

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



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26 April 2016

Tuesday

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

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

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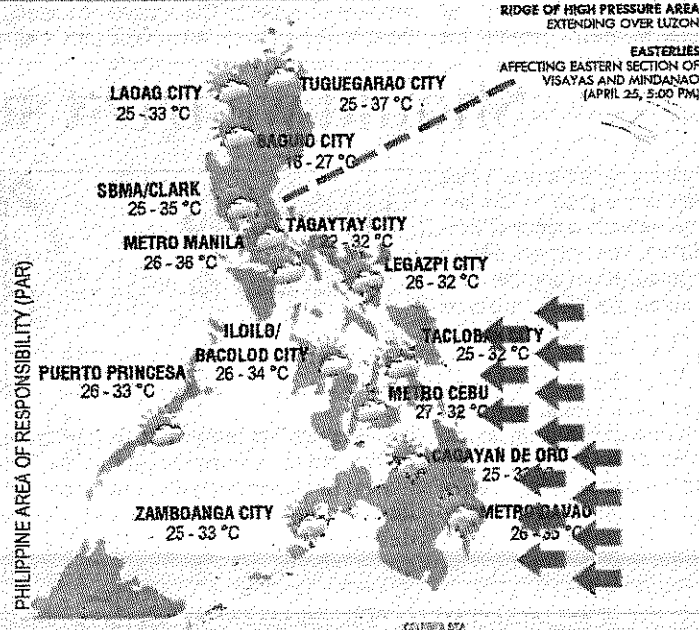


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 26, 2016 | TUESDAY






SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:36 AM	6:12 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:34 PM	8:28 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
APR 22 1:24 PM	APR 30 11:26 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
8:01 PM -0.04 Meter	11:56 AM 0.95 Meter


Partly cloudy skies

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

	APR 27	APR 28	APR 29	APR 30	APR 27	APR 28
METRO MANILA	25-36°C	25-36°C	23-32°C	23-33°C	25-32°C	25-33°C
TUGUEGARAO	24-38°C	24-37°C	26-32°C	25-33°C	25-33°C	25-34°C
LAOAG	25-32°C	24-32°C	26-33°C	25-34°C	25-35°C	25-36°C
BAGUIO	16-27°C	17-27°C	25-34°C	25-35°C	25-34°C	25-34°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-36°C	25-36°C	26-32°C	26-33°C		

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SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

26 April 2016



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Duterte survives rape furor; Leni now No. 1

By HELEN FLORES

Despite reaping widespread condemnation for his comment about the rape and killing of an Australian missionary, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte remained the leading presidential candidate for the May 9 elections, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) pre-election survey.

Support for Duterte rose to 33 percent in the SWS April 18-20 poll from 27 percent in the March 30-April 2 survey.

The poll was taken in the days after Duterte's comment at a campaign rally on April 12 had gone viral online.

It showed administration candidate Leni Robredo leaping past Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. in the race for vice president. But with just two points between them, they remain in a statistical tie for the top spot.

In the presidential race, former frontrunner Sen. Grace Poe remained in second place with 24 percent voter preference – a slight increase from

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Duterte From Page 1

23 percent.

Liberal Party (LP) standard bearer Mar Roxas overtook Vice President Jejomar Binay in third spot with 19 percent from 18 percent in the previous survey.

Binay, standard bearer of the opposition United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), ranked fourth with 14 percent, down six points from 20 percent.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago remained last with only two percent voter preference, slightly lower than the three percent she previously posted.

The SWS survey had a total 1,800 respondents, who are validated voters. It has sampling error margin of plus or minus two percentage points.

Duterte drew criticism over his comments about Australian missionary Jacqueline Hamill, who was gang-raped and killed by prisoners in a prison riot in Davao City in 1989.

Leni surges

Robredo's voter preference rose by seven points to 26 percent, similar to Marcos' 25 percent, which dipped a point from 26 percent in the March

30-April 2 poll.

Former frontrunner Sen. Francis Escudero fell to third place with 18 percent from 21 percent, followed closely by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano with 16 percent from 13 percent.

Senators Antonio Trillanes IV and Gregorio Honasan II remained at the bottom, garnering five percent and two percent, respectively. Both senators had previous ratings of five percent.

Fight not yet over

Roxas is still confident of victory in the upcoming polls, saying many voters are still undecided or may still change their minds.

"*Ang punto ay hindi pa tapos ang laban* (The point is the fight is not over yet)," Roxas told reporters after the third presidential debate in Dagupan, Pangasinan last Sunday.

"This is not about popularity. This is about who should run our country - who should be our president," he added.

Roxas said voters are "still window shopping" and that about 25 percent of them are "still shifting ground."

"I can see that in the end, our countrymen will say that this is not about entertainment, this is not for amusement. This is a serious matter and the next six years would be put to waste if we choose the wrong person," he said.

He is hopeful that the last debate would help improve his numbers.

Akbayan Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez, spokesman for the LP-led *Koalisyon ng Daang Matuwid*, said Roxas continues to enjoy a strong support base. While Roxas has yet to top any presidential survey, Gutierrez said more Filipinos are coming out to support the LP standard bearer.

Relying on core group

The camp of Binay also downplayed the results of the latest SWS presidential survey, saying the Vice President's core supporters will help him win in the May 9 polls.

Binay's campaign spokesman Rico Quicho maintained the true survey will be on Election Day.

"No amount of tweaking of results will refute the strong core support for the Vice President," Quicho said in a state-

ment.

Meanwhile, Binay said he was the only presidential candidate who offered concrete solutions to the people's needs during the last presidential debate.

"Last night, seven very real people asked us - the candidates for president - how we can solve their very real problems. Our responses have shown that my opponents are really out of touch with our people," Binay said.

