Secretary of National Defense visits the Philippine Contingent in Golan Heights

Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin addresses the Filipino United Nations Peacekeepers deployed in Golan Heights during his visit to Israel.

Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin visited Israel on January 25 to February 1, 2014 upon the invitation of Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon en route to his official visit to the Golan Heights where the 7th Philippine Contingent (7PCGH) to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is currently deployed. As a troop contributing country (TCC) to the UN, the Philippines has been regularly deploying peacekeepers to UNDOF since 2009. The PCGH is currently the biggest Philippine military contingent deployed to a UN peacekeeping mission.
During the visit to Israel, Secretary Gazmin and Minister Ya’alon held a bilateral meeting in Tel-Aviv. The two defense chiefs discussed the establishment of a working group to examine the security and defense situation in both countries and explore cooperative efforts to address common concerns.

The working group will also come up with available solutions with cost considerations in regard to further enhancing the defense capability build-up of the Philippines.

Secretary Gazmin and Minister Ya’alon also discussed the prospects of information exchange, particularly on terrorism, as well as technology sharing between the two countries.

Israel also offered assistance in the development of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) capabilities as well as the availability of excess defense articles (EDAs) for Philippine acquisition.

The Philippine delegation also visited the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Home Front Command Headquarters, where the Secretary expressed the Philippines’ appreciation for the IDF’s humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) contributions in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines in November 2013. ###