

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
NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 August 2016

Thursday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

31 JULY 2016



Philippine Daily Inquirer

Mayor's house raided: 6 guards gunned down

Intel report links son of mayor to 2 'generals'

Loot: I don't know Kerwin Espinosa from Adam

Rody kids: troops No coup please

Manila: 100s. Republics army. Dumping troops

Oh my Siomail

Congress asked: Probe power firms



Manila Bulletin

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWS TODAY

NBP raid yields 96 cell phones, Wi-Fi routers

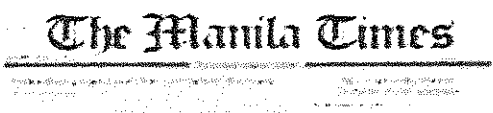
27 local excons into drugs

PEIT asks Robredo to answer Manila probe

Leyte: own mayor surrenders; son still at large

Troops resume massive search and rescue operations for 4 abducted cops

Chen Mond: says LAR



The Manila Times

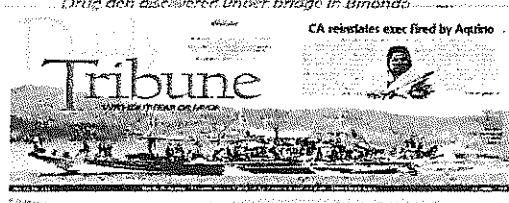
People in search of a peaceful and stable Philippines

'Filipinos can fish in Panatag'

Robredo claims daunted by legal costs vs Marcos

6 sides of 'drug protector' mayor killed in encounter

Obama: Trump 'unfit' to be president



Manila Tribune

Drug den discovered under bridge in Binondo

CA reinstates exec fired by Aquino

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Lacson, anti-drugs group worry on killing spree

Woman accidentally shoots self while smuggling

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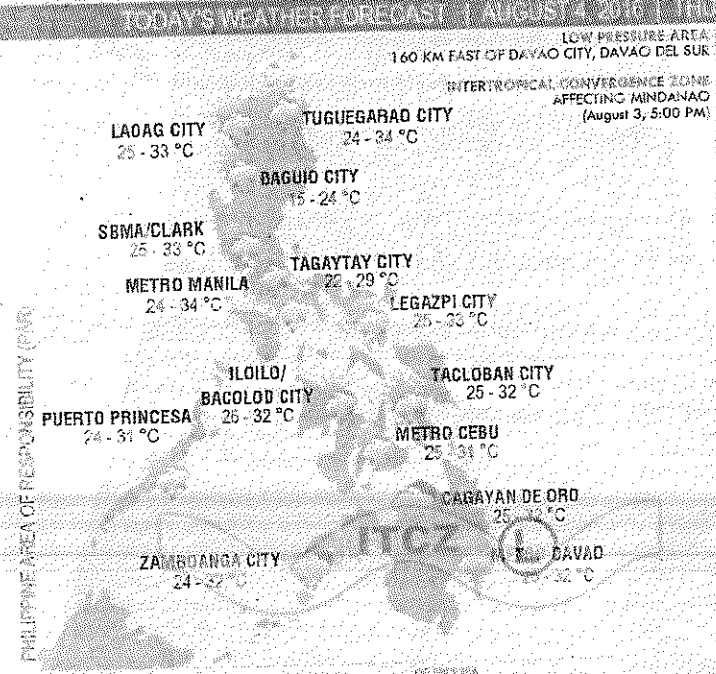


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 4, 2016 | THURSDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
160 KM EAST OF DAVAO CITY, DAVAO DEL SUR

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING MINDANAO
(August 3, 5:00 PM)



ITCZ




SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:40 AM	6:24 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:40 AM	7:27 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
AUG 3 4:45 AM	AUG 4 2:21 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH 8:35 PM 0.00 Meter	HARBOR 10:20 PM 1.32 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

AUG 4		AUG 5		AUG 6		AUG 7		AUG 8	
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	22 - 29 °C	22 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	
LAOAG	25 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	
BAGUIO	15 - 23 °C	16 - 23 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C				

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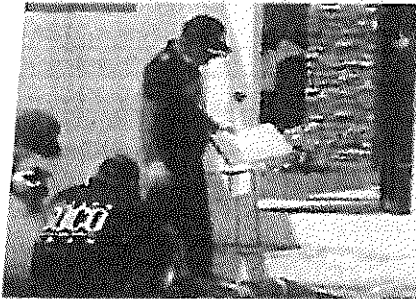
AIR 21
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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6 killed in raid on Espinosa house



Police officers examining the body of one of the slain suspects in a compound occupied by Albueria Mayor Rolando Espinosa.

By MIRIAM DESACADA

PALO, Leyte – Six armed men, said to be part of the private army of Albueria Mayor Rolando Espinosa and his son Kerwin, were killed in a shootout with police in their hometown early yesterday.

Acting police regional director Chief Supt. Elmer Cruz Beltejar said the lawmen returned fire at the armed group in Sitio Tinago, Barangay Ben-

olho where three houses of the Espinosas are located.

Beltejar said the policemen were on routine patrol in the area when the armed group opened fire from one of the houses.

"These members of the Espinosa group were occupying one of the Espinosas' houses, specifically where the rooster

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6 killed From Page 1

farm is located. They fired first, so our policemen were forced to fire back," Beltejar said.

Beltejar said the six fatalities have yet to be identified.

Initial reports identified two of the slain suspects as Ricky Gravello of Ormoc City and Teresito Paderangga of Zamboanga City. Three others were only known as "Tatay," "Edgar" and "Intsik."

Beltejar said the policemen initially encountered around 12 men armed with automatic weapons.

After the firefight, some of the suspects escaped, leaving behind several high-powered assault rifles, automatic handguns and rifle grenades.

The clash came a day after Mayor Espinosa surrendered to Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

Authorities alleged Espinosa has been protecting drug dealers, including his son Kerwin, who has not surrendered.

Espinosa surrendered with-

in the 24-hour deadline given to him by President Duterte to yield or a "shoot-on-sight" order would be issued against him and his son. Dela Rosa has warned the younger Espinosa "will die" if he elects to shoot it out with police.

PNP spokesman Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos said the armed men are believed to be part of the Espinosa group.

"There was no reason why policemen would open fire (first). The shots came from inside one of the houses, so after the exchange of gunfire the policemen went inside the house after the threat was neutralized. They entered only in the aftermath of the operation," Carlos said.

