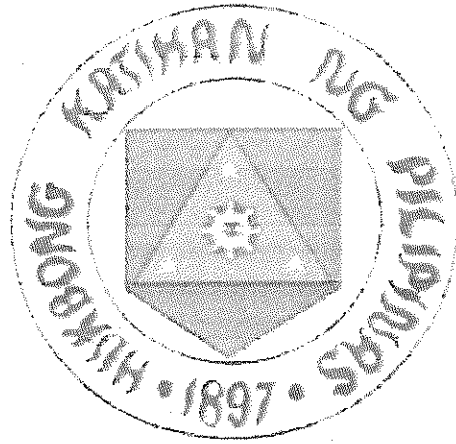


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

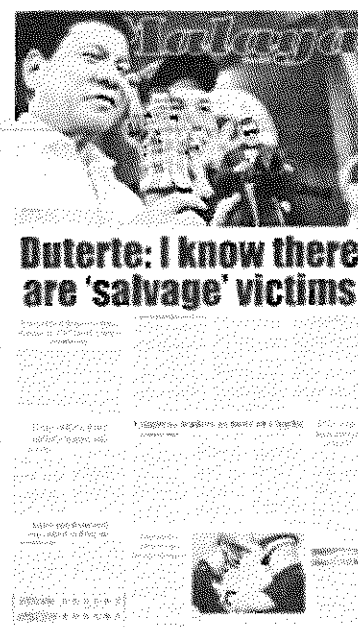
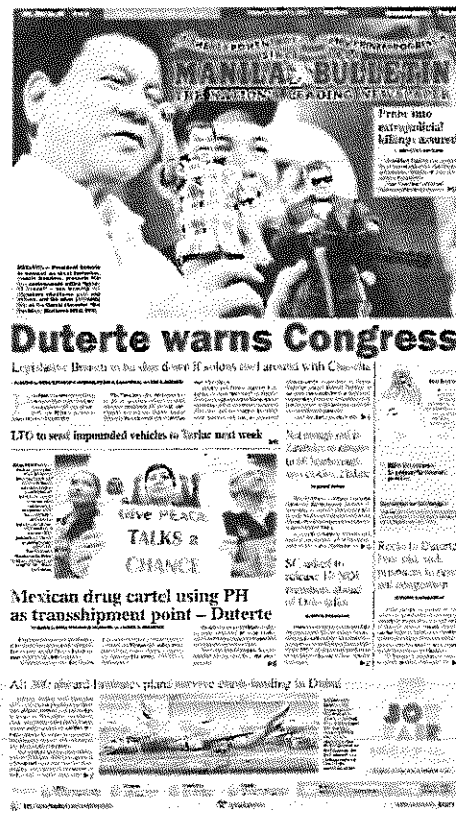
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 August 2016

Friday

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

05 AUGUST 2016



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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

05 AUGUST 2016

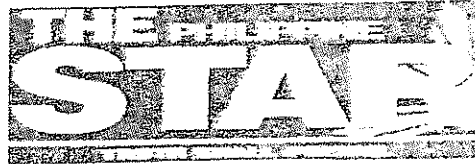
PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	The Phil Star p.A27
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	'Oligarch' o Rudy hit list quits as firm's boss	Doris Abadilla	PDI p. A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	DND, Army back revival of ROTC	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
5	Panay Army camp awaits President	Tara Yap	Manila Bulletin p.9
6	Tiamzons to be released	Jerome Aning	PDI p.A2
7	Abu's shabu supplier nabbed	Roel Pareño	Manila Bulletin p.A27
8	President Duterte has prerogative to release political prisoners	PNA	www.pna.gov.ph
9	PA war fighting capability to get significant improvement with arrival of Duterte-programmed equipment	PNA	www.pna.gov.ph
10	President Duterte to visit Army in Jamindan, Capiz	PNA	www.pna.gov.ph
11	PHOTO: President Duterte poses with soldiers	Richard Vñas	Tempo p.1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12	Duterte visits boosts soldiers' morale	Jaime Laude	The Phil Star p.11
13	Temporary freedom for 10 NDF leaders sought	Edu Punay	The Phil Star p.4
14	PH-China bilateral talks should be based on UN, ASEAN charters	Noy Mabasa	Manila Bulletin p.6
15	Not enough soil in Zambales mountains to fill Scarborough, says ex-Gov. Ebdane	Jonas Reyes	Manila Bulletin p.1
16	War vs. ASG illegal drugs continues NPA commander arrested	Francis Wakefield Mike Crismundo	Manila Bulletin p.13
17	AFP : kudeta kay Duterte, imposibleng mangyari	Joy Cantos	PM p.2

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

18	NPA's torch 3 dump trucks	Artemio Tumlaog	The Phil Star p.A27
19	NPA commander arestado	Mike Crismundo	Balita p.5
EDITORIAL			
20-21	The 9 th Infantry Division and the local heroes	Genova Valiente	Business Mirror p.A11
22	Tuloy ang operasyon ng militar	Korina Sanchez	Ngayon p.4
23	Higit sa doble sahod, libreng edukasyon ng anak ng sundalo, mas aprub	-	Bulgar p.3
24-25	The West's decline would hurt China	Minxin Pei	PDI p.A13
26-27	Philippine nickel ore used in China's Island building	Jarius Bondoc	The Phil Star p.17
ONLINE NEWS			
28	AFP to join Peace Road 2016 World Tour – Philippines	Marycel Batara	www.dwdd.com.ph
29-31	GPH, MILF to meet in KL on August 13-14; Santiago heads GPH panel	-	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
32-33	Dureza reiterates call for convergence of MNLF, MILF peace pacts	-	www.pna.gov.ph
34	Military units to support PDEA in anti-drug ops -- DND chief	-	www.pna.gov.ph

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

05 August 2016



Page: A27

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv

AIR 21
SABOT NO. PABALA MO!

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Mondays to Sundays

QR Code:

Panahon TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:40 AM	6:24 PM	7:32 AM	8:10 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
4:45 AM AUG 3	2:21 AM AUG 11	MANILA SOUTH HARBOUR 7:00 PM 0.11 Meter	11:12 AM 1.25 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST AUGUST 05, 2016 | FRIDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING MINDANAO
(August 4, 1:00 AM)

LAOAG CITY 26 - 33 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 24 - 35 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 23 °C	
SAMA CLARK 25 - 33 °C	METRO MANILA 25 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 23 - 30 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 32 °C
	TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 33 °C
ILIGAN CITY 25 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU 26 - 32 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	AUG 6 SAT	AUG 7 SUN	AUG 8 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	AUG 6 SAT	AUG 7 SUN	AUG 8 MON
METRO MANILA	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 35 °C	24 °C 35 °C	ILIGAN/BACOLOD	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
LAOAG	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 22 °C	16 °C 23 °C	16 °C 24 °C	TACLOBAN	26 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
SAMA/CLARK	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	23 °C 30 °C	22 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 34 °C

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Monsoon Rain

05 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

'Oligarch' on Rody hitlist quits as firm's boss

By Doris Dumlao-Abadilla
and Leila B. Salaverria

BUSINESSMAN Roberto V. Ongpin yesterday stepped down as chair and director of gaming firm Philweb Corp. following President Duterte's threat to bring down "oligarchs" while pinpointing him as a prime example.

