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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 April 2016

Monday

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The Manila Times

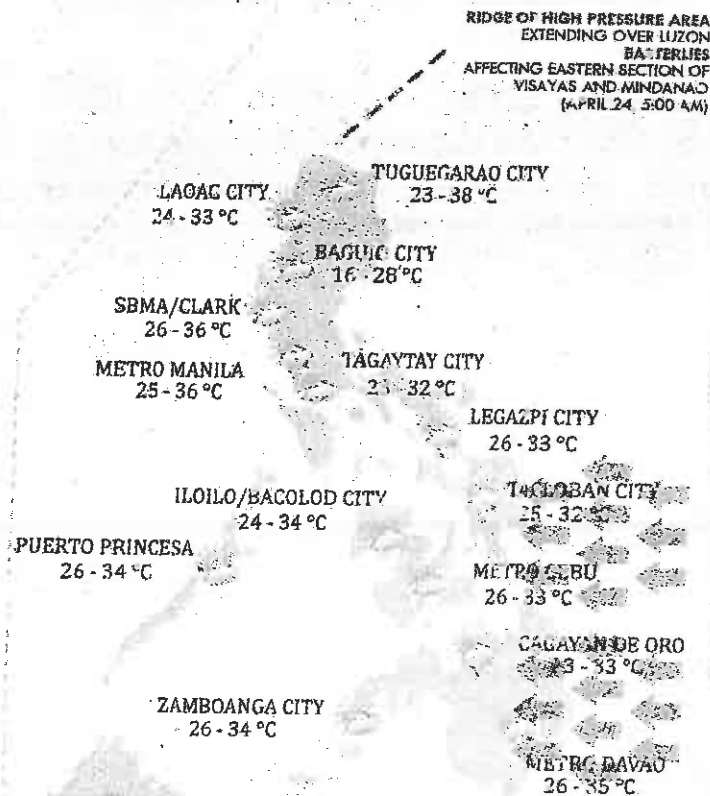
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The Manila Times

PANAHONTV

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

APRIL 23, 2016 | MONDAY



SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:36 AM	6:12 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:44 PM	7:42 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
APR 22 1:21 PM	APR 30 7:21 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
7:12 PM -0.03 Meter	11:28 AM 0.42 Meter

Partly cloudy skies
Partly cloudy at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

City	APR 23 (MON)	APR 24 (TUE)	APR 25 (WED)	City	APR 23 (MON)	APR 24 (TUE)	APR 25 (WED)
METRO MANILA	25 - 36 °C	25 - 36 °C	26 - 36 °C	BAGUIO	16 - 27 °C	16 - 28 °C	17 - 27 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 35 °C	26 - 35 °C	25 - 36 °C	BORACAY	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C

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INQUIRER

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Duterte spared thrashing



JEJOMAR BINAY

I WANT to be known as a healing and unifying President.



RODRIGO DUTERTE

IF YOU'RE afraid to die, if you're afraid to kill, don't aspire to become President.



GRACE POE

MY HUSBAND has renounced his American citizenship. He is a Filipino who was born to Filipino parents.



MAR ROXAS

I DID everything. I put my life on the line [during the Yolanda tragedy].



MIRIAM F. SANTIAGO

I CAN'T say I've subdue cancer... but if the medicine is right, you can stop the cancer cells. They're dead.

Few sparks fly in final presidential debate

By Tarra Quismundo, Leila B. Salaverria,
Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño

DAGUPAN CITY—Instead of a thrashing of front-runner Rodrigo Duterte over a rape joke, Sunday night's third and final presidential debate turned out to be a ho-hum moment in the race for Malacañang, with the five candidates seemingly uninterested in a brawl that the voters had expected

to help them in making their final choice.

Two weeks before the May 9 vote, Duterte, Senators Grace Poe and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Vice President Jejomar Binay and former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas listlessly tried to duke it out on the territorial dispute between the Philippines and China in the South China Sea, Metro Manila's

horrendous traffic and jobs.

Those were problems they had already dealt with in their first two debates. And on Sunday, they all sounded too tired to offer variations on their proposed solutions.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people's needs

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From page A1

But they offered glimpses into their leadership styles during the debate held at University of Pangasinan in Dagupan City, capital of the province with the third largest voting population in the country.

Questioned on the South China Sea dispute, Duterte, the trash-talking mayor of Davao City, said he would himself lay claim to the nearest Chinese-occupied island, even if he knew it would cost him his life.

"We have submitted ourselves to arbitration ... and China has insisted on sovereignty and won't submit to [the United Nations arbitral court's] jurisdiction. If we win the case but China won't obey [the tribunal's ruling], I will not go to war," he said.

"If they don't want to obey, then I will ask the Navy to bring me to the nearest boundary, I will get off, take a jet ski, carry a Philippine flag to the nearest airport [on a Chinese-occupied island], plant that flag and I'll say, 'This is ours. Do what you want with me,'" he said.

