



NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

2018-2022



NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY 2018-2022

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My warmest greetings to the **Department of National Defense (DND)** as it publishes the country's very first **National Defense Strategy (NDS) 2018-2022**.

The publication of NDS 2018-2022 is indeed a milestone in our history as we face both perennial and new security challenges. To serve as the cornerstone of Philippine defense policy, this will guide the future direction of the DND in its mission of upholding our country's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I assure the Filipino people that the government is serious in finding solutions to address the numerous defense issues confronting us. We will build on our past gains to further strengthen our capabilities and ensure the continuous modernization of the military.

As we mark the publication of NDS 2018-2022, I urge all government agencies, especially the security sector, to support the implementation of this strategy. With our people's continued support and the unwavering dedication of the valiant men and women of the DND, I am confident that we can achieve a stronger and more democratically vibrant future for our people.

Mabuhay ang Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodrigo'.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
November 2018

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



The current security environment offers a challenging picture for Philippine defense and security. Characterized as ever-evolving and rapidly-changing, the security landscape demands effective identification of priorities, harmonization of strategies, and rationalization of resources to successfully address the multifaceted threats of our time. In recognition of this reality, your Department of National Defense (DND) crafted the National Defense Strategy (NDS) 2018-2022 that shall serve as an overarching guide for the five (5) DND bureaus in planning, prioritizing and resourcing processes in pursuit of our duty to the nation. This will allow your DND to further elevate our readiness in accomplishing our constitutional mandate to the

country and the Filipino people, and our full support to the national security agenda of President Duterte's administration.

A result of months-long consultations and review by dedicated officers and specialists of the Department, the country's very first NDS attempts to cover, in broad strokes, the various elements of security planning: environment assessment, defense organization, identification of defense thrusts, and continuing capability upgrade and modernization.

To provide our countrymen with the complete picture of our security environment, the 2nd Chapter of the NDS features a thorough assessment of both external and internal threats boldly faced by the country. This Chapter will allow the public to be better enlightened with the dynamic security environment, as well as the geopolitical realities that guide the actions of local and international actors involved.

The 3rd Chapter introduces the DND with a brief historical background on its establishment, which celebrates 79 years of unwavering service to the Filipino people today. Likewise, this Chapter discusses the organizational structure and functions of the Department.

The 4th Chapter previews how the DND's efforts and initiatives contribute to the national security and development agenda of the government. The NDS framework is anchored on the country's overarching security blueprint, the National Security Policy (NSP) 2017-2022 and the National Security Strategy (NSS) 2018 and discusses the role of these two (2) documents in the crafting of the National Military Strategy (NMS). Ensuring the logical order of these vital publications allows a smooth translation of national security agenda into a military objectives driven by strategy.

The 5th Chapter highlights the strategic thrusts of the Department, features the External and Internal Defense Mission Areas that guide the determination of military tasks and assessment of defense capabilities, and the specific guidance to DND bureaus. These thrusts, defense missions, and strategic guidance shall be vigorously pursued in line with the essential concept of jointness that is envisioned to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the DND and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as an institution dedicated to safeguard this country and its people.

Equally important is the Chapter on the development of our country's credible defense posture. More than the modern assets acquired and those in the pipeline, our capacity-building endeavors aim to further extend our military's basing requirements, keep our

doctrines up-to-date, enhance our organizational structure, and more importantly, develop our valuable human resource. Moreover, legal instruments shall be pursued with our legislative partners to lay down a favorable policy environment for the promotion of national security and social stability.

Successfully accomplishing these important undertakings is vital in the valued vision of the Department to be a key player in the Asia-Pacific Region, a formidable partner in nation-building, and most importantly, a trusted and reliable institution by the Filipino people.

We hope that the publication of the National Defense Strategy 2018-2022 will not only provide my fellow Filipinos with a deeper understanding of the security and defense realities that we are facing, but more so, and appreciation of the indispensable efforts of the men and women of the Defense Department in ensuring a stable and secured environment conducive for social progress, economic development, and attainment of our individual aspirations.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.



DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Secretary of National Defense

November 2018

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADMM	ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASG	Abu Sayyaf Group
BIFF	Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
C4ISTAR	Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Information, Surveillance, Target Acquisitions and Reconnaissance
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives
CCAM	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CEIS	Communications, Electronics and Information Systems
CS	Cyber Security
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTG	Communist Terrorist Group
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DIWM	Da'watul Islamiya Waliyatul Masriq
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DMPM	Defense Mission Planning Memorandum
DND	Department of National Defense
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DSOM	Defense System of Management
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ECLIP	Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program
EDCA	Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EO	Executive Order
GA	Government Arsenal
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
HRD	Human Resource Development
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISO	Internal Security Operations
JSDF	Japanese Self-Defense Forces
KFR	Kidnap-for-Ransom
LGU	Local Government Units
MarAD	Maritime and Air Defense Mission
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
MDT	RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MNLF	Moro National Liberation Front
MOOTW	Military Operations Other Than War
MUP	Military and Uniformed Personnel
NDA	National Defense Act
NDCP	National Defense College of the Philippines
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

NDS	National Defense Strategy
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGO	Non-government Organization
NMS	National Military Strategy
NSP	National Security Policy
NSS	National Security Strategy
NSTP	National Service Training Program
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OFW	Overseas Filipino Workers
OLBARRMM	Organic Law of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
OPIF	Organizational Performance Indicator Framework
PADIZ	Philippine Air Defense Identification Zone
PCG	Philippine Coast Guard
PDIDA	Philippine Defense Industry Development Act
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PDTR	Philippine Defense Transformation Roadmap
PNP	Philippine National Police
PRC	People's Republic of China
PVAO	Philippine Veterans Affairs Office
RA	Republic Act
RDRRMC	Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
SCE	Security Cooperation and Engagement Mission
SCS	South China Sea
SJPPC	Security, Justice and Peace Cabinet Cluster
SLOC	Sea Lanes of Communications
SOVFA	Status of Visiting Forces Agreement
SRDP	Self-Reliant Defense Posture
SRR	Search, Rescue and Retrieval
TCA	Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement
TCA-CP- INDOMALPHI	Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement on Coordinated Patrols among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines
TD	Territorial Defense Mission
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WPS	West Philippine Sea

A sovereign archipelagic nation in the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines confronts multifarious challenges both natural and man-made. Nestled in the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Typhoon Belt, the country experiences unprecedented disasters. Plagued by insurgency, secessionism, terrorism, and territorial disputes, the nation guards itself against such conventional and non-conventional security concerns. This volatile, uncertain, and complex environment demands the Philippine defense apparatus to efficiently and effectively utilize its modest resources.

Attaining this objective requires the Department to chart its strategic direction as embodied in this document. The National Defense Strategy (NDS) maps the planning, prioritization, and resourcing processes to keep the DND at the forefront of the country's defense and security. Aligned with the Philippine Development Plan, National Security Policy 2017-2022, and the National Security Strategy (NSS) 2018, this document defines the thrusts of

the Secretary for the Department to: 1) secure sovereignty and territorial integrity, 2) uphold and sustain internal stability, 3) attain the highest standard of capability and preparedness on disasters, 4) improve and sustain operations in support to global peace and security, and 5) promote good governance.

Ultimately, the NDS aims to address the imperative of strengthening the Department's response to innumerable challenges, and likewise harness opportunities of our security environment. In particular, it gives emphasis on the DND's future direction in ensuring sovereignty and territorial integrity, internal stability, disaster preparedness, and global-regional relations in peace and security. To build upon our gains, such efforts require the effective implementation of our capacity development and capability upgrade, as well as the passage of relevant legislative measures to bolster our strategic mechanisms.



One of the basic principles declared in the 1987 Constitution is the primary duty of the Government to serve and protect its people. The Defense Department embraces this duty by fulfilling its mandate to: 1) maximize the organization's effectiveness in guarding against external and internal threats to national peace and security, 2) promote the welfare of soldiers and veterans, and 3) provide an environment conducive for social and economic development.

The National Defense Strategy (NDS) represents this Department's firm commitment to protect the Filipino people and to ensure national security through a comprehensive strategic policy that addresses the existing, emerging and potential threats engendered by an increasingly volatile security environment. Through the NDS, defense policy setting shall be aligned with national policies such as the National Security Policy 2017-2022 and the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.

At present, the dynamic security architecture poses complex challenges that have pushed the role of the defense establishment to evolve from traditional gun-wielding defenders into modern-day agents of peace and humanitarian assistance. More than ever, it is now crucial to institute a strategy that focuses on the country's key defense interests and translates them into mission areas while

taking stock of current capabilities and resources.

By 2028, DND shall have achieved the end-state of being a defense organization that guarantees: 1) Philippine security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, 2) a reliable partner in national development, and 3) a strategic player in the Asia-Pacific region. To realize this vision, the Department continues its efforts on building and sustaining the readiness of a defense force composed of highly trained and well-equipped soldiers and competent civilian professionals; upholding the core values of patriotism, professionalism, and good governance; and significantly increasing defense capability and capacity through modernization.

Needless to say, the NDS is the government's key document on national defense policy. The need to articulate the Department's strategy, in response to national defense objectives and the priorities of this administration, is crucial due to the magnitude and complexity of identified defense and security concerns. More than a guidance to the five (5) bureaus of the Department and a collaborative framework with our partners and stakeholders, this document serves as a testament to the organization's commitment towards the realization of a secure and prosperous nation.

CHAPTER II

THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT The World We Are Living In

The Philippines is facing a highly complex and dynamic security environment, which poses multiple challenges beyond the capacity of a single government agency to address. As such, while the Department pursues capacity building and capability

development, the current environment must be used as a platform for cooperation with other government agencies to address various security concerns and as a means to guarantee the well-being of Filipinos.

A. PREVAILING SECURITY CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND MARITIME DOMAIN

Asia has one of the most dynamic regional security environment characterized by several major active disputes. One of these are the concerns in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), which can be considered as the foremost security challenge to Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is part of the larger South China Sea (SCS) dispute, which saw various Asian states laying claim to islands and features dotting this resource-rich maritime area. Considered as the maritime heartland of Southeast Asia, the SCS is crucial to the security and economy of the region. Indeed, Sea Lanes of Communica-

tions (SLOCs) must be kept open and that freedom of navigation and overflight in the SCS must be ensured.

As such, the Philippines, as a maritime and archipelagic nation, views the massive construction of artificial islands in its maritime areas in the SCS, which may be used as military bases, as a grave threat to its national security. The past years have been witness to the occupation of numerous key features in the SCS including Mischief Reef, Fiery Cross Reef, and Scarborough Shoal, as well as massive creation of artificial islands done by China to assert its claim.