Ongpin quit his posts in Philweb and all subsidiaries effective immediately, based on his brief resignation letter submitted to the Philweb board yesterday, a copy of which was disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Mr. Duterte earlier identified Ongpin as a prime example of an oligarch, which refers to a member of a small group of people who wield economic and political power.

Oligarchs are the latest addition to a growing list of targets that Mr. Duterte is pursuing. The firebrand former prosecutor has said he will crack down on drug dealers, crime bosses, corrupt generals, business monopolies, online gambling and even Catholic priests.

OLIGARCH/A16

2

From page A1

"I am fighting a monster... Believe me, I will destroy their clutches in our nation," Mr. Duterte said at an environment summit in Davao City yesterday, without identifying anyone.

On Wednesday night, the President threatened to take on the oligarchs, naming Ongpin as an example. "My plan, my order ... is: 'Destroy the oligarchs [who] are embedded in government now,'" he said in Malacañang.

Shares plunge

On Thursday, shares of Philweb slid by 36.88 percent following the President's pronouncement.

Philweb operates e-Games stations, or internet cafés dedicated to casino games, including baccarat, blackjack, various slot machine games and video poker. Most e-Games cafés operate on a 24/7 basis.

Philweb's key subsidiaries include BigGame Inc., Premyo sa Resibo Inc., e-Magine Gaming Corp., PhilWeb Convergence Corp. and PhilWeb Asia-Pacific Corp.

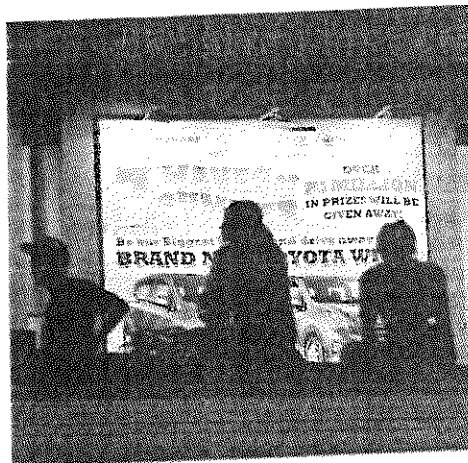
Philweb netted P869.63 million in 2015, down 3.8 percent from P903.86 million in 2014.

According to its website, Philweb generated P531 billion in gross bets in the last five years.

License in jeopardy

The license it obtained in 2003 from state-controlled Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to operate e-Games is at risk given Mr. Duterte's strong stance against e-gaming.

Philweb's intellectual property license agreement with Pagcor is expiring on Aug. 10.



GAMBLERS' CORNER E-games are advertised by a mall in Pasig City. INQUIRER PHOTO

Ongpin has stepped down to focus on real estate projects developed by Alphaland Corp., where Ongpin has a majority stake, Philweb said yesterday.

Mr. Duterte noted that Ongpin kept his influence and hold on power throughout several administrations.

Ongpin was a trade minister during the Marcos regime and a "hanger on" during the Ramos, Arroyo and Aquino administrations, Mr. Duterte said.

Raking in money

"These are the guys, who, while sitting inside their planes or their mansions everywhere, are raking in money like taxi meters," Mr. Duterte said of the oligarchs on Wednesday.

In Davao City, the President said he would "destroy the clutches" of the oligarchs even as he vowed to pursue federalism.

Duterte said that for a long time, people in Mindanao and other parts of the country

had been at the mercy of the policies and decisions that emanated from Manila.

He said the oligarchs, who benefited from the system, would continue to resist change.

"They will say, 'It's not viable.' They will distribute the power and the goodies only to the rich. That's why they are resisting. They really do not want it because it will destroy the power vortex," the President said.

Imperial Manila

"That is why I am so passionate about getting into a new setup, because 'Imperial Manila' controls everything," he said. "Under the unitary type of government, all permits are released by Manila."

Even the mines go to the oligarchs, who are good at influence-peddling, Mr. Duterte said.

The President said mining operations had destroyed some areas in Mindanao, citing Tubay, Agusan del Norte province, while other mines had left big holes.

"They are not into planting. They are into open pit mining. Others left behind big holes," Duterte said.

But Duterte said not all the rich were bad. "Look at Gina, she is a billionaire but look at how she brings herself," he said, referring to Environment Secretary Gina Lopez. "She is an advocate."

He said logging like mining was a sunset industry. "Logging is already too late; if there's 24 hours in a day, logging is already in the 25th hour. We cannot back (the two industries) anymore," he said.

"Many will get angry. Many will like the status quo to remain, but we will open opportunities to all Filipinos," he said. *With reports from Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao, and Reuters*

05 August 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

DND, Army back revival of ROTC

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said they are for the revival of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps program among college students, supporting an earlier call by President Duterte.

Lorenzana said the pool of military reservists has dwindled since the ROTC program was made optional by law in December 2001, or nine months after the killing of University of Santo Tomas engineering student Mark Welson Chua.

Chua was purportedly abducted and killed by his ROTC

See DND ► Page B6

DND

soldier-instructor for exposing anomalies in the ROTC program. Chua's decomposing body was fished from the Pasig

River near Jones Bridge in Manila on March 15, 2001, three days after his abduction.

Lorenzana said reservists can also be organized as first responders during calamities

and disasters.

"I think we're now the only country in the world which has no (mandatory) ROTC," he said.

Año said he is confident that Filipinos will volunteer to defend

the country in times of war.

"The question is, are they prepared? A mandatory ROTC program will make the country better and more prepared for any eventuality," he said. – *Victor Reyes*

05 August 2016



Page: 9

Panay Army camp awaits President

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY— Officials of the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) headquarters in Jamindan town, Capiz province are looking forward to the visit Friday of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte will be the first sitting president to visit the headquarters.

"We are excited. This is the first time a president will come here. This will surely boost the morale of our soldiers," said Major General Harold Cabreros, 3ID commanding general.

No other president has visited the 33,000-hectare Camp Peralta.

The 3ID covers Panay, Negros, Guimaras, and Siquijor Islands.

Cabreros said the division has reduced the strength of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed group, the New People's Army (NPA) in key areas.

