

Army Vision: By 2048, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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06 December 2016

Tuesday

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

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06 DECEMBER 2016



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NEWS/ISS
GUILTY BY PHOTOS
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WHAT

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LENI: IT'S TIME FOR COURAGE

Robredo says differences with Duterte over Marcos buried led to his ouster

17 moves to fight census of divorcee who wants to plot to 'lead revolution'

Now out of administration, Robredo emerges as leader of political opposition

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SS MARCOS
REBUKES SLAY
13/11/16

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It's Leni plotting Duterte's ouster

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5 Famas awards for 'Pinoy Manito'

5th triple-double for Westbrook

Robredo vows to oppose Duterte's detrimental policies

Finally, De Lima confronts Davan

Kerwin's drug supplier surrenders

Arroyo firm on stand vs death penalty

Modi making a wreck of Asia's head of industry



The Manila Times

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'Rody no longer trusts Leni'

Duterte accepts Robredo resignation

Robredo vows to oppose Duterte's detrimental policies

Finally, De Lima confronts Davan

Kerwin's drug supplier surrenders

Arroyo firm on stand vs death penalty

Modi making a wreck of Asia's head of industry



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Cabinet dissenters free to quit — Palace

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Palace: Duterte's policies are the only way forward

Palace: Duterte's policies are the only way forward

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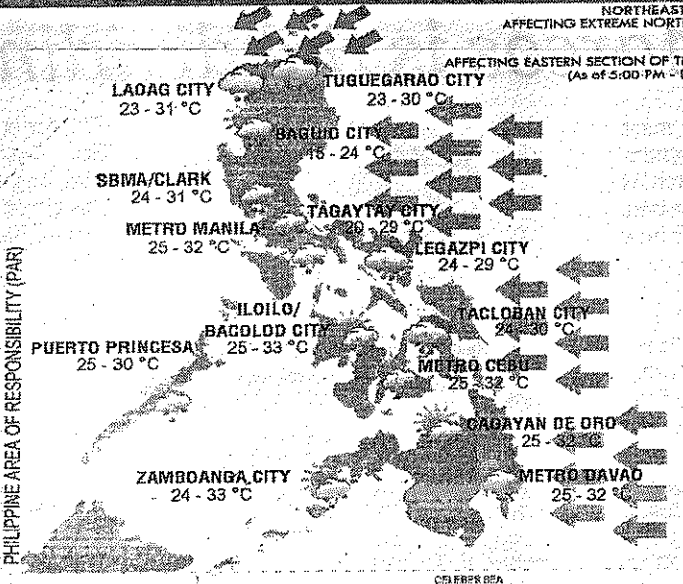







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 6, 2016 | TUESDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


CENEPRA SEA

NORTHEAST MONSOON
AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON




EASTERLIES
AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
(As of 5:00 PM - Dec. 5, 2016)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:08 AM	5:26 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:12 AM	11:13 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST-QUARTER
NOV 29 8:16 PM	DEC 7 5:03 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
9:52 AM -0.07 Meter	1:00 AM 0.97 Meter

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rains

DEC 7		DEC 8		DEC 7		DEC 8		DEC 7		DEC 8	
METRO MANILA	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 28 °C	20 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 29 °C	24 - 31 °C			
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 29 °C	23 - 28 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 30 °C	25 - 28 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C			
LADAG	22 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C			
BAGUIO	14 - 23 °C	14 - 22 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C			
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	 SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!					

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09 December 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

Duterte accepts resignation of Leni with 'heavy heart'

FROM A1

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

With a "heavy heart," President Duterte on Monday accepted the resignation of Vice President Leni Robredo as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), according to Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar.

"It is our duty to defend the dignity and integrity of the Filipino people. If Cabinet members cannot agree with the President's policy, they are free to resign," Andanar quoted the President as saying.

The President named Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr. to replace Robredo as chair of HUDCC, the highest policy-making body for housing.

Robredo submitted on Monday her formal resignation letter as HUDCC head. Her decision came amid a political storm over Mr. Duterte's decision to allow the burial of dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani and a bloody crackdown on illegal drugs that has alarmed Western governments and human rights watchdogs.

Last straw

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The Vice President cited her opposition to the Marcos burial,



NEW HOUSING CZAR President Duterte has appointed Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr. as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council following Vice President Leni Robredo's resignation from the post. MALACANANG PHOTO

the drug killings, the President's plan to reimpose the death penalty, and "sexual attacks against women" among the issues she differed with Mr. Duterte.

The last straw, Robredo said, was when she was notified on Sunday by Evasco, through a text message, about the President's order for her "to desist from attending all Cabinet meetings" starting yesterday.

Evasco said the President

decided to bar her from the meetings because of her "irreconcilable differences" with the administration.

He pointed out that it was the President's prerogative to choose members of his Cabinet and the authority "to withdraw the same for reasons known only to him."

As members of his official family, Evasco said, Cabinet members understood they should toe the line and support

5285, 5295

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the President's programs, platforms and policies.

"It is important that while one is a member of the Cabinet to express one's views discreetly and not be adversarial publicly," he said.

In her statement announcing her resignation, Robredo said she "will not allow the vice presidency to be stolen. I will not allow the will of the people to be thwarted."

She did not provide details about the alleged plot to remove her from the vice presidency, but her electoral victory has been questioned by her closest rival in the race, former Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son of the late strongman.

Robredo said she had chosen to ignore warnings "of a plot to steal the vice presidency" and instead tried to focus on her work.

"But the events of recent days indicate that this plot is now being set into motion," she said.

LP out of supermajority

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez denied on Monday that the Duterte administration was starting to push Robredo out of her seat as her resignation from the Cabinet sparked a call for the Liberal Party to break away from the House's supermajority.

"With the huge problems our country faces, is the President really going to exert effort on that?" he said.

But Alvarez praised Robredo because she resigned on her own. He said it would be "too awkward" if Robredo, as an alter ego of the President, would voice out her opposition "every time the President says something."

He also said Mr. Duterte was being courteous enough. "If you no longer trust your girlfriend, break up with her. Why put it up with her?" he said.

"If he were male, I think the President would actually kick him out. But of course, she's a woman and the President was just being courteous," he added.

Andanar said he was clueless about the decision of Mr. Duterte to exclude Robredo from the Cabinet meetings. He said he did not expect her to leave the administration as housing czar this soon.

"It's sad that it had to end this way," he told the Inquirer in a chance interview in Malacañang.

Fr. Jerome Secillano, executive secretary of the Permanent Committee on Public Affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said resigning was the best thing for Robredo to do "if she feels unwanted in the Cabinet."

"Better for her to just concentrate on helping the poor using her position as Vice President," Secillano said. —WITH REPORTS FROM VINCE F. NONATO, JULIE M. AURELIO AND AP INQ

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Leni: It's time for courage

FROM A1

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Vice President Leni Robredo on Monday urged the nation to be vigilant and resist any attempts to bring the Philippines back under dictatorship after resigning from the Cabinet of President Duterte.

Robredo resigned as housing secretary, but she will stay on as Vice President.

"This is not a time for fear. It is a time for conviction. It is a time for courage," she said in a televised address to the nation.

Robredo was the second high official to quit Mr. Duterte's administration. Last week, Maria Serena Diokno quit as chair of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines over Mr. Duterte's decision to allow the burial of dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Robredo openly opposed the burial, but also criticized Mr. Duterte's brutal war on illegal drugs and his crude remarks about women.

In her resignation letter sent to Malacañang on Monday

morning, Robredo told Mr. Duterte that she "exerted all effort to put aside our differences, maintain a professional working relationship and work effectively despite the constraints."

But she said Mr. Duterte's order banning her from Cabinet meetings had made it impossible for her to do her job at the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

After her address to the nation, Robredo faced a news conference to say she believed she was pushed out of the Cabinet not because of her performance as housing secretary but because of her opposition to Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery and because there were people around Mr. Duterte who did not want her in the vice presidency.

But she assured her supporters that she would not allow anyone to "steal the vice presidency."

She suggested that the Duterte administration may be supporting former Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., her closest opponent in May's vice presidential election who has challenged her victory in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.



VIGILANCE CALL Vice President Leni Robredo exhorts the people to oppose plans to bring back dictatorship. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Marcos is the son and namesake of the late dictator, whose family supported Mr. Duterte's campaign for Malacañang.

Robredo actively joined the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution that toppled the dictator from power.

"We have fought this battle before and won," she said. "We will never let anyone revise our history and twist it to turn evil into good."

Lawmakers in the House of Representatives spoke on Monday about Robredo taking on a new role as leader of the politi-

cal opposition.

