

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



Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

18 August 2016

Thursday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

18 AUGUST 2016



TABLE OF CONTENTS

18 AUGUST 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A2
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Duterte slams De Lima	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A1
4-5	'Senator's over-driver money'	Alexis Romero	PhilStar p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
6	Army inspector general is new 9 th ID commander	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B6
7	Battle-tested soldier returns to lead peace in south Luzon	Delfin T Mallari Jr	PDI p.A9
8	NPA rebels wounded in fierce gun battle with gov't troops	Mike U Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.14
9	Duterte aborts camp visit anew	Lelia B Salaverria	http://www.inquirer.net/
10	Kuta ng ASG sa Basilan, nakubkob ng AFP	Bombo Marilyn Delo Santos	http://bomboradyo.com/
11	Photo: Guarded Optimism	EPA	Mla Bulletin p.5
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12	Soldiers, cops get P5,000 allowance	Edith Regalado	PhilStar p.1
13	'Air ambulance' gives poor a fighting chance	Maricar Cinco	PDI p.A9
14	Sahod ng pulis , sundalo dodoblehin sa Disyembre	Vanz Fernandez	Peoples Tonight p.2
15	Bbay girl born mid-air on flight to PH	AFP	Peoples Tonight p.12
16-17	Rody may attend FM Libingan burial	Alexis Romero	PhilStar p.1
18	It's a go, unless SC says stop	Leila B Salaverria	PDI p.A2
19	Duterte may attend Marcos burial	Leila B Salaverria	PDI p.A2
20-21	'Let Marcos rest in peace	Inquirer Northern Luzon	PDI p.A8
22	Oral argument sa petisyon kontra Marcos burial itinakda ng SC		Peoples Tonight p.2
23	Malaysian PM optimistic on Mindanao peace	Pereus Echeminada	PhilStar p.7

24	Indonesian captive escapes Abu captors	Roel Pareno	PhilStar p.7
25-26	Indonesian escapes from Abu	Julie S Alipala	PDI p.A1
27	Landmines, drug war up for discussion in Oslo	Yas D Ocampo, Antonio L Colina IV & Froilan Gallardo	Mla Bulletin p.14
28	Indonesian nakatakas sa ASG, guro dinukot	Nina NONOY Lacson & Fer Taboy	Balita P.7
29-30	Sayyaf threatens to behead hostage: Indonesian escapes		Mla Times p.A1
31	Photo: Safe at Last	AFP Photo	Mla Times P.A2
32	Photo: Woman seeking medical attention waits to board a military C-130	Raffy Lerma	PDI p.A9

EDITORIAL / COMMENTARY

33-34	Where's the economic blueprint?		Daily Tribune p.6
35	Marcos "war medals" exposed, questioned (1)	Ma. Ceres P Doyo	PDI p.A13
36-37	The Marcos burial	Florencio Fianza	The Standard p.A4
38	NDF peace talks back on track		Tempo p.6

SPORTS

39	F2 Logistic nasikwat ang all-pinoy crown	Chris CO	Ngayon p. 16
40	Not all that glitters is gold	AP	PDI p.A19
41	Photo: Smiles during presscon	Arnold Almacen	PDI p.A19

ONLINE NEWS


42	Indonesian flees Abu Sayyaf captors, found trapped in fishnet	Associated Press	http://www.philstar.com/
43	Indonesian sailor escapes from Abu Sayyaf captors	Roel Pareño	http://www.philstar.com/
44	Nat'l Budget/AFP, PNP to receive significant increase in the 2017 proposed budget	Marycel Necio Batara	http://dwdd.com.ph/
45	President Duterte gives Php250,000 to families of gov't troops killed in anti-drug operation	Philippine News Agency	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
46	PAF to give silver medalist Diaz a heroes' welcome	Priam F Nepomuceno	http://www.pna.gov.ph/

47	Joma Sison 'reaffirms' friendship with Duterte	Kristine Angeli Sabillo	http://www.inquirer.net/
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18 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: A2

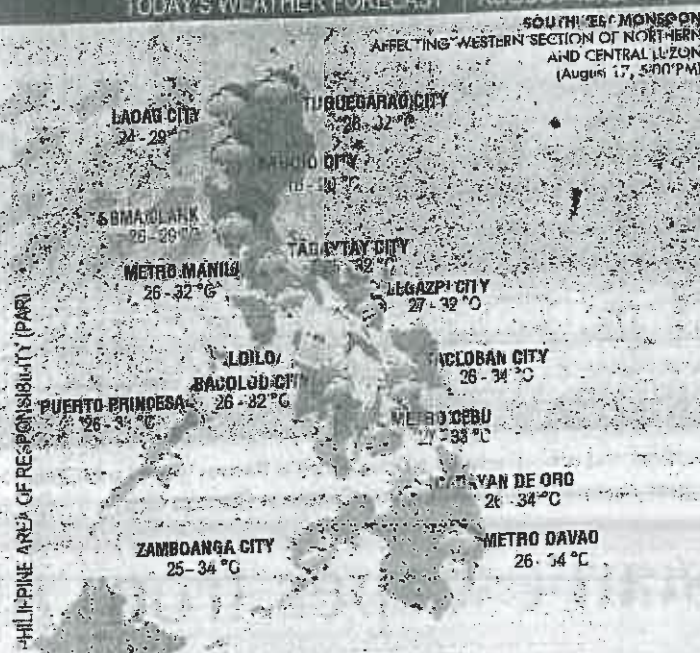


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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 18, 2016 | THURSDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



SOUTHEAST MONSOON
AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN
AND CENTRAL LUZON
(August 17, 5:00 PM)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:42 AM	6:17 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:12 PM	5:17 AM
FULL MOON	FIRST QUARTER
AUG 16	AUG 25
12:27 PM	1:04 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOUR	
5:03 PM	9:37 AM
0.08 Meter	1.26 Meter


Partly cloudy to times cloudy with rain showers and drizzle in some areas

Cloudy areas with rain showers and drizzle in some areas

Monsoon in Luzon

AUG 18		AUG 19		AUG 20		AUG 18		AUG 20	
METRO MANILA	25-30 °C	25-31 °C	TAGAYTAY	24-29 °C	24-26 °C	TACLOBAN	25-34 °C	25-38 °C	
TUGUEGARAO	26-35 °C	25-35 °C	LEGAZPI	27-32 °C	26-32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25-34 °C	25-35 °C	
LAOAG	24-30 °C	24-32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-32 °C	24-32 °C	METRO DAVAO	26-34 °C	26-36 °C	
BAGUIO	16-20 °C	16-22 °C	ILJOLO/BACOLOD	26-31 °C	25-31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25-34 °C	25-32 °C	
SBMA/CLARK	25-29 °C	25-31 °C	METRO CEBU	26-33 °C	26-32 °C				

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



SAGOT KO, PAGALA MO!

1

August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1



SEETHING WITH ANGER Sen. Leila de Lima (left) cries "character assassination" in reaction to President Duterte's latest charge that her driver collected drug payoffs for her

Duterte slams De Lima

Says lover collected drug payoffs for her

By Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday linked his staunchest critic, Sen Leila de Lima, to the illegal drug trade, calling her an "immoral woman" whose driver, who he claimed was also her "lover," collected drug payoffs for her.

Without naming the senator, tough-talking President accused De Lima of "political pos-

turing when you yourself has a very sordid personal and official life."

But Mr Duterte, at an airport interview later, named De Lima as the senator he had referred to in his remarks.

"Here is a senator complaining: One day I will tell you that her driver himself, who was her lover, was the one collecting money for her during the cam-

paign," the President said in his nationally televised speech at the 115th Police Service Anniversary at Camp Crame.

"Here is an immoral woman, flaunting, well of course insofar as wife of the driver was concerned, (her) adultery," he said. "Here is a woman who funded the house of her lover and yet we do not see any complaint

DUTERTE/A15

about it. Those money came readily from drugs."

"It's so foul," De Lima, on the verge of tears, told Senate reporters. "It's character assassination." (See story on Page A1.)

De Lima, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, is scheduled on Monday to start an inquiry into Mr. Duterte's bloody war on illegal drugs.

She said she would present witnesses to show that police "scalawags" were behind the summary execution of some suspected drug dealers.

Nearly 600 suspected drug peddlers and users have been killed in police operations since Mr. Duterte took office six weeks ago, police say, but rights groups put the number at more than 1,000.

Ready to face inquiry

"We are willing to submit ourselves for an investigation before anybody," Duterte said, adding some of the killings were carried out by drug gangs.

But do not attribute acts of other criminals upon my government. The fight against drugs will continue unrelenting until we have destroyed the apparatus operating in the entire country," he added.

In its annual report, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency said that by the end of 2015, the narcotics problem had affected 99 percent of barangays in Metro Manila alone.

The Dangerous Drugs Board said that in 2012, 1.3 million Filipinos were drug users, mainly of "shabu," or methamphetamine hydrochloride, allegedly supplied by Triad gangs from China.

There have been cases when police officers have killed suspected drug dealers in hand-to-hand, in police custody or inside prison cells, civil rights lawyers have said.

Police have said they will not condone wrongdoing but that some may have been killed by rogue officers.

Mr. Duterte won the presidency in May on a single platform of suppressing crime and drugs, declaring war on narcotics on his first day in office. He has identified 160 officials, police and judges in a name-



BETTER TIMES President Duterte and Sen. Leila de Lima greet each other before he delivered his inaugural State of the Nation Address on July 25.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

and-shame campaign to stop the drug trade.

"I myself, who ordered the campaign against drugs, take full and sole responsibility for it," he said, cautioning police against using excessive force in making arrests. "Do not kill if you're not in danger of losing your life."

While Mr. Duterte said he would not accuse De Lima of receiving the drug money from her driver, he said that "by the looks of it, she has it."

He said the senator's driver was accepting money from somebody in "Muntinlupa," referring to New Bilibid Prison, where convicted drug lords were allegedly directing business from behind bars.

Davao Death Squad

De Lima, justice secretary of former President Benigno Aquino III, has been at loggerheads with Mr. Duterte for a long time.

As chair of the Commission on Human Rights during the Arroyo administration, she had placed him under investigation for his supposed involvement with the Davao Death Squad (DDS) when he was mayor of Davao City.

Mr. Duterte had previously admitted that he was behind the DDS, a shadowy group of vigilantes that owned up to the extrajudicial killings in Davao City.

Despite allegations he was in-

involved in summary executions, he had been elected half a dozen times, serving the city for over two decades.

De Lima's actions against him evidently left a deep scar on the President. He recalled in his speech how she had once threatened to unmask him as protector of the DDS.

He said he was in possession of a CD (compact disc) containing the digital recording of the then CHR chair's interview with the media before the start of the CHR investigation. In that interview, he said, De Lima told reporters that "I will prove that Duterte is connected with the DDS."

"Until now, she keeps on yakking and has forgotten the tape which I have recorded," the President said. "I would like her to eat it in (my) presence, but I could not do it because it's not an accepted edible food for human beings."

No letdown

Director General Ronald dela Rosa, in his address at the Philippine National Police founding anniversary, vowed "no letdown" in efforts to go after criminals.

"We will not stop combing streets and communities to detect illegal drug activities, arrest the culprits and give peace and safety to our citizens," he said.

From July 1 to Aug. 11, Dela Rosa reported that the PNP had

conducted 306,991 visits on houses of alleged pushers and users under Oplan Tokhang ("knock and plead") to convince them to mend their ways.

As a result, 518,310 drug users and 45,799 suspected drug pushers had surrendered to authorities. There were also 7,830 arrests and 572 killed in antidrug operations, he said.

Dela Rosa said the PNP would also continue efforts to rid its ranks of those involved in illegal drugs and other crimes. Since the Duterte administration took over, 18 PNP personnel have been dismissed, two suspended and 37 cases filed while another 30 with supposed links to illegal drugs have submitted themselves for investigation.

