

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

14 December 2016

Wednesday

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

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

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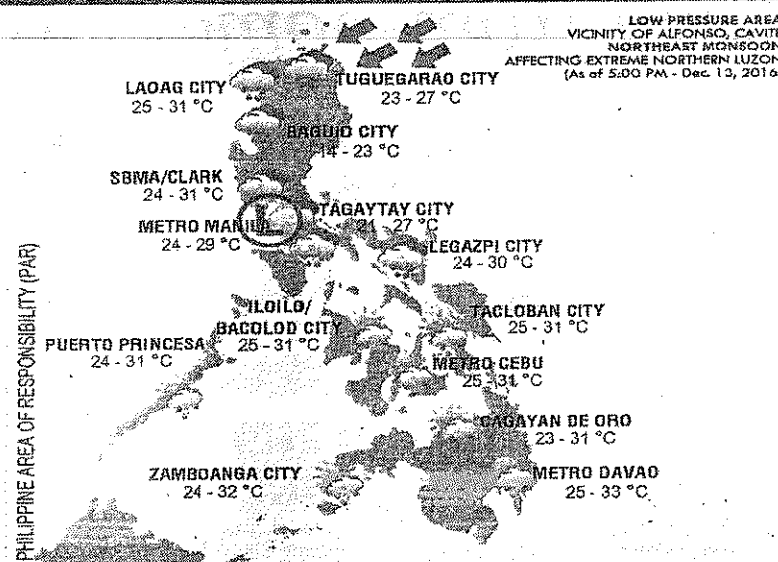
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 14, 2016 | WEDNESDAY



































PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


CELEBES SEA

LOW PRESSURE AREA
VICINITY OF ALFONSO, CAVITE
NORTHEAST MONSOON
AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
(As of 5:00 PM - Dec. 13, 2016)

SUNRISE		SUNSET	
6:13 AM		5:29 PM	
MOONRISE		MOONSET	
5:57 PM		6:07 AM	
FIRST QUARTER		FULL MOON	
DEC 7 5:03 PM		DEC 14 8:06 AM	
LOW TIDE		HIGH TIDE	
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR		MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
5:14 AM -0.25 Meter		9:44 AM 1.27 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 15		DEC 16		DEC 17		DEC 18		DEC 19		DEC 20	
METRO MANILA	 25 - 31 °C	 24 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	 20 - 27 °C	 20 - 27 °C	TACLOBAN	 25 - 30 °C	 24 - 30 °C			
TUGUEGARAO	 22 - 26 °C	 22 - 25 °C	LEGAZPI	 24 - 30 °C	 25 - 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 23 - 31 °C	 23 - 31 °C			
LAOAG	 24 - 30 °C	 24 - 29 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 24 - 31 °C	 24 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C			
BAGUIO	 15 - 23 °C	 15 - 22 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	 26 - 30 °C	 26 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C			
SBMA/ CLARK	 24 - 31 °C	 24 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU	 25 - 31 °C	 25 - 31 °C						



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December 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Du30: I personally killed drug suspects

FROM A1

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

Just hours after declaring he was “not a killer,” President Duterte told a group of business leaders on Monday night that he “personally” killed drug suspects when he was mayor of Davao City.

Mr. Duterte said he rode a big bike—presumably his street-eating Harley-Davidson motorcycle—to patrol the streets, spoiling for a fight and seeking to kill.

He was defending his scorched-earth policy in the fight against illegal drugs for which he had drawn criticism from the United Nations, United States, European Union and international human rights groups.

Mr. Duterte said one-third of the nearly 6,000 drug suspects slain in his war on drugs were killed in legitimate police operations.

“I know it because—I am not trying to pull my own

chair—in Davao I used to do it personally. Just to show to the [policemen] that if I can do it, why can’t you?” Mr. Duterte said during the Wallace Business Forum in Malacañang.

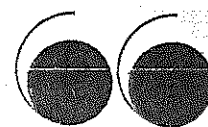
“I go around in Davao (on) a big bike and I would just patrol the streets and looking for trouble. I was really looking for an encounter to kill,” he said.

For that approach to fighting crime in the Philippines’ “murder capital,” Time magazine called Mr. Duterte “The Punisher” in an article in 2002.

The magazine echoed the moniker in another article after Mr. Duterte’s election as President in May.

In his speech to businessmen on Monday night, Mr. Duterte said allegations of human rights violations hurled at him by local and international groups would not stop him from pursuing his campaign against the illegal drug trade.

“If I am afraid [and] stop because of the human rights ... sorry, I am not about to do that,” he said.



**In Davao,
I used to do it
personally.
Just to show to
the [policemen]
that if I can do
it, why can’t
you?**

Rodrigo Duterte
President

“You [want to] arrest me? Oust me? Go ahead,” he added.

“So fine. Oust me? Good. Assassinate me? Better. I have this migraine every day [anyway],” he said.

Barely five months into his six-year term, Mr. Duterte has gained notoriety for backpedal-

ing on controversial policy statements.

After drawing fire for his outrageous comments, Mr. Duterte would later dismiss them as a "joke."

Or his aides would explain his comments as "hyperbole," even though his comments were quite plain statements.

