

Army Vision: By 2330, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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02 August 2016

Tuesday

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

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Duterte ready for 'marathon' talks with Reds

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Truth shall prevail

Rody tells infra: End 'con-ass' or close shop

Duterte pushes Con-ass

President: Road to peace will be rocky

But only 37% favor Cha-cha, says poll

PNP taps piggies in war on drugs

Prank calls swamp 911 hotline

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Truth shall prevail

The Manila Times

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DU30 still seen comrades as friends, but admits peace talks a rough road

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Snyder leaps from plane - with no parachute

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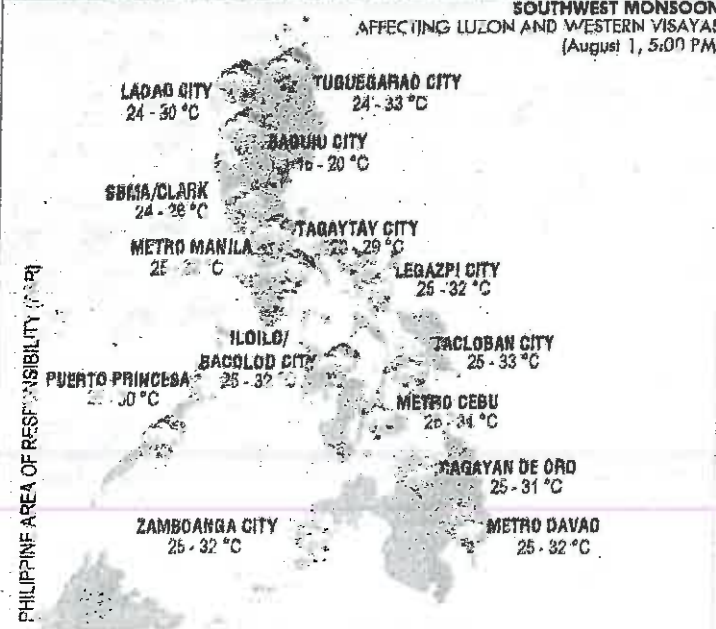


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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 2, 2016 | TUESDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING LUZON AND WESTERN VISAYAS
(August 1, 5:00 PM)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:40 AM	6:26 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
4:50 AM	5:53 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
JULY 27 7:00 AM	AUG 3 4:45 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH 5:27 PM -0.01 Meter	MANILA SOUTH 1:37 PM 1.37 Meter


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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Monsoon rains/rains

AUG 1		AUG 2		AUG 3		AUG 4	
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C
TUQUEGARAO	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
LAOAG	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 20 °C	17 - 21 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C			

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SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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Duterte pushes Con-ass

But only 37% favor Cha-cha, says poll

By Leila B. Salaverria, Tarra Quismundo
and Inquirer Research

PRESIDENT Duterte is pushing for Charter change (Cha-cha) through a constituent assembly (Con-ass) despite findings of a nationwide survey that Cha-cha supporters are outnumbered by those opposing constitutional amendments.

In light of the Pulse Asia survey, however, several senators said public sentiment must be taken into account while efforts to spread awareness about moves to change the Constitution should be pursued.

In the Pulse Asia survey, 44 percent said the Constitution should not be amended, while 37 percent were in favor of amending it. Nineteen percent were undecided.

The survey, conducted on July 2-8, covered 1,200 respondents and had a margin of error

of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Asked what concerns should the Duterte administration address immediately, a mere 7 percent said amending the 1987 Constitution was a priority.

Even so, Mr. Duterte is pushing for a shift to a federal-parliamentary form of government from the current unitary-presi-

DUTERTE/A13

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Duterte pushes constituent assembly

From page A1

SENATE PRESIDENT which means changing the Constitution itself and not just amending specific provisions.

He favors a **Con-ara**, composed of members of Congress, over a constitutional convention (**Con-con**) because of the higher cost associated with the latter mode of changing the fundamental law of the land.

In a **Con-con**, delegates are elected by the electorate and given funds to carry out their work.

Convenor for Con-ara

Defending his preferred mode of introducing the changes to the Constitution, Mr. Duterte yesterday said nobody could make sweeping generalizations about the competence of lawmakers, who would be proposing a new Constitution through a **Con-ara**.

He said he sensed "contempt" for the proposed **Con-con**. But he said that even if several of the lawmakers were corrupt, this did not mean the same description would apply to all.

"You cannot make a sweeping statement that people cannot trust these guys to make a good Constitution, to craft a new one that would serve this generation, because many of them had been elected time and again," he said.

Many of the lawmakers have been serving the government for decades and have been chosen by the people probably because they are good, according to the President.

Besides, Mr. Duterte said, he and the rest of the executive branch, including the military, police and local officials, were here to keep an eye on the proposed amendments.

He would not allow a "bulletin Constitution" in case one is proposed, he added.

According to Senate President Pro Tempore Franklin Drilon, however, amendments to the Constitution are not approved by the President and cannot be vetoed by him.

Plebiscite

The proposed amendments are submitted directly to the people for approval in a plebiscite, Drilon said in a statement. He earlier filed a resolution for a **Con-con**.

The Pulse Asia survey also found that less than half of Filipinos were aware of proposals to amend the Charter and seven in 10 said they knew nothing or only a little about the Constitution.

But compared to two years ago, opposition and indecision on **Cha-cha** fell. In November 2014, 45 percent were against it, 27 percent were in favor and 24 percent were undecided.

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara said public opinion should factor into legislative decisions. "Perhaps greater efforts should be exerted in engaging and involving the people in these dialogues about Charter change," he said.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said the survey results should signal to the Duterte administration that the public did not want **Cha-cha**.

"I'm relieved to know that many of our people are not open to Charter change. That should put the brakes on the designs of the Duterte administration," he said.

Nearly equal footing

But Sen. Grace Poe said the survey placed the "for" and "against" sides on nearly equal footing.



DUTERTE

JOAN BONDOC

Poe noted the increase among the number of people who wanted **Cha-cha**: 27 percent from the last Pulse Asia survey on the same issue in 2014, to the current 27 percent.

"Taking into consideration the 2-percent point margin of error, it appears that it is as of today a close call, but the trajectory of more people having the inclination to amend or revise the Constitution under the present dispensation may gain more ground," she said.

Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, among those staunchly supporting the call for federalism of Mr. Duterte, his party mate, was optimistic that more people could still be convinced that **Cha-cha** is necessary.

Highest in Mindanao

"If 44 percent do not like **Cha-ana**, we can still swing the 56 percent. [The issue] has not been fully discussed. I don't think it has even made front page news. So as soon as that becomes the issue of the day, more people will be convinced," Pimentel said.

The Pulse Asia survey showed support for **Cha-cha** was highest in Mindanao and Metro Manila (both 47 percent) and among Class ABC (42 percent).

It also showed public opinion on changing the country's form of government from presidential to parliamentary was split three-ways with 37 percent opposing it, down from 59 percent in February 2009; 33 percent supporting it, an increase from 21 percent in 2009; and 30 percent undecided about the shift, up from 20 percent in 2009.

Those in favor and not in favor of a federal system of government to replace the unitary system almost have the same percentages—39 percent versus 38 percent, while 28 percent were undecided.

In February 2009, 22 percent supported a federal government, 59 percent said "no" to it and 19 percent were undecided.

Federalism

In a privilege speech, Sen. Pisa Hontiveros said she and the Akbayan party "support opening conversations on federalism," and stated her preference for a constitutional convention.

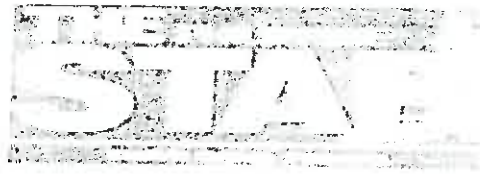
Sen. Manny Pacquiao, a Duterte ally, said he would go for whichever the President preferred.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente "Tito" Sotto IV has the "privations" about the push for **Cha-cha**.

"As they say, if it ain't broke, why fix it?" he said, adding that the country needs a different kind of "**Cha-cha**" that is "character change." With a report from Ana Ana Inquirer Research.

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Duterte ready for 'marathon' talks with Reds

But Rody hits back at Joma

By ALEXIS ROMERO

After lifting a unilateral ceasefire, President Duterte said yesterday his administration is still ready not just to talk but to hold "marathon" peace negotiations with communist rebels.

Duterte reiterated his desire for the country to achieve lasting peace before he steps down from office.

"I dare them. This is my challenge to them: let us not only talk, let's have a marathon," Duterte said. "I hope that we can proceed with the talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)."

Duterte lamented that he is being blamed for calling off the ceasefire even if the government side was the one that

sustained casualties.

Despite being criticized by communists for his supposed hasty decision to call off the truce, Duterte said he is still open to a ceasefire.

"I will see if I will also be happy to re-install a ceasefire. Maybe at Christmas time... in the spirit of the season," the President said.

Duterte, however, lashed back at CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, who criticized him for calling off the truce.

