NEWS



**Duterte: Peace and order key to economic growth**

by [**Abner Macolor**](http://kickerdaily.com/posts/author/abner-macolor/)

PDP standard bearer and presidential race frontrunner Rodrigo Duterte graced the stage of the 2016 Presidential dialogues at the Peninsula Manila on Wednesday to present his economic agenda in front of the Makati Business Club (MBC) and Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

*Image capture from ANC's video via ABS-CBN News' YouTube channel*

Duterte assured the audience that he is not the man he is being portrayed by some, **ABS CBN News** wrote.

“I am castigated for being brutal and honest. It will be a bloody war, and for those who are already there, they will never go back,” he said.

“You need a mayor to say: I am in charge.”

“Progress and development cannot happen in place if there is insecurity caused by criminals and lawless elements. We must begin by addressing criminality, ensuring law and order, and I assure under my leadership you will feel the difference in six months,” sharing his all-out war against crime to the members and guest of MBC.

Once he is elected president, he will push for higher salaries for police and military to eradicate extortion, [**Manila Bulletin**](http://www.mb.com.ph/peace-and-order-crucial-to-economic-growth-duterte/)wrote.

“I will increase the salary of our police and military and equip them properly to fight criminality and I will reward those who performed their duties well,” he said.

Part of Duterte’s keynote speech is the significance of quality education and plans to equip public school teachers with training programs.

“I believe that our people of the Philippines, (their) greatest resource is education. They cannot go out of poverty unless we educate the people,” said Duterte.

He shared his plan on improving the mass transit and implementing infrastructure projects that were delayed under the previous administration due to “poor political will.”

He openly mentioned that he may adopt projects from past administrations that have given benefits to Filipinos.

“I will not hesitate to adopt the projects of Noynoy or Arroyo that are renowned and benefitted (many). Hindi ako mahiya mangopya [I am not ashamed copying (their projects)],” Duterte noted.

Duterte also shared that once he bags the presidency, he will provide P1 billion per region to support small enterprises in growing their businesses.

[**GMA News Online**](http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/564204/money/economy/duterte-to-traders-relax-i-m-not-what-critics-portray-me-to-be) shared that the rough-talking mayor went on to deliver an expletive-ridden speech and went beyond the luncheon’s agenda, causing for the question-and-answer segment to be cancelled.

(SOURCE: <http://kickerdaily.com/posts/2016/04/peace-and-order-key-to-economic-growth/> )

**Bills to allow wiretapping of drug suspects to pass within year – Lacson**

**by: [Tarra Quismundo](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/byline/tarra-quismundo)**

MANILA — Sen. Panfilo Lacson is optimistic that amendments to the Anti-Wiretapping Law could be passed within the year, expanding exemptions to the wiretap ban that would allow snooping on drug suspects in a bid to boost the administration’s war on the illicit trade.

*INQUIRER PHOTO / RICHARD A. REYES*

This even while law enforcement agencies continued to deny it had wiretapping capability as the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs held its second hearing on the proposed amendments Tuesday afternoon.

“Within the year, that could be passed.  I am also in talks with the House (of Representatives),” Lacson told.

Four separate bills authored by Lacson and Senators Gregorio Honasan, Grace Poe, Juan Edgardo Angara, are seeking to amend the Anti-Wiretapping Law of 1965 to include among exemptions violations of the 2002 Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.

Currently, the 51-year-old law penalizes the secret interception of private conversations but grants exemptions for limited situations: “cases involving the crimes of treason, espionage, provoking war and disloyalty in case of war, piracy, mutiny in the high seas, rebellion, conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion, inciting to rebellion, sedition, conspiracy to commit sedition, inciting to sedition, kidnapping as defined by the Revised Penal Code, and violations of Commonwealth Act No. 616, punishing espionage and other offenses against national security.”

Under the proposed amendment, authorities may undertake wiretapping operations on particular targets when allowed by a court order.

“This will mean a lot. Without this, they only have one arm for punching. In my experience, we should rely more on technical intelligence. Ang human intelligence or HumInt, that’s just half of the overall effort. But technical intelligence or signal intelligence, that’s very useful yan,” said Lacson, a former national police chief.

Once approved, the law would allow authorities to intercept all forms of digital communications by their surveillance targets, whether phone calls and text messages, or emails and chats through applications that use internet connection.