House-to-house campaign

In a bid to further increase the number of Robredo's supporters, her children and relatives will fan out to do a house-to-house campaign less than two weeks before the May 9 elections.

After attending several caucuses in Kalinga and Ifugao and the presidential debate in Pangasinan Sunday, Robredo attended the assembly of local officials from Region 3 with President Aquino and Roxas in Clark, Pampanga yesterday.

Robredo's eldest daughter Aika is scheduled to attend several multi-sectoral meetings in Metro Manila.

After attending their classes, Tricia - Robredo's second daughter - attended a Mar-Leni event at the Ateneo de Manila University and Jillian, her youngest daughter, represented her mother in a gathering at the Quezon City Circle.

Aika resigned from her work to focus full-time on her mother's campaign while Tricia, who is taking up medicine, and Jillian, in high school, join the campaign trail when their schedules allow.

Bongbong questions survey

Marcos, on the other hand, questioned yesterday the latest SWS survey showing that his rival Robredo has overtaken him in a span of one week.

"We are quite surprised by the new survey because all other surveys show otherwise. I hope this is not a pattern for cheating," he told reporters in Borongan, Eastern Samar.

He also stressed that he is not depending on surveys and will just continue to work hard in informing the people about his platform.

The 100,000-strong Fernan-

do Poe Jr. for President Movement (FPJPM) also expressed fear that the SWS is laying the groundwork for the repeat of the alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential elections.

In a statement, Manny Fortes, national chairman of FPJPM, said the release of the SWS survey on the vice presidential race showing Robredo's rating suddenly jumping six points to gain the lead is reminiscent of the 2004 race between then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and movie icon Fernando Poe Jr.

"If you can still remember, toward the end of the elections, SWS showed a survey that Arroyo was ahead of FPJ. They also had an exit poll showing that Arroyo won over FPJ in the National Capital Region but the election results showed FPJ winning by a wide margin over the re-electionist in the NCR," he said.

He said the survey is part of the cheating scheme because it makes people believe that Robredo is a strong candidate so they can justify her eventual winning in the polls through vote manipulation. -
With Alexis Romero, Paolo Romero, Perseus Echeminada

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NPA rebels killed in ComVal clash

Several communist rebels were killed in an encounter with government troops in Laak, Compostela Valley on Friday, an official said yesterday.

Soldiers belonging to the 60th Infantry Battalion were conducting patrol operations around 6 p.m. when they clashed with an undetermined number of rebels in Sitio Bega, said Capt. Rhuyan Batchar, spokesman for the 10th Infantry Division.

"The troops recovered an IED (improvised explosive device) and three high-powered firearms. The rebels suffered heavy casualties," Batchar said.

In General Santos, six New People's Army rebels surrendered to authorities. The rebels were identified only as alias Jomar, Jerome, Rex, Anghel, Dondon and Daniel.

– Jaime Laude

26 April 2016

The Manila Times

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AFP, PNP intensify security in Aurora

BALER, Aurora: The army and police in this capital town of Aurora have intensified security measures and operations as the election period for this year's local and presidential polls is fast approaching.

Lt. Col. Joey A. Escanillas, commander of the 56th Infantry "Tatag" Battalion, Philippine Army, said that the Philippine Army and Aurora police leadership have vowed for full commitment for the safe and peaceful conduct of the May national and local elections.

Escanillas said that the recently-concluded Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Council (JPSCC) JPSCC meeting resulted in the full commitment of the AFP with the Aurora Provincial Police Office (APPO).

He said the meeting was attended by Provincial Election Supervisor (PES), Lawyer Panfilo C. Doctor Jr. and APPO headed by Police Senior Superintendent Danilo M. Florentino, provincial director, together with

his staff and the chiefs of police of all eight municipalities in this province.

Some of the outputs of the JPSCC were the finalized security deployment of AFP and PNP personnel to the polling centers; the security plan during distribution and retrieval of vote counting machines (VCMs) and other election paraphernalia; and the familiarization of the quick response team (QRT) on the area, including the distance and time of travel from point to point in order to have realistic response during eventualities in connection with the election.

It also came up with the creation of Joint Election Monitoring Action Center (JEMAC) to be manned by AFP-PNP personnel.

He said the AFP and PNP will coordinate with Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) and local government units (LGU). **PNA**

24 April 2016



Pahina. 6

5 Davao cops pinalaya ng NPA, 11 POWs bihag pa rin

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Pinalaya na kahapon ng New People's Army (NPA) ang 5 parak na kanilang dinakip sa Davao City, ngunit hawak pa rin ng rebeldeng grupo ang 11 bihag na ngayon ay prisoners of war sa Mindanao.

Sinabi ni Rubi del Mundo, isa sa mga spokesman ng NPA na pinakawalan nila sina Chief Insp. Leonardo V. Tarungoy, PO3 Rosenie L. Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolf Y. Pacete, PO3 Abdul Azis A. Ali Jr. at PO2 Neil C. Arellano dahil sa apela ng mga humanitarian organizations at pamilya ng mga bihag.

Nadakip ang mga parak nitong Abril 16 sa Barangay Salapawan sa Paqui-

bato district matapos maglutas ang NPA ng atake doon at makubkob ang detachment ng 72nd Infantry Battalion.

Kamakalawa lamang ay naglabas ng video ang NPA na nagpapakita sa mga bihag at nagsilbing proof of life. Natapat rin ang paglaya ng 5 bihag sa ika-43 na anibersaryo ng National Democratic Front, ang political wing ng Communist Party of

the Philippines.