Asked if she was ready for that role, Robredo said: "My opposition to the reimposition of the death penalty will be stronger, my opposition to the lowering of the age of criminal liability would stay the same. I will be vocal against the extrajudicial killings and the ill treatment of women. But to me, I still believe that the success of this administration is also for our country, that is why we will still support policies we agree with," she said. —WITH AN AP REPORT INQ

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Robredo sees Marcos factor

Ultimate goal: Oust VP – Leni

By HELEN FLORES

Cabinet officials supporting former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. may have plotted her removal as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Vice President Leni Robredo said yesterday.

A day after being told through text message not to attend Cabinet meetings, Robredo yesterday tendered her resignation as HUDCC chair, saying remaining in President Duterte's Cabinet had become "untenable."

"There are members of the Cabinet who don't want me there, but Bongbong Marcos instead," she said, referring to Marcos by his nickname.

"Bongbong joined the President in China, and he was introduced as vice president. But I endured all of these," she said in a press conference. "They are trying to ease me out. There's no longer sense (for me to stay in the Cabinet)."

She hedged when asked if she would lead the opposition, saying she would continue to support government projects that "still deserve support."

"It depends on how you will define the opposition," she told reporters, even as she vowed to strongly oppose policies "that I think are detrimental" to the people.

On Sunday, Robredo said she had been warned about a plot to "steal" the vice presidency from her.

She said she decided to quit after receiving a text message

Turn to Page 6

from Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr. on Saturday, telling her to stop attending Cabinet meetings on Duterte's instructions.

"It's part of the plot. No one knew about it except for my children and some of my staff. Even my mother was not aware about it. But there were tweets from Bongbong Marcos' group saying goodbye to me. It only confirms what we've been warned about," she said.

Robredo urged the public to remain vigilant and "not to allow the return of dictatorship."

"My appeal to the Filipino people – let's not allow the vice presidency to be stolen," she said, stressing that the mandate was given to her by the people and not by President Duterte.

Robredo recalled that as early as Friday, her chief-of-staff Boyet Dy had already received a call from Evasco telling him that the Vice President is barred from attending Cabinet meetings "until further notice."

She said she had thought she could still attend Cabinet meetings until Malacañang made the statement official.

The Vice President said she was told by Evasco in a text mes-

sage not to attend the Cabinet meetings "so as not to aggravate the situation." It was not clear what "situation" he was talking about.

Robredo said she sent four text messages to Presidential Management Staff chief Bong Go to confirm the President's order but he did not reply.

She said she had no direct line to the President and had relayed all her messages to Go.

"I waited for a confirmation from the President through Bong Go until we discussed what to do. If I'm not allowed to attend (Cabinet meetings), I think I'm being fired," she said.

Robredo said she does not believe Malacañang's statement that "irreconcilable differences" between her and Duterte was the reason behind his decision to ban her from Cabinet meetings.

"I think it's not policy differences. We saw the statements of Communications Sec. Martin Andanar and presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, that they recognized the good things I did with housing. I don't think even the President or anyone in the Cabinet could say that I failed as HUDCC chair," the Vice President said, noting that

she even spent her Sundays working at HUDCC.

Marcos burial issue

She said her strong statement against the burial of Marcos' father, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani could also be one of the reasons for her ouster.

Robredo said it was hard for her to leave HUDCC, especially after discovering the extent of the housing problem in the country.

She said she would continue to work to provide low-cost but decent houses to poor Filipinos.

"It's not because I'm no longer with HUDCC I will no longer work to address housing problems," she said.

Robredo said socialized housing would be one of the advocacies of the Office of the Vice President.

In her resignation letter yesterday, Robredo stressed that she has exerted all effort to put aside their differences and maintain a professional working relationship with Duterte.

"However, your directive for me to 'desist from attending all Cabinet meetings' has effectively made it impossible for me to do my job. Remaining in your Cabinet has become untenable," Robredo told the President in her letter.

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Hours after filing her resignation letter, the Office of the Vice President reported the major accomplishments made by the HUDCC under Robredo's five-month leadership, including streamlining the application process for socialized housing.

Under Robredo, the Social Housing Finance Corp. (SHFC), one of the agencies under HUDCC, issued new guidelines, allowing communities and homeowners' associations to avail themselves of its high-density housing and the community mortgage program with only nine documents from the previous 27, the OVP statement said.

The OVP said the reduced documentary requirements also cut the cost on the part of community associations by as much as P117,000.

It said the National Housing Authority (NHA) has also shortened the period of processing the certificates of tax exemption for transfers of raw land intended for urgent socialized housing projects from one year to six months.

HUDCC was also able to provide low-cost housing for at least 46,000 families as of Sept. 31, it said.

The OVP said Robredo also worked to fast-track the con-

struction of permanent houses for the victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda.

It said at least 17,000 more homes are expected to be built once the implementing rules and regulations for the Urban Development and Housing Act (RA 7279) are signed this month.

In July, Duterte called the Vice President while on a live broadcast over government station PTV-4, to ask her if she would like to head the HUDCC.

Duterte used the phone of Presidential Management Staff head Christopher "Bong" Go to call the Vice President.

"*Pwede ba housing, Ma'am* (Is housing OK with you)? Can you be the housing secretary? *Tanggapin mo, ma'am* (Will you accept?)" the President asked Robredo.

"The executive secretary will hand you the appointment."

Robredo accepted the post during their phone conversation.

In a statement, she also noted that addressing the housing shortage had been an advocacy of her late husband, former interior secretary Jesse Robredo.

HUDCC was among the agencies covered by Duterte's first executive order, which reorganized several offices to streamline poverty reduction programs of the government.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, meanwhile, expressed her support for Robredo's decision to quit the Cabinet.

"If she feels in her heart that she can no longer carry out the duties as the HUDCC chair, given the environment she is working in, and that this is the best way that she can serve the people, by resigning from her post and acting independently of the administration, I support her," Belmonte said in an ambush interview.

Belmonte said she also respects the prerogative of President Duterte to pick or remove members of his Cabinet.

She added she hopes Robredo's vice presidency would not be challenged anymore and that reports of an ouster ploy were just hearsay.

"I trust the electoral process and I believe she is the duly elected vice president."

Belmonte also denied insinuations by some groups that the Liberal Party was plotting Duterte's ouster.

The LP, she stressed, is committed to supporting the Duterte administration. "All moves of political parties should be towards reconciliation, not divisiveness. That's my appeal to the nation," the vice mayor said. – **With Romina Cabrera**

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December 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Pursuit of Maute Group relentless – Army

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY (PNA) – The pursuit of the Maute Group will continue even after the terrorist elements were already driven out of Butig, Lanao del Sur which they held under siege for two weeks, a top military official said Monday.

Maj. Gen. Harold Cabrereros, Philippine Army (PA) vice commander, did not give a time frame under which the military aims to wipe out the terrorist group but said the Armed Forces of the Maute group after several days of constant attacks and bombardment by the military last week, leaving part of the town in rubble because of mortar fire.

More than 2,000 families fled their homes following the series of fighting between the terrorists and the government troopers.

Cabrereros said that the PA would lend a hand in the reconstruction of the destroyed structures if needed.

The vice commander visited the

the Philippines was “working hard to ensure that the Maute Group would no longer be a threat to the communities in the area.”

“We cannot just predict it, but based on the success of our operations, surely our troops can get the group anytime,” Cabrereros said.

He said that the government troopers from the Army's First Infantry Division are continuously pursuing the local terrorists.

Butig was freed from the control of Fourth Infantry Division headquarters at Camp Edilberto Evangelista in Barangay Patag as guest of honor of the graduation of 248 soldiers here.

The newly graduate trainees would be deployed to the division's battalions all over Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions.

While there is no shortage of troops, Cabrereros said the PA needs more soldiers to fill up the vacancies for those who have retired or have been discharged from duty.

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Team Army shines in ARMM

THE Philippine Army Team competing in the ongoing Asean Armies Rifle Meet (ARMM) 2016 being held at the Camp O' Donnell military camp in Tarlac has now bagged a total of 21 medals after five days of intense competition with fellow soldiers from the Asean region.

Captain Alberto Caber, spokesperson of the Training and Doctrine Command (Tradoc) of the Philippine Army, said the local team has now hauled in a total of

6 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 9 bronze medals in the rifle and pistol event competitions.

Task Force AARM Commander Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino, also the chief of Tradoc, said the annual event is all about friendship and unity among armies of ASEAN countries.

He noted the competition also highlighted the quality of Philippine-made firearms as Team Army are using lo-

cally-made products.