Shortly before addressing the businessmen, Mr. Duterte rebuffed insinuations that he was a "killer" for condoning extrajudicial killings in his war on drugs and encouraging police to kill suspects who would resist arrest.

"I am not a killer. I do not relish or enjoy [seeing] a Filipino sprawled there with all the blood," Mr. Duterte said in a speech during The Outstanding Filipino Awards for 2016 in Malacañang.

"I do not want you to die, that is not my order," he stressed. "And even if Congress would give me a carpet authority to kill everybody, I won't have the time nor the bullets to do it."

He added: "You know every time I decide on things to buy guns and bullets, there is always

in my mind that these things would be used against the Filipinos.... I don't enjoy it."

He needs help

As in his previous speeches, the President took out a sheaf of documents and showed it to his audience during his talk at both events in the Palace.

"This [is] the drug industry in this country," Mr. Duterte said. "I would like to get advice. What should I do? I really want to cry. I feel as if I can't do it."

He said he gave copies of the documents to House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III to seek help in dealing with the drug menace, which he described as "a threat to national security."

But Mr. Duterte has some ideas of his own, including making the rich adopt drug addicts.

He also had a few words for the Catholic Church, one of the strident critics of his bloody war on drugs: "Check out your flock and look for the lost sheep."

"They say, 'Why did Duterte have to kill them? Why not just

send them to [rehabilitation centers]?' Son of a bitch. They did not know I have nowhere to go," he said.

"If you want to help me, make available your houses. To the rich people, those who have mansions with four, five or six rooms, give up one of the rooms. Adopt an addict and see what happens," he said, eliciting giggles from his audience.

For the nth time, he said the Aquino administration left him funds good only for maintenance and operations, and nothing for building rehabilitation centers for drug addicts.

"So to the bleeding hearts, if you really want to stop the violence, do it. You adopt an addict and share the love [with] your fellowmen," he said.

"It's for you to understand the perdition of a drug addict. If you want, I will start with those from Tondo. Choose what you want, boy or girl. It's just the same [anyway]. If they go crazy, they will stab you dead. It leads to a massacre. Do you think it's that easy?" he said. INQ

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Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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Singaporean leads I.S. expansion bid—Du30

By Francisco Tuyay and John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday ordered security forces to decimate “the forces of evil” in Mindanao, including the Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group, amid reports that a Singaporean has taken the lead in efforts to spread the influence of the terrorist Islamic State (ISIS) in Mindanao and Southeast Asia.

“There will be no letup, whether they are foreign terrorists or not,” National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon said, referring to the new phase in Duterte’s war on terrorism.

The renewed push against

terrorists comes amid reports that 13 foreigners, including Syrians, Indonesians, and Malaysians, are in various parts of Mindanao training local militants in bomb making and urban terrorism techniques.

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War...

From A1

At the airport before flying to Cambodia and Singapore, Duterte said a Singaporean has taken over efforts to build up the ISIS presence in Sulu and in Southeast Asia.

"In Sulu now, there is a group... led by a Singaporean," Duterte said.

"Countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization will be the key areas of discussion as well as the war on illegal drugs," Duterte said of his upcoming meeting with Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Duterte had earlier warned that the international terrorist organization ISIS has made inroads in the country, connecting with the local Maute group.

The Abu Sayyaf is also seeking recognition from ISIS, which is seeking to build a wilayat or province in Southeast Asia, as it comes under heavy attack in the Middle East.

At least 14 battalions have already been deployed in known terrorist havens in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, as parts of efforts to neutralize them.

The Army's 35th Infantry Battalion clashed with 150 fully armed Abu Sayyaf fighters led by Radulan Sahiron in Sitio Dyundangan, Buhanginan village in Patikul, Sulu, killing 10 bandits while suffering four casualties on Saturday.

The Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, lost 63 fighters when government forces attacked Butig town in Lanao del Sur last week.

Esperon said anti-terrorism efforts have been ongoing, but the massive campaign launched recently aims to finish the terrorists off.

Security was raised in Singapore last August amid reports that terrorists were targeting one of Asia's top financial centers.

Lee had called for increased vigilance amid the looming specter of terrorism "which can tear our society apart."

Sources told the Manila Standard that when the Philippines assumes

the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations next year, Manila will propose two documents to the 10-nation bloc, including a "Manila Declaration to Combat the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism."

Police on Tuesday said all four arrested suspects in the failed US Embassy bomb attack are ISIS supporters.

"All four suspects are members of the Sarangani-based Ansar al-Khilafah in the Philippines (AKP) which had earlier pledged allegiance to ISIS and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi," said Manila Police District (MPD) director Senior Supt. Joel Coronel.

Citing a report submitted by Manila Police District (MPD) director Senior Supt. Joel Coronel, Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada on Monday identified the fourth suspect arrested as Elmer Romero, 36, alias Jamal, who admitted to being a conspirator in the bomb plot.

Coronel said intelligence units from the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police (PNP) helped with Romero's capture and debunked reports that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation took part in the operation.

With Romero's arrest, Coronel said they are hunting down two more possible suspects, one of whom he said has already left Metro Manila.

Sarangani officials, meanwhile, have raised an additional bounty of P1 million for the arrest of the leader of a local armed group that had pledged support to ISIS.

