

JOINT STATEMENT

TRILATERAL MEETING AMONG THE DEFENCE MINISTERS OF THE PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

Manila, 20 June 2016

1. The Secretary of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Voltaire T. Gazmin; the Minister of Defence Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein; and the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. General (R) Ryamizard Ryacudu met in Manila, on 20 June 2016 to discuss on the growing security challenges in the region, specifically in the maritime area of common concern to the three countries. The Meeting was conducted in the spirit of cordiality, mutual understanding and good neighbourliness.
2. The Trilateral Meeting among the Defence Ministers in Manila reaffirmed the commitments made on 5th May 2016 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia by the Foreign Ministers and the Chief of Defence Forces of the three countries in addressing regional maritime and security challenges affecting the three countries.
3. The Ministers raised concern over the recent incidents of kidnappings and armed robbery at sea in the maritime areas of common concern, and reaffirmed the need, commitment and collective responsibility of the countries to address such threats that undermine peace, security and prosperity of the region.
4. The Ministers agreed that the best practices shared by Malaysia and Indonesia on their experiences in the Malacca Straits Patrol (MSP) may be adopted as a model for trilateral cooperation to address common maritime security concerns.
5. In this regard, the Ministers deliberated and have agreed in principle for the armed forces and/or relevant agencies to explore the following measures:
 - a. Coordinated activities among the militaries of the three countries, focusing on maritime security;
 - b. Possibility to establish joint military command posts at designated locations including ad hoc military liaisons on board;
 - c. Trilateral maritime and air patrol at the maritime areas of common concern;

- d. Trilateral Maritime Patrol Working Group (TMPWG) which would set the operational directions on the conduct of the trilateral maritime patrol. The Maritime Command Centers shall be established by the respective countries and shall retain overall responsibility for the tasking and deployment of their respective assets;
 - e. A transit corridor within the maritime areas of common concern which will serve as designated sea lanes for mariners entering the maritime area of common concern;
 - f. Information and intelligence sharing pertaining to the maritime area of common concern; and
 - g. A trilateral database sharing mechanism.
6. The Ministers also agreed for the armed forces and/or relevant agencies of the three countries to expedite the crafting and finalization of relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
7. The Defense Ministers hope to conduct the next trilateral meeting soon after.

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