Two of the slain suspects were found near the foyer of the mayor's house, two were shot in the area where fighting cocks are bred and two others lay dead by the gate of Kerwin's compound.

Carlos clarified the policemen were not on a mission to

raid the Espinosa houses but they were on routine patrol when they figured in a firefight with the group.

"It is normal duty to conduct patrol operations in the community. The operation did not specifically target the compound of the mayor. Unfortunately, they were fired upon," he said.

Carlos said the mayor will be asked by the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) about the presence of armed men in his house.

"We will trace the guns, the guns registered under his name should be at his house," Carlos said.

Espinosa appeared before the CIDG yesterday, with his lawyer Romeo Esmero speaking on his behalf.

Esmero denied the armed men killed in the mayor's house were his bodyguards.

The mayor never tolerated his son Kerwin's forays into illegal drugs, the lawyer said.

Esmero also denied the mayor was involved in drug trafficking.

An emotional Espinosa, for

his part, pleaded to his son to surrender, saying the PNP chief has given assurance to assist them.

"Kerwin please surrender. PNP chief Dela Rosa promised to help you," Espinosa told reporters after he gave his statement before the CIDG in a closed-door meeting.

Carlos said authorities are looking into reports the younger Espinosa has already fled the country. There were reports that Kerwin underwent plastic surgery to change his facial appearance to evade arrest.

Reports said Kerwin left for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last June 21 on Cebu Pacific flight 5J501.

The Espinosas have been linked to major drug trafficking in Eastern Visayas.

Dela Rosa said Mayor Espinosa had been listed in police records as a "drug protector" whose son controlled the narcotics trade in the region.

The mayor was the second high-profile drug suspect to turn himself in after being accused of drug-related crimes by Duterte.



One of the six men killed lies at the gate of Mayor Rolando Espinosa's residence in Albuera, Leyte following an encounter with police yesterday. EPA

Another local official, Daanbantayan, Cebu Mayor Vicente Loot, was one of five police generals linked by Duterte to the illegal drug trade.

Loot is a retired police general who served as anti-narcotics unit chief of the Central Visayas regional police.

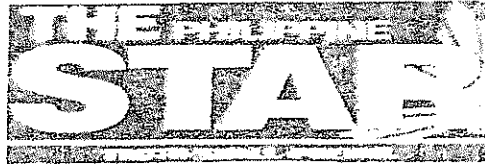
Loot denied the allegations of Duterte as well as reports linking him to Kerwin.

"I never knew him. I heard

about him when I was Central Visayas (anti-narcotics) chief. I did not use him as an asset in illegal drugs," he said.

Loot said that in 2011, he learned the regional police were hunting Kerwin. He said he even furnished a copy of the warrant of arrest for the younger Espinosa to policemen. – Lalaine Jimenea, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Evelyn Macairan, AP, AFP

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Joma told: Shut up, let others talk

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison should come home to talk peace, but this may be easier said than done, President Duterte said yesterday.

Duterte also advised Sison to "just shut up and let others talk."

The President told

The STAR that technicalities could prevent the homecoming of Sison because of the political asylum he sought in the Netherlands.

"There is a question about coming here. He cannot go out (of the Netherlands). He is in asylum. If he gets out

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Joma

From Page 1

and returns to the Netherlands, it may be a technical issue. He may be denied entry. One of the conditions is he cannot return to the country... You won't be able to leave. You're not supposed to go anywhere."

Duterte said he is open to seeing Sison returning to the country to join the peace negotiations. But he is skeptical of the claim that the communist leader is facing threats.

"If he comes and he wants to talk, fine with me. If he's here, he must order his forces to stand down, at least during the negotiation stage," the President said.

"If he can arrange (his return) with Oslo, if he is working on it, I have no objection," he added.

Talks between the government and the communist rebels are scheduled to resume on Aug. 20 in Oslo, Norway. The Norwegian government serves as the third party facilitator of the talks.

During his State of the Nation Address last July 25, Duterte declared a ceasefire

with the rebels as a goodwill measure for the peace talks.

But the President called off the truce after five days because of the communists' failure to reciprocate the ceasefire within the deadline he set.

Duterte demanded the declaration of a truce after rebels attacked government militias in Davao del Norte two days after he announced a ceasefire. The ambush left one militia man dead and four others wounded.

Sison has criticized Duterte for calling off the ceasefire and even described his character as "volatile."

Duterte was unfazed by the comment.

"I'm not trying to pull my own chair but I'm here because I got 16 million (votes). The Left cannot even bring victory to their candidates. In Davao, one, two or three of them win because I carried them in my ticket. What are they boasting about? They cannot even occupy a barangay for one single day," he said.

Duterte also said the popular

ity of the communist rebels is "lean to nothing. But they are talking as if they have done somewhere."

Tiamzon to be released

Despite having called off the truce, the Duterte administration will temporarily release New People's Army leader Benito Tiamzon and his wife Wilma in time for the peace talks as a confidence-building measure.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella confirmed yesterday that the Tiamzon couple would be among the personalities who would be given "safe passage."

"As far as I know, they are included. If that, they will be given safe passage," he said.

The Tiamzon couple was arrested by soldiers and policemen in Barangay Zaragoza in Aloguinsan, Cebu on March 22, 2014. They are detained at the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame.

At the time of their arrest, Wilma was secretary general of the CPP/NPA, while Benito was chairman.

The military said the couple was arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest for their crimes against humanity that include murder, multiple murder and frustrated murder.

The Tiamzons, who follow a tradition in the CPP of husband and wife leadership teams, were said to have taken over the helm of the movement from Sison - With Christina Mendez

04 August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
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Military ready to pull out of lumad communities if NPA does the same

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY – The military is willing to pull out its troops stationed in indigenous peoples' (lumad) communities to allow residents to return home, according to 10th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia.

But Valencia was quick to add that the New People's Army (NPA) should also leave the vicinity of these communities.

In a press conference yesterday, Valencia said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was willing to support calls to put a stop to the militari-

zation in IP communities, but on the condition that forces of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front (NDF), and NPA do the same.

"He who is the cause of the cause is the cause of them all," Valencia said, quoting President Duterte, in reference to CPP-NPA-NDF insurgents.

