



# **ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

**29 April 2016**

**Friday**

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

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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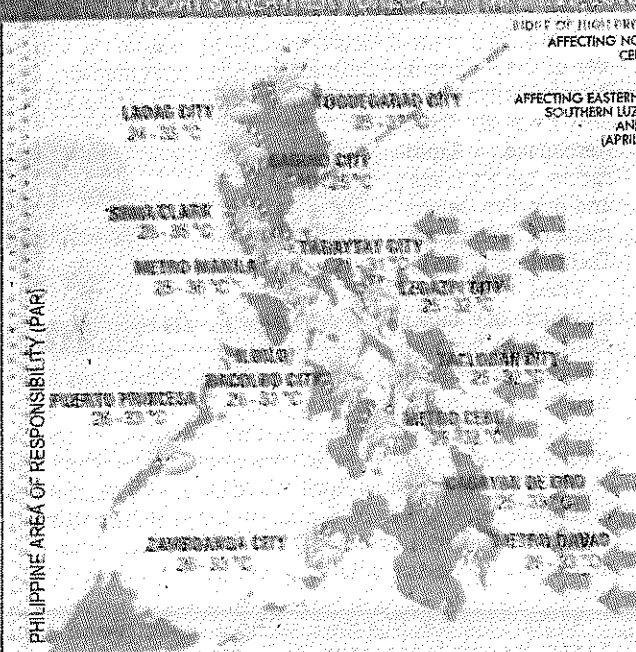


www.panahon.tv

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**TODAY'S WEATHER (15°C to 35°C) WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016**



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

**BORDER OF HIGH-PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON**

**EAST-TRAILING AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO (APRIL 28, 5:00 PM)**

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:34 AM	6:13 PM

MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:14 PM	11:00 AM

**FULL MOON** APR 26 12:29 PM

**LAST QUARTER** APR 30 11:29 AM

LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
10:51 PM	1:41 PM
4:12 AM	6:34 AM

**WAVE A SOUTH**

**WIND** 10-15 KPH

**WAVE** 0.5-1 METER

**Cloudy with rain**


**Partly cloudy with rain**

**Partly cloudy with rain**

**Cloudy with rain**

CITY	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
METRO MANILA	24-31°C	Partly cloudy with rain
TAGAYTAY	24-31°C	Partly cloudy with rain
TACLOBAN	26-33°C	Partly cloudy with rain
QUEZON	26-33°C	Partly cloudy with rain
LEGASPI	26-33°C	Partly cloudy with rain
CAGAYAN DE ORO	26-33°C	Partly cloudy with rain
LAOAG	26-34°C	Partly cloudy with rain
PUERTO PRINCESA	26-34°C	Partly cloudy with rain
METRO DAVAO	26-32°C	Partly cloudy with rain
BACOLOD	26-32°C	Partly cloudy with rain
JAMBOANGA	26-33°C	Partly cloudy with rain
SMIT CLARK	26-35°C	Partly cloudy with rain
METRO CEBU	26-33°C	Partly cloudy with rain

Watch PANAHON TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4)



**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

29 April 2016

# INQUIRER

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## Kidnap plan on Kris, Pacquiao, part of Metro terror plot—PNP

By Julie M. Aurelio  
and Marinel Cruz

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) yesterday said joint military and police operations have led to the arrest of suspects in planned bombing operations in Metro Manila and an alleged plot to kidnap television host Kris Aquino and boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez said a joint intelligence center of the PNP and the military provided the information on the plan to abduct the President's sister and the Sarangani lawmaker.

President Aquino earlier bared an Abu Sayyaf plot to kidnap his sister or Pacquiao to use them as a bargaining chip for the government to release their arrested cohorts.

The President released the statement after the severed head of Canadian John Ridsdel was dumped on Monday on Jolo island, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf, whose leaders have declared allegiance to the Islamic State group, are believed to be holding more than 20 other foreigners captive.

The President also said the militants had threatened to kill him, while stating the threats had been extinguished.

"They have no forces here yet but we were able to unravel the plot and arrest some persons," Marquez told reporters in Camp Crame on Thursday.

He said the Abu Sayyaf's mission is to abduct people—in this case well-known personalities—and demand ransom.

"Like our President said, we can now sleep in peace," Marquez said, adding that the security sector "will leave no stone unturned" in pursuing the terrorist group.

He said there is no need to provide



KRIS AQUINO

additional security for the President's sister, who is being secured by the Presidential Security Group.

Pacquiao, on the other hand, has his own security personnel.

Kris yesterday confirmed the alleged abduction plot by the bandit group and cited this as the reason for her decision not to renew her contract with broadcast network ABS-CBN.

"Honest truth, I was made aware of this plot late February, early March. My sisters tried to shield me because they didn't want me to have more fear than necessary. If you recall, my sons and I left in March to go abroad for three weeks. The health reasons I cited weren't fabricated because the stress coming from the threat had caused my BP [blood pressure] to constantly elevate to higher than 150/110," she said.

"I didn't renew with ABS CBN because of this threat. That was a painful decision, but I needed to make that judgment call so as not to expose others to harm," she said.

Pacquiao, for his part, expressed shock at President Aquino's claim that

Islamic militants planned to kidnap him, and said the alleged plot should not have been made public.

"I was alarmed when he announced... the Abu Sayyaf wanted to kidnap me. I'm surprised because all Filipinos are my friends. I love them, especially the Muslims," Pacquiao said at his residence in Manila.

He said he had responded to the President's statement by taking unspecified security measures to secure his wife and five children, who are in his hometown of General Santos.

"We asked for security, protection for my kids, my family to make sure they are safe, especially as I'm not there right now," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao said he was bewildered by Aquino's statement, having not been informed personally before the President went public with the alleged plot.

"If it came from an intelligence report, it should have been kept secret and need not be announced. And why just now? We have to study this," said Pacquiao.

He said he was surprised that Islamic militants would target him, citing his good relations with Muslims in the southern Philippines.

"In fact, we support them. We give them livelihood so I don't know where that came from," he said.

Pacquiao, an evangelical Christian, said he was not worried about his own safety and that he would continue hitting the campaign trail where huge crowds flock to him in chaotic scenes.

"I live my life like every day is the last so I have no fear. God is with me," he said.

Malacañang spokespersons were not immediately available to comment on Pacquiao's statements. **With a report from AFP**



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Page: 1

# 6 Maguindanao schools bombed

*Comelec loses polling centers in simultaneous attacks*

By JOHN UNSON

**MAGUINDANAO** – Panicked residents fled as grenades and anti-tank rockets were fired at six school buildings to be used as polling precincts in near-simultaneous attacks before dawn Wednesday.

The assailants shot up the school buildings with M-16 rifles as they fled, barangay officials told journalists. No injuries were reported.

As of last night, police had no clues on the identities of the perpetrators who appeared to have used shoulder-fired 40-millimeter grenade projectiles and anti-tank rockets in the attacks in different barangays in Sultan Mastura town here, said municipal police chief Senior Insp. Wendylyn Banico.

No group has come forward to claim responsibility for the attacks.

Reacting to the incident, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said voters assigned at the affected schools would likely be made to vote at other schools or polling precincts.

Damaged in the attacks were classrooms at the Tapa-yan Central School, Dagurungan Elementary School, Tuka

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## 6 Maguindanao From Page 1

Elementary School, Darping Elementary School, Tareken Primary School and Simuay Seashore Elementary School.

Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) ordered the region's education secretary John Magno to send teams to the affected schools to determine what would be needed to hasten the repair of the damaged classrooms.

Hataman said he has also ordered ARMM police director Chief Supt. Ronald Estilles to assign intelligence agents to help the Sultan Mastura

municipal police investigate the incident.

Estilles said Sultan Mastura police and the 37th Infantry Battalion proceeded at once to the schools after the attacks.

Based on initial investigation, unidentified men strafed the concrete wall of the computer building of the Tapayan Elementary School. An explosion in Tuka Elementary School, Barangay Tuka caused damage to two doors of classrooms, roof, ceiling and glass windows. A blast near one of the doors left a hole 0.47 meter wide and 0.20

meter deep.

"Likewise, the explosion in Dagurungan Elementary School, Barangay Dagurungan resulted in damage to two doors of the classrooms, roof, ceiling and glass windows with a crater .20 meter in diameter and .09 meter depth," he added.

In Darping Elementary School in Barangay Macabiso, Estilles said the explosion was caused by a grenade, a conclusion based on the recovery at the site of a safety lever.

Investigators said the grenade may have been intended to explode inside a classroom but it landed on the playground, causing little

damage.

### Assessing situation

Comelec Commissioner Sheriff Abas said field officers of the poll body would inspect the areas that came under attack to assess the situation before making final recommendations.

Abas said any decision to put the areas under Comelec control would be based on whatever is recommended by the field officers.

