university is one of the first – if not the first – by a university from the Philippines," NEU's Dr. Meimban said.

The Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO) is an academic institution run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, which is widely considered the most elite university in Russia.

It offers numerous educational programs in 18 key fields of study, including: international relations, international economic relations, regional studies, international law, political science, public and business administration, journalism, public relations, commerce and transnational business.

It is the only educational establishment teaching 53 foreign languages full-time, and serves as the training arm for future Russian diplomats.

The University structure comprises two campuses, eight main faculties and three institutes. Each year about 8,000 students from Russia and abroad study at MGIMO University.

The New Era University, on the other hand, is an emerging hub in generating knowledge on ASEAN studies and international relations, with an existing memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Eagle Broadcasting Corporation which has international bureaus.

Through its ASEAN Studies Center, and BA Foreign Service, with leading lecturers from different countries, and with its partnership with EBC, NEU is able to promote knowledge and provide scholarly discourses on different topics of international concerns.

Aside from engineering and education, the NEU has offered courses in medicine and allied courses. The university is also offering courses related to music, languages, and humanities, which promote cultures of different nations of the world.

NEU has four campuses – the main campus in Quezon City; in San Fernando City, Pampanga; in Lipa City, Batangas; and in Gen. Santos City, in Mindanao, in the southern part of the country. The main campus has 18 colleges.

In June 2017, its site for the College of Agriculture in the province of Rizal was inaugurated, which would eventually be the fifth campus. Its Gen. Santos City branch will be its site of the School of Fisheries.

– Academic collaboration –

The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote collaboration between NEU and MGIMO to enrich the intellectual environment of both institutions and to provide opportunities for contact and exchange among individuals from both institutions.

Among others, the two schools agreed to establish a Russian Language Center at the NEU. They also agreed to mount seminars, conferences and workshops, as well engage in a faculty exchange program. In the horizon also is the identification of scholarship opportunities in Russia for students of NEU.

"It is interesting to note that when the NEU opened its ASEAN Studies Center in 2016, among its first visitors were the Russian delegates who came to NEU in November 2016 to promote cultural awareness between Russia and the Philippines, among other things. Barely two years has passed, we have now this venture which will actually foster the realization of the pursuits of the two countries," Meimban said.

"We do hope that the activities that this MOU and future joint ventures would bring, serve the interests of Russia and the Philippines, as well as other countries," he said.

The MOU was signed by NEU's Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Research,

Dr. Meimban and Dr. Anatoly Vasilyevich Torkunov, Rector of MGIMO. Completing the delegation from the NEU were Dr. Carlos Tabunda Jr, director of the NEU's ASEAN Studies Center, and Mr. Cornelio Guerrero, adviser and producer from EBC. Witnessing for MGIMO were Professor Artem Malign, Vice Rector of MGIMO, and Dr. Sumsky.

The collaboration between the two institutions began in 2016 with the participation of the NEU-ASEAN Studies Center, at the ASEAN-Russia University Forum held in Vladivostok.

