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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 April 2016

Friday

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Reputed of the Processes Department of Science and Technology

PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)

Weather Forecasting Section, Weather Division WFFO Edg. BIR Roes District Ouezon Copy 1190

24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:

CITIES	:5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORRO 24-Hr Weather. Winds and Sea Condition Forecast **Rem 5PM today unal 5PM tomorrow**			Extended Weather Outlook Duration 5PM onto 5PM of the following day							
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Legazpi City		26°C 32°C	Moderate to Strong East Coasta: Waters: Moderate to Rough		26°0 32°0		26°C 33°C		25°C 33°C		25°
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Partly Cloudy St	ces		Cloudy skies with Rainshowers and/or Thundersto	rms 11/4	Mos Ras	soen Rains		高	Stormy	and a Market Common.	

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CHECKED BY: SEBJ



Recubed of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology

PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA) Weather Forecasting Section, Weather Division WEFC Bos. BIR Road Diamar, Quezor City 1100

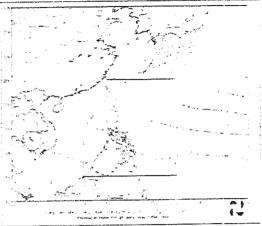
24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

ISSUED AT:5:00 PM 21 APRIL 2016
VALID BEGINNING:5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

SYNOPSIS: RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON. EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON. VISAYAS AND MINDANAO.

FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WILL PREVAIL OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS MOSTLY OVER THE EASTERN SECTION OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON. VISAYAS AND MINDANAO.

MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE EAST TO SOUTHEAST WILL PREVAIL OVER THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS COASTAL WATERS WILL BE MODERATE TO ROUGH, ELSEWHERE, WINDS WILL BE LIGHT TO MODERATE BLOWING FROM THE EAST TO NORTHEAST WITH SLIGHT TO MODERATE SEAS.



PAGTAYA: BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN ANG IIRAL SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG LALO NA SA SILANGANG BAHAGI NG GITNA AT KATIMUGANG LUZON. KABISAYAAN AT MINDANAO

KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MALAKAS NA HANGIN MULA SA SILANGAN HANGGANG TIMOG-SILANGAN ANG IIRAL SA SILANGANG BAHAGI NG BANSA AT ANG MGA BAYBAYING- DAGAT NITO AY MAGIGING KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MAALON. SA IBANG DAKO, ANG HANGIN AY MAGIGING MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN MULA SA SILANGAN HANGGANG SA HILAGANG-SILANGAN NA MAY BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG PAG-ALON NG KARAGATAN.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 4:00 PM TODAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 3:00 PM TODAY 36 1°C	MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 5.00 AM TODAY — 76 % MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 3:00 PM TODAY — 42 %				
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 5:00 AM TODAY 25.4°C					
TIDAL PREDICTIONS ALONG MANILA BAY (Courtesy of NAMRIA)	OVER METRO MANILA:				
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 10:33 PM 0.58 METER	SUNRISE / SUNSET	MOONRISE / MOONSET AND ILLUMINATION			
LOW TIDE TOMORROW: 3:42 AM 0:26 METER	SUNSET TODAY: 6:11 PM	MOONRISE TODAY: 5:32 PM			
HIGH TIDE TOMORROW: 16:13 AM 0.78 METER	SUNRISE TOMORROW: 5:38 AM	MOONSET TOMORROW: 5.37 AM			
	SUNSET TOMORROW: 6:11 PM	ILLUMINATION TODAY: 99%			

For more information and queries, please call at telephone numbers 927-1335 and 927-2877 or log on to www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph.

PREPARED BY: RBB

CHECKED BY: SEBJ

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22 April 2016



Gov't troops recover stolen sacks of rice

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Pursuing government troops recovered on Tuesday and Wednesday 440 sacks of rice stolen by alleged New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Valencia City, Bukidnon.

Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, regional Army spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) said the joint team of the 8th Infantry Battalion (8th IB) and Valencia City Police Station (VCPS) recovered the stolen rice at 4 p.m.

"The robbers had already fled when our pursuing troops arrived in the area," the 4th ID spokesperson added.

The 8th IB together with the VCPS eventually recovered the stolen wing van around 1 a.m., Tuesday, April 19, 2016, near Barangay San Isidro, in Valencia City.

At around 4:45 p.m. of the same day, the pursuing government troops were able to trace and recover 300 sacks of rice at the residence of a villager in the nearby Purok 4, Barangay Banlag of that same city while another 140 sacks of rice were recovered in the same area at another residence. According to reports, six unidentified persons went to their house and left the sacks of rice at their residence at around 7:30 p.m. of April 18, 2016.

The said recovered rice will be returned to the owner as authorities are still trying to determine the identity of

the armed robbers for proper filling of charges.

The recovered sacks of rice were part of the more than 1,200 sacks of rice allegedly ransacked by the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) at the private warehouse owned by Valencia City Councilor Helen Bernal at Purok 11, Barangay Batangan, Valencia City, Bukidnon on Tuesday, April 18, 2016.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr., commanding general of the AFP Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th ID congratulated the field troops for the fast recovery of the stolen sacks of rice in Bukidnon.

"I congratulate our troops who have been very persistent in going after these NPA bandits. There will be no let up in our efforts until the authorities put these criminals to justice," he said.

"These NPAs resorted to criminal activities and are no different from ordinary robbers and hijackers. What do we expect from them who finally transformed to an organized crime group? They know nothing but to commit crimes. In order for them to intensify their capability to sow threat, they will continue to generate funds to acquire new firearms and war materials and recruit new members whose only option is to use violence for easy money. They are only good at taking hard-earned possessions of other people," Gen. Madrigal added.

