

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 August 2016

Saturday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

13 AUGUST 2016



Rody apologizes to Sereno

But he threatens to destroy another woman exec

Chief executive officer of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) Rody Duterte has apologized to...



Rody Duterte, CEO of PNB, is seen in a photo.

Expected to...

CEO Duterte's apology...



A person is seen in a photo.

Japan to fund \$2.4-B railway from MM to Bulacan
US: Extrajudicial killings alarming



Sereno appreciates apology



Tiamsons released for talks

No apology to US envoy from Duterte

Rody on China: We want talks, not war



Alza appointed chair of National Youth Commission

BSR eases for rules



The Manila Times

'Stop pursuing Misuari' - Duterte

Duterte says Misuari is a threat to peace in Mindanao

Duterte says Misuari is a threat to peace in Mindanao



A group of people is seen in a photo.

Public works...

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Public works...



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM

Monday to Sunday

MR. 21

ONE OF THE PHILIPPINE BEST

83





























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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
 5:42 AM <small>100% Sunshine</small>	 6:30 PM <small>100% Cloud</small>	 1:09 AM <small>100% Cloud</small>	 12:55 AM <small>100% Cloud</small>
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
 8:44 AM <small>100% Cloud</small>	 8:37 PM <small>100% Cloud</small>	 8:53 AM <small>100% Cloud</small>	 8:46 PM <small>100% Cloud</small>



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST		
AUG 14 SUN	AUG 15 MON	AUG 16 TUE	AUG 14 SUN	AUG 15 MON	AUG 16 TUE
METRO MANILA	 24 °C 20 °C	 24 °C 20 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 26 °C 30 °C	 25 °C 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 21 °C 31 °C	 24 °C 31 °C	ILIGAN/ BAGUIO	 24 °C 29 °C	 24 °C 29 °C
LAOAG	 24 °C 27 °C	 24 °C 27 °C	METRO CEBU	 28 °C 32 °C	 26 °C 30 °C
BAGUIO	 18 °C 19 °C	 16 °C 19 °C	TACLOBAN	 25 °C 31 °C	 26 °C 31 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	 23 °C 26 °C	 24 °C 26 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 24 °C 34 °C	 25 °C 34 °C
TAGAYTAY	 21 °C 25 °C	 21 °C 24 °C	METRO DAGAO	 26 °C 34 °C	 25 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	 24 °C 30 °C	 24 °C 29 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 28 °C 33 °C	 20 °C 32 °C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with showers and thunderstorms

Cloudy with showers and thunderstorms

Monsoon Rains

13 August 2016

INQUIRER

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Rody apologizes to Sereno

But he threatens to destroy another woman exec

By **Germelina Lacorte**, *Inquirer Mindanao*
Estrella Torres and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila

DAVAO CITY—In sharp contrast to his threats and fighting words early this week, President Duterte on Thursday night apologized to Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno for the “harsh words” he had flung at her over the inclusion of seven trial judges in his list of officials allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade.

“I apologize to the Chief Justice for the harsh words I’ve said, it was never intended,” Mr. Duterte said barely two days after he slammed the chief magis-

trate, who had responded to Mr. Duterte’s narcolist by telling the judges named not to heed police summons unless they

RODY/A10

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were served warrants for their arrest.

"Because of the magnitude of the (drug) problem, it was my way of solving the problem within the ambit of my power as President," Mr. Duterte said, adding that he no longer wanted a repeat of the tangle he just had with Sereno.

In a press briefing on Friday, Supreme Court spokesperson Theodore Te said: "The Chief Justice appreciates the President's latest remarks (but) she will no longer say anything on the matter."

Warpath

But while it appeared that Mr. Duterte wanted to reconcile with Sereno, he seemed to be on the warpath yet again against another government official who he said was criticizing him too much.

"You know I was the whipping boy of the NGOs (non-government organizations) and the human rights stalwarts. But you know I have this special

(tiff) with someone. She is a government official. One day soon, I'll have to let her go in public and I will have to destroy her in public," he said.

'Premature'

When asked who the official was, Mr. Duterte said: "That's the riddle there." He added: "Just wait (People) might have thought that I never listened to them. So while they were (watching) what I've done, I've also been busy with the help of

another country listening to them," he said.

Mr. Duterte on Tuesday lashed out at Sereno for her letter urging him to abide by the rule of law in his fight against drugs, while also raising concerns about extrajudicial killings. The President's naming on his narcolist seven judges, four of them incumbent, was "premature," the Chief Justice said in the letter sent the President on Monday.

In a speech before soldiers at

about the declaration of martial law and "quickly erased worries of a conflict between the executive and the judiciary," Sen. Leila de Lima said on Friday.

"We can also rest assured that the possible declaration of martial law is not administration policy, if the President did not intend to say those harsh words in the first place," De Lima said, adding that "whatever comes out of the President's mouth can be construed as policy, which was why it would be helpful if the Palace would clarify which of the Chief Executive's pronouncements are policy and which are not to avoid confusion."

Heat of passion

The President's chief legal counsel, Salvador Panelo, said Mr. Duterte's apology just shows that in the heat of passion, he may utter strong pronouncements. Otherwise, he added, the President is a gentleman and respects women.

Mr. Duterte blamed the media for his outburst on Tuesday, saying that they persistently

asked him to name the judges involved in illegal drugs.

"You asked for it," Mr. Duterte told reporters, "Even the media (kept asking), 'When are you going to reveal the (names of the) judges?' Every time I face you, somebody will just stand up and say, 'When are you going to reveal the list?'"

He added: "You're demanding information. If you can easily ask (for information) from other offices, the more you should be able to ask it of the President," Mr. Duterte said. "We have FOI (freedom of information) now," he said, referring to the executive order he had issued that required all government offices in the executive department to be transparent in all their official transactions.

"My job is to inform the people about their surroundings and the threat that illegal drugs might bring to their lives and those of their children," Mr. Duterte said. "I don't have to go into the motion of waiting for the warrant of arrest. As President, I have the duty to inform the public."

Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City, Mr. Duterte chided Sereno for insisting on warrants of arrest against drug suspects, saying it took the courts too long to issue them and that there were some 600,000 people involved in drugs.

He also warned the Chief Justice against fomenting a constitutional crisis that, he said, might force him to declare martial law.

The President's apology to Sereno has assuaged fears

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13 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Gov't reminded about deal with Marcos family

By Jovic Yee in Manila
and Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

THE GOVERNMENT must "insist" on a previous agreement with the Marcos family to settle "in a very practical and sensible" way the contentious

issue of the final resting place for Ferdinand Marcos, a group of martial law survivors opposed to burying the strongman at Libingan ng mga Bayani said.

"(The) prior (agreement between the Marcoses) and

GOV'T/A10

From page A1

former President Fidel V. Ramos, in a very practical and sensible sense, settled the matter for all," lead convenor Boni Ilagan of the Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses to Malacañang (Carmma) said in a text message to the INQUIRER on Friday.

The martial law torture survivor added that going back to this original arrangement could temper the uproar caused by President Duterte's hardline stance about the late dictator's burial in Libingan next month.

In 1992, the Marcos family asked Ramos' permission to bring home the remains of the former President who died in exile in the United States in 1989. Ramos however imposed three conditions to allow the return of his cousin's remains: the dictator would be given honors due a junior officer, he would be buried immediately, and he would be buried in Ilocos Norte province.

Twenty-four years and four administrations later, the Marcoses have yet to honor any of the terms.

Dilemma

Former Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello, who is part of the committee that drafted and approved in 2013 the Human Rights Victims Reparation Act, said that while the government can still invoke these terms on the family, it appears that the Duterte administration isn't on that track.

"The problem is that these conditions should've been legislated. The lesson here is, whenever you deal with sensitive issues, you legislate it," Bello said at the sidelines of the launch of an umbrella group advocating for human rights.

The "dilemma" now is that it appears the Duterte administration does not see itself bound by the agreement, Bello added.

Mr. Duterte on Thursday evening stood firm on his decision and blamed supporters of former President Benigno Aquino III for

failing to pass a law that would have prevented him from burying Marcos in Libingan. He would be violating the law if he did not allow it, he added.

Dishonorably discharged

Ilagan, however, countered that by pushing through with the burial, the President may in fact be violating the law prescribing that "no one could be buried at Libingan if he had been dishonorably discharged or convicted in cases of moral turpitude, which Marcos had been many times over, as attested to by several researches, books and experts."

"Bottom line, only the honorable can be interred in Libingan for the inspiration and emulation of generations to come. Marcos the dictator, plunderer and human rights violator doesn't qualify," he said.

Tomorrow, Carmma and at least 2,000 other individuals from the multisectoral group Coalition Against the Marcos Burial in Libingan ng mga Bayani will gather at the Lapu-Lapu Monument in

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Rizal Park to protest the late President's interment at the national pantheon possibly on Sept. 18, or a week past Marcos' 99th birth anniversary.

Meanwhile, Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo on Friday said that the Palace will respect the ruling of the Supreme Court should it stop the planned Marcos burial in Libingan. Reports said several groups planned to challenge the move before the high court.

"We will always respect any decision of the higher court. We have no problem with that. As we said, we will always abide by the rule of law," Panelo said.

In Mindanao, martial law survivors in Davao province called on the President to bury Marcos in Libingan ng mga Marcos (LNM) in Batac, Ilocos Norte, instead of in Libingan in Metro Manila.

The group, Alyansa Dabaw: Hugpong Dabawenyo para sa LNM Batac, described Duterte's decision as a perpetuation of "historical injustice" committed

to all victims of martial law and asked him to listen instead to the sentiments of the survivors.

Painful, revolting

"Bury Marcos in Batac where he is loved and honored, not in Libingan ng mga Bayani," the group urged their former mayor.

Victims and survivors of martial law said the idea of a hero's burial for Marcos was "much too painful," and "totally revolting," and quoted accounts saying that the late strongman had expressed his wish to be buried in Batac, next to his mother.

The group also urged President Duterte to fulfill his campaign promise to consult with, and find consensus among martial law survivors before allowing a hero's burial for Marcos.

But Mr. Duterte said a consultation and a plebiscite would cost billions, which the government was not willing to spend just to settle the issue of the Marcos burial.

"Just like in an electoral process, we will have to spend bil-

lions and I don't think we have billions to spend for the (issue)," the President said. Allowing Marcos' burial in Libingan ng mga Bayani does not necessarily mean he was being recognized as a hero, he added.

The group however cited the deeper and symbolic meaning of a Marcos burial in LMB. "It's an insult to all our friends and relatives killed during martial law," Davao historian Macario Iru said. "Stories about how we suffered during martial law would be erased and Marcos would be cleared (and considered) a hero," he added.