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Duterte From Page 1

"Do you believe in them? Whom do you believe in? Me or them?" Duterte asked at a press briefing.

He said that for all this fighting for 47 years, the communists never had control of one barangay for one day.

"Me, I was elected by about 16 million of our countrymen for whom I am really thankful. They cannot even get to elect a leftist. They always lose," he added.

Duterte said the peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF), the political arm of the communists, would resume as scheduled on Aug. 20.

He believes the negotiations will not be easy.

"The best way, really, is to talk again and find out whether (peace) it is reachable or beyond our reach,"

he said.

Duterte declared a ceasefire with the communists during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 25. The truce was meant to support the resumption of peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway.

The President, however, called off the ceasefire Saturday night after the NDF failed to declare its own truce before 5 p.m. of July 30, the deadline he set.

Duterte asked the communists to implement a truce after communist guerrillas ambushed government militiamen in Davao del Norte last July 27, two days after he announced the ceasefire. The attack left one militiaman dead and four others wounded.

The Armed Forces of the

Philippines (AFP) debunked claims of the New People's Army (NPA) that the rebels merely retaliated against the militiamen, who were allegedly involved in offensive operations against insurgents.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the militiamen or CAFGUs were on their way back to camp when they were attacked by the enemy.

NPA rebels ambushed the CAFGUs in Barangay Gupitan in Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

Padilla cited another incident in Agusan del Sur where NPA rebels ambushed another group of government troops.

He said the AFP would continue the offensive against communist rebels after Duterte withdrew the ceasefire.

The President is also willing to grant amnesty to Sison, his former college professor,

and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari.

There is no difference between Sison and Misuari, as far as he is concerned, because both fugitives have waged rebellions based on ideology.

"I am talking to Sison, he is a fugitive," he said. "They are waging rebellions, okay? It is ideology driven. The redeeming factor there is that you rebel because you want a better life for the people," Duterte said, providing the contrast between the Moro rebel groups and the Abu Sayyaf.

He noted that rebellion under the Revised Penal Code is penalized up to 12 years, not the maximum penalty.

"These guys, I will consider an amnesty if we are able to talk and agree to a peaceful co-existence," he said.

Duterte said he is going to Mindanao within 10 days ahead of the resumption of

the government negotiations with the NDF in Oslo on Aug. 20 to 27.

According to Duterte, he is planning a trip to Jolo to talk to Misuari.

The President said he is ready to provide safe conduct pass to Misuari and his men who were charged for the Zamboanga siege in 2013 during the Aquino administration.

Peace groups appeal

A peace advocacy group urged the leadership of the CPP-NPA-NDF to resume the stalled peace talks with the Duterte administration.

Ernesto Alcanzare, lead organizer of Yes for Peace-Bayanihan para sa Kapayapaan, Kaunlaran at Kasaganahan, explained that almost five decades of armed struggle being waged by the CPP-NPA have cost the Filipinos billions of pesos worth of human and material resources.

He said government resources could be allocated to address the roots of the problems the rebels seek to solve.

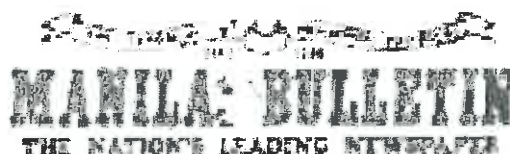
Alcanzare said his group is urging the CPP-NPA to go back to the negotiating table and participate in the peace talks, stop their armed struggle and conduct the peace talks in the country instead of abroad.

The militant peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) yesterday warned that the ceasefire issue could be prejudicial to the peace talks, and appealed to Duterte not to use the truce as a precondition for negotiations.

Duterte should learn from past administrations that used and abused the ceasefire issue as a precondition to peace talks, said KMP secretary-general Antonio Flores.

- With Ramon Efren Lazaro, Jose Rodel Clapano, Rhodina Villanueva, Christina Mendez, Cecille Suerte Felipe

02 August 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Army, PNP on red alert

Communist rebel slain after lifting of gov't unilateral ceasefire

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO** and **PNA**

The Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) and the Eastern Mindanao Command as well as the Northeastern and Northern Mindanao Police Regional Offices 13 and 10 (PRO 13, PRO 10) are now on "red alert" status following President Duterte's lifting of the government's unilateral ceasefire with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) Saturday night.

President Duterte ordered government forces to resume their offensive operations following the CPP's failure to come up with its own ceasefire declaration. The President had given the communist rebels until 5 p.m. of July 30 to declare a ceasefire.

Yesterday, a suspected NPA fighter was killed following a clash with 30th Infantry Battalion troopers and police officers in Malimono, Surigao del Norte.

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Army, PNP on red alert ◀1

The clash, which took place at about 8 a.m. yesterday, was the first recorded fighting between government forces and the NPA since the lifting of the government unilateral ceasefire last Saturday, said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

President Duterte ordered the lifting of the ceasefire, which he declared during his State-of-the-Nation-Address last July 25, in wake of the NPA's failure to declare its own ceasefire last July 30.

The clash lasted for five minutes and resulted in the death of one rebel and the seizure of an AK-47 automatic

rifle, two IEDs (improvised explosive devices), assorted ammunition and magazines, and gallons of rice and other foodstuff.

There were no losses on the government side.

Padilla said military and police units were responding to NPA extortion complaints when the clash happened in a hill near the Malimono City Hall.

Apparently, NPA units were supposed to meet their couriers there and pick up money and supplies raised through extortion that victimized residents of Barangays San Isidro and

Binucayan, officials said.

However, this was foiled when responding government security forces clashed with the suspected rebels, killing one of them.

Under the red alert status, spokespersons of the 4th ID, PRO-13, and PRO-10 said soldiers are expected to be present in their respective units and prepare for any eventuality that may arise. They said various field troops are also back to defend their respective headquarters and secure and defend village communities in time of harassments.

Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesperson of 4th ID said field troops were also directed to continue without let up their peace and development

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Bomb-carrying car discovered in Marawi

MARAWI CITY - Soldiers intercepted Friday a car that was reportedly on its way to transport an improvised explosive device (IED) to Cagayan de Oro City or other parts of Northern Mindanao.

The Marawi City-based Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade said a white Toyota Innova, which did not have license plates, was abandoned by its driver and other passengers shortly after Friday noon at Barangay Madaya Lilod here when pursuing troops blocked the suburb's exit and entry channels.

Troops discovered a 105mm howitzer ammunition, rigged with a cellular phone and triggering wires, among other contents in the van that included a conduction sticker YM 649, fatigue uniforms and documents bearing signs related to the terrorist Islamic State (IS), said two officers of the Army's 103rd Brigade, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter.

The sources said investigators traced the conduction sticker to a member of the jihadist Maute group long wanted in Bayang, Lanao del Sur.

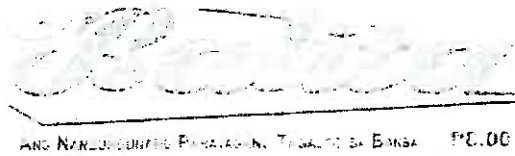
The jihadist group, led by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute, was subjected to series of military operations this year that resulted in the killing of

dozens of bandits and soldiers and the displacement of hundreds of families in Bayang town.

The group had claimed responsibility in the firing of an M-79 grenade that destroyed a concrete fence of the 103rd Infantry Brigade in early July.

The white Innova had long been subject of military surveillance as a transport unit used by the Maute group, a local conduit of the IS-leaning Khilafah Islamiyah Movement (KIM), the informants said. (Ali G. Macabablang)

2 August 2016



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Sundalo todas sa kabaro

Patay ang isang sundalo at isa pa ang nasugatan makaraan silang barilin ng kapwa nila miyembro ng Philippine Army sa Negros Occidental, nitong Linggo ng hapon.

Kinumpirma ni Lt. Col. Darryl Bañes, commanding officer ng 62nd Infantry Battalion, ng Philippine Army, na napatay si PFC Rusky Balgona, 30, ng Barangay Dianav, Estalante City, matapos barilin ni

Sgt. Aproniano Dominguez, 40, ng Bunawan, Agusan del Sur.

Ayon sa imbestigasyon ng Negros Occidental Police Provincial Office (NOPPO), binaril ni Dominguez ang biktima gamit ang kanyang M-16 armalite rifle.

Nagkatuwaan umanong maligo sa resort sa Cadiz City ang mga sundalo dahil birthday ng isa nilang kasamahan.

Nabatid na dakong 5:00 ng

hapon nang sa gitna ng inuman ay nagkapikunan sina Dominguez at Balgona.

Nasugatan naman sa kamay si PFC Arjoe Gabia, 27, ng Camarin, Caloocan City, matapos umawat sa away ng dalawang kasamahan.

Nabawi ng pulisya ang armalite na ginamit ni Dominguez, na nakakulong na sa himpilan ng NOPPO.