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22April 2016



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Troops recover sacks of rice stolen by NPA

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces have recovered 440 sacks of rice stolen by the New People's Army from a warehouse in Valencia City last Monday, a military official said vesterday.

A total of 1.270 sacks of nice were taken by the NPA from the ware-house owned by city councilor Helen Bernal in Barangay Nabagong at around 6 p.m. last Monday.

The warehouse has refused to heed the rebels' extortion demands, said Capt, loe Patrick Martinez, public affairs officer of the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

The 440 sacks were maced by troops from the 8th Infantry Battalion and local policemen to two civilian houses Tuesday night, he said.

First recovered were 300 sachs of rice from the house of Daisery Lastimose in Barangay Baniay.

then 140 sacks from the house of Florencio Flora in the same area.

Martinez said authorities are trying to determine the identity of the armed robbers.

Meanwhile, an Army sergeant was shot and killed by NPA rebels in Toril district in Davao City, said Capt. Rhyan Batchar, public affairs officer of the Army's 10th Infantry Division.

The soldier, Sgt. Allan Madrid of the T2nd Infantry Battalion, was on his way to his house in Sta. Cruz. Davao del Sur to visit his family at around 10 a.m. when attacked by three rebels. The victim was aboard a motorcycle while the suspects were riding two motorcycles.

"The victim sustained a gunshor on the right side of his head that caused his untimely death," said Batchar of Madrid, who he said was not armed at that time. OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC APPAIRS - Email add loadpalarmy2012@gmail.com - Telloc id.2 846-9868 Loos, 6288-6286000

22 April 2016



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Army PNP: We do not negotiate with lawless groups

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

AVAO CITY – The Philippine
Army and the Philippine
National Police (PNP) in
Davao region reiterated here
yesterday their position not to negotiate
with any lawless groups operating in the
area and are intensifying rescue operations for the abducted police officers.

In the regular AFP-PNP press conference held here on Wednesday, Davao region police director Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan said they are now working to rescue Police Chief Inspector Leonardo Tarungoy, the police chief of Paquibato District and police officers PO3 Rosenie Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolf Pacete, PO2 Neil Arellano and PO3 Abdul Azis Ali.

The five were forcibly taken by the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Mapula, Paquibato District this city last Saturday.

10th Infantry (Agila) Division chief information officer Captain Rhyan Batchar reported that another encounter erupted between the pursuing government troopers and the lawless groups on Tuesday afternoon in the same area.

The soldiers were able to recover another dead body of suspected NPA rebels and two fragmentation grenades in the encounter site.

"Four people were already killed in the pursuit operations," Batchar stressed, adding that intelligence reports also revealed the merging of NPA forces in Paquibato and those from Compostela Valley area.

A soldier, a militiaman and an unidentified NPA rebel were killed during the pursuit operations last Monday in Barangay Lumiad, Paquibato. The NPA rebels also attacked a military detachment in Barangay Salapawan also in Paquibato last Saturday that resulted in the wounding of a militiaman and a civilian.

Gaerlan said the residents in the area called the Paquibato police for assistance but they were abducted along the way by heavily armed rebels.

"They were detained against their will," Gaerlan said.

The families of the abducted officers and other concerned groups may initiate their own negotiations for their release, he added.



NO NEGOTIATIONS – Davao region police director Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan (left), together with 10th ID chief information officer Captain Rhyan Batchar (right) and TF-Davao deputy commander Col. George Joel Lalaquii (center) reiterate during the regular AFP-PNP press conference on Wednesday their position that the AFP and the PNP will not negotiate with lawless groups and that the joint pursuit operations to rescue the five PNP officers abducted last April 16 will continue. (Alexander D. Lopez)

22 April 2016



Page.



WALANG NEGOSASYON Iginiit nina (mula sa kaliwa) Police Regional Office-11 Director Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan, Task Force Davao deputy commander Col. George Joël Lalaquil, at 10th Infantry Division chief information officer Capt. Rhyan Batchar na hindi kailanman makikipagnegosasyon ang pulisya at militar sa mga grupong rebelde, kasabay ng pagtiyak na nagpapatuloy ang pinagisang operasyon ng awtoridad para mailigtas ang limang pulis na dinukot ng New People's Army nitong Abril 16.

ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

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Page. 3

Sundalo dinukot ng NPA na nau-checknoint sa Cotabato

DINUKOT ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang

binukot ng mga miyemoro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang isa na namang sundalo sa probinsya ng Cotabato.

Ang biktima ay si Pfc. Edgardo Hilaga. Jr. na nakatalaga sa Charlie Company ng 7th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army.

Ayon kay P/Supt. Bernard Tayong, tagapagsalita ng Cotabato Police Provincial Office, bago tangayin ang sundalo, nagsagawa ng checkpoint sa national highway sa kanto ng Purok Balawan, Barangay

Malasila, Makilala, Cotabato ang tinatayang 20 mga NPA members.
Naglagay daw ang mga rebelde ng karatula na nakasulat ang
"STOP ARMY" 39TH IB 1002ND INF. BDE" kung saan pinara
nito ang mga sasakyan at ilan sa mga pasahero at kinuha pa ang

kanilang mga personal na kagamitan. Nagkataon namang dumaan ang motorsiklo na sinakyan ni Hilaga

kung saan siya ang napagbalingan ng mga suspek.
Dinala ng mga rebelde sa pagtakas patungo sa bulubundukin ang kanilang bihag sa paanan ng Mount Apo.