Pe Salino of Selda, an organization of former political detainees, said the group had counted at least 104 martial law victims who have died in Davao City alone, and countless others who had disappeared or were tortured during the military regime.

The group will hold their own citizens' assembly in front of San Pedro church on Sunday to make their point. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

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13 August 2016

INQUIRER

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All systems go for talks; Tiamzons granted bail

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

IT'S ALL systems go for three National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultants facing criminal charges to participate in peace talks in Norway later this month, while

three others may well be on their way as well.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 32 Judge Thelma Buni-Medina granted on Friday the urgent motions for the issuance of a court order allowing

ALL SYSTEMS/A6

From page A1

Satur Ocampo and Randall Echani to travel to the Netherlands and Norway "on Aug. 16 to Sept. 4." The two are facing multiple murder charges in connection with the discovery of a mass grave in Leyte province in 2006.

She also granted coaccused Rafael Baylosis' petition to participate in the peace talks in Oslo, Norway, on Aug. 20 to 27.

Medina made the decision after she reinstated bail at P150,000 for Baylosis, who surfaced earlier in the day at her court and was finally arraigned on multiple murder charges.

Baylosis had forfeited a P100,000 bail earlier set by the Supreme Court after he skipped

his arraignment in July 2015 allegedly due to "intense surveillance and reports of threats to him and his family," according to Edre Olalia of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers that represents him.

"I subjected myself to the jurisdiction of the Philippine government court to give the peace process a chance to continue and to help in the peace negotiations. That is the reason," said Baylosis, who did not enter a plea, and subsequently posted bail.

Although Medina also granted the urgent motion for release on bail filed by coaccused Wilma and Benito Tiamzon, and Adelberto Silva, their lawyer Rachel Pastores said they still had urgent motions pending in other courts.

"But we are hoping they will be acted upon soon," Pastores said.

Medina set bail for the Tiamzons and Silva at P100,000, and allowed them to join the talks in Norway.

No ceasefire

The talks are aimed at ending one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies that began in 1969, left hundreds dead and stunted economic prospects in the countryside. The NDFP is the political arm of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed unit, the New People's Army (NPA).

The talks have often bogged down in the past with the rebels' demand to free jailed colleagues, but President Duterte—a former student of CPP founder Jose Maria Sison—initiated the resumption of the negotiations shortly after he won the elections in May.

But the President angrily lifted a unilateral ceasefire just days after it came into effect, af-



DEFIANT Arrested communist leaders Benito Tiamzon and his wife, Wilma, raise their fists as they await a hearing on their bail petition at a Manila court on Thursday. They were granted bail and the government would allow them to join peace talks in Oslo, Norway, from Aug. 20 to 27. AP

ter a progovernment militiaman was killed in an NPA attack in the south.

Medina noted in her four-page order that the prosecution had no objection to temporarily free the accused, and stressed that her order was "pursuant to the government's intent to enter into a peace agreement with the orga-

nization they represent."

She said all six were permitted to travel subject to the conditions imposed by the Department of Justice in an Aug. 9 memorandum that said the release would be only "for the purpose of their attendance and participation in the formal peace negotiations ... and

until the duration of the peace negotiations."

The court also ordered the communist peace consultants to provide their complete contact information both in the Philippines and abroad. They were also ordered to return home after the talks and to report to the Philippine Embassy "whenever required."

"Also, they are ordered to submit to this court within 10 days from their arrival a written report as regards the outcome of said negotiations and discussions," Medina said.

Medina, however, said she denied the consultants' request to remove their names from the government watch list, hold-departure order, lookout bulletin order or any similar document "as their travel abroad shall be granted (on a) per request basis."

She also denied the Tiamzons' and Silva's petitions for bail to be applied to other courts where they had pending cases because the court "obviously lacks jurisdiction" over these.

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Marcos to be honored as President at Libingan–AFP

By Jaymee T. Gamil

IT'S OFFICIAL: Deposed dictator President Ferdinand Marcos was to be honored not just as a former soldier, but as former head of state, in Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes' Cemetery) where, President Duterte announced in a memo on Sunday, he would be laid to rest.

This, as the Philippine Army,

interment although the burial date has yet to be announced.

Hao, however, said that as early as last week, a private contractor, through the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, has begun work on the 100-square-meter space allocated for Marcos in the cemetery's "presidential" section.

The section currently hosts the final resting place for three former Presidents: Carlos P. Garcia,

which oversees the cemetery for soldiers and dignitaries, officially received on Wednesday a directive from the Armed Forces of the Philippines to "provide all necessary military honors accorded a President" for the Marcos burial.

The military honors would include a vigil, a bugler or drummer, a firing party, a military host or pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival

Elpidio Quirino and Diosdado Macapagal. Marcos' plot would be next to Garcia's, Hao said.

As early as June, civilians protesting the idea of the dictator's interment at Libingan have been sneaking in on the guise of visiting their departed, to leave stones bearing the names of martial law victims on the then rumored Marcos burial plot.

Since then, security has been

and departure honors.

Dated Aug. 9, the directive was signed by Rear Adm. Ernesto Enriquez, AFP deputy chief of staff for reservist and retiree affairs.

In a phone interview on Friday, Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said they had already appointed a protocol officer to meet with the Marcos family to discuss details of the

tightened at the cemetery. While Hao conceded that it was within the protesters' right to express their sentiments, they should follow procedures and seek a permit from the Taguig local government if they want to hold protest actions outside the cemetery.

"This is a national shrine. Let's maintain the solemnity of the place," Hao urged the public.

August 2016



Page: 2

Malacañang ready to welcome petition vs FM burial

By GIOVANNI NILLES

Malacañang would welcome a petition that could be filed before the Supreme Court to, once and for all, settle the issue on the burial of former president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo said the Palace would also respect whatever decision the SC would hand down and that the Palace would abide by the rule of law.

Several groups opposing the burial of the late dictator earlier entertained the idea of launching protest actions and going to the Supreme Court among its options to stop Marcos from being buried at the heroes' cemetery.

The former Republic Memorial Cemetery was established in May 1947 as a tribute to the 33,500 Filipinos who fought and died during World War II.

The late president Ramon Magsaysay renamed the cemetery Libingan ng mga Bayani on Oct. 27, 1954. Marcos also issued Proclamation 208 on May 28, 1967 to reserve 142 hectares of the Fort Bonifacio Military Reservation as a national shrine for heroes.

"But the law is very clear. There is a regulation that says these are the people that can be buried, among them: presidents and soldiers," Panelo said.

He admitted that he discussed the issue with Duterte yesterday.

"The regulation rests with the President. He can amend or revise (the

regulation) but he said he would not touch it. He said that is the regulation from the very beginning and the previous administrations did not amend it either," Panelo added.

Duterte, in a late night press conference in Davao City on Thursday, said he would allow those opposed to the burial to stage their protest actions in the streets for up to three months.

The President added that the "yellow group" or supporters of the family of former presidents Corazon and Benigno Aquino III is putting him in a quandary because they are now pressuring him to stop the burial when they did not even amend or revise the rules on who can be buried at the heroes' cemetery while they were still in power.

Army ready for burial

It's all systems go for the Marcos burial at the Libingan with full military honors, the Philippine Army said yesterday.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya has directed the Army to provide all the necessary military honors for a president.

"The directive dated Aug. 9 is signed by Rear Admiral Ernesto Enriquez, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservists and Retiree Affairs (J9) by command of Gen. Visaya," Hao said.

Based on the directive, Hao said that the Army is

required to provide vigil, bugler/drummer, firing party, military host/pallbearers, escort and transportation, as well as arrival and departure honors.

These funeral preparations only befit the country's deceased heroes.

The Army leadership has also designated a protocol officer for coordination with the family of the late strongman, whose remains now lie in state at the Marcos Museum and Mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier bared that the burial of his father has been scheduled on Sept. 18.

Various anti-Marcos groups have voiced their opposition to the Marcos burial at the cemetery in Taguig.

Despite strong opposition, the Department of National Defense maintained that the late strongman is qualified to be buried at the Libingan, saying that the late president was never convicted of any crimes involving moral turpitude.

Ilocos Norte Provincial Board has asked President Duterte to declare Sept. 11, the birthday of Marcos, as a special non-working holiday in Ilocos Norte.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan has unanimously approved the resolution billed as President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos Day seeking Duterte's declaration.

– With Jaime Laude, Christina Mendez, Artemio Dumlaog

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Marcos burial at heroes' cemetery lawful, no need for referendum – Digong

DAVAO CITY – Consensus of the people through referendum is no longer needed to allow the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB).

This was clarified by President Rodrigo Duterte at a press conference at the Presidential Guest House in Panacan, Davao City last Thursday night.

"I will have to spend so many billions, because it would like be an electoral process to get the sentiments of every Filipino," Duterte said.

He added that there is no need to spend billions of pesos just to decide the matter of a burial of a president.

"The law says ... it does not even mention of heroes. It simply says that if you are a soldier, and in another section of the law that says of presidents. So that's the law," the President stressed.

He said that previous administrations should have passed a law prohibiting the burial of Marcos to the LNMB.

The law is clear, Duterte said, that a soldier and a president can be buried at the LNMB.

"Nobody is questioning about his being a hero. I am not dwelling on his exploits. *Sabi nala wala daw sa* (I was told there is none in the) congressional records (in the United States) But until when shall we depend on the records of another country to choose who will be buried there," he pointed out.

The President added that he would rather follow what the law says than what others are saying about Marcos' records in the United States.

"He has no medals recorded in the United States? Correct, I will admit that and I will assume it to be true. But why should I be dependent on the records of the United States? I am not a state (citizen) of the United States," he added.

The President said the Philippines has long ceased to be the vassal state of the United States – emphasizing "*Tapos na yan* (That's finish), its history."

The President's decision to bury former President Marcos at the LNMB was highly criticized by other sectors, particularly those who question the former President's claims of heroism and war medals.

"Forget about the medals. Just focus on whether he is a Filipino who fought for his country and is once upon a time the president. That's the law," Duterte said.

Meanwhile, the late strongman will be receiving full military honors fit for a president after all.

This, as the Philippine Army yesterday announced that it had received the directive for the interment of the late President at the LNMB.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said that the command received the directive, dated Aug. 9, 2016, on Wednesday.

"The Philippine Army is directed to provide all necessary military honors accorded for a President," said Hao.

Hao said that the directive was signed by Rear Admiral Ernesto Enriquez, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs, J9, AFP, by command of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya.

"Based on the directive, the Army is required to provide vigil, bugler/drummer, firing party, military host, pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival and departure honors," Hao said.

