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Ensuring  
Security,  
Public Order,  
and Safety



# Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety

National security and public order are essential elements in building the foundation for inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy. People feel safe wherever they are in the country and are able to go about their business, economic or social pursuits as long as they do not violate other people's economic, social, and cultural rights. Such a condition enables the free flow of goods and services. Therefore, along with peace, security, public order, and safety constitute the bedrock of the 0-10 point Socioeconomic Agenda of the administration.

## Assessment and Challenges

The previous Philippine Development Plan emphasized the need to safeguard the country's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and sovereign right. While targets have been met, efforts now need to be intensified to eradicate crime, illegal drugs, and corruption. Further, the government must upgrade the capability of law enforcers to drastically reduce criminality and terrorism, and to ensure the safety and security of all people in the country.

**The country needs to enhance its diplomatic and defense capability to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.** The passage of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Act or Republic Act 10349 ensured the allocation of funds for the build-up of aircraft, vessels, and materiel to enable the country to attain a more credible defense posture.

In terms of external security and sovereignty, the country asserted its claims and sovereignty with the favorable ruling on the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on the South China Sea Arbitration Case.

The case involved disputes on maritime jurisdictions and entitlements in the West Philippine Sea, and arbitration proceeded despite China's refusal to participate.

In addition, the Philippines achieved a landmark agreement in 2014 to delimit the exclusive economic zone boundary with Indonesia. Bills on maritime zones and archipelagic sea lanes were introduced in Congress in 2015 to strengthen adherence to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Despite the decision of the PCA on the case filed by the Philippines pertaining to conflicting claims of maritime jurisdiction and entitlements under UNCLOS, the dispute in the West Philippine Sea will continue to be the main challenge to external security during this Plan period, and even in the longer term given the magnitude and complexity of the problem. Other territorial or jurisdictional problems such as maritime boundary delimitations with other neighboring countries will also need to be addressed.

The country forged strategic partnerships and bilateral agreements with other countries, which focused on political, security, and defense cooperation and other matters related to sovereignty and territorial integrity. Along with these agreements, defense and security assets and assistance were provided and committed by partner countries through diplomatic channels. These include humanitarian and disaster response, infrastructure and materiel upgrade, communication systems, capacity building for maritime security, search and rescue, and counter-terrorism.

**Targets in crime volume and solution efficiency were met, but efforts need to be strengthened given the magnitude of the problem.** The government exerted efforts to prevent and suppress security risks to citizens, guests, tourists, and vital infrastructure (e.g., power facilities, telecommunication towers, mining areas, etc.).

Crime volume was reduced by almost 20 percent from 2013 to 2015 due to intensified police interventions such as the creation of Patrol Operations Sections, conduct of Operation Lambat-Sibat and various anti-criminality and law enforcement campaigns. Operation Lambat-Sibat is a deliberate, programmatic, and sustained police operation supported by scientific crime reporting with a wide dragnet<sup>1</sup> and intel-targeted operations to catch small-time criminals and repeat offenders. These initiatives were complemented by the establishment of intelligence networks down to the barangay level that contributed to the success of police operations.

Although its volume has been reduced, crime remains a significant concern especially in urban areas. In 2015, the highest crime incidence was posted in the National Capital Region followed by the Central Luzon and

Central Visayas regions. According to the Philippine National Police (PNP), the most common crimes reported in 2015 were theft, physical injury, and robbery. There were less incidents of pickpocketing, carjacking, and kidnapping reported.

Solving crimes is a challenge in law enforcement as it is affected by several factors beyond the control of the law enforcement agencies. These include people's willingness to testify as witness and the efficiency of the pillars of the criminal justice system. Nevertheless, crime solution efficiency (CSE) has improved from 38.49 percent in 2013 to 51.36 percent in 2015. Although it surpassed the end of plan target of 38.26 percent, the number remains relatively low compared to CSE a decade ago, which averaged to around 90 percent in 2004 and 89 percent in 2005 (PSA, 2015).

**The problem on illegal drugs needs a holistic approach.** The use of illegal drugs is prevalent in the country with around four million drug users and 47 percent of barangays throughout the country being drug-affected (PDEA, 2016). Three illegal transnational drug groups of African, Chinese, and Mexican Sinaloa origin operating in the country have greatly aggravated the drug problem.

The government has therefore adopted a holistic approach in addressing criminality and illegal drugs. Nonetheless, the capability of military and law enforcement agencies must be intensified to address new threats to national security such as cybercrime and violent extremism. As these initiatives are expected to result in high incidence of apprehensions, the government must also upgrade its jail facilities and substantially increase the drug rehabilitation centers.