Pandemic

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday said that Mr. Duterte, during a meeting with senators in Malacañang on Monday, described the illegal drug problem as a "pandemic" and that he would not stop his name-and-shame campaign against officials involved in the narcotics trade.

"He has a new list I assume they are done vetting. But he said this will continue. Because it's part of an intelligence gathering, vetting," Cayetano said.

"The President did tell us that he will not stop from naming. But there's a process. It's not easy to be put on the list, and there's a vetting system," he added.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, among the seven senators in the meeting, said the President was "sickened to the core" at the level of official involvement in drugs.

He said Mr. Duterte's list came from military and police intelligence.

"That's why he was so frustrated that night. The magnitude of the problem is so immense. He actually joked 'just impeach me so I can go back to Davao,'" Zubiri said.

Sen. Ralph Recto, who was also present at the meeting, said Mr. Duterte even read out some of the names. He, however, did not share what he heard.

"What is clear is that the President is serious in fighting the drug problem," Recto said.

With reports from Tarra Quismundo, Jerome Aning, Jeanette I. Andrade and Reuters

18 August 2016



Page: 1

'Senator's over-driver collected drug money'

Rody: You want a name? It's De Lima

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Sen. Leila de Lima's married driver was her lover who collected money from convicted drug lords at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) during her election campaign, President Duterte said yesterday.

Duterte dropped the bombshell in a speech before police officers and personnel gathered at Camp Crame for the 115th anniversary celebration of the police service.

He did not mention De Lima in his speech, but confirmed later in a press conference he was referring to her.

"Here is a senator complaining, when one day I will tell you that her driver himself, who was her lover, was the one also collecting money for her

during the campaign," Duterte said.

Pressed later by reporters to name the senator, he replied, "It's part of my duty. You want to know the name? De Lima."

His trade against the senator came days after airing a threat to "destroy" a female official critical of him.

Duterte, who has been shaming officials with alleged links to drug lords, has not gotten over De Lima's allegation during the campaign that he is connected with vigilante death squads in Davao City.

Turn to Page 3



Sen. Leila de Lima described President Duterte's accusations as character assassination, saying he should give her some respect.

4

Senator's From Page 1

"She blurted out that 'I will prove to you in this investigation that Duterte is connected with Davao Death Squad. He is the head.' Until now, I'm waiting for that," the President said in a press conference in Pasay City.

"You (De Lima) slandered me. I kept quiet because you are a lady. You crossed the line. Maybe you won on the platform of human rights. The Filipinos who believed you were stupid," he added.

De Lima, a former justice secretary and chair of the Commission on Human Rights, bagged the 12th slot in the 2016 senatorial race with 14.4 million votes.

In his speech hours earlier at Camp Crame, Duterte talked about an unnamed "immoral" senator who is allegedly having an illicit affair with her

married driver-bodyguard.

"Here is an immoral woman, flaunting. Well, of course, insofar as wife of the driver was concerned, it's adultery. Here is a woman who funded the house of her lover and yet we do not see any complaint about it," he added.

He said the money her driver had collected at the NBP came from drugs and may have been used to finance her campaign last May. He admitted he couldn't tell yet if she was aware of her lover making trips to NBP to collect funds from drug convicts.

"Those money came readily from drugs. The intercept between Muntinlupa and the driver were far beyond making sure that somebody was involved," he said.

"But in fairness, I would

never state here that the driver gave the money to her but by the looks of it, she has it," the President said. "You are politicking and posturing when you yourself have a very sordid personal unofficial life."

Duterte said he has a compact disc containing a video showing De Lima promising to prove his ties with the Davao Death Squad.

"I would like her to eat it in my presence but I could not do it because it's not an accepted edible food for human beings," the tough-talking President said.

De Lima has said that she is supportive of the war against drugs as long as due process is followed and human rights are respected.

Last Monday, De Lima wrote a letter asking Duterte to monitor the Senate hearings on the killing of suspected drug personalities.

The Senate justice committee led by De Lima is scheduled to hold an inquiry into the killings on Aug. 22 and 23.

Probe set

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said he would have the driver-bodyguard of De Lima investigated even as he admitted it was his first time to hear about his alleged activities at the NBP.

"I will conduct investigation," said Dela Rosa in an ambush interview at Camp Crame. He denied the PNP was the source of information of the President about De Lima's driver.

"Sa ngayon di kami nakikilalan, baka mamaya gawing personal issue yan against us, eh baharap pa naman kami sa Senado, manirap yun (We're hands off as of now. They might take it personally against us, and it

won't be good as we're facing the Senate)," he added.

Based on initial information gathered by The STAR, the alleged driver-lover is Ronnie Palisoc Dayan who is in his mid 50s.

The bungalow house allegedly built by De Lima for Dayan is located in Barangay Galarin in Urbiztondo, Pangasinan.

Dayan and his family used to live with his parents until his wife and their children relocated somewhere in Bulacan. Their new house was reportedly bought through the "generosity" of De Lima as Dayan earns only a meager income as driver-bodyguard.

De Lima, based on some accounts, would visit a big grocery in nearby San Carlos City reportedly to buy goods for her and Dayan.

De Lima was reportedly also a frequent visitor in Barangay

Galarin during fiestas where she would be seen dancing.

People would know if De Lima was coming with Dayan as they would usually have an advance party.

Dayan had planned to run as municipal councilor in the 2016 elections but did not pursue it as his political party would be different from De Lima's and this might complicate matters.

As of Aug. 15, the PNP Monitoring and Operation Center reported 612 drug personalities killed and 8,623 arrested in ongoing anti-illegal drug operations since July 1.

The PNP said territorial and national units conducted a total of 5,632 police operations and visited 324,222 houses as part of the Project Tokhang.

A total of 576,176 self-confessed users and pushers have surrendered. - Cecille Suerte, Felipe, Eva Visperas

18 August 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 136

Army inspector general is new 9th ID commander

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Army's inspector general is now the commander of the Army's 9th Infantry Division which is based in the Bicol region.

Maj. Gen. Manolito Orense took over as chief of the Camarines Sur-based 9th ID in rites led by Army vice commander Maj. Gen. Demosthenes Santillan last Tuesday.

Orense, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, replaced now Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla, who assumed the post of commander of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command in Lucena City last Monday. The top Solcom post was vacated by now AFP chief

Gen. Ricardo Visaya last July 1.

Before becoming the Army's inspector general late last year, Orense was deputy commander of the Maguindanao-based 6th Infantry Division and concurrent chief of the government's Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, a mechanism established under the continuing peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The body is tasked to interdict criminal and terrorist elements operating in MILF areas.

Orense figured in the January 2015 killing of 44 police comandos by the joint forces of the MILF and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Orense was contacted by for-

mer PNP Special Action Force commander Getulio Napeñas while the SAF troopers were withdrawing from an operation that left Jemaah Islamiyah bomber Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan dead. After receiving the call, Orense said he alerted government troops to assist the policemen in their withdrawal. Also, he coordinated with his MILF AHJAG counterpart.

He later learned that the SAF troopers were engaged by MILF and BIFF forces. He then gave instruction to then 601st Brigade commander Col. Melquiades Feliciano to contact an MILF commander to halt the firing and provide assistance to the beleaguered SAF men.

6

PHILIPPINE DAILY

18 August 2016

ge: 19

Battle-tested soldier returns to lead peace in south Luzon

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

A BATTLE-TESTED Army senior officer, who led his men in the fight against communist rebels in southern Luzon 30 years ago as a young lieutenant, is back on the region's frontline, this time to carry out President Duterte's peace initiatives.

"It was considered a badge of honor to be assigned to Southern Tagalog and Bicol [during those days]. The fighting here was intense," Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla said on Monday when he took over the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom).

The post was previously held by Gen. Ricardo Visaya, who was appointed Armed Forces chief of staff by the President in July, and Maj. Gen. Romeo Gan, head of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, in an acting capacity.

Peace talks between the Duterte administration and the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines are expected to formally resume on Aug. 22 in Oslo, Norway.

In his command speech, Quidilla recalled his first stint as head of the Army's 74th Infantry Battalion, based in Quezon province's Bondoc Peninsula, then one of the most active guerrilla fronts in the country, in 2002. It was the peak of the military campaign against the New People's Army.

With his new post as top military officer in Southern Tagalog and Bicol, he said he would continue to implement the Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) Bayanihan as one of the core programs of the government's national security strategy.

Launched in 2010, the IPSP Bayanihan is a multisectoral approach to end insurgency in the



QUIDILLA

DELFIN T. MALLARI



country, with emphasis on "noncombat operations."

Solcom will pursue the "rehabilitation and reconstruction of conflict-affected areas," combining focused military operations and support for community-based peace

and development efforts, Quidilla said.

He directed his subordinates to review and study the history of communist insurgency in Southern Tagalog and Bicol.

"Identify the conflict-prone places in your respective areas: Study the data intensively to find ways ... to make us all more efficient in attaining the objectives of the IPSP Bayanihan," he said.

Solcom covers 15 provinces in two regions, with a total population of 15 million.

Quidilla, a native of South Cotabato province, was replaced as head of the 9th ID by Maj. Gen. Manolito Orense.

Visaya, Gan, Quidilla and Orense belong to the Philippine Military Academy's "Matikas" Class of 1983.

7

1845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

land.

August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

NPA rebels wounded in fierce gun battle with gov't troops

By Mike Francisco

BUTUAN CITY – An undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) rebels was believed to be critically wounded during a fierce gun battle with government troops in the hinterland of Sitio (sub-village) Linao-linao, Barangay (village) Lower Olave, in Buenavista town, Agusan del Norte province.

In the initial firefight, PFC. Albert Adaya of the Army's 23rd Infantry Battalion was wounded in action and immediately evacuated to the advance command post (ACP) of the 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division at Camp Bancasi here for medical treatment.

Based on a report from the Civil Military Operation (CMO) of the Army's 23rd Infantry Battalion (23rd IB), the gun battle erupted at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday. A running gun battle ensued after the initial gunfight, police and military reports said.

Initial reports received here from police and military said combat maneuvering troops of the Bravo Company of the 23rd IB were securing the unit's Peace and Development Teams (PDTs) who were assisting villagers on their projects through "Bayanihan" approach when they engaged an undetermined number of heavily armed members of the guerilla-Front Committee 4-A of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NMRC).

Two gunship helicopters of the Philippine Air Force's (PAF) Tactical Operations Group (TOG) were also dispatched to extend air cover to the operating troops of the 23rd IB in Linao-linao area.

8

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

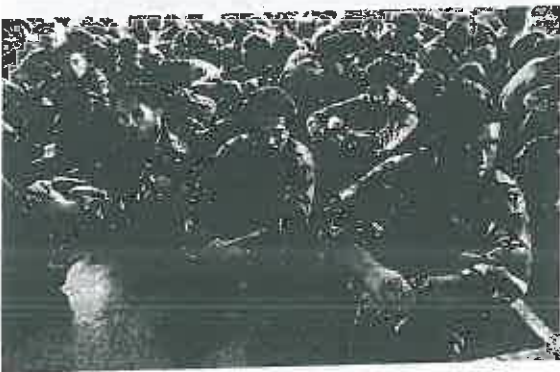
<http://www.inquirer.net/>

Duterte aborts camp visit anew

Leila B. Salaverria



WAITING FOR DIGONG Bored Army Scout Rangers in their muddied and worn out boots await the arrival of President Duterte at Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan province, only to be told the commander in chief could not come because of bad weather. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC



Camp Tescon, San Miguel, Bulacan—President Rodrigo Duterte did not show up for his scheduled talk with scout rangers at Camp Tecson in Bulacan, the second time he skipped his trip to this military facility. Mr. Duterte was scheduled to arrive at the military camp at 2 p.m., but the Presidential Security Group (PSG) informed camp officials past 3 p.m. that his trip would not push through due to the inclement weather. The President would be unable to fly to the area because of the zero visibility in the air, according to PSG officials. When the postponement of the President's visit was announced, members of the First Scout Ranger Regiment from the Philippine Army were already at the covered court waiting for him. They had already practiced their movements for their photo opportunity with the commander in chief.