The competition, participated in by all the armies comprising the 10-member nations from Southeast Asia, would have its culminating event on December 7, with next year's competition to be held in Singapore.

Aquino added Team Army's performance is "far better" and "beyond expectation" compared to their participation during last year's competition held in Thailand.

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PH army shines with 21 medals in ASEAN meet

TEAM Philippines continued its fine form in the ASEAN Armies shooting tournament at the Camp O' Donnell military camp in Tarlac.

After five days of intense action, the PH army has won 21 medals, made up of six golds, six silvers and nine bronzes as they held their own against counterparts from other ASEAN countries.

Captain Alberto Caber, spokesperson of the Training and Doctrine Command (Tradoc) of the Philippine Army, said he's confident the local team will win more medals in the meet.

Task Force AARM
Commander Brig. Gen.

Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino, also the chief of Tradoc, said the annual event is all about friendship and unity among armies of ASEAN countries.

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Army is using locally-made products.

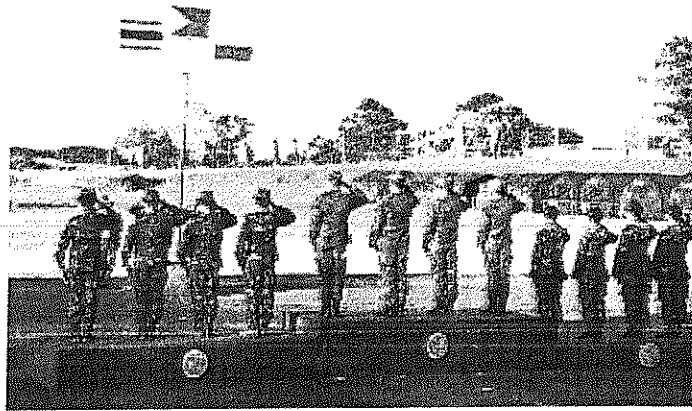
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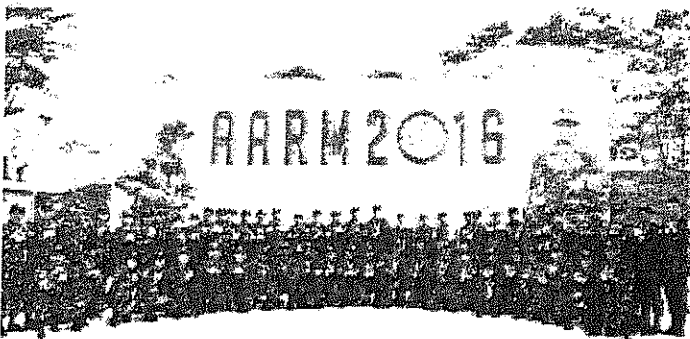
ASEAN ARMIES RIFLE MEET | Phil Army Shooters Win Twenty One Medals at Day 5

By: [Jenny Lu](#), [Claudio](#) | [Last Updated: 12/05/2016 12:00 PM](#)



CAPAS, Tarlac – At least six (6) gold, six (6) silver and nine (9) bronze medals were proudly received by the Philippine Army shooting team on the 5th daily awarding ceremonies held at the ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) Grandstand today December 5, 2016. It can be recalled that the AARM 2016 was opened on November 28, 2016, in Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac which will culminate on December 7, 2016.

The three (3) gold medals were earned in rifle, two (2) from Carbine, and one (1) from Pistol (Men) event competitions. Three (3) silver medals were earned in Carbine, two (2) from Pistol (Men) events, and one (1) from rifle event competitions. Nine (9) bronze medals were earned in Pistol (Men), 4; Pistol (Ladies), 2; Machine Gun, 1; Carbine, 1; and Rifle event competitions



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Task Force AARM Commander Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino said that this annual event is all about friendship and unity among armies of ASEAN countries. "Our Philippine Army shooters are using locally made firearms. At the end of this event, we are all winners here as this event strengthens bilateral relations among ASEAN armies, develop capabilities, and contribute to regional stability", BGen. Aquino said

BGen. Aquino is the current Commander of the Philippine Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Army brigade for Panay, Guimaras gets new commander

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 5): Army brigade for Panay, Guimaras gets new commander

Colonel Pio Q. Diñoso assumed as the new commander of the 301st Infantry (Bayanihan) Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) of the Philippine Army (PA) in a change of command ceremony held at the Camp Hernandez in Dingle, Iloilo on Monday.

Diñoso succeeded General Eric Uchida who will take his post as assistant deputy chief of staff for education and training of the Philippine Army.

General Jon N. Aying, commander of the 3ID, officiated the change of command ceremony.

Diñoso, in his speech, assured that there will be no drastic changes in plans and policies of the brigade.

"I will continue what my predecessor started, what the plans have crafted, everything will be the same," he said.

He also assured to become an obedient subordinate to local officials in Panay and Guimaras and to "support them in their quest for peace, progress and development".

Prior to his current designation, Col. Diñoso served as the assistant chief of staff of the logistics of the Philippine Army. He served as executive officer of the 303rd Infantry Brigade in Negros Occidental and battalion commander of the 79th Infantry Battalion in Negros Oriental.

Uchida committed to continue in keeping the peace and security of the people and the communities in the region.

He cited that his greatest achievement was when the brigade, including the units under his operations supervision, did not incur even a single fatality in their battles.

Commander Aying lauded the two military officers for their achievements in their former posts and wished them good luck as they serve in their higher positions.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=945814>

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

www.dwdd.com.ph

WONDERFUL JOURNEY | CSAFP visits 4ID, days before retirement

By: [Lui Claudio](#) | [Dewey](#)



CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan de Oro City– General Ricardo R Visaya, Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines visited the 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division at 11am today, December 5, 2016.

Days before his retirement on Dec 7, 2016. Gen Visaya bade farewell to the troops of 4ID, which he commanded in 2013-2014 and where he was assigned as a young lieutenant back in 1983.

During his stint as the Commander of 4ID, he was able to steer the whole Division to greater heights. He was able to manage the conflict situations in regions 10&13 that led to the surrender of more than 300 members of the New People's Army that was witnessed in four "Pagbabalik-loob programs".

Gen Visaya recalled during his speech his wonderful journey in his Military career that started in 4ID. He said, "I would like to thank the 4ID for being part of my big success in the Military service. This is where I started my career as a young lieutenant and got a chance to be awarded as the junior officer of the year back in 1985. I was again given the opportunity to lead the division in 2013 as its 38th Commander. During that time, I could clearly recall that we have contributed to the peace and stability of the two regions and was able to encourage every diamond trooper to do their part and contribute to the attainment of just and lasting peace in this part of the country. Once again, thank you and carry on!"

Gen Visaya, a proud member of the PMA Matikas class of 1983, will be turning over his Command on December 7, 2016, before reaching the mandatory age of retirement of 56 on the 8th day of this month.

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www.inquirer.net

After Army kicks Maute out, it can't say when group will die

By: Jigger J. Jerusalem - [@inquirerdotnet](https://twitter.com/inquirerdotnet)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 12:19 AM December 05, 2016



The fight to extract members of the Maute Group in Butig town, Lanao del Sur province, brought soldiers, like this trooper patrolling a village in Marawi City, on a hunt to annihilate the rest of the terror group. —RICHEL V. UMEL

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— The relentless assault by government forces may have driven the Maute Group out of Butig, Lanao del Sur, but the military is uncertain if the group had been neutralized, according to a ranking armed forces official.

Maj. Gen. Harold Cabrereros, vice commander of the Philippine Army, said he could not give a time frame for the complete annihilation of Maute Group but said the military is exerting extra effort to make sure that the group, which had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (IS), is no longer a threat to communities in Lanao del Sur.

He said the military "cannot just predict" when the Maute Group would be annihilated, "but based on the success of our operations, surely our troops can get the group anytime."

Soldiers from the Army's 1st Infantry Division continue to be in pursuit of members of the group.

Butig was freed from the control of the Maute Group after several days of attacks and bombardment by the military last week, but the offensives left parts of the town in ruin with houses and buildings shattered by mortars.

Thousands of residents have also fled their homes following the series of fighting between the terrorists and government troops.

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

Cabreros said the Army is ready to lend a hand in the reconstruction of the structures that had been destroyed.

Cabreros visited the 4th Infantry Division headquarters at Camp Edilberto Evangelista in Barangay Patag here as guest of honor in graduation rites for 248 new soldiers over the weekend.

The new soldiers would be deployed to the division's battalions in Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions.

While there is no shortage of soldiers, Cabreros said the Army needed more soldiers to fill vacancies for those who retired or had been discharged from duty.