He stressed one of the options is to transfer the voters assigned at the affected schools to other schools so they can vote on May 9.

"If the schools can no longer

be used because they have been razed by fire, or in this case bombed, the en banc will do the transfer," he added.

If teachers refuse to serve in the areas during the elections, the Comelec may have to require members of the Philippine National Police to serve as Board of Elections Inspectors.

"In ARMM, sometimes on the day of the elections there are teachers who will suddenly not show up. There is a process that the Comelec en banc observes in dealing with a situation like this," he maintained.

Sens. Vicente Sotto III and Gregorio Honasan, mean-

while, expressed concern over the attacks, which came barely 10 days before the national elections.

"This is definitely an act of terrorism," Sotto said, as he called on Gov. Toto Mangu-datu to look deeper into the incident.

"This is obviously an act of terrorism for you to target schools. Somehow related to the forthcoming elections because they are voting precincts," Sotto said.

Honasan said the incident would have a chilling effect on teachers assigned to poll duties on May 9. - With Sheila Crisostomo, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Christina Mendez

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## 30 families flee clan war in Maguindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY – At least 30 Maguindanaon families sought refuge in their relatives' houses in nearby barangay in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, despite assurance that clashes between two warring political clans had already stopped, reports said.

Those who decided to stay put are neighbors of slain rebel commander Reniedo Guialil of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Reports have circulated among evacuees that Guialil's immediate family and relatives are planning retaliatory attacks against those responsible for his death.

Senior Inspector Blayn Lumase, chief of Pagalungan police, identified a certain Jojo Matalam, also a rebel commander, as behind Guialil's murder.

"Dati'ng magkasama sa grupo sina Jojo Matalam at Reniedo Guialil. Para kasing tinik sa lalamunan ng grupo si Guialil. Sabi, hindi na makontrol ng grupo si Guialil," said Lumase.

Other reports were saying that Matalam executed Guialil because of the latter's connection with the Mamasabulod family, whose members are running for different elective posts in Pagalungan town.

Guialil is a relative of incumbent

and re-electionist Mayor Mamasabulod of Pagalungan. Jimmy Matalam, a relative of Jojo Matalam, is running as mayor, also in Pagalungan. At least seven members of the Matalam clan are running for different posts in May 9 local polls. **(Cadelina Manar)**



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## INQUIRER

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# Air strikes kill 14 Abu bandits

By Julie S. Alipala  
*Inquirer Mindanao*

THE MILITARY yesterday said 14 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed in air strikes in the vicinity of Mt. Sinumaan in Patikul, Sulu, four days after the beheading of a Canadian hostage.

Government forces said, they rained artillery fire on the Abu Sayyaf gunmen as planes and helicopters flew low over the jungle terrain dropping bombs on the bandits believed to be holding 20 foreign hostages, but there was no sign of the captives.

President Aquino on Wednesday vowed to "neutralize" the bandits, who have declared allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group, a day after the severed head of Canadian hostage John Ridsdel was dumped near Jolo's City Hall.

"As a result of the bombardments... they were able to occupy the former places occupied by the Abu Sayyaf that resulted in the recovery of [Ridsdel's] torso," military spokesperson Col. Noel Detoyato told reporters in Manila.

### No bodies found

He said local civilians told authorities that 14 gunmen were killed, but no bodies were reported to have been discovered and his tally could not be independently verified.

Detoyato said the offensive, which began last Saturday and targeted at veteran one-armed Abu Sayyaf commander Radullan Sahiron, was proving a success.

"What is important here is that operations are continuing and we are gaining headway and our troops are determined," Detoyato said.

He said, however, that there had been no sightings of the remaining hostages, and that the militants had apparently escaped the area that had been the target of the attacks.

President Aquino said on Wednesday the hostages, including a Canadian, a Norwegian and a Filipino

woman abducted with Ridsdel from yachts at a beach resort on Samal Island, Davao del Sur province, seven months ago, were being held by Sahiron on Jolo.

The militants are also holding 18 Indonesian and Malaysian sailors kidnapped from waters south of the Philippines over the past month, as well as a Dutch bird watcher abducted in 2012.

The military deployed its MG 520 Defender attack helicopters, Huey choppers and OV-10 Bronco light attack aircraft in the offensive.

Ground troops began the bombardment as early as Saturday of selected targets in Sulu, using planes and 105mm howitzers.

"The troops kept on pressing, that is why they were able to occupy the places formerly occupied by the Abu Sayyaf that led to the recovery of the torso believed to be that of the Canadian victim," Detoyato said.

He said there were casualties on the government side in the offensive in Sulu.

### **Miranda visits troops**

The acting chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, visited soldiers in Jolo town on Wednesday to observe the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the AFP, said Miranda was accompanied by the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año.

"Troops are hot on the trail of the kidnap-for-ransom group on the island, aiming to rescue the remaining hostages," Padilla said. *With a report from AFP*

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Soldiers patrol on a road on the outskirts of Jolo, Sulu on Wednesday, days after Abu Sayyaf bandits beheaded a Canadian hostage. EPA

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# Headless body turned over to Canadian embassy

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

The headless body of a man who looks like a Caucasian, believed to be Canadian John Ridsdel, has been turned over to the Canadian embassy.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ricardo Marquez said the headless body, which

was found in Barangay Gata, Talipao in Sulu, was flown to Heritage Park in Taguig yesterday morning.

Marquez said police Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) conducted the autopsy on the body at the Heritage Park. Ridsdel was one of four hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf since last September. The kidnappers had issued

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## Headless From Page 1

a ransom deadline that lapsed Monday. His severed head was found in a plastic bag along a street in Jolo town.

On Wednesday, a headless cadaver of a Caucasian male was found in Talipao but authorities have yet to confirm if it was Ridsdel's.

There was no indication that the victim was beheaded in the area where it was found "due to the absence of blood stains in the scene," according to a police investigator.

Ridsdel was among four hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf in Samal Island last September.

The three remaining hostages – fellow Canadian Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sikkengstad and Filipina Maritess Flor – are still being held by the bandit group, along with other foreigners, including 14 crew-

men of an Indonesian tugboat. Four Malaysian seamen are also being held.

President Aquino has promised to devote his remaining days in office to crushing the Abu Sayyaf. Fourteen bandits have been killed in continued shelling of their stronghold in Jolo since Tuesday, a military spokesman said.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) yesterday condemned the murder of Ridsdel.

"AmCham extends its deepest condolences to the Ridsdel family, friends and others close to this remarkable man," the group said in a statement.

AmCham said Ridsdel was well known to the American business community in Manila, where he was based for many years.

"He was a strong believer in

the development of the Philippines, to which he contributed as the senior executive of a mining company known for its highly responsible practices," AmCham said.

"John Ridsdel had decided to retire in the Philippines. He made many friends among many nationalities and loved to sail among the islands from his base at Puerto Galera. It was when he responded from his boat moored on Samal Island to a call for help from a neighboring boat that he was seized," it said.

AmCham joined the call on the government to bring the killers of Ridsdel to justice and to implement policies that will bring improved security and peace and development to areas in Mindanao where the Abu Sayyaf and

other criminal elements operate.

Officials, on the other hand, are discussing coordinated naval patrols on its southern maritime borders with Indonesia and Malaysia to protect shipping after attacks and kidnappings by Islamist militants.

Foreign Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said the government is proposing separate but coordinated patrols to identify safe corridors where ships can travel.

Indonesia last week called for joint maritime patrols with the

Philippines and Malaysia. Joint patrols would involve ships from the three navies patrolling together and crossing into each other's territorial waters.

Officials from the three sides are due to meet in Jakarta on May 5 to discuss cooperation.

"The issue is safety and security," Almendras said.

"It's called coordinated patrols, we'll do our patrols and they will have their own patrols in their own territorial waters so there will be no more threats to the movement

of ships, including the kidnapping of sailors."

Two Indonesian coal ports have blocked ships from leaving for the Philippines and Malaysia's eastern Sabah state due to security concerns.

The growing frequency of maritime attacks has affected coal trade between the Southeast Asian neighbors - Indonesia, the world's largest thermal coal exporter, and the Philippines, which relies on Jakarta for 70 percent of its coal imports. - **With Roel Pareño, Reuters**

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## 2 ISIS-linked group members slain in Sarangani encounter

By Mario J. Mallari

Two alleged members of a terrorist group identifying itself with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were killed yesterday in a firefight with a joint team of policemen in Sarangani.

Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman for the Central Mindanao police, said the clash with members of the Ansar Khilafa Philippines (AKP) happened at Sitio Bulat, Barangay

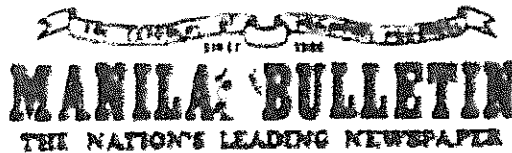
Daliao, Maasin, Sarangani.