In all activities to address criminality, respect for human rights should be upheld

<sup>1</sup> A police operation purposely to seal off the probable exit points of fleeing suspects from the crime scene to prevent their escape (Source: PNP Revised Criminal Investigation Manual, 2011)

and observed at all times. Mechanisms for reporting and addressing human rights violations should also be strengthened to ensure that violators are prosecuted.

**Victims of human trafficking were effectively assisted, but preventive measures need to be strengthened.**

According to the Department of Justice, the government's commitment to protect its people against trafficking led to the conviction of 248 traffickers and secured justice for 645 survivors from 2011 to 2016. There are already 24 task forces operating in different parts of the country, with a total of 7,185 trafficking victims rescued or repatriated and evacuated by foreign service posts abroad. Most victims were provided protection and assistance to enable them to recover from trauma and gain employment or start a business. The government continues to train and increase the capacities of law enforcers, service providers and front liners.

**Government needs to give greater attention to public safety.** Fire incidence increased from 12,301 in 2013 to 17,138 in 2015. NCR, Western Visayas, and CALABARZON recorded the most

incidents in this period. A big factor is the lack of firemen, with the current ratio below the standard of one fireman for every 2,000 population.

Beyond fire safety measures, there are public safety issues that need to be addressed. These include emergency response, road safety, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response.

**Safeguard migrants.** Ensuring the safety and welfare of overseas Filipinos (OFs) is of paramount concern of the government given different sociocultural practices in host countries, geopolitical tensions, and natural and economic shocks. For surveillance and detection, the Bureau of Immigration has commenced the Alien Registration Program that mandates all foreign nationals to obtain a Special Security Registration Number. The government has also extended legal, financial and counselling assistance to many OFs through its embassies and consulates. Rapid Response Teams are also in place to respond to the needs and facilitate the immediate repatriation of OFs in countries in crisis.-

## Strategic Framework

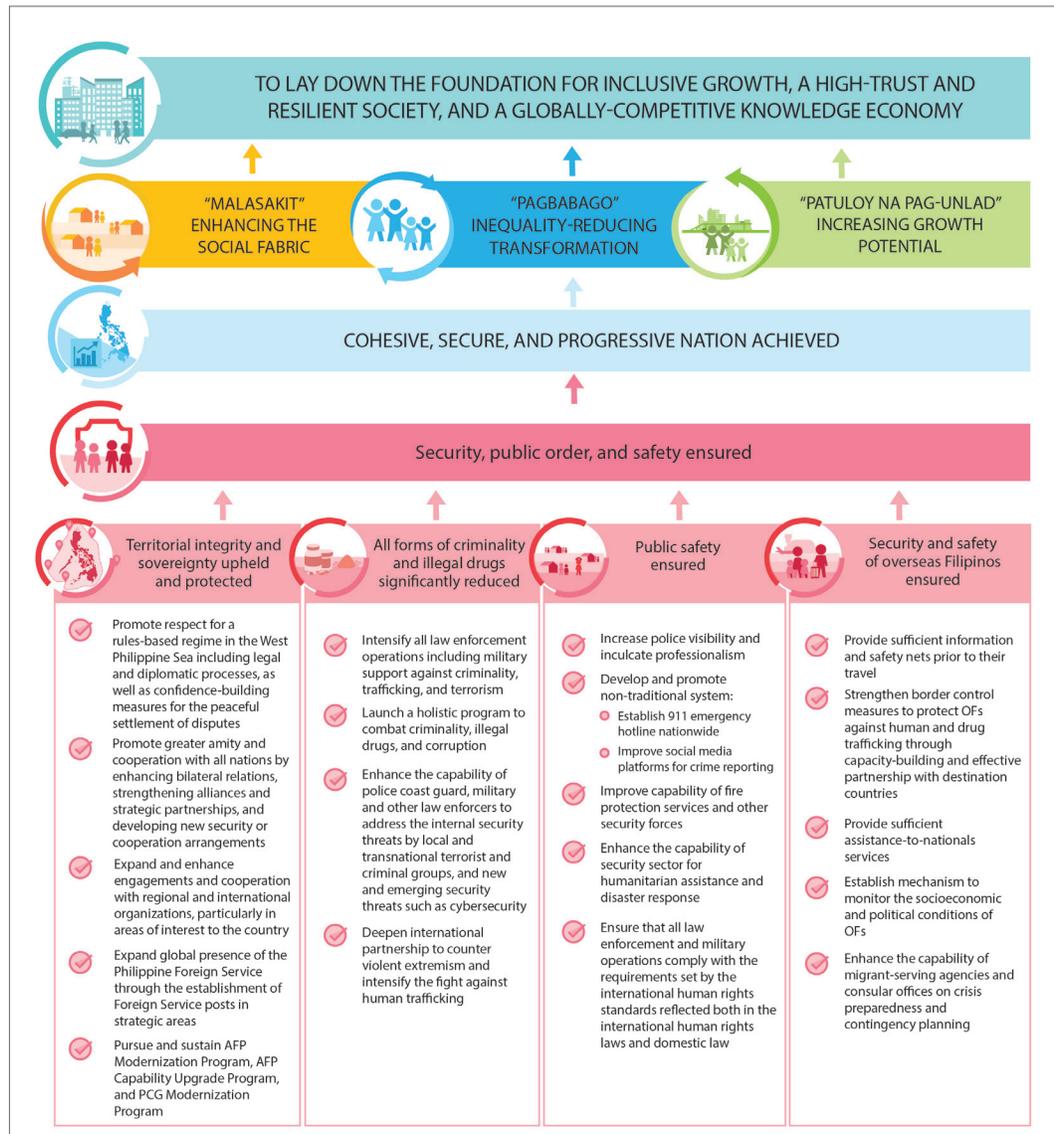
Ensuring security, safety, and public order is the foundation of the strategies in the PDP 2017-2022; hence, it is accorded high priority by the administration. The accomplishment of this strategy is broken down into: (a)