He said the public would have nothing to worry about, as law enforcers would only undertake wiretapping operations on specific targets if allowed by the court.

During Tuesday’s hearing, Lacson urged the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to include in their respective 2017 budget proposals funding for the procurement of wiretapping equipment in preparation for the bill’s eventual passage.

Agency representatives all told Lacson’s committee Tuesday that they had no capability for any form of wiretapping, which Lacson doubted.

“I know they have,” Lacson said.

“But that’s part of their training. With their intel training, they are really prone to clamming up. I used to be there. I know how it feels… I can assume there are ongoing operations, and to divulge here with all of you (the media) present that they have such capability, that could drive their quarry away or take more precaution in conversing about illegal activities,” he said.  **SFM**

(SOURCE: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/819664/bills-to-allow-wiretapping-of-drug-suspects-to-pass-within-year-lacson#ixzz4XiCo1G2G> )

PNP, AFP, Muslim leaders vow to prevent terror in Central Visayas

**by: [Ador Vincent Mayol](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/byline/ador-vincent-mayol)**

CEBU CITY – In attaining peace, collaboration is key.

With this in mind, Chief Supt. Noli Taliño, director of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7), and Major General Raul del Rosario, commander of the Armed Forces’ Central Command, met with Muslim leaders in Cebu, on Tuesday, hoping to strengthen ties.

*Chief Supt. Noli Taliño, director of the Central Visayas Regional Police Office (PRO-7). (CDN FILE PHOTO/ JUNJIE MENDOZA)*

*Read more: http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/813002/pnp-afp-muslim-leaders-ink-pact-to-prevent-terror-in-central-visayas#ixzz4XiGLNyyA*

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Some 30 local Muslim leaders went to the San Nicolas Proper Barangay Hall in Cebu City and vowed to support the government in maintaining peace and order in the community.

“Lahat tayo ay Pilipino. Iisang lahi ang pinangalingan natin. Walang Muslim o Kristiyano. Lahat tayo ang magkapareho. Magkapareha ang kulay ng ating dugo. Kaya, dapat tulong-tulong tayo sa ating inaasam na kapayapaan,” said Taliño while addressing the crowd gathered outside the barangay hall.  (All of us are Filipinos. We belong to the same race. There’s is neither Muslim nor Christian. We are equal. The same blood runs through our veins. And so, we should help each other attain the peace we all want).

Taliño, a former chief of the Special Action Force, said President Rodrigo Duterte has taken significant steps to eliminate illegal drugs, crimes, and corruption but that momentum has been threatened by a terrorist group.

“Masakit yong nangyari sa Davao City. Kung mawawala sana ang ganitong mga bagay, napakaganda sana ng ating kominidad. (The bomb attack in Davao was painful. If events like this vanish, we would have a better community),” he said.

Taliño said the support shown by the Muslim community in Cebu made him very happy.

“This really is a big help,” he said.

Malo Manunggiring, director of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos in Central Visayas, said the Muslim community in the region has been very supportive of law enforcers and the local government units for several years.

“What we do now is only to enhance what has already been achieved,” he told reporters.

“We understand each other. You accept us as your neighbors and we also compensate the respect you give us,” he added.

Manunggiring promised to monitor Muslims in the region so as to avert any terror attacks.

“We should police our ranks. We do it not just verbally but also in practice. Let us help our authorities and our President (Rodrigo Duterte),” he said.

Manunggiring condemned the bomb attack in a night market in Davao City last Friday that killed at least 15 people and wounded about 60 individuals.

“That is unIslamic. That has no place in Islam or in any other religion,” he said.

Major General Del Rosario said the Central Command has augmented the police force in the region to ensure the safety of the public.

“We have jointly intensified security in the seaports, airports, and other points of entry. The threats are always there. Even President Duterte’s own city, which was well secured, fell prey to bombing,” he said.

“Terrorists can strike anywhere. We have to be alert,” he added.

Both the PRO-7 and the Central Command have been placed under full alert status following the explosion in Davao City last Friday.

Taliño has ordered numerous checkpoints and sent additional troops on the field to ensure the safety of the public.

Last Saturday, President Duterte declared “a state of lawlessness” or “a state of lawless violence” to counter terrorism and strengthen the campaign against illegal drug trade.

Hours after the attack, Interior Secretary Mike Sueno said the Abu Sayyaf group claimed responsibility for the explosion in Davao City.