The pre-dawn raid by policemen on the group of Mohammad Jaafar Maguid alias Tokboy resulted in the death of two members of the group whose identities were still being ascertained.

"The operating troops successfully overrun and contain the stronghold of AKP after the firefight which resulted to the death of two still unidentified AKP members," Galgo said.



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# Boy, NPA rebel dead in Bukidnon encounter

By **CAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM**  
and **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

**C**AGAYAN DE ORO CITY – A six-year old boy, a civilian and a suspected communist rebel died while some 100 families fled their homes after government troops and New People's Army (NPA) rebels clashed in remote Barangay Kalauyanan in Talakag, Bukidnon last Wednesday.

Albert Bigcas, municipal administrator of Talakag, said panic-stricken residents trekked some 60 kilometers to reach neighboring

Barangay Basak in Lantapan town to escape the hostilities.

The encounter broke out when a group of communist rebels stormed Barangay Kalauyanan and shot to death a civilian identified as Michael Sibot, Bigcas said.

Bigcas added that the six-year old boy, El John Tallan, was hit by a stray bullet when Sibot was waylaid.

The commotion alerted government forces who trooped to the area, where the half-hour gun battle took place, resulting in the death of the suspected NPA member.

At around 12 noon of that same

day, pursuing troops caught up with one of the wounded rebels who yielded a rifle with nine magazines and 68 live ammunitions, Col. Jesse A. Alvarez, commanding officer of the Army's 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade said.

Alvarez added that said identity of the slain rebel and his wounded comrade was not established immediately.

"Our ground troops immediately administered first aid treatment prior to his (wounded rebel) transport to the nearest medical facility," he said.

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# Kin lament Noy's inaction on Burgos' case

By Gerry Baldo

Six years ago, President Aquino gave his word to the family of Jonas Burgos that justice will be served in the case of the missing activist.

According to JL Burgos, brother of Jonas, Aquino promised that his brother will be surfaced and that justice will be served.

"The term of the President is almost over, and yet Jonas remains a *desaparecido* nine years after he was abducted," JL said.

The Burgos family also expressed disappointment when one of the primary suspects in the abduction and disappearance was promoted.

"Worse, one of the main suspects, former Col. Eduardo Año, was promoted to general. Aquino even appointed him as the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the



BURGOS

Philippines. Año is now the chief of the Philippine Army," JL said.

"The President's inaction on the case is the same inaction we saw from former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If we've found Arroyo guilty, then how can we say that President

Aquino is not part of the state's cover-up of the crime?" JL lamented.

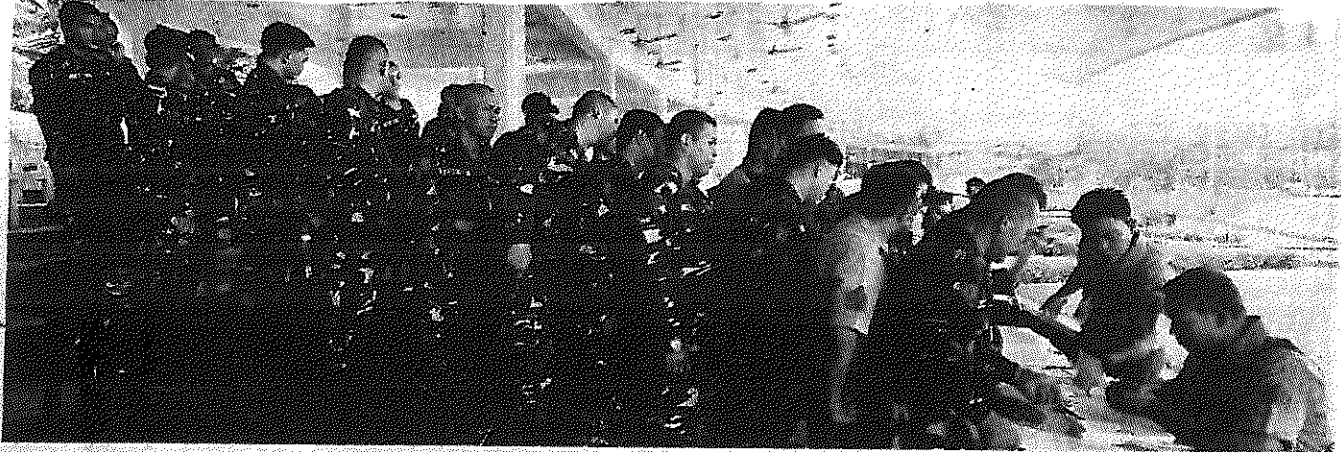
Government inaction on cases such as that of Jonas helps perpetuate impunity in the country. It encourages human rights violations. It continues to cover up the military's abduction of Jonas.

With the coming elections, the family and friends of Jonas hope that the next president will not be part of the continuing cover-up. The Burgos family challenges the next president to bring the perpetrators to justice and bring Jonas back home try.

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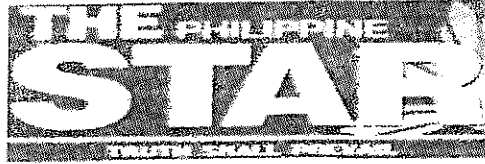
MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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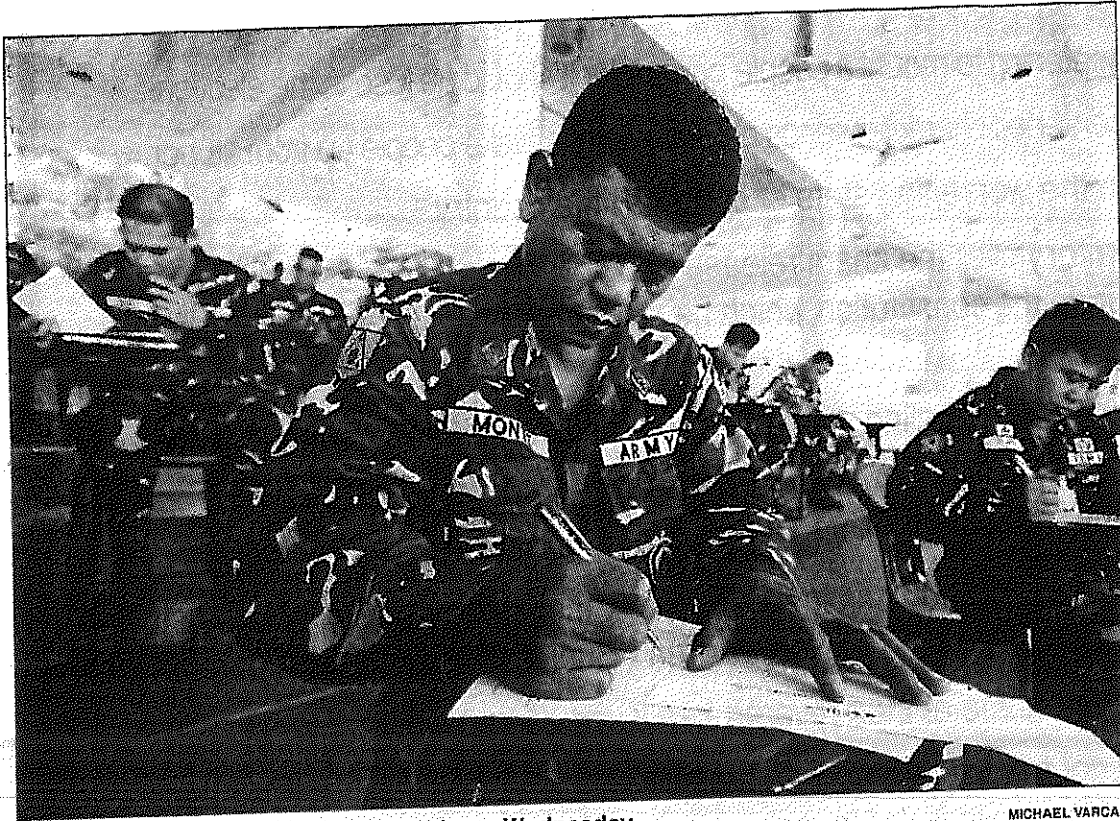


**SOLDIERS' SUFFRAGE** – Soldiers line up to cast their votes for their next Commander-in-Chief, vice president, senators, and party-list representative, through the local absentee voting at the Camp Aguinaldo Grandstand in Quezon City, yesterday. Some 500 uniformed personnel from the military and police are participating in the advanced voting which started last Wednesday and ends today. (Mark Balmores)

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Army soldiers vote at Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday.