Fer Taboy

<http://www.inquirer.net/>

Soldier killed by colleague at Army teambuilding event

By: Carla P. Gomez

BACOLOD CITY – A team building activity of an Army infantry unit in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental, turned bloody on Sunday when one of its participants shot and killed his fellow soldier and wounded another. Private first class Rusky Balgona, 30, was declared dead on arrival at the Cadiz District Hospital. Police said Balgona was shot by his colleague, Sgt. Aproniano Dominguez, at the Little Jungle Beach Resort in Barangay Magsaysay, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. Supt. Edel Jose Manzano, Cadiz City police chief, on Monday said that the shooting was triggered by a misunderstanding between Balgona and Dominguez, both members of the 62nd Infantry Battalion assigned in northern Negros. Investigation by the Cadiz City police showed that both the victim and the suspect were apparently under the influence of liquor when the incident happened. Dominguez reportedly got the M-16 assault rifle of one of their security escorts and shot Balgona. Pfc. Arjoe Gabia, who tried to pacify and disarm Domingo, was also shot in the right palm, Manzano said. Domingo was later subdued by his colleagues. Cadiz policemen, who responded to the shooting incident, recovered 15 empty shells and five live bullets for M16 rifle at the scene of incident. Dominguez is now detained pending the filing of murder and frustrated murder charges against him./ac/rga

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President seeks talks with Reds

By Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday acknowledged a “rocky road” to peace but held out hope communist rebels would continue the search for an end to a conflict that had torn the country for nearly half a century.

Mr. Duterte sounded optimistic in an interview with reporters a day after government and communist negotiators issued statements stepping back from the brink after the collapse last week of his unilateral ceasefire declaration following the insurgents’ failure to reciprocate.

His peace adviser, Jesus Dureza, and Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria Sison, in statements to the press at the

PRESIDENT/A4

From page A1

weekend, expressed hopes that a ceasefire could be negotiated at the resumption of peace talks in Oslo next month.

“Along the way, it’s always a rocky road. There is no negotiation that comes easy to us given the turmoil of our country,” Mr. Duterte said before he led a mass oath-taking of new appointees.

‘Despicable thought’

He said he was hoping to talk again with the negotiators. “Maybe we did not understand each other,” he said, “and so the best is really to talk again and find out whether it is reachable or beyond our reach.”

The cost of fighting with each other and knowing that bullets from the government would kill fellow Filipinos is a “despicable thought,” the President said.

“My desire is just to see my nation at peace and for everybody in this generation before I make my exit,” he said.

Mr. Duterte’s remarks came after he lifted

on Saturday the unilateral ceasefire he announced on July 25 in his State of the Nation Address (Sona) when the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political wing of the CPP and its armed group, the New People’s Army (NPA), failed to meet his ultimatum to announce a similar gesture.

The President was also distressed by the NPA attack on government troops in Kapa-long, Davao del Norte province, two days after his truce declaration.

The NPA has said the attack was to preempt a military offensive against them, while the 77-year-old Sison, who founded the CPP in 1968, castigated Mr. Duterte, his former student, for being “volatile” and a “butangero” (hoodlum).

Poltergeist

By week’s end, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police rescinded directives to troops to suspend operations and ordered them to resume their normal tasks to secure the nation from the NPA, whose strength has been dramatically reduced from a peak of 25,000

during the martial law years to around 4,000 now, according to the military.

Asked yesterday during the Palace news conference if he would reinstate the government ceasefire, Mr. Duterte said he would wait for the recommendation of his advisers.

He said he could not be an “ideological poltergeist”—a ghost making noises.

“I can only go along, coast along and get the advice of the people whom I have tasked. I cannot run my own errands. I have to do serious work here,” he said in his first meeting with Palace reporters since he assumed the presidency.

“Whatever advice they will give me, I will think about it, sleep on it. Perhaps then I will make a decision,” he added.

He also said he could not be “foul-mouthed” because he was talking for the Republic of the Philippines.

But he noted that it was the government that lost a soldier to an NPA attack, which was why he was wondering why he was being made out to be the bad guy.

The President also pointed out that he won by 16 million votes, while the communists had not been that successful in attempts to land elective office.

Little time to consult

In a Facebook chat with the INQUIRER, Fidel Agcaoili, the NDFP spokesperson based in the Netherlands, blamed Mr. Duterte for the collapse of the ceasefire.

"He declared a unilateral ceasefire without giving us any details, even though we had been asking his negotiators to provide us with a copy should he decide to declare one during the Sona so that we can reciprocate," Agcaoili said.

"The least he should have done was to give us more time, since we have been giving them more time to do what they are expected to do under the Oslo Joint Agreement of 15 June 2016," he said.

He also pointed out that the NDFP negotiators in the Netherlands had to consult and seek approval of the CPP leadership on the ground before it could reciprocate Mr. Duterte's truce declaration—a process that takes time.

Despite the setback, Agcaoili said the movement was optimistic that the Duterte administration would not just end hostilities but, most importantly, address crucial socio-economic and political issues behind one of the world's longest communist insurgencies.

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejandro said division among the factions loyal to Sison on one hand and CPP Central Committee leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon on the other was part of the reason for the NDFP's failure to reciprocate Mr. Duterte's moves.

"There are cracks within the organization and the government should look at this dynamic. If the Tiamzons do not agree to the terms set by the President, then we have a problem," Alejandro told the INQUIRER by phone.

The Tiamzons were the highest communist officials until they were arrested in a joint military and police operation in 2014. They are detained at Camp Crame. *With reports from Nikko Dizon and Karlos Manlupig, Inquirer Mindanao*

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The National Newswatch

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No talks with Abu Sayyaf: Duterte

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday reiterated that there would be no negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf whom he described as criminals without any ideological or redeeming factors.

"But I'm very sorry to say that there will be no talks about these things: Abu Sayyaf. I will not deal with criminals. I will not deal with persons of extreme brutality. There is no redeeming factor or reason for me to sit down and talk with criminals," the President said during his first press conference in Malacanang on Monday.

Duterte said his standing order to the military is to ensure the safety and integrity of the

nation against the enemies of the State like the ASG.

The President, during dinner last Sunday with the Presidential Security Group (PSG), said the enemies of the state should be destroyed.

He said he does not talk with criminals like the ASG and the "Abu Sayyaf. Those are the enemies that have to be destroyed... you will have to just destroy them."

The ASG had been known for its kidnap for ransom activities, targeting foreigners visiting the country or those that are traveling near Philippine waters.

They had also been known to decapitate some of their hostages, especially foreigners, that fail to pay ransom.

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Peace talks with Left on despite setback, says Rody

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said peace talks with the communist group would proceed despite a "rocky road" and recent setbacks, like his having to withdraw government's ceasefire declaration with the group.

Formal talks are set to resume in Norway from August 20 to 27.

Duterte said his goal is to see the country in peace, and this he wants attained during his administration.

The President said peace efforts with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP), and with Bangsamoro rebels are part of the agenda of the Cabinet meeting he convened yesterday.

"Along the way, it's always a rocky road. There is no negotiation that comes easy to us especially given the turmoil of our country. We are hoping that we could just talk, maybe we did not understand each other. And so, the best way is really is to talk again and find out whether it is reachable or beyond our reach," he said.

The President said he is still waiting for the full report of peace adviser Jesus Dureza and Labor Secretary Silvestre

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PEACE

Bello III, government's chief negotiator with the CPP-NPA-NDFP, after the lifting of the ceasefire Saturday night.

Duterte declared the ceasefire on July 25. Two days later, the NPA ambushed government troops in Davao del Norte, leaving a militiaman dead. Another NPA ambush occurred on July 28 in Agusan del Norte.

On the same day, Duterte gave the communist group up to 5 p.m. of July 30 to explain and to declare its own ceasefire. The deadline passed and there was no truce declaration from the CPP-NPA-NDFP. Duterte recalled the ceasefire declaration at 7 p.m. of July 30. A few minutes Duterte cancelled the truce, CPP founding chairman and NDFP consultant Jose Maria Sison announced that the communist group was supposed to declare its counterpart ceasefire at 8 p.m.

Duterte declined to comment on Sison's statement last Sunday that he made a hasty decision when he lifted the truce.

He said it would be up to the public to decide who they want to believe, especially given the circumstances that led to his decision.

"I will give you a visual. For all this fighting 43, 40 years, 45 years, they (NPA) never even had control of one barangay for a day. Me? I was elected by about 16 million of our coun-

trymen for whom I am really thankful. Sila? They could not even get to elect a leftist. Talo palagi. Tapos sila ang paniwalaan mo. Bahala ka," Duterte said.

He said despite the statements, he remains hopeful that the talks with the communist group would proceed.

Asked if he would again declare a ceasefire, the President said he would still have to study it, and joked that he might consider declaring one during the Christmas holidays. Turning serious, he said he would still study it.

Government traditionally declares a Christmas and New Year's truce.

Duterte said he might even consider granting amnesty to the communist rebels if a peaceful settlement is reached.

Duterte said he also intends to spend at least 10 days firming up peace arrangements in Mindanao by unifying peace frameworks signed by the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 1996 and 2014, respectively.