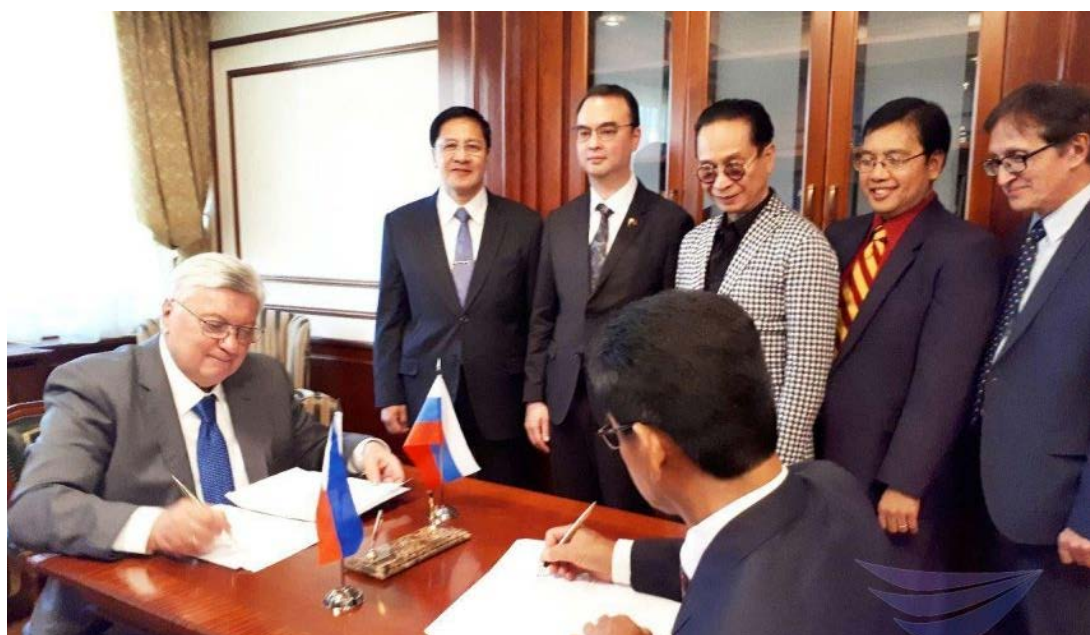
Russian representatives were also invited to Eagle Broadcasting Corporation's "ASEAN in Focus."

In November 2016, Dr. Elena Koldunova, Vice Dean of MGIMO's political science department, delivered a talk in a symposium held at the NEU which was attended by various Philippine experts on regional and national security.

This was repeated in 2017 where a symposium on the future of strategic relations between Russia and the Philippines was held.

In March of the following year, NEU helped in the hosting a delegation of Russian businessmen who went around major centers in the Philippines to promote business ties between the two countries.

The delegation was organized by Dr. Victor Sumsky, the Director of MGIMO's ASEAN Center. (Eagle News Service)



Dr. Anatoly Vasilyevich Torkunov, Rector of Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIM) and Dr. Julian Meimban III, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Research of New Era University (NEU) sign a historic Memorandum of Understanding on academic collaboration on May 14, 2018. (Emy Coloma, EBC Moscow, Eagle News Service)

Honolulu honors INC for "dedicated history of public service"



Photo courtesy Iglesia Ni Cristo Public Information Office

The Council of the City and County of Honolulu in Hawaii issued a certificate "honoring and recognizing the Iglesia Ni Cristo for its extensive and dedicated history of public service" not just in Hawaii, but also throughout the world.

The certificate, signed by all nine Honolulu City Council Members, was introduced by Council chair Ernest Y. Martin and was issued on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

This came about as the Church is preparing for its May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty, and four months ahead of the July 27, 2018 start of year-long celebrations of the Church's 50th year anniversary of its overseas mission. It was in Honolulu, Hawaii where the INC held its first ever worship service outside the Philippines on July 27, 1968.

The Honolulu City council cited the many outreach and community service programs that the INC or the Church of Christ had conducted in Hawaii, as well as in other parts of the globe.

"Members throughout the island regularly come together to support various initiatives such as a Beach Cleanup Drive that was recently held on March 18 at the Mailli Beach Park and an INC Giving Outreach and Evangelical Mission Undertaking at Kapolei Regional Park held in February where countless individuals and families experiencing financial challenges were provided with clothing, food and other support," the Honolulu City Council's certificate stated.

"Other outreach efforts include Blood Donation Drives at the Waipahu Chapel, Walk for Food Drive at Kapolei District Park and Aloha Food Drive in Kaneohe with both events generating 12,000 pounds of rice and canned goods which were provided to Aloha Harvest and American Samoa respectively," it said.

Events such as these have spanned the last 50 years of the Church's history on the islands, which led all members of the Honolulu City Council to declare support for the INC's history of being "a model for what can be done when people come together in faith and action", as stated in the sealed City and County

Certificate.

