

Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

20 April 2016

Wednesday

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


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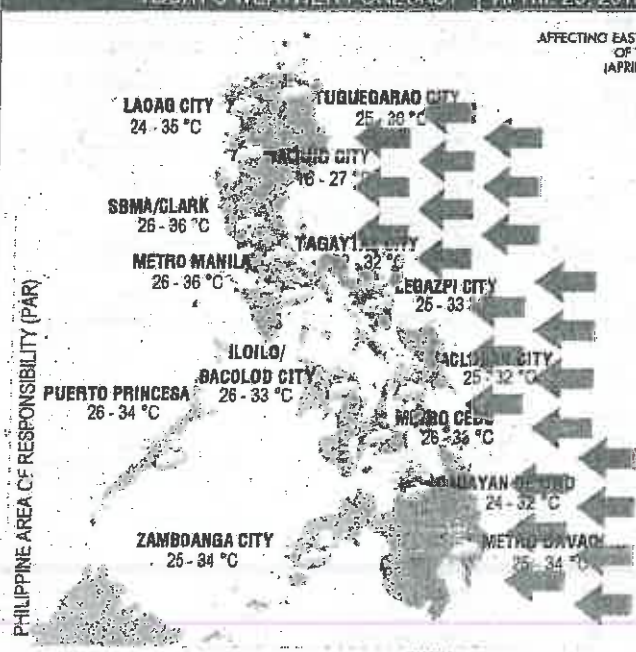


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





TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 20, 2016 | WEDNESDAY


PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

















































EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (APRIL 19, 6:00 PM)




SUNRISE  5:39 AM	SUNSET  6:11 PM
MOONRISE  4:45 PM	MOONSET  4:20 AM
FIRST QUARTER  APR 14 11:50 AM	FULL MOON  APR 22 1:24 PM
LOW TIDE  3:16 AM 0.17 Meter	HIGH TIDE  8:52 PM 0.65 Meter


 Partly cloudy skies

 Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers or for thunderstorms

APR 20		APR 21		APR 22		APR 23		APR 24		APR 25	
METRO MANILA	 25 - 36 °C	 25 - 37 °C	 23 - 32 °C	 23 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C					
TUGUEGARAO	 26 - 36 °C	 26 - 37 °C	 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 34 °C	 23 - 32 °C	 23 - 33 °C					
LAOAG	 25 - 35 °C	 25 - 36 °C	 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 35 °C	 25 - 36 °C					
BAGUIO	 16 - 26 °C	 15 - 26 °C	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 36 °C					
SBMA/CLARK	 26 - 37 °C	 26 - 36 °C	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 34 °C							
TAGAYTAY			 23 - 32 °C	 23 - 33 °C							
LEGAZPI			 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 34 °C							
TACLOBAN			 23 - 32 °C	 23 - 33 °C							
CAGAYAN DE ORO			 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 34 °C							
PUERTO PRINCESA			 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 33 °C							
METRO DAVAO			 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 33 °C							
ILOILO/BACOLOD			 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 34 °C							
ZAMBOANGA			 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 34 °C							
METRO CEBU			 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 34 °C							

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SADOT KO, PADALA MO!

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20 April 2016



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Pulse: Duterte pulls away

Mayor widens lead over Poe and Binay

By Ana Roa, *Inquirer Research*
Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan

DAVAO City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has increased his lead over his rivals in the presidential race, enjoying wide margins in all socioeconomic classes and capturing Metro Manila and Mindanao, results of a nationwide survey conducted on April 5-10 showed.

Duterte was ahead of his nearest rival by 18 points in the upper and middle classes, and by an almost insurmountable 42 points in his bailiwick, Mindanao.

But a political scientist said a fraction of the mayor's supporters might consider another candidate in the wake of his joke about an Australian missionary who was raped in a hostage crisis in 1989.

Seven percentage points separated Duterte from Sen. Grace Poe, according to the Pulse Asia survey. Duterte got a preference rating of 32 percent, up by 2

PULSE/A21

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points from 30 percent the previous week.

The rating of Poe was unchanged at 25 percent, while Vice President Jejomar Binay and administration candidate Mar Roxas were still tied in third place.

Binay got 20 percent, steady from the previous poll, while Roxas received 18 percent, down by a point. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago got 1 percent. (See tables on this page.)

Pulse Asia interviewed 4,000 respondents and used a margin of error of plus-or-minus 1.5 percentage points.

Anything but status quo

Richard Javad Heydarian, a political science assistant professor at De La Salle University, said Duterte's lead in the polls reflected the people's preference, which is anything but the status quo.

"It can also be called grievance politics or protest votes," Heydarian said in a phone interview.

The survey, commissioned by ABS-CBN, was conducted before a video of Duterte joking about the rape of a Australian missionary circulated online.

In the video uploaded on YouTube on Sunday but has been taken down since, Duterte was recalling a 1989 hostage-taking incident in a detention cell in Davao City that left 21 dead, including visiting lay worker Jacqueline Hamill, who had been raped by the inmates.

"Son of a bitch, what a waste. I was thinking that they raped her and lined up. I was angry because she was raped. That's one thing. But she was so beautiful. The mayor should have been first. What a waste," he said, eliciting laughs from the crowd.

In 1989, Duterte was serving his first of seven terms as mayor of Davao City.

Duterte's comments drew outrage from his rivals and the public.

Loyal supporters, 2nd option

Heydarian, nevertheless, expected Duterte's "uber-loyal" supporters to stay with the mayor because they don't care what their candidate says.

But those who are not "uber-loyal," especially women, may consider the second option, Poe, the political science teacher said.

Four in 10 voters of Duterte picked Poe as their second choice, the Pulse Asia survey showed.



DUTERTE

"Poe is in a great position to gain back the momentum. This is still competitive but given the limited time and the numbers, this is Poe's opportunity," Heydarian said.

3Ms

Edmund Tayao, a political science professor at University of Santo Tomas, said voters' sentiments toward Duterte's latest remark could go either way considering the mayor is one of the most unpredictable candidates.

Tayao said any of the three Ms in a political campaign—money, machinery and mistake—"can radically bring up or down the numbers of a candidate."

Regions, classes

Duterte was the favored candidate in Mindanao (58 percent), Class ABC (37 percent), Class D (32 percent) and Class E (31 percent).

In Metro Manila, the leading candidates were Duterte, (32 percent), Poe (32 percent) and Binay (23 percent).

Roxas got strong support in the Visayas with 35 percent but Duterte is catching up with 29 percent. (See tables on this page.)

Reaching out

Despite what it called Duterte's "whopping 7-percentage point" lead over Poe, his camp said it would continue to reach out to voters.

"We need to convert and convince others that the path to real change is through the unparalleled and decisive leadership that Mayor Duterte has been providing us," said Duterte's national campaign manager, Leoncio Evasco Jr.

Respect results

Poe said she respected the survey results and that she



Duterte



+2



Poe

Unchanged



Binay

Unchanged



Roxas



-1



Santiago



-1

President preference for the 2016 elections

February to April (in percent)

Candidate	Feb 16-27*	Mar 1-6**	Mar 8-13***	Mar 15-20***	Mar 29- Apr 3***	Apr 5-10***
Duterte	22	24	25	24	30	32
Poe	26	28	26	28	25	25
Binay	24	21	22	23	20	20
Roxas	19	20	20	19	19	18
Santiago	3	3	3	2	2	1

SOURCE: SOURCE: PULSE ASIA RESEARCH'S ABS-CBN PRE-ELECTORAL NATIONAL SURVEY

*SAMPLE SIZE OF 5,200 REGISTERED VOTERS AND MARGIN OF ERROR OF + OR - 1.4 PERCENTAGE POINTS

**SAMPLE SIZE OF 2,600 REGISTERED VOTERS AND MARGIN OF ERROR OF + OR - 1.9 PERCENTAGE POINTS

***SAMPLE SIZE OF 4,000 REGISTERED VOTERS AND MARGIN OF ERROR OF + OR - 1.5 PERCENTAGE PTS

Presidential preference by location, class

(April 5-10, in percent)

Candidate	Location					Class		
	PH	Metro Manila	Rest of Luzon	Vis	Min	ABC	D	E
Duterte	32	32	20	29	58	37	32	31
Poe	25	32	33	21	10	19	26	24
Binay	20	23	28	11	13	17	20	22
Roxas	18	7	13	35	16	19	17	20
Santiago	1	3	1	1	0	2	1	0

SOURCE: PULSE ASIA RESEARCH'S ABS-CBN PRE-ELECTORAL NATIONAL SURVEY

would use these in her national campaign.

"I believe that on Election Day, the voters will choose a leader who is propeople and brilliant for the good of the country," Poe said.

Although its candidates continue to lag in the surveys, the ruling Liberal Party (LP) is sticking with standard-bearer Roxas and running mate Leni Robredo.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., LP vice chair, said there would be no major shift in alliances among party members up to the last minute.

Undaunted

Malacañang was undaunted by the latest voter preference survey, saying the race for both the presidency and vice presidency remains closely fought and highly competitive.

Binay

"We are confident that in the run-up to Election Day, the Daang Matuwid (Straight Path) coalition will continue to garner support as our bosses manifest their desire for continuity of good governance that is the basis for the attainment of inclu-

minio Coloma Jr. said.

In Marawi City where he was campaigning, Binay shrugged off the latest Pulse Asia survey showing him still in third place.

Asked to comment on his standing in the survey, Binay replied by telling a reporter that the latter had accompanied him in his sorties. "You can see (the situation) in the field," he said.