"I will stake that claim. I have long had the ambition to be a hero. When I go there, you cry here," he added, drawing cheers and laughs from the audience.

'Bomb them'

Confronted with a Pangasinan fisherman's question on how he could get back his livelihood amid aggressive Chinese moves in the South China Sea, Santiago said she would take the legal and diplomatic route.

But she also raised a more drastic option. "They are taking our waters and our fish. I will call the Coast Guard and bomb them," she said, drawing cheers from the audience.

"[W]e have the world public opinion behind us. The world believes our waters are ours," she said.

Poe said she would assert the Philippines' right to resources in waters within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and vowed to provide fishermen adequate equipment to protect their interest.

"The West Philippine Sea is

not the personal aquarium of the Chinese. If they are real friends, they should help us," Poe said, referring to waters within the Philippine EEZ.

Longtime bitter political rivals Binay and Roxas both called for sobriety in approaching the territorial dispute with China.

Binay said he would talk to China so that Filipino fishermen would be allowed to fish in their traditional fishing grounds while negotiations on the maritime dispute continue.

He also vowed to provide temporary livelihood, health and education assistance to families of displaced fishermen.

Two-pronged solution

Roxas proposed a two-pronged solution: support the displaced fishermen's families and press the Philippines' legal action against China.

"In this situation, we are at a disadvantage. The Chinese have more ships and arms. But we should not surrender what is ours. We went to court, international [opinion favors us]," Roxas said.

The United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is expected to rule in the coming weeks on the Philippines' challenge to China's sweeping claims in the South China Sea.

The face-off began even before the debate started as supporters of the five presidential candidates took to the streets and streamed into the venue early on Sunday to cheer for their choices.

Amid the stifling heat, the candidates' supporters lined up on streets around the University of Pangasinan hours before the debate began, trying to outshout each other in chanting their candidates' names, some even to the beat of their own drum bands.

Unmindful of the heat index that breached 40 degrees Celsius, they squeezed together behind police barricades that divided Arelano Street in downtown Dagupan, which was closed to traffic as early as noon for security.

It was breezy in the open-air gym but still humid. The temperature gradually dropped as the sun set.

The supporters—a hundred were allowed for each candidate—divided the university student park into sections of blue, red, yellow and white that engaged each other in a cheering contest an hour before the debate.

They were advised to avoid heckling and booing during the three-hour program.

On stage, stand fans were placed behind each of the candidates' seats to provide extra ventilation.

Metro Manila traffic

The perennial problem of traffic jams in Metro Manila brought out promises from the presidential candidates of new railways, new departments, and a new traffic czar to keep tabs on road congestion that has lessened Filipinos' productivity.

Santiago, Poe and Duterte focused on the completion of existing railway projects and construction of more railways to connect Metro Manila with nearby provinces.

And given Metro Manila's congestion, Santiago said there should be a new capital city that could be built near Clark. This new city would have a government center, an information technology park, and an educational center to entice people to live there.

Santiago also said there was a need for road discipline. Only qualified drivers should be able to get licenses, unlike the situation now when anybody could acquire one.

No fast solution

Duterte said there was no swift solution to the problem. "There is no silver bullet to solve the traffic problem," he said.

If he becomes the President, he will take a year or two to improve the LRT and MRT system by adding more coaches to accommodate more passengers, he said.

He would also build new railway lines, a proposal of Santiago that he decided to copy.

The new trains could run along the Pasig River, he said, so that there would be fewer road right of way problems.

He also noted that the increasing number of private vehicles on the road exacerbate the traffic problem. The government can't stop new cars from coming in, but it could improve the mass transit system. It could also remove dilapidated vehicles from the roads.

Poe said the existing railway and road projects going to the north and south of Metro Manila should be completed, and trains should be built in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro, major areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.

A subway system is possible in the long term, despite concerns about flooding, she said. In other countries, trains run under the sea, she pointed out.

Traffic terminator

A traffic terminator is also necessary, she said. The official would focus on resolving traffic issues, including road right of way problems.

"There are many good plans, but these are useless if not implemented," she said.

Roxas said all the projects promised by his rivals are already being undertaken by the government, such as the MRT improvements and new MRT and LRT extensions.

What is needed is to overhaul the franchising systems so there would be fewer buses on the road competing for passengers and blocking the roads.

The Department of Transportation and Communications should also be merged with the Department of Public Works and Highways, so that road works could be coordinated with transportation systems, and there would be coherent plans.

Roxas made the latter suggestion after Binay proposed that the DOTC be split up so that there would be an agency focusing on transportation alone.

Binay also said the traffic woes continued because many plans are not being implemented.

Plans would be for naught if the people handling them lack experience and expertise. He would appoint an official who could handle traffic problems, he said.

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LAST FACE-OFF Presidential candidates (from left) Jejomar Binay, Grace Poe and Mar Roxas arrive at the University of Pangasinan for the last of their three debates sponsored by the Commission on Elections.