Hao said that the Army has designated a protocol officer to make lateral coordination with the family of the late former President Marcos on the details of the interment plan.

The Army, however, did not mention the exact date when would Marcos be buried at the LNMB.

Earlier, Hao said that coordination have already been made with the family of the late dictator regarding the burial site.

Reports earlier had said that the Marcoses are looking at Sept. 18 as the date of the transfer of the remains of the late President from his hometown in Batac, Ilocos Norte to Fort Bonifacio.

Mario J. Mallari and PNA

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Law allows Marcos burial at Libingan

Rody blames past Aquino admin for not revising law

By EFREN MONTANO

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte insisted that the law allows former soldiers and presidents to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Duterte added he would be violating the law if he didn't allow Marcos to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

He said he didn't care about the issue of whether Marcos had fake war med-

als or that the former president's World War II service did not appear in United States records.

Duterte also laid the blame on the past Aquino administration for not revising the law.

"Dapat nagpasa sila ng batas na hindi pwedeng ilibing sa Marcos," said Duterte.

Duterte also said that burying the remains of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani "doesn't mean he's a hero in the true sense of the word."

Meanwhile, the military

will give military honors to Marcos when his remains are interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Army spokesman Colonel Benjamin Hao said yesterday the Army had been ordered to provide all necessary military honors to the former president.

The order was contained in a directive, dated August 9, signed by Rear Admiral Ernesto Enriquez, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs.

It was upon the command of AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya.

The Army was also ordered to provide vigil, a bugler and a drummer, a firing party, military host/pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival and departure honors.

Hao said the Army had designated a protocol officer to coordinate with the Marcos family as regards the details of the burial plan.

He said the Marcos family should inform the Army of their requests.

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Ex-cop, soldier among 10 more slain over drugs

By NINO N. LUCES

Two buy-bust operations and a suspected vigilante attack in Albay the other night resulted in the death of six suspected drug personalities, while elsewhere in Luzon, four other individuals allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade ended up dead.

Senior Inspector Malu Calubaquib, Police Regional Office (PRO-5) spokeswoman, said a buy-bust operation at the Ka Daps Corner Bar in Barangay San Francisco, Guinobatan town, Albay, around 8 p.m. Thursday ended up in a shootout.

Killed were drug sting target Ferdinand DLR Rigo, alias "Dindo," a dismissed police officer and resident of the town, and his alleged cohorts Private First Class Joel S. Coderes, 26, a resident of Iriga City and assigned to the army's 31st Infantry Brigade in Sorsogon, Valdemar O. Olaguer, 31, of Guinobatan, and Olaguer's live-in partner, Crisanta V de Castro, 36, also of Guinobatan.

Later at 10:45 p.m. another buy-bust operation in Barangay Del Rosario, Camalig town, led to a shootout with drug suspect Emerson Llanza Jr., alias "Kulot," 29, of Daraga, Albay.

Meanwhile in Barangay Bigaa, Legazpi City, suspected vigilantes riding

in tandem on a motorcycle gunned down Gilbert Alfajaro y Reyes, 35.

In La Union, 45-year-old Kagawad Edward Olete, 45, of Barangay Dangdangla, San Juan town, was gunned down by unidentified assailants in front of the Sta. Rosa Elementary School before noon yesterday.

Superintendent Artemio Infante, La Union police's information officer, confirmed Olete was in the town's drug watchlist.

In Bulacan, suspected drug personality Robert Tiu, who uses the alias "Chris Tiu," was shot dead by police when he tried to resist undercover agents who busted him for drug pushing in Barangay Bagong Buhay III, San Jose del Monte City around 5 p.m. Thursday.

Around the same time, an armed encounter between police and drug suspect Carlo Paolo Razon ended in the latter's death in Barangay Tapulao, Orani, Bataan.

In Cavite, another suspected drug personality who resisted arrest and drew his gun on police buy-bust operatives was shot dead in Barangay Matagbak I, Alfonso town. Police identified the fatality as Frederick Coton Estribe, alias "Masoy." (With reports from Erwin G. Beleo, Franco G. Regala, Mar T. Supnad, and Anthony Giron)

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Pahina. 2

PH Army ang in-charge sa Marcos burial

Ang Philippine Army (PA) ang opisyal na mangangasiwa sa paghimlay sa mga labi ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos sa Libingan ng mga Bayan (LNMB) sa Fort Bonifacio sa Taguig.

Ito ay matapos lagdaan ni Rear Admiral Ernesto Enriquez, deputy chief of staff for reservist and retiree affairs ang direktiba, batay na rin sa pahintulot ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of Staff Lt General Ricardo Visaya.

Inatasan ang PA na bigyan ng kaukulang military honor si Marcos bilang dating pangulo ng bansa.

Iniutos rin sa PA na pangunahan ang iba't ibang seremonya kasama ang

kataibang departure honor.

Kasabay nito, nagtalaga na ang PA ng protocol officer para makipag-coordinate sa pamilya ni dating Pangulong Marcos kasama ang iba pang detalye sa paghahand sa huling hanunganan ng dating pangulo ng bansa.

Kahapon ay muling pinanundigang ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na may batas siyang sinusunod sa desisyon na ipalibing sa LNMB ang pumanaw na diktador.

"The law is there existing. You read it a thousand times and you still arrive at a conclusion that he is qualified. Even if he is not a hero, he was a soldier," gut ng Pangulo

sa isang press conference sa Dayao City.

Kasabay nito, ibinasura ng Pangulo ang mungkahi ng idaan sa referendum ang usapin para mapulsuhan ang sambayanan.

Pero matigas rin ang panimindigan ng ilang progresibong kongresista na tutulan at hadlangan ang hero's burial ni Marcos dahil isang malaking kahihyan umano ng mga Pinoy sa international community ang hakbang na ito.

"The rest of the world sees Ferdinand Marcos as a dictator and human rights violator. How can many of us not see it too?" ani Akbayan partylist Rep. Tom Villarin. (BJulian, TMendoza/BTaguinod)

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Page. 2

MILITARY HONORS SET FOR MARCOS

THE Armed Forces will give military honors to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos when his remains are interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Army spokesman Colonel Benjamin Hao said yesterday the Army had been ordered to provide all necessary military honors to the former president.

The order was contained in a directive, dated August 9, signed by Rear Admiral Ernesto Enriquez, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs.

It was upon the command of AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya.

The Army was also ordered to provide vigil, a bugler and a drummer, a firing party, military host/pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival and departure honors.

Hao said the Army had designated a protocol officer to coordinate with the Marcos family on the details of the burial plan.

He said the Marcos family should inform the Army of their requests.

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INHUMANE ACT| Army condemns NPA for mutilating cadavers of soldiers killed in Compostela Valley



The New People Army, or NPA, received disapproval from the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division for violating the bodies of soldiers killed in the encounters in Compostela Valley last Friday, August 5. According to Captain Rhyon Batchar, spokesperson of the 10th Infantry Division, the corpse of Corporal Jimmy Batya and Private First Class Rolan Roy Sarmiento was found in KM 50, Barangay Rizal, Monkayo, Compostela Valley. Capt. Batchar said that the result of the autopsy done by the Regional Crime Laboratory Office showed that the bodies received multiple gunshot wounds and hack wounds on their heads and necks; they also found an incision in Corporal Batya's neck that destroyed the larynx and the thyroid cartilage and serious hack wounds in Private First Class Sarmiento.

He added that the cadavers were mutilated by NPA's who used sharp-edged objects to slice through the neck.

"We are deeply saddened that our hero soldiers were subjected to barbaric and inhumane acts by the NPAs in complete violation of International Humanitarian Law.

The act of vandalizing the soldiers' bodies, according to Capt. Batchar, triggered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to use legitimate force to oppose all threats regarding the principles of human rights and other war conventions for the protection of the combatants and non-combatants.

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CARE | Army Nursing Service marks 53rd founding anniversary



FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – The Philippine Army Nursing Service will undertake various community activities to mark its 53rd founding anniversary on September this year.

Aside from giving usual nursing services to the soldiers and dependents, Army nurses will also take part in various community activities which include: tree planting at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City on Aug. 18; fun run at Headquarters Philippine Army (HPA) ground on Aug. 25; visit to orphanage at Bahay Maria Orphanage in Bel-Air Village, Makati City on Aug. 27; health care fair and bloodletting at HPA Grandstand on Aug. 29; and the wreath-laying ceremony at Libingan ng mga Bayani on Aug. 30.

This year's anniversary theme is "Philippine Army Nursing Service on its 53rd year of Commitment in Achieving Relevant and Excellent (CARE) quality health care services."

Col. Nilda L. Nesperos, the Army chief nurse said that this year's 53rd founding anniversary is quite different from the previous years.

"Our 53rd founding anniversary will be highlighted by various community events in partnership with various stakeholders," Nesperos said. "Proceeds of the fun run will be used for the procurement of hygiene kit, school supplies, and lunch to be given to the children of Bahay Maria Orphanage at Bel-Air Village in Makati City," she added.

The Army Nursing Service is also encouraging all running enthusiasts to participate in the fun run, with three categories – the 3k, 5k, and 10k running events. Registration fee is P450 for the 3k, P550 for the 5k and P750 for the 10k. Cash prizes will be given to the top 3 winners in all categories. Interested participants may contact Ltc. Yanto at 0977-812-1224 or Maj. Argamose at 0922-853-1974 for more details.

Meanwhile, the Army Chief Nurse is a technical staff of the Philippine Army. Its mission is to provide quality and comprehensive nursing care to all Army personnel, dependents, and authorized civilians.

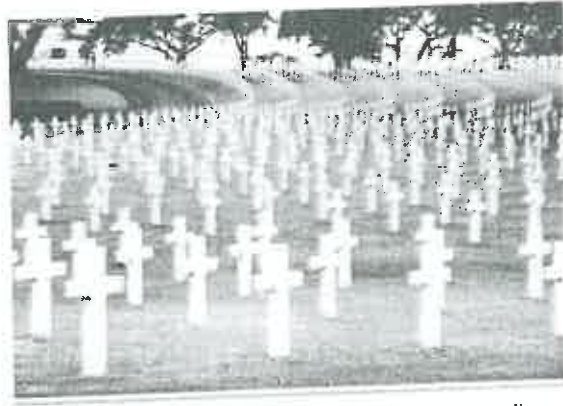


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INTERMENT PLAN | Army receives interment directive for former Pres. Marcos



FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig City – The Philippine Army received on Aug. 10 the directive for the interment of the late former President Ferdinand E Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani dated Aug. 9, 2016.

The Philippine Army is directed to provide all necessary military honors accorded for a President.