"The entire revolutionary movement in Southern Mindanao and the whole of the Philippines congratulate the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion in their safe custody of the five POWs in the face of the so-called rescue operations of government troops in Paquibato, Davao City," pahayag pa ni Del Mundo sa Abante. (Al Jacinto)

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Army, PNP eye links between soldier's abduction and farmers' protest in Kidapawan

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 25): Army, PNP eye links between soldier's abduction and farmers' protest in Kidapawan

Police and military authorities here suspected that the abduction of a soldier by New Peoples' Army (NPA) in North Cotabato could be a retaliatory attack following the bloody April 1 dispersal of protesting farmers.

This after responding elements of 39th Infantry Battalion and North Cotabato police recovered several sacks with markings "Justice for Darwin Sulang" in a highway in Barangay Malasila, Makilala town where Private First Class Edgardo Hilaga was abducted on April 21.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, speaking for the 6th Infantry Division, said the military remained clueless as to the real motive in the abduction of PFC Hilaga.

"We are coordinating with the local police in determining the motive," Petinglay told reporters.

"In the meantime, our focus is how to rescue Hilaga safely and without bloodshed," she added.

About 30 heavily armed men in fatigue uniform disguised as soldiers implementing election gun ban flagged down Hilaga who was driving a motorbike.

Petinglay said Sulang who was in civilian clothes immediately identified himself as a soldier he noticed green colored Army roadside and signage of the Commission on Elections.

"He was not actually the target, it was just coincidental that Hilaga passed by," she said, adding the captive was a member of 7th Infantry Battalion based in Kabacan, North Cotabato and part of a medical team conducting medical outreach program for indigent residents.

Hilaga was a barber and can do circumcision operation that the Army conduct in its outreach program to poor communities in its area of operation.

Supt. Bernard Tayong, speaking for the North Cotabato police, said responding elements of Makilala PNP found several empty sacks with markings calling for justice to a slain farmer.

Sulang was among the protesters in Kidapawan killed during the dispersal. Police and Army intelligence community found out that the farmers were infiltrated by communist guerrillas.

"We are trying to determine if the abductors participated in the protest march and if the abduction was a form of retaliatory tactic of communist rebels," Tayong told reporters.

Several placards used during the Kidapawan protests were also found at the roadside where the NPAs flagged down passing vehicles.

The abduction of PFC Hilaga came a day after the second Senate Justice committee investigation in Manila of the Kidapawan bloody dispersal.

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himself as the savior of victims during the Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) calamity."

"As the May 9 election draws near, the reactionaries currently bickering to be the next ruling clique should face the issues plaguing the Filipino masses squarely, not least the immediate and just demands of the masses in Mindanao. As for the entire revolutionary movement in Southern Mindanao and the rest of the country, we will continue the national democratic revolution as the only viable alternative to the derelict semi-feudal and semi-colonial system victimizing the Filipino people," he said.

Typhoon Yolanda had killed more than 6,000 people in central Philippines, the most devastated by the calamity that struck the Philippines in 2013.

<http://mindanaoexaminer.com/npa-rebels-free-5-davao-cops-hold-on-to-11-other-pows/>

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Acting AFP chief visits to Zambo City amid offensives against Abus

By Mario J. Mallari

Highlighting the government's serious efforts to defeat the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group, newly installed acting chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) flew to Zamboanga City Saturday, a day after he assumed office, to ensure support to operating troops.

This, as the Abu Sayyaf deadline to behead the four kidnap victims, composed of three foreigners and a Filipino, expired yesterday.

President Aquino ordered Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, the AFP vice chief of staff and named as acting chief only last Friday, and Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Ricardo Marquez to exert all efforts to rescue the four

kidnap victims.

Miranda was in Sulu yesterday apparently to check on the ongoing military operations to rescue Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, Canadians Robert Hall and John Ridsdel and Filipina Marites Flor. The Abu Sayyaf demanded P3 billion ransom.

In a joint briefing by the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) held in Camp Aguinaldo where another security cluster meeting was presided over by President Aquino yesterday, officials said that "maximum efforts" have been ongoing.

"Maximum efforts are being exerted by a joint AFP-PNP task group to effect the rescue of four hostages...the ASG announced the possible beheading of one of its hostages," said Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor, PNP spokesman.

26 April 2016

The
Standard
BEGINNING THE NEWS

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AFP intensifies hunt for bandits

By Florante S. Solmerin, Francisco Tuyay and Sandy Araneta

THE military poured more troops into areas where Abu Sayyaf bandits have been known to hide after the group threatened to behead three foreign hostages and a Filipina if they did not receive P300 million in ransom for each of the foreigners by April 25.

“President Aquino has directed acting Armed Forces of the Philippines chief [Lt. Gen.] Glorioso Miranda and Philippine National Police chief Ricardo Marquez to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations to effect the rescue of the hostages,” Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said in a statement Monday.

In a rare joint press briefing at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, military and police spokesmen said rescue efforts intensified as the Abu Sayyaf deadline expired.

“Maximum efforts are being exerted by a joint AFP-PNP task group to effect the rescue of four hostages who were kidnaped in Samal Island last October 2015 after the ASG announced the possible beheading of one of its hostages. This follows intensified anti-ASG operations in Basilan and Sulu in recent weeks,” PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor told reporters.

Local authorities have been told to cooperate with the joint task force to ensure the safety of civilians in the area, he added.

Mayor said some 400 Abu Sayyaf armed men are involved in the kidnapping of Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, and Hall’s Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor.

Armed men seized the four on Sept. 21, 2015 at the Ocean View Samal Resort on Samal Island.

The kidnappers originally demanded a ransom of P1 billion for each of the three foreigners, but later lowered this to P300 million each.

Four months after the abduction, the kidnappers released a one-and-a-half-minute video showing an Abu Sayyaf bandit brandishing a machete above the necks of Canadians Ridsdel and Hall.

Ridsdel appealed to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Canadian people to meet the kidnappers’ demands to prevent their execution.

At Monday’s briefing, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said he could not divulge details of the ongoing operations.