MICHAEL VARGAS

April 2016



Pahina. \_\_\_\_\_

## *All-out war, tablado*

# **P-NOY ATRAS SA SAYYAF**

**NILINAW** ni Pangulong Benigno Aquino III na “all-out justice” at hindi “all-out war” ang policy ng gobyerno na ipinatutupad laban sa Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Sa isang panayam sa pangulo, sinabi nitong pangunahing patakaran ng gobyerno ang paggamit ng mapayapang paraan, subalit, kung hinihingi ng pagkakataon ay hindi rin mangangimang gamitin ng pamahalaan

ang buong puwersa nito.

Ayon sa pangulo, maging ang mga grupong tumutulong sa Abu Sayyaf ay gagamitan din ng puwersa ng gobyerno.

Pinag-aaralan na rin umano ng pamahalaan kung paano gagamitin ang military at legal instrument upang mabigyan ng katarungan ang mga naging biktima ng Abu Sayyaf na mahigit isang dekada nang naghahasik ng karahasan sa Mindanao.

**(BRT)**

29 April 2016

# The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

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Sky Cable Corporation officials with the officers from Armed Forces of the Philippines

## SKY's direct-to-home service to AFP troops nationwide

Sky Cable Corporation donated installation kits of SKYdirect, its newest direct-to-home service to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to give them nationwide access to news and information in support of their call of duty to serve the country.

Through SKYdirect, AFP troops deployed in various locations across the Philippines including Basilan, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi, Ilocos Norte, and Samar, among others will have nationwide access to vital news and in-depth information through the wide channel variety of SKYdirect all in digital quality, including a select number in high definition.

"We know how important it is for the AFP to have seamless access to information especially in

remote areas in the Philippines. With the help of SKYdirect, AFP troops will be connected to quality information and entertainment," said Sky Cable Corporation chief operating officer **March Ventosa**.

"We hope SKYdirect will create a difference in your pursuit to continuously offer excellent service for Filipinos," he added.

Meanwhile, AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. **Glorioso Miranda** expressed his gratitude to Sky Cable for recognizing their role and service to the Filipino people.

He remarked, "A lot of you here recognize the sacrifices of our troops and I am delighted with your donation to the AFP. This (SKYdirect) will contribute a lot to our troops."

Lt. Gen. Miranda received the SKYdirect kits together with AFP major services representatives **Col. Jose Benavidez** (AFP General Headquarters), **Col. Vener Odillon Mariano** (Philippine Army), **Col. Gerso Lopez** (Philippine Air Force), and commander **Gualterio Dela Cruz** (Philippine Navy) in behalf of Gen. **Hernando Delfin Iriberr**.

SKYdirect is Sky Cable Corporation's newest service powered by direct-to-home technology. It aims to give Filipinos access to quality information and entertainment via its rich cable channel lineup in any part of the country. Sky Cable is a unit of leading media and entertainment organization **ABS-CBN Corporation**.



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DEFINING THE NEWS

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## Joma eyes peace talks, homecoming

By John Paolo Bencito

COMMUNIST Party founder Jose Maria Sison said on Thursday the possible election of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte may lead to a ceasefire between the government and the insurgent movement and the resumption of talks to end the 47-year-old communist rebellion.

"I will come home as soon as there is a sure basis for the ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks," Sison said in an interview with television network ABS-CBN from his home in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

"I might even come home for a visit as early as June to witness the oathtaking of Duterte, if he wins

or if he is not cheated," he added.

Sison said he spoke on Tuesday with Duterte who thanked him for helping in the release of five policemen detained by the communist New People's Army.

"We [also] talked about the need to resume the peace negotiations and release the political prisoners unjustly imprisoned by the Arroyo and Aquino charged in violation of the Hernandez political offense doctrine and the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees," Sison said.

The communist leader described Duterte as "the most open to coalition government of national unity, peace and development"

But officials of the Aquino

administration scored Duterte for his ties with the communist movement.

Liberal Party standard bearer Manuel Roxas II warned Filipinos to be wary of voting for Duterte because it might lead to the dominance of communism in the country.

Malacañang, through palace spokesperson Herminio Coloma, also expressed concern on Duterte's ties with the CPP-NPA, a warning that was branded as "pathetic."

"Malacañang's dig at Duterte for appearing in a picture with the NPA is pathetic," Renato Reyes, secretary-general of militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said.

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## Viral video shows Duterte's links to communists

This is the message of a video that is going around on social media allegedly from officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that call themselves the Network of Officers to Defend The Republic.

In their advisory, the group invites everyone to know the truth behind presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

The Facebook pages [www.facebook/NODTR](http://www.facebook/NODTR) and [www.facebook/networkofofficertodefendtherepublic](http://www.facebook/networkofofficertodefendtherepublic) show the video of a Filipino soldier dressed in a uniform of the Philippine Marines.

In the video of the soldier, a secret dossier at the AFP is shown that reveals the alleged links of Duterte to communists involving his campaign manager Jun Evasco, spokesman Pete Lavina, political consultant Luz Ilagan, one person called "Ka Oris" and Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), who

is Duterte's mentor.

The video shows the officer accusing Duterte's allies as officials of the CPP-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) along with Duterte who were behind the bloody Kidapawan incident, which is similar to what happened during the Mendiola Massacre.

He also said that if Duterte becomes president, Sison will come back to the Philippines and Duterte will appoint him as Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs.

The officer also said that what they fear the most is the possibility that the new AFP chief of staff will be Benito Tiamzon, NPA leader, once Duterte declares a revolutionary government.

The video also revealed that part of the campaign funds being used by Duterte came from Chinese Communists, the reason why Duterte will drop the Philippines' claim on Spratlys or Kalayaan Islands.

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# DUTERTE TUTA NG NPA

DUTERTE tuta ng komunista. ■ Pahina 9

## TUTA...

From Page 1

Ito ang nagsusumigaw na mensahe ng isang video na inilagay sa social media ng isang diumano'y samahan ng mga opisyal ng sundalo sa loob ng AFP na nagpakilala bilang Network of Officers to Defend the Republic.

Sa inilabas nitong advisory, inimbitahan nito ang mga makakatanggap na alamin ang katotohanan sa likod ni Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. At kapag napuntahan ang [www.facebook.com/NODTR](http://www.facebook.com/NODTR) o [www.facebook.com/networkofofficerstodefendtherepublic](http://www.facebook.com/networkofofficerstodefendtherepublic) tatambad ang isang video ng isang sundalo na nakabihis ng uniporme ng Philippine Marines.

Sa naturang video ng sundalo ipinakita ang isang "secret" dossier sa AFP na inilalahad ang diumano'y malalim na koneksyon ni Duterte sa mga komunista na kinakasangkutan ng kanyang campaign manager na si Jun Evasco, spokesperson na si Pete Lavinia, political consultant na si Luz Ilagan, ng isang tinutukoy na "Ka Oris" at ni Jose Maria Sison mismo na sinasabing mentor ni Duterte.

Ayon din sa video, pinaratangan nito ang mga naturang indibidwal na mga opisyal ng CPP-NPA sa Mindanao na kasama ni Duterte na siyang nasa likod ng madugong Kidapawan incident na tulad sa naging madugong kinasapitan ng Mendiola Massacre. Tinukoy din ng naturang opisyal na sundalo, na kung sakaling maging presidente si Duterte, tiyak makakauwi si Joma Sison na itatagala nitong Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, at ang higit daw nilang pinapangambahan ay ang malaking posibilidad na kanilang maging Chief of Staff sa AFP si Benito Tiamzon, pinuno ng NPA, kapag naideklara ng isang revolutionary government.

Tinukoy din sa video na ang pondo daw na ginagamit ni Duterte ay galing sa mga komunista Intsik kaya daw hindi na ito interesado na ipaglaban ang Kalayaan Islands.

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# INQUIRER

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## Headless

**T**HE INITIAL burst of reaction on social media to the Abu Sayyaf's execution of a hostage was anger at the Philippine government's inability to put an end to the bandit group—or even to properly notify the public of the tragic event. The Aquino administration certainly was remiss in its duty to inform; many Filipinos heard the news only when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

### EDITORIAL

condemned the killing of Canadian hostage John Ridsdel hours after it had taken place. But Trudeau also made a larger point: Ridsdel's death was "an act of cold-blooded murder and responsibility rests squarely with the terrorist group who took him hostage."

It does. While we must hold the administration to account for its role in allowing the Abu Sayyaf problem to fester anew, we hold the bandits squarely responsible for Ridsdel's execution.

The Abu Sayyaf took Ridsdel hostage—together with another Canadian, Robert Hall; a Norwegian, Kjartan Sekkingstad; and a Filipino, Marites Flor—last September, while they were at the tourist island of Samal just off Davao City. On Monday, Ridsdel's severed head was found inside a yellow sack that, according to witnesses, had been dumped by two men riding a motorcycle.

The three other hostages remain in captivity, as do about 20 other foreign hostages.

