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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

21 December 2016

Wednesday

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

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EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	DEC 22 THU	DEC 23 FRI	DEC 24 SAT	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	DEC 22 THU	DEC 23 FRI	DEC 24 SAT
METRO MANILA	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 °C 28 °C	23 °C 27 °C	22 °C 28 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 °C 31 °C	27 °C 31 °C	26 °C 30 °C
LAOAG	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 31 °C	26 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C
BAGUIO	15 °C 22 °C	16 °C 23 °C	16 °C 22 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 30 °C	26 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 31 °C	26 °C 30 °C	26 °C 30 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 29 °C	26 °C 28 °C	26 °C 28 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

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SUNSET 5:32 PM
MIDNIGHT 11:36 PM
MORNING 12:03 PM

LOW TIDE 10:22 PM
HIGH TIDE 2:09 AM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST DECEMBER 21, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON (As of 2:00 AM - Dec. 20, 2016)

LAOAG CITY 24 - 31 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 22 - 28 °C
BAGUIO CITY 15 - 23 °C	
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 30 °C	METRO MANILA 24 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 21 - 28 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 29 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 30 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 31 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 31 °C

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UN rights chief: Probe Rody

The United Nations' human rights chief has asked Philippine authorities to investigate President Duterte for murder after he claimed to have killed people in the past and to also look into the "shocking number of killings" under his brutal crack-down on illegal drugs, which has left nearly 6,000 people dead.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement issued in Geneva yesterday that Philippine judicial authorities "must demonstrate their commitment to upholding the rule of law and their independence from the executive by launching a murder investigation," adding it is "unthinkable for any functioning judicial system not to launch investigative and judicial proceedings when someone has openly admitted being a killer."

Such calls have enraged Duterte, who may revive a previous threat to withdraw the Philippines from the UN.

The President is immune from prosecution during his term but he can be investigated. A Senate probe of allegations that death squads operated in Davao City when Duterte was mayor cleared him of involvement in extrajudicial killings.

Another Senate probe on ongoing killings related to the drug war will resume in the coming year.

This developed as Duterte dared UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard to prove that he ordered security forces to

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UN rights From Page 1

execute drug suspects and criminals.

Duterte reiterated that the government is not involved in extrajudicial killings as policemen and soldiers would not comply with illegal orders.

"The rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission wants to come here and she said she wants to talk to me, one-on-one. I said no. You go public.

you make the accusations. I'd like to know where you get the garbage," the President said at the awarding of outstanding Filipino individuals overseas in Malacañang on Monday night.

"Give me a policeman or a soldier here in front of me and ask her, 'Who was the one or who I ordered to be killed?' Extrajudicial? We do not do

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that. You do not shoot.”

Duterte said security forces would oust him if he orders them to do something illegal.

“If you force them to commit that kind of (act)—they will mount a coup d’état, believe me, especially, and all of them – the officers, the non-commissioned and commissioned officers,” he said.

“We have an armed forces who will never, never do that. And I know that well, you do not overdo things. You think

that we shoot people walking with their hands tied at the back on bended knees, no. But if you say a third of all killings were committed, happened during a police confrontation, yes,” he added.

The Duterte administration has invited Callamard to the Philippines to probe the alleged extrajudicial killings of drug suspects, but asked her to abide by certain conditions, including allowing Duterte to propound questions as well

as engage the UN team in a debate on relevant issues.

Callamard has opposed the conditions, saying the findings of investigations should remain confidential. She also argued the conditions are not in line with the code of conduct for special rapporteurs.

She suggested holding a private debriefing with Duterte as well as a joint press conference where the President can question her findings.

– Alexis Romero, AP



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Armed men torch pineapple factory in Cotabato

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

UNIDENTIFIED armed men burned the packing station of DOLE Stanfilco the other day in South Cotabato.

According to reports from Camp Crame, the

incident occurred around 6:50 p.m. in Bgy. Sebuyon, Surallah, South Cotabato.