“We cannot divulge [that] at the moment in the interest of the safety of the victims. The intensified operations are

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ongoing, and we have forces on the ground currently pursuing these bandits," he said.

But a senior military officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said Miranda wanted them "to get more heads of the terrorists" who threatened to behead the hostages.

Western Mindanao Command spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan confirmed that the acting AFP chief was in Sulu.

"They landed in Zamboanga City on Saturday but few to Sulu this morning," Tan said Monday in a phone interview.

The ASG is said to be holding several local and foreign hostages in Sulu as well as Basilan.

Just recently, 18 soldiers were killed in clashes with the Abu Sayyaf in Tipo-Tipo town. Thirty of the bandits also died in the series of encounters, the military said.

Tan said the national leadership would decide on an Indonesian request to stage joint border patrols to stop pirates from seizing more hostages.

Indonesia has said it would set up a crisis center, headed by President Joko Widodo, to handle security situations involving its citizens overseas, following recent abductions of Indonesian sailors in Philippine waters.

The center will include senior ministers and military and police chiefs and will be designed to respond quickly to situations that could have a "strategic impact," Indonesia Chief Security Minister Luhut Pandjaitan said.

Since coming to power in 2014, Widodo has placed maritime security for the Indonesian archipelago high on his government's agenda.

Indonesia has voiced fears that a surge in piracy in the waters between Indonesia and the Philippines could reach Somali levels and has told vessels to avoid danger areas.

Up to 18 Indonesians and Malaysians have been kidnapped in three attacks in recent weeks on tugboats in Philippine waters by groups suspected of ties to the Abu Sayyaf.

Abu Sayyaf, which has posted videos on social media pledging allegiance to Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, has demanded P50 million to free the hostages, but the Indonesian government has said it does not intend to pay the ransom.

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The Manila Times

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Aquino orders rescue of ASG hostages

AMID reports that one of four hostages of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) may be beheaded, President Benigno Aquino 3rd ordered the military and police to rescue the captives, Malacañang said Monday.

Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said the President directed Acting Armed Forces chief Glorioso Miranda and Philippine National Police chief Ricardo Marquez "to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations to effect the rescue of the hostages."

"Maximum efforts are being exerted by a joint AFP-PNP task group to effect the rescue of four hostages who were kidnaped in Samal island last October 2015 after the ASG announced the possible beheading of one of its hostages. This follows intensified anti-ASG operations in Basilan and Sulu in recent weeks," Coloma

told reporters

Local officials, he said, were also instructed to "extend cooperation to the joint task group and ensure the safety of citizens in the affected communities."

Two Canadians, a Norwegian and a Filipina were abducted by the rebel group seven months ago from a popular resort on Samal Island.

Canadians John Risdell and Robert Hall, Filipina Tess Flor, 48, and Kjartan Sekkingstad, 56, a Norwegian resort manager, were seized in a sea-borne raid on the Holiday Oceanview Marina on the island.

The ASG, which pledged allegiance the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil), had set a deadline for the payment of ransom for the Westerners.

The group also snatched 18 Indonesian and Malaysian sailors on coal tugboats last month.

JOEL M. SYEGCO

26 April 2016

Malaya
The National Newsmagazine

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Abu Sayyaf beheads hostage, says source

BY VICTOR REYES

ONE of three foreigners kidnapped in Samal Island in Davao del Norte last year was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf yesterday afternoon in Sulu, military sources said.

The beheading reportedly took place in barangay Lower Sinumaan in Patikul town at around 3:45 p.m. and was led by one Ben Tatos Sawadjaan. The group reportedly fled to Talipao after the beheading.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said the information was still being verified.

But one of the sources, citing

intelligence information, said the Abu Sayyaf decided to behead the victim after a 3 p.m. meeting due to non-delivery of ransom.

Yesterday was the new deadline set by the Abu Sayyaf for the payment of ransom. The original was on April 8. On April 15, the Abu Sayyaf released a video saying P300 million has to be paid for each of the four hostages by April 25. The original ransom demand was P1 billion each.

In the video, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad said he will be beheaded 3 p.m. if the ransom demand is not met.

Sekkingstad, Canadians John

Ridsdel and Robert Hall, and Filipino Marites Flor were seized from the posh Oceanview Resort in Samal Island last September 21 and later brought to Sulu.

Earlier yesterday, the military said government forces stepped up operations to secure the freedom of hostages.

A joint military and police statement said President Aquino has given directives to acting AFP chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda and PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez "to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations to effect the rescue of the hostages."

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AFP doing best to rescue 4 Samal hostages

Combined teams of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) are exerting maximum effort to rescue the four hostages kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in a resort on Samal Island off Davao last September, Malacañang said yesterday.

"President Aquino has directed acting AFP chief (Lt. Gen.) Glorioso Miranda and PNP chief (Director General) Ricardo Marquez to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations to effect the rescue of the hostages," Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said, quoting the joint AFP-PNP task group ordered to rescue the four hostages comprised of a Filipina, two Canadians and a Norwegian, after the Abu

By AUREA CALICA

Sayyaf announced the possible beheading of one of the captives.

Coloma said this followed intensified operations against the bandits launched recently in Basilan and Sulu.

An estimated 400 Abu Sayyaf and supporters are reportedly involved in the kidnapping, Coloma said.

"Local authorities are instructed to extend cooperation to the joint task group and ensure the safety of citizens in the affected communities," Coloma said.

The Abu Sayyaf has issued what it claims to be an ultimatum regarding the four hostages taken from Samal Island as the ransom demand has been lowered.

In a video footage, the kidnappers set April 25 as the new deadline

to pay the ransom for Canadians John Ridsdel, Robert Hall and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad.