RICHARD BALONGLONG AND WILLIE LOMIBAO/INQUIRER NORTH ~~ERN~~ LUZON

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INQUIRER

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Army has P247M for Howitzer ammo

THE PHILIPPINE Army has earmarked P247 million toward the purchase of 105mm artillery shells for combat and infantry operations.

In a bid invitation with the Philippine International Trading Corp., the Army said it had allocated P247,835,166.28 for the contract to supply 8,588 rounds of 105mm Howitzer cannon shells.

"That is a regular requirement of our troops in the field. We are advancing our procurement based on projected requirements," Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said.

Each round should cost P28,858.31 based on the approved contract budget.

Local and foreign manufacturers who would place their bids though foreign manufacturers must be represented by a Philippine-based company.

Bidders may purchase bid documents at P50,000 at the PITC, NDC Building, 116 Torde-sillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati.

Deadline for submission of bids is May 12 at 10 a.m.

Julie M. Aurelio

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POLICE FILES

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Militar at NPA nagkasagupa sa Kalinga

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Patuloy ang isinasagawang clearing operations ng militar matapos ang engkwentro sa pagitan ng tropa ng militar at New Peoples Army sa Sitio Capas, Brgy. Poswoy, Balbalan, Kalinga.

Sinabi ni Sgt. Benjie Ancaya ng Philippine Army na limang kasapi ng rebeldeng grupo ang nakasagupa ng militar na pinangunahan ni 2/LT Julius Tecson habang nagsasagawa ng combat operations/test mission sa lugar.

Wala namang napanlat na nasugatan o nasawi sa panig ng militar sa naturang bakbakan na tumagal ng 15-minuto, habang inaalam pa sa panig ng rebeldeng grupo.

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DND to buy P40 M spare parts for C-295

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

With its brand new C-295 Airbus, the Department of National Defense is set to procure P40 million worth of additional integrated logistics support this year.

The DND said the amount would be sourced from the military's Modernization Act Trust Fund for purchase of 47 line items of aircraft ground support equipment.

In layman's terms, the line items refer to spare parts that would be needed for the aircraft's maintenance in the next three years.

The C-295 Airbus is categorized as a medium lift aircraft, similar to the Fokker F-27 being maintained by the 220th Airlift Wing.

With its capacity of 20,000 pounds of cargo or 71 passengers, 50 paratroops and 24 stretchers with seven attendants, the aircraft would be used by the Air Force in ferrying personnel and logistics.

The Philippine Air Force received three C-295 aircraft from the manufacturer Airbus Defense and Space, which delivered them from Spain.

A pre-bid conference for the additional integrated logistics support for the C-295 Airbus will be held on April 29 at the DND bids and awards committee conference room in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

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PH Navy, Army in Asean drills

THE PHILIPPINE Navy will participate in a security and counterterrorism drill during the Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting on May 1-12 in Brunei and Singapore.

The Navy's frigate, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, will join the 11-day multilateral exercise among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to Lt. Cmdr. Marineth Domingo.

The spokesperson said the Navy will represent the country in the maritime security drill, while the Philippine Army will participate in counterterrorism, land-storming and ground operations.

"It will represent another significant moment of participation and commitment by all 18 countries for practical cooperation," Domingo said.

Joining the 10 Asean members are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.

The Gregorio del Pilar will also take part in another drill, the maritime training activity "Seagull" to be held on May 10-17.

Julie M. Aurelio

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PAF opens bid for plane parts

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense (DND) is purchasing P40-million worth of spare parts and ground equipment for its three brand new C-295 Airbus medium lift aircraft.

The DND made the announcement as it opened the P40.2-million contract to bidders who had completed two contracts similar to the project in the last five years.

The contract involves the purchase of 47 line items of aircraft ground support equipment as additional

integrated logistics support for the C-295 aircraft.

Project funds will be sourced from the military's Modernization Act trust fund.

In 2015, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) received three C-295 aircraft delivered from Spain by Airbus Defense and Space.

The three aircraft cost P5.3 billion.

The first plane in arrived in March 2015, with the second coming in September and the third in December last year. The PAF's 220th Airlift Wing operates and maintains the aircraft.

The C-295 Airbus is categorized as a medium lift aircraft, similar to the Fokker F-27 of the 220th Airlift Wing.

It can carry up to 20,000 pounds of cargo, or 71 passengers, 50 paratroopers and 24 stretchers with seven attendants.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 29, at 10 a.m., at the DND bids and awards committee conference room in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Bidders have until May 11 to submit their bids, while the winning bidder would have to deliver the items within 60 days.

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Balikatan benefits communities

We welcome Balikatan exercises here in the Philippines. We've been witnesses to the benefits of the exercise which is held yearly in specific places where the need for the exercises is most appropriate. Balikatan is not only geared towards

training of military forces from our country and the US. What is most important is training of troops to respond and conduct relief and rescue operations during natural disasters such as earthquake and flood.

Civic action works in our place such as medical and dental missions as well as engineering works, veterinary care and other worthwhile activities were well accepted by residents.