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Sundalo todas sa panibagong engkwentro sa Lanao Sur

MULING sumiklab ang sagupaan sa pagitan ng militar at mga armadong grupo sa Butig, Lanao del Sur, bandang 11:39 kahapon ng umaga.

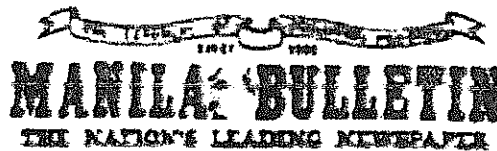
Ayon kay AFP spokesperson Maj. Felimon Tan, nagsasagawa ng combat operations ang tropa ng 1st Scout Ranger Company nang maka-engkwentro ang nasa 20 miyembro ng hinihinalang Lawless Terrorist Group (LTG).

Hindi pa tinukoy ng militar ang pagkakakilanlan ng nasawing sundalo.

Dahil sa sagupaan namatay ang isang sundalo na ngayon hindi pa isinasapubliko ang pangalan para sa kapakanan ng kanyang pamilya.

Una nang sinabi ng AFP na 100 percent ng nabawi ng militar ang buong Butig laban sa Maute terror group.

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Shortlist for new AFP chief now with Duterte

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

President Duterte already has a shortlist of candidates who will replace outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya when he retires on December 8.

Marine Col. Edgard A. Arevalo, chief of the AFP Public Affairs Office, however, said that he is in no position to divulge the names of the officials on the shortlist and will just have to wait for the president to make the announcement.

"There is still no formal announcement and we would have to wait who the President will choose as the next AFP Chief of Staff, so we are still waiting for that announcement," Arevalo said.

"There's already a shortlist but I'm not in a position to divulge the names but what I heard is that he is already studying the matter. In the soonest possible time, we will know it," he added.

When asked how many names are on the shortlist of candidates for the top AFP post, Arevalo said he has no idea.

"I don't know how many names are

in there. What they have confirmed to us is indeed there is already a shortlist and very soon we can announce that. We just don't get ahead of the president," Arevalo said.

"Every name on the list is qualified for the position but then again we always would like to give the president a free hand, we would like to give him ample choices of successors to choose from, or options to choose from," he added.

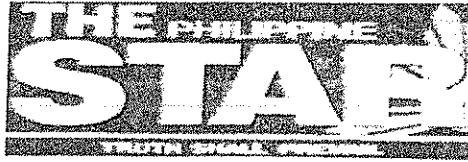
Visaya reaches the retirement age of 56 on Thursday, December 8, 2016

after 37 years of military service.

Visaya is a member of the PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983 that has thus produced three AFP Chiefs of Staff.

Prior to his ascent to the highest military post, Visaya held several key positions in the AFP. He was the former Brigade Commander of two prestigious Brigades – the 104th Brigade in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao Provinces and Basilan, and 901st Brigade in Bicol Region. He was also designated as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

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AFP to deploy more K-9 units in Butig

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The military will deploy more bomb-sniffing dogs to Butig in Lanao del Norte to help clear traps and improvised explosive devices (IED) left by the Maute group.

The K-9 units will speed up the clearing operation so residents can safely return home, according to Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office.

Arevalo said the town has been cleared of militants, but residents have not been allowed to return yet for their own safety.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military is working to put

life in Butig back to normal amid continuous operations against the Maute group.

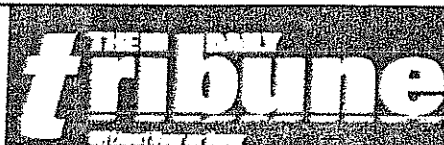
Padilla said farmers have complained that they work hard only for the Mautes to seize their produce during harvest time.

He said they wanted to speed up the clearing operation so residents could have their life back.

Padilla said the Mautes might have left some IED and traps, especially in areas where the clashes occurred. He said residents should be assured of their safety when they return home.

He said the troops are making sure the Maute group would no longer return to the area.

60 December 2016



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DU30 says no more concession to Reds



By Ted Tuvera

President Duterte said he had given his all to win peace with the communists and he won't give in to any of their demands anymore.

In a speech yesterday evening at the Palace, Duterte said that he is going to reject the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front's (CPP-NDF) apparent ultimatum to release hundreds of their detained comrades.

"It's too much. I cannot concede to

(the Left's) demand for me to release 130 plus political prisoners," the Chief Executive said.

Duterte said that the only time that he will order the freedom of all imprisoned left-wing partisans is if both the government and the Reds sign a final peace agreement.

"If you can show me a document signed by the Philippine government and these communists, then I will release the 130 plus more prisoners," he added.

The President, however, showed a

softer heart for the elderly political prisoners aged 70 and above.

The CPP, over the weekend, said it is not willing to go on with a unilateral ceasefire with state forces if their comrades will not be released, nor are they going to enter into a bilateral truce as previously promised by government negotiators.

In a separate statement by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, he pointed out that there

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

are actual government efforts to facilitate the release of political prisoners as promised earlier on by the Duterte government.

"Earnest efforts have been ongoing on the releases of prisoners. But necessary legal processes take a while as cases are within the jurisdiction of the judiciary, an independent and co-equal branch," Dureza said.

"We understand their angst and impatience but we are all forgetting that these efforts were never possible nor even imaginable in the previous times. It is only in the Duterte administration that these releases are all happening," he added.

Casefire not working

Mindanao groups said despite the unilateral ceasefire declared by the communist group and the government, the NPA continues to harass agricultural plantations in Mindanao.

Businessmen and agricultural stakeholders said rebels continue to extort money from companies in Mindanao, among them agricultural plantations, private contractors, quarrying operators, public market stallholders and small-time entrepreneurs. The amounts range from as low as P5,000 to as high as P5 million a month.

Some NPA groups allegedly ask "commission" ranging from five to 10 percent from private contractors doing multi-million peso projects for the government and private companies.

In some provinces of Mindanao, the extortionists even demand revolutionary taxes from barangay captains, municipal mayors and councilors. A number of politicians were also reportedly asked to settle unpaid permits to campaign (PTC), which became due during the elections last May.

The affected businessmen are asking themselves whether or not to pay. "If we pay, we will lose our shirts and would be forced to close shop; if we refuse to pay, our lives and that of our family members will be in danger," said a businessman in Toril, Davao City.

Among the hardest hit are banana plantations, big transportation companies operating passenger buses and contractors.

Just a few months ago, one banana company had to close its plantation in Surigao del Sur after losing a total of more than P20 million to the NPAs burning their equipment and packing plans since the start of its operation in 2010. The firm's decision resulted in worsening of joblessness in the area.

Dole-Stanfilco recently shutdown its plantation and packing plants in the northern part of Mindanao after the rebels torched container trucks early this year because the company refused to pay the revolutionary taxes.

Even Duterte acknowledged that the banana industry is hampered by the continuous harassment of lawless groups in Mindanao.

"The greatest challenge of the banana growers in the Philippines is really the law and order. Until and unless you can put together a country that's bereft of any revolutionary tax, extortion and everything. They burned our property, it's all because of the taxation. If it's not taxation of the communists, it's extortion of the roving bandits in Mindanao," Duterte said during the closing ceremonies of the 2016 Banana Congress held in Davao City last October.

Big banana plantations, have been seeking government support in fighting extortionists from the communist rebels who are demanding revolutionary taxes.

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DEFINING THE NEWS

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Military sets window hours for motorists

By Florante S. Solmerin

CAMP Aguinaldo will soon open its two gates to civilian motorists with the allowed window hours only to pass through to help ease off traffic on Edsa, camp commander Brig. Gen. Allan Martin said on Monday.

The camp, as an alternate route, had been requested by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Martin said they would be charging P500 per "route sticker" issued to both private and public vehicles for one year only.

The expiration of the sticker is on Dec. 31, 2017.

The ingress and egress are Gate 3 along Edsa and Gate 6 along Bonifacio Avenue.

Martin clarified the route sticker was different from the regular decal issued by the camp.

"Decal can pass through Gate 1 and they can go [to places allowed inside the] camp. The [route sticker] will be just a route from Gate 6 to Gate 3, and vice versa," he said.

Martin said motorists could pass through inside the camp from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. during Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For Tuesdays and Fridays, the window hours are 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Martin said the General Headquarters, Headquarters Support Command had been accepting and processing applications for stickers.

He said requirements were the vehicle's OR/CR, identification card and/or government ID, and original copy of clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation.

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Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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Camp Aguinaldo stickers ready Thursday

THE Armed Forces will start issuing on Thursday special stickers that will allow private motorists to pass through Camp Aguinaldo to ease traffic along Edsa. The permit is good for the whole of 2017.