Asked whether he expected to win the most votes in Mindanao where he was campaigning for several days, Binay said he was certain he and Marawi City Mayor Fahad Salic, who is running for governor of Lanao del Sur province, would win in May.

Binay's campaign spokesperson, Rico Quicho, said the standard-bearer of the United Nationalist Alliance maintained that the real survey was the results of Election Day.

He said the Binay camp would step up campaign sorties because "direct campaigning and talking to our people will further strengthen our core group."

"And that will help and give us votes for us to win the election," he said. *With reports*

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Finally, a formal apology from Rody

Aussie envoy told: Shut up

By ROBERTZON RAMIREZ
and JENNIFER RENDON

With public outrage mounting, Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has formally apologized "to the Filipino people" for his comments on rape, promising a clean government despite his "dirty mouth."

His camp yesterday issued the statement of apology before Duterte held a forum at the Iloilo City campus of the University of the Philippines-Visayas and a grand rally at La Paz public plaza.

"I apologize to the Filipino people for my recent remarks in a rally. There was no intention of disrespecting our women and those who have been victims of this horrible crime. Sometimes my mouth can get the better of me," Duterte said.

"However, I will not apologize for the things I've done to protect our people, especially the weak and defenseless, from crime. I know what it can do to the victims and their families. The anguish and pain they cause. The trauma that can't be erased. I have witnessed these myself numerous times," he added.

Duterte and his brother reportedly killed at least four of the inmates who had held an Australian lay missionary hostage at the Davao prison in 1989.

An unapologetic Duterte told Australian Ambassador Amanda Gorley yesterday to "shut up" and consider that the rape victim had received "instant justice."

"This is why I am angry. I am angry because horrendous things like this continue to happen to our women and

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Finally From Page 1

children all over our land. And sadly, government has failed to protect them," Duterte said in the statement.

The presidential front-runner, standard bearer of the Partidong Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban (PDP-Laban), also admitted that he is "a man of many flaws and contradictions" but he can be an efficient leader.

He asked the Filipino people to give him a chance to be their leader.

"In spite of my dirty mouth, I'll give you a clean government," he said.

"If you will give me the chance to lead this country, I promise to all of you that I will protect our women, children and families from the horrors and disorder of crime. I will do this even if I lose my life, my honor and even the presidency," he added.

In a video posted on *YouTube*, Duterte was on stage speaking about an Australian woman who was raped and killed in a hostage incident in a Davao prison in 1989.

"*Napakaganda, dupat ang mayor ang mauna* (Very beautiful, the mayor should be the first)," Duterte said.

Duterte to Aussie envoy: Shut up

Ambassador Gorely criticized Duterte, saying "rape and murder should never be joked about or trivialized" and "violence against women and girls is unacceptable anytime, anywhere."

Duterte told the ambassador to shut up.

"Don't talk to me about fairness. You Australians, if you can't be fair to my countrymen, shut up. What is your problem?" he said in the forum at UP Visayas yesterday.

"Your missionary was defiled and raped. What did I give you? Instant justice. They are dead, all 16 of them. You still don't like that?" he said, referring to

the prisoners involved in the slay of the Australian missionary.

"I don't need you to lecture me. You listen to me," he added.

Duterte's supporters hit bishops

Officials of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) have also condemned Duterte's rape joke.

But the mayor's supporters took to social media to air their sentiments against the CBCP and come to his defense.

"Those who are pretending to be saints are more devilish in real life. Compare this to Duterte who is sincerely serving people without any trace of corruption and plunder of public fund," Facebook user Raul Oshiro noted in a post.

Another Facebook user called the Catholic bishops "hypocrites."

"The bishops should first judge themselves and their own ranks. Anyway, those involved are Catholics. It means the Catholic Church failed to teach what is right," another Facebook user said.

Duterte's spokesman Peter Laviña called on the mayor's supporters to "respect everyone's opinion," especially those of the elders and members of the clergy.

Duterte slams Roxas, Binay anew

A few days after he drew flak for his rape comment, Duterte spewed profanity and slammed anew presidential candidates Manuel Roxas II of the Liberal Party (LP) and Vice President Jejomar Binay of the United Nationalist Alliance.

"I don't understand Mar. He got angry with me because I ran (for president)," Duterte said in a rally in Bacolod City on Monday night attended by 10,000 supporters.

Duterte also hit the envelope allegedly distributed during an LP rally.

He claimed that the people in Samar were told that they would have a million pesos if they would vote for the administration's president bet down to the last senatorial candidate.

"Isn't it like lotto? Do you think he will spend that big?" Duterte said.

*"Boto ng Pilipino, ginawang lotto. Anak ng, p***** mo"* (the vote of the Filipino people was made a lottery. Son of a *****).

"Ikaw na taga rito, hindi ka na nahiya sa kababayan mo" (you are from here, but you are not ashamed). He proclaims to be clean," he added.

Negros Occidental is considered "Mar country" since Roxas' mother Judy Araneta-Roxas is from Bago City, the neighboring city of Bacolod.

He also chided Roxas for distributing farm implements at the time of El Niño, when the soil is already cracking and dry.

"I can't understand Mar... Why wait for elections? They should have given that in December, just in time for El Niño," Duterte said.

Duterte said the next president should solve this problem because "if the dry spell would continue to last in the next four to six months, then we are in serious trouble."

The next president should see to it that there is food available and it should be affordable.

Duterte also lambasted Binay for being corrupt and for saying that he is the "*pambansang berdugo*" or national executioner.

"Nandiyan ang kandidato na nagsabi ako ay berdugo ng kriminal. Tama ka Binay. Ikaw naman ang berdugo ng kaban ng bayan" (There is a candidate who said that I am an executioner of criminals. You are right, Binay. But you are the executioner of the nation's coffers)," Duterte said, drawing a loud cheer from the crowd.

Duterte explained that he came to Negros Occidental to present his plans, but he would not force the Negrenses to

vote for him.

"Next month, choose the leader you want," he added.

Duterte gov't to prioritize Mindanao

Duterte's camp also promised to prioritize the economic growth and social development of Mindanao if he is elected president.

PDP-Laban president Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III said yesterday that Duterte would see to it that Mindanao gets a fair share of the national income, so that it can devote more resources to economic development.

The senator noted that in the P3-trillion national budget for 2016, Mindanao gets only 14 percent, compared to 33 percent for Metro Manila and nine percent for the Visayas.

This, he said, reflects the lopsided distribution of national resources that partly explains the persistence of poverty in Mindanao.

Among the features of the economic platform of Duterte and his runningmate Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is to establish more growth centers across the country to create jobs. They will also set up a P1-billion small capital fund per region to encourage entrepreneurship.

To boost regional development, Duterte will also move national departments outside the National Capital Region, with the Department of Agriculture to be transferred to Mindanao.

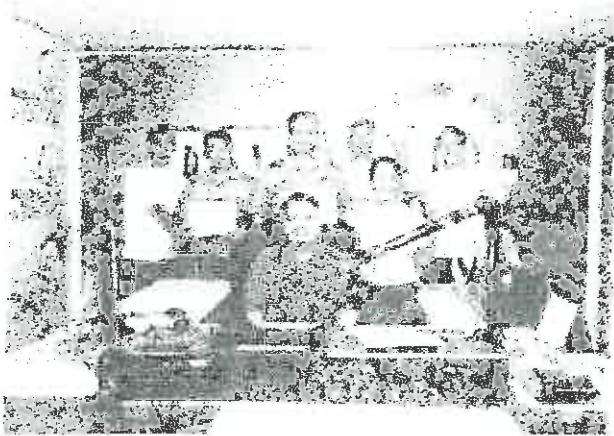
A six-phase railway system straddling the whole of Mindanao and covering approximately 2,000 kilometers will also be established at a total cost of P78 billion.

To allow residents in the Visayas and Mindanao to access modern health care, Duterte will establish specialized hospitals for heart, lung, and kidney ailments in two island groups. - **With Edith Regalado, Danny Dangcalan**

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...

PINOY PRIDE II Army lauds soldier-athletes

Lui



DWDD — Philippine Army's Dragon Boat Team brought pride to the country once again as they won five awards during the 10th IDBF Club Crew World Championships in Adelaide, South Australia held from April 1-7, 2016.

This year's event marked the first time involvement of females in the team, which led to the team's participation in the 200m and 500m mixed small boats, in addition to competing in 200m, 500m, and 2000m open small boats.

Club teams from different parts of the world, including the Philippine Coast Guard's DET, joined the competition. The PCGDBT also garnered 5 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze in the said event.

The PA's Dragon Boat Team said that before the event, they experienced problems with the climate, hardships during trainings, time constraints, and lack of funds, but teamwork, motivation, discipline, dedication, and passion for what they're doing drove them to their very best.

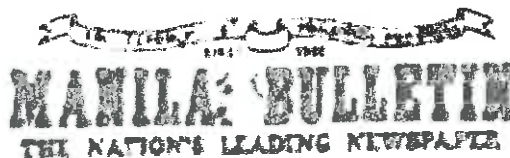
The PADBT is thankful for the support of the Australian Filipino community, who aided them with the resources they have.

The team is set to compete in Busan, Korea this August 2016.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Army (PA) has lauded soldier-athletes who brought honor and pride to the organization by winning championship awards in various local and international competitions.

"I congratulate all the proud members, Army Dragon Warriors for their wins in the 10th IDBF World Club Crews Championship. This victory meant more than bringing honor and pride to the Philippine Army," LT General Eduardo Año said.

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Troops overrun NPA camp in Bukidnon

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Military troops overran an NPA encampment after a fierce gun battle with about 30 heavily armed New People's Army (NPA) rebels last Friday afternoon at a forested area near Sitio Kalampigan, Barangay Kalabugao, in Impasugong town, Bukidnon, a regional Army spokesman yesterday said.