Secretary Lorenzana visits Pag-asa Island



Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea



The 2016 Arbitration award, which ruled in favor of the Philippines established the country's sovereign rights over the waters in WPS and invalidated China's historic and expansive "nine-dash line" claim. The SCS is still a pertinent issue among nations even with the 2016 Arbitration ruling, as this still concerns numerous claimants and the involvement of Pacific powers including Australia, Japan, and the United States. Aside from the diplomatic relations being affected by this issue, this dispute likewise brings with it the progressively increasing degradation of the marine environment in the area. This in turn has decreased marine resources in our traditional fishing grounds that have served as source of livelihood for Filipino fisher folk since time immemorial. Compounding these is building of various artificial features, which resulted in irreversible damage to the environs. The dispute prevents the much needed international cooperation in order to address key maritime environmental concerns such as the dwindling fish stocks in the area that National Geographic believes to be one tenth of its size six (6) decades ago.

West Philippine Sea

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 29, s. 2012, West Philippine Sea (WPS) is the collective term used for the waters in the western side of the Philippine archipelago over which the Philippines has sovereign jurisdiction and sovereign rights under international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This includes the country's territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the continental shelf and extended continental shelf.

The WPS includes the Luzon Sea and waters around, within, and adjacent the Kalayaan Island Group and Bajo De Masinloc.

Notwithstanding the need to focus on the western front of the Philippine territory, the continuous monitoring and patrol of the entire Philippine territory is desired especially in the resource-rich Philippine Rise. Also important is the continuous conduct and effective implementation of the Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement on Coordinated Patrols among Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines (TCA-CP-INDOMALPHI) that shall contribute to the security of the country's southern borders. Moreover, the DND shall continue to adhere to Memorandum Circular No. 162 dated 20 August 2008 and DND 2009 Guidelines on the military-to-military activities with Malaysia in connection with the Sabah Claim.

Another important security flashpoint is in the Northeast Sea, where overlapping claims of China, Japan, and Taiwan over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands serve as the major point of contention among Asia's economic powerhouses. Liancourt Rocks, another disputed feature located halfway between South Korea and Japan, stirred historical disagreements between these

countries. Moreover, the Cross-Strait relations between China and Taiwan dominate the interplay of geopolitical players in the region and is still highly regarded as East Asia's security flashpoint. China's continued rhetoric on the "One China" policy, conduct of live fire drills and the call for reunification, as well as the rise of nationalist tones in Taiwan's international and domestic policies are all significant concerns to their precarious relationship. These developments might lead to miscalculations and further escalation of military conflict.

Increasing tension among East Asian nations is a concern given their assistance to the country's development as well as Philippine economic and social interests in these countries as highlighted by the significance in trade and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) deployed. Also important is to recognize that the overall strategic backdrop and geopolitical landscape of the Asia-Pacific lies on the US-China rivalry, which proves to be a vital consideration for the strategic decisions of the country.

ONGOING INTERNAL CONFLICTS DUE TO ETHNIC, POLITICAL, SECTARIAN AND RELIGIOUS FRICTION

Numerous internal armed conflicts are continuously disrupting global stability with majority of them taking place simultaneously in the Middle East and Africa. In Syria, government forces and the network of rebels are locked in a conflict that took the lives of and displaced Syrians in millions. To its east, the Iraqi government's

ongoing efforts to eradicate the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is progressing positively with the capture of the latter's capital, Mosul, in the middle of 2017. Further, the long-standing Israel-Palestinian conflict continues to affect regional stability.

ONGOING INTERNAL CONFLICTS DUE TO ETHNIC, POLITICAL, SECTARIAN AND RELIGIOUS FRICTION



In the Philippines, the age-old communist insurgency by the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG), the lawless activities of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and other peace-spoiling rogue elements of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), as well as terrorism acts primarily by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) are still considered as the country's major internal security concern. The CTG's insurgency, considered as one of longest running conflicts in Asia, has claimed an estimated 30,000 lives since the 1960s. Currently, it is believed that the group has approximately 4,000 fighters, down from its peak of 26,000 in the 1980s. However, the CTG still poses a threat due to its presence in several provinces particularly in the resource-rich Mindanao. Their conduct of various illegal activities which include extortion, kidnapping, and destruction of both

government and private properties impedes the development of the countryside. Negotiating a peace deal with the group is largely challenged by the group's violation of ceasefire agreements as well as continued extortions to fund the movement. In tandem with the peace process, the government is implementing efforts and providing basic services to address the root-cause of the conflict: poverty and agrarian reform.

The Muslim separatist struggle, on the other hand, is expected to come to an end largely due to the peace deal signed in 2014 with the MILF. The historic signing of RA 11054 or the Organic Law of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (OLBARRM) is expected to fully give Mindanao its long-sought peace and development that shall end the cycle of extreme poverty, underdevelopment and decades-long violence in the country's

most resource-rich region. As the proposed shift to Federalism gains ground, the Department actively monitors any developments that these proposals may contribute to the security situation.

Given the scale of the internal security challenges that the country is facing, a

convergence of effort among the AFP, PNP, other law enforcement agencies and even Local Government Units (LGUs) is desired in recognition of Internal Security Operations (ISOs) as top public safety concern and as part of the whole-of-government approach of this administration.

TERRORISM AND OTHER TRANSNATIONAL THREATS



The intensifying attacks being conducted by violent extremist groups and terrorists is a growing global concern. Attacks targeting urban centers and high-density areas are eye-openers on the capacity of these groups to spread terror, disrupt societal and economic activities, and further divide the world along ethnic and religious lines. To aggravate the situation, the power of social media has been harnessed by such extremist organizations in propagating its ideals, calling for support, and conducting recruitment efforts.

As for the Philippines, the continued lawless violence, bombings, and Kidnap-for-Ransom (KFR) antics of local terrorist groups are glaring examples of the extent of terrorism that need to be addressed. Extensive collaborative efforts among government agencies, LGUs, Civil-Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-government organizations (NGOs), international partners, and the citizenry are required to keep this in check, if not eradicated.

In May 2017, the attention of the world turned to the country as we had experienced ISIS-inspired attacks in the Islamic City of Marawi. Government forces apprehending ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon were confronted with armed resistance, which soon escalated to numerous violent attacks even against the civilian populace in the form of bombings, kidnappings, cutting of vital lines for transportation and power, seizing of facilities such as schools and hospitals. Indeed, the brazen display of ISIS flags in the city caused alarm nationwide.

Such atrocities were caused by the banding together of local terrorist groups in Mindanao, consisting of the ASG, BIFF, Maute group and the Ansarul Khilafa Philippines, collectively known as Da'watul Islamiya Waliyatul Masriq (DIWM), and the act of pledging allegiance by more groups to the DAESH vision of establishing an Islamic caliphate and promoting radicalization and violent extremism. Marawi City was targeted to be the Islamic caliphate in Southeast Asia.

The declaration of Martial Law on 23 May 2017 was a necessary measure to ensure that the rule of law and safety of the people prevail. Its subsequent extension until 31 December 2018 is welcomed as it allows the DND-AFP to better safeguard public safety in Mindanao, allow the

government the necessary space to undertake unhampered rehabilitation of Marawi, and accelerate development in the island of Mindanao.

Transnational crimes are likewise alarming due to the socioeconomic losses derived from these illegal activities and the involvement of international crime syndicates in such endeavors, including: (1) drug trafficking; (2) human trafficking of children, women, illegal migrants, and labor; (3) illegal fishing/poaching; (4) arms smuggling and proliferation of small arms; and, (5) money laundering. The porous nature of Philippine borders, especially in the South, encourage piracy, smuggling, and other illegal activities. This is a shared concern of the region.

INTENSIFYING THREAT IN CYBERSPACE

The cyberspace is an enabling environment that allows for the rapid transmission of data and quick access to information which interlink systems and processes among nations as well as connect billions of people around the globe. However, this same innovative platform is being adulterated. A country's national security and defense networks are made vulnerable to attacks and increased chance of sensitive data falling into the wrong hands.

Cyberspace is likewise known as the 4th dimension in warfare for which a defense system needs to be developed. Other relevant threats have emerged in the cyberspace such as espionage, radicalization, crime, terrorism and other various disruptions.

With most countries progressively enlarging cyber space capabilities as a weapons system, it is indeed high time to put more focus on how the nation will deter, defend, and mitigate cyber-related

incidents. Moreover, the unprecedented potential of cyberspace to bypass traditional security measures makes it a serious threat that requires immediate action in this rapidly-changing and highly-technological environment.

As part of the Department of Information and Communications Technology's (DICT) National Cybersecurity Framework, the DND is the lead agency in the following Cyber Defense tasks: (1) Defend the military network and infrastructures from cyber-attacks; (2) Gather foreign cyber threat intelligence and determine attribution; (3) Secure national security and military systems; (4) Support national protection, prevention, mitigation of, and recovery from cyber incidents; and (5) Investigate cybercrimes under military jurisdiction. These highlight the areas of convergence with other government agencies where DND can contribute in attaining a cyber-secured Philippines.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Studies show that the Philippines is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change which has been bringing extreme weather conditions underlined by extreme maximum and minimum temperatures, more frequent yet intense rains, and more disastrous tropical cyclones such as Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Aside from this,

other natural disasters that require huge amount of preparations and immediate response include earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides among others particularly in anticipation of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake (with the possible movement of the West Valley Fault or the Manila Trench or both at the same time)



and high possibility of affecting the Greater Metro Manila area and its neighboring provinces. This requires full attention as the worst case scenario would displace about 2.8 million population, and expected to cause thousands of deaths and injuries, damage infrastructure, properties, the environment and lifelines, disrupt economic activities, lead to breakdown of peace and order, among others.

According to the US Council of Foreign Relations Special Report on Climate Change and National Security dated November 2007, climate change has a destabilizing effect on global and local security background. It can overwhelm disaster-prone countries with wide-spread

humanitarian disasters, cause political violence or further undermine weak governments. Likewise, it forces governments to heavily invest in adaptation measures, stronger infrastructures, and disaster-response capabilities to reduce potential catastrophic damage. Said investment must take into consideration the limited resources, which competes with other priorities primarily high-yield socioeconomic activities.

Given the dire effects of climate change, countries and supranational bodies have been intensifying its efforts towards creating a long-term solution to mitigate its effects and manage its consequences. In terms of

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

National Security, climate change has particular effects on food security, health, economic stability, and ecological balance.

The country's participation to the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that aims to keep global temperature rise well below two (2) degrees Celsius, is a welcome development on this matter.

In accordance with the role of the Secretary of National Defense as the chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the DND thru the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) shall assist the lead agencies in the four (4) thematic areas of

the NDRRM Plan.

Further, the DND through the AFP takes the lead role in advancing integrated and coordinated Search, Rescue and Retrieval (SRR) capacity.

From a military point of view, effects of climate change have behooved the ASEAN militaries, including the AFP, to diversify their capabilities and acquire assets that may be used to address both traditional and non-traditional security threats such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). This has implications for prioritizing the defense capability upgrade of the AFP and the management of its limited financial, human, and technical resources.