The President said he intends to visit Jolo and Cotabato to meet with MNLF and MILF leaders in the coming days.

"I cannot stop talking about peace. I am a President who is supposed to bring peace to his land... I just believe that I have to look for that peace for my land during my generation.

If I fail, mahirap na, including Mindanao," he added.

SURIGAO CLASH

An NPA rebel died in the first hostility between government forces and the insurgents since Duterte lifted the unilateral ceasefire.

The fighting occurred at around 8 a.m. yesterday in Barangay Binucaran, Malimono town in Surigao del Norte, just behind the town hall, said 2Lt. Ryan Layug, civil military operations officer of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion.

Layug said soldiers, accompanied by policemen, were sent to the area after residents complained about the rebels' extortion activities.

The NPA group, composed of 15 to 20 men, withdrew after a five-minute firefight.

Government forces resumed offensive operations against the NPA on Saturday night, hours after Duterte lifted the ceasefire.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla belied allegations by communists that government troops did not comply with the ceasefire directive, leading to the skirmish in Kapalong, Davao del Norte last Wednesday.

"We sincerely enforced it... We immediately issued orders so that our troops will be informed of it since the instruction of the President who called for an immediate ceasefire," said Padilla. -- *With Victor Reyes*

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Duterte to PSG: Your loyalty should be to the Constitution, flag, not me

By ELENA L. ABEN

President Duterte took time Sunday to thank members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) for providing him and his family security during a thanksgiving dinner attended by their

families at Malacañang Park.

"I am happy that you secure my person but just the same I would like to caution everybody na I do not cultivate adoration or personal loyalty," the President said in his pep talk.

"Just remain loyal to the Con- ▶4

Duterte to PSG: Your loyalty... ◀1

stitution and I'd be happy. Really, just honor the flag. Pareho tayo trabahante lang ng gobyerno. (We are all government workers). I came from a poor family and rose from the ranks, too," he added.

The President apologized for not meeting the PSG at the start of his term due to his tight schedule and lauded them for their loyalty.

He urged the elite troops to help the police in the campaign against illegal drugs "because we cannot maintain order throughout the land every inch

of the territory. That is impossible. You have to help us. We have to finish this problem because it is threatening our country." He cited the figures of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency that there are about three million drug dependents. And that was two years ago. He said the country realized the enormity of the drug menace when he made it the center of his campaign against illegal drugs.

PSG commander Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista also reminded his men to "step in cadence with the Commander-

in-Chief because we will be the one to protect him."

Duterte also took the occasion to warn every government employee not to shortchange the Filipino. He said there are government employees who no longer get back to work after lunch break and who either while their time in the malls or inside movie houses while getting paid for eight hours of work.

"So ang bayad naming good for eight hours then you only report for three to four hours, that's swindling actually. You are swindling the Filipino people of their money. Eh di magtrabaho kayo," the former Davao City Mayor said.

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DU30 still sees commies as friends, but admits peace talks a rough road

By Ted Tuvera

Despite the brickbats mouthed by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), President Rodrigo Duterte says he's still a "friend" to the rebel group.

According to the Chief Executive, his determination to push the peace talks between his government and the insurgents is still intact but admitted that



it is not that easy to reach a peace deal with the communist rebels.

"It's a rough road to peace. There is no negotiations that come easy. Maybe we did not just understand each other," Duterte yesterday said during the mass oath taking of new government appointees in Malacañang.

"I hope we can proceed with peace talks with the CPP. My desire is just to see the nation at peace," he stressed.

In a separate speaking engagement on Sunday night, Duterte said despite communist leader Jose Maria "Joma" Sison calling him an

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DU30 still sees commies as friends, but admits peace talks a rough road

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"arrogant bully" right after he lifted his earlier declared unilateral ceasefire with the New People's Army (NPA) last Saturday, he is still a friend.

"This communist group, we're still friends. They are socialist but they are Communist Party of the Philippines. I am just socialist in my dimension because I came from a poor family. I hate government and anyone oppressing the people," Duterte said, adding he shares some sentiments of the leftist groups.

But the President undermined Sison's claim that the CPP was set to reciprocate Malacañang's peace offering supposedly by 8 p.m. on Saturday night which did not push through eventually as Duterte was the first to withdraw from the truce.

"Would you believe them? If they should do that, then they could have (done so)," Duterte said.

He admitted that he was slightly offended by Sison's angry reaction, blaming the government troops for

not adhering to their own truce order.

"I was the one who declared the ceasefire, I suffered a casualty, and the government is the bad guy? You know what, I don't want to foul mouthed (him) but I'm really frustrated with (Sison)," the President told reporters.

Release of political detainees

Duterte also said he's also pursuing the release of alleged CPP consultants Benito Tiamzon and his wife Wilma Austria, and other communist leaders prior to the talks on August 20 in Oslo, Norway.

"I'm considering amnesty with rebels if they will talk peace with government," he added.

The Tiamzon couple were arrested in Cebu in 2014 by virtue of a warrant of arrest for their crimes against humanity that include murder, multiple murders, and frustrated murder.

The Tiamzons, who follow a tradition in the CPP of husband and wife leadership teams, are said to have taken over the helm of the

movement from Jose Ma. Sison, a long-time exile in the Netherlands.

No more talks with the Abus

Duterte, meanwhile, said he will be spending some time in Mindanao to prepare his roadmap for Bangsamoro insurgents: the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"I will be spending about 10 days after tomorrow (in Mindanao) to firm up the structure of the Mindanao issue," he stressed.

Among his plans is to personally see fugitive MNLF founder Nur Misuari in Jolo, Sulu.

But the President emphasized that the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group is not part of his negotiations game plan.

"There will be no talks with Abu Sayyaf. I will not deal with criminals. I will not deal with persons of extreme brutality," he said.

"There is no redeeming factor for me to sit down and deal with ASG. Their purpose is to kill and invoke the name of God," he added.

08 August 2016

The Manila Times

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Captive asks military to stop his rescue

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The New People's Army (NPA) on Monday released a second video clip of the captured police officer in Davao Oriental who appealed again to the military to stop rescue operations for fear of his safety.

The video, sent to the regional newspaper Mindanao Examiner by NPA spokesman Rigoberto Sanchez, was the second since June after capturing Chief Inspector Arnold Ongachen, police chief of Governor Generoso town. Ongachen was taken on May 29 during a daring assault on a police station.

He said the prisoner is being investigated by a rebel court for his alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade in the town after a packet of shabu was seized from him during the raid.

In the video, Ongachen appealed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to halt all operations to free him from captivity and urged the Duterte government to resume peace talks with the NPA.

"I'm asking the AFP to stop the military operations and give way to the peace talks which have long been asked for by our countrymen. I wish that we allow the peace talks to proceed so that we will understand why our fellow Filipinos are fighting the government. This problem has not been understood by many of us," the bemustached police officer, wearing a black shirt, said in Filipino.

It was not known whether Ongachen was speaking under duress but the frames of the clip were obviously edited several times and put together for the three-minute video.

In the same clip, the police chief said aside from him, the rebels were also holding several people who were taken prisoners for using illegal drugs.

Ongachen said he is being treated well by his captors and added that the NPA enjoys community support although he did not say where he is being held.



A photo taken by his captors in June 2016 shows Police Chief Insp. Arnold Ongachen of Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental (right), and a video clip (upper) was released on Monday to show proof that he is still alive. PHOTO BY AL JACINTO

Sentence him

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier appealed to the rebels to immediately free Ongachen but has given up efforts to secure his safe release after learning from the NPA that the rebels confiscated drugs from him.

Duterte, who publicly declared war on illegal drugs, said the fate of Ongachen is now up to the NPA. "You have a kangaroo court. Sentence him to 20 years of hard labor," he said. "I said I'd be harsh [on illegal drugs] I'm sorry for that guy."

Sanchez earlier said the town has been identified as gateway of the illegal drug trade in the province and that government officials have ignored the existence of nefarious activities there. He also accused the 23th Infantry Battalion of sabotaging the NPA's planned raid on a laboratory being run by drug syndicates in the village of Tibanban.

The rebel spokesman also accused politicians and other military and police officers for involvement in such activities and warned that they are now target of the NPA's war on illegal drugs.



"It is in the class interest of feudal lords, bourgeois compradors and bureaucrat capitalists that illegal drugs should proliferate in the country. The detestable US-Aquino regime has allowed this menace to take root and spread. This is yet another crime that the outgoing reactionary regime and its Oplan Bayanihan have to be held accountable for," Sanchez said.

Oplan Bayanihan refers to the government's anti-insurgency campaign, which the NPA said violates rights of innocent people, resulting in extrajudicial killings in the countryside.

Sanchez said the release of the clip affirmed the NPA's continuing campaign against illegal drug syndicates in the country. He added that the daring raid in Generoso town is a blow against the unholy alliance of reactionaries and the Armed Forces who continue to peddle illegal drugs in the province.