The provinces of Aklan, Antique, Guimaras, and Siquijor have been declared insurgency-free.

The provinces of Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, and Negros Oriental are considered peaceful and ready for further development.

The 3ID is monitoring CPP-NPA movements after the President lifted the unilateral ceasefire he declared during his State of the Nation Address last month.

Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Deocades Jr., commander of the 82nd Infantry Battalion, said they are not keeping their guard down.

Duterte's visit will also be his first official visit to Panay Island, the bailiwick of the Liberal Party (LP) and Mar Roxas, his closest

05 August 2016



Page: A2

Tiamzons to be released

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE Army said on Thursday it would comply with President Duterte's order to release political prisoners as the peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front begins later this month.

"The release of political prisoners is the prerogative of the President that we will support especially that it is related to peace," Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said in a statement.

Malacañang earlier said a few political prisoners, including political CPP chair Benito Tiamzon and his wife, Wilma Austria, CPP secretary-general and finance officer, would be given safe conduct passes for the start of the talks on Aug. 20 in Oslo, Norway.

The couple was arrested by soldiers in Aloguinsan, Cebu in March 2014, and are currently detained in Camp Crame, Quezon City. They are facing cases of crimes against humanity, kidnapping and multiple and frustrated murders.

August 2016



Page: A27

Abu's shabu supplier nabbed

The suspected supplier of shabu to Abu Sayyaf bandits was arrested in Talipao, Sulu on Tuesday.

Sidimar Abduhadi was collared after a shootout with military and police operatives in Barangay Tinga, said Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command.

Tan said a police officer was wounded in the encounter.

Seven sachets of shabu, a .38-caliber revolver and drug paraphernalia were reportedly recovered from the suspect.

Tan said shabu and drug paraphernalia were recovered in Abu Sayyaf lairs overrun by the military recently.

Most Abu Sayyaf bandits are drug users, according to ground military commanders.

– Roel Pareño

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

www.pna.gov.ph

President Duterte has prerogative to release political prisoners

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 4): President Duterte has prerogative to release political prisoners

The Philippine Army (PA) said on Thursday it is the prerogative of the President or the Chief Executive to release political prisoners, especially in relation to the scheduled Aug. 20 peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

"The release of political prisoners is the prerogative of the President (Rodrigo R. Duterte) that we will support, especially that it is related to peace," PA spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao told the Philippines News Agency.

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said earlier that some political prisoners, including Communist Party of the Philippines-New Pew People's (CPP-NPA) Chair Benito Tiamzon and his wife, Wilma, will be given safe conduct passes when government peace negotiators meet with officials of the National Democratic Front (NDF) this coming Aug. 20.

"As far as I know, as of this moment, they are included. I think they will be given safe passes," he added.

Benito and Wilma were arrested by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) elements in Barangay Zaragoza in Aloguinsan, Cebu last March 22, 2014.

They are currently detained at the PNP headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

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

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?id=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=910517>

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

www.pna.gov.ph

PA warfighting capability to get significant improvement with arrival of Duterte-programmed equipment

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 4). PA warfighting capability to get significant improvement with arrival of Duterte-programmed equipment

The Philippine Army (PA) will get a significant improvement in its warfighting capability once the high-tech equipment President Rodrigo R. Duterte wants for them start arriving.

"The equipment that the President will program for the military will definitely increase our warfighting capability," PA spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said on Thursday.

Items which President Duterte want for the military include more attack helicopters, naval fast craft, long-range sniper rifles, force protection equipment and secured radios.

The President earlier said he is willing to 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 recognizes 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.

The traditional market for Philippine weapons are the United States, Israel, Italy and France.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&nd=910583>

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

www.pna.gov.ph

President Duterte to visit Army camp in Jamindan, Capiz

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 4): President Duterte to visit Army camp in Jamindan, Capiz

President Rodrigo Duterte will make history as the first-ever Philippine President to set foot at the Camp Macario Peralta of the 3rd Infantry (Spearhead) Division (3ID) in Jamindan, Capiz.

Duterte's expected visit to Camp Peralta on Friday is just part of his military visits, according to Captain Gizelle Lim of the 3ID.

He will be meeting with the spearhead troops like what he did in other camps.

While anticipating his arrival, Lim said that his (President Duterte's) mere presence is already a great morale booster for them.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&nc=910624>

10

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

05 August 2016

Tempo

Page. 01



IN THIS file photo taken last July 28, President Duterte poses with soldiers detailed at Camp Guillermo Nakar in Lucena City, Quezon. (Richard V. Viñas)

11

05 August 2016



Page: 11

Duterte visits boost soldiers' morale

By JAIME LAUDE

The frequent visits of President Duterte to soldiers deployed on the frontlines help build rapport between the troops and their commander-in-chief, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Less than two months in office, Duterte has visited troops in Mindanao, the Visayas, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon.

"The morale of the troops is now very high because we have visited the troops on the frontlines," Lorenzana yesterday said.

The President had met soldiers of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) in Lucena City, Quezon; the Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), the Cebu-based Central Command (Centcom); Tarlac-based Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) and Zamboanga City-based Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom).

On Tuesday the President also paid a visit to the wounded and sick soldiers confined at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in V. Luna, Quezon City where he ordered the construction of a new building for the patients.

Talking directly with the wounded and sick, the President later told the troops not to render him jobless by launching a coup.

"I hope you won't get mad if we're doing the right thing. You might launch a coup d'etat, just call me in Malacanan and say, 'Hoy, Duterte, leave your office, we will take over,'" he told the soldiers and medical staff.

While there's no exact figure on the number of votes that President Duterte got from the military during the elections,

a majority of the troops voted for him.

Lorenzana gave assurance that under the present dispensation, the Presidency is safe from any military misadventurism.

Lorenzana said that there is a need now for the AFP to fill the country's dwindling pool of military reservists.

This disparity, he said, could be addressed through the revival of the mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in all colleges and universities nationwide.

"The pool of military reservist officers as well as reserve enlisted personnel is dwindling and we are running out of military officers from the reserve force. We need to do that (revive mandatory ROTC training)," Lorenzana said.

Military reservists have played a key role during calamities as they are being deployed as first responders in times of man-made and natural disasters like earthquakes, widespread flooding, typhoons and fire.

Aside from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), military reservists serve as the major source of officers as most of them are called to active duty.

"I have so many classmates during my ROTC days at Notre Dame in Cotabato. I have classmates now with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). We both underwent ROTC training," Lorenzana said.

Congress repealed the law requiring all male college students to take ROTC in 2001 amid public outcry over the death of a cadet of the University of Santo Tomas at the hands of Army trainers.