Thematic areas of the NDRRM Plan 2011-2018 with the respective lead agencies

PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOACTIVE, AND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE (CBRNE) MATERIALS

Nuclear weapons still stand as the most destructive in any country's arsenal. Currently, an estimated 14,930 nuclear weapons are in the inventory of nine (9) countries with Russia and the US owning 7,000 and 6,800, respectively. In as much as there were efforts to scale down the numbers of operational nuclear weapons in the world, countries are not prevented from attempts to acquire and produce their own nuclear devices as a form of powerful deterrent.

The intermittent relations between North Korea and the US (together with its East Asian allies, South Korea and Japan) on the issue of nuclear weapons development is of great concern to our nation as this affects the safety of thousands of OFWs living in those countries

and the country's proximity. As the actors involved are moving gradually towards de-escalation, the situation still calls for the continuous attention of the Department and the pertinent government agencies in preparing for any eventualities. The DND actively supports the contingency plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) regarding this matter.

The increasing high-profile attacks using chemical and biological weapons are likewise a concern. The manner these were utilized in the assassination of Kim Jong-nam, Kim Jong-un's brother, and the Novichok poisoning in UK calls for a deeper understanding of these substances and the know-how on how to prevent such attacks.



B. OUR SECURITY PARTNERS

The complex global security environment calls for the cooperation among states to address concerns that cross borders and traditional boundaries. As such, no nation has the power to overcome these issues with this magnitude, and thus requires an

effective framework of collaboration among nations. It is in the interest of the country that security partnerships are being nurtured with other like-minded states and that possible opportunities of cooperation are being explored.

SECURITY PARTNERS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The US remains as the only treaty ally of the Philippines. Considered as one of the major powers, the US commands the world's most powerful and advanced military, with global presence supported by its network of alliances and security partnerships, and overseas bases, two of the largest of which are located in South Korea and Japan.

Further, the stabilizing US presence in the region can be expected to persist as it is strengthened by its continued defense engagements forged with Asia-Pacific nations including Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, and the Philippines. The 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) further strengthened by the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) aimed at advancing the implementation of the MDT and US-PH defense relations through: 1) Interoperability; (2) Capacity-building; (3) Maritime Security; (4) Maritime Domain Awareness; and (5) HADR.

AUSTRALIA

Australia remains a strong security partner of the Philippines ever since the diplomatic relations between the two countries was established in 1946. As further enhanced by the establishment of Philippines-Australia comprehensive partnership in 2015, cooperation on anti-terrorism measures, maritime security, natural disasters, and human trafficking as well as trainings and academic exchanges remain robust and is expected to continue in the future. Canberra's policy focuses on the modernization of its armed forces and alignment of its strategies to its resources in light of the complex dynamics of international relations. Australia-New-Zealand-United States relations continue to provide security umbrella in the Oceania region.

The Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) between the Philippines and Australia is a solid foundation for a partnership that is primed for continuing the already-effective and fruitful relations.

SECURITY PARTNERS**SOUTH KOREA**

With a long history as a key actor in East Asia and a growing regional economy, South Korea has been heavily engaged in promoting regional security in this side of the Pacific through defense cooperation and active participation in various regional initiatives.

Considered to still be engaged in a war with its northern neighbor and compounded by other regional security concerns, the focus of South Korea is to maintain its "firm readiness posture" and embrace its relationship with the US with its stabilizing presence in the Peninsula.

The ongoing cooperation on logistics between the Philippines and South Korea is a continuation of both countries' shared commitment to regional stability, first exemplified during the Korean war.

JAPAN

A Washington ally and host to US military forces, Japan is set to undertake a greater role in the region. The re-interpretation of its constitution posed a major shift in Asia's geopolitical arena as the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) may now engage in collective self-defense in aid of an ally. Japan has been intensifying the modernization of its military hardware and at the same time pursuing closer security relations with regional states including the Philippines.

Indeed, founded on the strategic partnership between the two countries established, PH-Japan security relations can be characterized through various agreements on defense cooperation and education exchanges, cooperation on capacity building, defense equipment and technology, logistics support and cooperation on non-traditional concerns especially on Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and maritime security.

PH-Japan bilateral defense relations have achieved significant milestones on various areas of cooperation.

SECURITY PARTNERS

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

The regional community celebrated its 50th year in 2017, which was successfully hosted by the Philippines and looks forward to a deeper integration in three areas:

- (1) Politico-Security;
- (2) Economic; and,
- (3) Socio-Cultural.

However, the economic gap among the member-nations is still a hurdle that must be overcome in order to achieve its desired community of having "One ASEAN". The Philippines supports ASEAN's centrality in the multilateral architecture of the region.

Thus, the Philippine defense establishment shall continue to actively participate in the various defense and security platforms of ASEAN, including, but not limited to, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), and ADMM-Plus.

In terms of defense, it can be noted that there is a marked increase in defense spending and asset-acquisition during the past few years among ASEAN members, which can be attributed to the efforts in

addressing the disputes surrounding the region's waters and states' response against transnational issues.

Aside from defense spending, the challenges mentioned also served as impetus for greater cooperation among ASEAN states that resulted in practical initiatives such as the Trilateral Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Said effort is a continuation of the long-standing relationship between the countries on maritime security and anti-trafficking, as first identified in the Philippines-Indonesia Border Patrol Agreement.

Moreover, emphasis on the country's relationship with Vietnam is anchored on the six-year strategic partnership concluded by the President in 2017 with Hanoi that spells out the importance of bilateral negotiations on maritime cooperation. With the success of the Trilateral Cooperation Agreement and other signed agreements, the Department shall continue exploring other potential bilateral/multilateral engagements on security and defense with the ASEAN partners.

EMERGING SECURITY PARTNERS

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

People's Republic of China's (PRC) rise in the world stage as a major power is buttressed on a well-equipped and sizable military coupled with a dynamic economy, making it one of the world's key markets.

With these resources, it is expected that the Asian power will expand its regional reach in the years to come as it looks forward to its twin centenary - the 100th year of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the centennial celebrations for the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

In light of the historical partnership and cooperation between Manila and Beijing, the current warm relationship between the two countries is a welcome development for the region.

RUSSIA

The dissolution of the Soviet Union reduced Russia's ability for power projection. However, recent modernization drive, possession of one of the world's largest nuclear arsenal, and strong-willed leadership provided by President Vladimir Putin makes Russia a considerable military power with reach from Eastern Europe to the shores of Siberia.

With the signing of numerous agreements as well as proposal for deeper cooperation, it is expected that Moscow will be an emerging partner of the Philippines in security and defense.

OTHER SECURITY PARTNERS

The country's emerging security relations with India, New Zealand, Israel and Canada are also noteworthy and require utmost recognition in view of the cooperation on training and capability development, among others. Same acknowledgment can be likewise extended to Philippine European partners including, but not limited to:

- ◆ **Czech Republic**
- ◆ **Spain**
- ◆ **Italy**
- ◆ **Poland**
- ◆ **France**
- ◆ **United Kingdom**
- ◆ **Germany**
- ◆ **Turkey**

All in all, the security threats and our international partnerships play a vital role in defining the way ahead for the security sector, particularly on defense planning and strategy-making.

The multi-dimensional character and rapidly-changing nature of the geopolitical arena must be taken into consideration and must serve as important reminder for the Defense Department and the AFP to continue developing and improving its capabilities, its systems, and the culture of the defense community.

Recognizing and aligning the priorities and strategies along these realities shall allow the DND to effectively and competently uphold its constitutional mandate to the country and to the Filipino people.

CHAPTER III

THE DEFENSE FORCE STRUCTURE



“Let our Defense Organization be a key player in the Asia-Pacific Region, a formidable partner in nation building, trusted and relied on by our people. With the active participation of each and every soldier and civilian personnel, we can collectively make the Department of National Defense a partner towards a peaceful and progressive Philippines.”

DND Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana
during the 77th DND Anniversary

THE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

By virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 230 to implement *Commonwealth Act No. 1*, otherwise known as the *National Defense Act of 1935*, the Department of National Defense (DND) was established on 1 November 1939. It is one of the oldest executive government agencies of the Republic, tracing its roots back to the inauguration of the Commonwealth Republic of former President Manuel L. Quezon.

To this day, the DND continues to fulfill its mandate of serving and protecting the Filipino people against the backdrop of an ever-evolving security architecture. The Department subscribes to having a Philippines where freedom, dignity, and prosperity are fully expressed, enhanced, and protected.

With the Philippines emerging as a proactive stakeholder in international and regional affairs, it adheres to the

fundamental principles of a republic and democratic country as embodied in the **1987 Philippine Constitution**.

The country renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law, and strives for peace, equality, justice, freedom, and amity with all nations. **(Article II, Section 2)**

The constitution upholds the supremacy of civilian authority over the military while it tasks the armed forces of the Philippines to be the protector of the people and the state, and to secure the sovereignty and integrity of the national territory. **(Article II, Section 3)**

In pursuit of its prime duty to serve and protect the people, the government may call upon its citizens to defend the state through personal, military, or civil service. **(Article II, Section 4)**

The DND is the agency primarily tasked to ensure the defense and security of the country. Its organizational structure consists of the DND Proper providing policy direction to its five (5) attached bureaus, namely:

- ◆ Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)
- ◆ Government Arsenal (GA)
- ◆ National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP)
- ◆ Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
- ◆ Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO)



MANDATE

To maximize its effectiveness for guarding against external and internal threats to national peace and security, promote the welfare of soldiers and veterans, and provide support for social and economic development.

Executive Orders (EO) Nos. 292 (1987) and 112 (1999)

VISION

A Defense Organization that guarantees Philippine security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, a reliable partner in national development, and a strategic player in the Asia Pacific region.

CORE VALUES

Guided by the fundamental principles and core values of patriotism, professionalism, and good governance, the DND performs its duties and responsibilities for the successful attainment of its vision and mandate.

THE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION



CHAPTER IV

THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

“The Government envisions a Philippines that by 2022 shall become a secure and prosperous nation wherein the people’s welfare, well-being, ways of life and core values, government and its institutions, territorial integrity and sovereignty are protected and enhanced and confident of its place in the community of nations.”

National Security Policy (NSP) 2017-2022

A. RELATING THE SECURITY, DEFENSE AND MILITARY STRATEGIES

The National Defense Strategy (NDS) is an essential part of the logical order of strategies that cascades in all levels of the government.

The National Security Strategy (NSS), the overall blueprint, identifies the important tasks to be accomplished by the entire bureaucracy to ensure an environment conducive for the people to live their potential, for communities to grow, and for the economy to prosper.

Strategic Lines of Actions and a National Security Framework were likewise established to guide the different agencies of the government and to serve as backbone to agency plans that seamlessly support the national security agenda.

The NDS, on the other hand, maps the planning, prioritization, and resourcing process of the Department in line with the identified priorities and outcomes of the NSS. This document is the contribution of the Department to the whole-of-government approach espoused by the NSS.

In recognition of the complex and multi-faceted nature of threats that the country faces. The NDS likewise provides the frame-



work for the DND and its bureaus on enhancing the capacity to address present and evolving challenges in view of the rapidly-changing security landscape.