Beheading was an exceptionally tragic fate for Ridsdel, who worked in the Philippines for a mining company for many years and who, by all accounts, had fallen in love with the country. The tributes that have poured in standard and social media have been very moving; many of them came from Filipinos with whom Ridsdel had worked. The statement from his bereaved family drew even more sympathy: "John was a kind and gregarious person who touched everyone he knew with his enthusiasm and generosity. He loved life and lived it to the fullest with his family and friends at the center."

This friend of the Philippines did not deserve this cruel, indeed barbaric, death.

Unfortunately, his fellow hostages face the same fate—unless the Armed Forces can make an honest man out of President Aquino. The other day, the President released a statement which included the following promise: “Our reports tell us that the captives are under the control of Radillon Sajiron, who has consolidated his forces around himself and the captives. This presents both a problem and an opportunity. It is a problem because of the sizeable force surrounding Sajiron and the captives, but it is also an opportunity because smashing these forces is within our grasp.”

He also said: “I am ready to devote all my energies towards ensuring that, at the very least, this will be a very seriously degraded problem that I will pass on to my successor.”

Smashing or “seriously degrading” the Abu Sayyaf, or at least the large (and loose) faction that responds to Sajiron’s leadership, would be a real victory, but the task is more complicated than the rhetoric may make it seem. A string of ransom payments has given new life to the bandit group; the new money means much more than new firearms, new boats, or new recruits—it also means more goodwill with, and more assistance to, the communities that support and sustain members of the Abu Sayyaf. This will make the porous alliances and kinships and relationships that enable the members of the Abu Sayyaf to merge into the background even more problematic.

The presence of the hostages is also a complication—a necessary one. The Abu Sayyaf has had no qualms using their hostages as human shields, and it is the responsibility of the Armed Forces to use force in a way that will minimize the number of casualties.

Not least, the Armed Forces must resolve this crisis very soon. There is very little leeway.

As things stand, the Aquino administration is ending its last months in office in the same way it started: hapless, and at the seeming mercy of criminals and terrorists.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

# Crafting a road map

By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO

**T**HE group, tasked with coming up with a proposed "vision" for the future AFP (anchored upon core values and its mandated core purpose), did not address only the question of the future direction for the AFP. It also tackled the next relevant question: how should it get to where it wants to be by 2028? In other words, what priorities — of a strategic character — must it pursue in order to eventually get "there" by 2028?

The group decided to divide the 16-year period (the "vision" period) into three, which it proposed to label as follows: by 2016, the AFP should be "mission capable"; by 2022, it should become "strong and sustainable within the Asia Pacific region" and already a "source of national pride"; by 2028, as the crafted "vision statement" states, the AFP should be "world class," and definitely a "source of national pride."

By focusing on the first sub-period, 2012-2016, the group set out a marker for what it calls the first "base camp" along the transformation pathway. This marker, to be reached by 2016, is characterized by three "breakthrough goals" which the AFP should commit to attain, so it can claim to be "mission capable." These breakthrough goals are:

— Concerning internal security, the AFP by 2016 should have significantly raised "the number of normalized provinces" where the primary responsibility for local "peace and order" shall have been

transferred to local government units and the Philippine National Police. The AFP may continue to play a secondary role, and only if asked and as local circumstances may require.

— Concerning the assistance the AFP is expected to provide in responding to natural calamities and disasters, the AFP by 2016 shall have increased its "operational readiness from partially mission capable to fully mission capable."

— Concerning its capability for territorial defense, the AFP by 2016 shall have increased its capability for "air and maritime domain awareness in the West Philippine sea."

By specifying these three breakthrough goals to be attained by 2016, the group proposed that in identifying the strategic priorities the AFP should include in its strategy map, only those that would fall under these two umbrella (strategic themes) were to be included. These are: (a) building the capability of the AFP as it shifts its focus increasingly from "internal security operations" to territorial defense (this is a huge challenge, since the AFP as of 2012 had very limited capability even for monitoring and gathering information on activities going on within the Philippine maritime domain); and (b) "advancing jointness," thereby promoting the "culture wherein... the different Major Services can work seamlessly and effectively together in the various operations of the Unified Commands and AFP General Headquarters" (this only underscores the imperative for breaking down silos that had been

erected over time between the Major Services of the AFP.

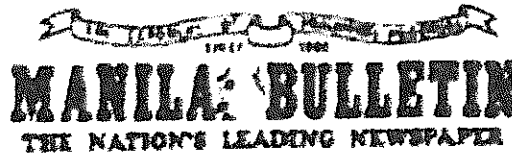
Once the three breakthrough goals for 2016 have been specified and the two umbrella strategic themes identified, it was not difficult for the group to agree on the strategic priorities the AFP must actively pursue during the first period, 2012-2016, leading up to the first base camp. These priorities were spread across four perspectives to ensure that all important bases have been covered. These perspectives are: (i) finance and fiscal discipline; (ii) learning and growth, calling for a change in mindset that would promote the "culture of jointness" and the new paradigm following the AFP tenets of winning the peace through IPSP: Bayanihan; (iii) significant improvement in internal core processes; and (iv) service to constituency (the Filipino public) such that the public's regard for the AFP would start pointing upwards.

Across these four comprehensive perspectives, 15 strategic priorities (objectives) were identified. These would provide the bulk of what the AFP should be pursuing as the priorities to guide and shape its operations between 2012 and 2016. Once these fifteen strategic priorities were formally laid out in a manner that shows their inter-relationship with one another, a proposed strategy map for the AFP emerged. This strategy map was the one recommended to the AFP leadership; once it was approved, after much serious deliberation, it was named the AFP Transformation Roadmap (or the AFP TR).





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# We continue to hope for Mindanao

**T**WO Mindanao incidents made the front pages of newspapers this week.

On Monday, the New People's Army (NPA) released five Davao police officers they had captured nine days earlier. Also on Monday, one of three foreign kidnap victims held by the Abu Sayyaf was reported beheaded, for failure of his family and government to pay ransom.

The NPA had the Davao policemen in white T-shirts prominently marked with "POW – Prisoner of War." They turned them over to Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and an NPA representative read the release order, in accordance, he said, with the 1949 Geneva Convention's Protocol 1 on Treatment of Prisoners of War.

The Geneva Convention was first adopted in 1929 after World War I to define humanitarian protection for prisoners of war by a Detaining Power. It was revised and replaced by the Geneva Convention of 1949 with 196 countries as parties to the convention. In citing the Geneva Convention when it released the five Davao policemen as "prisoners of war," the NPA obviously sees its ongoing rebellion as a war, with it as the Detaining Power.

In the case of the beheading of a Canadian kidnap victim, the Armed Forces had earlier declared that the Philippine government is against

any payment of ransom and that its priority is the safe rescue of the hostages. The Abu Sayyaf's answer was the beheading of Canadian John Ridsdel. They still hold Ridsdel's fellow kidnap victims from a resort island on Samal Island near Davao City, along with some 20 other foreigners kidnapped at other times in other places in Mindanao.

The two incidents – the NPA's releasing its "prisoners of war" and the Abu Sayyaf's beheading a foreign hostage – reflect sadly on the state of peace and order and on our government's ability to assert its authority in that part of the country.

No wonder the United States and Australia have both issued travel warnings to their citizens to exercise extreme caution when travelling to Mindanao, particularly Zamboanga Peninsula, and to avoid all non-essential travel to the Sulu Archipelago and the Sulu Sea.

In the wake of the beheading incident, Malacañang said there would be no letup in pursuing the Abu Sayyaf, while national police and military forces said their joint task group was intensifying its operations to neutralize the lawless elements. We have heard these assurances before. We continue to hope for really good news that shows that despite all the setbacks, our government is in control.

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### Lawmakers eye Malampaya funds for AFP's energy-related spending

**T**WO party-list lawmakers have filed a measure allowing the government to use the Malampaya funds for the energy-related expenses of the Armed Forces.

In House Bill 5481, Party-list Reps. Gary C. Alejandro and Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo of Magdalo said the "existing law, Presidential Decree 910, is silent with regards to the provisions of military support for energy-related projects to guarantee the security of critical infrastructures in the Malampaya gas platform and other energy-related projects."

The measure seeks to amend Section 8 of Presidential Decree 910. It also seeks to ensure the continued viability of the country's energy program by including guidelines for the use of the special fund to include the financing of energy-related expenses of the AFP, such as, but not limited to, provisions for operational support, capacity-building, acquisition of vessels, machinery and material, bases and support system development and technology development, for the security and protection of the Malampaya gas and oil fields, and other energy projects.

The lawmakers said the Malampaya gas and oil field, near disputed waters off Palawan, remains secured because of the efforts of the AFP, particularly, the Navy, which constantly patrol the area with ships coming from the Naval Forces West (NavForWest) operating at Oyster Bay, Palawan, the country's first line of defense in the disputed waters in the West Philippine Sea.