territorial integrity and sovereignty upheld and protected, (b) all forms of criminality and illegal drugs significantly reduced, (c) public safety ensured, and (d) security and safety of OFs ensured.

## Strategies

The strategies to achieve the targets involve government units, the local community, and several agencies in government, local and the international community.

Figure 18.1 Strategic Framework to Ensure Security, Public Order, and Safety, 2017 – 2022



### Subsector Outcome 1: Territorial integrity and sovereignty upheld and protected

Safeguarding the country's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and sovereign rights is a core national interest. This is most pressing in addressing issues on the West Philippine Sea where a complex, multi-faceted, and multi-party maritime dispute is the main challenge in achieving a stable and secure external environment. To uphold and protect territorial integrity and sovereignty, the following strategies will be implemented:

***Promote respect for a rules-based regime in the West Philippine Sea.*** In diplomatic relations, the country will promote respect for a rules-based regime in the West Philippine Sea to reduce tensions and to forestall conflicts that could destabilize the region. This includes promoting respect for legal and diplomatic processes to clarify issues and resolve disputes on maritime jurisdictions in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 UNCLOS. This also involves confidence-building measures to create a favorable environment for the peaceful settlement of disputes between and among parties that are directly involved, as well as other interested parties with a stake in the disputed area.

***Promote greater amity and cooperation with all nations.*** The country will take steps to promote greater amity and cooperation with all nations especially with countries in the region by enhancing bilateral relations, strengthening alliances and strategic partnerships, and developing new security and cooperation arrangements.

***Expand and enhance diplomatic engagements and cooperation in regional and international fora,*** particularly in areas of interest to the country.

***Expand the global presence of the Philippine Foreign Service and key attached agencies*** through the establishment of foreign service posts in strategic areas. This will give greater voice to Philippine diplomacy and enhance diplomatic capability across a wider spectrum of international relations.

***Pursue and sustain programs for the modernization and capability upgrade of AFP and PCG.*** Parallel to diplomatic efforts, a credible defense posture is critical to the protection and preservation of the country's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and sovereign rights. The AFP Modernization Program, AFP Capability Upgrade Program, and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Modernization Program are essential to safeguarding the core interests of the country and must be pursued and sustained. The facilities, equipment, and skills of maritime law enforcers and local government units (LGUs) will be enhanced to protect our strategic maritime interests and territorial waters, and to implement maritime laws and policies.

### Subsector Outcome 2: All forms of criminality and illegal drugs significantly reduced

The government will prioritize the reduction of all forms of criminality and illegal drugs through a holistic program that involves combatting not only crimes but also the corruption that leads to the perpetuation of such acts. The following strategies will be pursued:

***Intensify law enforcement operations, including military support to fight criminality, trafficking, and terrorism.*** The PNP will strengthen its efforts to reduce all forms of criminality through police presence, law enforcement and anti-criminality, intelligence, case recording and tracking, detection and investigation

services, case filing and arrest, capacity building, operational readiness, and disaster and emergency response. Police-community partnerships will be forged, complemented by information and education campaigns and community organization and mobilization to prevent and suppress crimes and lawlessness. The government will also pursue programs on counter-radicalization of the youth, to prevent and deter recruitment of the youth in sowing violence and terrorism.