Mr. Duterte was supposed to have a situation briefing before addressing the troops. This is the second time Mr. Duterte had to scrap his visit to the Bulacan military camp. He was supposed to visit it on July 26 after his trip to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. But his Nueva Ecija visit lasted until late in the afternoon, leaving him with no time to fly to Bulacan.

On July 28, he also cancelled a visit to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, because his visit to Camp Nakar in Quezon on the same day ran late.

Mr. Duterte had been going around military camps in the previous weeks, assuring soldiers that he would give them what they need and enlisting their support in his plans for the government.

His charm offensive on members of the military comes as his administration pursues peace talks with communist and Islamic secessionist rebels. The President is also under fire from local and international organizations, including the United Nations, for violating the Philippine Constitution's guarantees of due process and equality under the law in his bloody war on drugs.

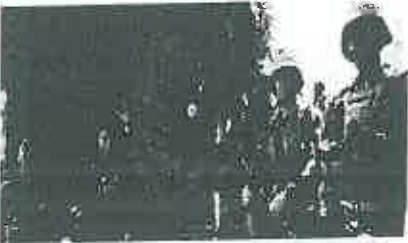
9

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

<http://bomboradyo.com/>

Kuta ng ASG sa Basilan, nakubkob ng AFP

By Bombo Marilyn Delo Santos



ZAMBOANGA CITY - Nakuha na ng tropa ng sundalo ang lugar na nagsisilbing stronghold ng Abu Sayyaf group (ASG), ang bundok na tinatawag na Hill 355 na nasa Barangay Silangkum, Tipo-Tipo sa lalawigan ng Basilan.

Ayon kay Lt/Col. Andrew Bacala, Jr., commanding officer of the 4TH Special Forces Battalion, tuluyang nang naagaw ng militar ang mga natitirang stronghold ng Abu Sayyaf dahil sa resulta umano ng combined assault na isinagawa ang mga kasapi ng Special Forces, Light Armor Cavalry Troops kasama ang iba pang mga elite counter terrorism units sa tulong na ring ng artillery fires.

Ito umano ang dahil kaya napilitang iwanan ng mga bandido ang kanilang kampo.

Sa loob ng kampo ay kayang makapag-accommodate ng 80 mga miyembro ng ASG kidnap-for-ransom group.

Narekober naman sa lugar ang dalawang improvised explosive devices (IED) na binubuo ng 60mm mortar, plastic bottle na naglalaman ng ammonium nitrate, mga pako, barya, isang 9-volts battery, isang plastic box, wire, switch, at ang improvised electric blasting cap.

Makikita rin daw sa loob ng kuta ang 10 bunkers, apat na tunnel, mga foxholes, kitchen hut at ang isang exit post.

Una rito, dakong alas-2:21 ng hapon nitong Lunes nang magdeklara ang Explosive Ordnance Disposal team na "clear" na ang nakubkob na kampo.

Kasunod nito, kaagad na ring nagpalagay ng defensive position ang tropa ng pamahalaan sa may Barangay Baguindan, Tipo-Tipo.

Napag-alaman mula kay Bacala na noong Linggo ay nakuha rin nila ang isa pang lugar na nagsisilbing strategic stronghold ng Abu Sayyaf na nasa bundok naman nang tinaguriang Hill 440 sa Barangay Baguindan Proper sa Tipo-Tipo.

"Since last month, Special Forces operators have infiltrated strategic communities in the operational area, extending to three (3) municipalities. Utilizing the elite 12-man team to conduct mass base operations and harness popular support, the operators effectively earned the trust of the local populace to support ongoing military operations. With the help of the local government units from the municipalities of Albarka, Akbar, Tuburan, Maluso, Lantawan and Hadji Mutamad (Pilas), the Special Forces troopers became effective in its operations," pahayag pa ni Bacala.

18 August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 5



GUARDED OPTIMISM – The International Crisis Group is upbeat on the peace process in Mindanao but cautioned President Rodrigo Duterte that the progress in the talks gained in the past six years is still fragile. Photo shows soldiers stationed in Jolo, Sulu, waiting for the President's visit last week. (EPA)

11

18 August 2016



Page: 1

Soldiers, cops get P5,000 allowance

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY - More than 250,000 soldiers and policemen are set to receive P5,000 in additional allowances next month in place of the raise in pay President Duterte had promised them.

Duterte promised personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) a raise, but the annual budget submitted for 2017 does not include any increase in salaries.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said that the matter can be remedied if Duterte issues an executive order mandating an across-the-board increase in the allowances of soldiers and policemen by September.

"We hope the President would sign the EO that we

Turn to Page 14

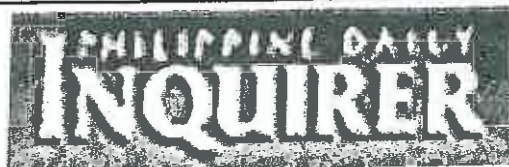
Soldiers From Page 1

Have drafted soon so we could immediately effect the increase in the allowances of soldiers and policemen," he said.

Diokno said the increase in the salary of soldiers and policemen will hopefully be in effect by 2018.

12

18 August 2016



Page: A9

'Air ambulance' gives poor a fighting chance

Maricar Cinco
Pedro City

A SIMPLE case of hernia cost the life of a poor man in Marinduque province in 2014.

That patient had to undergo surgery, but there was no transportation available to bring him to the nearest hospital in Lucena City, the provincial capital of Quezon, or Batangas province. He developed sepsis and died of infection.

This year, a 61-year-old employee of the Department of Health (DOH) acquired pneumonia while on field work in Marinduque province. A diabetic, he had difficulty breathing and had to be put on a ventilator. He was evacuated from Tablas Island in Marinduque but did not

make it to the hospital in Metro Manila.

"Mobility has always been a problem," said Eduardo Janairo, DOH director in Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan). If only transportation were available, the patients may have had a chance to survive, he said.

Such instances drove a partnership between the DOH regional office and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) to use the government's air assets to airlift patients, especially poor islanders who need "higher level" of medical attention in Metro Manila hospitals.

Under the program, four helicopters of the PAF Special Operations Group have been made available since July to fly from Villamor Air Base in Pasay City and pick up patients on the islands. The DOH has tapped

government hospitals in Metro Manila to receive the patients.

"The PAF is mandated [by law] to conduct airlifting during disasters. But this time, airlifting may be done for any patient even when there is no disaster, whether he is rich or poor," Ramonito Martin of the DOH Health Emergency Management and Blood Services said in an interview on Monday.

Martin acknowledged that health facilities and personnel were not enough to address certain emergency cases in the provinces. Only 77 rural health units serve a population of more than 2.74 million (as of 2010) in the Mimaropa region.

The free air evacuation can reduce, for instance, an 11-hour travel by boat from Odiongan town in Romblon to a 45-minute flight to Quezon City.

A flight costs about P87,000 for aviation fuel and personnel.

The DOH regional office is allotting P1 million annually to shoulder the costs of the air ambulance. It has identified landing sites in parts of Palawan province, San Jose and Mamburao towns in Occidental Mindoro province, Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro province, Boac in Marinduque province, and Odiongan.

Janairo said the program would especially help members of indigenous communities.

The health regional office is also trying out motorcycle and tricycle ambulances to reach patients in far-flung villages.

It is working on partnerships with two nongovernment organizations that are willing to lend helicopters to the government in case of emergencies, Janairo said.

18 August 2016



Page. 2

Sahod ng pulis, sundalo dodoblehin sa Disyembre

PEPEKINBO sa Disyembre ay dodoblehin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang sahod ng Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, at PDEA dahil sa pagganap sa kanilang tungkulin.

Ito ang ginawang pahayag ni Duterte sa ginanap na ika-115th anniversary ng Philippine National Police sa Camp Crame.

Ayon pa kay Duterte,

pagkakalooban ng educational assistance ang anak ng PNP, AFP at PDEA para makatulong sa kanila na maitaguyod ang mga ito.

Gayundin ay binanggit ng Pangulo ang mga di pa sumusuko na nasasangkot sa ilegal na droga sa bansa.

Masama pa rin ang loob ng pangulo sa ilang karanasan ng ilang mahihirap na napaay dahil tulong sa droga at nawawala na sa sariling katinuan.

(Vanz Fernandez)

14

18 August 2016



Page. 12

Baby girl born mid-air on flight to PH

NEW DELHI (AFP) – A woman gave birth to a premature but healthy baby girl mid-flight while travelling from the United Arab Emirates to the Philippines, forcing the plane to carry out an emergency landing in India.

The mother, whose due date was two months away, went into labor on board the Cebu Pacific Air flight Sunday as it flew from Dubai to Manila, her fellow passenger Missy Berberabe Umandal posted on Facebook.

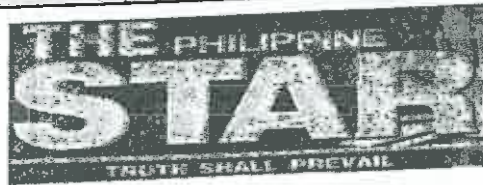
Panicked flight attendants started calling out for medical assistance -- discovering two nurses among the passengers -- before turning the front of the cabin into a makeshift delivery room.

The pilot conducted an emergency landing in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad so the mother and newborn could receive medical attention before continuing on to Manila.

"After initial examination by the medical staff they were moved to the mother and child care center of a hospital in the city," a Hyderabad airport security official told AFP, requesting anonymity. "The newborn and mother are fine and under medical supervision."

The woman, her mother who was traveling with her, and the baby were given three-day temporary visas, which would most likely be extended until parent and child were fit to fly, the official said.

August 2016



Page: 1

Rody may attend M Libingan burial

Preparations are on track for the burial of the late President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig unless the Supreme Court (SC) stops it, Malacañang said yesterday.

President Duterte has refused to bow to the SC on the controversy but he said yesterday that if the burial pushed through, he might attend it.

"I'm in good health and there is no pressing matter to attend to, I might," he told a press conference in Pasay City. "I just would like to emphasize to everybody that I allowed the burial of Marcos because it is

Turn to Page 3

Rody

From Page 1

the law." "He is qualified. He is not a hero, fine. But he was a president," he added.

Not even Vice President Leni Robredo could change Duterte's stance on the issue.

Asked to react to reports that Robredo is against the burial, Duterte replied: "My oath of office says to enforce the laws of the land. Here is a family whose father, husband was a former soldier. Maybe it's not true that he was a hero, I will grant you that. But he was a president."

Duterte also said he will abide by the decision of the Supreme Court in case it finds credence to the appeal of some groups to stop the burial of the former dictator at the heroes' cemetery next month.

"I will follow what the highest court of the land would order, the rule of law," he said last night in a spontaneous press briefing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3.

Duterte, a former prosecutor and lawyer, said he would not want to comment further since the matter is now under jurisdiction of the court.

"I don't want to pre-empt the court. It's really sub judice. I might open myself (to contempt)," he said.

The President was at the airport to express sympathies to the family of Navy Petty Officer 3 Darwin Espallardo, whose remains were flown to Manila. Espallardo was one of three soldiers killed in an anti-drug operation in Cotabato last Aug. 14.

"It seems that everything is starting to move according to arrangements," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a press conference.

"Unless there is a TRC or anything like that, it will proceed as planned," he added.

Abella said President Duterte would comply with whatever ruling to be issued by the court on the burial, which remains a hotly debated issue decades after the former strongman's death.

"Let's put it this way. If there are any motions and cases have been filed, let it proceed and the President will respond as he sees fit," Abella said.

The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and the Army have started preparations for Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery despite claims that the late dictator is unfit to be given such honor because of the human rights abuses committed during his term.

Duterte had said that Marcos can be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani because he was a war veteran and former president.

Martial law victims and militant groups, however, claimed that burying Marcos at the final resting place of heroes would be the same as rewarding dictatorship and human rights abuses.