AL JACINTO

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Military camps eyed as drug rehab centers

President Duterte has asked the military to allot at least a portion of its camps as rehabilitation facilities for drug dependents.

"I will have to use your camps. It's only the military that has a vast reservation of land," Duterte said during a meeting with the Presidential Security Group at Malacañang

on Sunday night.

"I'm just asking for a hectare...I will surround it with barbed wire. I will build the rehabilitation facilities," he said.

Duterte said drug users would only commit crimes if they were allowed to roam the streets.

"We have to finish this

problem because it is threatening our country. With three million addicts, my God, and those who surrendered today were just about 180. That is how serious our problem is," he said.

Duterte had vowed a "bloody" and "ruthless" campaign against illegal drugs, adding that he would not stop

until the last drug lord or pusher is arrested or killed. He also bared plans to tap the military in the campaign against drugs and criminality.

More than 200 suspects have been killed in various anti-drug operations while more than 120,000 others have surrendered since July 1.

– Alexis Romero

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02 August 2016

The Manila Times

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MILF 'leaking' govt ops to breakaway group

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is suspected of leaking to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters military operations in Maguindanao province in southern Philippines against the BIFF.

A military commander on Monday bared plans to raise the matter to the joint Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of the Government of the Philippines (CPH).

Government, military and MILF officials met after members of the BIFF retreated from pursuing government forces to MILF communities in Maguindanao.

The meetings were held to prevent misencounters between security forces and the MILF and safeguard a ceasefire with the separatist group.

The military, citing intelligence reports, said its operational plans are being passed on to the BIFF,

thus compromising such plans, a highly-placed source disclosed.

"The situation is thorny. I will raise this matter to the CCCH because, apparently, the matters discussed during the meetings are being leaked to the BIFF. It's very sad that this is happening," said the source, who is involved in the operations and privy to the meetings.

He added that they coordinate the operations with the MILF.

The source said the BIFF has "advanced information" on targets of the military operations.

Many of the BIFF members were former or are still members of the MILF.

A number of them also have relatives in the Muslim communities, the reason why BIFF members on the run from the military find sanctuary in the communities.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

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2 August 2016

Pahina. 14

Ombudsman prosecutors, nagbunyi sa kaso vs AFP RSBS executives

Nagbunyi ang Ombudsman prosecutors nang manalo kahapon sa isinampang kaso laban kay Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefit System (RSBS) Brigadier General Jose Ramiscal, Jr. at iba pang opisyal nito na may kinalamnan sa P341million land scam deal.

Ito ay nang hatulan ng Sandiganbayan na makulong ng hanggang 20 taon at pagmultahin ng P250,318,200.00 ang mga akusado sa kasong Malversation of Public Funds. Kapwa akusado ni Ramiscal sina dating RSBS executives, Atty. Julian Alzaga at Atty. Manuel Satuito kasama ang property owners Elizabeth Liang at Jesus Garcia dahil sa bentahan ng lupa sa Laguna.

Sarekord, napatunayan na noong 1996, si

Ramiscal at iba pang akusado ay nagsabwatan umano sa pagbili ng apat na bahagi ng lupain na pagmamay-ari ng Concord Resources, Inc. na pumapaloob sa 130,500 square meters na gagawing right of way project.

Sabi ni Ramiscal, ang P341.3 million ay ibinayad kay Liang at Garcia, President at Treasurer ng Concord. Pero sa notarized deed of sale ng dokumento ay umaabot lamang sa P91 million ang tunay na presyo ng lupain.

Bagamat nagsabi si Ramiscal na peke ang dokumentong P91 milyon lamang ang pagkabili sa lupain, napatunayan naman ng korte na ang pirma ni Ramiscal sa Deed of Sale para sa halagang P91,024,800.00 at Deed of Sale para sa halagang

P341.343,000.00 at iba pang dokumento ay magkakatugma at iisa lamang.

Samantala, hinatulan din ng Sandiganbayan na makulong ng 10 taon si Ricardo Adriano, proprietor ng Julia Enterprises and General Merchandise kasama sina Ofelia Caunan, former OIC-General Services Office ng Parañaque City matapos mapatunayan ang nagkasala sa kasong graft dahil sa ghost delivery ng 2 units ng compost garbage at recycling equipment na nabili noong taong 2000.

Napatunayan ng korte na gumastos ang pamahalaan ng P861,600.00. halaga sa proyektong ito pero hindi naman nakarating sa beneficiary ang dalawang garbage equipment na laan sana sa Barangay Marcelo Green sa Parañaque. (Angie dela Cruz)

2 August 2016

Pahina. 6

~~UNA SA SALITA~~

NPA may 'proof of life' sa hepeng bihag

ZAMBOANGA City — Naglabas kahapon ang New People's Army (NPA) ng ikalawang proof of life sa bihag nitong hepe ng pulisya sa Davao Oriental province sa Mindanao habang patuloy naman itong nililitis ng mga rebelde kaugnay sa iba't ibang akusasyon.

Ipinasa ni NPA spokesman Rigoberto Sanchez ang video ng prisoner of war na si Chief Insp. Arnold S. Ongachen, ang hepe ng pulisya sa bayan ng Gov. Generoso, na dinukot noong Mayo 29 matapos na lusubin ng mga rebelde ang kanyang himpilan at mahulihan pa ng droga sa kanyang bulsa.

Nasa mabuti umanong kalagayan si Ongachen at kapuna-puna ang makapal nitong bigote at buhok habang nagsasalita sa harapan ng camera.

"Ang hiling ko lang po sa AFP ay ihinto na po ninyo ang inyong military operation at bigyang daan natin ang peace talk na matagal nang hinihiling ng mga kababayan natin," sabi ni Ongachen.

Ibinida pa ni Ongachen na bukod sa kanya ay may nakita rin itong iba pang bihag na dinakip ng NPA dahil sa illegal na droga.

'Bahala na kayo!'

Naunang ipinakiusap ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa rebeldeng grupo na palayain agad si Ongachen ngunit nagbago ito ng isipan matapos na sabihin ng NPA na may nakumpiska silang sachet ng shabu sa opisyal. Kinumpirma rin ito ng isang NPA commander kay Duterte nang magkausap sila sa cellphone kung kaya't sinabi ng Pangulo na bahala na ang rebeldeng grupo kay Ongachen.

Iminungkahi pa ni Duterte na may "kangaroo" court naman ang NPA na kung saan ay puwedeng litisin si Ongachen. "You have a kangaroo court. Sentence him to 20 years of hard labor," ani Duterte. "I said I'd be harsh (on illegal drugs). I'm sorry for that guy." (GMA Docinto)

2 August 2016

PUBLIC FILES

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Walang panalo si Joma kay Pres. Rody

"BUTANGERO". "Bully".

Ito naiang ang tanging nasabi ni Joma Sison, ang founding chairman ng CPP-NPA-NDF na nagtatago ngayon sa Netherlands, nang bawiin ni Presidente Rody "Digong" Duterte ang ceasefire declaration 5:00 p.m. ng Sabado, matapos na hindi tumugon sa deadline that date ang pulahan.

Nakatanggap pa ng malulupit na salita ang CPP mula kay Digong. Na itong CPP-NPA raw ay ilang dekada nang nakikipaglaban pero kahit isang barangay ay wala namang nasasakop. Na ang bumubuhay sa kanila ay mga mahihirap na kanilang kinikikilan.

Na itong si Joma Sison ay hayahay ang buhay sa Netherlands at naghihintay lang ng remittance mula sa mga tauhan nito sa Pilipinas.

Nabuwisit kasi si Digong sa ginawa ng NPA na pag-ambush sa ilang miyembro ng CAFGU at sundalo na noo'y nagre-relax na matapos na magdeklara ng tigil-putukan si Digong pagkaupo sa Malalayang kamakailan.

Iba kasi itong ating Presidente ngayon. Diretsahan. Walang plastikan. Isang salita lang. Walang paulit-ulit. Pag

sinabi niya, dapat mangyari. Dahil ito ang kailangan, kamay na bakal, para maging maayos na ang ating bayan.

Hindi ko rin kasi maintindihan kung ano talaga ang ipinaglalaban nitong CPP-NPA? Tila ayaw nila ng katahimikan at pag-unlad ng bansa. Ano ba talaga ang gusto nyo, Ginoeng Joma Sison?

Panahon pa ni late Cory Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Estrada, Gloria M. Arroyo at Noycey Aquino nagkaroon ng mga usapang pangkapayapaan, daan daang milyong piso na ang nagastos ng gobyerno rito, pero hanggang ngayon inaayos parin ang "peacetalk" na yan.

Ano ba talaga, kuya?

Sayang kasi ang mga buhay na nawawala dahil sa mga labanan na-tila wala namaug katuturan. Ewan ko sayo, Joma. Umuwi ka nalang kasi dito sa Pilipinas at upuan kung ano talaga ang inyong ipinaglalaban...

Kung tutuusin, wala nang maipipintas pa ang CPP kay Digong. Dahil marami sa mga miembro nila ay nasa gabinete na. Nasa kanila na ang DAR, DOLE, DSWD, ang isang dating kumander ng NPA ay Executive Secretary, etc... ano pa?