The recent tragedy in the Visayas caused by "typhoon Yolanda" reminds us why Balikatan is so important. The training from Balikatan has enabled soldiers to be more than effective in responding to disaster and other crises that may affect public health and safety. Balikatan exercises always bring an optimistic note. — ALEJANDRO PASTORES JR.,
Gapan, Nueva Ecija

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Navy ship off to Brunei, Singapore for exercises

BY VICTOR REYES

THE BRP GREGORIO del Pilar, one of the two former US cutters in the inventory of the Philippine Navy, will leave on Wednesday for Brunei and Singapore for two maritime exercises with several countries.

The Asean Defense Minister's Meeting-Plus Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism Exercise 2016 will be held in Brunei and Singapore from May 1 to 12. The Maritime Training Activity Seagull will be held also in Brunei from May 10 to 17.

Apart from Philippines, Brunei and Singapore, the other countries taking part in the exercises are Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and United States.

Lt. Cmdr. Marineth Domingo, acting public affairs officer of the Navy, said the exercises will improve Philippine interoperability not

only with Brunei and Singapore but also with other countries.

Domingo also said the BRP Gregorio del Pilar will leave the Manila South Harbor's Pier 13 with a Navy helicopter and about 120 troops, including personnel from the Naval Special Operations Group.

During the 11-day exercises, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar will participate in a "sea-storming or surface operations" including a visit, board, search and seizure training, said Domingo.

After the first exercise, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar will proceed to the Seagull exercises with Brunei.

On the schedule overlap with the first exercise, Domingo said BRP Gregorio del Pilar can shift to another exercise because the first exercise would be on a wind-down stage already by May 10.

Domingo said the seven-day Seagull exercises include subject matter expertise exchanges, social interaction, ship rider program, and sea phase or field training activities.

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The Manila Times

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The Church and the military must save the country

Hacking Comelec

WE are now facing a national security crisis of monumental proportions whose implications go far beyond the viability of holding the May 9 election. But its first real casualty could very well be the actual non-holding of such election. There are many reasons for this. But the first important reason is that the state's most important electoral resource has been irreparably damaged, and there can be no legitimate and credible election without it.



FIRST THINGS FIRST
FRANCISCO S. TATAD

I refer to the official voters' list in the hands of the Commission on Elections. Attacked by hackers, the list proved to have been padded by the Comelec from a total of 54.3 million to a bloated listing of 70 million. In the

Tatad A5

process of committing a crime, the hackers exposed a major crime at the Comelec.

The breach

When the website attack was first exposed, the list was identified as the resource downloaded by the hackers. The initial reactions to this breach focused on its implications to the integrity of the elections. However, when online IT publications and ICT professionals started calling it one of the most dangerous breaches in the digital age, the extent of the damage and the threat spilled far beyond the elections.

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In sum, all the information needed to stage identity theft has been released into a public and uncontrolled domain. This involves, as the hacked data have revealed, 70 million "voters."

While it is too early to say anything definitive on this, it is likely that anything reliant on this personal information and biometric data can be or has been compromised. E-commerce, online banking, and credit cards are immediate concerns. Fraud in the use of internet, online gaming and even mobile phone accounts is possible.

The government will have to explain to the citizenry and perhaps other governments how this leak affects the integrity of passports, visas, and individual accounts in the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, Pag-IBIG and PhilHealth.

Security and integrity of applications for new services (whether government or private) are also affected. These consequences will remain a threat to the people, long after election season has ended—assuming the election could still be held.

Where is the data now?

It is certainly all over the place. After the wehaveyourdata.com site went viral, it was soon discovered that the data had made its way into sharing sites. Within hours, reports said the data was already present in "torrents."

Torrents are file-sharing networks that formed the backbone of online piracy of films and music in the early 2000s. A file is broken up into many portions and seeded across members of the torrent's network. If a user wants to download the file, the system sends him the requisite parts coming from the seeders who have the component files. In this way, not one seeder has the complete file and so none of the seeders are technically in violation of intellectual property law.

As of Friday, April 22, it seems the data is already available from

the local pirates in places like Quiapo. The launch price was at P100,000, but has dropped to P50,000 in a day. We have no idea how many people are buying, but it seems there are enough people selling the data openly.

Two problems

Between now and May 9 is but a few days. How do we expect this problem to go away, and allow us to hold a clean, honest, orderly and credible election? There are at least two problems here. First, the Comelec needs to protect itself from hackers; two, the voters need to protect themselves from the corrupt elements in the Comelec.

With respect to the first, if the hackers could hack the Comelec voters' list, what else can they not possibly hack before, during, or after the election? How then do we protect the official files of our government? With respect to the second, if the corrupt operators at the Comelec could inflate the voters' list from 54.3 million to 70 million, what else could they not fool around with?

In 2010 and 2013, the Comelec, together with its Venezuelan partner Smartmatic, manipulated the entire process, first by removing all the security and safety features and accuracy mechanisms of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machine, and by rigging the transmission system. They are about to do the same thing again, while padding the voters' list, and presumably the turnout.