Nang magresponde ang mga sundalo ay nakuha nila ang iba pang mga placards na may nakasulat "Rehimeng US-Aquino inutil at berdugo.7

Kasama rin sa hiling ng mga rebelde na pakawalan ang 81 na magsasaka na hinuli ng pulisya sa madugong kilos protesta sa Kidapawan City.

Narekober ng mga otoridad ang motorsiklo na pag-aari ng

sundalong tinangay.

Patuloy ang pursuit operation ng militar at pulisya para mailigtas ang sundalo na dinukot ng grupo mula sa tinaguriang Front Committee 72 ng NPA.

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Army sergeant gunned down in Davao City

DAVAO CITY - An army sergeant was gunned down by suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) on Wednesday morning in Barangay Baracatan, Toril District here, the 10th Infantry (Agila) Division reported. Captain Rhyan. Batchar, chief information officer of 10th ID identified the victim as Sergeant Allan Madrid, a member of 72nd Infantry Battalion operating in the area. The victim was gunned down by three unidentified ALG members riding in two separate motorcycles, the report added. He sustained a gunshot wound on the right side of his nead. The victim was on board his motorcycle and on his way to his residence in Barangay Inawayan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur to visit his family when the incident happened. (Alexander D. Lopez)

EL April 2016



Roxas says Duterte behind NPA harassment of allies

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

ADMINISTRATION standard-bearer Manuel Roxas II yesterday accused presidential rival Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte of being behind the New People's Army moves to harass and threaten administration-allied mayors in the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Iloilo.

"Letters were sent to them. Their security is under threat if they will continue to campaign for the Daang Matuwid (coalition) and for Mar Roxas," he told a press briefing in Jaen, Nueva Ecija.

Roxas said the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA, which he said is clearly being backed by Duterte, has been harassing his allies since he declared that he would not tolerate illegal activities of the communist group.

"I also know that their (NPA's) supporter, who is Mayor Duterte, is behind this," Roxas said.

Among his rivals in the presidential race. Duterte is the only one who has openly declared his support for the communist rebels, Roxas said.

"He (Duterte) is the only (presidential) candidate who called on others to pay revolutionary taxes, to pay campaign permits to the NPA, saying we should help the NPA," Roxas said.

Roxas reiterated he will never give in to such demands and "will use the full force of the law - not violence - to protect our democracy."

"Here we go — Mayor Duterte. the communists, NPA — the biggest threat to our system of democracy and our way of life. To them, they should be the one to rule. Communism does not fear God," he said.

Obviously referring to Duterte, Roxas said communism is dictatorship "and we all know who the dictator is."

"I will not allow this," he said. "I will fight it because our democracy, our freedom, our economic system are important and is now giving relief to millions of families."

While he admitted that the democratic

See ROXAS≯ Page B6

ROXAS

system is not perfect like any other system, he said the same can be made to work for the poor as shown by the present administration.

"I will fight the NPA. I will fight the rebels. I'll make sure that the elections will remain peaceful and orderly. We will not allow those threatening our democracy to triumph," said Roxas.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez, spokesman of the administration coalition, said Duterte's "impertinence" has already "gone international" after he expressed openness to cut the country's diplomatic ties with long-time ally US and Australia, both of which criticized him for joking about rape.

"For the mayor, he is more important than the Philippines. His ego is more important than jobs for OFWs, the dignity of our country, and the integrity of our territory," said

Gutierrez said it is "scary to think that he will sever relationships that go back decades because of a single issue."

"The presidency is not just about one issue. In our dealings with other countries, we have to consider the dignity of our coun-

try, fight for our interests, and take care of the welfare of our OFWs. The ego of the President is not a factor to be considered. This is what Mar understood when he fought for lower prices of medicine, our industries, and our OFWs in WTO before. This is what Mayor Duterte does not understand," he said.

President Aquino, asked about Duterte's statement that he is prepared cut Philippine ties with the US and Australia if he becomes president, said he does not see any value in the potential severing of ties with the two countries, especially with the US being one of three top trading partners of the Philippines while Australia is helping in the peace process in Mindanao.

Aquino said assuming Duterte was serious, people should consider this when they decide who to vote for.

The US and Australian ambassadors issued statements after Duterte, in a video of an April 12 campaign rally posted in YouTube Saturday, said he should have been the first one to rape an Australian missionary who was gang-raped then killed in a hostage incident at the Davao penal colony in 1989.

Australian Ambassador Aman-

da Gorely said rape and murder should never be joked about or trivialized while US Ambassador Philip Goldberg said he agreed with Gorely.

Duterte said Wednesday night he does not interfere in the elections of the two counties. Asked if his statement could lead to cutting of ties, he said, "If I become president, go ahead and sever it (ties with the Philippines)."

The United Nationalist Alliance said the leadership of quick-tempered Duterte could put journalists and press freedom at even greater risk.

"Our journalists are being attacked left and right. Will we put them in even more danger by choosing a leadership that will suppress press freedom?" asked UNA spokesman and former broadcaster Mon Ilagan

"It is frightening to imagine the media under a leader who promises a bloody cleansing under his rule but only prey on the poor, the helpless, and those who dare to speak against him. He has admitted to being the Davao Death Squad — a glaring danger sign that the people must heed," he said. — With Jocelyn Montemayor and Raymond Africa

22 April 2016



Page: A

Civilians, military get ready for 'Big One'

By Tonette Orejas Inquirer Central Luzon and Julie M. Aurelio

CLARK FREEPORT—As part of the preparation for the "Big One" in Metro Manila, the national government yesterday tested the readiness of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) facility here as a backup command center for disaster response.