Brig. Gen. Allan Martin, commander of the General Headquarters and Headquarters Support Command, said 300 motorists have already submitted their applications but only 30 applications have been so far approved.

"They may start passing (the camp) once they are given the sticker...It will be just a route from Gate 6 to Gate 3 (and vice versa). They cannot go around the camp," he said.

Gate 3 is located along Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. (Santolan Road), near Katipunan Ave., while Gate 6 is along Edsa near the Edsa

People Power Monument.

Martin said the special stickers allow motorists entry to the two gates from 5 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday.

Weekends are not covered, said Martin.

Martin said they have decided to extend the coverage period of the measure or until Dec. 31 next year on the request of motorists. The initial plan was that the stickers will be good during the Yuletide season until Jan. 15 next year only.

Martin said the stickers cost P500, the same amount charged to military personnel, civilian employees and their dependents for regular stickers that provides unlimited access to the camp.

– Victor Reyes

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AFP still in pursuit of retreating Maute Group

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) revealed that the manhunt operations versus the Maute Group is now concentrated on the forested areas in Lanao Del Sur.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard A. Arevalo said that government forces have already made interactions with residents in the area to enlist their support or cooperation in reporting to them if they see any movements coming from the bandits.

"Well pursuit operations are still ongoing on those who are still hiding, at the forested areas.

Secondly, we are waiting for approval on the recommendation to build a military installation or camp in Butig. We just know where the exact location will be," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said although the center of Butig is already 100 percent full control of the AFP, they are still not allowing the entry of civilians due to the possible presence of unexploded ordnance.

"That's the reason why we had to add K9 bomb sniffing dogs for us to find the unexploded ordnance more faster," said Arevalo.

Upon the recommendation of Army 103rd Brigade command

Col. Roseller Murillo, Arevalo said they are looking into the possibility of building a military camp or installation to prevent the Maute gunmen re-setting foot in Butig town.

The AFP earlier said a total of 61 Maute Group fighters were allegedly killed while 12 others were wounded since fighting broke out between them and government troops more than a week ago.

He added that 35 soldiers were hurt as a result of the clashes.

The group was allegedly behind the Davao City night market bombing last September 2, when 15 died and around 70 were hurt.

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WHAT WOULD PUT CLOSURE TO ANTI-MARCOS HATRED

It is pathetic that some clowns are now eyeing to petition the Supreme Court to order the exhumation of Ferdinand Marcos' remains. That, after the anti-Marcos detractors sat on their a—s (*natulog sa pansitan*) and only woke up when the Marcos burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani was already in progress. That, after their lawyers—fairly seasoned in their own right—had apparently thought the burial could not legally proceed before the 15-day period granted for the filing of a motion for reconsideration (MR) shall have lapsed.

As it turned out, that notion was wrong. Sheer common sense simply dictates it is not so much the grace period as the actual filing and pendency of an MR that makes a court ruling not yet final and executory.

On the other hand, methinks the anti-Marcos lawyers knew all along it was next to impossible to reverse the Court's 9-5 vote against them. And so, maybe—but just maybe—they had intended to file the MR very close to or precisely on the 15th day. Indeed, given the extra days for the Court to rule on the

issue with finality, they could have gained more time to conduct as many left-and-right indignation rallies as possible before the final ruling could be handed down. That, for me, was wanting to have their cake and eat it, too. Unfortunately, that strategy gave them less cake than they desired.

That said, I do not mean to worsen any further the anger and pain now seething in the hearts of the frustrated millions of Filipinos. Truth to tell, the Marcos burial is not—no, it will never be—a closure to this country's age-old political divisiveness. Not unless true justice is given to the thousands of Filipinos who were killed or tortured by the Marcos regime. And the kind of justice I have in mind is not merely for the surviving Marcoses to kneel down and apologize for the strongman's sins; neither is it for his remains to be buried in Ilocos or in less hallowed grounds.

Let me call a spade a spade: This age-old issue against Marcos is essentially driven by money. Proof is, former president Fidel V. Ramos has never been part of the anti-Marcos hatred, although as then chief of the Philippine Constabulary he

was the one directly responsible for all of the martial law atrocities. What, indeed, could the martial law victims gain in including Ramos who, unlike Marcos, is not known to have billions of dollars in foreign banks to pay them?

Put more bluntly, what martial law's surviving victims really want is the monetary compensation promised to them by all of the past administrations (including Cory's), but which remains unfulfilled until now.

An international court has reportedly awarded the victims' claims and already some money has been ordered set aside for it, perhaps out of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth so far recovered by the government. The problem is the government seems to want to dip its dirty fingers into it.

Well, President Duterte is known to be correcting his predecessors' shortcomings; it is now up to him to make their promises a reality. Then, only then, perhaps, may the elusive closure at least begin to take shape in our eyes.

RUDY L. CORONEL,
rudycoronel2004@gmail.com

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MARCOS MYTH NOT CLOSING WITH BURIAL

The manner by which the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos was buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani was no cause for surprise. What can we expect from his widow and children? Nothing but lies and deception.

After all, Ferdinand Marcos lied about his war medals. He lied about the real reason for declaring martial law, even staging the fake ambush of Juan Ponce Enrile. Marcos deceived

the people by proclaiming a "New Society" that resulted in the stealing of billions of public funds and the enrichment of his family and cronies. He cheated the presidential election in 1986 and had himself proclaimed anew as president.

And now this devious way in which he was buried by Imelda Marcos and her children in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. If the Marcoses think that the burial of the dictator is the end, if they think

that unity would be achieved with the burial of his remains, then they are dead wrong. Victims of martial law, human rights groups, church members, students and other decent, freedom-loving Filipinos will continue the quest for justice and the transfer of the dictator's remains from the sacred grounds of Libingan.

RAFAEL REY HIPOLITO,
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@yahoo.com

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Secret weddings and phone calls in Mosul under IS

HASANSHAM CAMP, Iraq – To celebrate her wedding in Mosul, Shaimaa covered herself in black to hide her dress and make-up from the jihadists on her way to the groom's house.

During the more than two years they spent under the control of the Islamic State (IS) group, many residents of the Iraqi city often defied the strict rules of the "caliphate" in the secrecy of their homes.

Shaimaa, 20, married Ali, 24, four months ago.

In the Hasansham displacement camp where they now live with thousands of other people who fled their homes since Iraqi forces launched a broad offensive to retake Mosul in mid-October, they recounted their big day.

"I put on a white wedding dress, I did my make-up and hairdo and then disappeared under a black niqab and a long abaya to go from our house to my husband's," the young lady said.

"When we reached the house, we locked the doors and turned on the generator so the noise would cover the music. The women were able to party while the men stayed outside," her husband said.

That celebration was in violation of several rules enforced by the jihadists, who banned music, smoking and checked that no men were shaving and no women showing their faces.

"I never thought my wedding party would be like that, I really wanted to wear a suit and shave, I wanted my friends to share our joy and I wanted to parade around town with my wife in a convoy," Ali said.

"The wedding was quick, we thought about going for a ride in town but eventually we were too scared to do anything," she said.

A picture of their clandestine wedding, which shows Shaimaa wearing a white dress and putting her hands around her smiling husband's face, survived the fighting and chaos that came when they fled.

"I had a printing shop so I locked myself in, pulled the shutter down and printed the photo because such photos are forbidden," he said.

FOCUS

He sat on a mattress with his wife in front of their tent with former neighbors who also fled last month, including 23-year-old Samiha, who remembered having to keep her voice down during the stealthy wedding party.

She said she used to put earphones on to listen to music she had downloaded to her phone's memory card but mobiles were tightly controlled under IS and simply owning a sim card was punishable.

Samiha said she used to hide her phone's memory card and sim card inside a curtain railing.

Smoking, dominoes, television

Communication with relatives living outside the "caliphate" IS proclaimed over parts of Iraq and Syria in June 2014 was complicated and perilous.

Somebody had to stand guard outside the front door while she made a call, usually only a few quick words: "How are you? Good. Goodbye."

If an IS patrol showed up and searched the house, they would hide mobiles in large bags of flour or rice, said Alia, a 40-year-old displaced woman who now lives in the neighboring camp of Khazer.

Most of the people AFP interviewed refused to be photographed or give their full names, out of fear for relatives still living in IS-held parts of Mosul.

In their efforts to cut off their denizens from the rest of the world, the jihadists also banned satellite dishes and some residents had to pull off risky tricks to watch television.

"When the jihadists came to take my dish, I gave them an old one and hid the other two," said Adnan, a 46-year-old who also ended up in Hasansham.