Various groups have filed petitions seeking to stop the burial before the Supreme Court. The high court has ordered the defense department, the military and Marcos' wife Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos to respond to the petitions.

OFFICE OF

Lawyer Severo Brillantes has expressed support to the bid in the Supreme Court (SC) to prevent the hero's burial for Marcos.

Brillantes supported the two earlier petitions filed by martial law victims led by former Bayan Muna party-list Reps. Satur Ocampo and Neri Colmenares and families of victims of enforced disappearance during the Marcos regime in a letter to Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno yesterday.

Brillantes, counsel of teachers and parents of students of Manila Science High School in the earlier petition against implementation of the K-12 program, said allowing the interment of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani would be illegal and unconstitutional as already argued in the two petitions.

He appealed to the high court to take the high moral ground in deciding the case.

"Dictator Marcos has long been dead. He is entitled to a decent burial but not at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. I hope and pray that the honorable Supreme Court in rendering a decision on the petition will be reminded of the concurring opinion of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban in the case of David versus Arroyo in 2006, where he declared that 'and even for those who deeply care for the President, it is timely and wise for this Court to set down the parameters of power and to make known, politely but firmly, its dogged determination to perform its constitutional duty at all times and against all odds'," read the letter.

Marcos rejected Binay's plan

Former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. did not agree to the recommendation of the office of then vice president Jejomar Binay to bury his late father in Ilocos Norte in 2011, former deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said.

In a statement posted on

Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

was consistent in his decision not to allow the burial of the late dictator at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

As quoted in an interview with the *Associated Press* last June 2011, Aquino said "Not on my watch" when asked

about the issue.

"That is as categorical as one can get," Valte said.

Alexis Romero

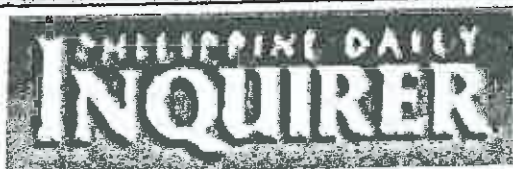
OFFICE OF THE

Facebook, Valte said contrary to the claim of Joey Salgado, Binay's spokesman, former president Benigno Aquino III

ose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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18 August 2016



Page: A2

MARCOS BURIAL AT LIBINGAN

It's a go, unless SC says stop

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE HERO'S burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos will push through unless the Supreme Court orders to stop it, Malacañang said on Wednesday.

No final date has been set for the controversial burial, but presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said preparations for it were underway.

"It seems that everything is starting to move according to arrangements, so unless there is a [temporary restraining order] or anything like that, it will pro-

ceed as planned," Abella told a press briefing.

President Duterte earlier gave the go-ahead for Marcos to be laid to rest at Libingan ng mga Bayani, saying he was qualified as he was a former soldier and head of state, and government regulations allow it.

The Philippine Army has been

directed to provide military honors accorded for a President.

But human rights victims under Marcos's brutal dictatorship regime have protested the decision, and subsequently asked the Supreme Court to stop the move. The court had scheduled oral arguments on petition next week.

Campaign promise

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar stressed Mr. Duterte made a campaign promise to have Marcos' remains transferred to the hero's cemetery, and that the public should re-

spect his decision.

"People voted for him and he won. So we have to respect the mandate of the people, and the mandate of the people was there for a reason," Andanar said at the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum.

Nevertheless, he said Malacanang also respected the petitions filed questioning the President's move.

"We will wait and see what happens," he added.

The Philippine Army has already received a directive to provide Marcos with the military honors accorded a President. These would include a

vigil, bugler or drummer, a firing party, a military host or pallbearers, escort and transportation, and arrival and departure honors.

The Marcos family has prepared a bronze casket for his burial and loyalists are preparing to go home for the event, the INQUIRER earlier reported.

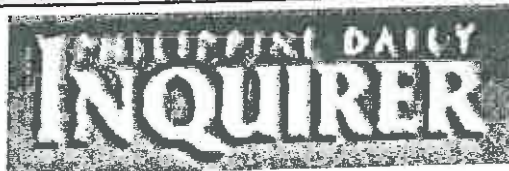
Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, three years after a "people power" revolt ended his two-decade rule marked by massive rights violations. Thousands of rights activists died during his rule, and the Marcos family was believed to

have stolen billions of dollars from government coffers.

His widow, Imelda Marcos and his children were subsequently allowed to return home where they have since regained political clout. In 1993, then President Fidel Ramos allowed Marcos's body to be brought home, on the condition that he would be buried in Ilocos Norte.

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo earlier said he did not think the agreement during Ramos' time could "supplant the regulation" allowing Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery.

18 August 2016



Page: A2

Duterte may attend Marcos burial

PRESIDENT Duterte said on Wednesday he might attend the late dictator's burial at Libingan ng mga Bayan, a decision he continued to defend yesterday amid growing criticism from rights groups.

"If I'm in good health, there's no pressing matter to attend to. I might [attend]" Mr. Duterte said in a press briefing, though he noted that there was no definite date for the burial yet.

But he also said he would abide by the Supreme Court's ruling on the issue, after martial law victims asked the tribunal to stop the burial.

"I would follow what the highest court of the land would order. There's the rule of law," he said.

He defended the legality of his move to allow Marcos the burial, insisting that former presidents are qualified to rest at the heroes' cemetery.

The regulations are not a qualifier that



MARCOS



DUTERTE

those accused of being despots were exempted, he said.

For those objecting to the move, they could hold protests for even as long as a month if they wanted to, he said.

They just need to coordinate with authorities to manage the traffic flow, the president said.

Leila B. Salaverria

18 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 18

ILOCANOS TO ACTIVISTS 'Let Marcos rest in peace'

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—A Supreme Court petition to stop the burial of strongman Ferdinand Marcos has become a sore point for many residents in the Ilocos provinces, La Union, Pangasinan and Isabela.

"Let Ferdinand Marcos rest in peace," was the reaction of many of them to the lawsuit filed by martial law victims to stop the burial of Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City next month.

Some, however, have expressed the hope of burying Marcos in Batac City so they could be close to him.

The debates on whether Marcos should be treated as a hero have been raging since the election campaign when then presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte first announced that he would not object to a Marcos burial at Libingan.

Ilocanos have not joined the discussions, preferring to pray for the former President, who died in exile in Honolulu, Hawaii, in September 1989 and has not been buried in the last 27 years.

But Narcisa Acosta, 63, who sells decorative house plants at the Batac City public market, said activist groups like Bayan had no

right to interfere with a family that has not been able to grieve properly for more than two decades.

Marcos' remains have been kept in a refrigerated crypt in the family mausoleum in Batac.

"I pray the angel of truth would illuminate the hearts of these protesters so the soul of Apo Marcos would finally be at peace," said Acosta, a Negros Occidental native who made Batac her home after marrying an Ilocano.

Lilibeth Galing, 32, of San Nicolas town, was 5 years old when Marcos died. She asked, "For the sake of the man who happened to be a former President and a soldier who served the Filipino people, why can't we just let him rest in peace regardless of his misdeeds?"

On Monday, Galing decided to take her husband and son to Marcos Presidential Center (also the Marcos ancestral house in Batac) to see the Marcos body for one last time.

Many Filipinos have been visiting Batac, hoping for a glimpse of the Marcos remains. The Philippine National Police has deployed guards at the Marcos ancestral house.

The Diocese of Laoag, in collaboration with the Ilocos Norte provincial government and local government units, has been preparing for a grand celebration of Marcos' 99th birthday on Sept. 11, a week before his scheduled burial at Libingan.

Ilocos burial

Other Ilocanos, however, are pushing for Marcos' burial in Ilocos.

"Martial law violence left wounds of the heart, not only physical suffering," said Crispin Dannug Jr. of Burgos, Isabela province.

"As long as the memories and pain of the bad times remain, many people would oppose the burial of Marcos at Libingan," he said.

The pain could be eased, if Marcos is buried in Ilocos, said Dannug, a retired official of the Department of Labor and Employment.

"Martial law is a very emotional issue to a lot of people," said Dennis Uy, a businessman.

from Pozorrubio, Pangasinan. "Many have suffered physically and emotionally from the atrocities of martial law. Many have also lost family members, a lot of whom have not been found until now. Allowing the burial of Marcos at Libingan would reopen old wounds and rekindle the horrors of the past," he added.

Uy said Marcos represented different things to different people. "He is a hero to those in the north, but a villain to most of the country. Let him rest among those who still honor him. Bury Marcos in Ilocos," he said.

For the Marcoses to insist on burying him at Libingan is no longer to honor his memory but to satisfy the pride of the living," he said.

Many angered

But the lawsuit angered many Ilocanos.

Joel Manuel, 46, school principal of Banna National High School, wondered why the Supreme Court should decide on the matter.

"Libingan ng mga Bayani is an Armed Forces of the Philippines property. The AFP promulgated the rules for interment in that cemetery and since the AFP Commander in Chief has decid-

ed—and resolutely so—that ought to be final and the matter should not be a piece of legal frivolity thrown to the SC," Manuel said.

In La Union, Yesa Cariano, 50, who runs a canteen at Bacnotan town market, said life was better under the Marcos administration.

"I was still young [when Marcos ruled the country] but I remember life was better. Now, only the politicians are getting rich. I do not believe reports that Marcos plundered the Philippines," she said.

Mae Rosemond Perez, 52, head teacher of La Union National High School, described reports of Marcos' alleged crimes as "pure fiction."

"I remember being given milk to drink and *pan de sal* to eat during my school days [under the Marcos regime]," she said, noting that life was better for schoolchildren in the 1970s.

Alvi Diana Poliquit, 27, a bank employee in San Fernando City, said she was against martial law, but added, "Some people I know who lived during the regime said Marcos was not totally [bad]."

Reports from Leilanie Adriano, Gabriel Cardinosa, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Yolanda Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

18 August 2016



Page. 2

Oral arguments sa petisyon kontra Marcos burial itinakda ng SC

MAGSASAGAWA na ng oral arguments ang Supreme Court sa August 24 upang malakayin ang petisyon na humihiling pangulu ng hukuman ang pagbibig sa libingan ng mga Bayan sa labi ng dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos. Tinag-utos din ng Korte Suprema na maghain ng kanilang mga komento sa petisyon sina Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana at mga kaanak ng damayapang pangulo sa loob ng limang araw.

Matatandaang una nang maghain ng petisyon

sa SC ang mga hiktima ng Martial Law na humihiling na basura ng hukuman ang direktibong AFP at DND na simulan na ang pagpapasyon sa libing ng vumaong presidente.

Sa petisyon, ginut ng grupo na hindi dapat malibing sa natirang semen-teryo si Marcos dahil masutulang babaguhin nito ang kasaysayan.

Hindi anila nararapat malibing sa libingan ng mga Bayan si Marcos na itinuturing na isang dikta-dor at tumangay ng pera ng taunobayan.



Page: 7

18 August 2016

Malaysian PM optimistic on Mindanao peace

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has expressed confidence that peace in Mindanao will be achieved under President Duterte, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said yesterday.

Dureza, who paid a courtesy call on Najib last Monday in Putrajaya, said the Malaysian leader also reaffirmed his commitment to efforts in attaining peace and security in Mindanao as well as in the ASEAN region.

"The PM immediately said he is confident that under President Duterte who comes from Mindanao, we will finally see peace in Mindanao and in the whole country," Dureza said.

He said Najib also mentioned possible Malaysian economic contributions to help and support peace and development efforts in Mindanao.

Dureza said he extended Duterte's gratitude for Malaysia's support in the negotiations and Manila's invitation to Kuala Lumpur to still help in the implementation of the Bangsamoro peace process.

Dureza said Najib also emphasized the importance of economic development in Mindanao to ensure long-lasting stability and the need for regional cooperation in order to address the growing threat of the Islamic State.