The Abu Sayyaf demanded P300 million for each hostage, down from P1 billion.

The gunmen, however, did not elaborate on the fourth hostage, a Filipina identified as Maritess Flor.

"Notice to the family, to the Canadian government and Philippine government, now the deadline of warning was over last April 8. So now this is really an ultimatum, once you don't meet the demand, we will certainly behead one among these four on April 27 at exactly 3 p.m.," one of the kidnappers said in the video.

All three foreigners, surrounded by 10 of their kidnappers, appealed for the payment of the P300 million for each of them.

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PNoy orders rescue of 4 Samal Abu hostages

PRESIDENT Benigno Aquino III has ordered the rescue of two Canadians and two others kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf Group in Samal Island last year.

President Aquino has directed Acting AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) chief Glorioso Miranda and PNP (Phil-

ippine National Police) chief Ricardo Marquez to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations to effect the rescue of the hostages," Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekking-

stad and Hall's Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor, were kidnapped by the bandits in September last year.

The ASG earlier asked for a P4 billion in ransom for the release of the four hostages.

The bandits threatened to behead one of the hostages following military

operations against them in Basilan and Sulu.

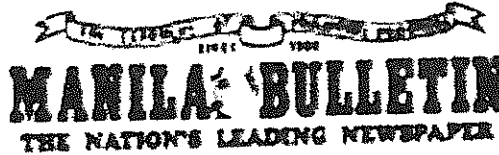
Reports said that one of the Abu hostages will be killed at 3 p.m. yesterday. There is no word yet on whether this has happened.

Coloma said maximum efforts are being exerted by the joint task group.

He said local government units were also asked to coordinate with the joint task group to ensure the safety of citizens in the affected communities.

The Canadians were earlier seen in a video asking the Canadian government to pay for their ransom. **Efren Montano**

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• NOLCOM gives aid to fisherfolk

TARLAC CITY, Tarlac — The military's Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) and its partner non-governmental organizations recently provided aid to fisherfolk in Zambales often harassed and unable to fish in the West Philippine Sea due to the ongoing territorial dispute with China. "The aid includes rings, life vests, search lights (water proof and floats), Philippine Flag for the fishing boats, and first aid which are essential in their daily labor in the sea," the NOLCOM said. Some 470 in-school and out-of-school youngsters were also given gifts, NOLCOM added. (Mar T. Supnad)

26 April 2016



Pahina. 6

3 nadale sa encounter

Isa ang nasawi habang sugatan ang dalawang iba pa nang magresponde ang tropa ng mga sundalo sa insidente ng pamamaryl na humantong sa engkwentro sa El Salvador, Lanao del Norte.

Nagtamo ng dalawang tama ng punglo sa dibdib at batok sanhi ng agarang karnatayan ng biktimgang si Layok Macasamat, sinasabing supporter ng isa sa mga malaking politiko sa nasabing lugar. Suga-

tan naman ang dalawang biktimgang sina Hadja Salma Umpa Bangcola at Saidan Masaron.

Ayon kay Lanao del Norte provincial police director, Sr. Supt. Madiid Paitao, nakatanggap siya ng tawag na may insidente ng pamamaryl sa nasabing lugar na agad namang nirespondehan ng mga pulis at militar pero bago pa man ay agad na silang pinaputukan ng grupo na lulan ng motorsiklo

dahilan ng simula ng palitan ng putok.

Bagamat hindi pa kumpirmado, malaki ang paniniwala ng militar at ng pulisya na politically motivated ang pagkakabari ki-na Bangcola at Masayron.

Narekober sa crime scene ang mahigit 70 empty shells ng M16 armalite rifles. Patuloy pa rin naman ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon ng pulisya sa nasabing insidente. (Betchai Julian)

26 April 2016



Pahina. 3

Pilipinas kasama sa anti-terror drill sa ASEAN

Sa darating na Mayo 1 ay sisimulan na ang pagpupulong sa Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting sa Singapore kaugnay ng gaganaping security at counter-terrorism drill na lalahukan ng Pilipinas.

Sinabi ni Lt. Commander Marineth Domingo, tagapagsalita ng Philippine Navy (PN), sila ang kakatawan sa maritime security drills habang ang Army naman ay lalahok sa counter-terrorism, land storming at ground operations na

magtatapos sa Mayo 12.

Kabilang din sa lalahok sa drill ang BRP Gregorio Del Pilar at iba pang sasakyang pandagat ng ibang bansang kasapi ng Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Sinabi ni Domingo, sa Mayo 10 hanggang 17 naman ay lalahok din ang BRP Gregorio Del Pilar sa isa pang maritime training activity.

“Ang nasabing event ay bahagi ng pagpapalakas ng puwersa ng PN kontra terorismo,” wika ni Domingo. (Betchai Julian)

26 April 2016

Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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China to build airstrip on Panatag Shoal

BY VICTOR REYES

CHINA will reportedly start land reclamation and put up an airstrip at the Scarborough or Panatag Shoal off Zambales within the year, four years after it gained control of the fishing ground after a standoff.

Quoting a source close to the Chinese Navy, the South China Morning Post said the airstrip will extend the reach of its air force in the contested waters.

China has conducted land reclamations in several reefs in the South China Sea and has established new air force and naval facilities, threatening freedom of navigation in the disputed area.

"Beijing will take action to carry out land reclamation at Huangyan Island within this year...China should regain the initiative to do so because Washington is trying to contain Beijing by establishing a permanent military presence in the region," the source said.

The source was referring to the joint military patrols of the US and the Philippines in the disputed area. Also, the Americans will be based inside five Philippine military installations as part of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

Scarborough Shoal used to be an impact area of bombing run exercises when the Americans still have air force and naval bases

in the country. The bases were closed in 1992, a year after the Senate voted to reject the extension of a base treaty with the US.