Kiamba, Sarangani Mayor Raul Martinez, said Tuesday the reward money is aimed at enhancing the manhunt operations against Mohammad Jaafar Maguid alias Tokboy, founder of the Ansar al-Khilafah Philippines group.

The group, which is operating in parts of South Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat provinces, has been blamed for a number of terrorist attacks in the area over the last few years.

Authorities tagged Maguid's

group as behind the planting of an improvised bomb late Saturday night at a Christmas display in front of the Kiamba municipal hall.

"We've had enough of him already. I hope that the reward money will expedite his arrest," the mayor told reporters.

Martinez said he personally raised the P1 million bounty through donors in Kiamba and the neighboring municipalities of Maasim and Matium.

He said it will be given to anyone who would be able to provide information that will lead to Maguid's arrest.

The reward money is on top of the standing P200,000 bounty for Maguid that was earlier set by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Tuesday that nearly 7,000 people have been displaced for more than a month following armed clashes between government security forces and armed groups in Basilan province.

"These families left their homes and sources of livelihood after the hostilities started in November. The residents of six villages in the conflict-affected municipalities of Al-Barka and Tuburan chose to stay with relatives or in evacuation centers for fear of being caught in the crossfire. The ICRC's distribution is in response to their basic needs for food," said Nezar Tamime, deputy head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Mindanao.

To support their needs, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided food rations and hygiene items for the affected families in Al-Barka and Tuburan, with the support of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Basilan chapter.

Also recently, the ICRC arranged for 12 emergency health kits to be delivered to hospitals and rural health units in Sulu and Basilan provinces to support the medical needs of the affected civilians. These kits also contain dressing materials to treat the weapon-wounded. **With Sandy Araneta, PNA**

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The National Newspaper

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194 commissioned into Armed Forces

THE defense and military establishment yesterday welcomed 194 new probationary second lieutenants and ensigns who graduated from the Army, Air Force and Navy Officer Candidate Schools.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana thanked the officers for volunteering to serve the country and for putting their lives at risk for the Filipino people.

Lorenzana asked the officers

to “always live by the highest standards of service professionalism.”

The new officers took up the one-year Officer Candidate Course from the Officer Candidate School of the Army, Air Force and Navy. Sixty-eight graduated from the Army’s OCS, 63 from the Air Force OCS, and another 63 from the Navy OCS.

The top three graduates from

the Army school were P/Lt. Phil Jun Ocumen, P/Lt. Kimberly Jean Lappao, and P/2Lt. Armie Macapinlac.

The Air Force school’s top three graduates were P/2Lt. Iris Eugenio, P/2Lt. Nathaniel Diaz, P/2Lt. Argie Clarence Torralba while the Navy school graduates were led by Marine P/2Lt. Mark Andrew Badilla, P/2Lt. Ricky Degutierrez and P/2Lt. Jesus Hell Carballo. – *Victor Reyes*

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www.mindanaotimes.com

24 rebel surrenderees receive gov't assistance

From the Mindanao Times (Dec 13): 24 rebel surrenderees receive gov't assistance

TWENTY-FOUR former members of New People's Army received a total of P305,000 under the government's comprehensive local integration program (CLIP) during a brief ceremony held at the provincial coliseum in Davao del Sur yesterday morning.

2Lt. China Celina Castro, civil-military operation (CMO) officer of 73rd Infantry Battalion, said 13 surrenderees received P15,000 each while 11 former rebels got P10,000 each.

They will also each get P50,000 as livelihood assistance in the coming weeks.

The turnover of assistance was spearheaded by Davao del Sur Governor Douglas Cagas; provincial director Remedios Baicovinc of Department of Interior and Local Government; Department of Social and Welfare Development official Geraidine Lano; and 1Lt. Edgar Oliva, Alpha Company commander of the 73rd IB.

Based on data, 103 former rebels from Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental and Sarangani Province already surrendered to 73rd IB since last year; 75 of them already received immediate and livelihood assistance worth P65,000 each. The rest are under process or some do not qualify in the requirements of the program.

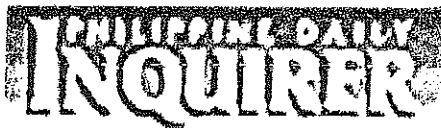
Another P1.3 million worth of assistance was also awarded last year to the 20 former rebels who surrendered to the unit in 2013-2014.

CLIP is a national program of the government that seeks to contribute toward achieving the goal of permanent and peaceful closure of armed conflicts and non-state armed groups, particularly the NPAs.

The livelihood assistance awarded to the former rebels (FRs) is a successful collaborative effort of the provincial government, PNP-Davao del Sur and 73IB in support to the unit's mission and government's effort of permanent and peaceful closure of all armed conflict in the country" Lt. Col. Ronnie Babac, the battalion commander, said.

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Gov't rejects Reds' terms for ceasefire

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Tuesday rejected a demand by communist guerrillas for government troops to withdraw from rebel-influenced communities in the countryside in exchange for a month-long ceasefire.

Lorenzana said troops would continue to be deployed in all rural areas where they have to suppress lawlessness, adding that the New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas cannot claim any part of the country as their territory.