Eight armed men barged inside the establishment and burned the packing plant.

Several local residents responded and helped put out the fire.

After the attack, the suspects fled towards unknown direction.

Members of the Surallah municipal police and

the Philippine Army's 27th Infantry Battalion immediately responded to the area.

Authorities said no group has claimed responsibility for the incident.

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BusinessMirror

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AMBULANCE DONATIONS Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Chairman Jose Jorge E. Corpuz and General Manager Alexander F. Balutan led the turnover of ambulance units on Sunday at the Ground Floor of the Conservatory Shaw Plaza Building, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. The recipients were seven municipalities in Isabela, namely, Echague, Santa Maria, San Agustin Mondala, Santo Tomas, San Manuel, Gamu and Delfin Albano. The Municipality of Tayabas, Quezon, and Jala-Jala, Rizal, also received ambulances. Five hospitals were also recipients of ambulance unit; the Manuel A. Roxas Hospital in Isabela; People's Gen.Hosp in Tuguegarao City; Cavite Naval Hospital; Claro M. Recto Hospital, Infanta, Quezon and Peter and Paul Medical Center, Candelaria, Quezon. The Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and First Scout Ranger Regiment, Southern Command unit of the Army in San Miguel, Bulacan, also received their ambulances. LAURA M. JACINTO

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‘Joint exploration in South China Sea not gov’t policy’

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella reiterated yesterday that there is no policy yet that provides for joint oil exploration with Beijing in the South China Sea.

Abella downplayed President Duterte’s statement that he may allow

a sharing of resources in the disputed waters, which came in the wake of an unannounced visit of Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua to Malacañang also the other day.

“I believe these are not government-to-government agreements, but it may

be business-to-business agreements,” Abella said in a briefing yesterday, adding that it could not be considered official if it is a private sector initiative.

Pressed for an explanation, he said there is no clear government policy at this time regarding possible joint oil

exploration with China.

“I’m just saying that... there is no government policy regarding the matter, covering that matter at this stage. But I suppose what he’s saying, what he was referring to, is the possibility

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Joint exploration From Page 1

of business-to-business partnerships,” he added.

At the same time, Abella echoed the Palace’s statement that the Philippine government will adhere to the ruling of the arbitration tribunal “because these are our properties, technically our properties.”

In a speech in Malacañang, Duterte said he can look at having joint oil exploration with Beijing to further settle the differences between the two countries over control of the South China Sea.

Duterte admitted that the Philippine military does not have enough power to flex its muscles in the disputed seas – compared to the might that Beijing has – and cannot allow the Marines to be wiped out.

He committed though that he would not abandon the Philippines’ rights over the area, which has been stipulated in the arbitration ruling.

China offers help

China has offered the Department of National Defense

(DND) \$14.4 million worth of military equipment, according to DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

He said Zhao has given a list of defense equipment for the Philippines to choose from – including small arms, fast boats and night vision goggles, all amounting to RMB100 million or P720 million.

A technical working group will be going to China to take a look at the equipment. If a deal is reached and finalized, these could be delivered by the first or second quarter of 2017.

Aside from the grant, the Chinese ambassador also expressed his country’s willingness to sell big-ticket items to the Philippines in the form of a \$500-million soft loan.

“China wants to give us \$500 million worth of long-term soft loan. If we want more equipment we can always avail of that soft loan,” Lorenzana said.

He gave assurance that China’s only intention in of-

fering the grant and soft loan is to help the Philippines in its fight against terror and illegal drugs.

“They wanted to help the President. They told the President that they know the extent of the terrorism problem in the country as well as illegal drugs and they’re willing to help us,” Lorenzana said, noting that Beijing would also be putting up a drug rehabilitation center in Mindanao.

Duterte hurled fresh tirades at Washington in the presence of new US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim on Monday and insisted that the country can live without aid from the superpower.