He underscored that what was keeping the military from pulling out its troops from these areas was the presence of the rebel groups, who were causing all the trouble in these communities.

"It is not only the AFP which should

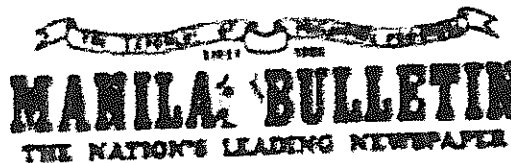
pull out but all armed groups because they are the cause why we are there in the area. The NPA is causing trouble in the mountains," he said.

He alleged that the NPAs were keen on driving a wedge between the government and the people.

He said the military holds operations in these communities to "bring the people closer to the government.

Eastern Mindanao Command (East-Mincom) commander Maj. Gen. Rey Leonardo B. Guerero said that military and NPA encounters have resumed after Duterte lifted last Saturday the unilateral ceasefire with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

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Another CAFGU killed in NPA attack

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – Another member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) was killed in a firefight with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Cotabato, Monday, less than a week after the death of a militiaman in an ambush by insurgents put in peril peace talks between the government

and the leftist group.

Oscar Emba, 53, died from six gunshot wounds after he shot it out with communist rebels. His assailants even took his motorcycle after the encounter that started at 7 p.m. Monday.

Emba was assigned at the Balabag CAFGU Active Auxiliary (CAA) Detachment at Crossing Birada, Kidapawan.

His death came less than a week after another militiaman was killed in

an NPA ambush in Barangay Gupitan, Kapalong, Davao del Norte in the morning of July 27, or less than 48 hours after President Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front (NDF), and NPA.

The incident was later denounced by an irate Duterte, who lifted the ceasefire order Friday.

"We shall use and deploy all our

available forces, continue offensives and support law enforcement operations," Maj. General Rafael Valencia, 10th Infantry Division, said of the Cotabato incident.

Another attack happened at 9:50 p.m. also last Monday when the NPA reportedly attacked the Sallab detachment in Magpet, North Cotabato. There was no casualty reported from both sides.

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3 soldiers hurt in Basilan ambush

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three soldiers were wounded in an ambush by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Maluso, Basilan before dawn yesterday.

The Basilan police identified two of the victims as Cpl.

Guidula and Pfc. Sanico Camor, members of the 14th Special Forces Co. They were brought to the Basilan Community Hospital for treatment.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said the soldiers were patrolling Barangay Townsite at around 3:30 a.m. when they were waylaid. – Roel Pareño

09 August 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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4 Army soldiers face discharge for drug use

BY VICTOR REYES

FOUR Army soldiers are due for dishonorable discharge from military service after confirmatory tests showed them positive for illegal drug use, the Army said yesterday.

Nine other soldiers, including three officers, tested negative in the confirmatory test, said Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao.

All 13 soldiers were placed under Army custody last month after initially testing positive in a random drug test that covered 2,500 personnel at the Army

headquarters in Taguig City.

Hao said the four – a staff sergeant and three corporals – will remain under Army custody pending their separation from the service.

"They will be discharged dishonorably and they are not going to receive any benefits," he said.

Hao said the nine others were cleared "based on basic reasons – they were taking up maintenance medicines." The nine cleared were two lieutenant colonels, a major, two staff ser-

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4 ARMY

geants, a sergeant, a corporal, a private first class, and a private. Hao said the Army leader-

ship is dead serious in ridding the organization of personnel hooked on illegal drugs. The Army has about 85,000 officers and enlisted personnel.

"The commanding general (Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año) clearly said that we will rid the organization of drug users. They have no place in our

organization," he said.

Hao also said will order random and mandatory drug tests "when he feels there are still drug users" in the Army.

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4 soldiers positive for drugs

Meanwhile, four Army personnel are facing dismissal from service after they tested positive for drug use.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao said the four were among the 2,500 officers and enlisted personnel who underwent random drug tests at the Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig last month.

They were among the 13 officers and men who were brought to a medical facility in Quezon City for confirmatory drug testing, according to Hao.

He declined to name the four soldiers – a staff sergeant and three corporals. – With Ghio Ong, Perseus Echeminada, Jaime Laude

04 August 2016

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AFP eyes rehab centers in Bislig, Malaybalay camps

BUTUAN CITY – Officials of the Army's 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) are eyeing two military camps in northeastern and northern Mindanao regions that could be used as rehabilitation centers for drug dependents who have surrendered to the government and volunteered to be rehabilitated.

The 4th ID, the largest maneuvering Army division in Mindanao, is planning to temporarily establish rehabilitation centers for surrendered drug dependents in the camps of Butuan City and Malaybalay City.

To date, 25,582 drug users and 634 pushers have surrendered to local officials and police authorities in northeastern Mindanao (Caraga region) alone, while nearly the same number of drug offenders have given themselves up in northern Mindanao (Region 10).

Top officials of the 4th ID yesterday began conducting ocular inspections, looking for available buildings at Camp Bancasi (Butuan City) and Camp Osito Bahian (Malaybalay City) to house surrendered drug personalities.

The command group of the 4th ID directed field commanders to closely coordinate with local government units and concerned line agencies of the government to make the treatment and rehabilitation centers available as soon as possible.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr., commanding general of the 4th ID, said this was in response to President Duterte's call for military camps to be utilized as rehabilitation centers for willing drug dependents. (Mike U. Crismundo)

34 August 2016



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Military camp, island readied for NBI inmates

By Estrella Torres

JUSTICE Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said military camps across the country will soon become detention centers for inmates in the maximum security at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Retired Marine Maj. Gen. Alexander Balutan, the incoming director of Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), has inspected the Caballo Island in Cavite to check the facilities for inmates.

The overwhelming number of drug suspects who surrendered to the police has prompted the government to look for more facilities to serve as detention centers.

"Because we don't have (enough) rehabilitation facilities, we will use military camps," said Aguirre in an interview on Wednesday.

He said Balutan and Enan Orceo, incoming justice undersecretary recently inspected Caballo Island to check on the possible transfer of inmates.

"My initial assessment is that we can easily transfer 160 inmates and 40 support personnel from BuCor to Caballo Island," said Gen. Balutan in a text message to secretary Aguirre. The text message was forwarded to reporters.

Gen. Balutan also said that the facilities in the Caballo island will only require minimum repair.

"We will just repair some facilities to suit our needs with minimum expenses," said Balutan.