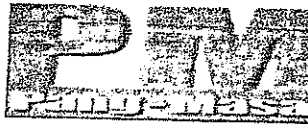
"Every evening I would go to the roof to set up my dish and watch programs on TV for about three hours," he said.

"I would smoke in secret, play dominoes in secret, use my mobile in secret," said Hala, a 35-year-old woman living in Khazer, who explained she would hide her sim card in her bra.

"Everything was secret."

AFP

06 December 2016



Pahina. 3

DISYEMBRE 6, 2016

Editorial

Ipaubaya sa military ang Abu Sayyaf

SABI ni President Rodrigo Duterte, nakahanda siyang pasukin ang kuta ng Abu Sayyaf para matulungan ang pamahalaan sa paglaban sa mga bandidong grupo. Ayon sa Presidente, dapat magbaba ng armas ang mga bandido at makikipag-usap siya sa mga ito. Ayon pa sa Presidente, marami raw kamag-anak ang Sayyaf at maging ang Maute group kaya hinihingi niya na makipagtulungan ang mga ito para matigil na ang kaguluhan. Kung hindi raw tutulong ang mga kamag-anak at mga maiimpluwensiyang tao, mahihirapan talaga ang gobyerno. Kailangan daw makipagtulungan para matapos na ang terorismo sa bansa.

Hindi na dapat pumasok ang Presidente sa kuta

RONNIE M. HALOS • Editor

3

ng mga mamamatay tao at kidnaper na Sayyaf. Hindi niya trabaho ang sumuong sa gubat para harapin ang mga walang kaluluwang Sayyaf. Kung ang mga sundalong sanay sa pakikipaglaban ay kayang-kayang pugutan ng ulo ng mga kidnapper na ito, tiyak na kaya rin nilang gawin sa Presidente. Noong nakaraang linggo, nagbanta ang Maute group na pugutan umano nila si Duterte. Ganito kabangis ang Maute group at lalo pa ang Sayyaf dahil marami na silang pinugutang dayuhan na hindi nakapagbayad ng ransom.

Ipaubaya ni Duterte sa militar ang paglipol sa Sayyaf at Maute group. Naumpisahan na niya ang pagkubkob sa kuta ng Maute sa Lanao del Sur kaya hindi na ito dapat ihinto pa. Kapag itinigil ang opensiba sa mga bandido, magpaparami muli ang mga ito ng miyembro. Hindi na matatapos ang problema sa mga criminal na ito.

Ang Sayyaf ay hindi sana namayagpag kung tinuluy-tuloy ang pagsalakay sa mga ito. Pero itinigil ng AFP kaya muling nakapagbuo ng lakas at dumami na naman. Nakapag-recruit ng mga kamag-anak at pinangakuan nang malaking halaga para maakit na sumama sa kanila. Bilyong dolyar na ang napepera ng Sayyaf dahil sa pangingidnap.

Huwag nang tangkain ni Duterte na pasukin ang kuta ng Sayyaf. Hindi ito ang solusyon. Ipaubaya ito sa mga sundalo. Handa sila para sa mga "halang ang kaluluwa".

06 December 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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BASKETBALL

AFP ends Malacañang's win streak

Games Sunday
(University of Makati)
2 p.m. – BFP vs Judiciary
3:30 p.m. – MMDA vs NHA
5 p.m. – AFP vs PNP

Standings:
Group A: Malacañang (5-1), AFP (4-2),
BFP (4-2), MMDA (3-3), Ombudsman (2-4).
Group B: Customs (6-0), Judiciary (5-1),
PNP (4-2), NHA (3-3).

Defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines ended Malacañang's five-game winning run with a 72-67 win to advance to the second round of the 5th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Pasig City Sports Center.

Willy Casulla, Jr. led five AFP players in double figures with 14 points as the Cavaliers dominated the Malacañang Kamao right from the start to avoid the embarrassment of being the first defending champion to be eliminated right in the first round.

Also delivering for the Cavaliers were Boyet Bautista and Eugene Tan who combined for 21 points.

With the win, the Cavaliers finished the Group A elims tied for second to third places with Bureau of Fire Protection, which closed out its elims with an 80-73 win over Ombudsman.

The MMDA Black Wolves also made it to the second round following a hard-earned 76-71 win over the Senate Defenders in the tournament presented by UNTV through its president and CEO Daniel Razon.

Meantime, Sunday's matches will be aired live on UNTV and www.untvweb.com.

Despite the loss, the Ombudsman Graft Fighters still made it to the next round by finishing with a 2-4 mark.

Leading the Fire Fighters was Gilbert Malabanan who fired points while Peter John Villanueva and Jeff Sanders led the Black Wolves with 19 and 14 points, respectively.

06 December 2016



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AFP five guns down Malacañang

Games Sunday
(University of Makati)
2 p.m. – BFP vs Judiciary
3:30 p.m. – MMDA vs
NHA
5 p.m. – AFP vs PNP

Standings:

Group A: Malacañang (5-1), AFP (4-2), BFP (4-2), MMDA (3-3), Ombudsman (2-4).
Group B: Customs (6-0), Judiciary (5-1), PNP (4-2), NHA (3-3).

DEFENDING champion Armed Forces of the Philippines ended Malacañang's five-game winning run with a 72-67 win to advance to the second round of the 5th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Pasig City Sports Center.

Willy Casulla, Jr. led five AFP players in double figures with 14 points as the Cavaliers dominated the Malacañang Kamao

right from the start to avoid the embarrassment of being the first defending champion to be eliminated right in the first round.

Also delivering for the Cavaliers were Boyet Bautista and Eugene Tan who combined for 21 points.

With the win, the Cavaliers finished the Group A elims tied for second to third places with Bureau of

Fire Protection, which closed out its elims with an 80-73 win over Ombudsman.

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its president and CEO Daniel Razon

Despite the loss, the Ombudsman Graft Fighters still made it to the next round by finishing with a 2-4 mark.

The top four teams in Group B – Bureau of Customs, Judiciary, PNP and NHA – slug it out with the top four teams from Group A carrying their win-loss records from the first round.

ONLINE NEWS

06 DECEMBER 2016

www.inquirer.net

9 NDF consultants join hunger strike

By: Nestor P. Burgos Jr.

01:29 AM December 05, 2016

ILOILO CITY—At least 19 consultants of the National Democratic Front have limited their food intake to call for the release of 432 political prisoners all over the country.

Some were taking only one square meal a day while the others, especially the elderly, had two square meals per day. They also partook of crackers and water in between meals.

One of them was an ailing 65-year-old alleged rebel leader of Panay Island.

The consultants, many of them in their 50s and 60s, took turns in fasting from Dec. 3 to 10, the International Human Rights Day.

"We resorted to fasting because of the repeated broken promises of the government peace panel to work out the release of political detainees," said Maria Concepcion Araneta-Bocala.

The 19 consultants, including couple Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, alleged chairman and secretary general, respectively, of the Communist Party of the Philippines, were released in August after they were allowed to post bail and be part of the peace negotiations between the government and the NDF.

Bocala said they assured that at least 200 prisoners would be released before the November round of talks. She said they were later told that 70 would be released.

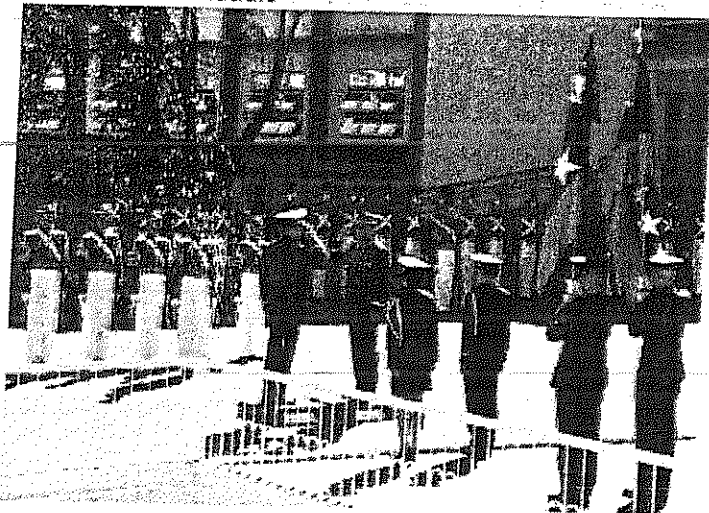
"None of these pronouncements have been fulfilled," she said.

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www.dwdd.com.ph

PMA Honors Retiring AFP Chief

By Lul Claudio



CAMP AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY – With only a few days remaining before Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ricardo R Visaya bows out of the military service, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), his Alma Mater, paid him a tribute.