The PAF's Haribon hangar, reused after the United States left the former Clark Air Base in June 1991, served as site of the exercise in the event a 7.2-magnitude earthquake expected in Metro Manila because of the Valley Fault System (VFS).

A siren that rang out for five minutes signaled the start of the 9 a.m. drill.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, chair of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDR-RMC), and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman joined the exercise.

"The drill is the people's response here and the command

CIVILIANS/AI9

Civilians, military get set for 'Big One'

From page Al

center operation in Clark is in response to severe damage in Metro Manila," said Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"You need to have a backup command center," he said.

Clark, 100 kilometers north of Metro Manila, would "not be significantly affected" by a 7.2-magnitude temblor.

Haribon hosts several hangars and repair centers and stands next to the Clark International Airport, making the movement of personnel, equipment and goods faster, according to Josefina Timoteo, regional head of the NDRRMC.

The East Valley Fault straddles 10 kilometers in Rizal province, while the West Valley Fault runs more than 100 km through Metro Manila and Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite and Laguna provinces.

Solidum said the potential risks from a 7.2-magnitude quake were higher in Metro Manila, with a population of more than 10 million.

Without any interventions and should it strike at night, the Big One in Metro Manila could kill 31,000 people and seriously injure 130,000 people, Philvolcs said.

Experts believe the valley fault is "ripe," based on its pattern of movement every 600 years.

Solidum said the NDRRMC had scheduled more earthquake drills. "It is already in the mindset of the NDRRMC to continue the earthquake drills. There is a planned drill for Metro Manila and surrounding provinces," he added.

Government agencies and private companies participated in the drill, with people practicing the duck-cover-hold technique.

"There is no right time to be prepared than now." Timoteo said.

At the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas in Pampanga province, police and fire protection personnel conducted the drill. Some 200 of them evacuated to the parade ground after dropping to the ground, finding cover and holding on.

Soliman said a lesson learned from the 2013 Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan), which devastated the Visayas was the need for a large space where assets and aid could be accommodated.

"In Tacloban City, the airport can fit only two C-130 planes. Here, we could fit in as many as we want," she noted.

For the first time, the NDRRMC operations center was placed outside Metro Manila for the quarterly drill as organizers wanted to consider the possibility that a 7.2-magnitude quake can level the seat of government and paralyze even disaster response operations.

Corazon Jimenez, general manager of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said the second Metro Manila earthquake drill would be held in June. The provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal will join the event.

"We are already planning the next drill and we want to incorporate our past experiences so we can improve our response. For one, there is a need to improve the communication, I had a hard time making contact," she noted.

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12 April 2016



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Armed men on Facebook vow death to poll cheats

A GROUP of armed men wearing military Comelec and Smartmatic," the group said. uniforms has come out on video threatening government officials and others who would tamper with the May 9 elections with death if the "true will of the people is thwarted."

In particular, the masked group made threats against Commission on Elections Chair Andres Bautista and vote counting machine supplier Smartmatic Inc. in a threeminute video posted on the Facebook page of Tamaraw Riders on Thursday afternoon.

A man in front read a lengthy message which included a jarring threat—they were ready to kill and die for the Filipino people.

"We address this to Bautista and the Comelec commissioners, the Smartmatic and the government that death will be meted to anyone who prevents the true will of the people from coming out in the elections," the spokesperson said in Filipino.

Behind him, the others held up an upside-down Filipino flag, the red field on top indicating the country was at war.

The group said the country was in a state of war, trampling on the essence of democracy, which is the sanctity of the ballot.

The group alluded to a supposed collusion to cheat in favor of administration candidates between the Comelec and Smartmatic.

"We will not allow the Comelec to mock the true feelings of the Filipino people... we will not allow fake leaders not truly elected by the people due to the conspiracy between

Polling and other firms were not spared.

"We also warn firms conducting surveys not to confuse and mislead the people because of big money; you too will be punished with death. Our goal is to take care of the rights and welfare of the Filipino people," the group said.

The group did not identify itself but, apart from the uniforms, it implied it was part of the military, citing the constitutional mandate to protect Philippine sovereignty and the integrity of its territory.

"We were formed and forged from the select ranks of nationalist Filipino warriors, formed as protectors of your rights and welfare," they said.

Sought for comment, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said, it was determining the identities of the men in the video.

"They may be wearing military uniforms but it cannot be ascertained if they are legitimate members of the military... we are confident they are not real soldiers," said AFP public affairs chief Col. Noel Detoyato.

He said the video could be part of political propaganda to discredit the military, which is duty-bound to be nonpartisan in elections.

"At this point in time, there are so many groups doing all kinds of propaganda. They may be pretending to be soldiers to implicate the military but we have very strict instructions [to the troops] to be nonparti-Julie M. Aurelio san," Detoyato said.

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Civilian help sought to end kidnappings

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military is pleading for civilian help in the fight against a rash of kidnappings in western Mindanao and the continued captivity of several victims taken as early as 2010, asking people to report the presence of captors or captives in their communities.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which has a peace deal with the government, offered to help but would move only with government permission, according to a ranking MNLF leader.

Dr. Samsula J. Adju, chair of the MNLF's Global Roving Diplomacy and Peace Advocacy, . said the group was willing "to engage."

Adju said the MNLF was willing to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist organization, to end the hostage crisis "without bloodshed and no ransom."

The MNLF, said Adju, wants to help in the safe release of Indonesian hostages. Indonesia played a key role in the peace agreement between the MNLF and the Philippine government in 1996.