The directive is signed by Rear Admiral Ernesto C Enriquez, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs, J9.

AFP, by Command of General Ricardo R Visaya, Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Based on the directive, the Army is required to provide vigil, bugler/drummer, firing party, military host/pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival and departure honors.

The Philippine Army has designated a protocol officer to make lateral coordination with the family of the late former President Marcos on the details of the interment plan.

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Pahina. 7

Sundalo, ex-pulis, 2 pa utas sa shootout

Bulagta ang apat katao kabilang ang isang sundalo at isang dating pulis na nasa municipal drug watchlist na sinasabing asawa ng isang PDEA agent matapos na makipagbarilan sa mga operatiba ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Regional Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Group, Regional Intelligence Unit-5, Provincial Intelligence Unit at Guinobatan Police sa isinagawang drug buy bust operation sa Kadaf Bar, Brgy. San Francisco, Guinobatan, Albay kamaka-

lawang ng gabi.

Kinilala ang mga napatay na sina Joel Codures, 26-anyos, ng Bgy. San Agustín, Inga City, Camarines Sur na isa umanong sundalo na nakatalaga sa bayan ng Juban, Sorsogon; Ferdinand Rigo, dating miyembro ng Guinobatan Police na natanggal sa serbisyo dahil sa pagiging AWOL, ng Bgy. Calzada, nasabing bayan, at dalawa pang umano'y tulak sa droga na sina Valdemar Olaguer, 36-anyos,

NI JORGE HALLARE

ng Bgy. Quibongbongan at Crisanta De Castro, ng Brgy. Maurarc, pawang sa Guinobatan, Albay.

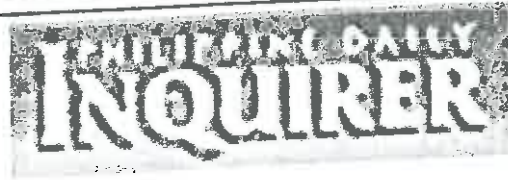
Sa ulat na tinanggap ng Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, ikinasa ang drug operation ng mga operatiba sa pangunguna nina Chief Inspector Luke Ventura at Supt. Ruben Padua Jr. laban sa mga suspek sa nasabing lugar.

Dakong alas-8 ng gabi matapos isagawa ang transaksyon at isang pulis ang

umaktong poseur buyer. Gayinman, nakapalaya ang mga suspek na pulis ang kanilang katransaksyon na nagresulta upang bumunot umano sila ng banil at agad na pinaputukan ang mga pulis. Dito na nagkaengkuwentro umabot ng apat na minuto hanggang sa bumulagta ang mga suspek.

Narekober mula sa mga napatay na suspek ang isang assault rifle, caliber 357 magnum, kalibre 38, ilang sachet ng shabu at mga drug paraphernalia.

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CAMP VISIT President Duterte meets with more than 500 soldiers at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu province. TV GRAF

3 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Duterte tells Misuari: Let's talk peace

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

JOLO, Sulu—President Duterte traveled to the southern island province of Sulu on Friday to personally convince Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari to come out of hiding, saying the 77-year-old Muslim leader was vital to the government's plan of ending a rebellion that has left parts

DUTERTE/A10

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of the South in deep poverty.

"My job when I became President was really to seek peace, not war," Mr. Duterte said, as he appealed to soldiers and Moro rebels in the South to silence their guns and give his young government a chance to end the bloodshed.

Misuari remains in hiding after a 2013 siege in nearby Zamboanga City that left 200 dead and thousands displaced. The attack was carried out by his MNLF supporters to derail the government's peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which they feared would sideline their group.

The assault lasted for days and paralyzed the city where more than 10,000 homes were razed to the ground.

"I've been telling him if we can just talk about peace, let's find ways," the President said of Misuari, who in 1996 led the MNLF in signing a peace deal with the government.

Misuari later became governor of the Muslim autonomous

region in Mindanao, which unfortunately remained mired in poverty despite millions of pesos poured into it. The previous government of President Benigno Aquino III had branded it as a failure, displeasing the Moro leader and his armed followers.

Government ready

Mr. Duterte on Friday, however, assured Misuari that the government was ready, noting that he asked Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and other members of the peace panel to "talk to Nur."

He said he wanted unified talks with all Moro groups, as it would be expensive to hold separate negotiations with them individually.

"The other half with Nur and the other half with the MILF," he said, even as he appealed to Misuari to keep the peace while talks were going on.

He said the government was prepared to thwart any attack, however, saying: "It's better that you die than them."

Speaking in Davao City on Thursday night, Mr. Duterte said he would not want to see

Misuari pursued and detained, warning that should anything bad happen to the rebel leader "you can never have a talk again with the Tausugs."

"Now, Misuari is getting old. I'm not saying, not saying, that he's sick. But with the fragile condition of his age, he does not need to be pursued and I do not want him detained," he said.

"If something happens to Misuari while we're detaining him, that would be a big problem, as in big," he stressed. "So you lose the

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chance, even if it's a small one, to have peace talks with anybody there. That is dangerous."

The President earlier said he was bent on talking peace with Moro rebels, represented by both the MNLF and the MILF.

He had said he wanted to give them the Bangsamoro Basic Law, which would carve out a new region for them in the South. But the law should be without the constitutionally infirm provisions.

Reiterating his call for peace,

Mr. Duterte said "no other President" wanted to see peace as much as he did.

"I hope this is now the time (for peace) so that our troops can also go home. They will enjoy the peace of the land and go back to their families," he said.

"I am appealing to you to stop this war, I am pleading. I will talk to you," he added.

Soldiers under stress

Mr. Duterte said soldiers were under tremendous stress and wanted to see an end to the fighting that has stunted economic growth and ravaged many areas.

"I pose this question, how many have died because of the rebellion in Mindanao? Let's talk peace now and we can have a demarcation line but we cannot return everything to you. No migrant should leave, we are not taking anything from you, we were born here. We have not committed any wrong to you," he said.

He offered to convert the presidential plane into a medical transport to ferry wounded troops, as well as reiterated a

pledge to deliver state-of-the-art medical facilities.

Peace, he said, could lead to dividends, and in the case of Sulu, the opening of the airport runway 24 hours a day and the entry of foreign investors, including Arabs.

"Let's stop shooting at each other, let's talk peace," Mr. Duterte said.

"I reiterate my commitment to the Moro people, the Tausugs, I want this war to end," he said.

Mr. Duterte made it clear that the brutal bandit group Abu Sayyaf was excluded from the talks. The gunmen are still holding a Norwegian hostage somewhere in Jolo, while two Canadian captives had been beheaded after their government refused to hand over ransom.

"The problem is the Abu Sayyaf. I really don't know (who they are and what they stand for). I have been talking to Nur, who said that he also can't convince them," he said.

"We not only fight (them) we have to destroy (them)," Mr. Duterte said.

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Peace panel leaves for KL to save Moro deal

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE 15-MAN Bangsamoro transition committee (BTC) will be racing against time and practically against federalism to draft a replacement to the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which was shelved by the previous Congress following a deadly clash that left 44 police commandos dead last year.

Members of the government peace panel left early Friday for Kuala Lumpur to activate the implementation phase of previously signed agreements with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said that the implementing stage of the Bangsamoro peace accords will be formally launched on Saturday, during which the composition of the BTC will be finalized to embark on two tasks: the crafting of an enabling law for the Comprehensive Agreement of the Bangsamoro (CAB), and the drafting of proposed constitutional amendments.

Replacement of BBL

"The (Bangsamoro Peace and Development) Roadmap is for us to come together, get all the Bangsamoro groups to come together and then craft the replacement of the BBL that did not pass and recommend this to Congress for enactment and hopefully we can entrench and install the Bangsamoro government units as quickly as possible while our national government is working toward federalism as the end-game," Dureza said.

Dureza said the government was hoping that an enabling law to expand a Muslim autonomous region would be signed soon.

"We hope for an early passage of an enabling law (for the CAB) that is inclusive and will converge all the signed agreements with the Bangsamoro," he said at a news conference before leaving for Kuala Lumpur.

Dureza said that pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8371, or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997, could also be included to address concerns on indigenous peoples specifically in Mindanao.

ASAP

He said they would work to come up with a draft "as soon as possible," warning that it may be overtaken by moves in Congress to change the present system of government to federalism.

Dureza said it was urgent for all the stakeholders "to come together, work their differences, if any, and come up with a proposed inclusive enabling law that will already install the Bangsamoro government unit."

"It is very important for us to enact the enabling law because the federalism track is going fast. What we hope to do, as a best case scenario, is to entrench the Bangsamoro government units while federalism is being pursued so that our enabling law on the Bangsamoro may become a pilot federal state," he said.

Congress failed to enact the BBL last year after 44 Special Action Force commandos were slain in a clash with MILF forces in the southern town of Mamasapano following an operation to get a wanted foreign militant, who was also killed.

The commandos had strayed into an MILF territory, triggering a firefight. The MILF had defended its men, saying they were attacked and were left unaware of the police operation despite earlier agreements to inform each other of troop movements to avoid misencounters.

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Bill's infirmities

Debates had focused on the bill's alleged infirmities, and some legislators said this may have helped lead to the deadly encounter. Congress went into recess without passing law.

The 12,000-strong MILF signed a peace deal in 2014, after 17 years of on and off negotiations.

Irene Santiago, who heads the implementing panel for the Bangsamoro peace accords, for her part expressed optimism about the future, noting that they do not necessarily have to wait for peace dividends to kick in despite the absence of an enabling law.

Santiago told the INQUIRER she hoped the upcoming meeting in Kuala Lumpur could result in the implementation of the recommendations of the transitional justice and reconciliation committee through the creation of a national commission that would address historical injustice, land dispossession and the grievances of the Bangsamoro.

"We have an agreement. Let's now find ways to implement and to work together that we solve the problem," she said.

Other delegates to talks include Interior Secretary Mike Sueno and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr., House speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Senate president Aquilino Pimentel III had also committed to join the delegation for Monday's courtesy call on Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

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Miss Universe tilt faces serious threat from IS

THE MILITARY said yesterday it was taking seriously what it believed was a call by Islamic State (IS) militants for an attack on the Miss Universe contest to be held in the country next year.

The military said a recent bomb-making video posted on social media, apparently by IS militants in the Middle East, carried a message in Arabic script reading: "Create bomb for Miss Universe."

The pageant is due to be held in Manila in January.

"We are taking the threat seriously," Armed Forces spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo told reporters, though adding that authorities had yet to establish the authenticity of the video or determine its source.

The military says there are no IS militants in the country although the group has accepted, in a video message, the allegiance of the notorious Abu Sayyaf.