Bongbong cheated

In the advanced voting of Overseas Filipino Workers, the first case of individual cheating has already been reported. Despite the use of the voter's receipt, which is supposed to show accurately the name of the candidate one has voted for, one OFW has complained that another candidate appeared in place of the one she had voted for—Vice Presidential Candidate Sen. Ferdinand (Bongbong) Marcos, Jr. Bongbong is, of course, the candidate PNoy has threatened

On Thursday, April 21, a site called wehaveyourdata.com started circulating in social media channels. This page claimed to contain the data downloaded from the Comelec, and was searchable. If one entered the Last Name, First Name and Mother's Maiden Name in the respective fields, the site would show all available results.

In my case, I searched for Tatad Francisco Sarmiento and obtained two results. Clicking the first one, it reflected registered address at 44 Ifugao St., date of birth 4 October 39, and fingerprint fields. The fingerprints were not visible via my machine's monitor but I am told that an off-the-shelf device can probably decipher that information with ease.

The site was quickly blocked by social networks such as Facebook. IT security experts had advised that the site could fish for the user's passwords to social networks and email. It appears that the site's ability to exploit is far more dangerous than the data it contains.

Repercussions

The personal data contained is what is required to register as a voter. However, the same data is commonly used to verify a person's identity by banks, credit card companies and telecommunications firms. Adding to the problem, Overseas Voters have another bit of information contained in the Comelec database—their passport

to lead a "people power" revolt against, should he win.

Given these conditions, it is not hard to understand why as the date draws near, more and more people seem to question the need to go through the election. They have no doubt that the Comelec, Smartmatic, and the various presidential players will try to cheat each other, and that none among them will try to prevent the cheating.

All are now jockeying to top the paid propaganda surveys, and are equally determined to win the "post-election" even if they lose the election. One is reported to have equipped his military group with AK47s in case he's cheated in the official count.

PNoy's role

Aquino has been no help at all. He wants to choose his own successor in order to escape criminal prosecution from his political enemies after he steps down on June 30. This has caused certain steps that have disfigured the Constitution, the rule of law and the actual conduct of the forthcoming election.

Although Aquino openly "supports" Mar Roxas, the LP standard bearer, he has also established a strong personal line to Sen. Grace Poe Llamanzares, the former American citizen of no known biological parentage, whom nine of the 15 members of the Supreme Court have declared "qualified" to run for President.

Aquino was reported to have personally intervened to make the nine Justices decide in her favor, even though she is not a natural-born citizen nor a 10-year resident of the country immediately preceding the May 9 election.

Aquino was reported to have met with Mrs. Llamanzares a week before the High Court junked the three Comelec rulings that disqualified her and cancelled her Certificate of Candidacy upon four petitions. The *ponencia* by Justice Jose Perez said the Comelec had no authority to pass upon her qualifications, even though the Court had long sustained Comelec's authority to do so in many previous cases.

'Poe-quino' confirmed

Malacañang and Mrs. Llamanzares have denied the "Poe-quino" meeting, but my original Palace sources have stood steadfast by their story, and some highly placed diplomatic sources have since confirmed it. As this story goes, Aquino has assured Mrs. Llamanzares that if by April 25, which means today, Roxas's "survey" rating does not considerably improve, his financial and manpower support would shift to her.

And the next big "survey" is expected to be released today.

Because of Aquino's and big business' intervention, and the Justices' failure to defend the Constitution, we now have a presidential race where 130 natural-born citizens and 10-year residents of the country have been summarily excluded as "nuisance candidate," but a truly "nuisance candidate" whom Solicitor General Florin Hilbay claims is a "natural-born citizen by disputable presumption and statistical probability," could be elected President.

A matter of honor

Mrs. Llamanzares is the first such person to run for the Philippine presidency. Not only is she a former American, she also has an American husband and family. That fact alone should have inhibited her from running, and others from supporting her candidacy. But no, this is how low we have sunk as a people and as a country. Unlike our neighbors, we do not care much for our national honor or sovereignty.

Mrs. Llamanzares says her husband and her children are all dual citizens, who would renounce their American citizenship if she gets elected to the presidency. They should have done so before she ran for the Senate. But the husband, Teodoro Misael "Neil" Llamanzares, may not even be a Filipino.

According to a Filipino paper in the US, and to the *Daily Tribune* here last Saturday, Neil is a natural-born American citizen of Filipino descent, but not a Filipino. He could have become a Filipino by going through the appropriate

legal process when he reached the age of majority, but he did not.

He is, therefore, in the country as an alien, reportedly employed as 'IT special consultant to the Chief Executive Adviser of San Miguel Corporation," whom the media have identified as the principal financier of Mrs. Poe Llamanzares. There are allegations that Neil does not have an Alien Employment Permit, which is required by law.

Security threat?