"They always say we are encroaching on their area. What areas are they talking about?" Lorenzana said.

"The President says you don't have any area," he said, addressing the Maoist guerrillas. "This is the Republic of the Philippines."

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) warned President Duterte last week that the guerrillas may be forced to end their ceasefire and resume fighting if he does not suspend the government's counterinsurgency program and withdraw troops from rebel-influenced areas.

If Mr. Duterte fulfills the demands by January and releases political detainees through an amnesty, the CPP said it can guarantee the ceasefire's extension.

The President has separately declared an indefinite ceasefire, and the truce declarations by both sides have helped foster peace talks brokered by Norway.

Forced to engage

NPA guerrillas, however, will be forced to engage troops if the President presses the military's deployment of troops in what the rebels claim as "guerrilla zones" in the countryside, the outlawed party said in a statement.

While no fighting has erupted since both sides declared separate ceasefires in August, the Maoist guerrillas have complained that troops continued to be deployed in rebel areas to carry out surveillance and other counterinsurgency operations.

Lorenzana said he favored proposals for separate ceasefires declared by the government and for the rebels to be

strengthened into a signed joint truce with mutually agreed terms that could restrict rebel crimes being continuously committed, including extortion.

No more releases

Mr. Duterte has also said he would no longer support the release of more insurgents after he worked to free several rebel leaders.

He said he would maintain his position even at the risk of the peace talks being terminated by the guerrillas.

The rebels, he said, has asked him to free 130 detainees.

"I conceded too much too soon," Mr. Duterte told troops Sunday at a military camp. "I'll lose my cards. I always release."

"I said, 'That's my limit. Now it's up to you if you'll terminate it... I've freed all your leaders,'" he said.

A confidential Philippine government assessment obtained by The Associated Press said the guerrillas declined to 3,800 fighters with more than 4,500 firearms in the first half of the year, with about 700 of the country's 42,000 villages affected by the insurgency. —AP

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Duterte confident communists ready to die for him

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Despite his differences with communist rebels over their demand to free more than 130 so-called political prisoners, President Duterte believes the leftist insurgents are loyal to his administration and are even ready to die for him.

Duterte belied notions that the political left are plotting his ouster, noting that he had established a relationship with communist New People's Army rebels when he was still mayor of Davao City.

"Let me tell you frankly, in every demonstration, it's the yellow who's shouting for my ouster. But you will never hear it from the communists because I am the President belonging to the left actually," Duterte said during the Wallace Business Forum dinner in Malacañang late Monday.

He was referring to the previous

Aquino administration whose political color was yellow.

"The Reds would never demand my ouster. They will die for me, believe me. That's the reason why I was able to convince them for a talk," he added.

Duterte said he was able to cross ideological borders even before he became mayor. He said this allowed him to facilitate the release of soldiers and policemen kidnapped by rebels.

"They will never go for the ouster. Look at their posters. They would just condemn the burial of Marcos. But that was really their line, their favorite lines actually, because Marcos was their enemy," he said, referring to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' controversial burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

– Jaime Laude, Artemio Dumlao

14 December 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A1

Digong scoffs at Yellow, favors Red

By John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday the communist rebels seeking a peace agreement

with the government would never demand his ouster and would even die for him to protect him from the "Yellow" forces wanting the presidency.

"In every demonstration, it's the Yellow[s] who are always shouting for my ouster. You will never hear it from the Communists

Next page

Digong...

From A1

because I am the President belonging to the Left," Duterte told businessmen in Malacañang.

"The Reds would never demand my ouster. They will die for me, believe me. That's the reason why I was able to convince them for a [peace] talk."

He said the members of the Yellow forces were the only ones calling for his ouster because the Left would never demand that he step down.

"Everybody would tell you that I was crossing the ideological borders even before I became mayor. Find a policeman or soldiers who was, who was taken hostage there. And they would tell you the person who would go there to the mountains to retrieve them," Duterte said.

He said the recent demonstrations were only against the burial of the late President Ferdinand Marcos at the heroes' cemetery.

"Do not believe that sh*t that they will never go for that ouster," Duterte said.

"Look at their posters. They would just condemn the burial of Marcos, but that is just their favorite line because Marcos was their enemy. But for those who cannot forget, you are condemned to enjoy your grief until you die."

Last week, Duterte slammed the Yellow supporters who joined the recent protest actions against the burial of the late dictator at the heroes' cemetery, which led to the resignation of Vice President Leni Robredo.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Communist leaders can't control NPA?

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Deifin Lorenzana yesterday scored the National Democratic Front of the Philippines for the continued extortion and arson activities of its armed wing, the New People's Army, despite ongoing peace negotiations.

Lorenzana said the NPA atrocities justify the conduct of law enforcement

operations against the members of the communist group.

"The problem with the NDF is they cannot stop their people from conducting extortion, burning of trucks and equipment," said Lorenzana, who echoed President Duterte's warning to the NPA to stop its attacks.

The government and the commu-

See COMMUNIST > Page B6

COMMUNIST

nist group declared separate unilateral ceasefires last August prior to the resumption of formal peace talks. The two sides are discussing a bilateral truce that will define what constitute ceasefire violations.