14 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Rody kids troops: No coup, please

By Leila B. Salaverria

HE NEVER promised the troops a rose garden. But just the same, if they don't like his face anymore, they don't have to shoot up Malacañang to drive him out. All they need to do is call.

"I am here with a specific duty: to serve the Republic. I promised you a clean government. It will be a clean government," President Duterte told wounded soldiers at AFP Medical Center in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

A month after taking office, Mr. Duterte is making the rounds of military camps and facilities across the country to introduce himself to the troops and to rope the Armed Forces of the Philippines into his war on drugs.

RODY/A17

From page A1

He said he hoped the military would not be displeased with his actions, as many people would be affected along the way.

"I hope you won't get mad if we're doing the right thing. You might launch a coup d'etat and I would be out of a job. Do not launch a coup d'etat, just call me in Malacañang and say, 'Hoy, Duterte, leave your office, we will take over,'" he joked.

"OK. Then come here and I will announce: 'My countrymen, these are the new [leaders] of our country. This is the chairman, this would bring the new government. Goodbye. It's all yours. I will go home,'" he added.

More than 500 people, mostly poor drug users, have been killed since Mr. Duterte launched his war on drugs upon taking office on June 30.

As of July 30, according to the INQUIRER's monitoring, 170 people have been killed by vigilantes and 355 have been slain during police operations.

The killings have sparked global alarm at human rights violations in the Philippines, and drawn calls for a congressional investigation.

But Mr. Duterte has said going to human rights advocates would not save drug dealers and pushers from death, and Sen. Leila de Lima, who has called for a Senate inquiry into the drug killings, has been threatened with investigation by the President's allies in the House of Representatives.

Involving military

Mr. Duterte told the wounded troops that his intention was to serve the people and improve their lives and he would do so without tainting his administration with corruption.

He said the military should have teams that would go after drug traffickers.

"Every military unit should have one team—not all of them—that would be an antidrug group," he said.

Mr. Duterte explained to troops his focus on the illegal

drugs industry and called on the soldiers to help fight the scourge.

Drug users are prone to committing crimes, he said, and the intensified drive against drugs is one of the reasons why the crime rate has gone down.

"Everybody has gone into hiding, afraid to be killed," he said.

Mr. Duterte said he did not want to kill people, but added that he could not let a few people destroy many.

"We cannot build a country by killing our own citizens. That is a given. But we cannot allow a group of men or a percentage of the civilians to destroy the youth and to destroy our country," he said.

The President promised the soldiers a raft of benefits, including state-of-the-art medical equipment and a new medical building worth P500 million, and, eventually, free education for their children.

The government and the military must work together, he said, assuring the troops that they would get what they deserved.



MALACANANG PHOTO

In promising new medical equipment, Mr. Duterte said he would do away with the government's practice of giving contracts to the lowest bidders, which had resulted in the state getting substandard equipment.

He said he would talk to the Commission on Audit about his position.

As he visited wounded soldiers, Mr. Duterte told them he was there to share their pain.

The President embraced 2nd Lt. Jerome Jacuba, who was blinded in a bomb explosion during an operation in Maguindanao province in March.

Peace talks with Reds

Mr. Duterte is expected to continue visiting military camps in a charm offensive that comes as his administration pursues peace talks with communist insurgents.

The President declared a unilateral ceasefire on July 25 to encourage negotiations, but he called it off five days later after the insurgents killed a militiaman and wounded four others in an ambush in Davao del Norte province and failed to reciprocate with a truce declaration of their own.

Both sides say, however, that they are still open to peace talks.

NO COUP D'ETAT, PLEASE President Duterte is making the rounds of military camps to introduce himself to the troops and to urge them not to mount a putsch against him. He jokingly tells soldiers at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City that they can just tell him to leave office and he will do so.

04 August 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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LIGHTER SIDE. President Rodrigo Duterte cracks a joke to the delight of a wounded soldier recuperating at the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016. *Malacañang photo*

64 August 2016

THE TRIPLE P
1941
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

AFP hospital gets ₱500-M funding

By ELENA L. ABEN

President Duterte on Tuesday night announced that the government is allocating P500 million for the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) on V. Luna Avenue, Quezon City.

According to the President, the money will be used to acquire state of the art medical equipment and to construct a new hospital building for the ▶4

AFP hospital gets ₱500-M... ◀1

country's soldiers.

Duterte announced this during his visit to battle casualty patients at the AFPMC.

"Magpasalamat tayo kay (Budget) Secretary (Benjamin) Diokno. Binigay niya lahat ng gusto ninyo na equipment pati isang building," he told injured troops doctors, and nurses.

Among the items to be purchased will be a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment and Gamma ray which is used for the non-invasive treatment of tumors.

He said these as he expressed surprise upon hearing that a national institution under the AFP does not even have an MRI.

He also noted that one of the buildings of the AFPMC is "not suitable anymore for the confinement of soldiers who are hospitalized," so that he promised to give them a new building.

Construction of the new building would start two months from now, he said. And as for the equipment, Duterte said it should be of best quality to make sure that soldiers and their families get the best medical care.

"Basta ang binigay ni Sec. Diokno sa inyo ay half a billion (pesos) and it will be released soon," said the President.

"There will be no compromise in the life of soldiers... Binigay niyo buhay niyo sa bayan, the least the country can do through me is to give you a state of the

art (medical facility) pati equipment sa giyera," Duterte said.

The President added: "Everything will be quality and fast," as he also assured that "it will be strictly in accordance with the law."

In his speech, Duterte also said that "in the fullness of God's time," he would implement a program that will provide free education to the children of soldiers.

The President took time to personally interact with and give medical assistance to soldiers currently confined at the said hospital.

The President even became emotional when he hugged young officer, 2Lt. Jerome Jacuba, 28, who sustained major injuries when an improvised explosive device went off as they were conducting clearing operation in March.

As a result of the blast, Jacuba is now totally blind in his right eye, while his left eye, which suffered retinal detachment, can only see light perception.

AFP doctors said there is no more chance for the young officer to be able to see again. He is currently undergoing visual rehabilitation at the AFPMC and would soon learn how to use the Braille system.

Jacuba, who is married with two children, is due for promotion to 1st Lieutenant.

