



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

Public Affairs Service, DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110

Website: [www.dnd.gov.ph](http://www.dnd.gov.ph) | E-Mail: [dnd.opa@gmail.com](mailto:dnd.opa@gmail.com)

Tel: (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | Fax: (+632) 911-7113

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Releasing Officer: **ARSENIO R. ANDOLONG**  
Chief, Public Affairs Service

## DND to study defense equipment grant from China

The Philippines is set to receive a one-time grant of 100 million yuan (or about \$14 million) from China for defense equipment, following the meeting of President Rodrigo Duterte with Chinese ambassador to the Philippines, Zhao Jianhua, on December 19, 2016, at the Malacañang Palace in Manila.

The Chinese envoy conveyed that the grant is China's support to the President's war on illegal drugs and terrorism. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who joined the meeting, said that the Philippines will have to tailor the list of the equipment to be obtained within the amount, equivalent to around Php 720 million.

"We at the DND and AFP are still preparing our list," Secretary Lorenzana said. "We do not know yet the quantities, but we are looking at fast boats, drones, night vision goggles, and communications equipment."

The Chinese government also offered a low-interest long-term loan amounting to \$500 million. According to Secretary Lorenzana, the Department will study the offer vis-à-vis the current AFP Modernization Program.

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