Some sources describe him as potentially dangerous to our national security because of his reported previous background, as a member of the US Air Force, and later as an area manager for Scientific Applications International Corp., said to be a major contractor of the US National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency. His interests are not those of a patriotic Filipino.

My lawyer Manuelito Luna, who represented me in my disqualification case against Grace before the Comelec and the Supreme Court, believes Neil's case is inseparable from that of his wife. So we have decided to ask the Bureau of Immigration to look deeply into it. We shall be filing the appropriate petition today.

What alternative?

All these seem to make the May 9 election the last thing we need. The only problem is, what is the alternative? Do we have to extend the Aquino presidency? It would be unthinkable if Aquino, after causing all this mess, should end up benefiting from it. Since he has destroyed virtually all our institutions, the institutions that are still standing should now provide the appropriate alternative.

There are two such institutions: the religious and moral sector, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. With the possible help of the SC Justices who still care about the Constitution, these two institutions must now begin talking to each other on how to save this country.

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INQUIRER

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Six years in office, seven AFP chiefs

LAST FRIDAY, President Aquino installed his seventh and last AFP chief of staff in the person of Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, the current vice chief of staff of the armed forces. He will serve in an acting capacity until June 30, when the incoming commander in chief may decide to keep him on the job or appoint a new AFP chief. General Miranda and his PMA Class 1983 batch mate, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año, will be retiring in October of next year.

The appointment of General Miranda completes the record of P-Noy insofar as the top leadership of the AFP is concerned.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



AFP Chief of Staff	Length of service as AFP Chief
Ricardo David	8 months
Eduardo Oban	10 months
Jessie Dellosa	13 months
Emmanuel Bautista	18 months
Gregorio Pio Catapang	12 months
Glorioso Miranda	2 months, 10 days

The "revolving door" situation that plagues our armed forces, holds true not just for the top AFP post but also for service commanders and heads of area commands, like the Western Mindanao Command that includes Basilan, Zamboanga and Sulu where most of the fighting takes place. If we look closely at the roster of these units, it becomes noticeable that an important part of the problems they face is the "revolving door" concept of leadership. There are exceptions now and then but, most often, a tour of duty is short-term, ranging from 12 to 14 months.

In any organization, military or civilian, no substantial long-lasting reforms that truly bring about transformation can succeed under a short-term leadership. Whatever changes come about from such management policies are mostly cosmetic in nature.

Among our Asean neighbors, we must be an object not only of pity, possibly, even disdain—we are the weakest force in the region—but also of curiosity. They must be wondering why we replace our military leaders so often that there is virtually no time at all to develop close and meaningful relationships between counterparts. This, at a time when we face common problems and need greater efforts at cooperation and solidarity.

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There is an interesting side story to the present "revolving door" scenario that is not known to our people but one that did not escape notice among members of the armed forces.

A few months ago, the AFP vice chief of staff was Marine Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo who earlier served as the commandant of the Philippine Marines. At that time, General Miranda was Northern Luzon commander (Nolcom). Last month the *rigodon* started with Tanalgo moving down or laterally (depending on how you view these positions) from vice chief of staff, the No. 2 post in the AFP to Nolcom commander. General Miranda was moved to GHQ to assume the position of vice chief of staff. If the status quo had been maintained, Tanalgo would have had a shot at the chief of staff position.

Tanalgo is a Marine officer. Who among the presidential candidates is a reserve officer in the Marine Corps?

The change of command ceremony was an opportunity for the President to express his feelings for the troops, especially in the light of the recent Basilan losses. One would think he would deliver an inspirational and uplifting message, one that would show his empathy for the men in uniform. The seven-minute speech, described as the shortest delivered by the commander in chief, was a letdown.

Consider how President Cory Aquino addressed the troops at the end of her term of office: "Goodbye, my soldiers." They were her soldiers and they defended her against every and all threats to her presidency even at the terrible cost of fighting their fellow soldiers. It was an emotional experience that raised a lump in many throats.

In 1995 Robert Timberg, a US Naval Academy graduate and award-winning journalist, wrote a bestseller, "The Nightingale's Song." It dwelt on the lives of five Annapolis graduates: John Poindexter, Robert McFarlane, Oliver North, John McCain and James Webb.

Briefly, John Poindexter and John McCain belong to the Naval Academy Class of 1958. Poindexter served as brigade commander and graduated No. 1 in his class. He would become national security adviser under President Ronald Reagan.

McCain graduated fifth from the bottom of his class. After five years in a Vietnam POW camp, he would become a US senator and later a presidential candidate. He was defeated by Barack Obama but continues to serve in the Senate.

Robert McFarlane, Class of 1959, would also serve as national security adviser under President Reagan.

James Webb and Oliver North both belong to the Class of 1968. As midshipmen they would dispute the 145-pound Brigade Boxing Championship with North winning by unanimous decision.

Outside of the academy, Oliver North would end up as the central figure in the Iran Contra scandal (a secret arms-for-hostage operation); and he used his popularity for an unsuccessful Senate run. James Webb would become a highly-decorated Marine infantry officer but his fame rested on his writings, not his government service. His novel, "Fields of Fire," about a Marine rifle platoon in Vietnam, became a widely acclaimed bestseller.