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Pahina. 2

Libreng pag-aaral sa anak ng mga sundalo

LABIS na ikinatuwa ng mga sundalo sa pangako ni Pangulong Rody Duterte, na makapag-aaral na nang libre ang kanilang mga anak, makaraang personal na bisitahin ng Pangulo ang mga sundalo na naka-confine sa V. Luna General Hospital (AFP Medical Center) Quezon City kamakalawa.

Matapos makipagpulong ng Pangulo sa apat na opisyal ng AFP, inaprubahan na nito ang paglalaan ng P30B para sa modernisasyon ng ospital ng mga sundalo.

At kabilang sa gagawing pagsasaayos sa isang gusali, pagbili ng equipment sa MRI, gamit sa non-invasive operation sa tumor at iba pang sakit.

Nangako rin ang Pangulo na hindi patatagalin ang gagawing modernisasyon sa AFP at sisiguruhin din nitong maayos at mataas na kalidad ang mga gagamitin at bibilhing produkto para sa pangmatagalan gamit.

At bilang pagkilala na rin sa sakripisyo ng mga sundalo para lamang masiguro ang kaligtasan ng sambayanan Filipino, ipinangako nitong libre ang edukasyon ng kanilang mga anak.

MARY ANNE SAPICO

04 August 2016



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Duterte admits not finishing ROTC course

If you haven't completed your Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) requirement, don't despair.

Even President Duterte, commander-in-chief of the 125,000 strong Armed Forces, admitted that he did not finish the course, which used to be mandatory for college students.

"You know I am not from the military. I did not even finish ROTC but I'm not into delays. Let's be frank. I don't want delays and corruption," he told soldiers during his visit to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City last Tuesday.

Duterte is pushing for the revival of mandatory service to the ROTC program, believing this would promote patriotism and keep the youth away from drugs.

He expressed support for the mandatory military training during a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang last Tuesday.

"It's interesting what was mentioned, especially the President's comment regarding ROTC. How it's going to help in the building up of discipline and values, especially in this generation, and how we expect ROTC to be able to help build a sense of patriotism among the next generation," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

Efforts to push for the revival of mandatory ROTC are now being discussed, Abella added.

ROTC is one of three components of the National Service Training Program

(NSTP). Other courses offered are Civic Welfare Training Service, which deals with community programs, and the Literacy Training Service, which seeks to provide basic skills to public school pupils.

The mandatory ROTC program was abolished after then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed the NSTP law in 2002. Congress passed the measure following the murder of Mark Chua, a University of Santo Tomas student who bared irregularities in his ROTC unit.

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo said in an earlier interview that the executive would ask allies in Congress to file a bill that would revive the mandatory ROTC program.

Youth group Anakbayan, however, has thumbed down the proposal.

Anakbayan national chairman Vencer Crisostomo said they would wage a strong campaign against the proposal because ROTC is an abusive and burdensome program.

The youth leader noted that ROTC has a tainted record of stimulating power-tripping, corruption, hazing and mindless violence. It would also mean additional fees and more burden to students.

"ROTC should be abolished, not made mandatory. The program has never instilled nationalism, social responsibility or discipline. It is a training ground for fascist repression and corruption," Crisostomo said.

– Alexis Romero, Janvic Mateo

04 August 2016



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China excluded from AFP, PNP procurement deals

President Duterte is looking at government-to-government procurement as a means to modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), but indicated any deals would not include China.

"We purchased from China before... The police got China M-16s," he said, fearing the

country's defense program might be sabotaged.

"Sinadya man 'yan ng mga tonto rin doon na 'yung riple niyan pahiwi na. Tingnan mo 'yung barrel. Eh sabotahe 'yan eh (Those idiots purposely made the rifle crooked. Look at the barrel... That is sabotage)," he said, noting the apparent defects and low quality of

firearms from China.

During a visit to the AFP Medical Center on V. Luna Road in Quezon City on Tuesday, the President said he would forgo the tedious bidding process in government to acquire more guns, ammunition and equipment for the military.

Although he wants to leave

a legacy of peace with threat groups in the country during his six-year term, Duterte recognized the need to provide the military with state-of-the-art equipment.

"We should buy from our traditional market. Everything will be quality and fast," he said, putting on hold details of some equipment he

was waiting for.

The President did not mention which markets, but the government dealt with the United States, Israel, Italy and France for items for the modernization program.

The AFP, for its part, is grateful for Duterte's P500 million assistance to upgrade its premier military hospital.

"This gesture of the President manifests his genuine concern (for) the well-being of his soldiers working for the accomplishment of their missions," the AFP Public Affairs Office said.

In the same speech, Duterte also expressed the need to improve the patrol cars of the PNP. – **Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude**

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'I can give BBL to MILF, Sulu to Misuari'

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ
and ALEXIS ROMERO

In his quest for lasting peace and development in Mindanao, President Duterte said he is willing to have the wish of the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) granted through the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Furthermore, Duterte is willing to give up Sulu for the other major Muslim group - the Moro National Liberation front (MNLF) led by Nur Misuari.

The Chief Executive revealed his stand to editors and reporters of The STAR at Malacanang yesterday.

"*Higay ko na lang ang BBL sa Bangsamoro*," he said, if it's the only way to prevent another outbreak of violence in Mindanao.

Amid talks of federalism, Duterte said he has not abandoned the issue of the BBL and the pursuit of lasting peace in Mindanao.

He said the government cannot afford to go into war again with the MILF just because of the failure of previous Congress to pass the BBL, which was covered by the Comprehensive Agreement for the Bangsam-

oro under the previous Aquino administration.

Duterte stressed his administration would vigorously pursue peace with the MILF.

MILF chairman Al Haj Ebrahim Murad, who is also head of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, earlier warned that his forces are ready to go to war if the BBL is junked.

"*Pag di mo binigay kay Murad yan, magkakagulo*. Remember, Murad said he will go to war if they are not able to get BBL," he added. "It is not good to humiliate the Moros, because they lose face. So *ummanasah na man*. We can't go to war," Duterte said.

"*Al ibigay ko sa Misuari*. I'm willing to part with Sulu and the rest of island, they

can have it," he said.

The Chief Executive however ruled out talking peace with the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

Late Tuesday, Duterte also warned the extremist ideology of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will penetrate the Philippines if peace negotiations with Muslim rebels fail.

Speaking to soldiers at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center, Duterte said he is determined to forge a settlement with Muslim and communist rebels as waging war is costly.