Aside from Council Chair, Ernest Y. Martin, all the other Council Members namely Kimberly Pine, Ikaika Anderson, Joey Manahan, Ron Menor, Carol Fukunaga, Brandon Elefante, Ann Kobayashi and Trevor Ozawa, signed the certificate.

Brother Rey M. de Mesa, District Minister of the 19 Hawaii-Pacific INC congregations, accepted the certificate.

"The history of humanitarian efforts of the INC began in the same decade that the INC arrived on this island – the 1960's. We have maintained that commitment to be of service to our fellow islanders here ever since, and we are eager to participate in future events that will have a global impact, even beyond the State of Hawaii," he said.

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-INC's worldwide outreach activities recognized-

The Honolulu City Council also recognized the international outreach efforts of the INC in other parts of the world, such as the Promised Hope program held in Ivory

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INC beats own record on largest charity walk in single venue; 3 Guinness records bagged in one day

The Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) beat its own record on the largest charity walk on a single venue previously set in 2014, with the announcement by Guinness World Records that the May 6, 2018 walk had 238,171 participants for its main Manila site, along Roxas Boulevard.

The Guinness count was based on the wristbands that were placed at the drop boxes at the finish line of the end of the 1.6 kilometer walk that was particularly set for the counting.

With the announcement made past midnight, or about 12:30 a.m. Monday, May 7, the INC got three official word records for its May 6 event including the largest human sentence (23,235 participants) and the largest picture mosaic formed by people (9,000 participants).

The first record on the largest human sentence was announced Sunday morning, May 6, by Guinness adjudicator Paulina Sapinska.

INC's 23,235 participants formed the sentence "PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO" beating the 16,550 participants of previous record-holder, the Rotary International District 3000, Rotary Club of Perambalur New Gen, and Roever Group of Educational Institutions.

Participants of those

organizations formed the sentence "You can you will" with 16550 participants in Perambalur, India on August 10, 2016.

The second Guinness world record for the day was announced by Guinness adjudicator Lucia Sinigagliesi for largest picture mosaic formed by 9,000 INC members.

The image was the Church's green, white and red flag with the biblical golden menorah in the middle.

The two other Guinness attempts for the largest charity walk in multiple venues, and the most nationalities in a charity walk would still have to be verified by Guinness headquarters, according to Adam Brown, Guinness official adjudicator.

"They are all very commendable titles. We value and honor your hard work and dedication throughout today's attempts," he said.

He said the passports of those involved in the attempt for the most nationalities in a charity walk still had to be further verified.

The number of those who participated in the charity walk in 300 sites across 18 time zones were "unbelievable," said Dr. Serge Santos of the FYM Foundation after the announcement.

Guinness, because of its "very stringent" rules said it still needed to submit the numbers

to their headquarters for further checking.

"Well done for everyone across the world who took part in that attempt," Brown said.

"Congratulations! Iglesia Ni Cristo, you are now officially amazing," said Brown after announcing the record for the largest charity walk.

He said that they were hoping that the two other official Guinness attempts of the INC on the most number of nationalities in a single venue, and the largest charity walk in multiple venues would be "announced shortly."

The INC Worldwide Walk to fight poverty was the second global march of the INC. The first one was held on February 15, 2014 that set the record for the largest charity walk in a single venue with 175, 509 participants.

It benefited victims of supertyphoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda in the Philippines.