Anyway, magdedeklara raw ng ceasefire ang CPP-NPA sa Agosto 20. Good!!!

Hindi naman talaga mananalo itong si Prof. Joma sa astig nating Presidente na dati niyang estudyante e. Hehehe...

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Ang Maging Muna sa Paghahanggang ng mga NPA sa Davao P2.00

Adik sa NPA nire-rehab—POW

NI YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – Dinaig ng New People's Army (NPA) si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa parehong kampanya nila laban sa iisang kaaway: ang ilegal na droga.

Nabatid na matagal nang isinasailalim ng NPA ang mga miyembro nitong nasasangkot sa droga bago pa man pinlano ng Pangulo ang paggamit sa mga kampo ng militar, sa ilalim ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), para sa rehabilitasyon ng mga nalulong sa droga.

Mismong ang prisoner of war (POW) ng kilusan na si Chief Insp. Arnold Ongachen ang nagkumpirma nito, batay sa isang recorded video na ipinadala niya sa may akda.

Kasabay nito, nanawagan si Ongachen sa pulisya at militar na itigil na ang rescue operations at tutukan ang pagbuhay muli sa negosasyong pangkapayapaan ng gobyerno sa NPA.

Dinukot at binihag ng mga rebelde nang sumalakay ang mga ito sa himpilan ng Governor Generoso Municipal Police noong Mayo, sinabi ni Ongachen na "according to [the NPA], the attack was undertaken because of reports of the worsening drug problem in Gov. Generoso and that it is one of their tasks, the anti-drug campaign."

"Sa unang limang araw ng kostudiya nila sa akin, napansin ko na may ibang mga tao na nasa kostudiya rin ng NPA. Kalaunan, natuklasan

ko na mga lulong sa shabu pala ang mga iyon na tinatangang i-rehab ng NPA mula sa drug addiction," sabi ni Ongache.

"Pinakakain at inaalagaan ng NPA ang mga adik na ito hanggang sa malunasan na ang kanilang addiction," dagdag niya.

Sinabi pa ni Ongachen na hindi kailanman siya sinaktan ng mga bumihag sa kanya simula nang dukutin siya ng mga ito noong Mayo.

"Noong una, akala ko mga kriminal sila. Ngunit nang dalhin nila ako sa isa sa mga komunidad, napansin ko na mahal ng masa

ang NPA at ipinagkakatiwala nila sa mga ito ang kanilang mga bahay. Nagpalipat-lipat kami ng mga tinutuluyang bahay down sa komunidad at lahat ng tao roon ay respetado ang NPA," kuwento pa ni Ongachen.

Mayo 29 nang tinangay si Ongachen ng NPA nang sumalakay ang huli sa himpilan ng pulisya sa Gov. Generoso sa Davao Oriental.

Sinabi naman ni Rigoberto F. Sanchez, tagapagsalita ng NPA-SMROC, na ang programa nila sa rehabilitasyon ay bahagi ng kampanya ng kilusan upang maisalba ang mahihirap na nalulong sa droga.

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The Manila Times

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NEW AMBULANCE Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office General Manager Jose Ferdinand Rojas 2nd (second from left) hands over the symbolic key of a brand-new ambulance from the PCSO Ambulance Donation Program to Philippine Army Col. Emmanuel Guina (second from right) Brigade Commander of the Civil Military Affairs, AFP reserve command during a simple ceremony on July 28 at the PCSO head office Mandaluyong City. With them are PCSO Assistant General Manager for Administrative Sector Lauro Patiag (left) and Lt. Col. Nataniel Marquez.

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A 2007 PHOTO of CPP chair Jose Maria Sison who has been in exile in the Netherlands since 1987

FILE PHOTO

Sison looks like he has lost control of NPA rebels

"DUTERTE CALLS off truce" went the headline of the banner story of the INQUIRER's July 31 issue, to which Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chair Jose Maria Sison defiantly responded: "We won't be bullied."

President Duterte should rethink his position regarding the wisdom of parleying with Sison as the latter's supposed "warriors" in the Philippines continue to resort to all kinds of lawlessness and banditry.

Sison, who is enjoying a life of relative luxury in the Netherlands, seems to have little control of his combatants in this country. His latest "palusot"—that he has placed his army only under some alert status pending his own declaration of a ceasefire—does ring hollow. So, why is Mr. Duterte still talking to him?

Even as Sison promised to investigate the

ambush by communist rebels of the government soldiers returning to their base, Sison was already justifying it. It was a "counter-offensive" against government military forces still conducting operations in Southern Mindanao. To save face, he tried to blame the incident on Mr. Duterte for having failed to rein in his troops below.

Mr. Duterte's gesture of goodwill was mocked by Sison. The tough-talker was dared to "walk his talk"! Mr. Duterte is backing down. Despite the affront, he is still sending his clueless gofers to Oslo, Norway, later in August for further "negotiations" with the communist leader! Has Mr. Duterte met his match in this game of bluster and one-upmanship?

—DINO M. CAPISTRANO,
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02 August 2016



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Missed golden opportunity



WITH PRESIDENT Duterte, as the leader and father of our nation, a lot of hope burns in my heart. His bravery, determination and his strong will to end insurgency in our country by, for example, giving the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) a fair chance to take a shot at peace, so to speak, are what our nation needs.

President Duterte declared unilaterally a ceasefire during his first State of the Nation Address (Sona). This would bring us closer to unifying our country for peace, so we thought. In fact, the President ordered all government troops to immediately implement the ceasefire even as he was still delivering the Sona. Obviously, they

do not want to continue fighting against our "kapwa Pilipino."

Unfortunately, the CPP-NPA imposed so many conditions. And days after the President's unilateral declaration of the ceasefire, elements of the NPA ambushed government militiamen in Davao del Norte, leaving one of them dead and four wounded.

The ambush tells us that the CPP-NPA does not want peace. The CPP-NPA and its leaders do not want us Filipinos to live peacefully. They are not serious about resuming peace negotiations with the government. They want to undermine the leadership of the President.

The CPP-NPA is deceiving us. Its leaders say they are for the people's welfare, then why did the NPA attack

government troops

who

were under a ceasefire order? Why didn't the CPP-NPA reciprocate with a ceasefire of its own? The CPP-NPA's refusal to do so clearly subverts the people's welfare and is, as clearly, treachery of the basest form. The government listens to the CPP-NPA's demands and, precisely, declared a ceasefire to show that we want peace for our country, as the CPP-NPA avers. But what did these communists do instead?

The CPP-NPA, and especially its leaders, disappoint us. How can we believe them again? They are no different from drug addicts who would do everything to push their personal and political interests, never mind if

they destroyed the future of our country, particularly that of young Filipinos.

All I can say now is, the CPP-NPA missed a good and promising opportunity. It missed a golden opportunity to save our nation from a violent, bloody war and to help its members' own families to live or get back to a normal life. It missed a chance that may change our view of the group. Its members missed a chance to make the lives of their loved ones better.

—KRISTABELLE E.
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MANILA BULLETIN

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HOTSPOT

Support the peace talks

By **TONYO CRUZ**

VETERAN human rights lawyer Rachel Pastores has this reaction about President Duterte's lifting of his unilateral ceasefire with the communist rebels, and I agree:

"Pressuring the New People's Army to counter with its own ceasefire, when no military pull-out or substantial political change was effected, was amiss. No one can easily surrender a war of 50 years in five days. It would be wise next for the Duterte administration to regroup and focus on the releases of peace consultants and political prisoners, as pledged in the Oslo Joint Statement of June, 2016. And, it will be wiser and prudent all the more to return to the table in August, reactivating all official mechanisms, to keep on talking and planning for a just and lasting peace."

Pastores is no stranger to the peace process. The Public Interest Law Center, where she serves as managing counsel, has long been involved in providing legal services to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines' negotiating panel, since the time of Romeo T. Capulong - a titan of the human rights and public interest lawyering - who served as the rebel negotiators' general counsel.

The peace process has always been rocky and challenging for both parties. But it doesn't mean we should no longer pursue it.

The situation now presents us with both opportunities and threats, and it is up to the Duterte administration, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, their supporters, and advocates of the peace process how to navigate through it. The challenge is to thwart all those who oppose the peace process - the rightists and anti-communists, the military's corrupt contractors who profit from war, the domestic and foreign interests disinterested in reforms, and the few who wish to deprive us of the means to resolve the roots of the armed conflict.

The Communist Party of the Phil-

ippines, which leads the NPA and the NDFP, is not waging a capricious and mindless war, mind you. This party has always been vocal and straightforward with its objectives, views and perspectives - so much so that not a few have called it the only real political party in the country. It believes that armed revolution is the only way to overthrow Big Business, Big Landlords and Big Foreign Interests - the criminal triad that it views as stumbling blocks to progress in the country. Its diagnosis of the national crisis is clear: The Philippines is rich but remains poor because of imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism and feudalism. It has a complete program for politics, economics, culture and arts, foreign policy, and other areas of national life. It is implementing parts of this program in its territories. And unlike other parties, it criticizes itself, owns up to its mistakes, and apologizes to the nation.