"The fierce firefight lasted for about one hour and twenty minutes, which caused the NPA bandits to withdraw and scamper to different directions, bringing along wounded comrades, as evidenced by the bloodstain found by the troops in their route of withdrawal," claimed Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, spokesman of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID), in a statement sent to media here yesterday.

He said elements of Eighth Infantry Battalion (8th IB) were also able to recover inside the NPA camp an improvised explosive device (IED), live ammunitions for AK-47 and M16 Armalite rifles, five back packs and subversive documents.

The seized NPA camp belonged to guerrilla-Front Committee 4-B of the CPP-NPA North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC), the 4th ID spokesperson said.

"The heavy gunbattle started at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, and lasted for about one hour and 20 minutes before they (NPAs) abandoned their camp," he said.

The 8th IB has intensified its security operations to rescue SPO1 Warren Coñales and PO3 Edwin Castro who were abducted by the insurgents from an NPA checkpoint set up at a portion of Sayre Highway in Barangay Capitan

Bayong of Impasugong town, Bukidnon last April 3, Martinez said.

Responding to a report from the lumad (native) community in Sitio Kalampigan, troops of the 8th IB proceeded to the area where the highland villagers saw the armed group who allegedly had with them two persons, believed to be the abducted policemen who were also seen hog tied, he said.

"The rebels, however, fired upon the troops, as they approached the area that caused the start of gun battle," Martinez added.

No soldier was hurt during the clash, while it was believed that the NPA had several casualties as reported by the lumads residing in nearby communities.

In his statement, Lt. Col. Lennon G. Babilonia, commander of the 8th IB, condemned the NPA leaders for denying their wounded comrades proper medical care.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Soldier, CAFGU killed in pursuit ops vs cop abductors in Davao City

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

DAVAO CITY – A government trooper and a member of Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) were killed, while two other soldiers were wounded during the continuing pursuit operations conducted Monday by the 84th Infantry Battalion in Paquibato District here against a group of New People's Army (NPA) rebels holding five policemen hostage.

On Monday April 18 in Sitio Banban, Barangay Lumiad, Paquibato District here against a group of communists New People's Army (NPA) who were responsible to the attack of an army detachment and the abduction of five members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) last Saturday, April 16 in the same district.

Tenth Infantry (Agila) Division chief information officer Captain Rhyen Batchar reported that the first encounter on Monday occurred at around 8 a.m. in Sitio Banban, Barangay Lumiad when the pursuing 84th IB troopers engaged an undetermined number of NPA rebels in the area.

A soldier and a CAFGU member were killed in this initial encounter while two other soldiers were wounded, Batchar said.

The identities of those killed and of the wounded were temporarily kept as of press time until their respective families have been notified, Batchar added.

The soldiers were able to recover an M-16 Armalite rifle, and an unidentified male NPA member was also killed during the encounter, he said.

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The second encounter between the same government troopers and the rebels took place at about four hours later. No casualty was reported in this skirmish.

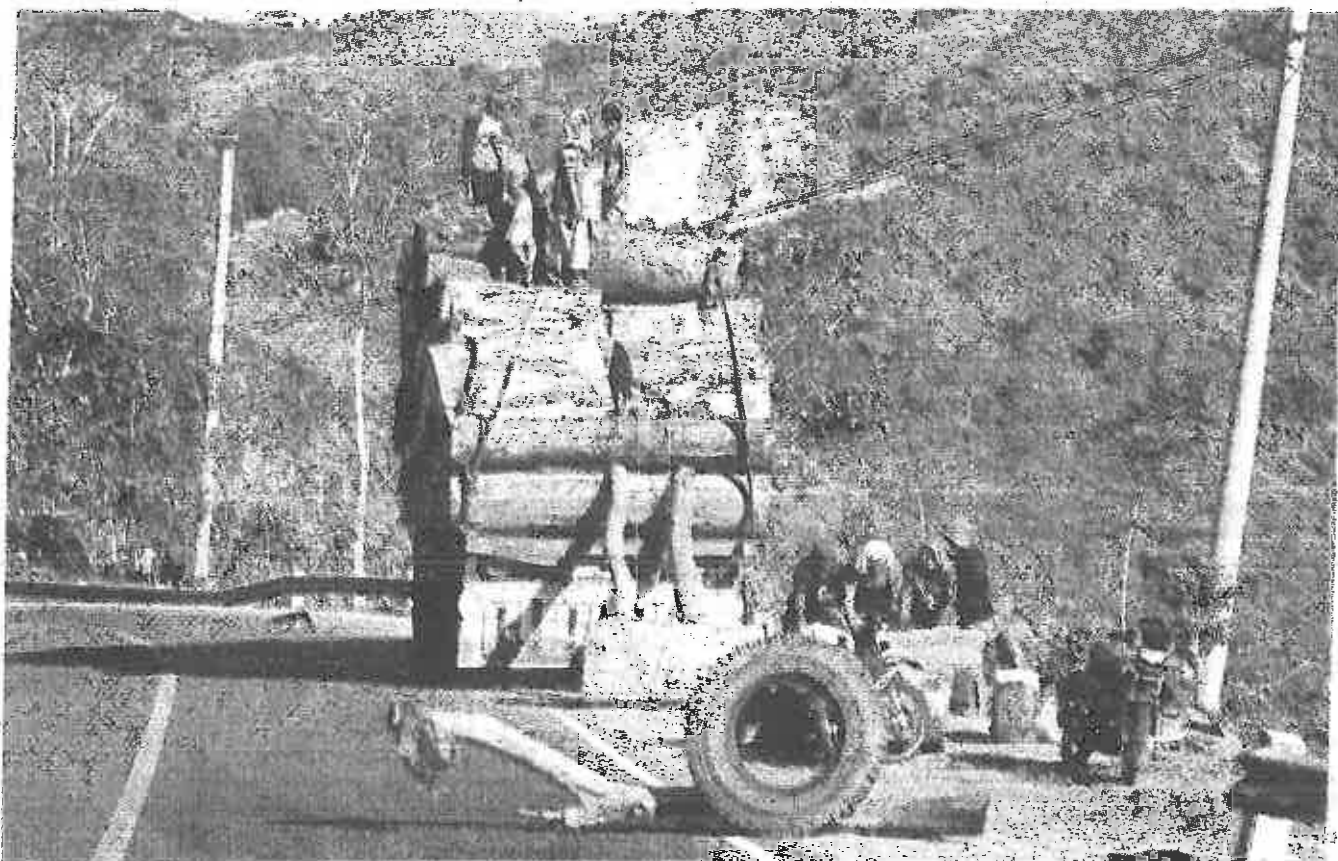
The wounded have been airlifted to Camp Panacan Station Hospital.

No one was hurt in said second armed confrontation while the wounded

soldiers during the first confrontation were immediately airlifted to Camp Panacan Station Hospital here for medical treatment.

The soldiers were pursuing rebels who were believed behind an attack on an Army detachment and the subsequent abduction of five policemen last Saturday, also in Paquibato District.

The NPAs were able to abduct Chief Insp. Leonardo V. Tarungoy and his men PO3 Rosennie L. Cabunas, PO3 Rudolph Y. Pacete, PO3 Abdul Aziz A. Ali, and PO2 Neil C. Arellano, who were responding to the attack on the Army detachment and were on a Paquibato police vehicle when they were stopped and taken into custody.



COMMERCIAL LOGGING - Giant Falcata logs are rolled into this waiting hauler truck in Kitaotao, Bukidnon. These trees commercially grown in the area and are used in making plywood, crates, and match sticks. (Keith Bacongco)

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Pahina. 6

37 ASG na ang nalalagas sa military operation

Umakyat na sa 37 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa panig ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa pagpapatuloy na intense military operation laban sa mga bandido sa Tipo-Tipo, Basilan.

Sinabi ni Major Fillemon Tan, spokesperson ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) na sa ngayon ay higit isang linggo na ang operasyon ng mili-

tar kontra ASG sapul nang sumiklab ang sagupaan na ikinasawi ng 18 sundalo at ikinasugat ng may 56 pa.

Sinasabing kabilang sa 37 nasawi sa kalaban ang foreign terrorist at Moroccan national na si Mohammad Khatib kung saan kasama ang bangkay nito sa mga narekober ng mga sundalo sa lugar nang bakbakan habang ang iba ay

nakumpirma sa pamamagitan ng intelligence report.

Siniguro ng militar na marami pa ang mga sugatan sa panig ng ASG dahil sa maraming mga bakas ng dugo na nakita sa lugar ng sagupaan.

Sa mga sugatang ASG, kabilang dito ang nasa malubhang kondisyon na si ASG leader Furuji Indama. (Beitchai Julian)

20 April 2016



Pahina. 2

SUNDALO UTAS SA KAPWA SUNDALO

TODAS ang isang sundalo makaraang pagtabarin ng dalawang suspek, kabilang ang kapwa nito militar sa Maragusan, Compostela Valley kamakalawa.

Paruloy nang sinisiyasat ng mga awtoridad ang motibo sa pagpatay kay Cpl. Jomar Paatan, 33, miyembro

ng 69th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army.