However, the terrorist group denied owning the attack. Muammar Askali alias Abu Ramie, the self-styled spokesperson of the Al Harakatul Al Islamiya, the Abu Sayyaf’s official name, pointed to an ally as that behind the deadly explosion.

In a phone call to the Philippine Daily Inquirer last Saturday, Askali said the group behind the blast was Daulat Ul Islamiya.  **SFM**

(SOURCE:  <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/813002/pnp-afp-muslim-leaders-ink-pact-to-prevent-terror-in-central-visayas#ixzz4XiEhoclf> )

**2 ranking NPA members nabbed in Baguio City**

**By: —Anna Felicia Bajo/ALG, GMA News**

Police arrested three suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) responsible for the burning of two mining trucks in Itogon, Benguet last Thursday.

The Benguet Police Provincial Office (PPO) identified the three suspected NPA members as Sarah Abellon, Promencio Cortez and Marciano Sagun.

Police arrested the suspects at the Tiptop transient house in Baguio City.

The Benguet PPO said Abellon is a secretary of the NPA's Sub-Regional Military Area Command (SMAC) while Cortez has a P4.8 million reward on his head.

The provincial police said complaints of robbery, arson and illegal possession of ammunition hav been filed against the three suspects in connection with the torching of two trucks of the Philex Mining Corp. in Itogon.

A group of rebels stopped and torched the truck loaded with 20 tons of copper concentrate at a "rebel checkpoint" in Itogon town.

The Benguet PPO said the rebels' initial plan was to raid the mining site of Philex.

It said several gadgets, assorted ammunition and P850,000 cash were seized from the three suspected rebels.

(SOURCE: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/599194/news/regions/2-ranking-npa-members-nabbed-in-baguio-city> )

**Illegal drugs, peace and order**

**By:** [**Manny B. Villar**](http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/author/manny/)

*Conclusion*

PEACE and order and illegal drugs are two noneconomic problems that affect the economy, actually the whole life of the Filipino people.

Without peace and order, operations of businesses and industries are disrupted. Illegal drugs destroy the future of the youth and deprive them of productive lives. Illegal drugs are also blamed for the increasing brutality of crimes.

Both peace and order and illegal drugs are the last two of the five non-economic problems that I think the next president will face, but these are just as serious and as persistent as the first three, because these have hounded every chief executive of this country.

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Statistics-wise, we have some good news and bad news. The Philippine National Police claims that the number of crimes in Metro Manila dropped by 60 percent during the first six months of 2015 compared to a year ago. The bad news: the number of crimes committed nationwide increased by 46 percent during the same period. Nationwide, index crimes alone went up by 37.3 percent to 352,321 during the first six months of 2015, from 256,592 cases reported in the same period last year. Index crimes include murder, homicide, rape, robbery and theft.  A total of 7,245 people were murdered in the first six months of 2015, up from 5,004 in the same period last year. The number of homicides was also up: 6,607 this year, compared with 4,091 last year.

Perhaps, more than statistics, people get more sense of the peace and order condition around them from listening to the radio, watching the news on television and reading the newspapers. There’s not a day that passes that no crime is committed, whether it is the bright light of day or the dark of night. Criminals also do not seem to worry about being recorded on closed-circuit television when they kill or rob.

Thus, there is a perception among the people that the peace and order situation continues to deteriorate.

One of the main concerns among investors and business groups is peace and order, particularly in the Mindanao region, according to the British government’s online “Overseas Business Risk-Philippines”  
dated July 2015. According to the report, the Philippines has high incidence of violent crimes, including those involving firearms. “Street ‘crime’ and robberies, such as bag snatching or pickpocketing, are prevalent, even in well-lit and busy city areas,” the report further said.

Illegal-drugs do not only contribute to the growing number of crimes, but also make crimes more brutal, as if these were committed by monsters.

The illegal-drug problem is a global scourge. The 2015 World Drug Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that a total of 246 million people used an illicit drug in 2013. The UNODC also reported an estimated 187,100 drug-related deaths in 2013.

The illegal drug problem becomes worse when law-enforcement officials are involved. No wonder many people are becoming reluctant to seek help from the authorities.

  n On September 21 a policeman was among 10 people who were arrested during a raid on 12 shabu dens beside the police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

n In 2014 a total of 190 government officials and employees were arrested for violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, according to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Drug traffickers are able to ply their criminal trade even behind bars. In January the Department of Justice said it had obtained evidence proving that drug lords serving sentences inside the New Bilibid Prison are able to conduct drug trafficking.