"As what the President said, these (atrocities) should be stopped so we can talk. Otherwise, let's stop the talks. Now, they cannot prevent the military or the police from conducting law enforcement operations," he said.

Lorenzana said NPA rebels who roam with their firearms are also subject to law enforce-

ment operations. "They should not roam around with their firearms there (in the countryside)," he said.

He criticized the communist group for alleging that soldiers are violating the government truce by "encroaching" on supposed rebel areas or territories.

"They keep on saying we are encroaching in their area. What area are they talking about? The President said 'they have no area, this is the Republic of the Philippines and I am the President.' He said the military can go anywhere they want to enforce the laws of the land," said Lorenzana.

The government and NDFP panels are set to hold the third round of peace talks next month in Oslo. The bilateral truce is among issues to be discussed.

The first two rounds of peace negotiations between the government and NDFP, under the Duterte government, were held in Oslo in August and October.

Lorenzana said a bilateral ceasefire agreement should be reached to end the rebel atrocities. However, said such ceasefire should not result in a pullout of troops who, he said, have to respond to lawlessness.

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DND: No troops pullout from Reds' lairs

By Mario J. Mallari

The Department of National Defense (DND) yesterday rejected calls from the communist group for military troops to pull out from rebel-infested areas in the countryside as it vowed continuous law enforcement operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against all armed group.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana dismissed claims by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF)

that government troops are endangering the ongoing peace talks with their continued operations.

Lorenzana stressed that up to now members of the NPA are still engaged into extortion and other criminal activities in spite of the peace negotiations between the Duterte government and the NDF peace panels.

The Defense chief chided the NDF for not having any control of armed rebels on the ground.

"Our operations will not stop while there is lawlessness," Lorenzana said, adding "the

problem with NDF, they cannot stop people from extorting, burning equipment."

"Now, they cannot prevent the military or police in conducting law enforcement operations...they (NPAs) should not brandish their firearms," he said.

The Duterte government and the CPP-NDF are eyeing a bilateral ceasefire agreement to pave the way for the smooth peace negotiations.

At present, both sides have separate declaration of ceasefire since last August which led to the

formal resumption of the peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

However, amid the ongoing talks between the peace panels, the communist group has demanded the release of all political prisoners and the pull out of troops from their supposed areas of operation in the countryside.

"They always say that we are encroaching on their area, what area are they talking about? The President has told them 'you don't have any area. This is the Republic of the Philippines and I am the President and the military can go

anywhere they want to enforce the laws of the land," Lorenzana said.

The defense chief, however, expressed full support to the bilateral ceasefire being eyed by the government and CPP-NDF peace panels.

'Reds will save me'

Talking to the members of the Wallace Business Forum over dinner late Monday night, the self-proclaimed leftist Duterte said that the communist group will save and offer their lives for his sake in case an ouster or coup plots persist against him.

"In every demonstration, it's the yellow who is shouting for my ouster but you will never hear it from the communists," Duterte said.

"The Reds would never demand for my ouster. They will die for me," he strongly added.

The President also said that NPA combatants look up at him as a hero of sorts.

"And you can go to the mountains and ask the regular armed NPA. And ask them, 'who is your idol?' Let me disabuse your mind about this thought that we are enemies," he said.

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Duterte to go hard vs Maute terror group

President Duterte is unperturbed regarding the threat of the Maute Group to burn down Marawi City if the demands of the bandit group are not met.

During a dinner hosted for members of The Wallace Business Forum in Malacñang, Duterte initially sounded optimistic in learning that the group was ready to pull out of their offensive attacks but wanted government forces to back off from running after the outlaws, something which the president was not agreeable to.

"And I said, 'Go ahead, do it.' We need to do a lot of constructions in this country. There are a lot of materials there and we will be glad to rebuild and rehabilitate every structure that you destroy. As long it's confined in the areas of Lanao, I don't really care," stated Duterte. "No, I will not stop the operation. As a matter of fact, we will go ahead and – that's stupidity."

Aside from the Maute group, Duterte also cited the National Democratic Front's (NDF) request for him to release more political prisoners as part of confidence-building measures in the on-going peace talks.

"I said to Secretary (Jesus) Dureza and (Silvestro) Bello, 'look guys you tell the communist that I have as a matter of fact conceded too many too soon. All of the leaders are out and the only reason why I agreed that they should be out is because you have to do the talking in another country and that is in Oslo,'" said Duterte.

Duterte even threatened to end talks with the communist group if they keep on demanding the release of more prisoners.

"You don't make so much demands that are really too... and we have to (also consider) the views of the military and the police." (Elena Aben)

14 December 2016



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Banta ng Maute, mga kondisyon ng NDF 'di uubra

Nanindigan si Pangulong Duterte nitong Lunes laban sa mga banta at kahilingan ng teroristang grupo at ng mga grupong rebelde.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa hapunan para sa mga miyembro ng The Wallace Business Forum sa Malacañang nitong Lunes, sinabi ng Presidente ang tungkol sa banta ng Maute terror group sa Mindanao.

"Today, we took consideration of the Maute rebellion going on in Lanao. And they said that they are willing to pull out," ani Duterte.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Duterte na bilang kapalit nito ay hiniling ng Maute na itigil na ang opensiba

ng militar sa grupo kung hindi ay sisilaban nila ang buong Marawi City.