On 03 December 2016 at Fort Gregorio Del Pilar, Baguio City, the Officers, soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, of the PMA and the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines led by the PMA Superintendent Major General Donato San Juan II bid him farewell in a manner every alumnus of the Academy would wish.

"To be tendered a Testimonial Parade and Review by PMA—which the outgoing Chief of Staff, General Visaya deems the cradle of his youth— is a fitting salute to a son who has given more than half of his life in the service of country and people." AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said.

Prior to his ascent to the highest military post, General Visaya held several key positions in the AFP. He was the former Brigade Commander of two prestigious Brigades – the 104th Brigade in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao Provinces and Basilan, and 901st Brigade in Bicol Region. He was also designated as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Before becoming AFP Chief of Staff on 01 July 2016, General Visaya was the 28th Commander of the Southern Luzon Command.

In his speech, General Visaya expressed his gratitude to the entire PMA saying that "This is where it all started. This is where we all realized our dreams to serve our nation through the noble profession of arms."

"The PMA is where we were honed to be the best that we can be, to live the honorable way, and to be leaders of courage, integrity, and loyalty," General Visaya added.

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Looking back, General Visaya said his strong desire to be part of change drove him to finish what he started in PMA and his entire military career.

Colonel Arevalo further relates that General Visaya admonished the Cadets, especially the graduating PMA SALAKNIB Class of 2017, that they are soon to join the noble profession of arms where challenges are part of their daily grind.

Their mettle as Cavaliers will be put in the crucible. That with the virtues of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, while made their beacon lights. are the pillars of soldiery they should endeavor to keep upright.

That they, the Cadets, should be the military professional they were called to serve God, country, and people. That they should never fail the Long Grey Line, Arevalo recounts.

"We must act and conduct ourselves with the highest level of excellence and competence expected of us. Just do your job to the best of your ability and you will be surprised that what you will receive is actually more than what you aimed for," General Visaya continued.

General Visaya reaches the retirement age of 56 on Thursday, 08 December 2016 after 37 years of military service.

General Visaya is a member of the PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983 that has thus produced three AFP Chiefs of Staff. (Photos from PAO-AFP)

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www.philstar.com

Court junks Misuari's motion to travel abroad

From the Philippine Star (Dec 5): Court junks Misuari's motion to travel abroad



President Rodrigo Duterte meets with Moro National Liberation Front founder Nur Misuari during a courtesy call at Malacañan on Nov. 28, 2016. PPD/Albert Alcain

Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari attempted to travel abroad but his request was turned down by a Pasig court hearing his rebellion and violation of international humanitarian law cases.

Misuari last week filed a motion before the Pasig Regional Trial Court to allow him to travel to the Middle East and attend the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. City Legal officer Jesus Carbon said.

Misuari, who was fugitive for more than 3 years, came out from hiding on November 3 and was granted temporary liberty after the Pasig court suspended the warrant for his arrest for six months.

The court's relief for Misuari was for him to attend the peace negotiations initiated by President Rodrigo Duterte's government. It, however, junked Misuari's motion to travel.

"The judge said I cannot do that, I can allow you to travel only if the peace process will be held not outside the Philippines," Carbon told newsmen at a briefing here.

The Pasig court added that it has no authority to grant the request of Misuari as it was not in connection with the peace process.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

ReCAAP issue alert on the increasing cases of abduction of crew from ships

From the Hellenic Shipping News (Dec 3): ReCAAP issue alert on the increasing cases of abduction of crew from ships

As previously reported by the club here and here, ReCAAP ISC have reported a spate of abductions of crew from ships in waters off Eastern Sabah and Southern Philippines. Now ReCAAP ISC have published a follow-up incident report entitled Incident Alert on Increasing Cases of Abduction of Crew from Ships.

ReCAAP ISC report that they are 'deeply concerned about the situation of abduction of crew from ships while underway in the Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region' and make a particular note that the perpetrators are becoming more ambitious. Originally, smaller, slow moving vessels such as tug boats towing barges and fishing trawlers were targeted. However, it has now been reported that ships of greater tonnage are being targeted.

ReCAAP ISC advise that all ships should re-route from the area where possible and otherwise, ships should report immediately to the following centres when transiting the area:

Operation Centre in the Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao for monitoring and immediate responses in any eventualities. (Sat phones: +63 929686 4129/+63 916626 0689, VHF: Channel 16 with callsign "ENVY", Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com)

Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) when transiting nearer to eastern Sabah. (Tel: +60 89863181/016, Fax: +60 89863182. VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM", Email: bilikgerakanesscom@jpm.gov.my)

Source: The Standard Club

<http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/recaap-issue-alert-on-the-increasing-cases-of-abduction-of-crew-from-ships/>

Outgoing AFP chief tells PMA graduating class: Be competent, excellent

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 5): Outgoing AFP chief tells PMA graduating class: Be competent, excellent

Outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya urged the 2017 graduating class of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) to conduct themselves "in the highest level of competence and excellence".

"We must act and conduct ourselves with the highest level of excellence and competence expected of us. Just do your job to the best of your ability and you will be surprised that what you will receive is actually more than what you aimed for," Visaya said as the PMA Corps of Cadet paid him a tribute and testimonial parade during his final visit to Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City as AFP chief over the weekend.

Visaya will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Dec. 8. He will be stepping down after 37 years of military service.

Visaya is a member of the PMA Class of 1983 that has so far produced three AFP chiefs.

Prior to his appointment as AFP chief last July 1, Visaya held several key positions in the military. He was the former brigade commander of two prestigious Brigades – the 104th Infantry Brigade in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao Provinces and Basilan, and 901st Brigade in Bicol Region. Visaya also commanded the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Before becoming AFP chief last July 1, Visaya also served as the 28th commander of the Southern Luzon Command.

"This is where it all started. This is where we all realized our dreams to serve our nation through the noble profession of arms," Visaya said in thanking the PMA for the honors rendered to him.

"The PMA is where we were honed to be the best that we can be, to live the honorable way, and to be leaders of courage, integrity and loyalty," he added.

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www.pna.gov.ph

Pres. Duterte now has shortlist for next AFP chief

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 5): Pres. Duterte now has shortlist for next AFP chief

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has already submitted to the Office of the President the shortlist of possible replacements for outgoing AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya who is scheduled to retire on Dec. 8.

This was disclosed by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo but said he is not in a position to reveal the names of the candidates.

"There is already a shortlist but I am not in position to divulge the names but what I heard is that the Commander-in-Chief (President Rodrigo Duterte) is now looking and studying the list (for Gen. Visaya's) possible replacement," he said in Filipino.

While all in the list are "very qualified", Arevalo said the AFP is giving the President a freehand in picking the next chief-of-staff.

"We would like to give him ample choices of successors to choose from, or options to choose from, but before we submit (the names of) possible candidates, all of them goes through a tedious process, taking into account their command experience, their assignments and experience in handling higher level command," he added.

Visaya will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Dec. 8. He will step down after 37 years of military service.

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www.pna.gov.ph

DND in the market for Php240-M worth of thermal imaging devices

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 5): DND in the market for Php240-M worth of thermal imaging devices

To ensure that the military is capable of meeting all kinds of security threats even at night time, the Department of National Defense (DND) has allocated some Php240 million for the procurement of thermal imaging devices for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

This is Lot 1 of the project, said DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) chair Assistant Secretary Josue S. Gaverza.

Winning bidders are required to deliver the items within 180 calendar days upon receipt of the Notice To Proceed.

They also must have integrated logistic support.

Prospective bidders should have completed, within the last five years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project being applied.

Bid opening is scheduled on Dec. 20, 10 a.m. at the DND BAC Conference Room, Left Wing, Basement, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

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www.pna.gov.ph

Ceasefire not working for plantations, other businesses in Mindanao -- stakeholders

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 5): Ceasefire not working for plantations, other businesses in Mindanao -- stakeholders

The New People's Army (NPA) is still harassing agricultural plantations while there is an ongoing peace talks between the government and the communist rebels, according to businessmen and agricultural stakeholders in Mindanao.

They claimed that rebels continue to extort money from companies in Mindanao, among them agricultural plantations, private contractors, quarrying operators, public market stallholders and small-time entrepreneurs. The amounts range from as low as PHP5,000 to as high as PHP5 million a month.

Some NPA groups allegedly ask "commission" ranging from 5 to 10 percent from private contractors doing multi-million peso projects for the government and private companies.

In some provinces of Mindanao, the extortionists even demand revolutionary taxes from barangay captains, municipal mayors and councilors. A number of politicians were also reportedly asked to settle unpaid permits to campaign (PTC), which became due during the elections last May.