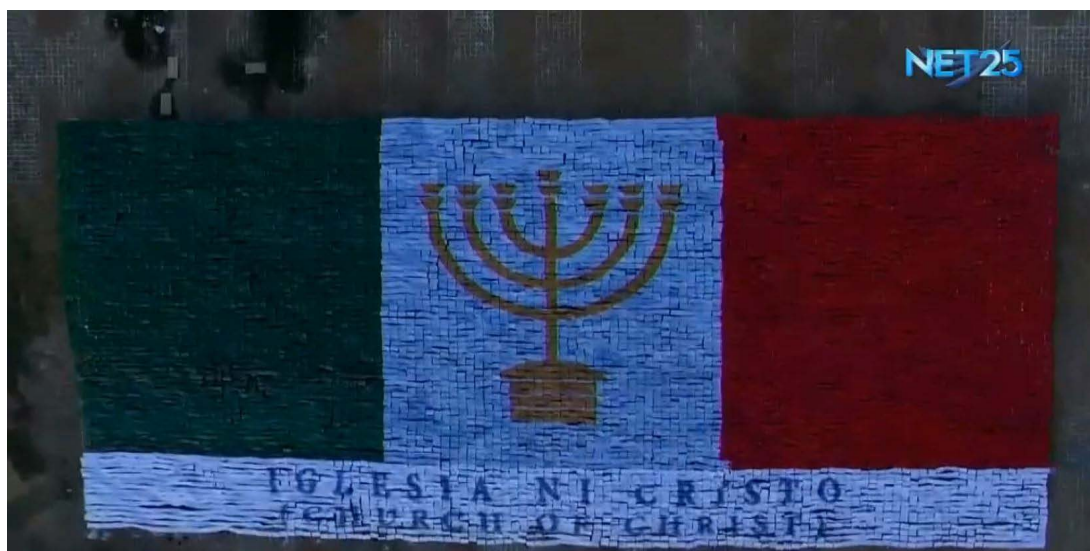
The May 6 Worldwide Walk, on the other hand, is for the benefit of poor communities in Africa, said INC General Auditor and FYM Foundation President, minister Glicerio Santos Jr.

Santos said that the victories of the Church was all for God's glory.

"Ang lahat ng ito ay awa at tulong ng Diyos. Kaya tayong Iglesia Ni Cristo, magkaisa tayo na ibalik sa Diyos ang lahat ng kapurihan," he said.



Iglesia Ni Cristo bags new Guinness world record for Largest Human Sentence



A screen grab of the video during the formation of the Iglesia Ni Cristo's attempt for the largest picture mosaic formed ny people. The INC bagged the Guinness World Record with 9,000 participants forming the INC tri-colored flag with the Biblical symbol of the Menorah in the middle on Sunday, May 6, 2018. It was done on the day of the historic INC Worldwide Walk to fight Poverty. (Eagle News Service)

The current record for the largest charity walk in 24 hours in multiple venues is also held by the Iglesia Ni Cristo for the February 15, 2014 Worldwide Walk for Typhoon Haiyan victims. Participants who were counted for the 2014 attempt was at 519,221 in 135 sites across 13 time zones. (INC-PIO release)

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United Kingdom witnesses INC's united walk against poverty



Hundreds of Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) members at the starting line in the United Kingdom site of the May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty. (EBC UK Bureau, Eagle News Service)



Excited Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) members in the United Kingdom who joined the May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty. (EBC UK Bureau, Eagle News Service)

United Kingdom witnessed a united Worldwide Walk against Poverty conducted by members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) coming from various places such as Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Flintshire, Manchester and London to name a few.

All were excitedly determined to be part of the global charity walk in which UK was one of the more than 300 sites that participated.

INC members and guests in the United Kingdom started their walk at the Victoria Embankment Gardens, and proceeded along the river Thames towards the Houses of Parliament.

The first Worldwide Walk in February 2014 was for the benefit of supertyphoon Haiyan (Yoland) victims in the Philippines.

In this 2018 Worldwide Walk, the goal is to fight poverty in Africa.

The official route passed the Elizabeth Tower which houses Big Ben (the Great Bell) and The New Palace of Westminster, originally known as The Houses of Parliament. Walkers enjoyed views from Westminster to Trafalgar and then over towards Waterloo Bridge.

Large groups of people that normally pass here usually march to protest against something.

On May 6, the British public witnessed something different. Police escorts where also curious. What they saw was a united stand by the INC for world wide walk against poverty.