"We reiterate that there is no Isis in the Philippines," Arevalo said, referring to IS.

"What we have are groups claiming affiliations with Isis in their bid to draw funds. It is not

farfetched for Isis to claim to have cells in the Philippines to show global membership."

The Department of Tourism, which helps organize the Miss Universe pageant, was not alarmed by the threat, said spokesperson Ina Zara-Loyola.

"We consider this as serious as well as the traffic problem that affects our daily life," she said, adding that the authenticity of the video was impossible to verify.

The government was confident the Army and the police were "more than capable in ensuring the public safety and security," she said.

The Miss Universe beauty pageant, formerly owned by US presidential candidate Donald Trump, has been held in Manila twice before, in 1974 and 1994.

The reigning Miss Universe is Filipina-German model Pia Wurtzbach, the third winner from the Philippines.

On Wednesday, President Duterte ordered the Army to destroy the Abu Sayyaf group saying if not, the country risked being "contaminated" by Islamic State.

Reuters

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Duterte to Moro rebels: Stop war, let's talk peace

By ELENA L. ABEN

President Duterte yesterday called on the Moro rebels to stop fighting with government forces as he reiterated his commitment to bring lasting peace to Mindanao.

"I would like to appeal to all that we stop this war. I am pleading para wala ng dugo," said the President as he spoke before soldiers at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Barangay Busbus, Jolo, Sulu.

"Mag-usap na lang tayo (Let's just talk), then we can have the demarcation kung ano gusto niyo (on what you

want)," said the Chief Executive.

If the Moro rebels would agree to have peace in the region, the President vowed to improve the Jolo airport, lengthen the runway, and make it operational day and night.

The President said he could also bring in Arab investors to Mindanao

once there is peace in that part of the country. "I-guarantee mo lang ako na gusto ninyo maghintó sa away at mag-usap tayo," he said.

However, Duterte warned that if the rebels would attack government troops, then the soldiers have no other choice but to fight. "Pag inatake ang mga sundalo wala

tayong magagawa," he said.

He also repeated his warning to the Abu Sayyaf Group: "Those who want to destroy us, then you have to destroy. We'll not only fight, we destroy."

He emphasized that his job as President of the Republic is to really seek peace, not war. (With a report from PNA)

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Duterte: No detention for aging Misuari

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte said he does not want Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founder Nur Misuari detained for his age and his fragile condition.

"I have told everybody that there is a warrant of arrest for Misuari. Now, Misuari is getting old. I am not

with the Tausug, kung may mangyari dyan kay Misuari, malaking problema dyan, as in malaki," he added.

Duterte said he will "make a declaration that Misuari can go out anywhere he wants to go out – fine with me."

Duterte who was scheduled to fly to Jolo, Sulu yesterday, said he is not meeting with Misuari, yet, but he is open to meeting the MNLF leader in

saying - not saying that he is sick - but with his fragile condition because of his age, I do not want him detained," he told a press conference here late Thursday night.

The president said that Misuari better stay where he is hiding because if anything happens to him, the government will lose the chance to talk peace with the MNLF members.

"You can never have a talk again the future

He added that he will be sending an emissary to talk with Misuari anywhere in Sulu.

"But I'm sure we will be sending an emissary but if he is there tomorrow anywhere in Sulu. If he'd want to meet me I will go there. Walang problema yan, kabigan kami. If he wants to talk to me kung nandun ako," he said.

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MILF drug dealer slain

BY AL JACINTO

A SENIOR commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was killed during an anti-drug raid in Sultan Kudarat on Friday.

The surprise attack coincided with the opening of a high-level meeting in Malaysia between the Muslim rebel group and the government of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Police identified the slain MILF under as Ugalingan Manuel Jr., alias Commander Boyet.

Senior Supt. Raul Supiter, Sultan Kudarat provincial police director, said Manuel died in the hospital.

Two of his followers of the MILF commander were wounded in a shootout after they opened fire at policemen and soldiers serving search warrants.

Ten other suspected MILF members—all linked to the illegal drug trade in the southern Mindanao province—were arrested in the

pre-dawn raid on Manuel's hide-out in Sitio Ogis in the village of Marquez, Esperanza town.

The raiders recovered assorted high-powered weapons—grenade launchers and automatic rifles—and 10 big packets of suspected shabu.

Friend or foe?

The MILF has pledged support to Duterte's war on drugs and even named several politicians as behind the proliferation of shabu in Mindanao but many of its members are also into the illegal drug trade and other criminal activities.

The rebel group, which signed an interim peace deal with the government in 2014, is negotiating with

the Duterte administration the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) that will govern the Muslims in the restive region.

The BBL was rejected by Congress during President Benigno Aquino 3rd's administration over constitutional violations.

The MILF said it will not revisit the BBL and insisted on the original draft submitted to Aquino.

Many politicians and residents in the proposed Bangsamoro areas also rejected the BBL and wanted out of the agreement, citing failure of the Aquino administration and its peace negotiators to include recommendations submitted by the provinces in the region.

The BBL was drafted by the 15-member Bangsamoro Transition Commission appointed by the former president and the MILF.

Meanwhile, the government panel led by Duterte peace adviser Jesus Dureza and the MILF hierarchy are currently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to tackle the BBL and the implemen-

tation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro.

He said the meeting will focus on the mechanism that will determine the crafting of the new enabling law, as well as the key provisions in CAB that can already be implemented, including the delivery of socio-economic development programs in Mindanao.

The President had vowed to implement all signed peace agreements with the MILF.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujiv Hataman, who is part of Dureza's team, said "the regional government reaffirms its own commitment to the peace process, and pledges its support to the programs and initiatives that are part and parcel of the panels' peace efforts. We believe that with the optimism that comes with this new chapter in the peace process, it is important to take note of our gains and build on those milestones we have achieved."

WITH MOH SAADUDDIN

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Drug suspects in Moro lairs urged to give up

KIDAPAWAN CITY: Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commanders have teamed up with village officials to convince suspected drug users and peddlers in their areas to surrender.

The drive was enforced weeks after officials of the MILF and government agencies forged a separate agreement to show support to President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs.

Members of the MILF, after signing peace agreements with the government, enjoy temporary immunity from arrest but they can be arrested for drug use.

"This is an opportunity for everyone planning for a complete change that would not only benefit the MILF but also the government, their family and their health," said Kagi Imbang Magandingan, a commander of the Maguindano-based MILF's 108th Base Command with jurisdiction over villages in North Cotabato.

"The MILF, as an organization, will not be liable for the capture of our members, who are suspected to be involved in illegal drugs," Magandingan added.



VILLAGE FORUM MILF commander Kagi Imbang Magandingan (left) and Barangay Kibenes Chairman Mohamad-Ali Palanggalan are shown during a forum with village officials and other commanders. PHOTO BY MOH SAADUDDIN

He said the suspects were already identified by their organization but they have to "enlist themselves" again to surrender and clear their names.

Magandingan is a son of late commander Magandingan Manalos, the subject of the Special Action Forces' operation in Pikit town in 1995 that resulted

in the death of more than a dozen government troops in a clash with Manalos' forces led by Pakil Ayunan.

He and other MILF commanders attended a forum called by officials of Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council in the village of Kibenes, Carmen town, recently.

Kibenes is on the border of Carmen and Pikit towns, known lairs of the MILF, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and other Muslim rebel groups.

Officials admitted difficulties in convincing suspected users and pushers to surrender because of the presence of armed groups in the area and of their members involved in drugs.

Kibenes Barangay Chairman Mohamad-Ali Palanggalan said aside from the forums, they were also doing house-to-house visits or "Oplan TokHang" to convince the suspects to turn themselves in even they have already surrendered to their mother units.

Abdullah Hamsa, another MILF commander, led the uprooting and burning of two hectares of marijuana plantations in another village in Carmen town recently.

Last month, 14 top MILF members in the village of Kabuling on the border of Pandag and Datu Paglas towns in Maguindanao surrendered to authorities.

Many others were reportedly hesitant to surrender.

MOH SAADUDDIN

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No meeting between Rody, Nur

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – There was no meeting with fugitive Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founder Nur Misuari when President Duterte visited Jolo, Sulu yesterday.

The President instead spent just over an hour talking with the troops in Camp Tondulfo Bautista.

Duterte said he might meet with Misuari early next year after the resumption of peace initiatives with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the MNLF.

Noting the charges of rebellion against Misuari over the Zamboanga City siege in 2013, Duterte said the Muslim rebel leader "is too old to be jailed."

Duterte earlier said there is no longer any need to consult Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco on the meeting with Misuari.

Climaco led the filing of rebellion charges against Misuari for the Zamboanga City siege in September 2013.

"When the time comes, maybe next year I will just tell him (Misuari). 'Come on 'Adre,' we will talk now," Duterte said.

At the same time, Duterte appealed for peace in Mindanao, calling on Muslims and Christians to unite and stop the war.

"I appeal to all, I am pleading to stop this war," he said.

On the peace initiatives, Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza heads the team who will hold talks with representatives of the MILF in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia starting today.

Dureza said the meeting is crucial as the two sides are entering the implementation phase of the peace agreement – With Jose Rodel Clapano, Rudy Santos, Giovanni Nilles

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Duterte blames 'yellow forces' for not preventing FM burial

BY GENALYN D. KABILINO

President Duterte has blamed the "yellow forces" for failing early on to take legal steps to stop the burial of President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Yellow forces" is a reference to the Aquino family and their allies, who are the political rivals of the Marcoses.

Speaking at a press conference at the Presidential Guest House in Davao City, Duterte did not directly name the Aquinos but the allusion was obvious.

"Alam mo kasi kung ginusto nila, and they were already in power at the time, itong mga yellow, dapat nagpasa sila ng batas na hindi pwede ilibing si Marcos [If they really wanted and they were already in power at the time, these yellows should have passed a law prohibiting the burial of Marcos there]," he said.

Because there is no such legal ban, Duterte said he is duty-bound to follow the law.

"When the guy was already in Guam in exile, they should have passed a law prohibiting Marcos if ever he comes home dead to be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani," he said. ►6

"But nothing has been done. Why was this elementary procedure forgotten?" he said.

Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency after Marcos was ousted in a bloodless People Power Revolution in 1986. Her son, Benigno S. Aquino III, was elected president in 2010.

Duterte recently stamped his consent on the planned burial of Marcos at the Libingan, triggering protests from lawmakers and human rights groups who cited the former's leaders martial law abuses.

Malacañang said the burial date has not been finalized but the Marcos family reportedly wants it on September 18.

In his remarks in Davao City, the President made clear that Marcos may be buried at the heroes' cemetery but it does not automatically mean he was a hero.