The source said the upcoming decision of the United Nations on the Philippines' complaint against China's nine-dash line claim in the South China Sea would accelerate the planned reclamation.

The South China Morning Post also quoted Macau-based military expert Antony Wong Dong as saying that "if China finishes land reclamation at Scarborough Shoal, it can install radar and other facilities for 24-hour monitoring of the US Basa air force base on Pampanga."

Defense and military officials declined to comment.

Last month, US naval operations chief Adm. John Richardson said some Chinese surface ship have been spotted doing survey-type activities at Scarborough Shoal, which he said could be a precursor to land reclamation.

Responding to Richardson's remarks, a Philippine military official said: "Anything is possible actually. The issue there is when are they going to do it. It's a question of when."

However, the official said there are still no indications that the Chinese are about to start the land reclamation, noting that they have not seen any

presence of dredging equipment at the shoal.

What they've been monitoring, he said, was the usual presence of about two or three Chinese coast guard vessels. "That's their usual presence since 2012 when they gained de facto control of the shoal," he said.

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesman Charles Jose said government will look into the reported construction of an outpost on Scarborough Shoal.

"We have to first study this report carefully," Jose said.

In Tokyo, Reuters reported that Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, speaking ahead of a visit to Beijing, said on Monday that China was making the world "worried" with its military buildup and maritime expansion in the East and South China Seas.

China and Japan dispute sovereignty over a group of uninhabited East China Sea islets.

"Candidly speaking, a rapid and opaque increase in (China's) military spending and unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East and South China Seas under the aim of building a strong maritime state are having not only people in Japan, but countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the international community worried greatly," Kishida said in a speech to business leaders. – *With Ashzel Hachero and Reuters*

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SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

Crafting a vision for the AFP of the future

By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO

A transformation journey begins with an objective assessment of where the organization is starting from. While such an assessment should not be blind to the key challenges facing the organization and of the heavy baggage constraining it from moving forward at a faster pace, still it should focus on the positive core: what really are its strengths in pursuing the core purpose it is mandated to serve, and in carrying out the mission it has been entrusted with.

Any organization — the AFP included — faces at any given time enormous challenges; and it may be weighed down by some rather heavy baggage. At the start of the transformation journey, it is essential to be more than fully aware of all this. But once this has been properly taken into account, the attention shifts towards the future, i.e. in this case, the future AFP that many of the better minds and loftier hearts within the AFP would dream it of becoming sometime in the not too distant future. For the AFP to begin on a transformation journey, the better spirits within the organization — not surprisingly, there are many of them within the AFP — had to respond to the challenge of dreaming about the AFP they want to build within a decade or two, or at least within a generation.

Drawing from the experience of two of its major services — the Army

and the Navy, which had already gone ahead with a transformation program of their own — the AFP convened a good selection of officers from all levels of the AFP organization. Added to this selection were several non-commissioned personnel, a few civilian employees, and a good sample of ordinary citizens from the civilian sector, with a deep interest in the further strengthening and development of the AFP. During a series of open, genuinely participatory working sessions, this group was asked to propose and articulate a “vision” of what the AFP must become by 2028. The choice of 2028 was simple: it was the end-year for the Army transformation road map. Moreover, this was a period long enough (some 16 years up the road from 2012, when the working sessions were being held for the AFP) to allow for some stretch goals to be attained. Indeed, it was a long enough period, not tied to the Philippine political cycle, for those with a deep interest in the future of the AFP to allow their mind and spirit to soar to loftier — although reachable — heights.

After long and intense discussions, the group invited to the initial working sessions agreed on this formulation of their dream for the AFP of the future: “A world-class AFP, source of national pride, by 2028.”

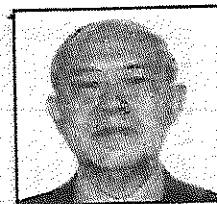
• The stress on “world-class” presents key elements of the desired future for the AFP: there has to be a high standard of “professionalism” at all levels of the organization; “the

essential elements of “good governance” should have been installed and institutionalized, and its principles and best practices observed; moreover, AFP personnel, whatever their rank, have to be “competent”, “non-partisan”, and observant of “international humanitarian law” (e.g., respectful of human rights and the personal dignity of any individual).

• The inclusion of “source of National Pride” sends a clear signal about the type of transformation of the AFP: from being feared by the people previously, to one that the Filipino people would be proud of. It is an organization that sooner rather than later the people would come around to trusting and even admiring, because of its many qualities in “protecting the people” and serving them in their manifold needs.

The group very naturally wanted to anchor this “vision” for the AFP of the future on the core values of “integrity, service, and patriotism” and on the constitutionally mandated core purpose of the AFP, i.e. its mission, which is to “protect the people and secure the sovereignty and integrity of the national territory.”

With the proposed “vision” statement, anchored on core values and the mission of the AFP, the group ended up with having crafted the governance charter for the AFP. This went through the review and approval process, and it finally was adopted as the basic reference for everything else that will need to get done under the AFP transformation program.



ONLINE NEWS

26 APRIL 2016

Soldier's death mourned

From the Mindanao Times (Apr 25): Soldier's death mourned

THE EASTERN Mindanao Command is mourning the death of Maj. Hector Dongail who was previously reported missing during a proficiency dive at Angels Cove, Talikud Island in Samal last April 16.

Maj. Ezra Balagtey, spokesperson of EastMinCom, said the cadaver was retrieved by technical divers on Saturday noon after almost a week of search.

"On behalf of the officers, men and employees together with the family, we thank everyone for your support and prayers," Balagtey said.

The cadaver was brought to Naval Felix Station in Camp Panacan.

Dongail hailed from Besao Mountain Province who was assigned to EastMinCom headquarters.