(Text by Jennifer Ringwood and Vee Sison, Photos by Jun Sabiano and Bheng Espiritu, EBC UK Bureau, Eagle News Service)

Amid rains, more than 800 join INC Worldwide Walk in Seoul, South Korea



Seoul, South Korea/screenshot from Net25/

Amid strong rains, more than 800 Iglesia Ni Cristo members in South Korea joined the May 6 Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty in a park in Seoul, South Korea. Krishna Patnala, the independent witness assigned to monitor the walk site in Seoul, said he was surprised to find so many people participating in the vent.

"To my surprise, I saw so many people here," he said. More than 800 participants came, and Patnala noted that this was a "wonderful figure" considering the strong rains then.

"Despite the bad weather, whether it's rain or shine, people are really interested and committed to the cause," he said.

All the participants finished the 1.6 kilometer walk despite the heavy rains. The South Korean capital was one of the more than 300 venues of the global charity march to fight poverty that will benefit poor communities in Africa.

The event was organized by the INC in cooperation with the Felix Y. Manalo Foundation. (with a video report from Christine Jewel Uy, EBC South Korea correspondent, Eagle News Service)

Members of INC’s SCAN, other INC members take to Manila streets to clean up after Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty



SCAN members sweep a portion of Roxas Boulevard after the charity walk on Sunday, May 6./screenshot from Net25/



Trash is picked up and stowed away in a pushcart./screenshot from Net25/

Motorists were met by a clean Roxas Boulevard and other Manila streets even after the Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty saw over a million people gathering there on Sunday, May 6.

This was after members of the Iglesia ni Cristo’s Society of Communicators and Net-

workers took it upon themselves to clean the main thoroughfare and side-streets after the 1.6-kilometer charity walk aimed at helping those in need in Africa.

Gino Labarete, vice president for communications of SCAN, said they were aided by many Iglesia ni Cristo members who earlier participated in the walk.

Pictures after the event showed bags of trash being stowed away by SCAN members, who were armed with broomsticks.

Even before the walk, participants were already reminded not to litter and to clean as they go.

“Tulong tulong po kami sa paglilinis dito,” Labarete said. (Eagle News Service)

Honolulu honors INC for “dedicated history of public service”

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Stadium in Thembisa, South Africa “where over 25,000 local residents were provided with food and hope.”

The Church had also conducted several outreach programs in North and South America, Asia, Africa, as well as in Europe, aside from efforts to help those in the Philippines through the “Lingap sa Mamamayan” program.

It also cited the resettlement and community livelihood project done by the INC in the aftermath of super typhoon Haiyan, also known as Yolanda, in the Philippines. The resettlement community in Bgy. Alangalang in Yolanda-hit Leyte was inaugurated by INC Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo on January 23, 2015, or just over a year after the super typhoon hit the region on November 8, 2013.

The EVM Self-Sustainable Resettlement Community consisted of housing units occupying over 1700 acres of cleared land, with an eco-farming site, a garment factory, a dried fish factory, and a mushroom facility that provided the livelihood and sustainability of the residents in the area.

It should be noted that the Church’s first-ever resettlement and eco-farming community in Leyte, which benefited victims of super typhoon Haiyan came about after the INC’s historic and record-breaking February 15, 2014 Worldwide Walk for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda victims that set two new Guinness world records.

The first Guinness record set on February 15, 2014 — or on the day of the Church’s first Worldwide Walk — was for the largest charity walk in a single venue involving “validated”

175,509 participants in the Philippine capital in Manila.

The second Guinness record achieved by the INC for this same event was for “the largest charity walk in 24 hours in multiple venues” with more than half a million participants worldwide – or 519,221 walkathon delegates — that was an altogether new Guinness world record.

That first and historic INC’s Worldwide Walk for Yolanda victims was held across 13 time zones, in 29 countries and involving 135 sites, the last of which was in Hawaii which makes this United States County very important in the Church’s history.