"It does not mean that he really is a hero in the true sense of the word. Not all of those buried there are Medal of Valor," he added.

The President also refused to recognize the United States findings that Marcos faked his records as a soldier during World War II.

Duterte said he would rather make a decision based on the country's laws than on the records of another country,

adding the Philippines has "long ceased to be the vassal state" of the US.

"Forget about the medals, just focus on whether he is a Filipino, he fought for his country, and he was once upon a time a president. That's the law. We cannot go out of the law," Duterte said.

Asked about his campaign promise to hold a plebiscite on the Marcos burial, Duterte said he was not ready to spend "so many billions" on another electoral process.

He said as president, he could no longer "be choosy and follow a sentiment vis-à-vis with the law." "I am President and I have sworn my duty to follow the law, not the follow the sentiments of the political side, the other side of the fence," he said.

To groups planning to protest the Marcos burial, Duterte said they don't have to get rally permits.

He said he would even give "half of the streets" to the protesters so they can hold their demonstrations for one to six months. He said only a minimum of policemen will be deployed to direct traffic and ensure rights of other road users are protected as well. (With reports from Francis T. Wakefield and Antonio L. Colina IV)



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INQUIRER

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PH fishers seek UN help vs China abuses in Scarborough

MASINLOC, Zambales— Backed by international law experts, Zambales fishermen on Friday appealed to the United Nations to remind China to respect their rights to fish near the Scarborough Shoal, which is considered to be part of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone but which China is claiming to be its territory.

The fishermen invoked an international arbitration ruling favoring Philippine territorial claims to also seek an investigation of violations of their rights allegedly by Chinese patrols controlling the shoal.

Kabayan party-list Rep. Harry Roque, who serves as legal counsel of the fishermen, gathered at least 60 of them at the town hall here to finalize the new appeal he later transmitted by e-mail to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

"The UN tribunal:

ruled that your rights to fish around the shoal were violated by China but we want UN to declare that your right to survive, right to livelihood and right to have food have been violated as well," Roque told the fishermen.

Their eight-page appeal reminded the UN about their complaint filed last year that China had been "committing massive and gross" human rights violations against Filipino fishermen for driving them away from the shoal.

"Specifically, we request that you exert your moral influence and urgently intervene, remind, and direct China and its state agents to respect the human rights of the Filipino fisherfolk," said the appeal.

More than 50 fishermen from Zambales

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and Pangasinan provinces filed the complaint with the help of Roque and the Institute of International Legal Studies of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

The new appeal was received by the offices of Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food,

and Idriss Jazairy, UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights.

Roque also asked the CESCR to direct China to provide remedies and compensation for the Filipino fishermen. "Based on international law, if we could prove that your human rights were violated, China has to compensate you," Roque told the fishermen.

In its July 12 ruling, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague said there was no

legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources within areas falling within its nine-dash line boundary.

The ruling said fishermen from the Philippines and China share fishing rights around the shoal, which China had breached by restricting access to Filipino fishing vessels.

Viany Mula, 45, one of the complainants who signed the appeal, said he was hopeful that the UN would act soon so that they could return to the shoal to earn a living.

"I stopped going back to the shoal in 2013 to avoid being attacked by the Chinese coast guards. I lost my only source of income so I decided to become a tricycle driver to support my family," Mula said.

Masinloc Mayor Arsenia Lim cautioned local fishermen against returning to the shoal to prevent a confrontation with Chinese patrols.

"We have to wait until the tension eases in the shoal. There are other places where you can catch fish and I'm encouraging you to find other alternative fishing grounds," Lim told the fishermen. *Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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

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Japan updates Phl on East China Sea row

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Japan has updated the Philippines on developments in the East China Sea, including similarities with the Philippine experience in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, especially the constant harassment by Chinese vessels.

Masato Ohtaka of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan said yesterday Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida discussed maritime security and the overall situation in the East China Sea during a meeting with President Duterte on Thursday.

"We discussed maritime security and very natural for the Philippine side to update us on the recent developments, particularly the arbitral award that was given by the tribunal," Ohtaka told journalists in a briefing.

"We share the same view that things have to be resolved according to international law so the rule of law has to be respected," he said.

China and Japan have been engaged in a territorial dispute for decades over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

"In relation to this, we updated the Philippine side on what is happening in East China Sea. What we see are very, very similar, probably the same thing, in these two areas," he said.

Ohtaka said the East China Sea issue is "by no means over" even if the South China Sea issue appears to attract more attention.

"It is not getting better in the East China Sea. The presence of big vessels has been around. It remains constant and systematic as well," he added.

Japan's Coast Guard said a record 14 Chinese government vessels, some with weapons mounted on them, entered a contiguous zone surrounding Japanese territorial waters near the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea at one point on Monday.

Armed Chinese fishing boats, he said increased in number from three to 15, or five times the number of vessels seen in the area. They were heavily armed and they did not simply pass by.

— With Jaime Laude

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INQUIRER

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Why Marcos shouldn't be buried in the 'Libingan'

LET'S TAKE a closer look at the Marcos burial issue. It started during Du30's election campaign in Ilocos Norte, when he promised that if he became president, Ferdinand Marcos would be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LMB). As a campaign issue—I mean, when the issues are inclusive growth, corruption, poverty, drugs, criminality, "endo" labor practices, wages, how can the Marcos burial possibly be of the same level of importance? The only place in which the issue would resonate is Marcos' birthplace.

No offense to Ilocos Norte, and to people like neurologist Dr. Joven Cuanang, who owns Sitio Remedios, arguably the most famous tourist resort there. But Ilocos Norte, according to the 2000 census, registered a population of 514,000 persons (about the same as Makati City), and is the least populated province in the Ilocos Region (it has 12.2 percent of the total population).

I mention this only to show how many people would possibly be mortally offended if Marcos is not buried in the LMB, which is what Du30 is worried about. Compare that to the population of the Philippines. I would also remind the good people of Ilocos Norte that removing Marcos from there would also remove a tourist attraction. He is part of the package of tourist attractions that include the "Malacafang of the North." So think twice about exporting him.

In any case, only three of the country's presidents (Elpidio Quirino [only recently interred there], Carlos P. Garcia and Diosdado Macapagal) are in the LMB. So it is safe to say there will be no shame if Marcos is not buried there. But there will be much pain if he is.

Mr. President, do you really think that people voted for you because you promised to bury Marcos in the LMB? If yes, don't you think you should ask either Pulse Asia or Social Weather Stations to settle the issue? Or perhaps to validate if the Filipino people want him to be buried there? I conducted my own little survey and asked randomly selected people from all walks

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



of life—street cleaner, salesgirl, cigarette vendor, security guard, academic; young and old, male and female—if they voted for Du30. If the answer was yes, I asked an open-ended question: Why did you vote for him? No limit to the reasons given. I polled 20 Du30-ites, and none of them listed "because he promised to bury Marcos in the LMB" as an answer. Unfortunately, I failed to ask their place of birth, which I now think may be important. But surely some of them were Ilocano? Yes, but I don't really know.

So let's do it the scientific way. Let's get the people's pulse. Let's ignore for the moment the rising wave of protests against it, as more people get more aware. Marcos will be buried in the LMB because you, Mr. President, want to "keep your promise."

Promise to whom? Who asked you to make it a campaign issue? No one has stepped up to accept responsibility. Was it the Ilocano people who asked you, or just a few Ilocanos surnamed Marcos? What proportion of the Ilocano people do they represent? My father, Juan Collas, was born in the Ilocos, so I claim Ilocano blood. And I don't think Marcos should be buried in the LMB. I wonder how many others think the way I do—that it would be an act of desecration against the heroes buried there, and against the soldiers buried there. We have to know.

My father was a journalist (Philippines Free Press in its heyday) before he joined Quirino's (Ilocano) administration. He used to be a fond friend of Marcos, even arranging for him to be a sponsor at my wedding. But after martial law was

declared, and he and I used to go to the Supreme Court to hear the cases against martial law; he told me, "If I had known that Ferdinand would turn out like this, I never would have written in his defense." (He was referring to the murder charges against Marcos in the Nalundasan case.) He never mentioned Marcos in a favorable light again.

Or maybe you have a sense of "utang na loob" to Marcos. Your father, I read somewhere, was part of Marcos' legitimate (pre-martial-law) administration. But I also read that your mother turned anti-Marcos during martial law. Mother knows best, Mr. President. Besides, personal feelings should have no bearing on your decision. Didn't you say that there are no friends ("walang kaibigan," like President Joseph Estrada also once said) while in the government?

There is an encouraging note here. It seems Du30 has (unwittingly) conceded that Marcos is not a hero—not when he had so much unexplained wealth, was responsible for the economic debacle that led us into a debt crisis, and had so many deaths, disappearances, and incarcerations (including Ninoy Aquino's, Pepe Diokno's, and all his political enemies) on his hands.

That is, at least, something. The downside is that Du30 is still insisting that Marcos be buried in the LMB because he was a soldier period. And all soldiers are entitled to burial there.

But Mr. President, aren't soldiers buried in the LMB because it is assumed that they fought for their country? And soldiers who died fighting for their country are assumed heroes.

But Marcos certainly did not die for his country. As a matter of fact, the research done by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines shows that Marcos took advantage of whatever army connections he had for fraudulent money-making and self-aggrandizing purposes.

So, if he is not a hero, and not even worthy to be called a soldier, isn't it obvious, Mr. President, that he shouldn't be buried in the LMB? Isn't it obvious he should stay in Ilocos Norte?

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Bury him where he is and be done with it

PRESIDENT DUTERTE wishes that the corpse of Ferdinand Edralin Marcos be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Naturally, both the mainstream media and Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and every other blog are afire with memes and online polls of the “share if you agree” variety, which are tons of fun but not really statistically valid.

Ironically the right to free speech that Filipinos are now basking in, and gleefully abusing online, was the very first thing Marcos curtailed when he issued Letter of Instruction No. 1 closely on the heels of Presidential Decree No. 1081.

Here is the text of that letter of instruction, dated Sept. 22, 1972, and addressed to Press Secretary Francisco “Kit” Tatad:

“In view of the present national emergency which has been brought about by the activities of those who are actively engaged in a criminal conspiracy to seize political and state power in the Philippines and to take over the Government by force and violence the extent of which has now assumed the proportion of an actual war against our people and their legitimate Government, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081 dated Sept. 21, 1972, and in my capacity as commander-in-chief of all the armed forces of the Philippines and in order to prevent the use of privately owned newspapers, magazines, radio and television facilities and all other media of communications, for propaganda purposes against the government and its duly constituted authorities or for any purpose that tends to undermine the faith and confidence of the people in our Government and aggravate the present national emergency, you are hereby ordered forthwith to take over and control or cause the taking over and control of all such newspapers, magazines, radio and television facilities and all other media of communications, wherever they are, for the duration of the present national emergency, or until otherwise ordered

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

by me or my duly designated representative.”