The NDS, in the same vein, shall serve as the anchor in crafting the **National Military Strategy (NMS)**. Ultimately, the cascading of NDS to NMS ensures coherence and alignment of important strategies for a more effective and collective response to national security threats, in all levels of the Philippine Government.

The DND shall actively ensure and support the National Security Goals and Strategic Actions as identified in the **National Security Policy (NSP) 2017-2022** and the **National Security Strategy (NSS) 2018**.

RELATING THE SECURITY, DEFENSE AND MILITARY STRATEGIES

NATIONAL SECURITY GOALS	KEY FEATURES OF STRATEGIC ACTIONS
Guarantee Public Safety and achieve Good Governance	Terrorism, Insurgency and Subversion
	Modernize, professionalize and synergize the Armed Forces with the National Police to be capable of combating terrorism, insurgency and subversion, quickly and decisively.
	Defeat Radicalism and prevent recruitment.
	Implement the peace agreements.
	Provide additional security to future and existing infrastructure projects.
	Address the plight of the Indigenous Peoples and farmers to prevent unrest in the countryside and recruitment of insurgents and terrorists.
	Implement peace-promoting and catch-up socioeconomic development.
	Strengthen government peace and development institutions.
	Train and expand the strength of the reservists to at least one percent (1%) of the population.
	Transnational Organized Crimes
	Create a reliable database on transnational organized crime syndicates for information-sharing with foreign counterparts.
	Criminalities, Public Safety, Rule of Law, and Human Rights
	Dismantle all private armies.
	Integrate human rights approaches to all aspects of State functions.
Building a system for swift intelligence gathering and apprehension of criminal elements.	
Develop a Dynamic, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy	Promote military and defense establishments' partnerships with the private sector and foreign companies in the build-up of strategic industries.
Safeguard and Preserve National Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity	Modernize the deterrent and self-defense capabilities of our ground, naval, littoral, and air forces.
	Enhance professional development of defense and foreign attaches.
	Pursue national security legislations.
	Support bilateral, regional, and global mechanisms that promote peace and security, the rule of law, and peaceful resolution of disputes.
Promote Human Ecological Security	Strengthen the role and capability of the local government units and security forces in disaster, emergencies and crisis response.
	Allocate sufficient public funds and investments in disaster risk reduction and management and to personnel engaged in disaster-risk and reduction activities.
Ensure Maritime and Airspace Security	Integrate management plans and operation in our air and maritime domains.
	Identify and acquire equipment to provide nationwide 24/7 domain awareness, and effectively manage and control Philippines air and maritime spaces.
	Promote maritime domain awareness.
Strengthen International Relations	Promote amity and cooperation with all nations by enhancing bilateral relations, strengthening alliances and strategic partnerships, and developing new security or cooperation arrangements.
	Expand and enhance engagements and cooperation with regional and international organizations.
	Expand security, defense, social and economic diplomacy in support of the national vision and the country's security and development agenda.

B. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

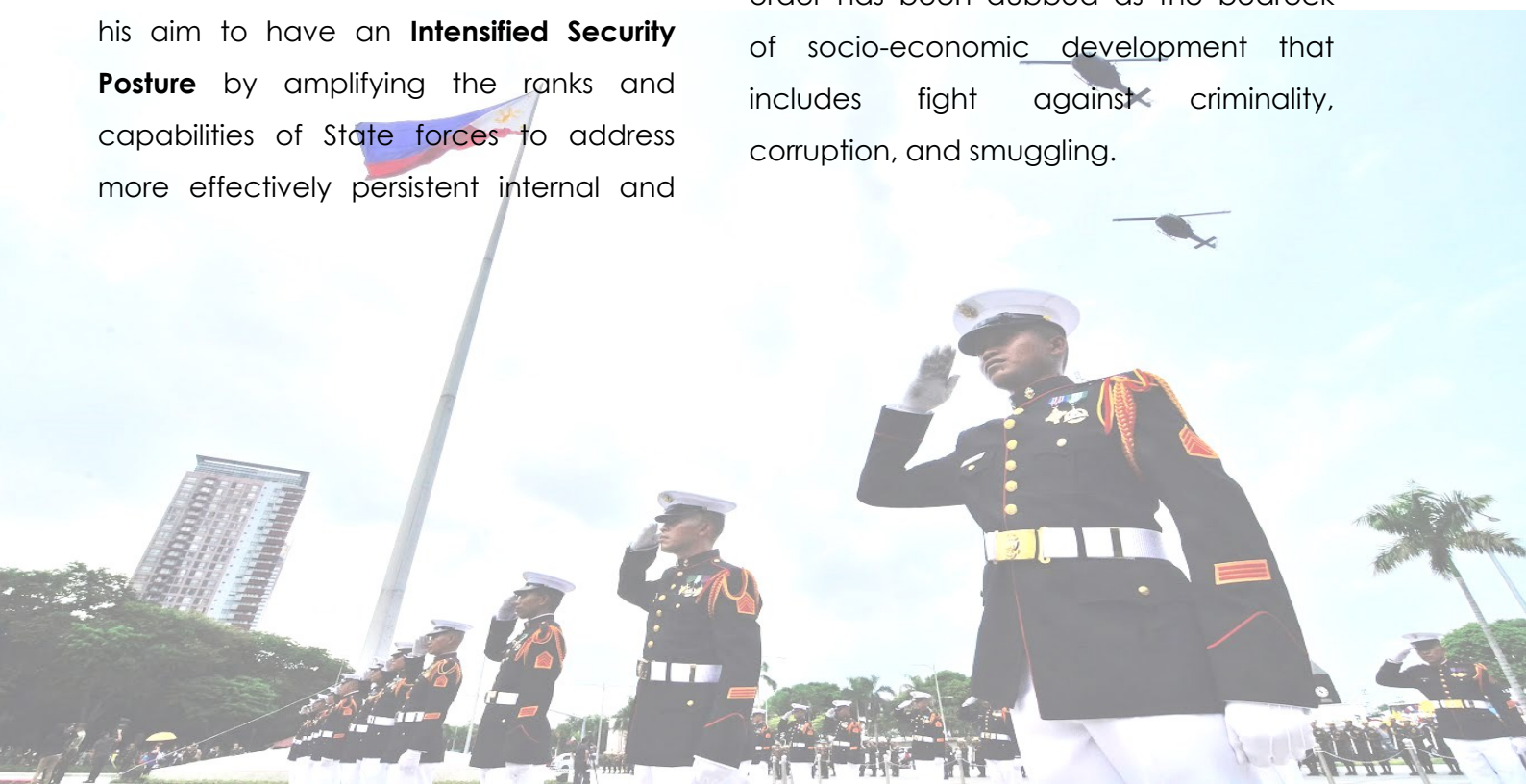
The country's national security and economic vision as prescribed in the National Security Policy (NSP) 2017-2022, Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 and the Roadmap of the Security, Justice, and Peace Cabinet Cluster (SJPC), is to establish a **Cohesive, Secure, and Progressive Nation Achieved**. Based on the NSP 2017-2022, the Philippine government envisions to be a **Secure and Prosperous Nation by 2022**, wherein the people's welfare, well-being, ways of life and the government's core values are protected, territorial integrity and sovereignty are enhanced, and the country is confident of its place in the community of nations.

Both the security and development agenda are echoed by the President in his aim to have an **Intensified Security Posture** by amplifying the ranks and capabilities of State forces to address more effectively persistent internal and

external security threats. With this goal, additional manpower for uniformed personnel covering the air, naval, and land assets is endeavored to be acquired.

The fight against corruption has been the battlecry of the incumbent administration as early as the Presidential Electoral Campaign of 2016. Today, as stated in the PDP 2017-2022, a secure and peaceful environment is essential to achieve a strong economic growth and development. This secure and peaceful environment can only be achieved through a people-centered, corrupt-free and efficient government.

In the **President's Zero to 10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda**, peace and order has been dubbed as the bedrock of socio-economic development that includes fight against criminality, corruption, and smuggling.



B. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

The DND plays an important role in producing an environment that is conducive for growth in order to pave the way for prosperity. Specifically, the Department actively contributes to the government's development plans in **attaining a just and lasting peace** and **ensuring security, public order and safety**.

On 20 July 2016, the DND identified strategic thrusts founded on the priorities of the current administration while its strategic outcomes have been stipulated in the Department's Organizational Performance Indicator Framework (OPIF) and the Philippine Defense Transformation Roadmap (PDTR) 2028. In broad strokes the Department's strategic priorities are shown below:

STRATEGIC THRUSTS

1. **Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of the State Secured**
2. **Internal Stability Promoted and Sustained**
3. **Highest Standard of Capability and Preparedness on Disasters Attained**
4. **Operations in Support to Global Peace and Security Improved and Sustained**
5. **Good Governance Upheld**

In response to the multifarious challenges posed by a dynamic security environment, the Department continuously endeavors to carry out strategic priorities by identifying a list of mission areas that lay the foundation to perform defense missions and functions for both civilian and military bureaus.