05 August 2016



Page: 4

Temporary freedom for 10 NDF leaders sought

By EDU PUNAY

The government has asked the Supreme Court (SC) to order the temporary release from detention of 10 leaders of the National Democratic Front (NDF) to allow them to participate in the peace talks in Oslo, Norway set this month.

In an urgent motion filed through the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) earlier this week, the government sought the release of Tirso Alcantara, Alex Birondo, Winona Birondo, Maria Concepcion Bocala, Reynante Gamara, Alan Jazmines, Ma. Loida Magpatoc, Adelberto Silva, Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Tiamzon, who are all standing trial for various crimes.

The OSG also included in its pleading Rafael Baylosis, another NDF leader who al-

ready posted bail in a criminal case but forfeited it after failing to appear in hearings.

Government lawyers led by Solicitor General Jose Calida told the high court that all 11 NDF leaders would have a "crucial role" in the peace talks where they are supposed to serve as consultants.

The OSG specifically asked the high court "to issue an order to the individual regional trial courts to order the conditional and temporary release" of the 10 detained NDF members and the renewed grant of bail to Baylosis.

The NDF leaders are facing four different criminal cases, including a multiple murder case involving the killing of 15 suspected government spies in Inopacan, Leyte in 1985 pending in the NDF panel in Oslo last June.

The NDF is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, representing the communists in the talks with the Philippine government.

It was agreed to resume the peace talks this month under the auspices of the Royal Norwegian government as third party facilitator.

Presidential peace process adviser Jesus Dureza earlier explained the talks were moved from July to August to ensure that the CPP-NPA-NDF will be well represented.

The scheduled peace talks almost hit a snag when President Duterte scuttled the unilateral ceasefire he earlier declared following the NPA

ing with the Manila Regional Trial Court and where Baylosis and the Tiamzon couple stand accused.

In seeking temporary release of the NDF leaders, the OSG has proposed several conditions to the SC.

It suggested the accused be released "only for the purpose of their attendance and participation" in the formal peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway starting Aug. 20, 2016.

The OSG said the period of their temporary release "shall not exceed six months."

The OSG also proposed that a cash bond of P100,000 each be posted with the Office of the Clerk of Court, the NDF leaders must provide complete

ambush in Davao del Norte last week.

Duterte said his administration is still ready not just to talk but to hold "marathon" peace negotiations with communist rebels.

Various groups supported Duterte's call for marathon talks with the rebels.

Johnny Balawag of the Department of Education National Employees' Union and Yes for Peace group suggested the peace talks should be live streamed over social media.

"This will enable all stakeholders to keep abreast of developments as well as review what has transpired whenever they want or need to through social media," Balawag said.

- With Ramon Lazaro

05 August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 6

PH-China bilateral talks should be based on UN, ASEAN charters

By **ROY C. MABASA**

The bilateral negotiations between the Philippines and China should be based on the principles of the United Nations (UN) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) charters that highlight cooperation and not sanctions, as well as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in order to arrive on a "win-win" situation.

This was pointed out by Foreign Affairs Senior Adviser Ambassador Rosario Manalo at the closing of the two-day

2nd Manila Conference on South China Sea at the Manila Hotel, yesterday.

Manalo, who was recently elected as one of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), said negotiations between the two South China Sea claimants does not mean completely getting everything from the July 12 Final Award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration because China already expressed its objection to the said decision.

"We can find where we can agree

on a win-win situation," she said at the plenary of the conference. "China will choose, the Philippines will also choose, then we will try to talk on how these will all be incorporated and in the end they will win and we will also win."

Likewise, Manalo, who is also the Special Envoy of the Philippines to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, said the perceived ASEAN "division" should not stall efforts to settle the maritime disputes saying third party role in the bilateral talks "should be restrained."

August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Not enough soil in Zambales mountains to fill Scarborough, says ex-Gov. Ebdane

By JONAS REYES

IBA, Zambales — Former Zambales Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. described as absurd allegations that he sold Zambales mountain soil to the Chinese for their supposed reclamation of Scarborough Shoal.

In a radio interview, Ebdane said there is not enough soil in the mountains of Sta. Cruz, Zambales to ►6

Not enough soil in Zambales... ◀1

turn Scarborough Shoal into a military installation.

“Do the math!” Ebdane dared, stressing that 450 trucks would need more than one trip each to move 3,500 hectares of land that was allegedly used in the reclamation of Bajo de Masinloc.

“Nickel laterite itself is valuable and is sold to manufacturing firms using nickel to make stainless steel from ordinary steel. And no country or businessman in their right mind would buy a material with a high price of per

cubic meter just to use it as a reclamation material,” he stressed.

The former Public Works Secretary explained that the material commonly used as reclamation medium is shale. “For reclamation medium, the material used should be heavier than water. So the most commonly used material is shale.”

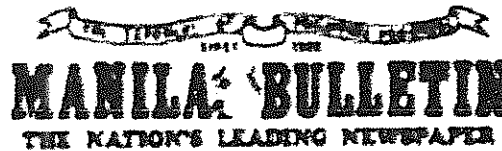
Nickel laterite, he said is “mud that sticks to your shoes when you’re up in the mountain. It is mud, and mud when mixed with water, would dissolve.” If nickel laterite was indeed used in the

reclamation of Scarborough Shoal, the water near the area would have reddened.

Mountain sale

Ebdane pointed to records which show that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gave permits to mining companies like Eramin, Benguet, in 2004. On that year, mining firms conducted explorations on the area. In 2007, the mining companies started operations. “The governor of Zambales from 2004 to 2007 was Vic Magsaysay, and mining was in full operation from 2008 to 2012,” he added. After Magsaysay stepped down, (Gov. Amor) Deloso

05 August 2016



Page: 3

• War vs ASG, illegal drugs continues

SULU – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday said that not only there is war against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu, but also against drugs and other illegal activities, as well. This after a suspected drug pusher was captured by the military and the police as part of the intensified campaign against illegal drugs. Major Filemon Tan, the spokesman of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, said a buy-bust operation launched Tuesday in Barangay Tinga, Talipao by the Jolo Municipal Police Station and the Joint Task Force Sulu led to the arrest of alleged drug pusher Sidimar Abduhadi and the seizure of his firearm and several drug paraphernalia. Tan also said that ASG camps captured during military operations also yielded shabu and several drug paraphernalia. (Francis T. Wakefield)

• NPA commander arrested

BUTUAN CITY – An alleged commander of New People's Army (NPA) who carries two warrants of arrest, was arrested by the elements of the Police Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) at Sitio Baoy, Barangay San Isidro, in Gigaquit town, Surigao del Norte. Josefino Galez Cabli, alleged commander of Squad Dos SPP-16-A guerilla-Front Committee 16 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NMRC), was arrested at his hiding place in Baoy area by virtue of two warrants of arrest issued by Judge Victor Canoy of the Regional Trial Court Branch 29, Surigao City for the charges of murder and attempted murder. (Mike U. Crismundo)

05 August 2016



Pahina. 02

AFP: Kudeta kay Duterte, imposibleng mangyari

Hindi umano mangyayari ang kudeta kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ito ang tininyak ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na iginiit na propesyunal ang mga sundalo na sumusunod sa Chain of Command at Saligang Batas.