"After briefing the PM on the Philippine peace roadmap, I informed him of the recent visit of President Duterte to Sulu to precisely and personally oversee and reiterate his directives to the Armed Forces to deal decisively with the terrorists and the Abu Sayyaf group and the need to instill and promote moderation to counter extremism," he said.

Dureza said they also pointed out the significance of the recent trilateral meeting among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia to deal with security threats in the common sea borders.

With regard to regional cooperation, Dureza said they both emphasized the urgent need to revitalize and upscale the activities of the

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area), which Najib noted had slowed down perhaps due to the security situation across the sea borders.

"Specifically, we discussed the need to install and strengthen the rules on movement of peoples, goods and services from port to port in the south, which he also noted as still lacking and seemingly not even existent,"

Dureza said. Dureza said Najib also welcomed the planned visit of Duterte to Malaysia.

Duterte had wanted to meet Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founder Nur Misuari on the peace initiatives in Mindanao but the meeting did not push through.

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

the MNLF.

Dureza went to Malaysia to hold talks with representatives of the MILF. He stressed the meeting was crucial as the two sides have agreed on the implementation phase of the peace agreement.

The MNLF, however, said any meeting with Misuari is not possible unless the warrant of arrest is lifted.

Misuari is facing rebellion charges for the Zamboanga siege in 2013 - With Perseus Echeminada

23

18 August 2016



Page: 7

Indonesian captive escapes Abu captors

ZAMBOANGA CITY — An Indonesian kidnap victim escaped yesterday morning from his Abu Sayyaf captors who were planning to behead him in a mangrove in Luuk, Sulu.

Mohammad Sofyan was recovered about 7:30 a.m. at the shoreline of Barangay Bual in Luuk, according to Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom).

Tan said Sofyan, 26, disclosed that the Abu Sayyaf had announced that they would execute him, prompting him to escape in the mangroves between Barangays Bual and Bato-Itum.

Sofyan, one of seven crewmen of *TB Charles 001*, was on the tug-

boat towing barge *TK Robby 152*

when at least 10 bandits seized the boats en route to Indonesia from the Philippines last June 23 in the Sulu Sea.

The companions of Sofyan who remained in Abu Sayyaf custody were Captain Feri Amin, chief engineer Muhammad Mahburur Dahri, assistant engineer Edy Suryono, Chief Officer Ismail, Robin Peter and Muhammad Nasir.

"The residents of the area saw Sofyan floating, trapped in the fishnets along the shore and they rescued him," Tan said.

Sofyan was immediately brought by the residents to the Luuk police station.

Tan said the victim was later

brought to the Sulu provincial police office for processing and documentation before he is turned over to his family.

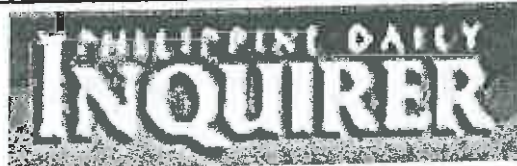
The military identified those responsible in the snatching of the Indonesians as the Mukhtadil brothers group from Tawi-Tawi that operates along the Philippines-Indonesia border. They later transferred their victims to the Abu Sayyaf.

There were reports that the Abu Sayyaf demanded a 20-million Indonesian ringgit ransom for the release of the hostages.

Tan said the troops from the Joint Task Force Sulu were scouring the area to track down the bandits and rescue the remaining hostages.

24

18 August 2016



Page: 41

Indonesian escapes from Abus

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An Indonesian sailor escaped from his Abu Sayyaf captors in Sulu province early Wednesday by swimming out to sea after the bandits threatened to behead

him, a military spokesperson said.

Residents of Bual village in Luuk, Jolo Island, spotted and secured Mohammad T. Sofyan floating off the shore after he escaped under cover of darkness, said Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson for the military's

Western Mindanao Command.

Abu Sayyaf bandits captured Sofyan, 28, and six other crew members of the Indonesian tugboat TB Charles 001 as it was passing through waters off southern Philippine islands on June 23.

INDONESIAN/A15

From page A1

On June 25, the bandits freed six other crewmen, who arrived at their home port in Samarinda in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan on Borneo Island.

"We were told he managed to escape by running and swimming to the sea," Tan said, adding that Sofyan had said the bandits were about to execute him when he escaped.

Caught in fishnets

Bual villagers found Sofyan floating and caught in fishnets along the shore of a mangrove area, Tan said.

He was in good health, said Dr. Raden Ikbala of Sulu Integrated Provincial Hospital. "He is OK, healthy, but appeared traumatized."

Sofyan was to be turned over to the provincial police office on Jolo for documentation, debriefing and repatriation.

Ikbala said Sofyan had claimed that he and another hostage escaped as their captors were asleep at 1 a.m. on Wednesday.

Tan said troops were trying to find the other Indonesian.

"We have no information on the other captives, but troops in the area were ordered to use all means to locate and rescue them," he said.

MNLF claims credit

A faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by Nur Misuari claimed it rescued Sofyan.

"The MNLF is operating in the second district (of Sulu) since July 28, and we have about 3,000 forces that are running after the Abu Sayyaf group. This force is [led] by one Commander Julhabri," said Samsula Adju, chair of the MNLF Global Roving Diplomacy and Peace Advocacy.

"All we know is that this Indonesian fled while we are pursuing his captors," Adju said, adding that Sofyan's captors were led by Alhabshi Misaya.

Adju said Misaya tried to snatch Sofyan back, "but it's too late for them because our people were able to bring the Indonesian down to the barangay and later to the police."

Teacher kidnapped

Ikbala said a Filipino teacher was kidnapped by still unknown men as she was on her way to Madjunun Elementary School in Jolo town on Tuesday morning.

He identified the kidnap victim only as Sandra, wife of a Marine.

Tan said 16 foreigners—a Dutch, a Norwegian, nine Indonesians and five Malaysians—and eight Filipinos were still being held by the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

The bandits had beheaded two Canadian hostages after

25

their government refused to hand over ransom, but they freed their Filipino woman companion earlier this year.

Known for their ruthlessness, the Abu Sayyaf has been turning its attention to vessels passing through busy shipping lanes in the southern waters as security along coasts has been tightened.

Last week, President Duterte ordered the military to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, saying that if it failed to do so, the Philippines risked being “contaminated” by the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

The Abu Sayyaf has sworn allegiance to IS, although the military says the bandits are merely riding on the popularity of IS to the international jihadist community.

Celebes Sea

A total of 24 Indonesians have been kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf this year, highlight-



IN GOOD HANDS
Indonesian tugboat crew member Mohammad Sofyan gets a medical checkup from Dr. Raden Ikbal at a Sulu hospital after his escape from Abu Sayyaf bandits who abducted him on June 23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ing weak security in the Celebes Sea that borders Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Ten of the hostages were freed after ransoms were reportedly paid.

Indonesian authorities have said piracy in the Celebes Sea, a major sea-lane for the world's top thermal coal exporter, could reach levels previously seen in Somalia.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed in May to

carry out coordinated patrols. The three countries are concerned the kidnappings, piracy and other crime could undermine commerce in the region.

Analysts say \$40 billion worth of cargo passes through the southern waters every year, including supertankers from the Indian Ocean that cannot use the crowded Malacca Strait.

With reports from Jerome An-
ing in Manila, Reuters and AP

18 August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

Landmines, drug war up for discussion in Oslo

BY VAS D. ORANPO, ANTONIO A. COLINA IV and FROILAN GALLARDO

DAVAO CITY - A representative from the government peace panel said the use of landmines and the withdrawal of support from the administration's policy on drugs would likely be part of the agenda for the talks slated in Norway, Sweden.

In an interview with Manila Bulletin, GPH panelist Antonio Arellano said that the topics were presumably part of the talks especially when it comes to discussions on the Joint Agreement on the Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

Arellano said that while the topics were not being discussed, the talks would likely go into that direction.

Earlier, President Duterte said that there would no longer be talks between

the government and the CPP-NDFP once he hears of another explosion coming from landmines.

Recently, the CPP said it would withdraw support from what it called an "anti-people" and "anti-poor" drug war that the Duterte administration is waging.

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison said he is grateful to President Rodrigo R. Duterte for his continued efforts to pursue the peace negotiation between the Philippine government (GPH) and the CPP-National Democratic Front (NDF).

In Cagayan de Oro City, Judge Florencia Abbu of the Regional Trial Court Branch 17 ordered the temporary release of Alfredo Mapano also known as "Ka Paris" sans the bail money of ₱100,000 so he can attend the meeting

between the government and the NDFP in Oslo, Norway on August 20.

In a statement, Sison said Duterte has been instrumental in the release of the detained consultants of the NDFP who are protected by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). The NDFP consultants will join the formal resumption of the peace talks on August 22 in Oslo, Norway.

Sison said that he and Duterte have remained to be good friends despite the recent spat stemming from the recent encounters between government forces and the CPP's armed wing - the New People's Army (NPA) that resulted in the lifting of the unilateral ceasefire with the CPP-NPA-NDFP less than a week after the President declared it.

"Our friendship has a strong basis in long-standing cooperation and in a common desire to serve the national and

democratic rights and best interests of the Filipino people. Furthermore, we have plenty of mutual friends who help maintain our friendship," he said.

"We are both inspired by the principles and objectives of Kabataang Makabayan and driven by the patriotic desire to continue the unfinished revolution of Andres Bonifacio," Sison added.

During the formal resumption of peace talks, the CPP founder said that he will be in touch with Duterte to make the talks successful and beneficial.

The peace talks will also tackle substantial issues on socio economic reforms, political and constitutional

reforms, security and immunity guarantees, cessation of hostilities, and disposition of forces.

The negotiation is being hosted by the Royal Norwegian Government.

In a statement, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who is chief government peace negotiator with the NDFP, said Duterte remains hopeful the peace negotiations between the GPH and the NDFP will end the decades-old insurgency problem in Mindanao.

"The president assured NDFP lawyers present during the meeting in Malacañang yesterday that the NDFP consultants will fly to Oslo," he said.

27

18 August 2016



Page. 4

Indonesian nakatakas sa ASG, guro dinukot

Nina NONOY LACSON
at FER TABOY

ZAMBOANGA CITY

Nakatakas ang isa sa anim na tripulanteng Indonesian na bihag ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) mula sa kaniyang mga bandido sa Luuk, Sulu, kahapon ng madaling araw.

Kundala ni Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMindCom) Spokesman Maj. Filimon Tan, Jr., ang nakatakas na si Mohammad Sayfan, 26, isa sa anim na tripulanteng Indonesian ng tugboat Charles.

Huniyo 23, 2016 nang dukutin ng ASG ang grupo ni Sayfan habang maglalayag sa Tawi-Tawi, sa hangganan ng Pilipinas at Malaysia.

Strati ni Sayfan sa awtonidad na cimala siya ng mga bandido sa bakawan sa mga barangay ng Bual at Bato-Isum sa Luuk at sunkap niyang nakatakas matapos niya umahonang maubuhang na punaplaro na ng grupo ang pagtagot sa ulo niya.

Dakong 7:30 ng umaga kahapon nang namataan ng mga residente si Sayfan habang palutang-lutang sa pagkakasailalim sa mga lambat sa dalampasigan ng mga barangay Bual at Bato-Isum, at agad na sinagip at dinale sa munisipyo ng Luuk.

Nauunanto, hinuhulalang ASG din ang dinukot mitong Martes sa isang

habaeng guros sa isang pampublikong paaralang elementarya sa Patikul, Ayon sa military report, dakong 8:00 ng umaga, nang dukutin ng limang armadong bandido si Edina Manalao Bonsel, naaahustong gulang, habang patungo sa pinapasilang Elementary School sa Bgy. Tawig Patikul.

BAI WARTENG ASG

NAKUBKOB

Ilang oras matapos ang panibagong pagdukot, nakubkob ng militar ang kuta ng ASG na tinatawag na Hill 355 sa Bgy. Silangkum sa Lipo-Lipo, Basilan.

dakong 2:20 ng napora mitong Martes.