"It is now up to Congress to introduce the necessary guidelines in the law to authorize the use of the special Malampaya fund [SMF] to finance the security-related expenses of the AFP," they said.

The SMF was created to provide funds to finance energy-related projects and for other purposes that may be decided by the president.

The said fund consists of royalties collected from operations of the Malampaya gas and oil fields in the waters off Palawan province.

However, the lawmakers said such huge presidential latitude became a blanket approval for the past administration to abuse said power, saying the fund was allegedly drained to accommodate bogus projects of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of Janet-Lim Napoles in collusion with government officials.

Earlier, the Commission on Audit said at least 12 NGOs linked to alleged pork-barrel scam mastermind Napoles have benefited P900 million from the government's royalties from the Malampaya natural-gas project.

That's why the existing law was partially junked by the Supreme Court, as it struck as illegal the discretionary power of the president in utilizing said fund, the party-list solons added.

Prior to the High Court's decision, the lawmakers said President Aquino was able to approve the release of necessary funding to the AFP in order to expand and fortify the defenses for natural-gas exploration in northern Palawan.

"With the subsequent decision of the Supreme Court, the President could no longer appropriate funding from the special fund for the AFP's energy-related projects, like securing the gas platform in off Palawan," they said. *Jovee Marie N. dela Cruz*

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The Manila Times

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# Editorial

## Scarborough as new SChina Sea flashpoint

**W**HEN China stealthily took Panatag Shoal or Bajo de Masinloc (also called Scarborough Shoal) from the Philippines in 2012, we could only grit our teeth in anger and disbelief.

Now, the significance of that takeover for China is emerging. And the importance of the shoal to our country has likewise emerged.

According to a report in the *Wall Street Journal* on April 27, Scarborough Shoal could emerge as a new potential flashpoint in the standoff between the United States and China in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

The new development consists of this.

For some time now, Beijing has focused its attention on expanding and developing islands in the Spratly Islands chain.

About a month ago, the US military observed Chinese ships conducting survey work around a clump of rocks, sandbars and coral reefs in Panatag/Scarborough Shoal, which is far from the Spratlys.

Panatag/Scarborough Shoal is 120 nautical miles off the coast of the Philippines, and just 200 nautical miles from Manila. It is around 470 nautical miles from the closest point on the Chinese mainland.

It was because of this that the US flew three different air patrols near Panatag/Scarborough in recent days, including on April 19 and 21, according to US defense officials. The first of the flights, in a message to Beijing that the shoal is central to maritime security in the region, came just four days after Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced a series of joint patrols with the Philippines.

Last Monday, Beijing condemned the US flights, saying the shoal, which it calls Huangyan Island, is China's "inherent territory." China's defense ministry accused the US of militarizing the WPS/SCS.

There is no sign yet of any land reclamation at the Chinese-held atoll, but there is growing concern among US and Philippine officials that Beijing plans to begin such work on Panatag/Scarborough.

Washington and its allies would consider it a major escalation. Beijing seized control of the shoal from Manila in 2012, whereas the artificial islands in the Spratlys were built on rocks and reefs already controlled by China.

Last week, Mr. Carter announced a number of initiatives to "modernize" the US-Philippines alliance, including a rotating deployment of US military aircraft at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

The six US aircraft that flew near Panatag/Scarborough Shoal on April 19 are based at Clark.

The US has used its Navy and Air Force to challenge Chinese claims in the region, but has approached the dispute with caution, to avoid provoking a broader confrontation.

But, amid criticism over that approach from senior congressional and military figures, stronger action is likely if China moves to do reclamation work on Panatag/Scarborough Shoal, US officials said.

Steps could include economic sanctions, a buildup of military assets in the area, or taking a more overt position on the legal status of land features in the West Philippine/South China Sea.

China is conscious that any reclamation on Panatag/Scarborough would be provocative.

"Sizable land reclamation on Scarborough Shoal is out of the question," said Zhu Feng, a security expert at Nanjing University.

While this cat-and-mouse game between China and the United States is ongoing, there's nothing for the Philippines to do except play host to US military forces and play the concerned and loyal ally.

In an earlier analysis, published in the *Washington Post* and reprinted in *The Manila Times*, foreign affairs columnist David Ignatius opined that the US is heading toward a dangerous showdown with China.

One trigger for escalation, says Ignatius, could be China's response to the forthcoming ruling by the arbitration panel in The Hague in the case brought by the Philippines in 2013. The panel will probably issue its ruling in May, and many knowledgeable experts predict that it will carefully validate the Philippine position.

China has denounced such arbitration of its maritime claims, and some US officials believe it may respond to an unfavorable ruling by declaring an air-defense identification zone, or "ADIZ," in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) — in effect banning flights there without Chinese permission. This would present a new and dangerous provocation for Washington.

The Pentagon argues that the United States should immediately challenge any air-defense identification zone claim by flying US military planes into the area. That's what happened in Nov. 2013 when B-52s immediately challenged an ADIZ declared by China in the East China Sea.

Some contend that the wisest course for the US would be to work with other Southeast Asian and other nations to challenge Chinese claims. This might include planes and ships from Australia, Singapore, India and European countries, for example.

The important thing is that China is not allowed to do whatever it wants.

## ONLINE NEWS

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[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

### NPA NEUTRALIZED II Encounter in Ragay, CamSur

Alvin Santiago, Apr 28, 2016 | [CamSur News](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



**CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City (DWDD)** – A member of the New People's Army (NPA) was neutralized during an encounter with joint elements of the 49th Infantry Battalion and Ragay Municipal Police Station in Baranggay Lower Sta Cruz, Ragay, Camarines around 11:05 pm yesterday, April 27, 2016.

The troops were on combat operations to serve a warrant of arrest when four (4) NPAs started firing at them. This resulted to a two-minute firefight until the bandits withdrew and left the lifeless body of one of their comrades and two (2) cal.38 pistols.

"The NPA remains as the most potent threat group to the peace and security during the elections and the election period," said SOLCOM Chief Lieutenant General Ricardo R. Visaya.

"The more we engage the NPA and the more members are neutralized before the elections, we are reducing the possibilities of atrocities they may conduct to disrupt the elections," he added.

SOLCOM together with the Philippine National Police (PNP) are continuously conducting peace and security patrols in preparation for the elections and pre-emptive efforts are conducted in Election Watch List Areas falling in Category 2 (Areas with serious armed threats posed by organized threat groups such as the NPA) and Category 3 (Areas with intense partisan political rivalry + factors of Category 2 are present). Ragay falls under Category 2. **PIO SOLCOM / MCAG**

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

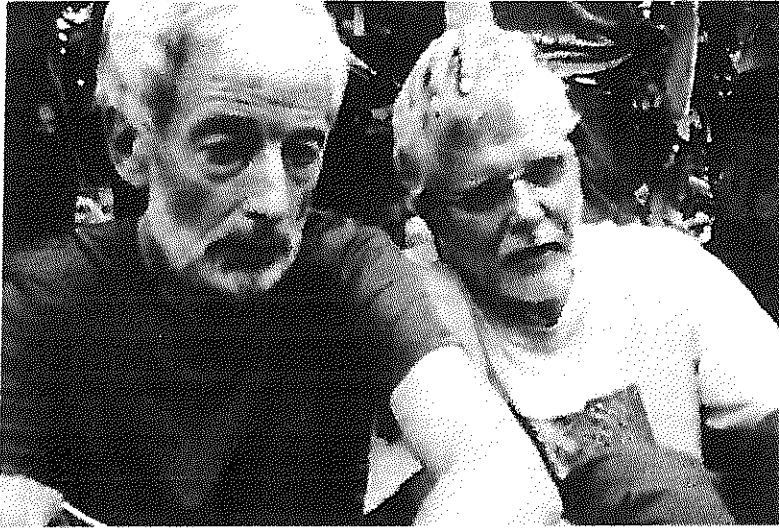
## After hostage beheading, is Philippines facing IS threat?

By: [Jim Gomez](#)

[@inquirerdotnet](#)

Associated Press

08:02 PM April 28th, 2016



This image made from undated militant video shows Canadians John Ridsdel (right) and Robert Hall. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed that the decapitated head of a Caucasian male recovered on April 25 in the southern Philippines belongs to Ridsdel, who was taken hostage by Abu Sayyaf militants in September 2015. AP

Months before Abu Sayyaf militants beheaded retired Canadian mining executive John Ridsdel in the tropical jungles of the southern Philippines, they showed him pleading for life in a video with three other hostages that demanded a record-high ransom.

The scene was all too familiar in a Southeast Asian nation that has struggled with ransom kidnappings by the Islamic militants for years, except for two things.

In the video that appeared in November, two black flags with Islamic State group symbols were displayed by the heavily-armed Abu Sayyaf fighters in the backdrop of lush foliage. Then after a deadline for ransom lapsed on Monday, they killed the 68-year-old Ridsdel — instead of waiting patiently for the money as the mostly impoverished rural fighters have done in the past.