"Definitely we are professional armed forces dedicated to live by and fulfill our constitutional mandate. That's our guarantee and commitment to God, country and our people", pahayag ni AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Una rito sa kaniyang

pagbisita sa mga sugatang sundalo sa AFP Medical Center sa V. Luna, Quezon City noong Martes ng gabi bagaman pabiro ay may patama ang mensahe ni Duterte sa mga kawal na naka-confine sa nasa-bing pagamutan.

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

Bilang reaksiyon, sina-

bi ni Padilla na walang namumuo at wala ring nagtatangka ng kudeta laban sa punong ehekutibo sa hanay ng mga opisyal at tauhan ng AFP. *Joy Cantos-*

05 August 2016



Page: A27

NPA's torch 3 dump trucks

BAGUIO CITY – Suspected communist guerrillas burned three dump trucks of a construction firm in Conner town in Apayao on Wednesday night.

Cordillera police said around 40 New People's Army rebels stormed the compound of the Omengan Construction and Development Corp. in Barangay Guinaang at around 8:30 p.m. and set the trucks on fire.

The rebels also reportedly took another dump truck and a pick up truck from the compound.

A manhunt has been launched for the rebels.

– Artemio Dumlao, Raymund Catindig

05. August 2016



Page. 05

NPA commander arestado

BUTUAN CITY – Isang umano'y kumander ng New People's Army (NPA), na may dalawang arrest warrant, ang nadakip ng mga tauhan ng Police Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) sa Sitio Baoy, Barangay San Isidro, sa Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte.

Ayon sa report ng Surigao del Norte PPSC sa Police Regional Office (PRO) 13 sa Camp Rafael C. Rodriguez dito, ang nadakip ay si Josefino Galez Cabil, umano'y kumander ng Squad Dos SPP-16-A Guerilla-Front Committee 16 ng NPA-Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NMRC).

Akusado si Cabil sa murder at attempted murder, ayon sa PPSC.

Mike U. Crismundo

05 August 2016

BusinessMirror

America's view on today's business

Page. A11

The 9th Infantry Division and the local heroes



Tito Genova Valiente

ANNOTATIONS

IF this is how the military mind works, then I am impressed. I am talking about the day I was invited by the 9th Infantry Division (9ID). The camp is located on a 40-hectare lot in the capital town of Pili, Camarines Sur.

The invitation came with the request that I talk about local heroes in the region. Sgt. Mario de la Cruz fetched me at the place of assignation. After some minutes, we reached the boundaries of the camp.

Our car stopped by a low building. An army man met me and ushered me into an office. The office had a solitary table at the center. Two tall officers extended to me their hands and one, Col. Nilo R. Perfecto, motioned me toward the low table. I sat

down in front of it and, having noted the special paper with my name on it, I pulled the sign pen from its holder and signed what I assumed to be the guest list.

We all sat around a wide table. Soldiers came with fruit platters and glasses of orange juice. An old man, whose age I would learn to be 85, was introduced to me. He was Benjamin R. Arejola, the grandson of one of the local heroes we were honoring that day.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 645-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

A few minutes more, and we were all asked to walk outside where a big tent was pitched in front of a building. The building was being named after Gen. Ludovico Arejola, one of the heroes in the last Filipino-American war. Mr. Ben Arejola, who I met earlier, spoke with emotion and pride about his grandfather.

We again moved to another building, where another tent was set up. Ms. Edna Ola Pallan, the granddaughter of Gen. Simeon Ola, spoke of the bravery of the general and how they are happy that a camp has bestowed his name on one of the buildings. Ola was the last general to surrender to the Americans.

It was my turn to deliver my speech as the guest of honor. It was my first time to be in a military camp. As someone who grew up under martial rule, I spoke of how wary I am with the military. I thought of these men and women as trained to kill. That morning, with their precision and compleat

good manners, I could see them as men and women trained to defend the nation, as well.

In the war between the Filipinos and the Americans, there were atrocities committed by both sides. The new ties between the two nations have made us strangely careful in honoring our own heroes. There is, indeed, a very thin line between celebrating murder and honoring those men and women who died for our country.

I excused myself from lunch. I was already in another meeting when I got an SMS from Lt. Col. Culvera that they have a memento for me. In a few minutes, my sister sent a message that Sgt. de la Cruz, riding on a motorcycle, had delivered the souvenir. It was a photo of me giving a speech, around which were the smaller photos taken with the relatives of the two heroes.

If this is how the military mind works, then I am impressed.

E-mail: titovaliente@yahoo.com.

05

August 2016

NGAYON
Divisang Balangkas sa Estados ng Pilipinas

Pahina. 04



Tuloy ang operasyon ng militar

HINDI tumagal ang dineklarang tigil-putukan sa panig ng gobyerno laban sa New People's Army (NPA). Dahil sa naganap na pananambang ng NPA sa grupo ng mga CAFGU na pabalik na sana sa kanilang kampo, binawi ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte ang kanyang pahayag sa unang SONA niya. Bukod sa hindi rin tinapatan ng NPA ang kanyang panawagan ng tigil-putukan, may namatay at nasaktan pa sa nasabing pananambang. Binatikos naman ni Joma Sison ang pagiging "volatile" ni Duterte. Hindi raw puwede ang ganyang bigla-biglaang desisyon. Naghahanda na raw sila ng tigil-putukan nila

pero naunahan na nga ng pagbawi ni Duterte. Oras lang naman daw ang binibilang.

Pero sinong panig ba ang namatayan? Sinong panig ba ang nanambang? Ganun ba kahirap sabihan ang mga manlalaban ng NPA na huwag munang umatake? Sigurado may mga radyo at cell phone sila para maki-pag-ugnayan sa kanilang mga lider. Paano pala uusad ang usaping pangkapayapaan kung ganitong hindi malinaw kung rerespetuhin ang anumang tigil-putukan na magaganap? Baka naman may mga manlalaban sa NPA na ayaw ng kapayapaan dahil mawawalan na sila ng pagkukuhanan ng pondo. Siguro bago magdeklara ng tigil-putukan ay magkaroon na muna ng pormal na pag-uusap, para walang napapahamak pa sa rebelyong ito na ilang dekada nang nagaganap. Alamin na muna ang sinseridad ng NPA na maghangad ng kapayapaan.