Key signs

Tan Maj. Filemon spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said it was not difficult to determine whether an individual or group of people is a kidnap victim.

They speak foreign languages," said Tan. He said some of the victims, like the 14 Indonesians and four Malaysians recently kidnapped by the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf, "may look like Filipinos.'

Tan said civilians should report to authorities unusual activities in their communities or the presence of "unfamiliar

Tan said aside from villagers, local government officials also have an important role in helping locate kidnappers and their victims.

Local officials, he said, should take the lead in turning their communities into "hostile places for these bandits.'

Tan issued an appeal as the military prepared for a major offensive against crime groups in Sulu province.

"We cannot provide details,"

Tan said.

"But as we speak, troops are already preparing there and this is because of the kidnapping where the captives were reportedly brought to Sulu," he added.

No ransom

Retno Marsudi, Indonesian foreign minister, said in a statement released to Indonesian media covering the kidnapping here that the Indonesian government adheres to the no ransom policy and has no role in negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf.

The 14 Indonesian captives 55 Local: 5285, 5295

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army

had been identified as Peter Tonson, Julian Philip, Alvian Elvis Peti, Mahmud, Surian Syah, Surianto, Wawan Saputria, Bayu Oktavianto, Reynaldi, Wendi Raknadian, Moch. Ariyanti Misnan, Lorens M.P.S, Dede Irfan Hilmi and Samsir.

The four Malaysians, taken from Sarawak on April 1, are Wong Teck Pang, Wong Hung Song, Wong Teck Chi and John-

ny Lau Jung Hien.

The other kidnap victims in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf are Japanese treasure hunter Toshio Ito, who was kidnapped in Pangutaran, Sulu, in July 2010; Dutch bird watcher Ewold Horn, who was taken captive in February 2012 in Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi province; Chinese national Yahong Tan Lim, who was kidnapped in Isabela City in May 2014; Filipino fish traders Hajan Perong and Joshuan Bani, who were kidnapped in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, on June 2, 2014; Filbusinessman Dennis ipino Cabadunga, who was taken in Labason, Zamboanga del Norte province, in May 2015; Canadians Robert Hall and John Rids-Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipino Marites Flor, who were kidnapped on Samal Island on Sept. 21, 2015.

Other victims are Ronnie Bancale, a Filipino fish trader kidnapped on Feb. 14 in Sulu and Antonio Tan and his grandson, Ryan, who were taken in Lapuyan, Zamboanga del Sur province, in March.

The Abu Sayyaf had given ultimatums in the case of some of the victims.

For the Samal captives, the bandit group said the ransom demand of P300 million should be paid on April 25 or the victims would be killed.

The government war on the Abu Sayyaf has led to the killings of several of its top leaders but other terrorist groups have emerged.

Recently, police said it arrested the head of a local terror group calling itself Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) in

Zamboanga City.

Supt. Roger Sebastian, of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said Melquiades Pabico Abrera II had been arrested in Sta. Barbara village in the city.

"He is known as the architect and planner of RSM," Sebastian

said.

RSM is an organization founded by Islam convert Ahmed Santos in 1991. It reportedly gets its funding from the Jemaah Islamiyah and its members get training from the Abu Sayyaf.

It was believed to be behind the 2004 Superferry bombing that killed 116 people. Julie Alinala Inquirer Mindanao

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Air Force explains mission of 250th Presidential Airlift Wing

By Mario J. Mallari

The Air Force yesterday maintained the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing (PAW) is tasked to fly the President and his family members to places where there are official curicuments.

Col. Araus Robert Musico, spokesman for the Air Force, said the mission of 250th PAW is to fly the President and members of the First Family safely and securely.

"As far as the PAF is concerned, our 250th PAW is tasked to fly the President to places of his official engagement safely and securely as well as members of the First Family visiting heads of state and VIPs (ver, important persons)," Musico said.

A series of photos going viral in social media showed the TV host and actress and presidential sister Kris Aquino to have used one of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) helicopters on her way to attend a political rally of the Liberal Party tandem of Mar Roxas and Rep. Leni Robredo in the Visayas.

Kabataan partylist Rep. Terryd R. Conterillei administration to using government resources for the LP campaign.

· Musico, however, said Air Force

could not comment on the reported use of air assets supposedly for political campaign.

"I cannot answer for that, you have to direct that to the Office of the President, we're not familiar with those things." Musico said.

resident.

"The Air Force is just there to fly and secure the President and his family, Musico stressed.

Ridon noted that the use of government resources by the presidential sister in campaigning for the Roxas-Robredo tandem should serve as a warning to the people that what the administration is doing is not in line with what the people expect from them.

The use of government

resources to campaign for any candidate is prohibited under the Omnibus Election Code.

"The photos clearly have no other explanation but the brazen use of government machinery to further the campaign of Mar Roxas," Ridon said.

Roxas earlier had said the presidential sister will be more frequently seen on his campaign trail.

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ALL FOR PEACE. One Meralco Foundation President Jeffrey Tarayao (center) with (from left) Capt. Ryan Lacuesta and Capt. Ryan Gandeza of the Prilippine Marine Corps; Rookse Nator Peace movement; Loyola Meralco Sparks coach Simon McMeneny; and football players James Younghusband and Ricardo Padilla commit to the partnership for Football for Peace

One Meralco Foundation, Marines join hands for 'Football for Peace'

One Meralco Foundation (OMF) and the Philippine Marine own teams which competed with those in Sulu. To Corps are gearing up for this year's "Football for Peace Festival" formally launch Football for Peace Festival ball cop was held in Launk, Sulu in December 2011. happening in Metro Manila from April 23 to May 1.