Shocked by the outcome, many in the largest Roman Catholic nation in Asia are asking if this is same band of militants the government has long dismissed as ransom-seeking bandits. Or, has the Philippines fallen into a growing list of countries that are now grappling with the spread of the Islamic State group from Syria and Iraq?

The Philippine government has insisted the IS still has no presence in the country's south, homeland of minority Muslims who rose up to seek a separate state in the early 1970s.

In his first remarks following Ridsdel's killing, President Benigno Aquino III, who is left with two more months in office, ran a history of the Abu Sayyaf's brutal attacks, describing it as a group of outlaws and vowing "to devote all my energies toward ensuring that, at the very least, this will be a very seriously degraded problem."

"Even as it poses as a group of Islamic freedom fighters, the Abu Sayyaf has behaved as criminals focused on enriching themselves by taking hostages for ransom," he said, describing them as opportunists who want to "align themselves with ISIS to gain access to the funds and resources of ISIS."

Terrorism experts, however, believe that a key Abu Sayyaf faction and at least two other small armed groups have gone beyond pledging allegiance to the Middle East-based jihadis on video and have struck a new alliance under the IS flag.

Some foreign militants from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Middle East helped forge the union under an overall leader, Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant who was among those who founded the Abu Sayyaf on southern Basilan Island in early 1990s, said Rodolfo Mendoza, a retired police general who helped lead counterterrorism efforts.

It's not yet clear if the foreign militants, three of whom were killed in military offensives last year and this year, were IS fighters or sympathizers who wanted to recruit Filipinos into the IS fold, according to the Philippine military.

In November, Abu Sayyaf gunmen beheaded a Malaysian hostage despite ongoing ransom negotiations. It happened while Manila was hosting an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit attended by world leaders, including President Barack Obama and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Another armed group, which has brandished the IS group's black flag in southern Butig town but is not yet known to have joined Hapilon's alliance, recently posted a picture online of two kidnapped villagers in orange garb before they were beheaded as suspected military spies. It's the first known instance local militants dressed their captives in orange, as IS extremists do.

An unusual surge in kidnappings, including daring attacks on three tugboats in and around the Sulu Sea that captured 18 Indonesian and Malaysian crewmen starting last month, along with recent beheadings, may be a way by the emerging bloc of militants to dramatize their capability and brutality and convince the IS group to fully recognize them as an affiliate entitled to funds and training support, Mendoza told The Associated Press.

Earlier this month, an Abu Sayyaf ambush in Basilan killed 18 soldiers in the military's largest single-day combat loss so far this year.

"They're now able to project internationally that they deserve the serious recognition of mother ISIS," Mendoza said. "The kidnappings that they do shouldn't only be seen as plain banditry."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, the militants tried to forge a formal alliance with al-Qaida but those efforts failed. The Abu Sayyaf tried for years to foster impressions that it's formally allied to al-Qaida for survival, said Abu Muslim, a former Abu Sayyaf ranking member who has been captured and now cooperates with the government.

"There was really no direct connection between the ASG and the Al-Qaida then," he said. "But the impression that there was gave the group stature and a veil of notoriety that was important in raising funds."

Ahmed Hashim, a counterterrorism and defense policy expert with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said European and Middle Eastern countries have been more exposed to the dangers by IS militants, but a vulnerable period awaits Southeast Asia.

A few hundred Malaysian and Indonesian militants were believed to have traveled to Syria and Iraq in recent years. There are unconfirmed reports of a few Filipinos who have also joined the fighting.



"Not too many have come back yet," Hashim said. "The biggest danger is for Malaysia and Indonesia." Under any label, the Abu Sayyaf is clearly a "terrorist group" that will face offensives for its "gruesome attacks on innocent people," the military said.

A day before he was abducted from a marina on Samal Island, where he and his friends berthed their yacht, Ridsdel wrote in his blog about the thrill of his sea adventures and a hint of the unexpected that may suddenly come with it.

"With a little bit of wind, it feels like the craft is flying, as it skims over the water rather than undulating with it," he wrote. "All very wonderful, until you have to go upwind in rough weather."

[www.gmanetwork.com](http://www.gmanetwork.com)

## **Military attacks Abu Sayyaf lair in Jolo**

**Published** April 28, 2016 8:59pm

Philippine Air Force warplanes on Thursday attacked Islamic militants holding 20 foreign hostages on a remote southern island of Jolo in Sulu, but there was no sign of the captives, the military said.

Government forces said they rained artillery fire on Abu Sayyaf gunmen on a mountainous area of Jolo island, as planes and helicopters flew low over the jungle terrain dropping bombs.

President Benigno Aquino on Wednesday vowed to "neutralize" the militants, who have declared allegiance to the Islamic State group, a day after the severed head of Canadian hostage John Ridsdel was dumped near Jolo's city hall.

"As a result of the bombardments... they were able to occupy the former places occupied by the Abu Sayyaf that resulted in the recovery of (Ridsdel's) torso," military spokesman Colonel Noel Detoyato told reporters in Manila.

He said local civilians told authorities that 14 gunmen were killed, but no bodies were reported to have been discovered and his tally could not be independently verified.

Detoyato said the offensive, targeted at veteran one-armed Abu Sayyaf commander Radullan Sahiron, was proving a success.

"What is important here is that operations are continuing and we are gaining headway and our troops are determined," Detoyato said.

However he said there had been no sightings of the remaining hostages, and that the militants had apparently escaped the area that had been the target of the attacks.

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Aquino said Wednesday the hostages, including a Canadian, a Norwegian and a Filipina abducted with Ridsdel from yachts at a Samal island marina seven months ago, were being held by Sahiron on Jolo.

The militants are also holding 18 Indonesian and Malaysian sailors kidnapped from waters south of the Philippines over the past month, as well as a Dutch bird watcher abducted in 2012.

The Abu Sayyaf is a radical offshoot of a Muslim separatist insurgency in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines that has claimed more than 100,000 lives since the 1970s.

It is believed to have just a few hundred militants but has withstood repeated US-backed military offensives against it, surviving by using the mountainous, jungle terrain of Jolo and nearby islands to its advantage.

Abu Sayyaf gangs have earned many millions of dollars from kidnapping foreigners and locals since the early 1990s.

Although the Abu Sayyaf's leaders have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, analysts say they are mainly focused on their lucrative kidnappings-for-ransom rather than setting up an Islamic caliphate.

The Abu Sayyaf is also blamed for deadly bombings, including an attack on a ferry on Manila Bay in 2014 that claimed 116 lives in the country's deadliest terror attack. — **Agence France-Presse**

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## **Morale ng mga sundalo sa Sulu mataas kahit nagbitiw sa pwesto si**

### **BGen Arrojado**

By Bombo Anne Soberano Posted in Latest News Thursday, 26 April 2015 07:23  
Nagtungo sa probinsiya ng Sulu kahapon sina Acting AFP chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda at Philippine Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Eduardo Anio para personal na i-supervise ang ongoing military operation laban sa mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf.

Dalawang araw matapos pugutan ng ASG ang Canadian kidnap victim na si John Ridsdel.

At ang biglaang pagbibitiw sa pwesto ni BGen. Alan Arrojado.

Ang pagtungo nina Miranda at Anio sa probinsiya ay para personal na tututukan ang mga requirements ng mga tropa sa nagpapatuloy na opensiba.

Personal ding kinausap nina Miranda at Anio ang mga tropa sa Sulu.

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Direktiba ni Miranda sa mga sundalo na paigtingin pa ang kanilang operasyon.

Tiniyak din nito na nanatiling mataas ang morale ng mga tropa sa Sulu kahit pa man pinalitan ang kanilang commander sa kasagsagan ng military operation laban sa ASG.

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

## **PH troops attack Abu Sayyaf bandits holding foreign hostages**

[@inquirerdotnet](mailto:@inquirerdotnet)

[Agence France-Presse](#)

08:18 PM April 28th, 2016

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[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **168 new enlisted troops augment Capiz-based 3rd ID**

MANILA, April 28 (PNA) — An additional 168 enlisted troopers have formally joined the roster of the Capiz-based 3rd Infantry Division Wednesday.

They are members of Candidate Soldier Class (CSC) 388 and 389, said 3rd Infantry Division spokesperson Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson.

They were also formally entrusted with their weapons during Wednesday's graduation ceremonies after successfully passing the six months CSC and Scout Ranger Orientation Course held at the Division Training School in Camp General Macario Peralta Jr., Jamindan, Capiz.

Tiongson said training of these troopers started last Oct. 26 with the aim of providing them with the basic knowledge and skills of soldiery, to develop their character worthy to become members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and to prepare them to perform duties as riflemen and automatic riflemen of the infantry squads.