My point is, this is not a party that will meekly bow down to Duterte, as some asinine supporters seriously expect. They cannot be serious, right? This is a party that withstood and prevailed over counter-insurgency operations from the fascist Marcos dictatorship until BS Aquino's rule of t/error. Its position on the peace talks is the same as in the armed revolution it is waging: Everything should be about resolving the roots of the armed conflict.

There are those who think that Duterte should use the talks merely to either deceive or bully the CPP into just giving up. This kind of thinking was precisely what BS Aquino wrongly thought from 2010-2016 when the peace process barely moved an inch. It was not effective, and it brought neither peace nor reforms. Only the Big Landlords, Big Businesses, and Big Foreign Interests were happy during that period - and please don't wonder why.

We should all support the peace process because we would benefit if past and future agreements are implemented and enforced. For ex-

ample, the first of four substantive agreements had already been signed by the government and the NDFP: the landmark Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. It provides for a mechanism for citizens to raise issues and submit complaints on human rights issues - such as extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, torture and other acts of police brutality. It would also oblige the Duterte administration to release all political prisoners wrongly charged with common crimes.

The next substantive agreement - which the Aug. 20 talks in Oslo are expected to tackle - would be about social and economic reforms. Read the NDFP's proposed draft of the changemaking agreement and you would see what could be in store for the nation if both the government and the NDFP could agree, and implement such reforms.

After socio-economic reforms, the parties would talk and hammer out an agreement on political and economic reforms. Then finally, the fourth and last agreement would be on cessation of hostilities and disposition of forces.

To be honest, the alternatives to this sequence of the peace talks agenda are way simpler: The CPP would just have to surrender and give up, have the top leaders appointed to government positions, disband the NPA, and throw away nearly five decades of waging its armed revolution. Or that the Armed Forces of the Philippines would finally achieve the oft-repeated but perpetually-failed victory against the NPA. These are business models, wet dreams and sex fantasies of the few who profit from war.

Let's persevere in the difficult peace process and together achieve for the nation what the legendary Senator Jose W. Diokno once famously described as the hallmarks of peace: "jobs and justice, food and freedom."

Follow me on Twitter @tonyocruz
and read more at tonyocruz.com



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BusinessMirror

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editorial

The CPP-NPA may have lost its war

THE leaders of the "Rebellious Left" embodied in the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) went from, at best, serious participants to, at worst, irrelevant. While the government has said the peace process and negotiations will continue, the CPP-NPA leadership is now rendered toothless by their own actions. Jose Maria Sison himself said in a television interview that he was not in a position to order the insurgents to declare a truce.

That is not to say their armed members are not a dangerous threat. Groups like this can always find innocent civilians to terrorize and kill. However, it will be difficult for government negotiators to trust the words of the other side. Further, the government said the leaders of the CPP-NPA had been furnished with the guidelines to the cease-fire prior to the deadly encounter. Was the CPP-NPA leadership unable to communicate with its fighters or were their orders ignored?

The former seems unlikely from the statement issued by the CPP-NPA, when they said, "The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is leaving out the glaring truth that its troops were clearly on combat operation and not engaged in 'civilian' activities, in direct violation to GRP President Duterte's cease-fire order."

The AFP contends that, in a statement from 1003rd Infantry Brigade commander Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, AFP troops were pulling out from the operational area in compliance with the unilateral cease-fire.

When asked by President Duterte for an explanation, Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesman of the NPA-Southern Mindanao Regional Operations Command, said there was no "conspicuous and veritable unilateral cease-fire" exercised by the AFP, PNP and paramilitary troops in the region. If that is true, why didn't Sanchez offer any example of government forces attacking the NPA operatives or any evidence of the AFP being on "combat operations"? Sanchez clearly and unequivocally stated the NPA performed a preemptive strike on the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit forces. In other words, instead of withdrawing to see if there might be a combat operation against them, the NPA acted first.

Perhaps, the best proof of a "conspicuous and veritable unilateral cease-fire" is that the side that declares the unilateral cease-fire does not fire first.

Active and retired commanders of the AFP have said privately that, during the Aquino administration, efforts to bolster the AFP military capability were very successful with greater supplies, armaments and training made available. Further, these same officers have expressed—from cautious optimism to absolute confidence—that the NPA insurgents could be taken down. However, it will be a "bloodbath" with hundreds, if not more, combatants killed as well as thousands of people being displaced.

President Duterte came under harsh criticism and was accused of coddling the communist insurgents by reaching out to their leadership. Unfortunately, by this incident, the CPP-NPA may have proven what many have said all along. Their members do not want peace; they only want victory. The CPP-NPA will not achieve either except maybe—as in the President's words—the "peace of the dead."

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ONLINE NEWS

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

AFP still hopeful for peace despite resumption of fight vs Reds

Marycel Necio Batara

MANILA — Despite taking a more pro-active stance against the New People's Army with the lifting of the unilateral ceasefire Saturday, the AFP is still hoping that a more lasting and just peace will come out in the Aug. 20 Oslo, Norway talks with the insurgents.

This was stressed by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in the briefing Monday.

"Despite our pro-active stance, the AFP remains supportive of the peace process (and) we hopeful that a long and lasting peace (will) come out of the Oslo talks," he said in Filipino.

Padilla said this elusive peace is the long-time dream of the soldiery and the populace, very tired of this drawn-out conflict.

However, he also clarified that despite this desire for peace, the AFP is committed to carrying out its constitutionally mandated task of protecting the people and country's sovereignty.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared the unilateral ceasefire against the rebels during his first State-of-the-Nation Address last July 25 in line with achieving the government's goal of final and lasting peace.

But the Chief Executive ordered the lifting of the unilateral ceasefire after the 5:00 p.m. Saturday ultimatum he gave lapsed without reciprocation from the rebels.

"Correspondingly, I am ordering the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to also withdraw the operational guidelines they issued in pursuance to that ceasefire declaration," Duterte stressed.

Prior the deadline, the President demanded a concrete explanation from the rebels regarding its July 27 attack against militia units in Kapalong, Davao Del Norte which killed one and wounded four others.

"The NPA have missed a golden opportunity to manifest their commitment to the attainment of our citizen's much-sought peace throughout the land," Padilla said.

"This could have been what the Filipino nation had been waiting for — the silencing of the guns that could have hastened development especially in the countryside. As things now stand, the AFP will abide by the ensuing orders of the Commander-in-Chief President Rodrigo Duterte following this development," AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said.

"I am ordering all our forces to resume their normal mandated tasks and work to neutralize all threats to national security, protect the citizenry, enforce the laws and maintain peace in the land," he added.

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Military: Red's allegations on ceasefire 'unfair, disturbing'

Trishia Billones, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 01 2016 07:13 PM

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) enforced the unilateral ceasefire declared by President Rodrigo Duterte, a military spokesperson said, amid accusations they were first to break the pact. Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told ANC's News Now, the accusations that the AFP violated the ceasefire are unfair, when upon Duterte's announcement, they have disseminated the information and followed through with operational guidelines the same night.

"The messages that he has been sending out are clearly to inform all our units, all over the country of this call from the president for the immediate ceasefire, and that is exactly what we did," he said.

"We made sure they got it, especially the following day, the 26th, when we ascertained that it has reached them already. What this accusation that we are getting from the other side is totally unfair," he said.

Padilla said, allegations from the communist party regarding the July 27 encounter that left one member of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and four others wounded "have been disturbing."

He said, their investigations showed that the CAFGU units who figured in the encounter were on their way back to their detachment following suspension of military operations (SOMO) after the ceasefire declaration by Duterte.

"In the process, on the 27th, they were crossing a certain area, a command detonated land mine exploded, which resulted to the death of one of our CAFGU member and wounding of four others," he said.

Command detonated land mines, he explained, were "intentionally placed in an area and it was intentionally exploded to inflict harm."

Allegations that the military attacked a camp of the New People's Army (NPA) are "totally untrue," said Padilla, and the army is denying those claims.

"What we have been doing was to ensure all our troops make it back safely to their detachments and their camps so that we can check on them and stop all these proactive operations that were aimed against the NPA," he said.

He noted the July 27 incident was followed by another one the following day, this time in Agusan Del Norte.

The troops were also pulling out from their area of patrol but when they were about to reach the main roads to board their vehicle, they "were fired upon."

More than 20 minutes of firefight ensued, but none from the side of the military was hurt.

"We did not put that out anymore because we do not want to communicate any uneasiness on the part of our troops pertaining to that incident," he said.

Padilla also confirmed that early morning on Monday, a deadly clash erupted between government troops and the NPA in Malimono, Surigao del Norte.

The 30th Infantry Battalion and several policemen responded to complaints against the NPA's extortion activities in the town initially, but Padilla said they also attempted to recover four other police personnel abducted days before the declaration of the SOMO.