-INC’s first congregation outside PHL established in Hawaii-

What makes Honolulu, Hawaii also significant in the INC’s history is that the Church’s first worship service outside the Philippines was held here, particularly in Ewa Beach, on July 27, 1968, officiated by the late INC Executive Minister Brother Eraño G. Manalo.

The Honolulu Congregation was thus the first overseas congregation of the Church of Christ which also established the San Francisco congregation in California that same year.

The Honolulu Council observed that since the INC was first registered in the Philippines on July 27, 1914 by the first INC Executive Minister, the late Brother Felix Y. Manalo in Manila, the Church had increasingly expanded its reach outside the Philippines.

“Today, under the leadership of its present Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo Manalo, (the) INC has an international membership and maintains about 6,000 congregations and missions in over 130 countries and territories in every inhabited continent of the world,” the Honolulu Council noted.

“Here in Oahu, there are nine congregations located in Diamond Head, Ewa Beach, Honolulu, Kaneohe, Kapolei, Maili, Waimanalo and Waipahu.”

“Together, members of these various local congregations join together to assist those in need,” it said.

The Honolulu city and county council also took note of the first resettlement project of the Church in Barrio Maligaya in Nueva Ecija where over 145 persecuted families from Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac were relocated in the mid-1960s.

It said that “with the assistance of the Administration of Iglesia Ni Cristo, Barrio Maligaya became a model for what can be done when people come together in faith and action.”

The Council also recognized how the INC, including its Hawaii Pacific Outreach Program in collaboration with the Felix Y. Manalo Foundation Inc., “focuses on a God-given mandate that states in Deuteronomy 15:11, that ‘there will always be poor in the land, so I command you to give freely to your neighbors and the poor and needy in your land.’”

Therefore, on behalf of the People of the City and County of Honolulu, the City Council honors and recognizes Iglesia Ni Cristo for its extensive and dedicated history of public service here in Hawaii and throughout the world,” the City and County Council’s certificate read.

“Further, the Council extends its best wishes for the continued success and sincere appreciation for its focus on humanitarian efforts,” it added.

Highlights for 2018: 50th year of INC overseas mission and May 6 worldwide walk

The awarding of the certificate of recognition by the Honolulu Council to the INC came as the Church is preparing the start of its celebration

of the 50th year of its establishment of its overseas mission on July 27 this year.

It also comes ahead of another worldwide walk to be conducted by Church members worldwide on May 6 which is expected to beat the Guinness records previously set by the Church four years ago.

Five sites throughout the islands of Hawaii will participate in this year’s Worldwide Walk to Fight Poverty on May 6; Oahu’s walk will be held at Ala Moana Park.

Proceeds of the global campaign will be used to provide food and medical assistance for those in immediate need in impoverished countries, including the continued development of the various eco-farming communities established in the Philippines and more recently, in Ladybrand, South Africa, the first INC eco-farming site outside the country.

Outreach projects of the INC will ramp up as the INC prepares for the year-long celebration of its 50th Anniversary in the West – July 27, 2018. Celebrating a half-century of missions beyond the Philippine borders, congregations will be honoring the milestone by continuing and bolstering its global humanitarian presence. Eagle News Service with a release from the INC Public Information Office)



From start to finish: INC Worldwide Walk participants from Northeast U.S. unite in Johnsonville, Connecticut



INC participant registering to join global walk on Saturday, May 5, 2018 in Johnsonville, Connecticut. Photo Credit: Jemily Dalistan, EBC New York Bureau



INC participants eagerly waiting to start walking at Johnsonville, Connecticut, host site of the Worldwide Walk on May 5, 2018. Photo Credit: Jemily Dalistan, EBC New York Bureau



INC participants eagerly waiting to start walking at Johnsonville, Connecticut, host site of the Worldwide Walk on May 5, 2018. Photo Credit: Jemily Dalistan, EBC New York Bureau



Fight to finish: INC participants in Northeast U.S. complete one-mile walk in Johnsonville, Connecticut Photo Credit: Abigail Marlow, EBC New York Bureau