Ayon kay Senior Supt. Albert Ignatius Ferro, Compostela Valley police chief, 12:30 ng hatinggabi habang naglalakad si Paatan, kasama ang isang Pvt. Joner Bern Cadion sa Rizal St., Bgy. Poblacion, nang maganap ang

pamamaril. Bumili lamang ng balut ang dalawang sundalo nang masalubong nila ang suspek na si Pfc. Gilbert John Cinco, gayundin ang sibilyan nitong kasama na si Roger Pepito. Bumunot ng kalibre .45 ang isa sa mga suspek caka binaril si Paatan. (Tyme Reyes)

Soldier guns down soldier in Compostela Valley

By: Frinston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao
11:23 AM April 19th, 2016



TAGUM CITY, Philippines — A soldier died after being shot by one of two suspects, including another soldier, in Maragusan town, Compostela Valley on Monday, authorities on Tuesday said. Investigators are determining the motive behind the killing of Cpl. Jomar Paatan, said Senior Supt. Albert Ignatius Ferro, Compostela Valley police chief.

READ:

The 38-year-old Paatan, of the Army's 58th Infantry Battalion in Poblacion village, was walking with Pvt. Joner Bern Cadion along Rizal St., Poblacion, when the shooting occurred at about 12:30 a.m., Ferro said.

The duo had just bought "balut" (boiled duck eggs), Ferro added.

The suspects, identified as Pfc. Gilbert John Cinco, of Pantukan town, and his civilian companion Roger Pepito, came from the opposite direction and allegedly "approached the 69th IB troopers," police said.

One of the suspects "drew a cal. 45 pistol and shot Paatan thrice," Ferro said. The official could not say if the suspect also belonged to the 69th IB.

The suspects have been turned over by the 69th IB to the Maragusan police station for the filing of charges.

The military's 10th Infantry Battalion has yet to issue a statement regarding the incident.

SUSTAINED OPERATIONS II 3RD ASG Camp Falls in Basilan

Alvin Santiago April 19, 2016

MANILA (DWDD) – Troops from the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Eimer Sudario successfully captured another camp of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and recovered components in making Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in operation conducted in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan early Sunday.

According to Major Elemon Tan, spokesperson for the AFP Western Mindanao Command, this is the third ASG camp that fell to military forces after the April 9 clash incident that led to the death of 18 soldiers and wounding of 53 others.



The troops were conducting combat operations in Barangay Baguidan of Tipo-Tipo town which they chased upon the ASG camp, where aside they recovered IED components, five liters of gasoline, assorted medical paraphernalia, three sacks of rice, and five laminated books.

As of the moment, the government campaign has led to the neutralization of 80 persons with three books, ~~including the~~ ~~Indonesian~~ ~~and~~ ~~other~~ ~~members~~ ~~who~~ ~~is~~ ~~said~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~acting~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~honor~~ ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~Major~~ ~~Executive~~ ~~organizational~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~wounding~~ ~~of~~ ~~ASG~~ ~~sub-~~ ~~leader~~ ~~Tung~~ ~~Indana~~ ~~ASG~~ ~~MCAG~~.

3 kampo na ng ASG ang nakubkob ng militar sa Basilan - AFP

By Bombo Mars deSa, 19 April 2016 18:13

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Nasa tatlóng kampo na ng Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) ang nakubkob nang militar sa loob ng mahigit isang linggong intense military operation laban sa mga bandido sa munisipyo ng Tipo-Tipo sa lalawigan ng Basilan.

Ayon kay Major Filenon Tan, tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), ang tatlóng kampo na magkakasunod na narekober ng kanilang tropa ay nasa magkakahiwalay na bahagi ng Barangay Baguindan.

Sa unang nakuhang kampo ay mayroon umangong 20 hanggang 25 mga banker na kasya ang nasa 100 katao.

Habang ang pangalawa naman ay nagsisilbi lamang umangong temporary camp dahil maliit at ordinaryo lamang ang paggawa nito kung saan ginamit lamang ang mga sako sa mga makeshift na makikita sa loob nito.

Sa pangatlong kampo na inabandona ng mga bandido at tuluyang nakuha ng mga sundalo ay narekober dito ang mga component sa paggawa ng bomba, limang litro ng gasoline, assorted medical paraphernalia, limang sako ng bigas at iba pang mga personal na gamit at mga war material.

Ang Tan, maliban sa mga narekober na mga kagamitan ng mga Abu Sayyaf sa loob ng mga nakubkob na kampo ay makikita rin dito ang mga naiwang pinaggamutan sa mga sugatang bandido.

Sariwa pa umaho ang mga nakikitang bakas ng dugo dito kaya paniwala ng militar na hindi pa nakaalis ang mga kaleban sa Tipo-Tipo at magpapatuloy ang kanilang operasyon hanggang matugis ang mga ito.

"The military continues to intensify focused military operations against the Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) following the last week's heavy skirmishes," pahayag pa rin Tan.

Sa ngayon ay naitala ng militar na 37 na ang kabuuang bilang ng mga Abu Sayyaf members ang napatay sa engkuwentro kabilang na rito ang isang foreign terrorist na si Mohammad Khattab na isang Moroccan national habang marami pa ang sugatan.

Philippine National Police

Pursuit underway for abductors of 5 cops in Davao City

Joint forces of police and military are conducting hot pursuit operations against the suspects in the abduction of five policemen responding to a government militia detachment believed to be attacked by communist rebels in Paquibato district in Davao City.

The Philippine National Police condemned the incident but declined to confirm whether it was the members of the New People's Army (NPA), the communist wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), who staged the attack over the weekend.

Spokesperson Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor said Davao Regional Police head Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan has ordered round-the-clock checkpoint operations by all concerned police units to restrict the movement of the suspects.

"As we speak, our military counterparts from the 64IB, 65IB & 60IB of 10ID PA are conducting hot pursuit operations in their area of operation, while adjacent PRO 10 & 13 were informed and alerted for possible assistance and augmentation," Mayor said.

Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the NPA Regional Operations Command, said the NPA has admitted taking the five policemen as prisoners.

While the PNP declined to disclose the names of the victims, the NPA identified the abducted officers as Police Chief Inspector Leonardo Tarungoy, PO3 Rosalie Cabuanas, PO3 Rudolph Pacete, PO2 Ivell Arellano and PO3 Abdul Aziz Ali. The NPA listed the badge numbers of the cops.

READ: NPA takes 5 cops captive, hurts 1, seizes firearms in Davao City

On Saturday morning, around 60 heavily armed members of the First Pulang Bagani Battalion raided the 72nd Infantry Battalion GAA detachment in Sitio Quimanan (Barangay/Village) Salapawan. After a firefight which lasted for less than an hour, another group of NPA rebels took the five cops.

The NPA seized nine rifles, eight M14 rifles, 78 clips of garand ammunition, 30 fully loaded M14 magazines and other military hardware. They also seized two 9 mm pistols and one .45 caliber pistol from the policemen.

"The POWs (prisoners of war) will be held in custody pending an investigation for possible war crimes and other crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement," Sanchez said.

For PNP's part, Mayor assured the relatives of the victims that the "PNP will exhaust all possible means to bring them back."

Mayor also reminded all PNP personnel to observe personal security measures to avoid falling into the trap of the rebels.

"Even as efforts are being exerted to ensure the safe release of these kidnapped policemen, our primary concern is the safety of the community," Mayor added.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (APR 19, 2019)

3 killed, 2 wounded in Davao City clashes

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 19)

A trooper, a militiaman and a member of an "armed lawless group" was killed in separate encounters in Paquibato District, Davao City Monday.

Also wounded in the two clashes were two troopers while an M-16 automatic rifle belonging to the brigands were recovered.

Capt. Rhyen Batchar, 10th Infantry Division public affairs office chief, said the first encounter took place 8:00 a.m. while the second occurred at 12:25 p.m.

Both clashes took place at Sitio Banban, Barangay Lumiad, he added.

Government casualties were immediately airlifted to Camp Panacan Station Hospital.

The soldiers' names are withheld while their families are still being informed.

Batchar said the lawless elements encountered by the troops was responsible for the attack on Quiman-anao CAA (CAFGU Active Auxiliary) Detachment at Sitio Quiman-anao, Barangay Salapawan, Paquibato District, Davao City last April 15.

The attack injured a CAA and civilian, identified as CAA Mario Canaman and Pastor Randy Ramirez, a pastor of Baptist Church in Barangay Salapawan.

Canaman is now on stable condition at a hospital in Tagum while Ramirez, still in critical condition, is confined at Southern Philippines Medical Center.

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AFP waits for Iriberry replacement

By JAIME LAUDE

Malacañang has yet to name a replacement for Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry, who bows out of the service on Friday.

Over the last two days, while waiting for the Palace announcement on who would

be the next commander of the 130,000-strong military, soldiers have been conducting parade rehearsals for Iriberry's retirement ceremonies.

"The chief of staff will definitely retire on the day of his retirement, but as to who will replace him we have no information on that yet," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

Iriberry, of Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, will be reaching the military's mandatory retirement age of 56 on Friday, or 17 days prior to the holding of the May 9 national and local elections.

AFP sources claimed that if the President does not designate Iriberry's replacement, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, the AFP vice chief, would assume command of the AFP as officer-in-charge.

They also bared this was the reason why Miranda was assigned to the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Miranda, former commander of the AFP's Tarlac-based Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), has been designated

as AFP vice chief of staff, a position previously held by Marine Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo.

Tanalgo was appointed Nolcom commander, replacing Miranda.

Miranda and Tanalgo are both Iriberry's classmates at the PMA.

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Iriberry retires Friday; successor not yet named

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it has yet to receive word from Malacañang as to the successor of AFP chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry who is reaching the retirement age of 56 on Friday.

His tour of duty will unlikely be extended by President Aquino, according to a source.

Iriberry, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, assumed the top military post in July last year.

Soldiers and military assets on Monday started rehearsals for turn-over ceremonies, said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Asked if the rehearsals means Iriberry's term will not be extended, Padilla said it is a "political issue" that the military could not answer.