EXTERNAL DEFENSE MISSIONS

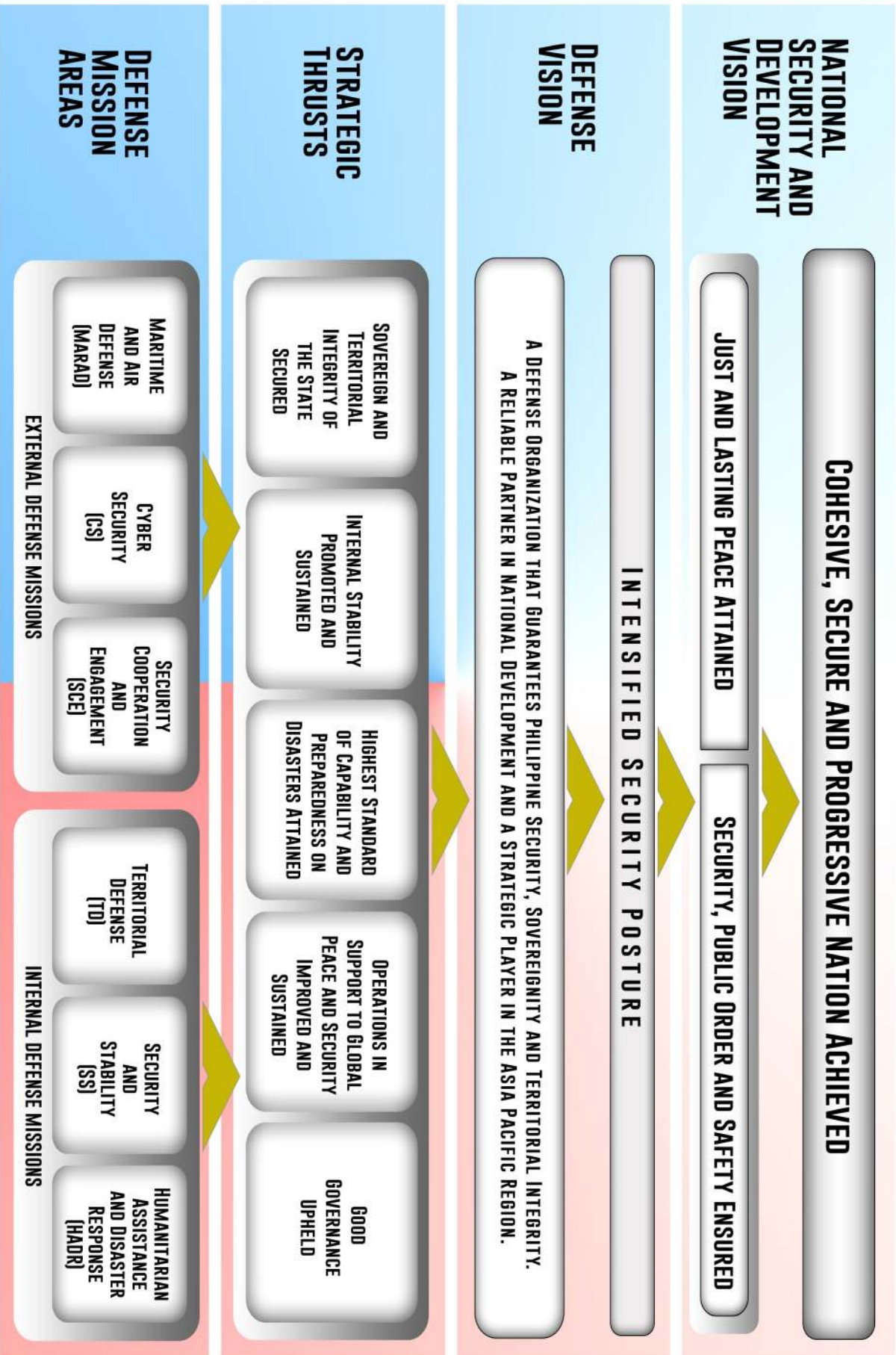
1. **Maritime and Air Defense Mission (MarAD)**
2. **Cyber Security Mission (CS)**
3. **Security Cooperation and Engagement Mission (SCE)**

INTERNAL DEFENSE MISSIONS

1. **Territorial Defense Mission (TD)**
2. **Security and Stability Mission (SS)**
3. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Mission (HADR)**

The relationships of these visions and concepts are connected through the NDS strategic framework, explained in detail in the succeeding chapters.

NDS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



CHAPTER V

THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The SND's guidance articulates the priorities that chart the Department's future direction and policy developments. It likewise reflects the pronouncements of the President and overall direction of the national Government.

With the core values of patriotism, professionalism, and good governance, the DND shall be guided by the vision statement of the President of streamlining

bureaucracy, cutting red tape, fighting crime and pursuing an independent foreign policy, among others.

Moreover, the Department shall strive to realize its vision to become a credible defense organization that ensures Philippine security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; a reliable partner in national development; and a strategic player in the Asia-Pacific Region.

1. SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE SECURED

A. STRATEGIC THRUSTS

As with any defense force of a sovereign nation, the Department shall sustain its efforts in improving capabilities for territorial defense through the following:

(1) Continued implementation of the AFP Capability Upgrade Program and

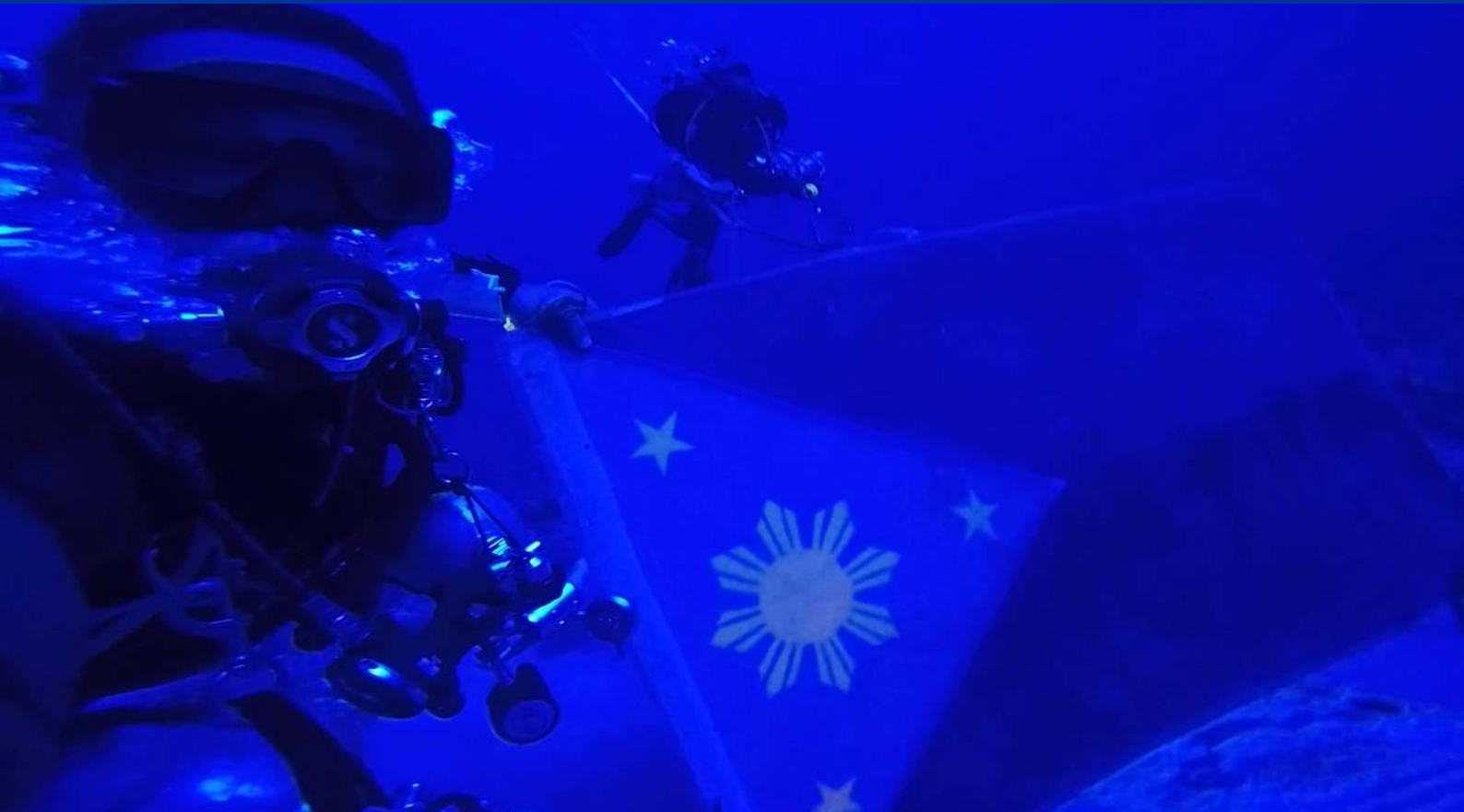
AFP Modernization Program; and,

(2) Orchestrating the development of a robust defense industry that will sustain the capabilities being developed by the AFP through a proactive Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) Program.



Philippine Airforce FA-50 light fighter

1. SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE SECURED



Flag planted at the bottom of the Philippine Rise in celebration of the Philippine Independence Day in 2017



Flag raising at the Philippine Rise aboard the BRP Davao Del Sur to celebrate the Independence Day of the Philippines in 2017

2. INTERNAL STABILITY



As its contribution to the attainment of a secure environment that is conducive for national development, the DND shall intensify its support to law enforcement agencies, particularly those that aim to

counter and eliminate destabilizing threats posed by terrorist groups and lawless syndicates while upholding and adhering to the principles of human rights, international humanitarian law, and rule of law.



INTERNAL STABILITY



Benefits Under Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP)

 Reintegration Assistance (P21,000)	 Firearms, Explosives, and Ammunitions Remuneration	 Immediate Assistance (P15,000)	 Livelihood Assistance (P50,000)
 Livelihood Materials & Implements or Employment Assistance (P100,000)	 Access to Government Services	 Medical Assistance	 Legal Assistance
 Housing	 Modified Conditional Cash Transfer	 Loan & Market Access	 Alternative Learning System
 Psychosocial Assistance	 College Tuition and Stipend	 Conditional Transitional Grant (P5,000)	 Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Projects

Convergence of Government Agencies

The Department shall remain supportive of the peace process, particularly in the implementation of signed as well as new peace agreements and related initiatives to attain a just and lasting peace.

Reintegrating former rebels to the society through the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) is one program under such initiative.

The E-CLIP provides a complete package of assistance to former rebels, as well as their immediate family members, who desire to abandon the armed struggle and become productive members of society.

Further, the Department chairs the inter-agency Task Force Balik Loob which is the central coordinating body that supervises the reintegration efforts of the national government through the E-CLIP. Other members of the said Task Force include:

- Office of the President
- Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
- National Housing Authority (NHA)

3. HIGHEST STANDARD OF CAPABILITY AND PREPAREDNESS ON DISASTERS ATTAINED

In its objective of attaining the highest standard of capability and preparedness to address the consequences of natural and man-made disasters, the DND shall

improve coordination with other agencies and actors while exploring new ways to integrate risk mitigation measures in HADR.



The OCD shall continue to be proactive in implementing and monitoring its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) programs at the local DRRM councils, as well as strengthening linkages with both international and local partners to enhance cooperation on DRRM-Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CCAM). It shall safeguard the prompt

and accurate dissemination of warnings and advisories to instill awareness and ensure safety of the communities. The OCD shall also shift its focus on prioritizing capacity development among 14 basic sectors on its DRRM-CCAM programs and activities aligned with the government's socio-economic agenda of improving its social protection program.





On the other hand, the AFP shall consolidate and capacitate selected units for first responder's role and improve coordination with other agencies and civil society organizations for humanitarian assistance and DRRM operations. Further, the AFP shall enhance its Communications, Electronics and Information Systems (CEIS)

requirements and capabilities to support its HADR units and function. In addition, the Department shall invest in upgrading HADR units of the Armed Forces to International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) standards and develop basic HADR capability notwithstanding existing inherent equipment.



4. OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT TO GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY IMPROVED AND SUSTAINED

The DND shall deepen its relations with existing defense partners and explore collaboration with potential ones in order to promote Philippine defense interests and generate opportunities for capability and capacity building. To attain optimal results, the DND aims to rationalize its engagement program with the endview of ensuring that its activities with its partners are of high

value and has great impact to both the Defense Department and the country.

The DND shall sustain making modest contributions to global and regional peace through its involvement in regional organizations and the UN, specifically through peacekeeping missions.