Ayon kay AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr., ang dalawang nakubkob na stronghold ng ASG ay may 10 bunker, apat na tunnel, ilang foxholes, kitchen, butas sa seksat post.

Nakasamsam din ang militar ng dalawang improvised explosive device (IED) sa lugar.

Noong nakaraang linggo lang ay nakubkob ng militar ang kuta ng ASG ang Hill 440 sa Bgy. Bagunadan Proper sa Lipo-Lipo.



TULOY PA RIN sa paghahatid ng supply ng mga gulay mula sa La Trinidad, Benguet patungong Metro Manila sa kabila ng sunud-sunod na pagbuhos ng pag-ulan sa mga nakalipas na araw.

RIZALDY COMANDA

28

18 August 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Sayyaf threatens to behead hostage; Indonesian escapes

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants have threatened to behead a young Filipino man they had kidnapped in the southern province of Sulu if their ransom demand is not paid.

This developed as an Indonesian tugboat crew member who was set for execution by the Abu Sayyaf escaped Wednesday and was rescued by villagers in a coastal

town in Sulu.

The militants are demanding P1 million in exchange for the life of Patrick James Almodovar, who is in his early 20s, or they will kill him on August 24.

In a video clip released by the Abu Sayyaf, Almodovar appealed to the government to save his life and pay the ransom.

► **Threatens A2**

THREATENS FROM A1

Sayyaf threatens

Speaking in the Tausug dialect, he begged Governor Totoh Tan and Jolo Mayor Kerkar Tan to pay the Abu Sayyaf despite the strict no-ransom policy of the government.

"I am Patrick James Almodovar. I am a Catholic. To Governor Totoh Tan and Mayor Kerkar Tan and to my relatives, I am appealing for your help to free me from my captors and they are asking P1 million and if they don't get what they are demanding, they will behead me exactly at two in the afternoon," Almodovar said in the two-minute clip.

There were no immediate statements from the police and military.

Indonesian escapes

Police and the military said Mohammad Sofyan, one of seven crew members of tugboat *Charles*, was found by civilians trapped inside a fish pen in the village of Bual in Luuk town, where the Abu Sayyaf is holding their hostages.

The Abu Sayyaf had set the beheading of the 28-year-old Indonesian but he managed to escape from his guards, according to the police.

It was unclear how he fled to safety or whether his compatriots are still alive or not.

The military's Western Mindanao Command confirmed the report and said the police have taken custody of the Indonesian.

"Troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu were directed to scour the area and use all available assets to possibly locate the remaining kidnap victims and conduct operations to rescue them," the military

29

said in a statement

The other sailors have been identified as Ferry Arifin, the tugboat skipper, M. Mahburi Dahri, Edi Suryono, Ismail, M. Nasir and Robin Piter

The boat, owned by PT Rusianto Brothers, was heading to Samarinda in East Kalimantan following a trip to the Philippines, when gunmen on speedboats intercepted it on June 22

Indonesian media reported that the boat captain phoned his wife and told her they were intercepted at sea by gunmen, who introduced themselves as Abu Sayyaf and demanded 20 million rupiah for their release.

The remaining hostages are believed to be held by the group of Alhabsi Misaya, a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that signed a peace deal with the government in September 1996

Misaya had split with the MNLF and joined the Abu Sayyaf several years ago after MNLF founder Nur Misuari reportedly ordered his execution for a still unknown reason, according to military intelligence reports

The Abu Sayyaf previously kidnapped 14 Indonesian tugboat crewmembers in separate attacks at sea just this year and brought them to Sulu, one of five provinces under the Muslim autonomous region

They were eventually released through the intercession of Misuari.

The militant group has beheaded a Malaysian man and two Canadian hostages in Sulu after their family failed to pay ransom money.

Just this month, MNLF forces clashed with Misaya's group in Ka-

lingalan Caluang town and killed four Abu Sayyaf members

Security officials said the four slain militants, including their automatic weapons, had been recovered by the MNLF fighters headed by commanders Taib Sahibad, Alih Kipli and Abraham Joel.

One of those killed by the MNLF forces had been identified by the military as Jenner Lahab, alias Commander Jim Dragon. Lahab was reported to be one of the aides of Misaya, a notorious militant leader

Teacher nabbed

On Tuesday, suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen abducted public school teacher Edrina Manalas Bonsil while on her way to work in the town of Patikul also in Sulu.

Bonsil was travelling on a jeep when five gunmen flagged down the vehicle in Kanague village and forcibly dragged her out

Just last month, Abu Sayyaf militants seized three people, Shariff Julhasan Abirin, Levi Gonzales and his pregnant wife Daniela Taruc, in a village in Patikul town

The victims were aboard a multicab when gunmen flagged down the vehicle in the village of Tim-pook and seized them.

The gunmen threatened to behead Gonzales—who works as a technician for Globe Telecom—if their demand of a P1-million ransom is not paid by the Ayala-led company

President Rodrigo Duterte ordered troops last week to intensify their anti-terrorism campaign, including operations against the Abu Sayyaf, which is still holding more than a dozen mostly Asian hostages in the restive Muslim region

AL JACINTO

70

18 August 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A2



SAFE AT LAST Policemen escort Indonesian Muhamad Sofyan as he leaves a hospital in Jolo where he had a medical check-up shortly after escaping from his Abu Sayyaf captors. **APP PHOTOS**

31

18 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 19



WOMAN seeking medical attention waits to board a military C-130 plane as people were evacuated in Tacloban City after Supertyphoon "Handa" struck in 2013. The Philippine Air Force's smaller aircraft, like helicopters, will again be tapped to bring patients in Southern Luzon's island provinces to hospitals in Metro Manila through a partnership with the Department of Health.

RAFFY LERMA

32

18 August 2016



Page: 4

E D I T O R I A L

Where's the economic blueprint?

The highest increases in the proposed first full year budget of President Duterte were not what was widely expected to reflect his administration's thrust to develop the sectors that the past administration of Noynoy neglected such as agriculture on which majority of Filipinos depend.

Presented as the budget support for the 10-point economic agenda of Duterte were infrastructure, P60.7 billion which is 13.8 percent higher than this year's budget; rule of law, P110.4 billion for the Philippine National Police (PNP) which is 24.6 percent higher than this year and P130.6 billion for the Armed Forces of the Philippines to support the administration's drive against crime, illegal drugs and terrorism, and P32.5 billion to declog the courts; agriculture and agrarian reform P120.5 billion; technology and innovation, P3.56 billion for the Department of Information and Communications and P20.8 billion for the Department of Science and Technology; education, P699.95 billion; health, P151.5 billion; social welfare and sustainable livelihood, P129.9 billion for the Department of Social Welfare and Development and P13.5 billion for the Department of Labor and Employment; energy, PP5.6 billion for electrification; and disaster risk reduction and environmental protection, P37.3 billion for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund and P29.4 billion for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Also the National Expenditure Program or the Palace 2017 budget proposal seeks a ten-fold increase in the budget for the Office of the President to P20 billion from P2.8 billion this year.

33

Under Executive Order 1, the first issued by Duterte, the Cooperative Development Authority, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, National Anti-Poverty Commission, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, National Food Authority, National Youth Commission, Office of the President- Presidential Action Center, Philippine Commission on Women, Philippine Coconut Authority, Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority were all placed under the Office of the President.

The main poverty intervention tool which is the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program was also bumped up to P78.7 billion from P62 billion this year.

The NFP said the amount targets the coverage of 4.2 million family beneficiaries while P23.4 billion will be allocated for rice subsidy to 3 million poorest families in the country.

Unless changes are instituted in the CCT, however, its impact on the poverty situation will remain as negligible as before. The poverty level under the administration of Noyonoy remained at a constant 35 percent through the entire six years he was in power despite the billions of pesos allotted to the CCT program.

Since the budget should be a reflection of the policy focus of the government, the Duterte administration is expected next year to remain focused on the war on drugs with the huge increase in the budget of the PNP.

Duterte had said that the concerns on the narcotics trade and the overall peace and order situation would have stabilized after six months of his presidency that will allow his administration to focus on other problems of the country.

The 2017 budget, however, does not show the Duterte commitment and at the same time his supposed attention to other problems confronting the nation.

Even the promised massive infrastructure buildup that Duterte's economic managers said would result in a 24/7 construction of government projects was not discernible in the proposed 2017 budget.

Budget Secretary Ben Diokno earlier said the economy is "deficient in all types of infrastructure." The DBM is committed to hike infrastructure spending from a low five percent to a high of six to seven percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) next year. The total proposed budget for infrastructure is P860.7B or 13.8 percent higher than this year's budget but it represents 5.4 percent of the GDP which is not much of a change from the outlays during the previous administration that Diokno accused of underspending the budget.

The lack of a clear economic roadmap was among the most raised criticism on the administration of Noyonoy.

Based on the 2017 budget there appears to be little or no change coming.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, securing the land.

18 August 2016



Page: 113

Marcos 'war medals' exposed, questioned (1)

Because of the outcry of tens of thousands of victims of the Marcos dictatorship over President Duterte's plan to bury in the Libingan ng mga Bayani the corpse of president-dictator Ferdinand Marcos who died in Hawaii in 1989, I am serializing the piece "The Other Version of FM's War Exploits" by Bonifacio Gillego published in WE Forum in November 1982. It was written for a major US newspaper, but publication was withheld because of Marcos' state visit. The long piece caused the raid and closure of WE Forum and the arrest of editor Jose Burgos Jr. and staff. It is included in the book "Press Freedom Under Siege: Reportage that Challenged the Marcos Dictatorship" (UP Press, 2017). Gillego, a former soldier and member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, was in exile in the United States and working with the Movement for a Free Philippines when he researched his piece. He became a congressman after Edsa I toppled the Marcos dictatorship in 1986. He died in 2002. His name is etched on the Wall of Remembrance of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City.

HOW MANY medals did Marcos actually receive for his alleged feats of heroism in World War II? The count has become a numbers game.

Hartzell Spence, in his book, "For Every Tear a Victory: The Story of Ferdinand E. Marcos" (McGraw-Hill Inc., New York, 1964), credits Marcos with 28, including American awards. More a hagiographer than a biographer, Spence has been the purveyor of embroidered tales about Marcos' life and deeds to the credulous and gullible public, both Philippine and American. It was Spence who propagated the myth that Marcos singlehandedly delayed the fall of Bataan by three months—with his encouragement and consent, no doubt, of Marcos. It was Spence who recounted the ridiculous story that when Gen. Omar Bradley "saw Ferdinand's six rows of ribbons headed by 22 valor medals including the Distinguished Service Cross, he four-star general saluted Marcos."

The story is patently false because in May 1947, the date of the comic Bradley-Marcos encounter in the Pentagon, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) could account only for six war medals. Most of the medals of Marcos were conferred on him by

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



the AFP only from 1948 to 1963.

On the occasion of the multimillion-dollar extravaganza (the Marcos state visit to the USA), the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC gave the widest dissemination of propaganda materials glorifying the war exploits of Marcos. A brochure titled "Friends in War Ferdinand E. Marcos in the Pacific War, 1941-45" tabulates 32 medals. The souvenir program contains, among others, a picture of Marcos with the inscription at the back that during the Pacific War, Marcos won 33 American and Philippine medals. A more modest claim, however, is made that Marcos delayed the fall of Bataan "by weeks," not three months, as Spence propagandized earlier in his campaign biography of Marcos.

The salvo of paeans to Marcos' vaunted war heroism was part of a well-funded drive to influence the powers-that-be in the US to award Marcos the Congressional Medal of Honor. At this juncture, it may be recalled that it was Spence again who fantasized that upon hearing the exploits of Marcos in Bataan, Gen. Jonathan Wainwright from his headquarters in Corregidor called by phone the 21st Division directing that Marcos be recommended for a Congressional Medal of Honor. Accordingly, Brig. Gen. Mateo Capinpin allegedly made the recommendation but the papers got conveniently lost, hence the explanation why Marcos was robbed of the singular honor of receiving the much coveted American award.