According to the report, the office received report about one soldier missing out of the 10 who participated in the proficiency diver's training at 8:30 a.m. on April 16.

A team from Philippine Coast Guard and Naval Special Operations Unit was deployed to find the soldier. The Philippine Air Force also sent air assets to help in the search along the shorelines of Talikud and Davao del Sur area.

The incident management team was activated to oversee the search for the missing officer.

The team was headed by Brig. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista, deputy of EastMinCom with search and rescue teams from Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao, Tactical Operations Group XI of Philippine Airforce, Philippine Coast Guard and Task force Davao.

<http://mindanaotimes.net/soldiers-death-mourned/>

JOINT AFP-PNP STATEMENT II Sustained Operations Vs ASG

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Joint Armed Forces of the Philippines – Philippine National Police Task Group (AFP-PNP TG) is exerting maximum efforts for the rescue of four (4) hostages kidnapped from the Island Garden of Samal last October 2015.

According to AFP Spokesperson BGen Restituto Padilla, this after the bandit group Abu Sayyaf threatened to behead one of the four hostages if their demands are not met. This follows intensified anti-ASG operations in Basilan and Sulu in recent weeks where an estimated 400 bandits and their supporters are reportedly involved.

President Benigno S. Aquino III has directed acting AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Glorioso Miranda and PNP Chief Director General Ricardo Marquez to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations for the successful rescue of the hostages.

The local authorities were also instructed to extend cooperation to the joint task group and ensure the safety of citizens in the affected communities.

BGen Padilla added that the operations against the ASG in the area is not new and have been ongoing since December 2015 and it is part and partial of a continuing operations both military and law enforcement, and it was recently intensified because of recent bandit activities.

Padilla did not expound on the extent of the operation as not to hamper any rescue attempts and put the hostage's, military or police lives in danger.

He reiterated that they have not received any news about the condition of the hostages except that they are safe despite their long captivity.

Padilla also made it clear that the government has not launched any backdoor negotiations for the release of the victims and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has continuously kept in touch with their counterparts through the various foreign embassies to assure them that the government is doing all its best for the hostages safe release. **AES / MCAG**

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

BRP GREGORIO DEL PILAR II PN will participate in counter terrorism exercise in Brunei and Singapore

Manila –The Philippine Navy will have a send off ceremony for BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (PF15) on April 27, Wednesday for her participation to the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting-Plus Maritime Security & Counter Terrorism (ADMM-PLUS MS & CT) Exercise and Maritime Training Activity (MTA) Seagull.

ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting-Plus Maritime Security & Counter Terrorism (ADMM-PLUS MS & CT) Exercise 2016" DETAILS:

The Philippine Navy will participate in ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting-Plus Maritime Security & Counter Terrorism Exercise 2016 to be held from 01 to 12 May 2016 in Brunei and Singapore.

This 11-days multi-lateral exercise will be focusing on maritime security and counter-terrorism. The ADMM-PLUS MS & CT will conduct its first Field Training Exercise (FTX) which is highlighted by the rising tide of terrorism threatening the southeast region. It will represent another significant moment whereby participation and commitment of all 18 countries for practical cooperation which the two major events, the maritime security to be represented by Philippine Navy, will participate in the sea-storming or surface operations particularly the VBSS and the counter terrorism to be represented by Philippine Army will participate in land-storming or ground operations.

PN participants include BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (PF15) with PNH 431, Medical Team/Chaplain and Naval Special Operations Team on board.

This exercise will be participated by (18) countries, (10) regular members namely: Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and (8) Plus countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russian Federation and the United States.

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

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

NPA rebels free 5 Davao cops, hold on to 11 other POWs

From the Mindanao Examiner (Apr 25): NPA rebels free 5 Davao cops, hold on to 11 other POWs

The New People's Army on Monday released five policemen who were captured more than a week ago during a simultaneous raid in Davao City in southern Philippines, a rebel spokesman said.

Rubi del Mundo said the release of Chief Inspector Leonardo V. Tarungoy, PO3 Rosenie L. Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolf Y. Pacete, PO3 Abdul Azis A. Ali Jr. and PO2 Neil C. Arellano was largely due to "humanitarian consideration to the appeals of peace-loving organizations acting on behalf of the families and relatives of the prisoners of war."

They were captured on April 16 in the village of Salapawan in Davao City's Paquibato district where rebels attacked and overran an army post manned by 72nd Infantry Battalion.

The rebels earlier released videos of the prisoners and it showed the policemen appealing to the government to halt the military shelling and suspension of police operations in Davao for fear they would be killed in the continuing assault.

The safe release of the prisoners also coincided with the 43rd anniversary of the National Democratic Front, the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The rebels have been fighting for decades now in effort to put up a separate communist state in the country.

"The entire revolutionary movement in Southern Mindanao and the whole of the Philippines congratulate the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion in their safe custody of the five POWs in the face of the so-called rescue operations of government troops in Paquibato, Davao City," Del Mundo said in a statement sent to the regional newspaper Mindanao Examiner.

He said rebel forces are still holding 11 prisoners of war in southern Philippines.

Del Mundo also appealed to the public to support mass protests being held by hungry farmers, whose rice field and plantations were devastated by severe drought caused by the El Nino weather phenomena. He encouraged other victims of calamities who were neglected by the Aquino government to join the protests, not only in Mindanao, but elsewhere in the country to dramatize their disgust and demand for justice.

"The NDFP in Southern Mindanao encourages the masses of peasants and Lumads in the countryside to participate in the wave of protests currently proliferating in all parts of the country. The masses who are presently in barricades, in pickets or in camp-ins, vow to waver not an inch in demanding for justice against the US-Aquino III regime's fascist crimes in the Kidapawan massacre and other areas."