Webb would serve as secretary of the navy for a brief period under Reagan. At age 42 he took his oath of office as the 66th secretary of the navy, the first Naval Academy graduate to serve in this position. A few months after assuming office, he spoke before the Brigade of Midshipmen at Annapolis. He told the assembly, "Throughout your life, you will judge yourself against two harsh and often painful standards. They were, 'Did you get the job done? How many people did it cost?'"

While it is always a source of deep satisfaction to receive recognition from prestigious organizations for good governance initiatives, let us not forget that in the ultimate analysis it is how the AFP measures up to the standards pointed out by James Webb that determines its effectiveness as a fighting force.

- Did you get the job done?
- How many people did it cost?

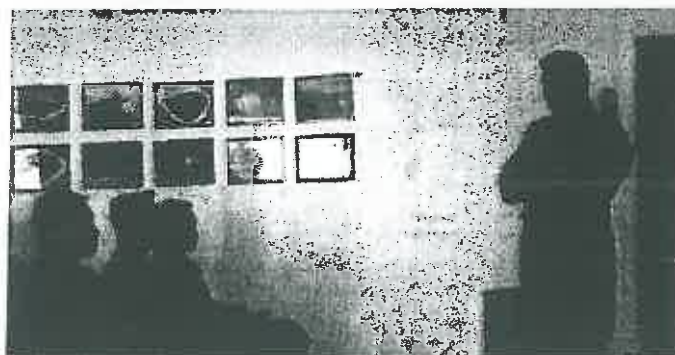
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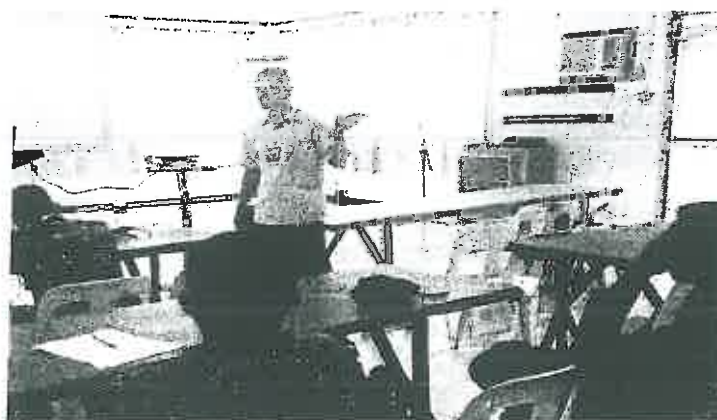
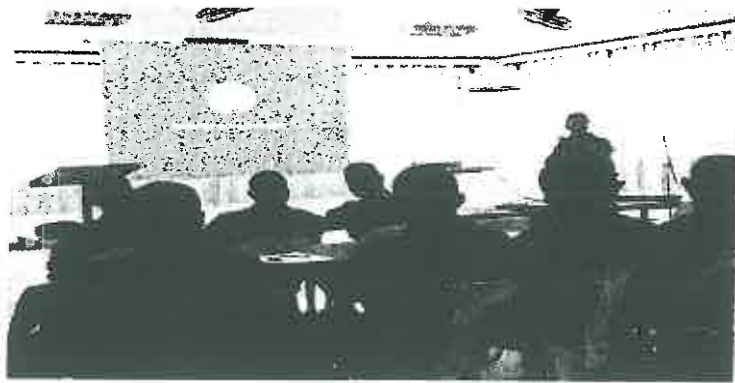
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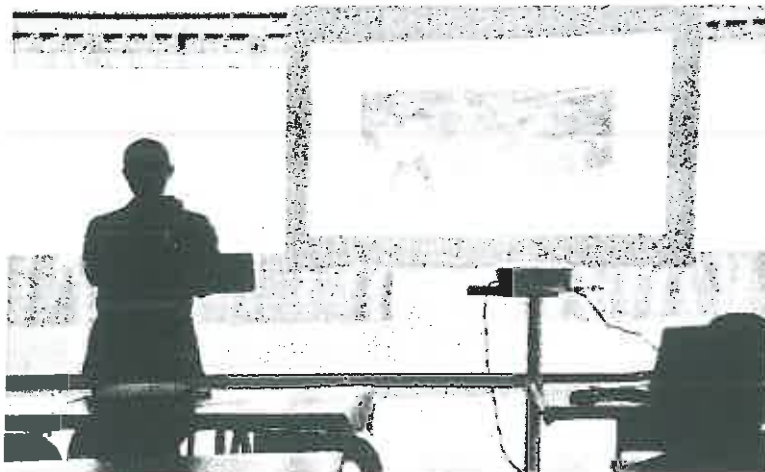
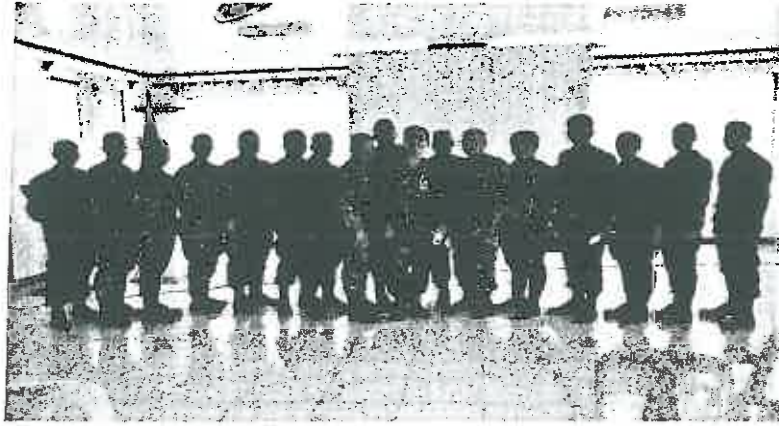
Naval Forces West Civil Military Operations (CMO) Orientation Training