The advocacy, which was started by the Philippine Marines in 2011 in Sulu, utilizes football as a tool to instill peace-loving values of sportsmanship, camaraderie, teamwork and discipline in the minds of young athletes, especially those living in conflict areas in the ARMM.

Each year, hundreds of children from Mindanao and from provinces where the Philippine Marines and the Philippine Army operate are brought to the country's capital to train in football and participate in a weeklong festival and educational tour.

This year, 213 kids from Tawi-Tawi. Sulu, Basilan, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Misamis, Lango del Sur, Pagadian, Bohol and Palawan will be participating in the festival and will compete with football clubs in Metro Manila and Luzon on April 30 at the football field of the Philippine Marines in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

In preparation for their game, the kids will undergo a football clinic facilitated by the Loyola Meralco Sparks football club on Tuesday, April 26, at the University of Makati Stadium, West Rembo, Makati City. The players headed by Coach Simon McMenemy will teach the young athletes advanced techniques that could help them gain an advantage over their more experienced competitors. The participants will also have the chance to meet Philippine football stars Phil and James Younghusband during the training.

"It is a great honor for us to be chosen by the Philippine Marine Corps as their partner in this inspiring initiative. We have been supporting Football for Peace' since 2012 and we are committed to sustaining this valuable cause. Our shared belief of building the skills of our young-people to become responsible, productive and peace-loying citizens will hopefully lead us to a better country. OMF's participation in the Football for Peace program is a concrete expression of our commitment to youth development through sports," said One Meralco President Jeffrey O. Tarayao.

OFFICE OF THE The Story of "Football for Peace"

"Football for Peace" began one afternoon in 2011. Lt Col Stephen L Gabanlet and his fellow members of the Philippine Marine Corps stationed in Sulu decided to play football in a field just outside of their detachment, intrigued by the "new sport," the local children gathered around them to observe.

After a while the soldiers took a break and

intentionally left the ball on the field. But when they returned, they saw the children playing with the ball, imitating the way they played the game. The children were so ecstatic that the sol-diers couldn't retrieve their ball. And then an idea popped out from the mind of Lt Col Cabanlet.

If a simple round ball could capture the interest of these young people, then maybe the same could

formally launch "Football for Peace." a one-day foo.

Inspired by the advocacy of L: Col Cabanlet and his peers, the Foundation began supporting "Football for Peace" starting with the donation of 500 balls in 2012. In the following years, the Philippine Marines brought the festival to Manila to give the participants a different kind of experience and show them how peace can pave the way for progress. The Foundation, for its part, sponsored a football clinic lead by the Loyola Meralco Sparss Football Club and the Meralco Football Club.



FOOTBALL FOR PEACE 2015. The participants of last years "Football for Peace" football clinic with their trainers from the Loyeia Meraico Sparks football club. This year, the clinic will be held on April 26, Tuesday, at the University of Makati Football Stadiu

lead them away from the armed conflict and instead, aspire for a better life. "Football for Peace" was born.

Li Col Cabanlet and his comrades began teaching football to their eager "students" almost every day since, but they made sure to set certain conditions before the children are allowed to play.

"This is our way to somehow instill values in them," explained Lt Col Cabanlet. "Once you give them the ball, they will just play and not care about the rules. But if you use the ball to get them to obey certain rules, you are importing in them one of the biggest lessons a person can learn-discipline."

Beginning with one small team, the soldiers managed to expand the training and organized inter-barangay tournaments. Then other marine detachments from nearby provinces joined in with their

Last year, OMF brought the "Football for Peace" clinic to Tawi-Tawi to engage more aspiring athletes from the region, especially those who have not participated in the previous festivals. It was the first time for the clinic to be held in Mindanao.

Coach Simon McMenemy and the Sparks team flew to the province to train not only the kids but also their civilian and military coaches.' Most of the local coaches did not have formal training in the sport and so, giving them a crash course proved to be beneficial especially to their students. OMF also donated much needed training equipment to the coaches.

The "Football for Peace" football clinic is also supported by Delimondo and Jollibee. 85, 5295

ONLINE NEWS 22 APRIL 2016

Outgoing AFP chief to troops: Ensure peace, order in May 9 polls

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 21): Outgoing AFP chief to troops: Ensure peace, order in May 9 polls

Outgoing AFP Chief-of-Staff Gen. Hernando DCA Iriberri ordered all military units to ensure peace and order in the coming May 9 elections.

This was stressed by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in a message Wednesday when asked on what orders Iriberri has given his commanders during his last command conference in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"Main agenda was AFP preparations for the national election this May. Gen. Iriberri since his assumption last year has been visiting all AFP units to reiterate his instruction and share best practices in ensuring the AFP delivers on its mandated tasks as a deputized agency of COMELEC (Commission on Elections)," he added.

Iriberri will retire on Friday after reaching the military mandatory retirement age of 56. He is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983.

He was appointed the 46th AFP chief last July 10, 2015. Prior that Iriberri was named head of the Philippine Army in February 7, 2014.

"In 2010, Gen. Iriberri was a brigade commander in the then infamous election hotspot Abra. He was credited for significantly contributing towards Abra's reversal as one of the most peaceful areas with the highest voter turn out during that year's national elections. The CSAFP (Chief-of-Staff, AFP) considered the event his last intimate session with AFP's key leaders and availed of the occasion to personally thank all the AFP's senior leaders for their dedication, professionalism, sacrifice and support during his tenure as CSAFP," Padilla added.

http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=878228

Army recovers part of rice seized by NPA rebels

From MindaNews (Apr 21): Army recovers part of rice seized by NPA rebels

The military recovered on Tuesday more than 400 sacks of rice, part of the 1,200 sacks seized by suspected New People's Army rebels from a warehouse in Valencia, Bukidnon.