The AFP chief is usually selected from among the three-star generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces. There are 10 three-star

generals and flag officers but three of them are due for retirement this year - Lt. Gen. Nicanor Vitar, chief of the Central Command, retiring in August; Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, chief of the Southern Luzon Command, in September; and Vice Adm. Alexander Lopez, chief of the Western Command, in August.

The seven other three-star officers are Vice Adm. Caesar Taccad, Navy chief, and Lieutenant Generals Glorioso Miranda, AFP vice chief; Eduardo Año, Army chief; Edgar Fallorina, Air Force chief; Romeo Tanalgo, Northern Luzon Command chief; Leonardo Guerrero, chief of the Eastern Mindanao Command; and Mayoralgo dela Cruz, chief of the Western Mindanao Command.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the President is unlikely to extend the tour of duty of Iriberry to at least the end of the President's term on June 30.

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Carter visit start of US troops' rotational presence

BY RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)

THE rotational presence of American troops in the country under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) has started in the presence of US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter over the weekend.

US troops and equipment will be in the country under a rotational scheme to enable American servicemen and Filipino soldiers to jointly respond to crisis—natural or man-made.

The US troops' rotational presence in the Philippines was unofficially announced by Carter himself after his meeting with President Aquino in Malacañang.

"Some Americans here for this exercise [Balikatan] will be staying behind on a rotational basis to continue joint training and working with our Philippine allies to contribute to regional security and stability. I thank these service members for taking on this important assignments," he said.

The start of the pivot, which will allow US troops and their state-of-the-art assets and equipment, including warplanes and ships, in five selected military bases in the country, took place even as both the Philippines and the US are still working on the technical side of the defense agreement.

"Our planners are working on identifying the technical requirements for the selected sites, where agreed locations could be developed," said Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin, who accompanied Carter during his visit to Malacañang.

"We are optimistic that the Edca would significantly contribute to our efforts in enhancing the interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States Pacific Command, or Pacom, by developing the facilities that could be used for our approved Philippines-US activities," he added.

However, Carter indirectly implied that the temporary basing of US soldiers in the country has

already started, with part of those who participated in the two-week Balikatan and the Stennis Carrier group, that was sent to the country during the period, to stay behind for regional security duty.

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"A contingent of US aircraft and their crews and pilots that participated in Balikatan will stay behind at Clark Air Base. We'll do this, in fact, on a regular basis. The initial contingent, five A-10 'Thunderbolt' aircraft, three H-60G 'Pave Hawk' helicopters and one MC-130H 'Combat Talon' aircraft will stay behind," he said.

"And 200 airmen, including pilots, will continue joint training, conduct flight operations in the area, including the South China Sea, and lay the foundation for joint air patrols to complement ongoing maritime patrols," he added.

"A command-and-control center manned by American personnel here for the exercise will also remain behind. They will continue exercising combined US-Philippines command-and-control capabilities and support increased cooperative activities in the region," Carter added.

Never in the history of the Balikatan that American servicemen, who have participated in the annual bilateral exercise, have stayed behind, and while US forces occasionally visits the country, they only do this during port-call visits or when they are on humanitarian assistance and disaster-response operations.

When the Philippines and the US were working on the details of the Edca in 2014, Filipino defense officials said the agreement should help the country deal with the aggressive China in the West Philippine Sea, other than training and boosting the equipment-lacked military.

Gazmin has said the Edca will serve as the country's temporary but primary territorial defense plan while the government is beefing up the capabilities of the Armed Forces.

Based on the same statement of Carter, activities under the Edca has even started as early as last month, and this was in the form of a joint patrol in the West Philippine Sea, where Chinese military and paramilitary vessels were a constant sighting during the past months.

"Last month we commenced joint maritime patrols in the South China Sea. These patrols, an alliance decision at our two-plus-two ministe-

rial, which Voltaire [Gazmin] and I held with our respective secretaries of foreign affairs in Washington in January," Carter revealed.

"These patrols will continue to help build our interoperability and improve the Philippine Navy, even as these patrols contribute to the safety and security of the region's waters," the candid Pentagon chief revealed.

Gazmin, however, tried to downplay the joint patrol, saying it was in the form of a passing exercise.

"We conducted such joint patrols as part of our passing exercises or the passex. Our planners are examining ways on how to make such

“Some Americans here for this exercise [Balikatan] will be staying behind on a rotational basis to continue joint training and working with our Philippine allies to contribute to regional security and stability.”—CARTER

patrols as part of our regular activities," he said.

Passing exercise is an activity which ensures that two navies can work and communicate together dur-

ing times of peace and war.

As spelled out by the Edca, both the Philippine Navy and the US Navy are required to conduct joint patrols, especially in the West Philippine Sea.



IN this April 15 photo, US Defense Secretary Ash Carter reviews troops as he arrives for the closing ceremony of the 11-day joint US-Philippines military exercise at Camp Aguinaldo in suburban Quezon City. Carter announced that, for the first time, US ships had started conducting joint patrols in the South China Sea with the Philippines—a somewhat rare move not done with many other partners in the region. AP

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Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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RSBS allays fears of soldiers, says it will refund contributions

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military's Retirement Separation and Benefits System (RSBS) yesterday said it has enough assets to refund, with accrued interest, the contributions of its soldier-members in the wake of the agency's abolition by Malacañang last week.

RSBS president Norman Legaspi said the agency's current assets stands at more than P17

billion, way above the refundable amount of P15 billion to P16 billion, including interest.

"The P17 billion is based on the book value of these assets, but naturally the market value is higher than the book value, and if we liquidate these assets, it will sum up to more than the amount that should be refunded," he said.

Legaspi said the agency has

See RSBS > Page B6

RSBS

P6.5 billion in cash and cash equivalents and expressed confidence that "we'll be able to raise the total amount for refund when we start liquidating our assets."

"Just like comparing it to a bank under receivership, any corporation, not all its investments are in liquid assets. That's why we will have to do our liquidations process and optimize the return or the sale of these assets, in order for us to be able to refund all the requirements," said Legaspi.

The RSBS has shares in the Monterossa Development Corp. and Southern Utility Management and Services Inc. It also has real estate assets such as subdivision lots, house and lots, memorial lots, and raw lands, aside from golf and country club shares.

These assets will have to be privatized or sold, pursuant to the liquidation of RSBS.

Legaspi said the disposal of these assets will be guided by the Governance Commission for Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, adding rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit will be followed.

The soldiers' monthly contribution is equivalent to five percent of their salary and earns an interest of six percent per annum.

"Hopefully, we will be able to refund everything before finally RSBS will close," Legaspi said.

In its Memorandum Order dated April 8, Malacañang ordered the abolition of the RSBS and said the agency will act as Board of Liquidators.

Legaspi said he expects the total closure of the RSBS in three to five years. "We have to craft a way that when we close there's a new entity already," he added.

Former President Marcos established the RSBS in 1973 and provided a P200-million seed money. The agency was envisioned to provide pension for soldiers after attaining self-sufficiency.

It has not met self-sufficiency targets, however.

Similar orders to abolish the agency were issued by President Arroyo in 2006 by virtue of Executive Order 590.

Under the new order, Legaspi said RSBS assets will have to be transferred to a government financial institution but "no GFI wanted to get RSBS."

Legaspi said soldiers should not be alarmed by the new order abolishing the agency, saying: "This is just a terminology so that we can start the liquidation process and we can actually orderly close down the RSBS and also ensure the preservation of its assets and

be able to give what is due the soldiers.

"That is the primordial objective of this winding down plan, to be able to give back the soldiers' money... When you say abolition in this memorandum order, it doesn't mean we're close starting tomorrow," he said.

"There's still a lot to do. Actually, this memorandum order resurrected RSBS in order for it to wind down properly and smoothly. EO 590 doesn't mention what we can do and we cannot do. It just says we are closed," said Legaspi.

He said the RSBS will no longer collect contributions from the soldiers this month.

"Kung ano man ang matira after liquidation, after refund, I think that will be up to the national government what to do, whatever residual assets that will be left to RSBS after it pays off all its obligations," said Legaspi.

Legaspi said the liquidated assets of the RSBS will be turned over to the soon-to-formed entity that will replace RSBS. He said the new entity will be in charge of the refund.

"We've already discussed with the Senate and the Congress a new pension reform law, AFP pension law. So kukunin 'yun ng bagong entity, and they'll be the one to refund," said Legaspi.

5285, 5295

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Page. 3

Dating sundalo, apo patay sa granada

Isang retiradong sundalo ang nagpakamatay garnit ang itinagong granada sa kanilang tahanan Lunes ng gabi sa Calocan City. Kintala ang bikuma na si Geronimo Dacillo, 78 at nadamay pa ang apo nito na si Rafael Vincent Velasquez, 13-anyos at isang high school student. Ayon sa anak ng sundalo na si Gerrylyn Velasquez, 23, madalas umanong nagsasabi ang kaniyang ama na magpapakamatay dahil sa hirap na kaniyang nararanasan buhat sa karamidaman nito na skin asthma. Tatlong taon na umano itong inilida ng biktima, dahilan para wakasan ang kaniyang buhay at sa kasamaang palad ay nadamay pa ang kaniyang apo. "Nasa second floor po kasi ako ng bahay nung may marinig akong malakas na pagputok. Noong bumaba ako para tingnan nakita ko na lang naduguan ang tatay at anak ko," ani Gerrylyn. **(Jel Santos)**

20 April 2016



Pahina. 4



Mga bansa, magkaisa na laban sa Abu Sayyaf!

Paakyat ang mainit na hangin habang mas mabigat ang malamig na hangin kaya mas nananatili sa ilalim.