No progress regarding the police personnel were received, but he reported, the clash resulted to the death of one NPA member and firearms and improvised explosive devices were among those recovered.

Now that the unilateral ceasefire has been lifted, Padilla said the AFP will resume their activities and continue operations against all threats to national security.

<http://news.abs-cbn.com/news>

Clash erupts between NPA, AFP after truce glitch

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 01 2016 05:23 PM

MANILA - A deadly clash erupted between government troops and the New People's Army (NPA) in Surigao del Norte on Monday, two days after President Duterte withdrew a unilateral ceasefire with leftist rebels.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed an NPA rebel was killed in the encounter.

AFP spokesman Col. Restituto Padilla said the firefight started early Monday, when the 30th Infantry Battalion and several policemen responded to complaints against the NPA's extortion activities in Malimono town.

He said an AK-47 firearm was confiscated from the slain NPA fighter.

President Duterte called off his unilateral truce with the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) after the communists failed to reciprocate the ceasefire and explain its ambush of government forces in Davao Del Norte last Tuesday.

The CPP said it was about to declare a truce at 8 p.m. last Saturday when Duterte lifted the ceasefire.

CPP have expressed intent to carry on with the resumption of formal peace talks in Oslo, Norway on August 20.

The CPP also promised to declare a unilateral truce to mark the start of peace negotiations. — Report from Henry Atuelan, DZMM

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Alleged NPA rebel killed in Surigao del Norte clashes

By: Frances Mangosing

A suspected member of the New People's Army (NPA) was killed in Malimano, Surigao del Norte on Monday morning, the military said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the clashes that broke out were the first recorded fighting between government forces and communist rebels after President Rodrigo Duterte called off the unilateral ceasefire last Saturday.

The President declared a ceasefire against the communists during his State of the Nation Address last July 25. The five-minute clashes between the communist rebels and the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion resulted in the death of one rebel and recovery of an AK-47 automatic rifle, two improvised explosive devices, assorted ammunition, magazines and food.

There were no casualties recorded on the government side, Padilla said.

Police and military troops were responding to NPA extortion complaints before the clashes started near the Malimono City Hall.

Padilla said the rebels were supposed to pick up cash and supplies from the residents of Barangay (village) San Isidro and Binucayan but this was foiled by the state forces. **RAM/rga**

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Duterte asks military to give a hectare of land for rehab facility

By Alexis Romero



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his first State of the Nation Address before the joint session of the 17th Congress Monday, July 25, 2016, in Quezon City, Philippines. AP/Bullit Marquez, File

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has asked the military to allot one hectare of land for the rehabilitation facility of drug dependents to prevent them from returning to their old ways.

"I will have to use your (military) camps. It's only the military who has a vast reservation of land," Duterte said during a dinner with the Presidential Security Group in Malacañan Sunday night.

"I'm just asking for one hectare of property. After all, I surrounded it with barb wire. I will build the rehabilitation facilities," he added.

Duterte said drug addicts would likely commit crimes if they are allowed to roam the streets.

"The three million (drug dependents) will hold-up again or kill people because they need the fix for the day. Now, crime has gone down because everybody is afraid," the president said.

"We have to finish this problem because it is threatening our country. With three million addicts, my God, and those who surrendered today is just about 180. That is how serious our problem is," he added.

Duterte has declared a brutal and ruthless war against narcotics and has vowed to kill drug lords whom he said are "destroying the country and the youth." He has also bared plans to tap the Armed Forces in his intensified drive against drugs and criminality.

Human rights advocates, however, are worried that the intensified anti-drug campaign would lead to extrajudicial killings and harassment. They pointed out the recent spate of killings of people believed to have links with drug rings.

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More than 200 drug suspects have been killed in law enforcement operations while more than 120,000 drug pushers and users have surrendered to authorities.

In his previous speeches, Duterte said the "big fish" of the drug trade are in China and not much can be done unless there is an international warrant against them.

"For now, we cannot do much but I have to destroy the apparatus. If I don't disrupt the supply and demand, nothing will happen," he said.

During his first State of the Nation Address last July 25, Duterte said he would not stop the campaign against drugs until the last drug pusher is jailed.

"There will be no let-up in this campaign. Double your efforts. Triple them, if need be. We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financier and the last pusher have surrendered or put behind bars or below the ground if they so wish," the president said.

"To our police officers and other officials, do your job and you will have the unwavering support of the Office of the President. I will be with you all the way," he added.

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AIRFORCE UPGRADE | PAF allocates P3.2M aircraft maintenance budget

Marycel Necio Batara



MANILA — The Philippine Air Force (PAF) today allots a total of PHP 3,200,000 for the maintenance of helicopters McDonnell Douglas MD-520MG “Defender” attack—acquiring spare parts needed for maintenance support.

Pre-bidding of spare parts is on August 3, Wednesday, 9 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Airbase, Pasay City. Meanwhile, bidders are requested to submit and attend the bidding conference on August 16 (Tuesday) 9 a.m. at the same venue.

PAF has been operating 12 to 16 models of the MD-520 aircraft, and this has started in the early 90's when 25 units were delivered in the Philippines.

These aircraft were utilized against the communist and rebels groups such as the New People's Army (NPA) and other law-breaking elements like the Abu Sayyaf.

The MD-520 is armed with .5 caliber heavy machines rockets. The aircraft's carrying capacity is at 2 crew persons at most and flies at a speed of 160 miles per hour.

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Confirmatory drug tests clear 3 Westmincom personnel

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated August 1, 2016 - 12:37pm



President Rodrigo Duterte during a visit to the Westmincom's headquarters in Zamboanga City. File photo.

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines -- The Armed Forces' Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) declared itself 100-percent free from illegal drugs after three of its personnel tested negative in confirmatory tests.

Last week, two soldiers and a civilian employee tested positive in random drug testing but have since been cleared.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., Westmincom spokesperson, said the initial test was conducted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Task Force *Moses* in Camp Navarro to determine if its personnel, soldiers and civilian employees were into drugs.

According to Tan, the initial positive results of the three personnel point to either defective testing kits or the use of legal prescription drugs.

Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz, Westmincom chief, stressed the AFP's all-out support of the AFP for President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war. He said the command will make sure that none of its personnel use or deal in illegal drugs.

Dela Cruz said the AFP will not hesitate to remove drug users from the service and file the appropriate charges against them.

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Duterte hopes to resume talks with CPP despite lifting truce

By Patricia Lourdes Viray (philstar.com) | Updated August 1, 2016 - 5:35pm



President Rodrigo R. Duterte announces during his visit to Camp Morgia in Dofia Andrea, Asuncion, Davao del Norte on July 29 that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is being given a deadline until 5:00 p.m. of July 30 to reciprocate a ceasefire from their side. Otherwise the President will lift the unilateral ceasefire he declared for the communist rebels during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 25. PPD/Rene Lumawag

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said that he wants to resume peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) despite lifting the unilateral ceasefire he declared a few days ago.

The president lifted the ceasefire last Saturday after the National Democratic Front of the Philippines failed to announce a reciprocal ceasefire within the deadline that he gave.

"I believe that as a nation, as people, as citizens of this country and knowing fully well the cost of fighting with each other... It's all a despicable thought to me but I hope that we can proceed with talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines," Duterte said in an impromptu speech before the oath-taking of Malacañang appointees.

Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire with the communist rebels during his first State of the Nation Address last June 30.

A few days after declaring a truce with the CPP, the New People's Army ambushed government troops in Davao del Norte which left one government militiaman dead and three others injured.

The president stressed that he wants to have talks with the whole CPP community and not just with their founding chairman Joma Sison.

Duterte said he only wants the country to attain peace before he steps down at the end of his term in 2022.

"Kaya nga ako nag-declare ng ceasefire. Ako pa ang namatayan, kami pa ngayon ang kontrabida. I declared truce, nagbaba ka ng mga sundalo tapos in-ambush," Duterte said.

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Sison, chief political consultant of the NDFP, earlier described Duterte a "very volatile" leader who rushes to decisions after lifting the ceasefire last weekend.

"Ayaw ni Duterte ng ceasefire, ayaw na rin niya ng peace negotiations, bahala siya! Pinakaayaw ng kilos rebolusyonaryo yung nambu-bully," Sison said in a telephone interview with ABS-CBN News.

The CPP said in a statement that it would issue a unilateral ceasefire declaration with the government on the resumption of peace talks in Oslo, Norway on August 20.

Duterte is also set to meet with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Mindanao for peace talks.

The president will meet with MNLF founder Nur Misuari in a few days to give rebel leaders safe conduct passes.

However, the president stressed that he will not hold talks with terrorist group Abu Sayyaf which he described as criminals.

"We will be going for the framework regarding the two factions (MILF and MNLF) but I'm very sorry to say that there will be no talks about these things with Abu Sayyaf. I will not deal with criminals. I will not deal (with) persons of extreme brutality. There is no redeeming factor or reason for me to sit down and talk with criminals," Duterte said.

AD

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