Muling magsisigawa ng mga operasyon ang militar laban sa mga rebeldeng NPA. Huwag daw silang sisihin kung hindi tumagal ang tigil-putukan. Bakit sila ang sisisihin kung sila nga ang agrabyado? Sinabotahe raw

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

K KA LANG?...

Mula pahina 4

ng militar ang tigil-putukan. Ayon naman kay AFP public affairs chief Col. Arevalo, tila walang kontrol ang pamunuan ng NPA sa kanilang mga manlalaban, kaya naganap ang pananambang. Hindi siya naniniwala na kaya kumilos ang NPA ay dahil may operasyon ang militar. Sumunod sila sa utos ng Commander-in-Chief ng AFP, kaya hindi raw pwedeng sabihin na may operasyon sila.

Sa Agosto 20 pa magaganap ang usaping pangkapayapaan sa NPA. Kaya mula ngayon hanggang sa araw na iyan ay patuloy ang mga operasyon laban sa mga rebelde.

Kung talagang hangad ng NPA ang kapayapaan, sila naman kaya ang magdeklara ng tigil-putukan, at hikayating tapatan ng AFP bago magsimula ang usapan. Para ipakita ang magandang loob mula sa magkatunggaling panig.

22

05 August 2016



Pahina. 03

Editorial EDITORIAL Editorial

Higit sa doble-sahod, libreng edukasyon sa anak ng sundalo, mas aprub!

B AGAMAT, may ilang tiwali at makakapal na ang kalyo sa mukha, may mga sundalo pa ring nananatiling tapat sa paglilingkod.

‘Yung totoo sa pangakong ‘to serve and to protect’.

Buhay man ang kapalit, sasabak at sasabak sa barilan maipagtanggol lang ang bayan.

Sobrang liit man ng kita, kumpara sa buhay na alay, okay lang, go lang nang go ang mga sundalo.

Umuwi mang sugatan o kulang ang parte ng katawan, proud pa ring sasaludo sa kanyang kumander.

Kaya nakalulungkot na hindi matugunan ng pamahalaan ang simpleng pangangailangan ng mga sundalo sa kalusugan at ospital.

Kaya magandang balita ang pag-aapruba ni P-Digong ng pondo upang maipaayos na ang AFP Medical Center at makabili ng mga bagong kagamitan.

At ang mga numero-unong apektado ng pagkawala ng isang amang sundalo, hindi na rin daw pababayaang gobyerno sa pagbibigay ng libreng edukasyon para sa mga anak nito.

Kumbaga, mawala man si itay (huwag naman sana) ay sigurado na ang future ni bagets.

Sa tingin natin, mas mainam ang ganitong mga programa para sa mga sundalo kaysa madaliin ang doble-sahod.

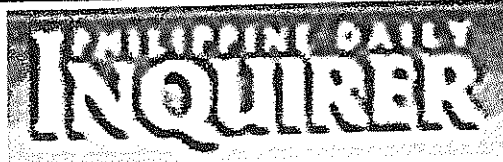
Dahil ang perang buwan-buwang dumarating, madaling nauubos.

Kaya mas maigi na ang pagsisiguro sa kinabukasan ng anak at ng buong pamilya.

Matuloy nawa ang libreng edukasyon at benepisyong pangkalusugan.

Muli, sa ating matutuwid at tapat na sundalo, saludo kami sa inyo!

05 August 2016



Page: A13

The West's decline would hurt China

HONG KONG—Official Chinese media are having a field day touting the dysfunction of Western democracies. Between the British vote to “Brexit” the European Union and the nomination of Donald Trump as the Republican candidate for the US presidency, not to mention increasingly frequent terrorist attacks, they have plenty of evidence. But the truth is that the West's loss is not China's gain.

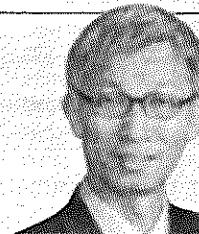
The hope, of course, is that the current travails of democracies around the world could boost the credibility of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). And, indeed, a commentary in People's Daily, the CCP's official newspaper, portrayed the Brexit vote as a reflection of the fundamental flaws of Western democracies. The same paper used Trump's rise to show that, in the American system, political leaders are “helpless” to address “complex social conflicts” like racial tensions and other sources of popular discontent.

The Global Times, an ultranationalist tabloid affiliated with the People's Daily, seemed to suggest that recent terrorist attacks in the West were a harbinger of some kind of democratic apocalypse. The West may be facing some mysterious and unthinkable “change,” intoned the tabloid.

Given the CCP's ideological hostility to the West, and its zero-sum geopolitical mindset, such gloating should come as no surprise. Indeed, the CCP has long used challenges that arise in democratic countries as part of its never-ending effort to enhance its own legitimacy. Claiming that democracy barely works in the West, the Party argues that it would be disastrous for China. Moreover, so long as China's government is delivering consistently rising standards of living, as it has been over the last few decades, there is no need,

WORLD VIEW

Minxin Pei



according to the authorities, even to consider alternative systems.

But there is little evidence that democratic tumult translates into autocratic legitimacy. On the contrary, dictatorships have historically fallen, regardless of the fortune of Western democracies.

When the so-called third wave of democratization began in the mid-1970s, Western democracies were mired in stagflation and the political trauma of the Vietnam War. The fall of communism in the former Soviet bloc coincided with the reinvigoration of Western democracies in the 1980s. When the Arab Spring erupted in 2011, Western democracies were struggling with the consequences of the global financial crisis of 2008.

All of this suggests that autocrats in China should not be holding their breath for some Brexit-induced surge in support. Though stories of democratic dysfunction can give people living under autocratic rule a negative impression of democracy, the effect is most likely short-lived. As long as dictatorships mistreat their own people and fail to improve their lives, their legitimacy will be challenged.

Of course, China is no ordinary autocracy. But what makes it unique—the link between the

24

CCP's authority and its ability to sustain economic growth—does not make its gloating any more rational. After all, one of the keys to China's economic success is its integration into a global economy dominated by the Western democracies, which buy roughly 60 percent of Chinese exports.

In other words, the CCP derives more legitimacy from Western democracies' success than it would from their failure. No good businessperson would hope their best customers to go bankrupt. It makes little sense that the CCP is so pleased about the struggles of China's most valuable trading partners.

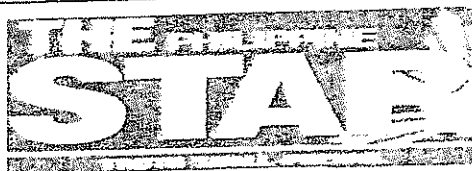
The factors driving the challenges facing the Western democracies today hold even worse implications for China. Support for Brexit and Trump is rooted largely in voters' rejection of globalization. Regardless of how Brexit or the US election plays out, it is very likely that governments in Western democracies will respond to voter angst and take measures that imply a return to some degree of protectionism.