Contrary to popular belief, putting an entire country under martial law is an extremely delicate political and military maneuver with so many moving parts. History shows that it took decades of meticulous planning before all elements were in place and Marcos could pull the trigger. It started from the time he promised his constituents an Ilocano presidency in 20 years if they elected him to the House of Representatives in 1949, to his impassioned State of the Nation Address where he strongly hinted at something called constitutional authoritarianism all the way to the eve of the Battle of Mendiola. Along the way, he cunningly co-opted the military to do his bidding through a masterful combination of political largesse, a promise of greatness, and old-school horse-trading.

That declaration finally came on Sept. 23, 1972, but PD 1081 was signed two days earlier, on a date divisible by seven. All forms of opposition were systematically—violently—rooted out and silenced. The omnipotent Marcos regime spawned crony capitalism with the “Rolex 12,” all the while hoodwinking the citizenry with tales of economic prosperity and peace and order under a “New Society.”

But the cracks began to show as early as 1975, when Primitivo Mijares, a close confidant of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, fled to the United States and started writing a book on the “conjugal dictatorship.” In his foreword, Mijares said his book was unfinished and that the Filipino people would finish it for him. In over 400 pages, he chronicled the “reign of greed” at a level of detail

that could only come from someone whom the dictator and his wife trusted implicitly.

Wrote Mijares on April 27, 1976: "To the remaining democracies all over the world, this book is offered as a case study on how a democratically-elected President could operate within the legal system and yet succeed in subverting that democracy in order to perpetuate himself and his wife as conjugal dictators. However, history teaches us that dictators always fall, either on account of their own corrupt weight or sheer physical exhaustion. I am hopeful that this work would somehow set off, or contribute to the ignition of, a chain reaction that would compel Marcos to relinquish his vise-like dictatorial grip on his own countrymen.

"When the Filipino is then set free, and could participate in cheerful cry over the restoration of freedom and democracy in the Philippines, that cry shall be the fitting finish to this, my humble work."

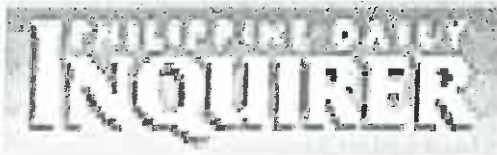
Mijares paid the ultimate price for his belief in the Filipino people. He simply vanished from the face of the earth. His 16-year-old son, Boyet, was abducted in 1977. Boyet's dead body was later found bearing signs of severe torture. Mijares and his son are just two of the 3,240 killed, 70,000 imprisoned, and 34,000 tortured by the Marcos dictatorship, as reported by Amnesty International.

But historical revisionists and those with little to no sense of legacy would say that all of that happened a long time ago. Marcos is dead, they say, and so it's time to move on.

That being the case, there really shouldn't be any argument about where the dictator's final resting place should be. Let's leave the man in peace right where he is now. He's dead. He doesn't care. We have better things to do, and a nation to rebuild.

Butch Hernandez (butchhernandez@gmail.com) is the executive director of the Eggie Apostol Foundation.

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Open letter to Marcos family

THIS LETTER comes as a plea for you to recall your request to have your beloved Ferdinand Marcos buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayan, to avoid further divisiveness in this country and make it easier for President Duterte to do what he desires, which is to bring significant change in all sectors.

Although we have been at odds on many issues in the sociopolitical world, at last we have found a common ground: to support our President's goals and dreams for the country. It is his great desire to unite all sectors of society so that our country can move on toward greater peace and prosperity for all.

In his intention to eradicate divisiveness, the President has graciously given in to your call to bury the head of your family in the Libingan, believing that no matter the alleged crimes he committed against the people, he was still a soldier and a duly elected president.

But there are a multitude of reactions that will surely emphasize the divisiveness, and one of the mildest comes from Mel Sta. Maria. In his online article, he quotes nothing less than a law, Republic Act No. 10368, which states: "[I]t is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the heroism and sacrifices of all Filipinos who were victims of summary execution, torture, enforced or involuntary disappearance and other gross human rights violations committed during the regime of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos covering the period from Sept. 21, 1972 to Feb. 25, 1986 and restore the victims' honor and dignity. The State hereby acknowledges its moral and legal obligation to recognize and/or provide reparation to said victims and/or their families for the deaths, injuries, sufferings, deprivations and damages they suffered under the Marcos regime.

"Similarly, it is the obligation of the State to acknowledge the sufferings and damages inflicted upon persons whose properties or

businesses were forcibly taken over, sequestered or used, or those whose professions were damaged and/or impaired, or those whose freedom of movement was restricted, and/or such other victims of the violations of the Bill of Rights."

This law is unknown to many young Filipinos, as seen in the number of votes that Bongbong Marcos received in the vice presidential election. For you to proceed to bury the late president in the Libingan will not only reopen old wounds but also create a greater divisiveness which the President really wants to wipe out. This will only serve to distract his attention from his "war" on drugs, criminality and corruption in our clearly drug-ridden nation. Why bring back to life the dead past and disturb our new President from his focus on more important matters?

I believe that your family is now in a position to help the President bring forth his dream to expunge the divisiveness that he perceives to be standing in the way of a progressive, peaceful and prosperous country, by taking back your appeal to have your beloved Ferdinand Marcos buried in the Libingan. Please consider leaving his remains where they are now, it is, after all, his place of birth where many consider him a hero and even revere him as a saint.

Imagine a scenario where he is buried today in the Libingan ng mga Bayan, and then six years later he is exhumed and brought back to Batac, Ilocos Norte. I do not believe that this would please you in any way, so for the sake of unity and peace, please consider this letter favorably.

—CONDE DE MAKATI

aka George Sison, former political detainee

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At Ground Level

By SATUR C. OCAMPO



Impunity on extrajudicial killings is a Marcos legacy

Last Tuesday presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella was quoted as telling reporters how President Duterte felt about the drug-related killings, both by the police and vigilantes, under his watch. "I think he's very concerned and, in fact, bothered and troubled. He is deeply and profoundly concerned."

Did Abella accurately fathom the President's innermost feelings on the matter?

By way of backing up his words, he averred that Duterte shared the sentiments of the many groups and individuals who have been expressing alarm over the extrajudicial killings (more than 1,000 victims in just over a month). Moreover, Abella said, the President had ordered an investigation of the death of some drug suspects who may have been victims of extrajudicial killings. (Is that order apart from DILG Secretary Ismael Sueno's directive to PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa and the Napolcom to probe allegations that policemen were behind the summary executions of drug suspects?) --

If Abella correctly read Duterte's feelings and if the latter's investigation order would seriously be carried out and produce quick results, the public could probably heave a sigh of relief.

Coincidentally, Human Rights Watch – which has expressed concern both by the drug-related executions and the state security forces' continuing extrajudicial killing of leftist activists, indigenous peoples and peasant and labor leaders – has urged President Duterte to seize the opportunity to "reverse the failings of previous administrations by giving priority to the human rights problems that have persisted in the country."

The President, the international group suggested, must act decisively "to signal that his government will protect the rights of all Filipinos and roll back the country's culture of impunity." It specifically called attention to the "widespread impunity for members of the state security forces involved in serious human rights abuses" which has been going on until now.

Human Rights Watch hit the problem of impunity head-on. But while it referred to the failings of previous administrations to stem human rights violations, it didn't say how, and when – under whose administration? – the culture of impunity began to rise and proliferate.

I have written about the culture, or climate, of impunity several times in this space and have pinpointed the Marcos dictatorship (September 1971-February 1986) as the one principally responsible and therefore primarily accountable to the Filipino people.

And credit for courageously, truthfully and graphically documenting the rise and prevalence of impunity goes to the human rights formations, starting with the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (formed by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines) and the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG, founded by the eminent patriots Jose W. Diokno and Lorenzo M. Tanada) in the mid-1970s. Today the vigilance is consistently led and sustained by the human

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rights alliance, Karapatan.

Ferdinand E. Marcos staged a coup of his own presidency by declaring martial law, arrogated power solely to himself, and used the combined military and police forces and their so-called civilian auxiliaries (notorious paramilitary groups, such as the CAFGUs) as key instruments for securing his rule and for repressing and doing its worst to suppress every real or imagined opposition. In a short span of time the state security forces became increasingly abusive towards the people and fatally brutal towards suspected "enemies of the state." Why? They realized they had been given power over the life or death of every common citizen. They felt assured of being protected by the dictator against any attempt to charge, prosecute and punish them.

And to this day no military or police officer of significance, nor any civilian superior, has been arrested, prosecuted and penalized for the 70,000-plus cases of illegal arrests and detention, 35,000 documented torture cases, thousands of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, massacres and other human rights violations during the martial law period.

Sadly, after the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship by the so-called people power uprising wherein the key implementers of martial law – Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel V. Ramos – emerged as "heroes," the new government of Corazón Cojuangco-Aquino retained the entire existing military and police apparatus, including the notorious CAFGUs, that served the dictatorship. The new government also retained many of Marcos' repressive decrees (which Ka Pepe Diokno, named chair of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights, unsuccessfully tried to have rescinded).

Consequently, under each one of the succeeding post-dictatorship administrations, the killings, forced disappearances, torture, illegal arrests and detentions and other forms of human rights violations have continued unchecked.

If we want to put an end to this nefariously overextended climate of impunity, it is necessary to officially establish the accountability of Ferdinand E. Marcos the dictator, plunderer, and usurper of power, along with his collaborators and minions.

And as far as Marcos is concerned, the least the Duterte government should do is to disallow his mortal remains from being buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayan, either as former president or as a soldier. He has been conclusively discredited on both counts: ousted by popular uprising that earned admiration across the world, and his falsified military record debunked by the highest authorities. Why, we now learn – from a research-verification report by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, which opposes his burial at the Libingan – that even his promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the army was something that he faked himself!

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13 August 2016



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Lodestar

By DANTON REMOTO

Martial law memories

Tomorrow there will be a citizens' assembly of people opposed to the Madame Tussaud wax-like remains of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr being buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. I would like to reprint two chapters from my novel *River-run*, which shows history as fiction. The first chapter is called "Ssssh."



Dusk had fallen by then, and we were home. Papa always told us to be home as soon as the chickens had roosted on the star-apple trees in the yard. Ludy explained to us why, in her gentle Bicolano accent, her diphthongs rising and falling. "You should be home before dark. Otherwise, you would get in the way of the spirits, who would be abroad by then. *hala!*" Then she would enumerate all these spirits as if they were her childhood playmates.