Capt. Patrick Martinez, public information officer of the 4th Infantry Division, said soldiers from the 8th Infantry Battalion, accompanied by the police, recovered the stolen sacks of rice in Purok 4, Barangay Banlag in Valencia City around 4 p.m. Tuesday. Armed rebels from the NPA South-Central Bukidnon regional commandearlier seized more than 1,200 sacks of rice from the warehouse owned by Valencia City Councilor Helen Bernal last Monday.

NPA spokesperson Ariel Magbanwag said the rice seized in their operation "Bawi sa Bugas" were distributed to hungry farmers suffering from the prolonged drought in Bukidnon.

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

Martinez said villagers told the military that six unidentified persons left the sacks of rice in their houses in Purok 4, Barangay Banlag in Valencia City.

He said the troops also recovered a truck used by the rebels in ferrying the sacks.

Martinez said the soldiers and policemen are still searching for the rest of the rice that were stolen.

http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/04/21/army-recovers-part-of-rice-seized-by-npa-rebels/ Posted by Retired Analyst at 3

Alleged rebel leader enters not guilty plea

From the Mindanao Times (Apr 21): Alleged rebel leader enters not guilty plea
AN ALLEGED high-ranking member of the New People's Army (NPA) entered a not guilty plea during her
arraignment before the sala of Regional Trial Court Branch 17 yesterday, following her arrest in Calinan
District last March.

Ruditha Rostte Gaylawan was charged for violation of Republic Act 10591 ("Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act"), RA 9516 ("Illegal Possession of Explosives"), and Commission on Election (Comelec) gun ban.

The respondent was assisted by her legal counsel lawyer Manuel Quibod.

RTC Branch 17 Judge Evalyn Morales, meanwhile, scheduled the preliminary conference of Gaylawan on June 20 at 2 p.m., while her pretrial was set on June 30 at 8:30 a.m.

Based on the police report, Gaylawan was allegedly the secretary general of the Guerilla Front 54. She was also tagged as the sister of the commanding officer of the Sub-Regional Committee 3 of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA Guerilla Front 54, Roberto Rosete alias Bobby.

She is facing trial after the City Prosecution Office found probable cause to charge her for carrying .45 caliber pistol along with a magazine loaded with six bullets, two pieces of grenade, assorted medicines, two improvised bombs which were allegedly seized by the authorities in her possession during her arrest.

The accused was arrested in a joint police and military operation by virtue of warrant of arrest for murder issued by Judge Virginia Tejano Ang of Regional Trial Court Branch 1, Tagum City in Davao del Norte.

The operation conducted by the Calinan Police Precinct, 84th Infantry Battalion and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group after authorities received a tip from a concerned citizen about her whereabouts.

http://mindanaotimes.net/alleged-rebel-leader-enters-not-guilty-plea/

Army officer shot down

From the Mindanao Times (Apr 21): Army officer shot down
THE DETACHMENT commander of the 72nd Infantry Battalion was shot to death by unidentified armed men in Purok 6, Barangay Baracatan, Toril District around 10:45 a.m. yesterday.

Supt. Jed G. Clamor, commander of Toril Police Precinct, identified the victim as Sgt. Allan E. Madrid, 44, and resident of Upper Quibalang in Marilog.

According to Clamor, Madrid was the detachment commander of 72nd lB based in Sitio Lowaon, Barangay Sibulan in Toril.

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

According to the report, Madrid was on board a motorcycle on his way home from the detachment when three unidentified men shot him from behind before fleeing to unknown direction.

The victim succumbed to 10 gunshot wounds on the different parts of his body.

The scene of the Crime Operatives recovered 10 empty shells from a .45 caliber pistol.

The cadaver of the victim was brought to Villa Funeral Parlor in Toril.

http://mindanaotimes.net/army-officer-shot-down/

Army, PNP hunt down NPAs who snatched Army trooper in North Cotabato

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 21): Army, PNP hunt down NPAs who snatched Army trooper in North Cotabato

The military's 6th Infantry Division based here has ordered manhunt against suspected New Peoples Army who abducted a member of the 7th Infantry Battalion in Makilala, North Cotabato at dawn Thursday.

Army Private 1st Class Eduardo Hilaga, Jr. while driving on a motorbike along Barangay Malasila, Makilala, North Cotababot was flagged down by communist guerillas disguising as soldiers conducting gun ban implementation.

In his report to 6th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, Lieutenant Colonel Harold Argamosa, commander of the 39th IB, said Hilaga was one of some 20 motorists flagged down by about 30 New People's Army guerrillas along a portion of the Cotabato-Davao Highway in Barangay Malasila here.

Chief Insp. Elias Colonia, Makilala police chief, said the rebels immediately took Hilaga captive when they discovered he was a soldier based on a military identification card found in his wallet.

Hilaga of the 7th IB was on his way to their headquarters in Kabacan town, also in North Cotabato. from their home in Barangay Kisante northeast of Makilala when he was snatched at past 5 a.m.

"He was on his way to Kabacan to join an Army humanitarian outreach mission intended for poor villagers," Captain Joann Petinglay, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said.