"In days to come, the rampaging ideology of ISIS will reach us, whether we like it or not. If we fail to reach an agreement, ISIS will enter here. I'm praying to God that we talk," Duterte said.

Officials said that while ISIS has not entered the Philippines yet, it has inspired acts of terror particularly by the Abu Sayyaf.

The Chief Executive said fighting rebellions has been draining the government of much-needed funds.

"It eats a lot into the economy of the country so I need to reach an agreement with communists. I have to deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front," he said.

"No need to go to war at this hour. We'll save our energy for a better fight," he added.

Last Monday, Duterte said he would spend 10 days in Mindanao to discuss a peace roadmap and to talk to leaders of the MILF and the MNLF. The peace roadmap, however, would not cover the Abu Sayyaf, which has pledged loyalty to ISIS.

The President also vowed to continue the peace talks with communist rebels despite their failure to reciprocate the ceasefire he declared last July 25.

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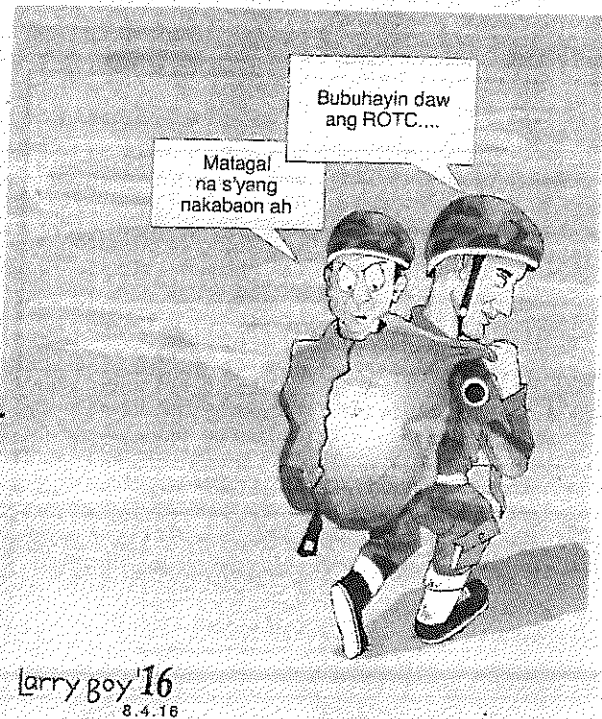
Pahina. 3

Editorial

Huwag nang buhayin ang ROTC

GAGAWIN daw muling mandatory ang Reserve Officers's Training Corps (ROTC) para madisiplina ang mga kabataan at huwag mahikayat na gumamit ng illegal na droga. Inaprubahan na umano ni President Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbabalik ng ROTC, ayon kay presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo. Ang paghahayag sa pagbabalik ng ROTC ay inihayag ng Presidente nang makapanayam ng media sa Malacañang noong Lunes. Ayon pa kay Panelo, sinabi raw ni Duterte na nawawala na ang pagmamahal ng kabataan sa bayan kaya nararapat nang ibalik ang ROTC.

Inalis ang ROTC noong 2001 makaraang mabulgar ang corruption sa UST Corps of Cadet na ibinulgar mismo ng kadeteng si Mark Welson Chua. Ibinulgar



ni Chua ang katiwalian sa organisasyong kinaaaniban at nalathala iyon sa The Varsitarian, opisyal na student paper ng UST. Isinangkot ni Chua sa katiwalian ang mga kapwa cadet officers. Subalit makaraang ibulgar, pinatay si Chua. Makaraang patayin, binalot siya ng masking tape, tinalian ang mga kamay at saka ipinaloob sa carpet at itinaon sa Pasig River. Narekober ang kanyang bangkay. Nahuli ang isa mga killer at nahatulan ng bitay. May mga nakakalaya pa hanggang sa kasalukuyan. Ang pagkakapatay kay Chua ang naging daan para lalong naging mabilis ang pag-abolished sa ROTC.

Ngayon ay bubuhayin na naman ang ROTC. Pagkaraan nang ilang taong pagkaka-abolished ay sapilitan na namang ipakukuha sa mga estudyante. Bakit pa? Nalantad na may korapsiyong nagaganap sa ROTC at marami ang nagpapatunay nito. Bakit kailangan pang ibalik gayung mayroon na namang kapalit ang ROTC na mas nakikinabang ang mga estudyante. Hindi naman nawawala ang pagkamakabayan ng mga kabataan dahil lang walang ROTC. Noon pa man, kahit may ROTC ay marami na rin naman ang lulong sa droga.

Huwag na sanang i-revive ang ROTC. Magbago sana ang pasya ng Presidente ukol dito. Mapaglimi sana niya ang isyung ito.

ONLINE NEWS

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www.pna.gov.ph

Notorious drug dealer in Compostela Valley dead in joint military-police ops

MANILA, Aug. 3 (PNA) -- A notorious drug dealer in Laak town, Compostela Valley province died during a joint military and police operation last July 31.

In a statement on Wednesday, 10th Infantry Division public affairs office chief, Capt. Rhyen Batchar, confirmed the death of Pablo Namanig in a shootout with soldiers and policemen serving him an arrest warrant in Barangay Concepcion in Laak.

Namanig had been listed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) as one of the leading illegal drugs personalities in the area.

He also had a pending arrest warrant for murder at the Regional Trial Court Branch 3 in Nabunturan town. Batchar said that as the soldiers and policemen were about to serve Namanig his warrant of arrest, the latter pulled out a .38 caliber revolver and fired several shots at the government forces, who fired back.

Namanig died at the COMVAL Provincial Hospital.

Recovered from his possessions were the .38 caliber revolver, three spent .38 caliber shells, PHP100 marked money, and "six heat-sealed cellophane containing marijuana fruiting tops." (PNA)
JMC/CVL/PFN

www.bomboradyo.com

2 NPA sumuko sa Agusan del Sur

By Bombo ButuanPosted in [Latest News](#) on August 3, 2016 04:54

BUTUAN CITY - Pinoproseso na upang matanggap ng dalawang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang kanilang benepisyo matapos sumuko sa 26th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army na nakabase sa Barangay Nikolas, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur.

Una rito, bandang alas-2:00 ng hapon nang tumungo sa military headquarters ang dalawa na hindi muna pinasapubliko ang pangaian na bahagi nang tinaguriang Guerilla Front Committee-34 ng NPA na bitbit ang kanilang mga baril.