5. GOOD GOVERNANCE UPHELD

The Department will continuously undertake institutional reforms to promote good governance by upholding the values of integrity, accountability, and transparency. Such institutional reforms will have a two-pronged goal of ensuring the

efficiency of government services and eliminating opportunities for graft and corruption to strengthen the faith, trust and confidence of the people in their government.

B. DEFENSE MISSION AREAS

The Defense Mission Planning Memorandum (DMPM) 2018, signed on 23 January 2018, laid out the mission areas which provide the foundation in determining military missions and tasks, as well as in assessing defense capabilities. In pursuit of its aim to sustain an effective archipelagic-maritime defense, the response to threats on national peace and security are categorized into internal and external defense mission areas. In this context, the internal environment covers the country's archipelagic area, including its territorial sea, and the respective airspace. On the other hand, the external environment covers the maritime area over

which the Philippines has sovereignty and/or enjoy sovereign rights, as well as space and cyber domains. In addition, the concept of **jointness** shall be applied in order to improve the overall organizational effectiveness and efficiency of the AFP, with the AFP Major Services serving as force providers, and the Unified Commands acting as force employers. Overall, in the performance of these tasks, the AFP shall continue to uphold and adhere to the principles of human rights, international humanitarian law, and the rule of law.

In line with this, the Defense Department focuses its programs, projects and activities along the following mission areas:

EXTERNAL DEFENSE MISSION AREAS

1. MARITIME AND AIR DEFENSE (MarAD)

MarAD's operating environment covers the maritime and air domain of the Philippines beyond its 12NM zone over which it has sovereign rights for exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing living and non-living resources of the waters and the continental shelf underneath, including the seabed and subsoil.

Chief among the Defense Department's tasks in this mission area is the improvement of its capability on **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** over the surface, sub-surface, and air space; and **Air Domain**

Awareness (ADA) over the Philippine Air Defense Identification Zone (PADIZ), which covers 350NM and beyond. Enhancement of MDA and ADA has been pursued through the conduct of maritime and air patrols, naval and air interdiction, among others.

In coordination with other agencies, the DND defends the country against transnational crimes and illegal activities such as island-taking/building, and protects the environment against illegal fishing and poaching.



MARITIME AND AIR DEFENSE (MarAD)



On the matter of the West Philippine Sea, the DND and AFP will participate in crafting post-arbitration strategies and policies anchored on the rule of law. With regard to the Philippine Rise, the Department supports the institutionalization of consolidating efforts of all sectors in the Philippine Rise and boosting of existing

mechanisms such as the National Coast Watch Center and the Area Task Force North. Further, due to the exigency of immediately securing the Philippine Rise, the Department shall precipitate a legislative agenda for obtaining authority and necessary resources for building appropriate capabilities in the area.



2. CYBER SECURITY (CS)

The rapidly changing security environment poses complexities to defense sectors worldwide, necessitating integration of reforms and innovations. Addressing the emerging and escalating security threat in the field of cyber security is a chief example of such complexity. To effectively address this dynamic and fast evolving threat, investment in both facilities and personnel are essential.

The development of a secure Information and Communications Technology (ICT) network and infrastructure for the DND and the government shall be prioritized.

Skills development of personnel through continuous training, information sharing, and capacity and knowledge building on cyber security monitoring and defense will be conducted. Regional and global linkages will be continuously sought to establish cooperation in multilateral forums. To guide the DND Proper and its bureaus on the Department's policy direction on cybersecurity, the crafting of a cyber defense strategy or plan in consonance with the National Cybersecurity Plan 2022 of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) will be endeavored.



3. SECURITY COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT (SCE)



The role of defense diplomacy relations has been steadily increasing in this day and age. Seen as an opportunity to advance our interests, the Defense Department shall deepen its relations with existing defense allies and like-minded nations while exploring collaboration with other potential partners to promote Philippine defense interests and generate opportunities for capability and capacity building. In order to attain

optimal results, the DND shall rationalize its engagement program with the end view of ensuring that its activities with its partners are of high value and great impact to both DND and the country. To this end, the Department shall endeavor to closely collaborate and maintain cohesive relationship with our civilian counterparts through strengthening synergy of embassies and foreign staff.

11TH ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING (ADMM)

23 OCTOBER 2017 | CLARK, PAMPANGA, PHILIPPINES



1. TERRITORIAL DEFENSE (TD)

TD means defense of the homeland. In comparison to MarAD, TD's jurisdiction covers all the land, water, and air space until the 12-nm territorial seas of the Philippines. This mission area aims to uphold the country's territorial integrity by protecting, defending and securing the Philippines from intrusions, incursions, and actual invasion. The main concern of this mission area is addressing threats due to overlapping territorial boundaries. Hence, the conduct of border patrol and defense support to law enforcement against transnational crimes within the 12nm

territorial seas falls within this mission area. Case in point, the increasing incidence of armed robbery at sea, kidnapping and other transnational crimes along the shared areas of the three countries prompted the defense ministers of the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia to enter into a trilateral cooperative arrangement. The trilateral cooperation is also expected to beef up the collaboration to counter the movement of violent extremists and terrorists across the three countries' borders in ensuring that the waters remain safe and secure.



2. SECURITY AND STABILITY (SS)

Maintaining peace and stability in order to ensure an environment conducive to national development is the goal of the Defense Department. The DND's role in giving support to national government agencies is crucial to this endeavor. As emphasized in the PDP 2017-2022, ensuring peace and security is of high priority as it provides the environment necessary for other national development strategies to work. Peace and security is the enabling factor for Filipinos to enjoy a "Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag Na Buhay."

Counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, counter-violent extremism, countering rebellion, giving support to law

enforcement operations, and protecting vital infrastructure are among the pursuits in this mission area. The Department shall relentlessly focus military operations against terrorist groups and terrorist cells, and shall allocate required resources to suppress them. The DND shall, likewise, intensify its support to civil authorities and other stakeholders in promoting and sustaining internal stability to foster the foundation for inclusive economic and human development. Support to law enforcement shall be in the fight against criminality and illegal drugs, civil military cooperation, peace building and advocacy and the application of military force against terrorists and other threat groups.



2. SECURITY AND STABILITY (SS)

The DND shall continue its full support to the peace process, especially in the implementation of signed as well as new agreements. The Department will provide support to relevant agencies regarding peace tables and provide representatives who will actively participate in the talks with insurgents and secessionists.

In coordination with other departments and agencies, the DND shall assist in maintaining

a secure environment conducive for social and economic development. It shall support the government's efforts toward the attainment of economic development and social cohesion. The Department, through the AFP, shall conduct development support operations that aim to sustain the peace, ensure security, and help maintain public order so as to foster the foundation for inclusive economic growth.



3. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RESPONSE (HADR)

The Philippines' geographical location is both a boon and a bane. Along with the rich flora and fauna our country is blessed with, come frequent weather disturbances. Added with risks caused by human-induced disasters such as Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) attacks, there is a need to continuously ensure the safety of citizens from both natural and man-made hazards.

This mission area is all encompassing as it covers the before-during-after disaster phases by conducting Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW) such as providing support to civilian agencies in the conduct of pre-disaster warnings, search and rescue operations, and relief operations, among others.

The DND shall consolidate and capacitate the AFP and the OCD for humanitarian assistance and DRRM efforts and improve

coordination with other agencies and stakeholders. Responding to disasters entails the concerted effort of various government agencies. Thus, the DND, through the OCD, shall work closely with local government units and local chief executives, which are often the first responders in times of disaster. At the same time, the AFP, as first responders, together with the OCD, shall work closely for an efficient and effective execution of disaster response plans and programs. The linkages with local and international disaster response related institutions as well as forged agreements with these bodies for an effective disaster response mechanism shall likewise be strengthened to include ASEAN's One ASEAN, One Response Declaration, the INSARAG of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).



C. STRATEGIC GUIDANCE TO CIVILIAN BUREAUS

1. GOVERNMENT ARSENAL (GA)



"The Government Arsenal shall formulate plans and programs to achieve self-sufficiency in small arms, mortars and other weapons and munitions for the AFP, PNP, and other government law enforcement agencies, design, develop, manufacture, procure, stockpile, allocate and repair small arms, mortars, and other weapons and munitions and to sell and export excess products and, devise ways and means for the efficient mobilization of the civilian industry to augment the production of the Arsenal in times of emergency."

The GA shall improve its capability in its production of munitions and arms and support the sustainment of existing and future assets to ensure their continuous operational status. Further the GA shall develop its self-sufficiency and pursue its mandate as part of the Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) Program to develop

and manufacture requirements for the AFP in particular, and law enforcement agencies, in general, with particular focus on meeting the small arms ammunitions. In uniformity with this, the GA shall fast-track the development of the Government Arsenal Defense Industrial Estate.





"To prepare future defense and security leaders for high positions of responsibility and command and undertake strategic research and special studies as basis for the formulation of policies to enhance national defense and security, and programs and projects in pursuit of the DND mission."

(Mandate based on DND Circular No. 02, 4 May 2007)

As the educational arm of the Department, the NDCP shall continue to enhance its curriculum and develop other programs for defense and security leaders and managers. Further, it shall continue to maintain and develop partnerships with local and international defense and military educational institutions and related groups.

On the other hand, as the research and policy analysis institution of the DND, the NDCP shall likewise enhance defense and security education and policy research initiatives to address core, peripheral, and emerging security issues as regularly determined by the Department to complement the knowledge of defense personnel.

3. OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE (OCD)



“The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) shall have the primary mission of administering a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management program by providing leadership in the continuous development of strategic and systematic approaches as well as measures to reduce the vulnerabilities and risks to hazards and manage the consequences of disasters.”

(Section 8, R.A. 10121, entitled Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010)

Natural and man-made disasters remain to be a core security threat for the DND in the areas of managing, mitigating, and responding to the occurrence of such calamities.

In addressing this concern, the OCD shall continue the enhancement of its facilities to improve its existing capabilities and capacitate its Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (RDRRMCs) and personnel for HADR through intensive education, training and information support.

The OCD shall maintain and improve partnerships with other local agencies, NGOs, as well as civilian and military partners for the sustainment of coordination, cooperation, and sharing of best practices and technological advancements in HADR operations and DRRM.

To prepare for the creation of a new agency dedicated to implementing DRRM, the OCD shall enhance its personnel competency by refocusing on civil preparedness as its main mandate.

4. PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE (PVAO)



The PVAO shall continue in improving its management of veterans' pensions and benefits and ensure that health services to veterans and their qualified dependents are provided in a prompt and convenient manner. In recognizing and perpetuating the heroic deeds and sacrifices of our soldiers and veterans, the PVAO shall strengthen partnerships with other government agencies, the academe, and private sector in the development of shrines, celebration of commemorative events, and publication of related materials on veterans' heroism.

"To ensure the welfare and well-being of the veterans and perpetuate the memory of their heroic deeds."

(PVAO Kagitingan Roadmap 2022)



CHAPTER VI

CREDIBLE DEFENSE POSTURE

“Developing a credible defense and law enforcement capability is a crucial cornerstone of national security and an intrinsic goal of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police modernization programs.”