Claiming that the recommendation was "side-tracked," Bataan, purportedly a Philippine magazine published in Washington, DC, came out with a special edition (Sept. 20, 1982) urging the conferment of the Congressional Medal of Honor on Marcos 40 years after the guns of Bataan and Corregidor were silenced!

Unfortunately for the drumbeaters of Marcos, the grant of the Congressional Medal of Honor has prescribed time limitations. The recommendation has to be made within two years after the deed of extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The actual conferment has to be made within three years after such deed. Only the US Congress can waive the time limitation, but apparently the move for Congressional waiver was laughed off.

There is not a scintilla of evidence in the files of the US Army Center of Military History, the National [Personnel] Records Center of the [National] Archives, the US Army Library in Pentagon, the Library of Congress, etc. that Marcos performed an authentic deed of extraordinary valor deserving the grant of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The reports of and about the defense of Bataan by the staff of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Jonathan Wainwright and George Parker Jr. do not show the faintest trace of Marcos' single-handed feat of stemming the tide of Japanese advance in Bataan that delayed its fall by three months. Even the foremost deodorizer of the Marcos dictatorship, Carlos P. Romulo, made no mention of Marcos among the heroes he "walked with."

But the count remains. The statistical projection, whether it be 28, 32 or 33, creates and fosters the impression—as it is deliberately intended to—that Marcos was the most decorated Filipino soldier in World War II. None of the participant nations during the war could produce a hero with as many awards as Marcos—not excluding General MacArthur himself. That is, if the count of the Marcos medals is devoid of fraudulence and deception.

What is deliberately concealed in the accounting of the Marcos medals is the date of issue of each of the awards. If this one essential detail is shown, the stark truth stands out. It was not during the war that he was awarded these medals. Marcos managed to have himself awarded these medals by the AFP long after the war was over!

(More details in succeeding parts.)

Send feedback to cerespd@gmail.com

35

August 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A4



DUTY
CALLS
FLORENCIO
FIANZA

The Marcos burial

IT IS now up to the Supreme Court to decide whether the late President Ferdinand Marcos will finally be buried at the military cemetery at Fort Bonifacio or Libingan ng mga Bayan as it is popularly known.

Twenty-seven years after the death of the former strongman, the "war" is still raging. His enemies are as determined as ever to deny him burial at Fort Bonifacio where soldiers and former soldiers are buried. Admittedly, Marcos is altogether a different case. He was democratically elected twice as president but ruled as a virtual dictator for 12 years for a total of 20 years. This makes him the longest-serving president of the country. During his long reign, many abuses that caused his eventual downfall in a military-civilian uprising in 1986 were committed.

He was driven into exile to Hawaii where he died in 1989. His remains were eventually brought to Ilocos Norte during the term of former President Fidel Ramos where it remains to this day.

During the campaign leading to the May elections, then-candidate Rodrigo Duterte made a promise to allow the burial of the late president at the Libingan ng mga Bayan if he won the elections. He is now fulfilling that promise. This has, however, rekindled the controversy between the late strongman and his enemies. One would think that his burial should simply be governed by regulations which in this case is the Armed Forces of the Philippines Regulations 161-375 issued on 9 April 1986 during the term of the late President Cory Aquino.

In that AFPR, it is clear that Marcos is entitled to be buried at the LNMB. But Cory Aquino exercised her prerogative as President and Commander-in-Chief and prohibited the burial of Marcos at the LNMB. Now, President Duterte is also exercising his prerogative as President and Commander-in-Chief by allowing the burial—but the opponents of Marcos cannot accept this.

The case of Marcos is not unique in history. There have been many controversial leaders in recent times who should be resting in peace after their

Turn to A5

76

he Marcos...

n44

ths but are not. Two cases ne to mind that although not same, are somewhat simi-

Philippe Petain was a distinguished soldier and leader of nce during the first half of 20th century. He was known he Lion of Verdun. As the al commander during the bat of Verdun during World War e stopped the advance of the man army and subsequent- cemented his reputation as of the ablest and respected nch generals. He was eventu- promoted to the exalted title Marshal of France for his ses during World War I. Dur-

World War II, he took on the onsibility of taking charge the part of France that was occupied by the Germans ose capital was located in the town of Vichy. It is better

known today as the Vichy regime. Petain's government was accused of collaborating with the Germans so much so that after the war, Petain was charged with treason and was found guilty after a controversial trial and sentenced to death. All his titles and decorations were also taken away from him except his title as Marshal of France. But due to his old age, the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was originally jailed in mainland France but later transferred to the little French island of ile d'Yeu in the Atlantic ocean where he eventually died at the age of 95 in 1951. He is buried there to this day.

What makes this case similar to Marcos is that there are people to this day who want Petain to be reburied at the military cemetery at Douamont in Verdun where the military dead of France are buried. In fact, some- time in 1973, the coffin of Petain

was stolen purportedly for burial at Douamont. It was subsequently found and was again reburied with a Presidential wreath on top of the coffin but not in Douamont as Petain supporters wanted but still ile d' Yeu. This controversy is very much alive up to this day.

This Douamont cemetery is the equivalent of our Libingan ng mga Bayani. Unlike Petain, however, Marcos was never charged or convicted of any crime that would have disqualified his burial at the LNMB. President Duterte believes that burying Marcos at the LNMB will put closure to the Marcos controversy but Rep. Edcel Lagman does not believe so. It is hard to say who is right.

Perhaps if all the actors of the so-called Edsa uprising are all gone, a more objective assessment of those tumultuous events of the last 12 years of the Marcos rule can be made

devoid of biases. But if the Petain experience can teach us anything, it is not that simple.

The other case was that of the Ugandan strongman Idi Arituin who was driven like Marcos out of his country in 1979. He initially went to live in Libya after his ouster but eventually moved to Saudi Arabia where he died in 2003. Before his death, he tried to seek permission from the Ugandan government to go home to die but his request was denied with the warning that if he steps inside Uganda, he will be put on trial for the crimes committed during his reign as president. He is now buried in Saudi Arabia.

Is there another lesson to be learned here? Yes. This controversy should be a warning to aspiring leaders who want to go the Marcos way that when they die as we all do, it will not be altogether sure that they will be resting in peace.

37

18 August 2016



Page. 4

NDF peace talks back on track

EIGHTEEN detained peace consultants of the National Democratic Front (NDF) have been granted bail to enable them to join the formal peace talks with the Philippine government in Oslo, Norway, next week. The 18, along with two others covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), were released after the Solicitor General filed petitions with the Supreme Court which directed the lower courts concerned to give priority to hearings on motions for bail.

Leading the 20 who will be proceeding to Oslo this weekend are Benito Tiamzon, chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and his wife Wilma Tiamzon, secretary-general, who had been detained in Quezon City since they were arrested in Cebu in March, 2014.

They will be joined by other leaders of the NDF who met with President Duterte in Malacañang Tuesday. At the meeting were former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Fidel Agcaoili, and Edre Olalia. They held preliminary talks with the government peace panel members led by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III. Presidential Peace Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza will lead the government panel in the Oslo talks.

The coming talks in Oslo will put President Duterte's peace efforts with the Communist left back on track. At his State-of-the-Nation Address last July 25, it may be recalled, he announced a unilateral ceasefire with the rebel group. But it was answered with an ambush by the New People's Army (NPA) that killed a militia man of the 60th Infantry Battalion in Davao del Norte.

This led to an exchange of angry words with CPP Founding Chairman Jose Ma. Sison who is now living in exile in the Netherlands. Sison followed it up with a withdrawal of support for Duterte's anti-drugs campaign. The CPP then said it would issue its own statement on a joint ceasefire with the government to be made on August 20.

August 20 is the official start of the Oslo talks with negotiations proceeding in the succeeding days ending August 27 next week. President Duterte may have been too hopeful when he thought his initial move for an immediate ceasefire would succeed. It looks like it will be a much longer process as the Communist left is out to get something substantial from the government before it lays down its arms.

Thus the Oslo talks are expected to discuss such issues as socio-economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, security and immunity guarantees, cessation of hostilities, and disposition of forces. It may be pointed out that these were among the issues that were taken up in the peace talks between the government and the Moro rebels that led to the Bangsamoro agreement.

The road to peace with the CPP, its military arm the NPA, and its political arm the NDF now looks a little more promising than before. We hope it will lead to a real agreement that will end the almost five decades-old NPA rebellion, the longest-running Communist insurgency in all of Asia.

38

18 August 2016



Pahina. 14

F2 LOGISTICS NASIKWAT ANG ALL-PINOY CROWN

NI CHRIS CO

Nakabangon ang F2 Logistic sa masamang panimula bago kubrahin ang 18-25, 25-18, 25-21, 25-19 panalo laban sa Foton upang matamis na angkin ang kampeonato sa Philippine Superliga All-Filipino women's volleyball tournament kagab sa The Arena sa San Juan City. Nagsanib-powersa sina Ara Galang, Kim Dy

at Aby Marañon sa attack line katuwang sa playmaker Kim Fajardo na nagsumite ng 17 excellent sets at pitong puntos para dahil ang ng Cargo Movers sa kamilang. Kaluna-unahang titulo sa liga.

Pumalo si Galang ng siyam na hits dalawang blocks at isang ace habang nakalkom si Dy ng 11 puntos at 10 naman mula kay Marañon.

Nagdagdag si Mika Reyes ng siyam na puntos ngunit malaki ang naiambag ni reserve open hitter Cyd Demecillo na nakakuha ng anim na puntos.

"Pinaghirapan namin itong panalo na ito dahil buong season namin itong tinabaho. Pero pinakita ng team ang character namin

ngayon kaya masaya ako na nakalkom namin ito," wika ni F2 Logistics member Rani De Jesus na nakalkom ang kanilang unang korona sa liga.

Muling nanguna para sa Tomadoes si Jaja Santiago na nakalkom ng 20 puntos mula sa 14 attacks, apat na blocks at dalawang aces habang nalimitahan si Cherry Ann Rondina sa 12 puntos bunsod ng matibay na depensa ng inilatag ng Cargo Movers.

Abante ang Foton sa spiking department nang humataw ito ng 51 attacks kumpara sa 41 lamang ng F2 Logistics. Abante rin ang Tomadoes sa digs 34-29.

Subalit hindi ito sapat matapos rinakagawa ang Tomadoes ng 37 unforced errors.

Pinangalanan ang Rookie Draft top pick na si Galang bilang First Outside Spiker habang Second Best Outside Spiker si Bernadeth Pons ng Petron Tin-Activ Spikers.

Nakuha naman ni Marañon ang First Middle Blocker award samantalang Second Best Middle Blocker si Santiago.

Ang iba pang awardees ay sina Jovelyn Gonzaga ng RC Cola-Army bilang Best Opposite Spiker, Dawn Macandili bilang Best Libero at Fajardo bilang Best Setter.

Itinanghal na Most Valuable Player si Macandili na tunay na nagpamalas ng husay sa pagmando ng depensa ng Cargo Movers sa buong season.

18 August 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A19

Not all that glitters is gold

Filipino weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz received a personal message from the President for finishing second.

RIO DE JANEIRO—As Manu Ginobili walked off the basketball court, a legion of Argentina fans crowded around the tunnel where players exit.

"Ole, ole, ole, ole! Manuuuu! Manuuuuu!"

Ginobili slapped hands and waved to a crowd that could not have been more delighted. And it came after a 19-point loss to Spain in group play. The 39-year-old Ginobili soaked in the admiration, just like he's soaking in his fourth Olympics. And it underscores that for so many athletes in Rio de Janeiro, the "go gold or go home" mantra couldn't be further from the truth.

"My main goal is to enjoy the experience one more time," Ginobili said. "I had a blast in the last three editions. I'm older now so I value things a little differ-

ently. I came here to play my best basketball possible, help my team, but enjoy the daily experience of being in the Olympics."