"And I said, 'Go ahead, do it.' We need to do a lot of constructions in this country. There are a lot of materials there and we will be glad to rebuild and rehabilitate every structure that you destroy. As long it's confined in the areas of Lanao, I don't really care," aniya. "No, I will not stop the operation. As a matter of fact, we will go ahead."

Binanggit din ng Presidente ang tungkol sa iginigiit ng National Democratic Front (NDF) na palayain ang mas maraming political prisoners kaugnay ng

usapang pangkapayapaan ng gobyerno sa mga komunista.

"I said to Secretary (Jesus) Dureza and (Silvestro) Bello, 'look guys you tell the communist that I have as a matter of fact conceded too many too soon. All of the leaders are out and the only reason why I agreed that they should be out is because you have to do the talking in another country and that is in Oslo'," ani Duterte. "But to be asking for another 130 releases, you tell them produce to me, show me a document signed by even with the Norway guys who provided the good offices... to sign it and I will consider."

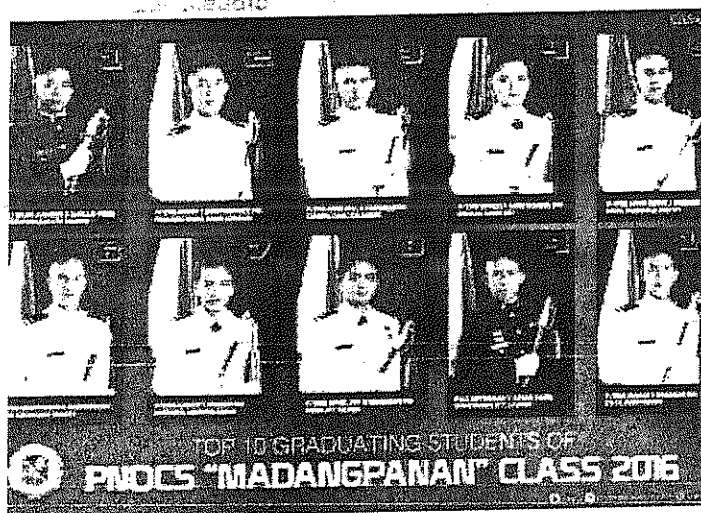
Elena L. Aben

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ONLINE NEWS 14 DECEMBER 2016

www.dwdd.com.ph

AFP Welcomes 194 New Officers



CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officially welcomed 194 new Probationary 2nd Lieutenants and Ensigns from the Officer Candidate School in a joint graduation ceremony held Tuesday, 13 December 2016, here at the AFP Theater. AFP Public Affairs Chief Marine Colonel Edgard A Arevalo disclosed.

"After a year of rigorous training in their respective Officer Candidate Course (OCC), 68 officer candidates from the Philippine Army, 63 from the Philippine Air Force, and 63 from the Philippine Navy will now join the regular force of the AFP," said Colonel Arevalo.

The Secretary of National Defense Delfin N Lorenzana, LtGen Salvador Melchor B Mison Jr, the AFP Deputy Chief of Staff, Major Service Commanders and other officers personally welcomed the graduates and presented the awards to the top three students from each Major Service.

Leading the Army's OCC "Kadasig" Class 47-2016 were P/2Lt Phil Jun D Ocumen who received the Presidential Saber, P/2Lt Kimberly Jean W Lappao, who was awarded the Secretary of National Defense (SND) Saber, and P2Lt Armie B Macapinlac, recipient of the Chief of Staff AFP (CSAFP) Saber.

For the Air Force's "Siklabtala" Class 2016, P/2Lt Iris Q Eugenio received the Presidential Saber followed by P/2Lt Nathaniel D Diaz with the SND Saber and P/2Lt Argie Clarence C Torralba with the CSAFP Saber.

The Navy's "Madangpanan" Class 28 were led by Marine P/2Lt Mark Andrew S Badilla who was awarded the Presidential Saber, P/Ens Ricky T Degutierrez with the SND Saber, and P/Ens Jesus Hell C Carballo with the CSAFP Saber.

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"The conclusion of your course is as important to you as it is to us in the AFP. We wholeheartedly receive you not only to the camp but also to the organization that only the brave and the patriotic enough dare join," said LtGen Mison.

Secretary Lorenzana on the other hand advised the graduates to take responsibility in the new positions that they will be holding. He further assured the graduates that the Department of National Defense will continue to support the modernization program of the Armed Forces.

"I thank you for volunteering to serve our country. You will be in the forefront; you will be putting your lives on the line, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I wish you good luck to your new career and I hope that all of you will reach the pinnacle of your respective military careers," Secretary Lorenzana concluded.

The new officers will be granted a month of academic leave before reporting to their training commands where they will be given their unit assignments.

The officer candidate schools established in the three Major Services train civilians and enlisted personnel who are baccalaureate degree holders to be future members of the AFP regular force.

The one-year course prepares an officer candidate with a rank of Probationary Second Lieutenant or Probationary Ensign to be mentally, physically, and emotionally fit to the AFP's Corps of Officers in the regular force.