***Enhance the capability of police, coastguard, military, and other law enforcers to address the internal security threats*** posed by local and transnational terrorists and criminal groups, and new and emerging security threats such as cybersecurity.

***Launch a holistic program to combat criminality, illegal drugs, and corruption.*** The national anti-illegal drug strategy includes suppressing the flow of illegal drugs supply through sustained law enforcement operations and reducing consumer demand for drugs and other substances through drug rehabilitation and massive preventive education and awareness programs (*see also Chapter 10*). Critical to this strategy is the arrest and prosecution of personalities involved in the use and trade of illegal drugs through counter-intelligence operations. This will employ an effective investigation, prosecution, and monitoring of drug cases from investigation through prosecution (*see also Chapter 6*). To do this, government will coordinate closely with local and foreign counterparts and other international anti-drug organizations.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's campaign plan *Bandila* defines the strategies and mechanisms to address the drug problem in the next six years. The implementation of Barangay Drug Clearing Program, a multi-stakeholder strategy to clear the barangay of illegal drug activities and personalities, will be done through partnerships between local

enforcement officers and the barangays. Together, they will determine the presence of illegal drug activities and provide the illegal drug users with treatment, rehabilitation, skills training, and support for their reintegration to the society. Family members of surrenderers and the community will likewise be provided with counseling and support services.

Complementary to the above strategy is the Department of the Interior and Local Government's *Mamamayan Ayaw Sa Anomalya-Mamamayan Ayaw Sa Illegal na Droga* (MASA-MASID) is the government's platform for stronger collaboration between the LGU, community, and national government to fight criminality, corruption, and illegal drugs. It institutionalizes volunteerism in the community, intensifies advocacy and education, and creates an enabling environment that encourages collaboration among community partners to effectively implement a community-based rehabilitation program. Mechanisms to validate information will be put in place to ensure the integrity of the campaign.

With respect to human trafficking, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and its member agencies will sustain and further strengthen enforcement, including detection, rescues, investigations, prosecutions and asset forfeitures, as well as support services for victim-survivors. For this purpose, the government at all levels will institute policies and provide the necessary resources, capacity building, and public information services.

***Deepen international partnership to counter violent extremism and intensify the fight against human trafficking.*** The government will continue and further deepen partnerships with the international community through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms such as mutual legal assistance agreements, global cooperation, and international law enforcement

arrangements (e.g. International Criminal Police Investigation or INTERPOL and joint law enforcement operations). These initiatives can be bolstered with the amendment of the Philippine Immigration Act, which seeks to strengthen our legal and institutional framework; capability in border control at ports of entry; and regulation and registration of foreign nationals within the country. Such can help prevent the entry and stay of foreign terrorists, as well as transnational human traffickers.

For monitoring and evaluation, conduct of periodic nationwide Victimization Survey covering crimes and human rights violations will be pursued to augment administrative-based data.

### Subsector Outcome 3: Public safety ensured

The government will develop responsive, highly professional, and competent public safety organizations that will ensure the safety of its citizenry. Local governments play a crucial role in maintaining public order, especially in addressing issues related to traffic, illegal settlers, sidewalk dwellers, and sidewalk vendors.

The following strategies will be implemented to raise standards for public safety:

**Increase police visibility.** The PNP will enhance its police presence and professionalism to maintain peace and order. Patrolling will continue to be the backbone of policing and the avenue for establishing and maintaining police presence in barangays. These interventions, which are all done in partnership with the community, include strategically-placed checkpoints, foot and mobile patrols, and focused and intelligence-driven operations against most wanted persons and members of criminal gangs.

**Develop and promote non-traditional systems for responding to crime and emergencies.** Non-traditional systems to enable our law enforcers to effectively respond to crimes and emergencies will be pursued through the establishment of an emergency hotline nationwide and promotion of social media platforms for crime and emergency reporting.

**Improve capability of the fire protection services and other security forces.** The capability of fire protection services and other security forces will be enhanced to ensure the protection of people's lives and properties as well as the country's vital and critical infrastructure. The capability of the security sector in humanitarian assistance and disaster response will also be enhanced.

**Ensure that all law enforcement and military operations comply with the requirements set by the international human rights standards** prescribed in international human rights laws and domestic laws, including the Constitution, which provides safeguards against human rights violations. Integration of human rights in police and military training will be institutionalized. The human rights offices, desks or units in all police and military headquarters will likewise be strengthened and expanded as an institutional mechanism for the protection and promotion of human rights. The Commission on Human Rights will intensify its monitoring of the compliance of the security sector to human rights standards in the sector's policies and operational manuals and their operations. Law enforcement operations will likewise ensure that the rights of women and children are promoted, protected, and fulfilled.

