



PRESS RELEASE

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AFP modernization expedited during the first 3 years of the Aquino administration, more to come

The AFP modernization projects for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including upgrades for the Government Arsenal (GA), have been expedited during the first half of the Aquino administration, a recent review by the DND showed.

A total of PhP 41.2 billion has been allocated to completed and awarded projects during the first three years under President Benigno S. Aquino III. These projects are seen as important accomplishments in the continued capability upgrade of the nation's armed forces.

“We are steadily addressing our Armed Forces’ capability upgrade. Our Bids and Awards Committees at the DND are doing their best to fast-track our acquisitions, while fully adhering to the established rules and procedures set by law,” Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said.

Twelve (12) projects for the Philippine Army (PA), amounting to PhP 2.8 billion, have been completed as of December 31, 2013. The completed projects include the acquisition of the PA's 190 units of 1 1/4 Ton Truck Troop Carriers worth PhP 494 million, 60 units of Field Ambulances worth PhP 300.7 million, and 250 units of 2 1/2 Ton Troop Carriers worth PhP 837.650 million. Another PhP 5.5 billion worth of projects are already awarded and awaiting delivery within 2014 and 2015, including armored vehicles, assault rifles and prime movers.

For the Philippine Air Force (PAF), four (4) projects worth PhP 3.7 billion have been completed, including the acquisition of 18 units of basic trainer aircraft worth PhP 621.67 million and eight (8) combat utility helicopters worth PhP 2.86 billion, now used by the PAF's 505th Search and Rescue Group. Awaiting in the pipeline are PhP 5.6 billion worth in projects, including the acquisition of light-lift aircraft and attack helicopters for delivery within 2014-2016, and another 21 units of UH-1 to boost the county's air assets for delivery within the first semester of this year.

The acquisition of two USCG cutters, now renamed BRP Gregorio del Pilar (PF-15) and BRP Ramon Alcaraz (PF-16), and three (3) navy helicopters amounting to PhP 1.34 billion spearheaded the 16 projects completed for the Philippine Navy (PN), amounting to a total of PhP 5.3 billion.

The navy helicopters were commissioned on December 19, 2013, as part of the AFP's anniversary celebration.

From 2014 up to 2016, the PN is expecting the delivery of PhP 6.4 billion worth in projects, including the acquisition of strategic sea-lift vessels, additional naval helicopters, and amphibious vehicles.

For the AFP General Headquarters, two (2) projects were completed, amounting to PhP 445 million. These include the upgrade of the AFP Medical Center Operating Rooms and the acquisition of the GHQ fixed communication system. Another PhP 325 million are awaiting to be delivered. The Government Arsenal also had two (2) completed projects which include the acquisition of raw and input materials for the GA bullet assembly machine, with a total of PhP 130.9 million. Also awaiting delivery this year are equipment for the manufacture of ammunition amounting to Php 335 million.

The revised AFP modernization program for 2013-2017 has a budget of PhP 85.3 billion which will be spread out over a five year period. From 2013-2017, the PA will be allocated PhP 8.6 billion, PhP 43.3 billion for the PAF, PhP 28.2 billion for the PN and PhP 5.2 billion for the AFP GHQ.

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