The affected businessmen are asking themselves whether or not to pay. "If we pay, we will lose our shirts and would be forced to close shop; if we refuse to pay, our lives and that of our family members will be in danger," said a businessman in Toril, Davao City.

Hardest hit

Among the hardest hit are banana plantations, big transportation companies operating passenger buses and contractors.

Just a few months ago, one banana company had to close its plantation in Surigao del Sur after losing a total of more than PHP20 million to the NPAs burning their equipment and packing plants since the start of its operation in 2010. The firm's decision resulted in worsening of joblessness in the area.

Dole-Stanfilco recently shutdown its plantation and packing plants in the northern part of Mindanao after the rebels torch container trucks early this year because the company refused to pay the revolutionary taxes.

Even President Rodrigo R. Duterte acknowledged that the banana industry is hampered by the continuous harassment of lawless groups in Mindanao.

"The greatest challenge of the banana growers in the Philippines is really the law and order. Until and unless you can put together a country that's bereft of any revolutionary tax, extortion and everything, sinusunog ang property, it's all because of the taxation. If it's not taxation of the communists, it's extortion of the roving bandits in Mindanao," said President Duterte during the closing ceremonies of the 2016 Banana Congress held in Davao City last October.

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Big banana plantations, have been seeking government support in fighting extortionists from the communist rebels who are demanding revolutionary taxes.

The President noted that Mindanao is the key to driving developments in Philippine agriculture. While mining industries and export processing zones can sprout everywhere, he said, "what would make the industry valuable is actually agriculture in Mindanao, and only in Mindanao."

He added that he is bullish about agriculture in the country, and sees that the sector will "make it big... in the span of the next 30 years," provided the country is able to iron out law and order, and stop extortion attempts of bandits on farm owners.

According to these businessmen who requested anonymity for security reasons, the biggest adverse impact of revolutionary taxes, apart from the unchecked government red tape and corruption, is on foreign investors who were invited to do business in the Philippines. Now the business community would logically wished that the administration find solutions to this worsening scenario in the countryside.

The rebels allegedly are also harassing other businesses in the countryside. Last November 24, the rebels burned a bus of the Yellow Bus Lines (YBL) in Kiamba, Sarangani. The unit, which could easily cost Php5 million, was not the first YBL bus burned by the rebels.

The burning is just one of the four communist attacks that happened recently in Region 12, including the burning of two heavy equipment used in building a road. This was after the November 14 torching of another YBL bus in Tupi, South Cotabato.

The same fate is being suffered by telecommunications companies, which could set up cell sites fast enough partly because of the big amount being demanded by rebels in areas selected for the cell sites.

Globe Telecom had openly admitted that the high cost of setting up cell sites due to local government units' demand, generally red tape in many levels of the government and the rebels' extortion activities are partly to blame for the difficulty in setting up cell sites and the telcos' inability to improve connectivity in the country.

Businessmen asking for protection from the military are disappointed that the military and the police can't help to stop the extortion activities after the government declared a unilateral cease fire as part of the ongoing peace process. They have been ordered to stay in the barracks.

Worried businessmen are concerned what could the peace talks really mean to their businesses since the rebels are taking advantage of the government's unilateral ceasefire.

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www.interaksyon.com

Reds wary about govt sincerity to end insurgency

By: InterAksyon

December 5, 2016 7:20 PM



Colors of the National Democratic Front

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines - The inability of President Rodrigo Duterte to keep the military from unduly operating in the hinterlands casts doubt on the government's sincerity or ability to negotiate an end to the almost 50-year communist armed struggle in the country, Luis Jalandoni, the former chairman and now senior consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines peace negotiating panel, said Monday.

Jalandoni told a forum in Bacolod City that the "continued militarization of the countryside" in the guise of civil-military actions, such as medical and "peace and development" missions, is a violation of the government's unilateral cease fire declaration and undermines Duterte's pronouncement of his seriousness "to achieve national unity and peace" as well as his earlier order to state security forces to "be friendly to the revolutionary movement and government."

Jalandoni cited one occasion where Maj. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, chief of the Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command, was supposed to have declared that they can now sweep in to clear more than 100 barangays in his area of operations because, with the existing cease fire, "the NPA (New People's Army) won't fire at us."

"We later learned that Duterte was present" when Guerrero blustered about it, Jalandoni said. "Why didn't he call him out and why hasn't he disciplined military forces that have violated the cease fire?"

He also noted inconsistencies between Duterte's "progressive" pronouncements and the actions of the government and its forces.

No surrender

Jalandoni also stressed that the final agenda of the peace talks – the end of hostilities and disposition of forces – does not mean the NPA will surrender its weapons and demobilize its forces.

"Never think that the NPA will surrender its arms," Jalandoni told the forum.

"The NDFP has always declared that the negotiation does not and should not involve the surrender of the NPA because they are needed to protect the people and the people's democratic government, including the

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services it provides directly to the people in many of the country's 81 provinces," as well as any gains from a peace agreement, such as agrarian reform, national industrialization, and even external threats, he said.

He pointed to The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992, which lays down the framework for the peace negotiations and mandates "parity and reciprocity" between the two parties.

Jalandoni explained that, once the last agenda of the talks is completed and a peace agreement forged, "there may be a general amnesty for all combatants, both NPA and AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) but there will be absolutely no surrender."

Counter-insurgency

The communist rebels warned they may be forced to terminate their unilateral cease fire and "engage in active defense and defend the people" against continued military operations unless President Rodrigo Duterte ends the counterinsurgency campaign "Oplan Bayanihan."

President Duterte "must order an end to the Oplan Bayanihan war of suppression and rescind his earlier declaration that he will not pull out his troops from the guerrilla zones," the Communist Party of the Philippines said in a statement released at the weekend to mark the 100th day since it declared a unilateral cease fire to match that of government to mark the resumption of formal peace negotiations.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, claimed the CPP, "has maliciously taken advantage of the NPA cease fire to gain military and political advantage on the ground. For the past three months, the AFP has practically observed no cease fire."

"During the entire course of the unilateral cease fire, the AFP has deployed armed units and maintained armed presence in centers of civilian communities in," it said.

"Based on partial reports, at least 470 barangays have been affected by Oplan Bayanihan armed operations since August 26," the CPP said.

"Once the full report is completed, the number is expected to reach more than 800. Close to a half a million people in 43 provinces and 146 towns have been subjected to or were exposed to various forms of AFP abuses in just over three months," it added.

It accused the military of "deceptively" describing the operations of "fully-armed combatants" as "non-combat operations" even as troops "occupy barangay halls, day care centers, health centers, gyms, elementary schools as well as civilian residences," and "do not spare even such sacrosanct places as the Dap-ay reserved for community elders in the Cordilleras."

It said it was "utterly dismayed at the failure of ... Duterte to rein in the war dogs of the AFP". It pressed him, "in the spirit of peace negotiations and extending the unilateral cease fire declarations," to order the military to "withdraw its armed combatants from the guerrilla zones and areas under the sway of the revolutionary government."

Duterte, it added, "must cast away his illusion that the (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) has exclusive dominion over the entire Philippines, adding that in significant parts of the country, there exist two governments that are at war with each other: the GRP and the people's democratic government which the NDFP represents."

Unless Duterte scraps the current counterinsurgency campaign and orders a military pullout from the hinterlands, it said, he "would be virtually setting the stage for widespread armed clashes with the New People's Army as Red fighters will be forced into active defense posture and defend the people against abuses by the forward-deployed combat troops of the AFP."

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"He will only have himself to blame if this forces the hand of the CPP to terminate its unilateral cease fire declaration," it added.

Marcos burial

Meanwhile, the burial of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos violates a human rights agreement between government and communist rebels and will be among the issues raised by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines at the next round of formal peace negotiations in late January.

Luis Jalandoni, former chairman and now senior consultant of the NDFP peace negotiating panel, told a forum and reporters in Bacolod City that the secretive and hurried burial of Marcos at the heroes' cemetery on November 18 violates the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which was forged in 1998 to cap the first of the four so-called substantive agenda of the peace talks.

Explaining how the burial of Marcos, which President Rodrigo Duterte ordered to fulfill a promise to the dictator's family and which the Supreme Court allowed, Jalandoni said the CARHRIHL, specifically Part 3, Article 2(2), recognizes "the inherent and inalienable right of the people to establish a just, democratic and peaceful society, to adopt effective safeguards against, and to oppose oppression and tyranny similar to that of the past dictatorial regime."

Jalandoni stressed that allowing the burial with honors of Marcos, whose 14-year dictatorship was marked by widespread human rights abuses and plunder, violated this by disrespecting the sentiments of the survivors and the families of victims of the atrocities committed under strongman rule.

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