

The ROC government believes that, although the Philippines has expressed deep regret and apologized over the Guang Da Xing No. 28 incident, the matter of compensation for the victim's family, as well as authorization, remain unclear, and MOFA urges the Philippines to provide a concrete response

In response to the four demands of the Republic of China (Taiwan) regarding the unfortunate incident involving the Taiwanese fishing boat Guang Da Xing No. 28 (廣大興28號), the Philippines designated Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) Chairman Amadeo R. Perez, Jr. to travel to Taiwan on May 15, 2013. He will visit the family of deceased crewmember Hong Shi-cheng (洪石成) to extend condolences and an apology in person, and deliver donations to the family to express sympathy. The Philippines has also promised to start a joint investigation into this incident. In addition, the two sides will launch Taiwan-Philippines Fishery Talks as soon as possible.

Following intense negotiations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in the Philippines, and the Philippine authorities over the past several days, the Philippine Representative to Taiwan Antonio I. Basilio returned to Manila so as to assist with handling the incident. After returning to Taipei at 6:30 PM on May 14, Representative Basilio immediately came to MOFA to meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs David Y. L. Lin. He explained that the Philippine government has already taken the following measures:

(1) MECO Chairman Amadeo R. Perez, Jr. will convey the Filipino people's deep regret and apology to the family of Mr. Hong Shi-cheng, as well as to the people of Taiwan, over the unfortunate loss of life in the course of a maritime law enforcement operation on May 9, 2013, by a Philippine Coast Guard/Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources maritime patrol boat in waters to the north of the Philippines.

(2) The Philippine National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will conduct a thorough, exhaustive, impartial and expeditious investigation of the incident. In connection with the ongoing investigation, MECO and TECO have made arrangements to coordinate investigations by the two sides pursuant to the provisions of the bilateral agreement on mutual legal assistance signed in April this year.

(3) All relevant agencies have been instructed to immediately convene for the purpose of formulating measures to help prevent such unfortunate incidents from happening in the future, with the view to holding a joint meeting with their ROC counterparts as soon as possible.

(4) MECO Chairman Amadeo R. Perez, Jr. will lead a delegation to Taiwan on May 15 to discuss the above, and pay a visit to the widow of the deceased, Mr. Hong Shi-cheng. Chairman Perez will extend condolences and an apology in person, and deliver donations given by the people of the Philippines to the family as an expression of sympathy for their loss.

The ROC believes that, although the Philippines responded to ROC demands within the 72-hour deadline, the issue of compensation for the family of the deceased and whether or not Representative Basilio has the full authorization of the Philippine government remains unclear. MOFA therefore requests that the Philippines provide a concrete response as soon as possible.

MOFA requests that the Philippines make a commitment to the following:

- (1) immediately arrange for compensation to be made to the family of the victim;
- (2) pledge that such unfortunate incidents will not happen again in the future;
- (3) immediately establish a joint investigation committee tasked with conducting a just and

transparent investigation that establishes all the facts, and results in the apprehension and severe punishment of the perpetrator(s) in as short a time as possible; and
(4) immediately arrange for the Taiwan-Philippines Fishery Talks to take place by the end of May.

The ROC government will continue to make every effort to strengthen measures to protect fishing operations in the southern part of the ROC Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), ensure national sovereignty, and safeguard the rights and security of ROC fishermen. Under no circumstances will it permit a repeat of such an unfortunate incident in the future. (E)

Premier Jiang Yi-huah announced this morning that the ROC has adopted sanctions against the Philippines over an attack on a Taiwanese fishing vessel May 9 that left one fisherman dead. Effective from 12 a.m. May 15, the ROC has suspended the processing of applications by Filipinos to work in Taiwan, recall the ROC's representative in Manila, and request the Philippine representative in Taiwan to return to his home country.

The decision was made after President Ma Ying-jeou called a high-level national security meeting at 7 a.m. today and concluded that last night's response from Manila, delivered by the Philippine representative to Taiwan Antonio Basilio, did not satisfy the four demands set forth by Taipei, said the premier.

With regard to the developments that may follow, Jiang added, if Manila Economic and Cultural Office Chairman Amadeo Perez, Jr. delivers an official statement that satisfies the demands when he arrives in Taiwan today, the ROC government will consider cancelling the aforementioned sanctions. If the Philippine government fails to meet the demands by 6 p.m. today, the ROC government will impose a second set of sanctions:

1. Issue a "red" travel alert for the Philippines. The Philippine government's unfriendly behavior toward the ROC in the *Guang Da Xing No. 28* fishing boat incident has created tension between the two nations. Therefore, ROC citizens will be discouraged from traveling to the Philippines for tourism or business purposes.
2. Suspend high-level exchanges and interactions between the ROC and the Philippines.
3. Suspend economic exchanges with the Philippines, as well as all promotional and investment-soliciting activities.
4. Suspend agricultural and fishery cooperation with the Philippines.
5. Suspend bilateral exchange and cooperation in scientific and technological research projects.
6. Suspend negotiations on aviation rights.
7. Suspend Filipinos' use of the Advance Online Registration System for the Visitors of Nationals from Five Southeast Asian Countries to Taiwan, which grants them visa exemptions.
8. Authorize joint military exercises by the ROC's Ministry of National Defense and Coast Guard Administration in waters south of Taiwan.

While the Philippine government has gone through the motion of apologizing and offering restitution, officials at this morning's national security meeting did not consider that response to be substantive enough. It was apparent that Manila was hoping to downplay the severity of the incident and had responded in a most irresponsible fashion, the premier elaborated.

First, in response to the ROC's first request, for a formal apology, the Philippine government merely authorized Chairman Perez to express "the Filipino people's deep regret and apology," without expressing its own regrets. As this case involves Philippine officials' killing of an ROC fisherman and the destruction of his ship, the Philippine government cannot evade responsibility for these events.

Regarding the ROC's second request, for an expeditious investigation followed by severe punishment of the perpetrators, the Philippines has only promised an investigation but has not committed its Department of Justice to make criminal or administrative charges against the perpetrators; nor has it mentioned possible punishments against them, including fines, dismissal from service, imprisonment and financial restitution to the victim's family.

Third, with respect to compensation, the Philippine government is only willing to offer donations from its citizens to the victim's family through Chairman Perez. It has not spoken of accepting full responsibility and providing compensation for the losses it incurred.

As for the ROC's fourth demand, for fishery negotiations, Manila has merely stated that relevant agencies will immediately convene "for the purpose of finding ways to prevent such unfortunate incidents from occurring in the future." Its Department of Agriculture has not, as was promised earlier, convened a meeting between relevant agencies and their ROC counterparts to discuss these issues.

Finally, the Philippine government has not indicated with an official statement what Representative Basilio is authorized to negotiate in Taipei; it simply informed the media of the situation by way of text messaging last night. This conduct does not meet the formal and rigorous standards diplomacy requires.

This incident is relevant to the sovereignty of the Republic of China and affects the legal rights of Taiwanese fishermen, Jiang reiterated. The ROC government thanks its citizens for rallying around this cause regardless of their political affiliation, and it

calls on them to remain united in their support for the government as it continues to press the Philippines for a commitment to meeting Taiwan's demands.