Sr. Supt. Jose Briones, North Cotabato police director, said the police public safety battalion was helping the military in hunting down the suspects believed to have fled toward the hinterland of Makilala, specifically near Mt. Apo.

Briones said responding policemen recovered from Hilaga's black Honda motorcycle.

Motorists who were flagged down by the rebels confirmed to police investigators the NPAs indeed took Hilaga captive.

http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=878411

Dead bodies of NPA ranking leaders recovered in Davao City (Photos)

From Update.Ph (Apr 21): Dead bodies of NPA ranking leaders recovered in Davao City (Photos)

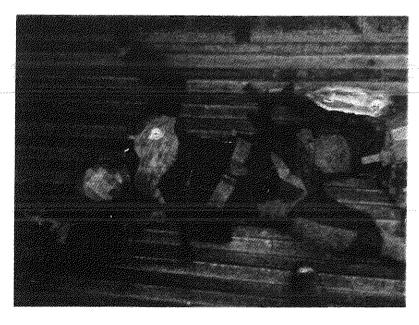
Philippine Army 10th Infantry Division (10ID) is confirming the death of two high ranking leaders of New People's Army, now being referred to as Armed Lawless Group (ALG) by the military. The dead bodies were recovered by troops of 84th Infantry Battalion last April 18 and 19 at Sitio Banban, Barangay Lumiad, Paquibato District, Davao City.

They were leaders of Pulang Bagani Company 1 (PBC 1).

10ID said the two were identified as Bernie Pepito Alima alias King, Vice-CO of Andoy Platoon of PBC 1 and Levy Boy Almosara alias Rexan, CO of Basil Platoon of PBC 1.

The Army division said "the two were killed during a series of encounters on April 18 between the ALG and troops of 84IB, who were conducting pursuit and rescue operations of the five PNP personnel earlier abducted by the ALG. The first firefight happened at 8:00 a.m. and second encounter occurred at 12:25 p.m. on April 18."

"Alias King's dead body and an armalite rifle were recovered by the troops after the 12:25 pm encounter. The dead body of alias Rexan and other war materiel were recovered at around 9:00 a.m. the following day, April 19," 10ID said.



Levy Boy Almosara alias Rexan, CO, Basil Platoon of the Pulang Bagani Company 1. 10ID Photo

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



Bernie Pepito Alima alias King, Vice-CO, Andoy Platoon of the Pulang Bagani Company 1. 10ID Photo Said ALG leaders are believed to be part of the group that attacked Quiman-anao CAFGU Detachment and abducted the five police officers on April 16, 2016, both in Paquibato District, Davao City.

"The death of these ALG leaders shows that the long arms of the law will sooner get all those who espouse and use violence to achieve their goals," 10ID commander Major General Rafael C Valencia said.

http://www.update.ph/2016/04/dead-bodies-of-npa-ranking-leaders-recovered-in-davao-city-photos/4606

Troops overran NPA camp as army, bandits clash anew in Bukidnon

From the Philippine Information Agency (Apr 21): Troops overran NPA camp as army, bandits clash anew in Bukidnon

Soldiers of the 8th Infantry Battalion (8IB), 4th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army overran a NPA camp after a clash with more or less 30 suspected New People's Army bandits coming from Sangay sa Partidong Pampropaganda (SPP) TOTO, Guerilla Front 4B of the North Central Mindanao Regional Committee, April 15, 2016, around 4:30 p.m., in a forested area near Sitio Kalampigan, Brgy. Kalabugao, Impasugong town, Bukidnon.

Lt Col Lennon G. Babilonia, commanding officer of the 8IB said the fierce firefight lasted for about one hour and twenty minutes, which caused the bandits to withdraw and scamper to different directions bringing along their wounded comrades as evidenced by bloodstain found by troops in their withdrawal route. Troops were also able to recover one Improvised Explosive Device (IED), live ammunitions of AK-47 and M16 rifles, five back packs and subversive documents.

The 8IB has intensified its security operations to rescue its Philippine National Police (PNP) counterparts after NPA bandits kidnapped Senior Police Officer 1 Warren Coñales and Police Officer 3 Edwin Castor when the armed group blocked a portion of Sayre Highway in Brgy. Capitan Bayong of Impasugong town and flagged down commuters last April 3, 2016, around 5:30 a.m.

Responding to a report from the Lumad community in Sitio Kalampigan, troops of the 8IB proceeded to the area where the locals saw the armed group who allegedly had with them two persons who were hog tied. The rebels, however, fired upon the troops, as they approached the area that caused the firefight.

Meanwhile, no soldiers were hurt during the clash while it is believed that the NPA had several casualties

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

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

as reported by the Lumads residing in nearby communities. In his statement, LtCol Babilonia condemned the NPA leaders for depriving their wounded comrades for proper medical care.

"Our friends in the nearby Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities tell us that the NPA suffered several casualties during the firefight. My fellow tribal elders even informed me that at least three NPA members died from their wounds. This is just so unfortunate for our brothers who were deceived to join the armed struggle only to realize its futility and injustice as they were denied their rights to have proper medical care. The NPA leaders could have just allowed our soldiers to help their wounded comrades and not deny them of their rights. We condemn such acts for this is banditry at its best. The right thing for the NPA leaders to do now is to inform the poor families of these casualties and turn over their cadavers, but unfortunately, they don't practice such humane acts and they will just leave their dead comrades half buried somewhere in the dense jungle just to fuel their propaganda and lies," said Lt. Col. Babilonia, who was ordained and adopted by the Higaonon as one of their elders.

http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1501461219672/troops-overran-npa-camp-as-army-bandits-clash-anew-in-bukidnon