



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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## **Lorenzana to local maritime industry: 'Support our Self Reliant Defense Posture Program'**

**Manila City, Philippines-** Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, speaking during the PHILMARINE (Philippines Marine) 2017 Conference which opened today at the SMX Convention Center, encouraged the local maritime defense industry to support the Self-Reliant Defense Posture Program (SRDP) by considering the needs and requirements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in its ongoing modernization program.

The SRDP Program is a key initiative of the DND to develop the country's local defense industry with the end in view of eventually sourcing defense materiel from local suppliers thereby boosting the local economy.

Sec. Lorenzana said that the implementing rules and regulations of RA 10349 or the Revised AFP Modernization Program have "leveled the playing field for legitimate local industries to build major defense equipment and weapons system for the AFP."

"With this development, I would like to encourage our domestic maritime industries to dedicate some resources to design, construct, upgrade, and upkeep defense materiel for our Armed Forces," Secretary Lorenzana said.

Having a strong and vibrant local maritime industry is especially important as it is in the field of technology that the DND anchors its SRDP, the Defense chief pointed out. "This is where our maritime defense industries, which are technology-based, are now called upon to participate," he said.

Secretary Lorenzana, however, called on potential proponents and suppliers to strictly comply with existing procurement rules to avoid delays in the procurement process, which has a far-reaching adverse effect on the operations of the Armed Forces.

"We are all aware how tedious and time-consuming government procurement process is because of numerous documentary requirements and confirmatory actions," he said. "It is in this light that I would suggest to prospective suppliers to carefully study the process and avoid short cuts. Many projects have incurred delays or contract rescinded due to questionable documents," the Defense Chief added.

"These are only meant to protect taxpayers' money and not to favor any particular group," Secretary Lorenzana stressed.

The PHILMARINE (Philippines Marine) 2017 Exhibition and Conferences is open to the public until July 14. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual shipbuilding and maritime event that aims to bring together in one venue local and international companies that are involved in maritime and related industries. Among the exhibitors include the DND, Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Maritime Industry Authority, marine engineering companies, as well as foreign and local suppliers. The said conference is hosted by The Maritime League.

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