During the *Negosyo para sa Kapayapaan sa Sulu* town-hall meeting in Malacañang Monday night, he lambasted the US anew for allegedly using its aid to interfere with Philippine affairs and threatening to cut its assistance to the Philippines because of human rights violations under his watch.

He criticized the US-led Millennium Challenge Corp., which deferred a \$433-million

assistance to the Philippines over "concerns around rule of law and civil liberties."

"I do not need your assistance, challenge – Millennium Challenge, 400 million? China is going to release to me 50 billion, go home, I do not need your aid," the President said, stressing that he is standing up for dignity when he made his statements against the US, pointing out that the Philippines would not go hungry without it.

Kim did not react while Duterte was delivering the statements, but the envoy displayed a faint smile when the President recognized him.

Not gospel truth

On Duterte's plan to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Lorenzana said it should not be taken as "gospel truth" for now.

The President's statement can be considered simply as a threat, since no formal written order has been issued by Malacañang to invalidate the VFA, an agreement that came into force in May 27, 1998 upon ratification by the Philippine Senate, he said.

"He (Duterte) just said it. He simply said it in a form of a threat," Lorenzana said, adding that the DND has not received an order from the President to notify the US government about his decision to abrogate the VFA.

The defense chief added that the country would soon be cautioning the US and China on their activities within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

He said the Philippines would want to know what they have been doing in the West Philippine Sea.

"We have rights over the area. Both should ask permission from us," Lorenzana said in reference to the recent "drone" incident near Subic Bay wherein one of the two US unmanned underwater vehicle (UUVs) was seized by a Chinese warship.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto urged President Duterte to keep the US as a friend of the country in recognition of the help it has provided in the past.

Recto agreed that the Philippines would be better off pivoting to an independent

foreign policy position than siding with any of the big powers.

But in pushing for this, he argued, there is no reason for the country to be alienating any of its friends.

"Our motto should be: Friend to all, but subservient to none. In other words, amity to all, hostility to no one," Recto said.

The lawmaker said foreign policy rebalancing should not mean that "we dump old friends for new suitors."

"So what's the advantage of running away from the claws of the American eagle only to rush to the embrace of a Chinese or Russian bear?" he said.

He insisted that the Philippines maintain friendship with all nations, even those it has "ongoing differences" with.

"We must continuously engage, not disengage. One of the important engagement points is the matter of trade and aid, but preferably more of the former," Recto said.

—Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude, Marvin Sy, Alexis Romero

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The Manila Times

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DND to ask US about its activities in West PH Sea

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao: Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who visited the 6th Army Division said the Philippine government is considering to require the US military to inform the country first of any surveillance movement in disputed waters in Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

Lorenzana's statement came after the Chinese Navy intercepted a US underwater drone, "Ocean Slider," triggering further animosity between the two superpowers.

According to the Defense secretary, he was shocked when his US counterpart told him about the underwater drone that was confiscated by a Chinese Navy

warship recently.

"The US reported to us, saying, 'For your information an unmanned vehicle was taken by the Chinese.' So I responded, 'So you conduct activity there without our knowledge?'" Lorenzana told members of the 6th Infantry Kampilan Press Corps.

"I think one of these days we will require the US to inform us what they are doing there [Scarborough or Panatag Shoal]," he said.

Lorenzana added that the territory where the underwater drone was discovered is still part of the exclusive economic zone or ECC of the Philippines.

He said he was informed by a US Navy official that what they

were doing was part of military information gathering of oceanographic data such as salinity, water temperature and sound speed.

According to Lorenzana, he was somehow convinced by the explanation of the US Navy official whom he did not identify.

He, however, said the Philippine government was worried about implications of the drone's discovery if the situation worsens between the US and China.

"We are very concerned if there will be miscalculation on the part of the two superpowers, where we might be affected since the proximity is only around 15 miles, where our environment will be disturbed too. Hence,

they must settle their differences amicably and diplomatically," Lorenzana added.