Pormal naman silang tinanggap ng militar at ni Talacogon Mayor Jezrel Masendo sabay sa pagtiyak na may matatanggap silang mga benepisyo.

Ang Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) ng lokal na pamahalaan ang siya namang nagpoproseso sa kanilang pangangailangan.

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AFP nanghinayang sa pagkaka-udlot ng peace talks ng gobyerno sa rebel groups

By Bombo Analy SoberanoPosted in [Latest News](#) on Monday, 10 August 2015 11:15

Nanghihinayang ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa naudlot na hakbang ng gobyerno para sa pagsusulong ng kapayapaan kasunod ng pagbalewala ng CPP-NPA-NDF na isinusulong ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ayon kay BGen. Rhoderick Parayno, hepe ng AFP-Civil Relations Service, hindi lamang itinuturing na confidence building measure ang tigil putukan ng gobyerno kundi pag-asa ng pagbabago at kaginhawahan sa panig ng mga lokal na komunidad at mga indibidwal na naiipit sa gitna ng bakbakan.

Sinabi ni Parayno dapat maging mithiin ng lahat ang kapayapaan hindi lamang ng gobyerno dahil walang pipiliing makikinabang dito kundi lahat ng Pilipino.

Iginiit pa ng opisyal na mistulang pangunahing produkto na sana ang kapayapan na pwedeng mabili agad subalit pilit na inilalayo o hinaharang na mailatag sa tindahan ng liderato ng komunistang grupo.

www.pna.gov.ph

Military launches own war vs drugs in Northern Mindanao

By Mark Francisco

CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan De Oro City, Aug. 3 (PNA) -- The government troops in this largest military camp in Northern Mindanao are launching a "new war" as the government is set to end the 40-year-old armed conflict with the communist insurgents in the country, a military official announced Wednesday.

Capt. Patrick Martinez, the Army's spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division here, said that the 6,000 government soldiers in the region would undergo another "specialized warfare" - the one against drugs - in anticipation of a successful peace talk with the communist insurgents in the coming months.

"We are preparing our soldiers to undergo a comprehensive training in the war against illegal drug trade in Northern Mindanao," Martinez said.

He said that the 4ID has initially worked out with the Philippine National Police (PNP) on a crash course that would equip the military the needed know-how in intercepting illegal drugs and arresting pushers.

Martinez said that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) would become the lead partner in the training of the military in "the war against illegal drugs" in the region.

He said that the 4ID has yet to set the number of days of the training and whether it would be done on a daily or weekly basis.

Martinez also said the 4ID expects that each of the division's approximately 6,000 government troops would undergo the training.

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

He noted that the government troops currently attached to the division are spread out in three brigades, seven organic battalions, three attached battalions and the three more battalions on loan from the Special Operations Command.

The government soldiers are assigned in the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Bukidnon, Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur and Dinagat Island. (PNA)
LAP/CD/MARK FRANCISCO

www.inquirer.net

AFP grateful to Duterte's 'genuine concern' for soldiers

By: [Frances Mangosing](#)

[@FMangosingINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#)

04:03 PM August 3rd, 2016



Pres Rodrigo Roa Duterte. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO/JOAN BONDOC

President Rodrigo Duterte's recent pledge to a new hospital building and modern equipment at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) was a manifestation of "his genuine concern on well-being of his soldiers," the military said on Wednesday.

The AFP expressed its gratitude to the President, who visited the military hospital in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

During his visit to wounded soldiers, he promised P500 million for the new building and state-of-the-art equipment.

"We are very grateful for the Commander-in-Chief for this assistance. The AFP Medical Center that caters primarily to military personnel and their immediate dependents has improved significantly in the recent years.

But a lot of improvements may still be done to ensure that the hospital is able to provide premiere medical attention to patients who deserve that kind of treatment," AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

On his visit, the President also reiterated his promise to increase their salary this month.

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

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

Duterte's visit to the AFPMC was the second military hospital he is visited in two weeks. RAM

www.philstar.com

Duterte assures military: I'll take care of you

By Christina Meridez (philstar.com) | Updated August 3, 2016 - 10:43am



President Rodrigo Duterte said he would take care of the military during his six-year term. Philstar.com/File photo

MANILA, Philippines – President Rodrigo Duterte vowed to prioritize the welfare of the military, telling that he will take care of them during his six-year term after a visit at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Medical Center along V. Luna Road in Quezon City.

"I'll take care of you," Duterte told one of the patients.

The president comforted patients who were wounded in battle while defending the Constitution and pursuing the government's peace efforts.

Duterte interacted with patients at the country's premier military medical facility, spending about five hours by going to the bedside of 69 soldiers wounded in battles. He also shared some jokes with them to ease their pains.

A number of the soldiers tried their best to get off their beds to give a salute to the commander-in-chief as many of them cried and hugged the president.

He inspired them by announcing his administration's programs covering a wide range of medical, health, social services and educational benefits.

The president emphasized that he does not want the lives of soldiers compromised, by making sure that health and medical attention are given on time. Before leaving each patient, he invited them to dinner in Malacañang in the coming days.

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

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

Duterte then met with around 500 officers and non-commissioned officers of the hospital and announced that he has allocated P500 million for the purchase of new and state-of-the-art medical equipment as well as the construction of a new building for the hospital.

He also gave a stern warning against corrupt activities such as bid rigging. The president lamented the current bidding process being implemented by government which is open to corruption.

Duterte also directed senior officials of the AFP to form a committee that would facilitate the release of retirement and pension benefits of soldiers. He likewise announced that he has approved the recruitment of 10,000 more soldiers.

Watch the video below of Duterte's visit to AFP Medical Center.

www.philstar.com

Duterte refuses to acquire substandard equipment for AFP

(philstar.com) | Updated August 3, 2016 - 7:55pm



Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines mob President Rodrigo Duterte after delivering his speech at the AFP Medical Center (AFPMC) in V. Luna Street, Barangay Pinahan, Quezon City on August 2. PPD/Robinson Nifal

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday stressed he would not follow the rules of the Commission on Audit (COA) in acquiring equipment for the Armed Forces of the Philippines as it would lead to procuring substandard gears.

The current COA rule requires the government to buy equipment from the lowest bidder.

