



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Ph thanks China for granting Urgent Military Assistance

Haribon Hangar, Clark Freeport, Mabalacat, Pampanga – Citing renewed hope for better defense cooperation, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenza formally received the urgent gratis military assistance from the People’s Republic of China yesterday, June 28, 2017.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte graced the handover ceremony led by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua. It was witnessed by Philippine Ambassador to China Jose Santiago Sta. Romana, and Gen. Eduardo M. Año, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The military assistance package worth 50 million RMB yuan consists of 90 units of sniper rifles, 3,000 units of M4, and 6 million rounds of assorted ammunitions which were hauled from China using four PLA Air Force planes.

In a simple ceremony dubbed, “*Pagtanggap*,” Sec. Lorenzana conveyed gratitude to the People’s Republic of China for the gratis donation of firearms and ammunition, as well as for the long-standing partnership between the two countries.

“On behalf of the Filipino people who are indeed the ultimate beneficiaries of Chinese’ magnanimity, I accept this donation from the people of China with a deep sense of gratitude as well as renewed sense of hope for our nation’s safety and security. We assure you that these donations will be put to productive utilization by our Armed Forces,” Lorenzana said.

The donated firearms and ammunition are welcome addition to the existing materiel in the Government Arsenal of the Department of National Defense for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Sec. Lorenzana said these will certainly improve the capabilities of our armed forces for internal security operations particularly in the southern part of the country.

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