Ito ay ilan lamang sa mga paraan para malabanan ang init at para makaiwas sa heat stroke na nakamamatay.

Nananawagan ang Malaysia ng mas malawig na kooperasyong militar sa Sulu Sea. Ang panawagan ay para sa Pilipinas, Indonesia at Brunei.

Ito ay matapos ang tila sunud-sunod na pagdakip ng mga hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf sa mga mamamayan ng Malaysia at Indonesia.

Sa kasalukuyan, higit isang dosenang tao na ang bihag ng Abu Sayyaf na karamihan ay mga mandaragat mula sa Malaysia at Indonesia.

Tama ang panawagan ng Malaysia. Kung hindi mababantayan ng isang bansa ang ka-

ragatan, mas maganda kung maraming bansa ang magkakaisa para sugpuin ang problema sa Abu Sayyaf.

Militar na solusyon na ang kinakailangan dahil bukod sa pagiging kriminal, mga rebelde at terorista ang mga ito.

Magkasundo na ang lahat ng bansa na kapag nakaengkuwentro na ang Abu Sayyaf sa dagat, may pahintulot nang durugin ninuman, hindi lang ng Pilipinas.

Hindi talaga mababantayan ng ating coast guard ang karagatan dahil na rin sa kakulangan ng kagamitan.

Kung magkakaroon ng tulongan mula sa mga nabanggit na bansa, siguradong may maganda itong resulta.

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The Manila Times

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AFP FOCUS

Myanmar's 'long-necked' women hope to turn tourism into homecoming

BY PHYO HEIN KYAW
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PANPET, MYANMAR: Wearing a stack of bronze neck coils -- a sign of beauty for her Kayan tribe -- Mu Par dreams of a time when all "long-necked" women can return to Myanmar from Thailand where they are a tourist attraction.

For years Kayan women and girls have been driven across the border by poverty and conflict to earn money posing in holidaymakers' pictures in purpose-built Thai villages decried by rights campaigners as "human zoos".

Now several have returned to their remote native Panpet area in Kayah state, Myanmar, with an entrepreneurial plan to reverse the flow of departures as their once junta-ruled homeland emerges from decades of solitude.

Mu Par came home just a few months ago having saved enough money after 14 years working in Thailand.

She now runs one of a dozen neat little shacks selling locally-made wooden dolls, scarves and individual bronze neck rings -- giving tourists a more ethical window into their unique culture.

Lining up a neat row of hand-made "long-neck dolls" at a new craft market, Mu Par hopes to entice tourists to her eastern Myanmar homeland, and provide for her four children, aged between four and 15.

"In Myanmar my children can attend school and also I am happy to be among my relatives," the

33-year-old told AFP, as a handful of tourists milled through the area.

Once the preserve of intrepid travellers as it languished under junta rule, Myanmar is now a hot new tourist draw.

Arrivals have doubled in the past five years and numbers are expected to surge under a new government led by Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy party.

Much of tiny Kayah state was off limits to foreigners until recently.

Authorities now hope the region's emerald hills and languid waterways will become the country's next top travel destination.

Mu Par and her neighbors from Panpet's cluster of five hamlets grouped together to build the market.

They share the profits from the 5,000 kyat (\$4) visitor entrance fee.

"If we can get many tourists here, we want all the Kayan girls in Thailand to come back," she told AFP.

Controversy and culture

From as young as five years old, Kayan girls are given up to ten neck rings to wear, they then add a new one approximately every year until adulthood.

The practice, which gives them a giraffe-like appearance, painfully compresses their shoulders and collarbones, rather than actually stretching their necks.

A grown woman can wear as many as 25 rings, weighing a total of five kilos (11 pounds).

One local legend suggests wom-

en began wearing the rings to protect themselves against tigers, who once roamed the region in large numbers and bite the necks of their prey.

Men in the village also used to wear face-shaped masks on the backs of their heads in a bid to ward off tiger ambushes, according to local people, although the practice has since died out.

Fewer women now wear the coils, which force them to keep looking straight ahead.

Families often cannot afford the costly, handcrafted rings, while many young girls feel they are an impediment to getting a job outside of their region.

The women can remove their rings with the help of a specialist and their shoulders and collarbones can eventually return to normal, depending on the age when they are taken off.

Several dozen women and girls still wear the traditional bands, including those at the new handicraft market in Panpet.

Until recently they spent much of the year in Thailand, earning around 3,000 baht (\$90) a month in the tourist attraction villages, where most of the money goes to Thai tour agents.

"Asking them to pose for photographs for money is acting like they are in a human zoo," said Phyo Wai Yar Zar a Myanmar tourism official.

"Instead (in their home villages) people can buy their products like food, handmade crafts and souvenirs to support them."

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OFFICE O

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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The Manila Times

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AFP FOCUS

Graft denials come under strain in Malaysia fund scandal

BY DAN MARTIN
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 19: Malaysia's prime minister and the company he founded, 1MDB, have weathered a year-long barrage of corruption allegations with nothing-to-see-here assurances, but a string of recent revelations is placing those denials under growing strain.

On Monday an Abu Dhabi sovereign-wealth fund which was helping 1MDB recover from massive debts abruptly withdrew its safety net, declaring the Malaysian state-owned company in default on a \$1.1 billion loan.

The move centers on suspicions that 1MDB -- rather than repay the loan to the Abu Dhabi fund, International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC) -- instead diverted the money. It was later embezzled, according to an earlier Wall Street Journal report.

The dispute caps a string of recent revelations that have severely undermined claims by 1MDB -- short for 1Malaysia Development Berhad -- that its finances are in order and no graft occurred.

The scandal engulfing 1MDB and Prime Minister Najib Razak, who founded the company in 2009 to fund development projects, is staggering in its scale and complexity.

1MDB ran up debts of more than \$12

billion to fund a series of questionable acquisitions.

But accusations began emerging last year that billions were looted from 1MDB in a vast campaign of international embezzlement and money-laundering that has triggered investigations by several countries stretching from Singapore to the United States.

Najib, who chairs 1MDB's advisory board, and the company have repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

Confirming suspicions

But the IPIC row and other recent revelations have suggested otherwise and could offer foreign investigators fresh ammunition, said James Chin, a Malaysia analyst at the University of Tasmania.

"This all shows quite clearly that not only was 1MDB diverting money but that this was done clearly in the name of the prime minister. It's very damaging," he said.

1MDB's denials began to unravel two weeks ago when a Malaysian parliamentary panel said the fund made more than \$3 billion in unapproved payments to a now-dissolved British Virgin Islands company.

The report also indicated Najib's close involvement in key 1MDB decisions.

IPIC had agreed in 2012 to guarantee

\$3.5 billion in IMDB bonds, lend the company more than a billion dollars, and make interest payments on the bonds.

IMDB was supposed to repay the loan through an IPIC subsidiary, Aabar Investments PJSC, but IPIC last week revealed for the first time that it never received the money.

IMDB insists that it paid the money to a British Virgin Islands entity with a nearly identical name to Aabar's.

But a Wall Street Journal investigative report has alleged it was a fake shell company through which money was funnelled to Najib and others.

A series of Journal reports starting last year have said Najib received more than \$1 billion in mysterious overseas payments from 2011-2013.

After initially denying the claims Najib admitted receiving \$681 million in 2013 but denies it came from IMDB. He says it was a gift from the Saudi royal family, most of which he returned.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister confirmed last week the money came from his country, but only after weeks of silence as doubts over Najib's claim grew.

'Spectacular failure'

The scandals have triggered demands including those made in massive

Kuala Lumpur protests last August for Najib's resignation and transparent investigations.

Najib has stood firm, using his control of Malaysia's powerful ruling party to purge critics in the government and scuttle domestic investigations.

Najib's position is not seen as under imminent threat, but he could face renewed public pressure if the government is forced to step in and settle IMDB's massive debts.

The finance ministry, which owns IMDB, said late Monday it would "continue to honor all of its outstanding commitments," fuelling speculation of a IMDB bailout that Najib had vowed would never happen.

"We now know clearly that with the spectacular failure of the (IPIC) deal the Malaysian taxpayers will be called upon to foot IMDB's bills," opposition lawmaker Tony Pua said.

Any bailout could further pressure Malaysian finances amid plummeting oil revenues, slowing growth and concerns over the country's fiscal position which last year caused the ringgit currency to plunge.

"This definitely puts another dent in Malaysia's reputation. It's a bigger problem for Najib now because it is clearly in his hands now," said political analyst Wan Saiful Wan Jan.

ONLINE NEWS

20 APRIL 2016

VOICE OF AIRFORCE II PAF appoints new spokesperson

DA



DWDD — Col. Araus Robert Musico faced a new responsibility in his life when he was appointed as the new spokesperson of the Philippine Air Force.

Col. Musico took up Engineering at UP Diliman and then proceeded to Philippine Military Academy where he graduated in 1990. On his first year at PMA, he got an offer to study at the US Air Force Academy.

He also went to the Air Force Flying School and Air University at Alabama, USA.

His previous works with the Philippine Air Force allowed him to learn more about civil military operations and leadership.

The officer enumerated his responsibilities as a spokesperson – articulate and command policy, announce programs, and talk about PAF-related activities and news.

Col. Musico also said that PAF's Flight Plan 2018 will broaden and strengthen the capability and credibility to ensure the national's territorial airspace and waters.

MEMBERS OF AFPRSBS WILL GET THEIR SEPARATION PACKAGE/PLAN – Legaspi

Lui

Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, DWDB — Last April 1, 2016, the Office of the President issued Memorandum Order 90 directing the abolition of the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFPRSBS).