"These militant actions are not only necessary, but also just in exposing the rottenness of the ruling reactionary regime while generating popular support from Filipinos here and abroad," he said.

Del Mundo also criticized presidential candidate Mar Roxas, of the ruling Liberal Party, and urged voters to reject the former Interior secretary's political ambition "who shamefacedly distorts history by projecting

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

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

Military, police intensifying efforts to free Samal Island hostages

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 25): Military, police intensifying efforts to free Samal Island hostages

Military and police operatives are now intensifying their efforts to rescue the four hostages who were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits in the Island Garden City of Samal, Davao Del Norte last September 21.

This was stressed in a joint statement delivered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) Monday.

"Maximum efforts are being exerted by a joint AFP-PNP task group to effect the rescue of four hostages who were kidnapped in Samal Island last (September) 2015 after the ASG announced the possible beheading of one of its hostages. This follows intensified anti-ASG operations in Basilan and Sulu in recent weeks," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor said.

An estimated 400 Abu Sayyaf members and supporters are reportedly involved in the abduction.

President Benigno S. Aquino III has directed acting AFP chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda and PNP head Director General Ricardo Marquez to conduct appropriate military and law enforcement operations to effect the rescue of the hostages.

"The local authorities are instructed to extend cooperation to the joint task group and ensure the safety of citizens in the affected communities," Mayor said.

ASG bandits kidnapped Canadians John Ridsel, Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Mariter Flor, Hall's girlfriend, on the evening of Sept. 21 at the Holiday Oceanview Resort.

The captives were reportedly taken to ASG enclaves in Sulu.

The brigands are demanding a Php1-billion from each of the three foreign captives and threatening to kill them if the ransom is not paid.

The ASG earlier set an April 8 deadline for the ransom but this was moved to April 25.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla declined to give details on the ongoing operations to safeguard the lives of the hostages and operating troops.

However, information on the ground indicate that the four hostages are still in good condition as of this posting.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=879405>

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

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

No word from the NPA about the abduction.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=879275>

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

Military: No info yet on alleged execution of an Abu Sayyaf captive

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated April 25, 2016 - 7:56pm

JOLO, SULU — A military official could not confirm a report on the alleged execution of one of the captives of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

The report came as the terror group's ultimatum, demanding ransom for each captive, lapsed on Monday.

A security source here disclosed information about the execution filtered from the ground as troops continued to inch closer to the ASG camp for the rescue of the captives.

The execution was allegedly conducted in the mountains of Patikul town. There were no immediate details on who among the hostages was harmed by the Abu Sayyaf.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), however, said they have no information yet on the fate of the hostages and assured the public that they are intensifying military operations.

The ASG gave until 3 p.m. on Monday for the families of the four hostages taken from a Samal Island resort off Davao province to comply with the P300 million ransom for each of the captives.

The captives were Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, and Filipino woman Marites Flor.

Two MG-520 attack helicopters were hovering until late in the afternoon over the areas of Patikul to serve as air support for the troops on the ground.

Acting Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda arrived here Monday morning to assess the ongoing military operation.

He left later in the afternoon on board an Air Force C-295 transport plane without information on the fate of the victims.

"The leadership is trying to make a significant move," Tan said.

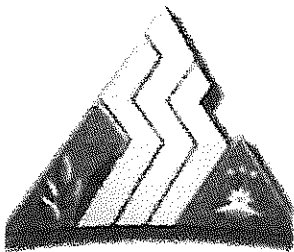
The military official appealed for understanding for the troops to do its job and continue on with its projected focused military operation in the area.

"But as to the kidnap victims we do not have details yet as what we can share yet. But it will come in the most opportune time," Tan said.

Tan said they are no yet at liberty to discuss details about the ongoing operations but assured their main focus is to recover the kidnap victims.

RSBS ABOLITION II Soldiers Contribution to be Refunded with Interest

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – *“Our soldiers are assured that their contributions will be refunded together with the accrued interest upon their retirement or separation from the service.”*



This was the statement made by Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) President and Chief Executive Officer Norman C. Legaspi during his studio visit at DWDD – Katropa Radio, in the program “Inyong Lingkod AFP” hosted by Alvin Santiago.

Legaspi stressed that there is no need for their soldier members to panic because they will be able to refund their contributions with its accrued interest as soon as they retire or separate from military service, since based on book value they have almost Php 17 billion worth of assets and they will only be returning around Php 15 billion pesos to its members, so they are guaranteed to be getting what is due them and whatever is left will be turned-over to the national government.

Last April 8, 2016, the Office of the President issued Memorandum Order 90 directing the abolition of the AFP RSBS, in relation to Executive Order 590 and 590A dated December 15, 2006 and January 31, 2007, respectively, which will pave the way for the AFPRSBS to wind down its operations in an efficient and orderly manner, and to refund all of its members’ contributions and accrued interests as they fall due.

The said memorandum order directed the AFPBSPS to stop its collection of soldiers’ contributions, and the accrual of interests on members’ contributions effective April 8, 2016. AFPRSBS has already stopped collecting last March 2016.

Based on Presidential Decree 361, the law which created AFPRSBS, members of the AFP will contribute 5% of their monthly base pay to AFPBSPS. The said contribution will then be refunded to them when they retire or separate from service. Their contributions will earn 6% interest per annum.

RSBS will gradually minimize their manpower until they have attended to the remaining corporate affairs of the organization or until its full liquidation of its assets has been accomplished, or turned-over to a new entity.

At least 103 employees of AFPRSBS, both casual and contractual, will be affected by the said abolition. But they will be absorbed by other government entities since they are all civil service eligible, and will be given priority in hiring when a new and better retirement and benefit system is established.

Lastly, the RSBS management will be visiting various camp and bases in the near future to further explain the matter and assist their soldier members. **AES / MCAG**