In a column in June, I cited a report from the PDEA, which said that 8,629, or 20.51 percent of the country’s 42,065 barangays were considered as drug-affected. Based on data gathered by PDEA, the  National Capital Region tops the list, with 92.10 percent of its  
barangays affected.

There may be other challenges that the next president will face come 2016, but I believe the five that I discussed in this series—the China problem, the proposed Bangsamoro basic law, the communist insurgency, peace and order and illegal drugs—are, in addition to the economy, to be given high priority by the incoming administration because these will affect not only the present but also the future of the nation.

These are difficult challenges, and I am tempted to say to the next president: “Good luck.” Having said that, I believe the next president will need a good team to craft and implement measures to address these challenges.

Perhaps, more than a good team, the next chief executive must be able to rally the citizenry to fully support the government in driving the nation toward a peaceful, secure and progressive future—in the next six years.

(SOURCE: <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/illegal-drugs-peace-and-order/> )

**Tourism and peace and order**

By Ellen Tordesillas

February 01, 2017

Congratulations to the people who made the staging of the 65th Miss Universe in the Philippines a rousing success.  
  
The publicity that the Philippines got from the pageant and the goodwill generated from the 86 beauties were a bonanza for Philippine tourism.  
  
Last Monday’s pageant financier former Ilocos Sur Chavit Singson said the $14 million he shelled out will return in terms of more visitors to the country that are expected to fill up hotels, resorts airline seats, restaurant and other tourism-related businesses.  
  
The more visitors, the Filipinos would be employed for a more vibrant economy.  
  
Now, when visitors come, will they feel safe and leave the Philippines with beautiful memories of the country to share with others?  
  
Or will they return to their country with harrowing stories like what the Koreans who came to play golf last December 30 but were victimized by policemen who raided the house they were staying in a subdivision in Angeles City?  
  
The video of the raid presented by Senator Panfilo Lacson during a senate hearing showed a Korean running scared from a pursuing policeman.  
  
The investigation revealed that seven police officers assigned Angeles City Police Station 5 participated in what turned out to be a case of robbery and extortion. They took the Koreans’ shoes, golf clubs, jewelry, and cash amounting to P450,000, including the P300,000 that the visitors had to borrow from a friend, who had to withdraw from his ATM.  
  
Nothing could top in gall the murder by police officers of Korean shipping executive Jee Ick-Joo last October but was known publicly only recently.  
  
Jee was abducted from his house and was brought to Camp Crame where he was strangled to death inside a vehicle owned by the wife of the arresting police officer, Senior Police Officer Ricky Sta. Isabel, a few meters away from the office as well as residence of PNP chief  Ronald de la Rosa.  
  
Being implicated as mastermind of the contemptible operation is Police Superintendent Rafael Dumlao III, a ranking member of the PNP-Anti-Illegal Drug Group, the banner unit in President Duterte’s war against illegal drugs that has so far claimed the lives of some 7,000 people almost all of whom did not have the benefit of due process.  
  
Surely there are members of the police force who have remained honest and true to their sworn duty as protectors of the people but the perversity of some have severely tainted the image of the institution.  
  
Many analysts attribute the impunity of rogue policemen to the President’s blanket assurance to the police that he will protect them and will not allow any of them to go to the jail in executing his war against illegal drugs.  
  
Whatever gains Monday’s Miss Universe pageant gained would be wiped out by a breakdown of peace and order. The President himself stressed this during the election campaign in an assembly of travel operators led by now Tourism Secretary Wanda Tulfo Teo .  
  
Duterte explained that his crusade against illegal drugs stems from his belief that it’s the root of many crimes. He said that no tourist will come to the country unless there is peace and order.  
  
He gave as an example Mexico where drug cartels operate. “Would you go to Mexico? You will get kidnapped and raped there,” he said much to the consternation of Mexican Ambassador Julio Camarena Villaseñor, who, just a few minutes before Duterte arrived, was enjoining everybody to visit Mexico.  
  
Tell that to the Koreans.

(SOURCE: <http://www.malaya.com.ph/business-news/opinion/tourism-and-peace-and-order> )