The said memorandum order is in relation to Executive Order 590 and 590A dated December 15, 2006 and January 31, 2007, respectively. Memorandum Order 90 will pave way for the AFPRSBS to wind down its operations in an efficient and orderly manner, and to refund all of its members' contributions and accrued interests as they fall due.

Based on Presidential Decree 361, the law which created AFPRSBS, members of the AFP will contribute 5% of their monthly base pay to AFPBSPS. The said contribution will then be refunded to them when they retire or separate from service. Their contributions will earn 6% interest per annum. The said memorandum order directed the AFPBSPS to stop its collection of soldiers' contributions, and the accrual of interests on members' contributions effective April 5, 2016. AFPRSBS has already stopped collecting last March.

Col. Norman Legaspi (RET) – President AFPRSBS

In a press conference held on April 19 at the AFP RSBS building, Camp Aguinaldo, Hon. Norman Legaspi, President and CEO of AFPRSBS, said that there is no need for their soldier members to panic because they will be able to refund their contributions with its accrued interest as soon as they retire or separate from military service. Soldiers' pension benefits cannot be terminated since it is funded from the General Appropriations Act.

Furthermore, Legaspi said that AFPBSPS has a book value of almost 17 billion worth of assets. AFPRSBS will be returning around 15 billion pesos to its members. Thus, they can guarantee its members that they will be getting what is due to them. Whatever will be left after they pay-off all their members will then be turned over to the national government.

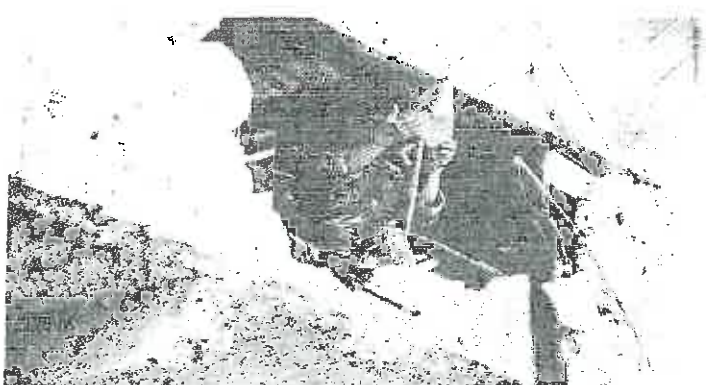
Minimum manpower complement will be maintained to attend to the remaining corporate affairs of AFPRSBS until its full liquidation of its assets or turnover to a new entity.

At least 100 employees of AFPRSBS, both casual and contractual, will be affected by the said abolition. But Legaspi added that the employees who will be affected may be absorbed by other government entities since they are all civil service eligible. (Cherrymae V. Sta. Ana/LMO)

ARMY VISION 2026

Commentary: Armed Forces of the Philippines Faces Significant Encounter with Islamic State Fighters

Commentary by Rohan Gunaratnas posted to Benar News (Apr 16)



A Philippine soldier looks on as a Philippine national flag incinerates a pile of bodies, hours after a battle between forces of Islamised and West Asian groups invaded the island. State launches a counter-attack, March 11, 2016.

The most significant battle by a group associated with the Islamic State (IS) in Southeast Asia occurred on the island of Basilan, Philippines, on April 9, 2016, although the government did not acknowledge it as a fight between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and an IS group led by Isnilon Hapilon. The battle left 18 troops dead and 53 injured, a significant loss for the government.

Hapilon is former deputy leader of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the IS-designated leader in the southern Philippines. His former members of ASG based in Basilan pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2015 and joined forces with other groups associated with IS.

The 125 men led by Hapilon demonstrated they can hold ground and fight AFP. Exploiting the recent successes, IS is likely to declare a wilayat in the Sulu Archipelago.

If the Philippines is determined to prevent IS rise in Mindanao and with it implications for Southeast Asia, it should take the threat seriously. Rather than denying IS existence, the government should make fighting IS a national security priority and step up cooperation with counterparts in Southeast Asia to contain and isolate the threat.

IS increases capabilities in the Philippines

The IS has been steadfastly influencing and building capabilities in northern, southern and western Mindanao in the Philippines.

In northern Mindanao, Tawhid Wal Jihad has renamed itself as Islamic State of Lanao in Butig. Although IS central in Syria and Iraq has not acknowledged the Butig-based group as an official branch, it presents a major threat as members have fought AFP and hold several civilian hostages.

In southern Mindanao, Ansar Kibitafa Mindanao has fought with AFP and conducted IS-style beheadings. The group was involved in arms transfers to IS Indonesia and hosted Indonesian bomb-making instructor Ibrahim Ali Sudipto who was killed on Nov. 26, 2015.

The most significant of the IS entities is Hapilon's Basilan-based unit of former ASG members. The unit, considered the IS-designated official entity in the Philippines, came to the forefront when Hapilon unified with a handful of fighters from Malaysia.

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2026, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

\$5 million offered for killing or capture of Haplon

The April 9 AFP operation aimed at capturing Al Barka, the IS base, releasing foreign hostages and killing or capturing Haplon who is subject of a \$5 million US reward.

AFP was supported by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which has maintained a ceasefire with the government since March 2014. The MILF relationship with ASG deteriorated after the MILF joined the peace process and ASG Basilan joined IS.

The MILF informed AFP that the IS base was five kilometers from the MILF community in Sitio Bone in the village of Macalang. AFP had requested MILF leave the area and as their fighters and families moved out, IS, forewarned and exceptionally well prepared, confronted the AFP. During the 10-hour firefight in the village of Tipo-Tipo, the AFP did not anticipate IS's preparation.

Julie S. Alipala, writing 'Hell in Basilan: Landmine Blast Followed by Gunfire Everywhere,' April 10, 2016 in Inquirer Mindanao, highlighted the army's failure to prepare adequately to fight IS. Among the injured were the 44th Battalion Commander Col. Tommy Crosby and other officers.

The AFP recovered the body of Moroccan fighter Mohammad Khattab, an explosives expert.

IS issues propaganda after battle

In a release titled, "100 Killed from the Philippine Crusader Army in Operations by Soldiers of the Caliphate in Philippines," dated 5 Rajab 1437 (April 13, 2016), "The Islamic State, Philippines" stated:

Soldiers of the Caliphate were able, by the grace of Allah the Almighty, to repel attempts by the Philippine Crusader army to seize control over positions of the mujahideen in Philippines.

"By the grace of Allah, seven troop carriers were blown up and those inside were killed, and there were also clashes with the enemy, killing another number of its soldiers, and the rest fled, defeated and disgraced, by the grace of Allah. The result of the operation reached nearly 100 killed and dozens wounded from the Crusaders, and three brothers from the mujahideen were martyrs. We consider them thusly and Allah knows them best."

IS has territorial control in Philippines

The IS has established territorial control and established training bases in the Philippines. The fight against IS requires a higher level of commitment and leadership. Rather than deploy general purpose forces, it is imperative for the special operations forces to spearhead the fight.

With their best intelligence assets, the Special Operations Commander of AFP should move to Basilan and remain in the Sulu Archipelago until all the groups that pledged allegiance to IS are dismantled and their leaders are captured or killed. There is no better moment to mobilize and mount an uncompromising intelligence led military operation at this point when the nation will rally around AFP for their monumental sacrifice.

Otherwise, IS influence will slowly and steadily spread and its capabilities will grow, a phenomenon witnessed since last year. With a new government in Manila coming soon, the new president will have to confront the rise of IS.

Manila should continue to work with MILF in a range of prevention and preemption operations to keep IS from spreading and growing. The governments in the region should support Manila and keep IS out of their countries and the region. The fight should be decisive and this should become the government's priority vision and mission.

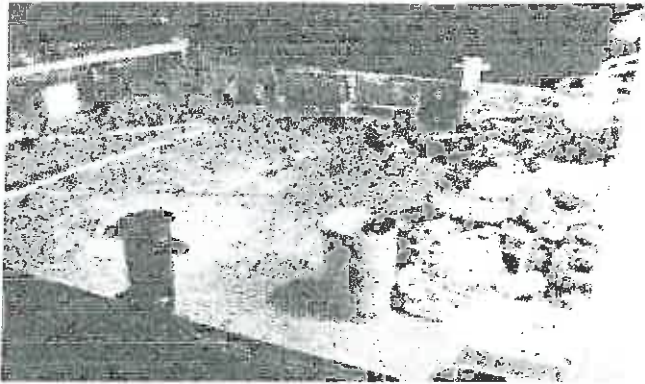
The opinions expressed in this commentary are those of the author and not of BenarNews.

Army vision: By 2020, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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Philippines, Malaysian military officials to meet over kidnappings

From The Star Online (Apr 19)



The Indonesian-registered tugboat TB Henry which was attacked by Filipino gunmen linked to Abu Sayyaf docked at Lahad Datu jetty.

KOTA KINABALU: Senior Philippines military officials are expected to meet their Malaysian counterparts to discuss security coordination in view of a spate of kidnappings along the shared sea borders. Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesman Maj Filemon Tan Jr said that Westmincom chief Lt Gen Mayoralgo dela Cruz would be setting the meeting next week. Tan said a joint patrol might be among the issues to be discussed in finding solutions to the kidnappings of 18 sailors - 14 Indonesians and four Malaysians - in three separate raids along the Sabah and Tawi-Tawi sea borders since March 26.

He said troops were on high alert following the latest kidnapping of four Indonesian sailors on board tugboat TB Henry by Filipino gunmen on Friday night.

The other six sailors including one who was shot during the raid fled towards Sabah and arrangements are being made for their return to Indonesia while the injured victim remains in the Tawau hospital.