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HERO'S WELCOME | 7th Marine Battalion Set to Retrain and Refurbish

By: DWDD



File Photo

NAVAL STATION JOSE V ANDRADA, Roxas Boulevard, Manila (DWDD) – Another Marine Battalion from Mindanao is set for retraining and refurbishing on the next 6-8 months here in Metro Manila.

The 7th Marine Battalion will be arriving on December 14, 2016 and subsequently be officially welcomed by a simple ceremony at Commodore Divino Pier, Headquarters Philippine Navy, Naval Station Jose Andrada in Roxas Blvd., Manila.

After more than a decade of performing frontline combat duties, the unit will be given a break for a retraining and refurbishing at Marine Barracks Rudiard Brown, Taguig City.

During this occasion, there will be a presentation of awards to deserving personnel of the unit who has given their unselfish dedication to serve their mandate.

The Flag-Officer-in-Command Philippine Navy Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph S Mercado AFP will be the Keynote Speaker during the welcome ceremony and will be assisted by the Commandant Philippine Marine Corps, Maj Gen Andre M Costales Jr AFP and other Marine Corps Staff.

The original 7th Marine Battalion which was activated pursuant to General Order Number 706, Armed Forces of the Philippines effective 20 October 1977 has performed security duties to the Presidential family at the Malacañang Complex.

The aftermath of the EDSA People Power Revolution of 1986 commenced the deactivation of the 7th Marine Battalion which was then under the Presidential Security Command.

Two (2) years later, the unit was reactivated on 01 June 1988 pursuant to GO Nr 57 HPMAR dated 07 June 1988 as a regular line Battalion of the Philippine Marines. Since then, the unit has consistently accomplished its mandated missions and earned a good reputation in the AFP organization.

Its present Acting Commanding Officer is Lt Col Randy U Victoria PN(M) and Maj Ferdinand B Foronda PN(M) as the Battalion Executive Officer. The battalion staffs are as follows: Maj Earl Owen P Rufin PN(M) the Operations Officer, Cpt Arnel T Laddaran PN(M) Communications Officer, Cpt Ryan Roy A Borra PN(M) Civil Military Operations Officer, 1Lt Jieve Ajijul PN(M) Adjutant/Admin Officer, 1Lt Ranel C Dimawala PN(M) Logistics Officer, and MSgt George Q Sechong PN(M) Battalion Sergeant Major.

During the welcome ceremony, the families, relatives and friends of the Officers and men of 7th Marine Battalion will also be joining to meet their beloved and patriotic Marines from the frontline. **PMC PAO / MCAG**

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ALL-OUT SUPPORT | Pres. Duterte satisfied with AFP's performance



TARLAC CITY, – "I am more than satisfied with your performance," this was the statement of President Rodrigo Duterte when he visited soldiers at Camp Servillano Aquino on Dec. 11, Sunday.

His visit is a display of continuing support to the military. He also announced he is giving Christmas presents for them this Yuletide season.

The President mentioned that the soldiers have a president who gives all-out support to the military, adding that he believes in a strong police and military.

He said he will always support the military as long as there are available government resources so the Armed Forces of the Philippines remains in tiptop condition, morale is high and the organization is always backed up by the commander-in-chief.

The members of the military were reminded to do their duties and not to worry about criticisms and legal actions, the President said. This Christmas, the President may give something to the military, noting it will arrive in their camps.

The President also announced arms delivery from China and he said he is sending Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to receive the weapons to be extended by the Asian neighbor.

"Hindi na tayo kailangan maghingi pa sa iba because they're willing to give it. Hindi naman free but it's a grant actually.

If it's a grant payable in 25 years that is really practically giving," he said. He also appealed to the soldiers to understand the ongoing peace talks with the rebels, stressing that as president, he has to consider the interest of greater number of Filipinos by attaining lasting peace in the country.

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He also warned about the threat posed by Mideast-connected extremist who may seek refuge in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, countries with significant Muslim populations.

At the same time, he explained his scheduled trip to Cambodia and Singapore this week noting his trip is part of his administration's diplomatic thrust to strengthen ties with ASEAN neighbors.

"It would maybe someday work to our benefit because we have cohesiveness at magkaisa tayo dito. The world is really a troubled one. Nagkakampo-kampo kasi, like it started with the EU. Mga Europeans gusto nila mag-kampo tapos limitado tayo dito, ganon," he said.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Hundreds join AFP CentCom's first fun run in Cebu

From the Philippine Information Agency (Dec 12): Hundreds join AFP CentCom's first fun run in Cebu

Around 400 running enthusiasts in Cebu joined the first fun run on December 9 staged inside the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Central Command in Camp Lapulapu, Lahug, this city.

Dubbed the "Colorful Night Party Run," runners took part in navigating the course for 3K, 5K, and 10K categories set up inside the CentCom headquarters, a race course made challenging as the run took place in the evening.

At 6:00 p.m., the race kicked off with a video presentation showing the advocacy behind the fun run.

"This is to promote our advocacy which is to encourage support for our troops, especially the frontline soldiers who are battling terrorism in Mindanao," explained Lt. Col. Medel Aguilar, assistant chief of staff for the Civil Military Operations of CentCom here.

Aguilar said that Rio 2016 Olympian, Mary Joy Tabal, spoke before the runners before the race, urging them to support the Filipino soldiers.