Michael Phelps, Usain Bolt and the Olympics' biggest stars are hailed back home for all of the gold hanging around their necks. For the vast majority of athletes competing, and their home countries who sit on the edge of their sofas watching from afar, merely getting to the podium is more than just good enough. It's cause for a national holiday.

Olaf Tufte and Kjetil Borch popped the bubbly and feasted on cake with red and blue icing while Norwegian newspapers hailed them as heroes for their bronze medal in rowing. Filipino weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz received a personal message from the President—and nearly \$53,000—for finishing second and celebrations broke out in towns across Colombia during boxer Yuberjen Martinez's unexpected run to the silver medal.

Heck, when Joseph Schooling defeated Michael Phelps in a heat of the 100-meter butterfly, his native Singapore celebrated as if he had won the gold medal—before he ACTUALLY won the gold medal.

Throughout the tennis tournament, the loudest cheers came for Juan Martin del Potro, never more so than when he fell short against Andy

Murray in the gold medal match. When it was all over, you never would have known from Del Potro—or the boisterous Argentine fans in the stands—that he had lost.

"Now I've got the silver medal, which means gold for me," said Del Potro, who won bronze at the 2012 Olympics. "I cannot believe I will bring another medal (home) for my country."

There were big celebrations in Chigorodo and Turbo, two towns near the Panama border that have been plagued by guerrilla and drug-trafficking violence, after Martinez beat Joahnys Argilagos of Cuba in the semifinals of the 49-kilogram division.

Ginobili knows the chances of a magical run to gold in Rio are small. His team shocked the world once when they won the title in 2004 and sparked a renewed commitment to international play from the mighty United States.

This time around, it's about enjoying the ride. Sometimes, for the athletes competing and the fans who love them, that is more than enough.

"I feel very fortunate to be here at 39 (years old)," Ginobili said. "At the same time we're playing well, we made it to the quarterfinals, it's not a given, and we're going to try and play our best basketball possible, no matter who we play." **AP**

18 August 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A19



HIDILYN Diaz is all smiles during a press conference in Makati City.

ARNOLD ALMACEN

41

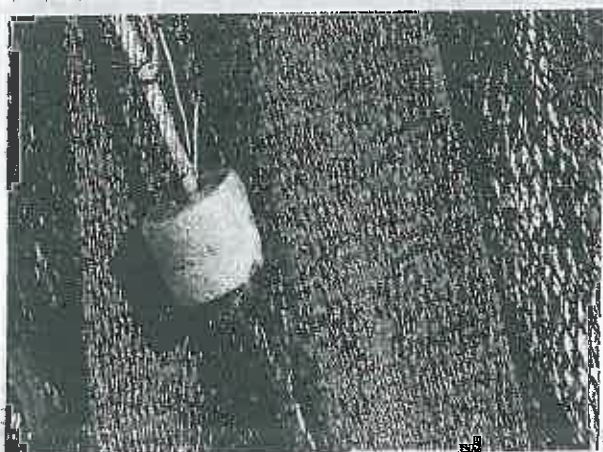
ONLINE NEWS

18 AUGUST 2016

<http://www.philstar.com/>

Indonesian flees Abu Sayyaf captors, found trapped in fishnet

(Associated Press) | Updated August 17, 2016 - 3.04pm



An Indonesian was rescued by local residents in southern Philippines who found him floating and trapped in fishnets along the shoreline. CC/Sherry Genovai-Simons, stock

MANILA, Philippines — An Indonesian sailor escaped Wednesday from his Abu Sayyaf abductors in Sulu after they threatened to behead him, officials said.

Sixteen other foreign hostages, including nine Indonesians, remain captives of the violent Muslim extremist group in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Maj. Filemon Tan, a regional military spokesman, said Mohammad Sayfan, 28, escaped in a mangrove area in the southern province of Sulu after he was threatened with beheading. He was rescued by local residents who found him floating and trapped in fishnets along the shoreline.

Sayfan was one of seven crew members abducted from a tugboat near the Philippine border in June.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed in May to carry out coordinated patrols. The three are concerned the kidnappings, piracy and other crime could undermine commerce in the region.

A total of 24 Indonesian have been kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf this year, highlighting weak security in the Celebes Sea that borders Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Ten of the hostages were freed after ransoms were reportedly paid.

The Philippines says it has stepped up a military offensive against the militants, who earlier this year beheaded two Canadians it had held since September.

Tan said that besides the Indonesians, five Malaysians, one Norwegian, a Dutchman, and at least five Filipino hostages are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Washington and Manila list the Abu Sayyaf, which has more than 400 armed fighters, as a terrorist organization.

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Indonesian sailor escapes from Abu Sayyaf captors

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated August 17, 2016 - 1:44pm



Reflected sunlight forms a silvery mirror on the surface of the Sulu Sea in this Terra MODIS image acquired on April 6, 2004. NASA/Jeff Schmaltz

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines -- An Indonesian kidnap victim escaped Wednesday morning from his Abu Sayyaf captors who were planning to behead him in a mangrove in Luuk town in Sulu, a military official said. Mohammad Sofyan was found about 7:30 a.m. along the shore of Barangay Bual in Luuk, according to Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom). Tan said Sofyan disclosed that the Abu Sayyaf group declared that they would execute him, prompting him to try to escape in the mangroves between the areas of barangays Bual and Bato-Itum. He said that residents saw Sofyan near the shore trapped among fishnets. They immediately brought him to the municipal police station in Luuk. Tan said Sofyan was later brought to the Sulu Provincial Police Office for processing and documentation before he will be sent home to his family. Sofyan, 26, was among the seven crew members of a tugboat that an Abu Sayyaf-linked kidnapping group seized in the Sulu Sea on June 23. The tugboat, which was towing a barge, was sailing to Indonesia from the Philippines. Sofyan's companions ship captain Feri Arifin, Muhammad Mahbrur Dahri, Edy Suryono, Ismail, Robin Peter and Muhammad Nasir are still in Abu Sayyaf custody. The military identified those responsible in the abduction as the Tawi-Tawi-based Muktdil Brothers. The group kidnaps crews and transfers their victims to the Abu Sayyaf group. According to reports on the ground, the Abu Sayyaf demanded a ransom of 20 million Indonesian Ringgit, around P70,000, for the release of the Indonesian hostages. Tan said troops from Joint Task Force Sulu are scouring the area to track down the remaining hostages and rescue them.


43

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NAT'L BUDGET | AFP, PNP to receive significant increase in the 2017 proposed budget

Marycel Necio Batara



QUEZON CITY — The security forces of the country such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) will get higher budget according to the proposal made by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submitted to the House of Representatives Monday morning.

From the 3.36-T pesos proposed budget, the AFP will receive a total of P130.6 billion, 15 percent higher compared to the previous budget— to intensify security efforts in the Philippine islands and conduct counter-terrorism operations against lawless elements. The increased budget will also contribute to the organization's vision by 2028: to be 'a world-class armed forces, and a source of national pride.'

The PNP, which has been the AFP's partner on security development will also get an increase of P110.4 billion, hiked by 24.6 percent compared in 2016. The increase will be used to purchase more patrol vehicles, to finance more policemen, buy additional guns, and to address other crime and drug-related activities— in line with Duterte administration's drive against illegal drugs and criminality.

Meanwhile, the budget department assured that the 2017 national budget follows the ruling of the Supreme Court on Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), and it includes none in the entire proposal. However, budget secretary Benjamin Diokno said congressmen may request financial assistance to certain heads of agencies to fund their projects

24

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retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

President Duterte gives Php250,000 to families of gov't troops killed in anti-drug operation

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 17)

President Rodrigo Duterte promised on Wednesday to give Php250,000 each to the families of the three Philippine Navy personnel killed in the anti-illegal drug operations in North Cotabato three days ago.

President Duterte made the announcement during his visit at the wake of one of the victims, Navy Petty Officer 3 Darwin Espallardo, at the Bay 116 Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

"We are helping the family's expenses and everything and they will get from my social fund Php250,000. I will deliver the money in about a week," the President said in a press briefing.

President Duterte also assured that the government will shoulder the schooling of the children of the victims.

Espallardo, Corporal Jose Miravalles, and Private 1st Class Jaypee Duran were killed while five others were wounded in a firefight that erupted while the joint government forces were serving warrants of arrest Commander Madrox in Midsayap town, North Cotabato.

Madrox, known as Moks Masgal, is wanted for heinous crimes offenses and shabu distribution.

Four of Madrox followers were also killed in the operations.

President Duterte vowed to continue his fight against illegal drugs until the last day of his term as President.

45

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PAF to give Rio silver medalist Diaz a heroes' welcome

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Aug. 17 (PNA) — For winning the country's first Olympic silver medal in 20 years, A2WC Hidilyn F. Diaz will be given a heroes' welcome and promoted one rank higher Thursday morning.

This will take place at the Philippine Air Force (PAF) Gymnasium, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, said PAF spokesman Col. Araus Robert Musico.

"It's the PAF way of recognizing her (Diaz's) achievement," he added.

Diaz will also be pinned the chevrons of her new rank of A1WC which is the PAF's way of recognizing her achievement.

Before the donning of chevrons, Diaz, in a motorcade, will tour around Villamor Air Base, and thereafter the Olympian will make a short call to PAF commander Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina who is expected to give some tokens to the silver medalist.

"(It's a simple welcome effort) back after her outstanding display of athletic skill (at the Rio Olympic Games)," Musico said.

The 25-year-old Diaz, a native of Zamboanga City, won her silver medal in the women's 58kg class event which won by Chinese Hsu Shu-ching of Chinese Taipei via a record-breaking fashion.

In the snatch event, she tallied 88 kg but recovered in the clean and jerk lift, successfully lifting a 112 kg lift in her second attempt, for a total of 200 kg, against Hsu.

Her silver medal won Sunday (Brazil time) was the Philippines' first Olympic medal in 20 years and the first ever for a Filipina.

The last time the Philippines won a medal in the Olympics was in 1996 when Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco competed in the light-flyweight category in boxing in the Atlanta Olympic Games. (PNA) LGI/PFN

46

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

Joma Sison 'reaffirms' friendship with Duterte

Kristine Angeli Sabillo



Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison and President Rodrigo Duterte. FILE PHOTOS

After trading barbs with President Rodrigo Duterte over the New People's Army (NPA), Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison on Wednesday said the two of them are still good friends. The statement of Sison, who is also chief political consultant of the CPP's political arm—National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), comes after the release of consultants involved in the peace talks and Duterte's meeting with NDFP peace panel members.

"Once more I am grateful to President Duterte for his acts of goodwill to move forward the peace negotiations between his government and the NDFP," Sison, who is based in the Netherlands, said in social media post.

"He (Duterte) has made possible the release of the JASIG (Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees)-protected NDFP consultants from prison and has graciously met the NDFP lawyers and consultants together with his negotiators and other officials," he said.

Duterte once called Sison "arrogant" while Sison, who was the President's former teacher, said Duterte acted like a "hoodlum (butangero)" after he demanded that the CPP declare a ceasefire.

During his first State of the Nation Address (Sona), Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire. However, the CPP failed to issue a reciprocal ceasefire in time for the President's deadline.

"Despite a previous glitch in our communications, President Duterte and I remain good friends," Sison said in his recent statement. "Our friendship has a strong basis in longstanding cooperation and in a common desire to serve the national and democratic rights and best interests of the Filipino people."

He explained that the two of them "have plenty of mutual friends" who help "maintain" their friendship.

"We are both inspired by the principles and objectives of Kabataang Makabayan and driven by the patriotic desire to continue the unfinished revolution of Andres Bonifacio," he said. "BAYAN and the producers of the film TIBAK (Kabataang Makabayan) have notified us of the plan to give us the Gawad Supremo soon in honor of Bonifacio."

Sison said that he and Duterte will be "in touch with each other" during the formal peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

"We intend to perform our respective parts in order to make the talks successful and beneficial to our people," he said. **RAM**

47