As the world's largest exporter, China will not escape the damaging economic consequences of such efforts. In that context, the legitimacy of the CCP, already challenged by China's economic slowdown, could erode further. Instead of gloating, China's leaders should be watching developments in the Western democracies with concern—and start planning for their own difficult times ahead.

Project Syndicate

Minxin Pei is professor of Government at Claremont McKenna College and a nonresident senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

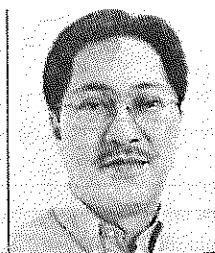
August 2016



Page: 17

Gotcha

By JARIUS BONDOC



Philippine nickel ore used in China's island building?

Was Philippine soil used in China's island building in the disputed seas? That news, attributed to Zambales governor Amor Deloso, needs confirming. More so since it infers treason by sinister parties.

But the report needs some correcting first. Published last week, it quoted Deloso as saying that two mountains in his province were leveled as landfill for China's reclamation of Scarborough Shoal. Seven nickel mines operated by Chinese nationals supposedly did it during the tenure of his predecessor Hermogenes Ebdane. The seven mines were not identified. Deloso further was quoted as citing a Dept. of Foreign Affairs estimate of the reclamation at 3,000 hectares. Thus the shoal allegedly has been converted into an artificial island. Severely affected was the environment of Santa Cruz municipality, and the marine resources of Scarborough.

Fact is, while China invaded Scarborough in 2012, it has not made the shoal into an artificial island. The island making occurred in 2013-2014 in seven other portions of the South China (West Philippine) Sea. Like Scarborough, the seven are within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Those are Mischief Reef,

Fiery Cross Reef, Cuarteron Reef, Gaven Reef, Johnson South Reef, Hughes Reef, and McKennan Reef. China began reclaiming Mischief in 1995, and expanded the area, along with the six other rocks. The artificial islands consist of sand from the seabed and rocks. Portions have been concreted as seaports. On Fiery Cross is a three-kilometer long aircraft runway. The DFA and the US State Department estimate the reclamation to cover 3,200 acres, or 1,300 hectares.

Scarborough, also called Panatag Shoal and Bajo de Masinloc, is a traditional Filipino fishing ground. It is 123 miles from the coast of Masinloc, Zambales. The recent ruling of the UN arbitral court declared Scarborough as a traditional fishing ground of other East Asians as well.

This column exposed starting 2012 the destructive nickel mining in Santa Cruz and surrounding Zambales towns. The provincial capitol had granted hundreds of small-scale mining permits. With Filipinos as fronts, Chinese nationals actually engaged in large-scale mining. Not mere picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows were used, but dozens of heavy excavating equipment and bulldozers, and hundreds of dump trucks. Hundreds of thousands of tons of nickel ore – rocks the size of a fist to a football – were loaded onto bulk-cargo ships and transported to China. Three big Chinese miners were involved: Nihao, Wei-Wei, and Jiangxi.

Nickel is used in the steel and communications industries. It is a crucial component in China's weapons and shipbuilding, as well as spyware. The processed nickel from Zambales likely was used in China's equipment to grab Scarborough.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 645-9555 Local: 5265, 5295

The news item went on about the destruction of Zambales' forests and Scarborough's marine resources. Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Gina Lopez was reportedly aghast with the news. She has ordered an investigation, and promised to punish any

department underling involved in the environmental mess.

This column in fact reported the harmful effects of the nickel mining on the townfolk's health. The deforestation dried up the rivers and destroyed wildlife. Seas were muddied. Floods ruined farmlands. Emissions from the hundreds of dump trucks made northern Zambales the most afflicted with respiratory ailments.

The Noynoy Aquino administration paid no heed then. The governor, a former police general, once headed the close-in security of President Cory Aquino's family. Noynoy was said to be his friend. Police and natural resources officials did not enforce health and environment laws against the Chinese nationals.

Still, was Philippine soil used to reclaim the rocks and underwater elevations that China grabbed? And did the filling material also come from other nickel mines, including in Surigao and Agusan?

It would help Secretary Gina's investigators to gather data from various agencies. From the Mines and Geosciences Bureau they can get info on how much nickel ore was extracted in Luzon and Mindanao in 2012-2014. One mine in

Agusan, operated by friends of Noynoy and campaign contributors of his Liberal Party, had in fact over-extracted millions of tons of ore. President Rody Duterte has denounced that miner, SR Metals Corp., for environmental ruin.

With the data, the investigators can calculate how much ore could have been used to reclaim 1,300 hectares of reefs up to, say, ten meters high.

How was the ore transported to the artificial islands? Investigators should study the aerial and satellite photographs of the Chinese rush construction. Those show that not only dredgers were used to suck up sand from the seabed onto the rock formations. There were also dozens of hauling barges called LCT (Landing Craft Tank). It would surprise the investigators to find out that China sold very cheap LCTs to Philippine nickel mines.

The Maritime Industry Authority would have the figures. Investigators would be able to calculate, at 300 tons load capacity per LCT, how many trips it took to transport the nickel ore to the reclamations.

Now why would China use nickel ore as landfill instead of processing it for steel mills? The answer lies in the gap between low-grade Philippine nickel and the Chinese processors' high-grade preference. Also worth looking into is the location of the ore processing plants far inland of China. Loading and unloading the ore from ships to trains would have been more expensive than converting the ore into instant landfill.

The intelligence agencies would have more info on that. They likely know too, which Filipino nickel miners collaborated in the Chinese reclamation binge.

* * *

Catch Sapol radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jarius-Bondoc/1376602159218459>, or The STAR website <http://www.philstar.com/author/Jarius%20Bondoc/GOTCHA>

★

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

ONLINE NEWS

05 AUGUST 2016

www.dwdd.com.ph

AFP to join Peace Road 2016 World Tour – Philippines



QUEZON CITY— The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will participate in the Peace Road 2016 World Tour – Philippines this coming August 7, Sunday at the Quezon City Memorial Circle Liwasang Aurora.

The Peace Road 2016 World Tour – Philippines is expected to be participated by 1,200 bikers from various cycling associations, government agencies, and NGOs along with peace supporters from different organizations.

The bikers will face a 21-kilometer tour that will start at 7:00 am around major roads in Quezon City.

The closing ceremony will be held at around 9:00 am.

Bikers who will participate the said activity are encouraged to wear appropriate/ Major Services biker's attire.

The Universal Peace Federation – the Philippines together with the World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles -the Philippines and Youth Federation for World Peace – Philippines will co-host the Peace Road 2016 World Tour with the theme: "Connecting the World Through Peace."