And so we would be home by six, sitting cross-legged in front of the TV set Papa had bought. We were watching our modern-day gods. Shazzan with head shaven, except for a ponytail sticking out from the top of his head. The caveman Mightor with the mightv club, which vibrates and emits waves of energy and light. The Japanese robot Giganor, his body the size and shape of a ref, heaving himself from earth to air in an instant.

But once a week, the lights would suddenly go off as soon as darkness fell. And then the sound would come.

It was something we first felt rather than heard. A heavy gurgling in the air, water swirling in the throat of a giant. Then it would come nearer, louder, what sounded like trucks lumbering blindly in the darkness. I never knew what they were from either Papa or Mama. From the gossip that Ludy exchanged religiously with Nova, the housemaid next door, I knew they were the six-by-six military trucks again.

The day after the blackout, the chapel would be filled again. There would be stands of *calachuchi* flowers and throngs of people. Sitting in front would be young women, girls really, in black. Their young children wore strips of black ribbons on their chest. And lined in front of the altar would be the coffins.

"Who died?" I would ask Ludy in the middle of the Mass. Ludy sat beside me, while Mama conducted the choir. With every movement of her wooden stick (I secretly called it her magic wand), the voices of teenagers would rise and fall, become louder and softer, glide or float. Papa would be with his friends, fellow military officers, standing near the door, talking about their roosters and the cockpits, who was stealing from whom this time, clocking Padre Pelagio's sermon with their watches.

But Ludy would answer my questions with a gesture. Forefinger on her lips. *Sssssh*, telling me both to shut up and to remind me never to ask the same question again, ever. Years later, whenever I saw a motel chain called The Queen Victoria, I would remember Ludy. Above the blazing neon sign is the figure of a young woman with big, wondering eyes, forefinger over her luscious lips. (*Sssssh*).

Grains of memory

One day in January, Ferdinand Marcos delivered his State of the Nation Address. We were watching him on TV. Sometimes, the camera would pan the crowd of student activists outside, then back to the majestic halls again, where the President spoke.

They were all there, the students from Manila's exclusive Catholic universities for the elite, boys in thick eyeglasses, long-sleeved white cotton shirts, ties running down their chests. The girls also came, in their white blouses and blue dresses cut above the knees. For this "out-of-school activity," they had asked their housemaids to fold and re-sew their hemlines the night before, so they could bare more legs.

There were also students from Manila's boisterous diploma mills. Boys in their Beatles haircut, V-necked shirts and tight double-knit pants. The girls came in bright minis that stopped a throb away from their knickers.

But now they numbered in the thousands, joined even by the workers from Quiapo, Sta. Cruz, and Tondo and by students from Southern Luzon. Ranged against them were the cops and soldiers, bristling with wooden sticks, truncheons, and shields.

As the President spoke of another country (less crime, more exports, democracy), the young firebrands also worked the crowd. One leader of the nationalist left, who needed no beer to unloosen his tongue, carped against the rich: "The rich wear perfumes they store in gallons and have underwear of silk. We only have the detergent Tide and our underwear are recycled from cotton sacks that used to contain chicken feed."

And then the doors of Congress opened. First came the Secretaries, the Undersecretaries, the Assistant Secretaries, and their Manifold Assistants - the crows, the cockroaches, the centipedes and the earthworms. Then, there was the President, with eyes like a pig's, his face turning greasy with the years. And like Lady Macbeth, there was the First Lady, with her big and lacquered hair, her dress with its butterfly wings, her bosom heaving, overflowing with love for the wretched of this archipelago.

Then from the student's ranks someone threw a crocodile made from carton, right into the First Couple's direction. The President and the First Lady ducked in time. Escorts herded them past the crowd, and they soon disappeared into their stretch black limousine.

After this, the *Free Press* said, came the madness.

The police and the military swooped down on the students, their wooden sticks and trenches swinging wildly. They bashed heads, shattered arms and knees. In turn, the students threw rocks and Molotov cocktails, a rain of curses on the cops and soldiers. They held forth and only scampered away when the military began shooting.

As dusk fell, shadows ran only to be mowed down by bullets. Like a tangled net the screams rose in the air. Some students managed to run all the way to Mendiola, cross the bridge, and gather in front of Malacañang Palace. They commandeered a firetruck, drove it straight back up, thrice - and then the gates gave way, the students spilled over onto the grounds, jumping with jubilation, only to be cut down by a hail of bullets from the marines. Their sharp eyes picked out their targets as in a shooting gallery. Those who did not fall began to run, with the Marines chasing them, driving the students toward the other direction, at street's end, where barbed wires, row upon row of the rustiest wires, awaited them.

And so it was that the students who were running away saw before them the wires like black teeth. Some of them did turn around and raise their hands. But the smell of gunpowder and blood was in the air. The marines cocked their rifles, took aim, then shot the students one by one. Seeing these, the other students just ran and ran in the direction of the barbed wires, then jumped blindly onto them, their elbows raised like wings.

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Norway backs PH gov't-MILF Bangsamoro meeting in Malaysia

By Yuli Vincent Gonzales

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8:04 PM August 12th, 2016

The Norwegian government on Friday expressed support for the meeting between delegates of the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Malaysia to discuss the initial stages in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB).

Norway said it appreciated the "dedication and enthusiasm" of both parties for the implementation of the CAB and the peace roadmap.

"Both parties come together in discussing the implementation phase. This shows their commitment to peace and development in Mindanao. The meeting presents an opportunity to build momentum for the peace efforts," Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Erik Førner said in a statement.

"We have been a committed partner to this peace process for several years and we will continuously remain a strong supporter to efforts that promote peace in the Philippines, for the benefit of all Filipinos," he added.

The Philippine government delegation led by Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza will sit down with MILF officials in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Also part of the delegation were House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Interior Secretary Mike Sueno, and House Majority Leader Rudy Fariñas.

Norway, also a third-party facilitator between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines negotiations, is part of the International Monitoring Team watching over the ceasefire in Mindanao, and the Independent Decommissioning Body involved in the process of decommissioning firearms and fighters.

Peace talks between the government and the NDF will resume in the capital of Oslo on Aug. 20.

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Duterte to meet with Misuari by early 2017

By Nestor Corrales

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07:54 PM AUGUST 12TH 2016



President Rodrigo Duterte. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

President Rodrigo Duterte said he would meet with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari early 2017 instead after they failed to meet in Jolo, Sulu on Friday.

"I will meet Misuari for sure kasi pagkatapos ng panel-panel (because after the peace talks), it goes up to us. Kami na ang mag-usap. O pare, okay na ba ito (We would then talk. Brother, is this all right?)" Duterte said during a speech at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu.

The President said he hoped to personally talk to Misuari next year.

"Hopefully, next year," he said, adding that his meeting with Misuari could hasten the achievement of peace in Mindanao.

"When I shall have met Misuari, I think there's a better chance," he added.

Duterte has earlier said that he would give Misuari, who is a fugitive wanted for rebellion, a safe conduct pass.

"If we would not get to talk, how can we fix these things?" he said.

Duterte said his job as a President was "to seek peace not war."

"(Si) Nur, magkakilala kami, matagal na (Nur and I have long known each other). I've been telling him, Nur can we just talk about (peace) tapos maghanap tayo ng paraan kung papano (then let's find a way to make it possible)," he said.

Aside from the MILF, the Philippine government is set to resume the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF) on August 22 in Oslo, Norway. **RAM**

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It's difficult to talk peace with Abu Sayyaf, Duterte admits

By: **Julie Alipala**

@JulietSAlipala

Inquirer Mindanao

06:56 PM August 12th, 2016

JOLO, Sulu—President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday said it was difficult to talk peace with the Abu Sayyaf because the group appeared to have no direction.

"I can sit down and talk peace with them anytime, request the AFP to stay put. (But) they are the problem," he said during a visit to the military camp here.

"The problem is the Abu Sayyaf. I really don't know whose identity (they are for) and for what. I have been talking to Nur, who said that he also can't convince them," he said.

"(So for) those who want to destroy us, you have to destroy them also. We not only fight (them) we have to destroy (them)," Mr. Duterte added.

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Marcos to be given military honors at Libingan—Army

By: Yuji Vincent Gonzales

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INQUIRER.net

02:12 PM August 12th, 2016



Former first lady Imelda Marcos kisses the glass case that contains the frozen remains of former dictator and president Ferdinand Marcos on July 2, 2014. AFP FILE PHOTO

The Philippine Army on Friday said it already received last Aug. 10 the directive for the interment of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The Army said they were directed to provide "all necessary military honors accorded for a President."

"Based on the directive, the Army is required to provide vigil, bugler/drummer, firing party, military host/pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival and departure honors," the Army said in a statement.

READ: Malacañang: Marcos to be given burial fit for a President

"Philippine Army has designated a protocol officer to make lateral coordination with the family of the late former President Marcos on the details of the interment plan," it added.

The directive was signed by Rear Admiral Ernesto C Enriquez, deputy chief of staff for reservist and retiree affairs, under the command of Armed Forces of the Philippines chief General Ricardo Visaya.

Malacañang last Sunday directed the military to "undertake the necessary planning and preparations" for Marcos' interment, saying he was qualified to be buried at Libingan as a former President and soldier. **RAM/rga**

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All systems go for 3 NDF consultants in Oslo talks

By: Kristine Felisse Mangunay

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01:24 PM August 12th, 2016



NDF consultant Rafael Baylosis with his counsel Atty. Rachel Pastores and some members of Kilusang Mayo Uno. FILE PHOTO FROM EDRE OLALIA

It's all systems go for three National Democratic Front consultants to participate in the peace talks in Norway late August despite facing criminal charges before a Manila court.

This was after Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 32 Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina granted the urgent motions for the issuance of a court order allowing Satur Ocampo and Randall Echanis to travel.

READ: NDF consultant granted bail, to attend peace talks in Norway

Medina also granted Rafael Baylosis' prayer to travel abroad, incorporated in his manifestation with urgent motion for bail and to recall warrant of arrest.

After being arraigned, Medina reinstated Baylosis' bail and set it at P150,000.

READ: Court grants NDF consultant bail to join peace talks

He posted bail on Friday.

Atty. Rachel Pastores of the Public Interest Law Center, who represents them, said the three no longer have pending cases in other courts, which means they could now go to Oslo and participate in the peace talks that will resume on Aug. 20.

Medina also granted the urgent motion for release on bail filed by Wilma and Benito Tiamzon and Adelberto Silva, but Pastores said they still had other pending urgent motions in other courts. **RAM/rga**