However, Tan said the military was still trying to ascertain the identities of the abductors who attacked TB Henry in the seawaters near Fondo Sibugai, Silangkat, Tawi-Tawi.

He said the attackers might just be claiming to be members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) as the Sulu sea had many pirate groups in operations.

Following abductions along the border, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein had called for joint patrols and aerial surveillance with neighbouring countries to tackle piracy and kidnappings in the Sulu Sea.

There is also mounting pressure by leaders of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to address the issue of kidnappings following the April 6 Sabah government's move to ban barter trade with its neighbours in Tawi-Tawi where prices of sundry goods including fuel have doubled.

ARMM executive secretary Laisa Alamia said the sea trade shut down was badly affecting traders in Tawi-Tawi, which has a traditional barter-trading route in the southern backdoor of the country.

He said ARMM Gov Mujiv Hataman wants to meet Philippines president Benigno Aquino Jr to discuss the issues with Malaysia.

Tawi-Tawi, a chain of islands along the Sabah's east coast, relies on sundry goods and other supplies from the state as it is closer and cheaper source than getting the goods from the Philippines' Zamboanga City.

Residents in the area claimed that the price of a bag of rice has doubled from around 600 Pesos (RM60) to about 1,200 Pesos (RM120).

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Company to pay Abu Sayyaf US\$1.1m for release of kidnapped sailors: Indonesian Minister

From Channel News Asia (Apr 19)

Negotiations for the handover of the money and the captives are still ongoing, said Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Luhut Pandjaitan.

SINGAPORE: The company of the 10 kidnapped sailors held by Abu Sayyaf has agreed to pay a ransom of 50 million pesos (US\$1.1m), Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Luhut Pandjaitan said on Tuesday (Apr 19).

Negotiations for the handover of the money and the captives are still ongoing, said Mr Luhut. "They've already agreed that the 50 million pesos will be handed over at a specific location," he said, according to Indonesian newspaper Republika.

The sailors were kidnapped in waters off the conflict-racked southern Philippines by Abu Sayyaf militants on Mar 29.

The crew were travelling on a tugboat pulling a barge from Borneo island to the Philippines when they were hijacked, Indonesian and Philippine officials said.

Hijackers on a wooden motor boat are thought to have abducted the sailors on Saturday. The vessels' owners received a ransom call from someone claiming to be from the Abu Sayyaf militant group the same day.

"Communications with the group taking hostage of the 10 Indonesians is smoother than with the other group holding four Indonesians," said Mr Luhut.

On Friday, four Indonesians were kidnapped by a group of armed men when their vessels was hijacked between the Malaysian and Philippine waterways.

A statement from the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said a fifth sailor was shot during the hijacking incident, and Malaysian maritime police managed to rescue the sailor who is now in a stable condition.

Five other crewmen were also rescued and brought to the port in Lahad Datu in Malaysia.

Abu Sayyaf is a Philippines-based extremist group notorious for bombings and kidnappings, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Before the latest case, their most recent high-profile kidnapping was of two Canadians and a Norwegian from yachts at a marina in September, with the militants setting an April deadline for a huge ransom to be paid.

AFP chief malabong i-extend ni P-Noy; retirement tuloy na sa Biyernes

By: ANALY SOBERANO, 19 April 2016 18:57

Puspusan na ang ginagawang rehearsals ngayon sa Kampo Aguinaldo para sa nakatakoang retirement honors ni AFP chief of staff General Hernando Iriberry sa Biyernes, April 22, 2016.

Ayon sa isang source, wala sa track record ni Pangulong Noyboy Aquino ang mag-extend dahil para sa kaniya labag ito sa batas at mukhang hindi rin magtatalaga ng permanenteng chief of staff ang Pangulo dahil ayaw nitong maulli ang nangyari noon kay General Delfin Bangit.

Aniya, pagreretiro ni Iriberry magkakaroon lamang ng officer-in-charge (OIC) ang AFP.

Ang ginagawang rehearsals ngayon ay patunay na tuloy na ang pagreretiro ng chief of staff sa serbisyo.

Ayon naman kay AFP spokesperson BGen. Restituto Padilla na sa ngayon wala pa silang nakukuhang balita kung sino ang papalit sa puwesto ni Iriberry dahil ang Pangulo ang siyang pumipili nito bagamat may shortlist na isinusumite ng DND bilang rekomendasyon.

Sa ngayon hinihintay pa nila ang magiging anunsyo ng Pangulo kung sino ang papalit sa puwesto ni Iriberry.

Tiniyak naman ni Padilla tuloy-tuloy ang ginagawang paghahanda ng AFP sa nakatakdang retirement honors para kay Iriberry.

Bibigyan ng saralalahang lakas ng Pilipinas ng testimonial parade si Iriberry.

Si Iriberry ay miyembro ng PMA Class 1983.

'Security plan inaayos na ng Comelec, PNP, AFP'

By: Bombo ANALY SOBERANO

Pinapanatna na ngayon ng Comelec, PNP at AFP ang magiging deployment sa iba't ibang polling precincts sa buong bansa sa darating na May 9, 2016 elections.

Ayon kay PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez, bahagi ng kanilang binubuong joint security plan ang deployment ng mga pulis at sundalo sa nalalapit na halalan maging ang pagbibigay seguridad sa mga movement ng voters counting machine (VCM).

Sinabi ni Marquez na bukod sa deployment, nakasaad din sa nasabing plano kung ano-ano ang dapat i-secure o bigyan ng seguridad at kung sino ang nakatalaga na magbigay ng seguridad, ang PNP o ang AFP.

Aniya, importante na mabatid sa plano kung papaano i-secure ang mga importanteng bagay na pagamitin sa halalan at maging ang mga indibidwal na magsisilbing Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs).

Pagbibigay din ni Marquez, importante din na matukoy ang mga pangalan at contact numbers ng mga pulis at sundalo na naitatagpuan sa mga poli centers nang sa gayon mas madali ang magiging komunikasyon kapag may mga emergency situation.

Tiniyak naman ng chief PNP na target nilang matapos ang mga listahan ng deployment, dalawang linggo bago magkaroon ng movement ng mga voters counting machines para sa final testing and sealing ng mga ito.

~~133 former MILF combatants complete skills, entrepreneurship trainings~~

133 former MILF combatants complete skills, entrepreneurship trainings

From the Philippine Information Agency (Apr 19)

Some 133 former fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have completed training programs intended to boost their entrepreneurial skills.

These former combatants, according to a report from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) are among the decommissioned MILF members who have decided to undergo trainings that would enhance their capability for economic progress.

The OPAPP report noted that the training of former combatants is part of the implementation of the agreement under the Terms of Reference of the Normalization Annex of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), the peace deal signed between the government and the MILF on May 27, 2014.

On June 16 last year, 145 former MILF combatants underwent the initial decommissioning process in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao with the ceremonial turnover of 51 high-powered and 24 crew-serve weapons of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

These decommissioned combatants underwent a registration, verification, and validation process and were provided with socio-economic packages to assist them in their transformation to peaceful civilian lives.

Out of the 145 decommissioned combatants, 133 decided to undergo different sets of skills training programs that were conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) as part of the socio-economic track of the normalization process.

Said skills trainings include bread and pastry production, driving, carpentry, cookery, motorcycle/small engine repair, dressmaking, tailoring, automotive servicing, electrical installation and maintenance, and entrepreneurial skills training.

Former combatants also underwent trainings on values transformation and remedial classes on reading, writing and numeracy.

The Department of Education and the Department of Education provided cash-for-training assistance to the scholars.

"With the assistance of the TESDA, DepEd and the DSWD and other government agencies, the decommissioned combatants are now accomplishing their respective trainings to prepare them towards transformation to unarmed civilians," said GPH peace panel chair Prof. Miriam-Coronel Ferrer.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

Ferrer said that the active participation of the former combatants in the entire training and in the normalization process "shows their sincerity in peace-building and in concretely transforming from an armed group into peaceful civilian lives."

Despite the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), "we are still pushing for these activities for the government remains committed to what have been agreed upon in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro," she said.

"Even though the proposed BBL was not passed by the 16th Congress, the gains achieved in the Bangsamoro peace process throughout the decades have been tremendous. There is solid basis for the people of the Bangsamoro to remain hopeful and continue looking forward toward a better, peaceful future," she added.

Meanwhile, Hadzer Birowa, director of the socio-economic unit of OPAPP emphasized the skills and entrepreneurial training program offers great opportunities for the decommissioned combatants.

The skills the scholar-trainees learned, along with the livelihood packages that they will receive upon the completion of the entire training program, is envisioned to prepare them for sustainable livelihood when they fully transform from being combatants and mainstreamed into civilian communities, he said.

For Abdulaziz Andik, one of the graduating decommissioned former combatants, the training is a rare opportunity to improve his and his family's lives.

"The training is very useful to us because this is for my children and a good source of livelihood in our area. We thank those people who were very patient in teaching us, who may have found it hard to teach us because we are already old, but we are trying our best to understand and follow their instructions because we want to gain knowledge and it is also for the benefit of our families," he said.

Andik devoted 39 years of his life as an MILF combatant. He chose to undergo skills training in carpentry.

Another trainee, Hadji Usman Akmad, was already 73 when he enrolled in dressmaking/tailoring course to help in his daughter's small tailoring business.

Akmad said he became a member of the Ansarul Islam in 1971, then joined the Black Shirts, and for 39 years, was part of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"I feel happy because I do not anymore live in the mountains. I can now go to Cotabato City without any trouble because I am now a civilian," he said. (DEDogulies-PIA 12 with report from OPAPP)