The said activity is being held as well in 120 nations all over the world to advance the ideals of building a world peace and mutual cooperation grounded on the values of living for the sake of others and building "One Family Under God."

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

GPH, MILF to meet in KL on August 13-14: Santiago heads GPH panel

From MindaNews (Aug 3): GPH, MILF to meet in KL on August 13-14; Santiago heads GPH panel

The 10-member government (GPH) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Implementing Team will meet in Kuala Lumpur on August 13 and 14 to begin work on the implementation of the Bangsamoro peace roadmap. Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said.

Dureza told MindaNews that he will head the government delegation in the first formal meeting between the government and MILF under the Duterte administration.

He and MILF chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim agreed during the former's visit to the MILF's Camp Darapanan on July 21 that there will be no more negotiating panels because the peace process is now on its implementation phase. Instead, there will be a 10-member Joint Implementing Team, five from the government and five from the MILF.



Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Sec. Jesus Dureza meets with Moro Islamic Liberation Front Chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim on July 21, 2016 in Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao to discuss the implementation phase of the peace process. MindaNews photo by KEITH BACONGCO

The five-member government panel in the Joint Implementing Team will be chaired by Irene "Inday" Santiago of the Mindanao Commission on Women, Inc. and a consultant at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

Santiago was a member of Dureza's panel when he was the government's chief negotiator from 2001 to 2003. Dureza's counterpart then was Murad, who was then MILF Vice Chair for Military Affairs and chief of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces.

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

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

Dureza told MindaNews on July 21 that OPAPP Undersecretary Diosita "Jojo" Andot would head the government side. But Dureza told MindaNews Wednesday evening that Andot has her hands full with other tasks in OPAPP so she will, instead, be a member of Santiago's panel, along with former OPAPP Undersecretary Nabil Tan, Brig. Gen. Dickson Hermoso who had earlier worked as head of the secretariat of the GPH peace panel's Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) and chief of the Peace Process Office of the Philippines Army; and Rolando Asuncion, who had earlier worked at OPAPP when Dureza first headed the office from 2005 to 2007.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF peace panel chair since 2003 told MindaNews they are still finalizing the composition of the panel in the joint implementing body.

Malaysia has been facilitating the peace process between the government and MILF since 2001.

MindaNews asked if the international teams in the GPH-MILF peace process will also be in Kuala Lumpur. "We are inviting all players," Dureza replied.

The teams include the International Monitoring Team, International Contact Group composed of foreign governments and international NGOs, Third Party Monitoring Team, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission, and the Independent Decommissioning Body.

The GPH and MILF signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) on March 27, 2014, after 17 years of peace negotiations.

Under the Aquino administration's peace roadmap, the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) which was supposed to have paved the way for the creation of the Bangsamoro, a new autonomous political entity that would replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), was supposed to have been passed and ratified to allow for a transition period until the first set of officials of the Bangsamoro would have been elected on May 9, 2016.

Congress under the Aquino administration, however, adjourned without passing the BBL.

President Rodrigo Duterte, the country's 16th President and first Mindanawon to lead the nation, has repeatedly said during the election campaign and even as President, that the historical injustices against the Bangsamoro should be corrected.

Duterte on July 16 approved the peace roadmap presented by Dureza. Under this roadmap, work on the new proposed Bangsamoro law "will be done simultaneous with the moves to shift to a federal set-up, the latter expected to come later under the planned timeline."

The 15-member, MILF-led Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), which will be reconstituted to allow for a more inclusive representation from among the seven nominees of the government, will be tasked to "draft anew a more inclusive proposed enabling law that will be filed with Congress" in lieu of the BBL that the previous Congress failed to pass. The BBL will also propose amendments to the Constitution.

The Joint Implementing Team will discuss the peace roadmap in accordance with the 2014 CAB and in
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

convergence with the 1996 Final Peace Agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front, and with other sectors, for what would be a broader, more inclusive Bangsamoro Peace roadmap.

<http://www.mindanews.com/peace-process/2016/08/gph-milf-to-meet-in-kl-on-august-13-14-santiago-heads-gph-panel/>

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

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Dureza reiterates call for convergence of MNLF, MILF peace pacts

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 4): Dureza reiterates call for convergence of MNLF, MILF peace pacts

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza on Thursday stressed the need to consolidate the government's peace accords with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in order to craft a more inclusive proposed enabling law.

During a briefing on the new peace roadmap for international partners, Dureza said that the lack of inclusivity was the "very reason" that led to the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in the previous Congress.

"The MILF claims that it (BBL) was very inclusive, but the perception and in actuality, other factions felt and still feel now that it is not inclusive," said Dureza.

"There must be therefore a convergence, a coming together of all these signed agreements if it pertains to the Bangsamoro," he added.

He was referring to the MILF's Comprehensive Agreement of the Bangsamoro (CAB) and the MNLF's 1996 Final Peace Agreement (FPA). Other relevant provisions include the Republic Act No. 3054 (or the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Law) and the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA).

The peace adviser explained that the Duterte administration will further enhance inclusivity by reconstituting the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), provided for in the CAB, with representation coming from the MILF, MNLF, and other Bangsamoro representatives.

Dureza said that the inclusive BTC will work on the new enabling law in lieu of the BBL.

He further disclosed that the Philippine government will act as a third party to facilitate the convergence of the MILF and MNLF agreements, noting that it is an exclusively "Filipino affair".

"The third party now will be the Government of the Philippines who will compose a role panel to see to it and assist our co-Filipinos in working out among themselves what could be the next steps together," Dureza said.

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

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

It was earlier declared that the Bangsamoro peace process is already at the "implementation stage as the time for negotiations are over".

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?gh=1&sid=6&id=1&id=910795>

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

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Military units to support PDEA in anti-drug ops -- DND chief

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 4): Military units to support PDEA in anti-drug ops -- DND chief

Military units will be supporting the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in its anti-drug operations, said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday.

"One of the marching orders given to me by the President is to help the PDEA, so we will now have troops (and units) on stand-by to help PDEA Director Isidro Lapeña in case they encounter heavily armed drug perpetrators and require support or reinforcement," he said in Filipino.

Lorenzana said that he has opened all military camps, especially the big ones, for the establishment of drug rehabilitation centers, as stated by President Rodrigo R. Duterte in his first State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA).

Camps under this category are Fort Magsaysay in Palawan City, Nueva Ecija; Camp Macario Peralta in Jaramin, Capiz; Camp Kibartan in Bukidnon; and Camp Tomas Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

Lorenzana said these facilities are ideal for rehabilitation purposes as they have sufficient space for recreation and work, especially for planting.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&rid=1&rid=910637>

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