**Enhance the capability of the security sector for humanitarian assistance and disaster response.** The capacity of security sector agencies will be enhanced to respond to

gender and development issues, especially during natural and human-induced disasters.

#### Subsector Outcome 4: Security and safety of overseas Filipinos ensured

Armed conflicts, economic instabilities, and social tensions in other countries put the welfare of all Filipinos overseas at risk. To ensure the safety of OFs, the following strategies will be implemented:

***Provide sufficient information and safety nets to OFs prior to their travel*** on business, leisure, temporary employment or in search of permanent residency abroad.

***Strengthen border control measures to protect OFs against human and drug trafficking***, through capacity building and effective partnership with destination countries.

***Provide sufficient assistance-to-nationals services*** such as legal assistance and consular services in the home office and at all foreign service posts under the One Country Team approach. Technology will be improved for online and mobile application platform for legal aid, guidance, and counselling

for migrants, 24/7 action line service for nationals in distress, and monitoring of victims of illegal recruitment and trafficking.

***Establish mechanism to monitor the socioeconomic and political conditions of OFs.*** Persistent and emerging risks to the safety of OFs, especially the rise of global terrorism, call for measures that are more proactive. There needs to be a mechanism to actively and continually monitor the socioeconomic and political conditions of OFs.

***Enhance the capability of migrant-serving agencies and consular officers on crisis preparedness and contingency planning.*** Aside from being prepared for socioeconomic shocks, the government must also be ready for natural shocks such as health emergencies. Capacity building for migrant-serving agencies and consular officers on crisis preparedness and contingency planning will therefore be enhanced. The Crisis Contingency Plan also needs to be reviewed, taking into account the recent experiences in some countries where a significant number of overseas workers were affected by geopolitical and socioeconomic downturns. (See also Chapter 11).

# Legislative Agenda

To strengthen the effectiveness of the strategies, legislative action is needed on the following:

**Table 18.1 Strategic Framework to Ensure Security, Public Order, and Safety, 2017 – 2022**

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
<b>Subsector Outcome A: Territorial integrity and sovereignty upheld and protected</b>	
Pursue enactment of laws and policies to comply with commitments and obligations under treaties and international conventions to which the country is a state party, particularly UNCLOS	
Defense Procurement Act	To introduce amendments to Republic Act 9184, also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, for a specialized procurement process for defense capabilities considering the classified nature of the assets to be acquired.
National Defense Act	To amend the National Defense Act of 1935 in order to: a) update national defense policies, principles, and concepts; and, b) codify various laws on national defense, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the civilian bureaus in the defense establishment in order to streamline and professionalize the defense bureaucracy.
National Security Act	To provide for a national security policy and planning framework and institutionalize its planning process within national development planning. This will enable every administration to lay down a blueprint of its national security priorities, policies, and strategies.
<b>Subsector Outcome B: All forms of criminality and illegal drugs significantly reduced</b>	
Passage of PNP Reorganization and Modernization Act	To further improve its system capability in providing better police services for crime prevention, suppression, and investigation.
Amendment of the Comprehensive Dangerous Act of 2002	To enhance certain provisions to address the present drug situation in the country, particularly in the enforcement of the law, the functions of concerned government agencies, and the organization of PDEA. The amendments will support and complement the active and holistic approach being implemented in addressing the drug problem in the country.
Amendment of the Philippine Immigration Act	Aims to strengthen, among others, legal and institutional framework, capability on border control at ports of entry; and regulation and registration of foreign nationals within the country.
<b>Subsector Outcome C: Public safety ensured</b>	
Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)	Based on the Constitutional provisions empowering the Government to call upon its citizens to defend the state and render personal military service and recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building, this will inculcate patriotism and nationalism, and encourage youth involvement in public and civic affairs. The DND envisions to create a pool of trained reservists by making the ROTC mandatory again in order to generate the needed human resources in times of war, calamities and disasters, and in support of the government's enhanced anti-crime strategy.
Amendments of Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act	To establish an independent Disaster Risk Reduction Authority with sufficiently high level of authority to lead the coordination, monitoring, oversight and implementation of disaster risk reduction and management. The authority will be equipped with the necessary competency and resources to engage new actors, particularly in the field of risk transfer and insurance, and built with the necessary structure to manage broader governance arrangements.