NSP 2017-2022

As stated in the NSP 2017-2022, the concept of national security has changed and expanded to cover virtually every aspect of life. National security, as defined in the same document, is a “state or condition wherein the people’s welfare, well-being, ways of life; government and its institutions; territorial integrity; sovereignty; and core values are enhanced and protected.”

In line with this, the Defense Department aims to ensure that the Armed Forces is fortified with the capacity to preplan and accomplish its mission and achieve the effects desired in any anticipated security environment.

In 1996, it was the policy of the State to modernize the armed forces to a level where it can effectively perform its constitutional mandate. In response, the Philippine Congress passed the 15-year implementation of the AFP Modernization Program which was extended for another 15 years in 2012. For almost two decades, capability planning, development, and

acquisition have been deemed a priority strategic industry of the national government. Notwithstanding such efforts, the defense force pushes for necessary legislative agenda to respond to emerging and unexpected challenges to defense and security in anticipation of reaching a potent level of readiness.

The 2017 12-point National Security Agenda also reiterates the need for effective defense and security posture. It prescribes military and border security as a primary concern. Collective action is called for in achieving self-reliance in defense, to assume full responsibility for security, protection of the country, and strengthening of national sovereignty by modernizing capabilities of our core security sectors. With which, the interdependence of security and development can no longer be denied. The all-encompassing concept of national security is therefore comprised of different dimensions which present complex challenges for the government in its aim to have a secure and prosperous nation.

A. ACHIEVING RESPONSIVE STATE OF READINESS

To effect proficient state of preparedness, development is dissected to encompass the vast classification of capability through core components of human resource; doctrines; capability, material, and technology; force structuring and organization; and bases support systems. Through the current implementation of Defense System of

Management (DSOM), the Department is able to improve and streamline its systems and processes; hence, guaranteeing that every resource is utilized in pursuit of a needed capability founded on a sound strategy. It serves as the guide for strategic planning, capability assessment, acquisition and resource management.



1. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (HRD)

Precedence is allocated for the development of the personnel component of the defense sector, both its uniformed and non-uniformed component. Capacitating the human resource of the defense sector is essential to strengthen and mold the patriotic spirit and nationalist consciousness of its personnel and imbibe respect for people's rights in the performance of their duty. Trainings, exchanges, development programs,

and defense scholarships are among some enablers that develop and transform the defense sector into a compact, effective, efficient, responsive multi-mission oriented citizen-based force capable of effectively addressing a vast array of security threats. Moreover, the HRD includes programs on defense leadership and education to build-up competencies of significant posts and assignments.

2. DOCTRINES DEVELOPMENT

The Defense Department and the armed forces shall be responsible for the generation, evaluation, consolidation and formalization of doctrines; the conduct of

periodic review and validation of doctrines through field application, testing and exercises; and the dissemination of approved doctrines at all levels of command.

A. ACHIEVING RESPONSIVE STATE OF READINESS

3. CAPABILITY, MATERIAL, AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

The AFP modernization program entails the identification, development, production, and acquisition of capabilities that can address identified threats.

Enhancing capabilities for **air defense** will afford the armed forces airlift, search and rescue, rapid deployment and related support in combat, as well as disaster and other civilian relief operations.

Development of **maritime defense** capabilities are geared towards enhancing naval defense to safeguard the Philippine territorial seas, its internal waters, exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and other maritime areas where it exercises sovereign rights over from all forms of surface and sub-surface illegal intrusion; to protect all sub-surface lines of communication, and to monitor all surface and sub-surface passage along such waters.

Land defense capability acquisition and development will provide adequate ground forces in strategic sites in major islands of the country capable of carrying out independent and joint defense operations; transport personnel and equipment rapidly through all kinds of terrain in all kinds of weather conditions; conduct disaster relief and civilian engineering and construction operations; and allow monitoring of compliance with the enforcement of all laws relating to the preservation and protection of forest, wildlife and mineral resources, as the proper government agency may require. Moreover, combined arms operations, urban warfare training, intelligence operations, force protection, combat engineering capabilities and sustainment during military operations shall be enhanced.



3. CAPABILITY, MATERIAL, AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT



Enhancing **Joint Command and Control** through the development of the AFP Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Information, Surveillance, Target Acquisitions and Reconnaissance (C4ISTAR) System, is crucial for interoperability, integration, and synchronized joint operations of the armed forces and government efforts.

General Support capability development is necessary to achieve unity of effort and maximize efficiency. This initiative entails capacitating the overall support system for the armed forces' joint operations. Its ensured interoperability shall provide the required support in maintaining peace and stability and providing contingencies

through application of multirole capabilities.

Enhancing the Capability and Capacity in the production of **weapons ammunition and other munitions** to support and sustain the capability development of the AFP in line with the spirit of a self-reliant defense posture as a vehicle towards the attainment of the long-sought defense self-sufficiency thereby contributing in the country's socioeconomic development.

The collaborative engagement in all activities for jointness between civilian and military functional capability areas must also be ensured.

4. FORCE STRUCTURING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It is the mission of the Defense Department to maintain an armed forces that is efficient and responsive to engage in conventional and unconventional warfare such as internal and external operations as well as

disaster relief and rescue operations, while continuously contributing to economic development and other nontraditional military roles.

5. BASES/SUPPORT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

An Overall Strategic Basing Plan that consolidates the role of defense real estate management as a vital resource for posturing and resource management shall be crafted. Permanent bases for land, air and naval forces must conform to national defense strategies and the government's

socioeconomic thrusts. A systematic relocation of AFP units that shall enhance their capability in the performance of their mission shall be endeavored. Adequate support systems, housing facilities, and training grounds for units of the armed forces shall be provided.

B. FORTIFYING THE DEFENSE FORCE

The multifaceted security challenges the Philippines is experiencing require a multi-disciplinary approach. With which, a Total Force framework is essential to adapt to such security environment. The framework serves as a guide in developing a "whole of defense" picture by presenting the total defense and security posture of the country through identified threats across various defense conditions along a spectrum of peacetime to time of conflict.

Some identified peacetime efforts within the said framework are Support to National Development, Protection of Territorial

Waters, Search and Rescue, Peace Process, Anti-drug War, Public Order and Safety, Maritime Law Enforcement, Peacekeeping, and Disasters and Calamities. On the other hand, activities during time of conflict include Peace Enforcement, Counter Terrorism, and Conventional and Unconventional Warfare. These identified threats across the spectrum represent the challenges the State has to address. Hence, this necessitates the collaboration and coordination of various sectors of the government, the armed forces, and the citizenry.

1. THE WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT

Inasmuch as our Constitution rests the task of protecting the people and the State in the military and the Defense Department, the DND-AFP is but one contributory player to the overall national security image we desire to achieve. The multifarious security issues the Philippines is experiencing requires a multidisciplinary approach, neces-

sitating the collaboration and coordination of various segments of government. The Total Force framework therefore becomes the comprehensive narrative of determining threat conditions in which interagency collaboration can be established or enhanced.

2. THE REGULAR AND THE RESERVE FORCE

The Total Force concept provides a complete picture of the existing forces, which includes manpower, materiel and combat systems, capable of counteracting threats to defense and security. This refers to the whole citizen force of the country, integrating both the active personnel of the military, its reserve force components, and the personnel of other uniformed services, into a "total force" with the latter group being ready to serve in contingent security situations.

The complex defense and security concerns of our state has pushed the role of the defense sector to transform. The armed forces' role evolved from traditional gun-fighting defenders of the state to non-traditional modern-day diplomats and responders in search and rescue operations, among others. During times of peace, the DND will take a support role in certain applicable components of the total force framework. However, established is the mandate of the DND and the AFP to lead the total force in times of war and its authority, upon direction of the

President or declaration of war by Congress, to employ the law enforcement services to augment its forces.

Pursuant to the 1987 Constitution and existing laws, various Government forces can be tapped to augment the military's active and reserve forces during extreme contingencies. Calling upon these layers of forces are embodied in laws concerning uniformed services such as Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8551 also known as the *Philippine National Police (PNP) Reform Act of 1998*, which averred that "the PNP, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) shall, upon the direction of the President, assist the armed forces in meeting the national emergency." The same call was directed to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in R.A. 9993, also known as the *Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009*, which pronounced that "in times of war, as declared by Congress, the Philippine Coast Guard or parts thereof shall be attached to the Department of National Defense."



3. THE WHOLE OF NATION - THE CITIZENS' FORCE

The Department adheres to the whole-of-nation approach (WNA) adopted by the national government. It considers interagency engagements as one of the important means of implementing its whole-of-government component. Efforts toward attainment of security and development must be anchored on a WNA that seeks to bring about a concerted effort among key actors and stakeholders in the government, private sector, and the citizenry.

Complementing interagency linkages is the contingent role of the citizenry enunciated in the 1987 Constitution, "the Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service." Hence, during extreme contingencies, every able-bodied Filipino may be called to serve.



C. PURSUING POLITICO-LEGAL ENABLERS

To promote a stable environment conducive to economic growth and national development, the Department requires the passage of critical legislation to allow it to effectively respond to security challenges on addressing external and internal threats to territorial integrity and national security.

To attain the passage of priority bills

relevant to the enhancement of the defense sector, the Defense Department continuously engages our partners in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The DND Legislative Agenda seeks to address key issues faced by the defense institution such as bureaucracy and organization, defense modernization and acquisition, and pension reform.

- 1) Revised AFP Modernization Act
- 2) Amendment of the National Defense Act of 1935
- 3) Defense Acquisition Act (Procurement Law)
- 4) Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Act
- 5) Unified Pension System for the Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP)
- 6) Legislative Initiatives Ensuring the Welfare of Veterans and Dependents
- 7) Other Legislative Measures

1. REVISED AFP MODERNIZATION ACT

Republic Act 7898 was signed into law on 23 February 1995, which aimed to modernize the branches of the AFP. Initially, the AFP Modernization Program was designed to be implemented for fifteen (15) years with an initial funding of P50 Billion. However, after receiving funding of about P41.83 Billion, the law expired in 2010 without being fully implemented.

On 11 December 2012, Republic Act 10349 or the Revised AFP Modernization Program was passed into law. RA 10349 extended the AFP Modernization Program by another fifteen (15) years to “develop and transform the AFP into a multi-mission oriented force capable of effectively addressing internal and external security threats.”

Moving forward, the DND shall:

- Evaluate the status of and ensure the implementation of the revised AFP Modernization Program up to its expiration on 2027;
- Identify and develop alternative funding sources aside from the annual General Appropriations Act, and Bases Conversion and Development Authority remittances;
- Evaluate the legal basis for requesting unfunded portions of RA 7898 with the Department of Budget and Management; and

2. AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT (NDA) OF 1935

Laws and regulations pertaining to the defense institution are primarily embodied in Commonwealth Act No. 1. Despite amendments and executive issuances to the NDA to keep it updated, decades of organizational development, technical and capability enhancements, and technological advances of the AFP inevitably rendered the law obsolete.