Jovel Jovena, a BS Tourism Management graduate from Brgy Uyong, Sigma, Capiz received the Commander, 3rd Infantry Division Award for graduating Number 1, besting 83 others in Class 388 with a general point average of 89.76 percent in all evaluated subjects both academic and non-academic in the said training.

Ven Gador, a BS Information Technology graduate from Brgy. Suay, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental topped the Class 389 besting 83 others. He has a general point average of 89.80 percent in all evaluated subjects both academic and non-academic courses.

He also received the Commander, 3rd Infantry Division Award.

3rd Infantry Division commander Brig. Gen. Harold Cabrereros urged the new members of his unit to strictly observe and respect Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and the Rule of Law and be guided by the Army Transformation Roadmap in exercising their mandate to serve the people and secure the communities.

He also reminded the newly enlisted soldiers that in war fighting, not only modern technology in weaponry, equipment and war machines will dictate who will win the battle. Discipline and determination are also factors in winning.

"To the new members of Team Spearhead, I believe that you have attained the basic knowledge and skills that the soldier must know and do, and developed the character that you must be. Continue to develop

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those attributes and always focus on your job as we intensify our efforts in sustaining the gains in peace and security in our area of responsibility," Cabreros said. (PNA)

JMC/PFN

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **10 Negros Occidental rebel returnees receive P150,000 in financial assistance**

BACOLOD CITY, April 28 (PNA) -- Ten former rebels in Negros Occidental received P15,000 each in financial assistance under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The rebel returnees received the assistance during the turnover rites led by Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr. Wednesday at the Provincial Capitol.

Through the CLIP, the DILG aims to assist rebel returnees as they re-integrated into mainstream society, and help in the achievement of the goal of permanent and peaceful closure of all armed conflicts with non-state armed groups.

The turnover of assistance was witnessed by Provincial Planning and Development Officer Ma. Lina Sanogal, Provincial Health Officer Ernell Tumimbang, DILG Provincial Director Ma. Joy Marideth Madayag, Col. Francisco Delfin, commander of the Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade, and Senior Superintendent William Señoron, acting director of the Negros Occidental Police Provincial Office.

In January this year, four rebel returnees in Negros Occidental also received livelihood assistance worth P50,000 each, or a total of P200,000 under the same program. (PNA)

LAP/NLG

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **Fort Magsaysay soldiers, civilians take part in earthquake drill**

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, April 28 (PNA) -- To test their readiness for the "Big One," soldiers from the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry (Kaugnay) Division as well as civilian employees on Thursday took part in the earthquake drill inside the sprawling military camp here.

Maj. Gen. Angelito de Leon, 7th ID commanding general, said that the quake drill was meant to increase awareness and preparedness in case a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hits Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

"Our drills were meant to test, assess, validate and evaluate the national disaster response plans for earthquake and tsunami, and other emergency related plans," de Leon said as he pointed out that the drill is in support to the contingency plan "Tulong-Pagyanig" of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

Ambulances with medics, KM451 Army trucks, power generators and helmet-wearing troops were present for the drills.

Simulating an earthquake scenario, soldiers who found "victims" checked them for injuries, put them in stretchers and brought by ambulance to the Fort Magsaysay Army Station Hospital (FMASH) where a medical team is on standby.

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The drill came on the heels of earthquakes which rocked Japan and Ecuador and left countless people homeless and major structures in ruins.

The Philippines is no stranger to quakes as it often experienced ground movements through the West Valley Fault (WVF) and being located in the "Pacific Ring of Fire" where a string of volcanoes and seismic activities occur regularly in the edges of the Pacific Ocean.

Seismologists have made statistical estimates of probable ground movements that can be used to plan for earthquakes and mitigate their effects.

But some scientists claim that studies of ground movement strongly suggest major earthquakes will start occurring this year, which has put nations into panic.

Experts say the WVF is ripe for another movement based on its pattern every 600 years.

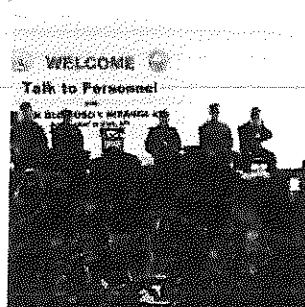
Col. Alfredo V Rosario, Jr., 7th ID chief of staff, said this is the reason communities should always be vigilant.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), said should the "Big One" strike at night, it could kill 31,000 people and injure 130,000 people in the National Capital Region (NCR) . (PNA)  
LAP/ZST/JDA/PS

[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

## REMAIN APOLITICAL II Lt Gen Miranda visits EastMinCom

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NAVAL STATION FELIX

**APOLINARIO, Panacan, Davao City (DWDD) –** “Let us remain apolitical and create an environment that will allow the people to choose our leaders freely without intimidation”

This was the statement of the Acting Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines (ACSAFP) Lt Gen Glorioso V. Miranda during his visit at Headquarters Eastern Mindanao Command this morning, April 28, 2016.

Lt Gen Miranda was accompanied by the Commanding General of the Philippine Army Lt Gen. Eduardo Año and other Armed Forces officials.

They were received by Lt Gen Rey Leonardo Guerrero, Commander of EastMinCom and were accorded with military honors.

The ACSAFP further encouraged Team Eastmincom to continuously enliven the “Bayanihan” Spirit.

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"Continue the teamwork and harmony of our efforts with other stakeholders to win the peace. Miranda said.

Lt Gen Miranda was the former Commander of Task Force Gen San and Brigade Commander of 1002nd Infantry Brigade based in Malungon Sarangani Province. **PAO EASTMINCOM / MCAG**

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **Acting AFP chief reminds all military personnel to remain non-partisan, exercise right to vote**

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, April 28 (PNA) -- With election day just 12 days away, acting Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda reminded all officials and enlisted personnel to remain non-partisan and act accordingly as a deputized agency of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). In the same vein, he also reminded all military to exercise their right to suffrage.

Miranda made this statement following his visit to Eastern Mindanao Command headquarters in Davao City Wednesday.

"Lt. Gen. Miranda reiterated current Command Guidance to facilitate AFP preparations for the incoming national elections this coming May 9. He reminded troops to ensure the AFP remains non-partisan and of their obligation to vote and act accordingly as a deputized agency of the COMELEC," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

Earlier, Miranda, together with Philippine Army commander Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano visited troops in Jolo, Sulu to check on ongoing operations and ensure the latter are getting all needed support in their offensive against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On Monday, the bandits beheaded Canadian John Ridsdel after the latter's family and government failed to pay the PHP300 million ransom being extorted by the brigands.

Ridsdel, along with fellow Canadian Robert Hall, Marites Flor, Hall's girlfriend and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad were kidnapped by the ASG last Sept. 21, 2015 from Ocean View Resort in the Island Garden City of Samal, Davao Del Norte. (PNA)  
BNB/PFN

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **AFP mag set-up ng poll monitoring center para sa halalan**

By Bombo Anne SoberanoPosted in Latest NewsThursday, 28 April 2016 07:10

Magsi- set up ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ng election monitoring center sa Kampong Aguineldo para makatanggap ng real time reports sa darating na halalan sa buong bansa.

Ang nasabing monitoring center ay ima-mando ng AFP at PNP contingents sa ilalim ng supervision ng Commission on Elections (Comelec).

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Ayon kay AFP PAO chief Col. Noel Detoyato 24-hours operational ang nasabing monitoring center.

Sinabi ni Detoyato na kunektado ang nasabing monitoring center sa mga unified commands at maging sa mga police units sa buong bansa.

Aniya, aktibong imo-monitor ng AFP at PNP ang seguridad sa ground sa araw ng halalan.

Samantala, ngayong araw naman nakatakda ang absentee voting para sa mga sundalo na gaganapin sa grandstand ng Kampo Aguinaldo.

Magsisimula ang botohan alas-8:00 ngayong umaga.

Libu-libong mga sundalo ang nakatakdang bumoto ngayong araw.

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **Widodo pangunahan ang pulong re: joint maritime patrol sa Phl, Malaysia**

By Bombo Anne Soberano Posted in Latest News Thursday, 28 April 2016 07:11  
Mismong si Indonesian President Joko Widodo ang pabor na magkaroon ng joint maritime patrol sa pagitan ng Indonesia, Malaysia at Pilipinas.

Sa isang pahayag sinabi ni Widodo na ngayong linggo kanilang iimbitahin ang Malaysian military chief, foreign minister at maging ang military at defense chiefs ng Pilipinas para pag usapan ang posibilidad na magkaroon ng joint patrol upang matiyak na ligtas bumiyahe sa mga sea lane.

Aminado din si Widodo na ang pagpapalaya sa 14 na Indonesians na bihag ngayon ng ASG ay hindi ordinaryong bagay.

Sinabi ng Indonesian president na ang pagkakaroon ng joint patrol ay isa sa mga hakbang para matigil na ang pagdukot lalo na sa karagatan.