"Yang lowest bid kasi kung may bilhin ka ito lowest bid bibigay sayo barat. Kaya lahat ng equipments ninyo sabi ko, pinaalam ko na sa COA hindi ako susunod d'yan," Duterte told soldiers during his visit at the AFP medical center.

The president added that the lowest bidder policy is the source of corruption and hinted that the winners of public biddings usually acquire equipment made in China.

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

"Wag muna ngayon kasi may alitan daw," Duterte said, referring to buying equipment from China.

Duterte cited the branded patrol cars that police in Davao City use which last for three to five years.

The president added that equipment usually acquired from the lowest bidder are substandard.

"I've been mayor for 23 years 'wag na tayo magbolahan. It will be strictly in accordance with the law and I want it fast," the president said. — **Patricia Lourdes Viray;**

www.pna.gov.ph

PHL, Indon, Malaysian defense chiefs committed for operationalization of SOP for joint maritime patrols

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Aug. 3 (PNA) -- Defense leaders of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia have reiterated their commitment to encourage the "operationalization" of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) needed for meeting current security concerns in their common waters.

This was stressed during the Tuesday meeting of Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, Indonesian Defense Minister General (R) Ryamizard Ryacudu and Malaysian Defense Minister Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein in Bali.

In the same meeting, the three reiterated their commitment to the Trilateral Cooperative Arrangement signed in Jakarta last July 14.

They also "agreed to encourage the operationalization of the SOP for Maritime Patrol and Rendering Immediate Assistance; Operating Guidelines on Information and Intelligence Sharing; and Combined Communication Plan."

"Recognizing the mutual trust and high responsibility from all parties, the defense chiefs agreed to further explore coordinated activities among the Armed Forces of the three countries, a trilateral database sharing mechanism, and the concept of the Malacca Strait Patrol to address maritime security concerns, among others," said Defense public affairs service chief Dr. Peter Paul Galvez.

During the meeting, the leaders also reiterated their stand against violent extremism and terrorism, and concern over the repeated incidents of armed robbery and kidnapping at sea in the maritime areas of common concern to the three countries.

This is an obvious reference to the Sulu Sea, the maritime area bordering the three nations where Abu Sayyaf Group bandits have infiltrated and launched several kidnapping attacks against Malaysian and Indonesian seafarers.

The defense ministers reaffirmed their commitment to address such threats.

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The Trilateral Meeting was conducted in accordance with the ASEAN's principles of equality, mutual trust and respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of one another, and good neighborliness.

The August meeting follows the first meeting held in Manila last June 20 where the three defense chiefs discussed the possibility of conducting trilateral air and maritime patrols in common areas of concerns by the three nations. (PNA)

LGI/PFN

www.pna.gov.ph

CA orders reinstatement of sacked Ombudsman Chief Special Prosecutor

By Perfecto T. Raymundo Jr.

MANILA, Aug. 3 (PNA) -- The Court of Appeals (CA) ordered on Wednesday the reinstatement of the Office of the Ombudsman Chief Special Prosecutor Wendell Barreras-Sulit after she was dismissed by the Aquino administration in connection with the plea bargaining agreement (PLEBARA) entered into with former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia.

In a 29-page decision written by Associate Justice Zenaida T. Galapate-Laguilles, the CA Special 10th Division ruled that the Office of the President (OP), during the term of President Benigno S. Aquino III and Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr., committed an error with its order dismissing Sulit from her post as top prosecutor of the Ombudsman.

"In view of the foregoing, We Grant the instant petition for review. The Decision dated July 18, 2013 and Resolution dated December 6, 2013 of the Office of the President, dismissing Petitioner Wendell Barreras-Sulit from the service, are hereby Reversed and Set Aside," the CA ruling said.

Garcia was the former AFP comptroller who was charged with plunder by the Ombudsman after a lifestyle check was conducted against him and discovered millions of pesos and properties under his name and his family members, including that of the Trump Plaza Condominium in New York City.

He was also charged with money laundering and the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) even moved to freeze the assets of Garcia and his family members.

The CA did not agree with the findings of the OP that the plea bargaining deal with Garcia which allowed the general to enter a plea to a lesser offense was unlawfully executed.

It said that the PLEBARA executed by Sulit was lawful because she carried out the same under the direct supervision of then Ombudsman Marceditas Gutierrez, who happened to be the rightful persons to enter into the agreement as representatives of the people.

Gutierrez and Sulit entered the PLEBARA with Garcia, asking to return the properties to the Philippine government and allowing his plunder case to be downgraded to direct bribery charges.

Garcia was able to return PHP135,433,387.84 to the Philippine government with the PLEBARA with Gutierrez and Sulit.

Gutierrez and Sulit believed that the PLEBARA is the most advantageous way for the government because it is impossible to sustain a conviction since the information filed by then Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio for plunder were weak. These findings were affirmed by the Sandiganbayan.

However, when Aquino assumed the presidency, he forced Gutierrez to resign from her post to be able to appoint a new Ombudsman and then dismissed Sulit by using this case as a threat.

However, the CA said that the PLEBARA was also approved by the Sandiganbayan which made the agreement above board and within the process mandated by law.

The CA ruled that Malacanang had no authority to determine whether or not the evidence presented before the Sandiganbayan was strong to sustain a conviction.

"The act of the OP (Office of the President) in determining the probative value of the evidence presented in the cases of plunder and money laundering in this administrative proceedings is not only misplaced and uncalled for but also constitutes an encroachment of judicial power. The authority rests solely upon the appropriate court -- the Sandiganbayan in this case," the CA ruling said.

With this, the CA said that Malacanang "was unable to present substantial evidence consistent with petitioner Sulit's administrative liability in relation to the execution of the PLEBARA. Our exposition below expounds further the OP's failure to overcome the burden of proving their claim that petitioner Sulit committed acts and/or omissions constituting betrayal of public trust and graft and corruption."

"We find it unfair to accuse petitioner Sulit of gross inexcusable negligence and bad faith in the performance of her function as Special Prosecutor as there was no substantial evidence that she was remiss in protecting the interest of the state. We believe that the PLEBARA was the outcome of a prudent, reasonable and practical evaluation of the cases against Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, a solution that would best serve the interest of the nation and its people," the CA ruling said.

Concurring with the ruling are Associate Justices Marlene Sison and Mario Lopez. (PNA)
SCS/PTR