The proposed new NDA seeks to update and define key national defense policies, principles and concepts, and codify the various issuances on national defense, the AFP and the civilian bureaus in the defense

establishment with the aim of streamlining and professionalizing the defense bureaucracy through the institutionalization of defense reforms.

The draft of the proposed NDA has been completed by the DND and submitted to legislators for their consideration and sponsorship before the 17th Congress. The DND shall continuously coordinate with members of Congress, and participate in committee hearings and working group meetings called for by the respective Committees of both Houses of Congress to facilitate the passage of the NDA into law.

3. DEFENSE ACQUISITION ACT (PROCUREMENT LAW)

The proposed law is a direct response to the call of the President to hasten the procurement of defense equipment without sacrificing quality.

The proposed bill will provide for a specialized and protected procurement process for defense capabilities, while taking into account the sensitive and classified nature of the acquisition.

Provisions exempting certain acquisitions from public bidding, which generally comes with the requirement of publication and posting of the Technical Specifications and Terms of Reference of the acquisition, shall be one of the highlights of the proposed measure. In the interest of

national security, alternative modes of procurement, such as direct negotiation with suppliers and government-to-government procurement, shall be available in the acquisition of specialized, highly technical, and classified capabilities, equipment, or materiel.

Provisions to protect the procurement process from graft and corruption shall be built-in into the proposed law.

Upon the approval by the SND of the draft being prepared by the DND TWG, representations shall be made to members of Congress for their consideration and filing of the proposed bill.

4. MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) ACT

The proposed law seeks to revive the mandatory nature of the ROTC. In its previous iterations, the laws on ROTC made it a requirement for graduation of male students enrolled in colleges and universities. Notably, the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution allows the government to call upon its citizens to defend the State and render personal military service.

The passage of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Law repealed the requirement of ROTC as a prerequisite for graduation of male college and university students. In its present form, the ROTC program is only one of the components of the NSTP which resulted in a drastic reduction of students electing to enroll in the course. Thus, from around 800,000 cadets in 2000, there were only about 150,000 cadets enrolled in 2011.

Considering that ROTC remains to be the primary source of reservists for the AFP, this trend may cause the number of AFP

reservists to dwindle to dangerously low levels. This condition may limit the ability of the AFP to effectively respond to disasters brought about by natural and man-made calamities and other catastrophes whose magnitude is beyond the present capacity of the AFP to address as it requires the activation of a substantial number of reservists.

The draft prepared by the DND Technical Working Group has been submitted to members of both houses of Congress for consideration and subsequent filing. Several versions of the bill have been filed by lawmakers from the House of Representatives and Senate, and are pending before the various committees.

The DND conscientiously monitors the progress and participates in the committee hearings on the subject to facilitate the passage of a law that meets the requirements of the defense establishment.



5. UNIFIED PENSION SYSTEM FOR THE MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL (MUP)

Under the present system, the cost for the benefits granted under the respective AFP and the PNP pension and retirement laws are fully borne by the Government Appropriations Act (GAA). The absence of an operational pension fund necessitates that the payment of pension benefits to veterans, and AFP and PNP retirees are provided for through government appropriations.

Provisions of the present pension laws, primarily the automatic indexation feature where pension benefits due to AFP and PNP retirees are automatically adjusted based on the prevailing scale of base pay for active AFP and PNP personnel, caused the pension obligation to grow to more than P70 Billion. This corresponds to a 2% share of the national budget as of the 2017 GAA. According to projections of government financial managers, unless reforms are introduced, pension costs are ex-

pected to double by the end of the present administration.

Currently, the DND and AFP are participating in two (2) TWGs studying proposed reforms on the MUP pension systems. One is spearheaded by the Bureau of the Treasury, while the other is by way of a Congressional initiative through the Joint Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and the Committee on Defense and Security of the House of Representatives. At the request of both TWGs, the GSIS is preparing an actuarial study based on current data of the AFP, PNP, PCG and other uniformed services to serve as a baseline to determine financial benefits of the proposed reforms on the present pension system. The reforms in the pension system of MUP to be proposed by the TWGs seek to address the ballooning pension costs by developing a viable and economically sustainable pension scheme.



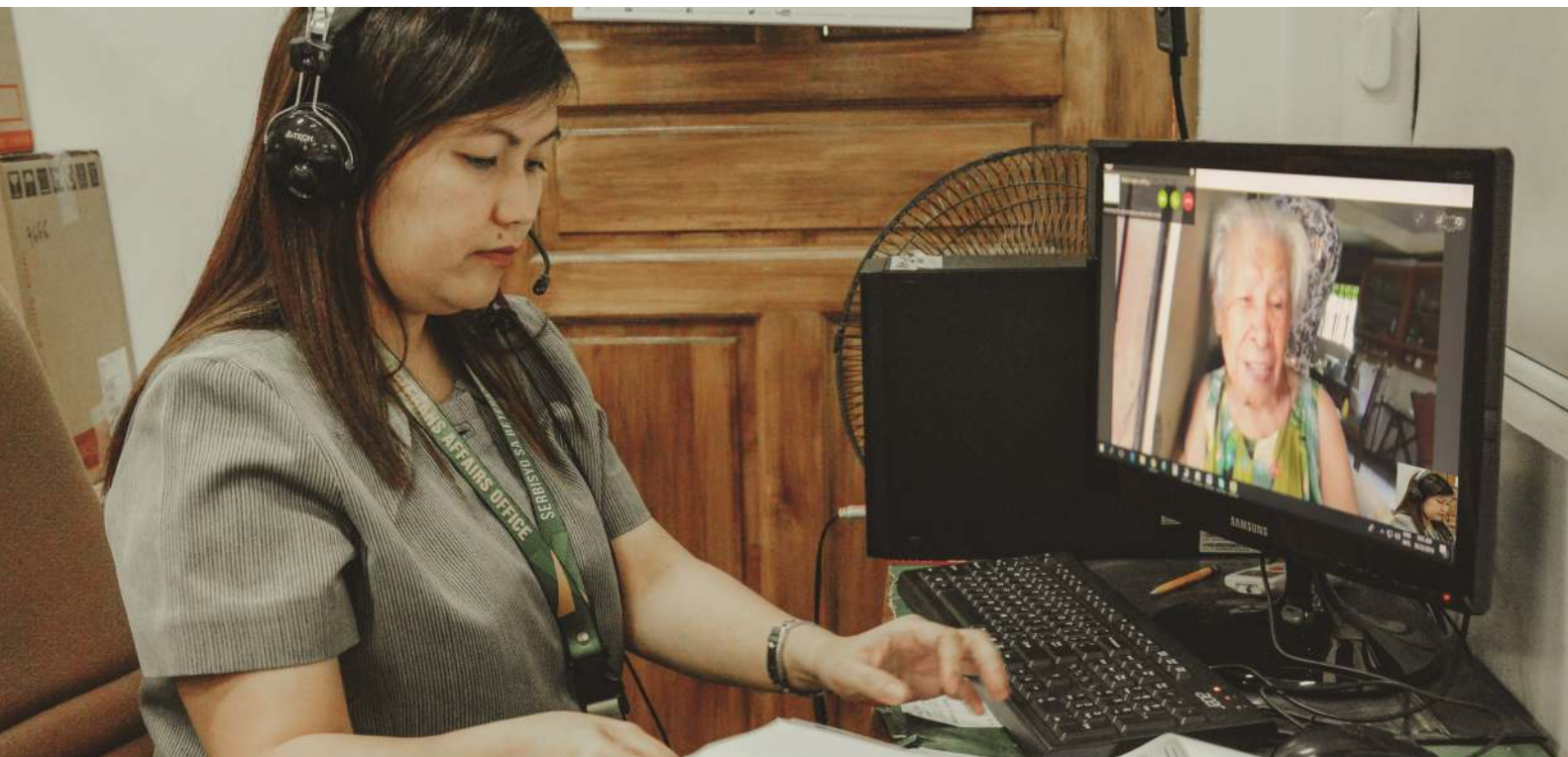
6. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES ENSURING THE WELFARE OF VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS

There are also proposed laws that serve to address the issues relative to pension and non-pension benefits.

One such proposal is the amendment of Republic Act 6948 (An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and their dependents) which seeks to increase the rate of old age pension and rationalize disability pension payments

which have remained unchanged since 1994.

The DND shall work for the continuing recognition of the service rendered by the veterans by declaring Victory Day in Kiangang as a national day of celebration and the declaration of significant battle sites as National Military Shrines.



PVAO's Skype Validation Program where claimants may send their information online and be verified by PVAO through the video messaging application Skype.

7. OTHER LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

The Department further pursues other measures that include the conversion of portions of Camp General Antonio Luna in Limay, Bataan where the Government Arsenal is located into a Defense Industrial Complex; the proposed *Philippine Defense Industry Development Act (PDIDA)* which aims to develop the Philippine defense in-

dustry and revitalize the SRDP program; the proposed amendments to Republic Act 9372, also known as the *Human Security Act of 2007* to refocus on counter-terrorism; the proposed bill to revise the *Professional Code of the Armed Services (Military Justice System)*; and the legislative measure to establish an independent DRRM authority.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

The National Defense Strategy (NDS) of the Department of National Defense provides readers an overview of the fundamental commitments of the country's national defense establishment: that is to ensure a secured and prosperous nation capable of being a confident player in the community of nations. Current key thrusts towards this vision include securing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State, promoting and sustaining internal stability, attaining highest standard of capability preparedness, improving and sustaining operations in support of global peace and security, and upholding good governance.

Further, against the complex global security architecture and unpredictable changes in the world governments, it must be emphasized that the Philippines is steadfast in its advocacy of maintaining and developing

a sufficiently powerful national defense. However, as stipulated in the NSP, the Philippines only allocated between 1.1% and 1.3% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense, resulting to ageing equipment and underinvestment on defense capability, and ultimately causing continuous setbacks in building a ready defense force.

Nonetheless, the persistent economic growth of the Philippines over the past years affords the government the ability to allocate modernization packages for the military as can be gleaned upon the government's agenda to ensure sustained efforts for upgrading the armed forces. Now more than ever, continued full support of the national government is called upon to ensure the development of defense sector.



The challenges addressed in the NDS are aimed at contributing to the promotion of mutual understanding and confidence-building among all private and public stakeholders, within and beyond the Republic's borders. It places emphasis in a whole-of-nation approach in achieving a secure and prosperous nation.

In addition to fund security for the modernization of capabilities in the defense sector, reinforcing diplomacy and cooperation provides a forum for deepening coopera-

tive relationship with alliances and other nation states. Such initiatives manifest our vision for regional peace, prosperity, and stability. The priority legislative pronouncements in pursuit of a stable security environment likewise promotes economic growth and national development.

Overall, said document is of import in raising awareness on national defense for each and every Filipino to better appreciate our rights and responsibilities in securing our nation.











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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE



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