By watching their advocacy video, Aguilar said this gave the fun run a new meaning for the participating runners who were composed of not only soldiers but also civilians.

Some parents who ran the course tagged their children along with them, making the race a family affair, while some runners as old as 60 were also seen racing through the course that featured bright and colorful Christmas lights put up along the road.

At the finish line, runners were greeted by an impromptu party as the area was flooded with bubbles blown from a foam machine, while dancing, colorful lights lit up the suds.

Aguilar, who also ran in the 5k category, is hopeful that other civilian organizations and government agencies will hold more fun runs with CentCom to rally support for the government troops. Runners' Club, a private organization, initiated the first fun run.

"We're looking at holding the fun run every quarter from now on. We're ready to support our partner agencies that will want to initiate the race with us," he said.

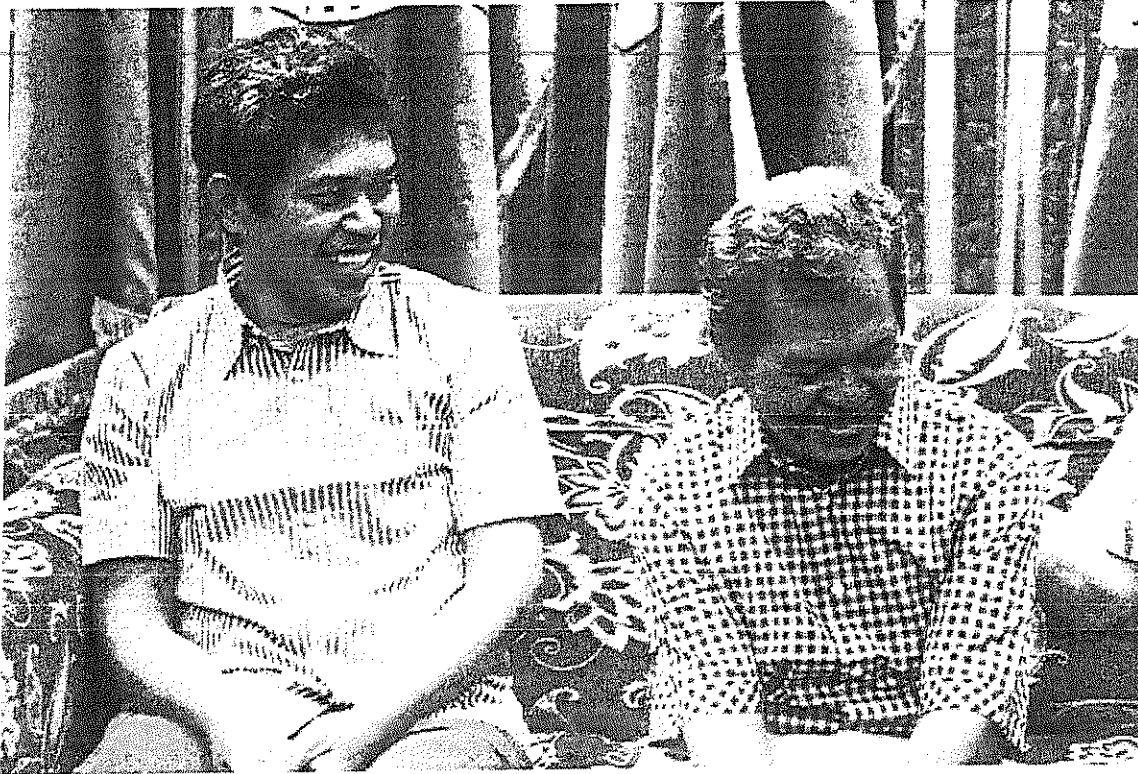
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www.philstar.com

2 freed Indonesian captives of Abu Sayyaf to return home

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated December 13, 2016 - 3:28pm



A handout picture of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) shows freed Indonesian sailors Robin Piter and Muhammad Nasir, exchange captives, during their turn over to their embassy officials inside the Westmincom military headquarters Tuesday in Zamboanga City. Westmincom/Released

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The two Indonesian sailors freed by the Abu Sayyaf Group were formally presented Tuesday to an Indonesian Embassy official here.

Muhammad Nasir and Robin Piter were presented by Brig. Gen. Jose Cabanban, deputy commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), to Indonesian Embassy protocol officer Pak Wiba during a simple ceremony at the military base here.

Nasir and Piter were released by the Abu Sayyaf Group under Alhabsy Misaya at 1:22 p.m. on Monday to Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) commander Tahir Sali in Indanan town.

The freed victims were brought to Sulu Vice Gov. Nurunnisa Tan who subsequently presented them to the Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS).

Nasir and Piter were brought to this city Tuesday morning and turned over to the custody of the Indonesian embassy official.

Westmincom spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan Jr. did not comment when asked if a ransom was paid for the release of the victims.

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Cabanban, meanwhile, said the release of the victims was a result of the ongoing military assault in Sulu against the Abu Sayyaf.

The Indonesian Embassy official thanked the military and the Philippine government for securing the release of their two compatriots.

The two were flown aboard a plane to their consulate office in Davao City and will fly home to Indonesia anytime Tuesday.

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