The Naval Forces West with the Civil Military Operations Unit - West successfully conducted the five-day Civil Military Operations Orientation Training to the ...NFW and OPCON personnel. The said training enabled the participants to be oriented to the doctrine of the Warrior-Diplomats - the CMO, in order to win the hearts and minds of the people and ultimately peace. Said training was in partnership with the Western Command Public Affairs Office and the Sixth Civil Relations Group.





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



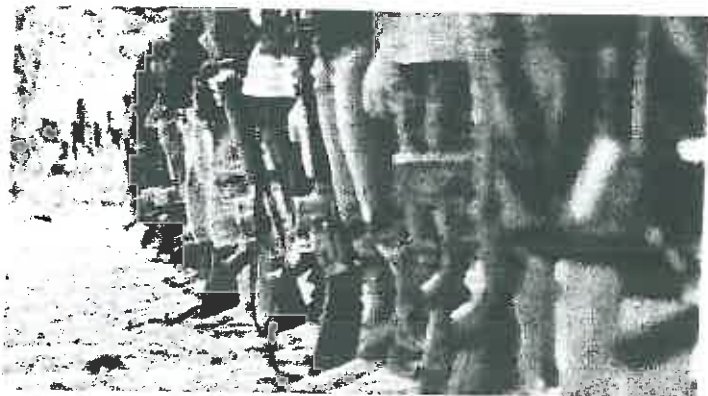
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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

www.interaksyon.com/national

NPA bares video appeals from captive military

By: InterAksyon.com
April 24, 2016 5:08 PM



NPA formation. FILE PHOTO

MANILA - Reports reaching Manila indicated that the New People's Army (NPA) Regional Operations Command-Southern Mindanao has released video messages from captured military personnel who are under the custody of the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion-NPA since April 16, 2016.

"The obstinate and aggressive stance of the AFP's 84th Battalion-10th ID-Eastern Mindanao Command, PNP, and the US-Aquino regime in addressing the capture of Police Chief Inspector Leonardo V. Tarungcoy, PO3 Rosenie L. Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolf Y. Pacete, PO2 Neil C. Arellano, and PO3 Abdul Azis A. Ali Jr. is posing grave and major risks in the lives of the five prisoners of war (POWs)," a statement issued by the NPA read.

In the attached transcript and video messages, the five POWs appeared to be expressing an appeal "for the cessation of the military operations and suspension of police operations" in connection with rescue offensives by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Paquibato district.

The NPA claimed that "the arrest and capture of prisoners is a legitimate act of war and in fact, a humane act when compared to the extreme torture or summary killings by AFP troops upon capturing Red fighters or brutal incarceration under trumped-up charges of political prisoners."

The five police officers, it was added, "are combatants who have fallen into the power of the New People's Army ... The police officers are legitimate targets of war when they acted in counter-insurgency and functioned as an integral part of the war machinery of the AFP."

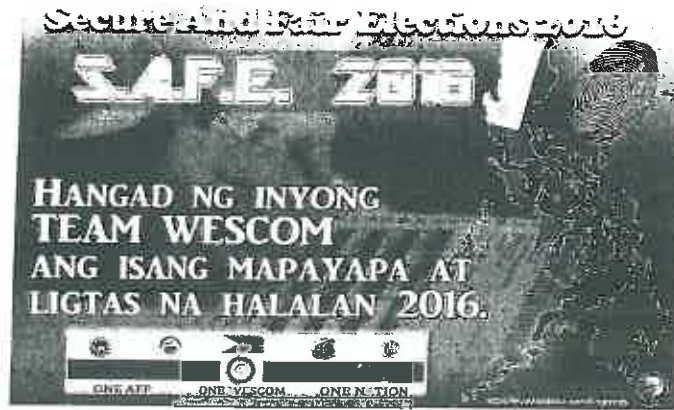
The NPA statement was signed by the unit's alleged spokesman, Rigoberto F. Sanchez.

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

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Bayanihan Leaflet