He admitted that the Philippine government is not equipped to monitor underwater activities of the US or China but he said he will still try to inform these countries to advise their Philippine counterparts about their maritime activities except the free passage of their water vehicles.

"We have no way to find out what exactly they [US] are doing there, we allow them to pass, even China is also doing something there, we will try to ask them to inform us of any other activity except innocent passage," Lorenzana said. **JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**

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The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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PH to get P720-m arms aid

CHINA has earmarked a donation of military equipment worth 100 million yuan or around P720 million, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Tuesday.

He said a technical working group would be formed to study the acquisition procedures and the equipment to be requested with the grant.

He said he and President Rodrigo Duterte met Monday night with Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua and part of their discussion was a possible soft loan amounting to \$500 million.

"He [Zhao] asked what they could give us worth 100 million yuan which is equivalent to 720 million pesos," Lorenzana said.

"He gave us a list of equipment that we could ask for."

Lorenzana said they were thinking of getting small arms, fast boats and night-vision goggles that could be given to them in the first or second quarter next year.

He said the soft loan worth \$500 million for a big-ticket item could be finalized in the second quarter of 2017.

He said the other things they discussed with Zhao were issues on terrorism and illegal drugs.

"They want to help us fight terrorism and drugs," Lorenzana said.

"I know your problems in terrorism, I know your problems in

drugs, so we would like to help you," Lorenzana quoted Zhao as saying during their meeting.

Earlier, Duterte said Beijing should not be totally blamed for the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country where most of the listed leaders of the big-time drug syndicates were Chinese nationals.

Duterte's war on drugs has already claimed the lives of 6,000 drug lords, pushers and users.

He intends to intensify his campaign to eliminate drug pushers who, he said, were made up mostly of rogue policemen, military officials, village captains, local chief executives and even congressmen and senator.

He claims Senator Leila de Lima received drug money especially when she was Justice secretary, which De Lima denies.

Duterte is continuously being criticized here and abroad for his bloody campaign against illegal drugs.

But Duterte continues to taunt the US government and has threatened to abrogate the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, which would send home the American forces and equipment stationed in the country.

Florante S. Solmerin

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Palace cancels Christmas bonus for top cops

Not so fast.

Ranking officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) will not receive hefty cash gifts from President Duterte after all.

A day after PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa announced Duterte had allocated P50,000 to P400,000 in cash incentives each for star rank officers and police provincial directors, he said Malacañang will no longer give the cash bonuses.

During last Monday's Christmas party for police officers and their families held in Camp Crame, Dela Rosa told officials who are entitled to the cash gifts to proceed to his

office to claim their financial incentives.

However, not a single official, including those who waited until evening, received money yesterday.

When he was asked where the money was sourced, Dela Rosa replied it might have come from the intelligence fund of the President.

Dela Rosa blamed himself, saying Malacañang apparently became "discouraged" to release their cash incentives because of his announcement.

"When we held a press conference, a lot of people asked where it was sourced. Malacañang was discouraged," Dela

los said: "It will be up to the giver of the planned incentives based on his/her appreciation of your performance."

"If you will be given a gift or incentive by a person, will you make demands based on what you want? It's not that way," he said.

On the part of the military, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he is not asking for an extra Christmas bonanza for senior military officers.

"It's up to the President if he will give or not. I don't know if we too will have the extra bonus because the President has not been coming over to us (at Camp Aguinaldo). But I am not asking him for that,"

Rosa told reporters after the turnover ceremony of the PNP Logistics Support Service in Camp Crame.

"They told us, maybe before New Year, we will be given one sack of rice each," he added.

Dela Rosa admitted some of his fellow generals became frustrated after learning they will no longer receive the cash bonuses.

Dela Rosa told fellow officers to just wait if there would be cash incentives for them from the government.

"If we do not receive anything before New Year, maybe we should wait until next Christmas," he remarked.

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

On being more careful with his pronouncements in the future, Dela Rosa said it could not be helped because he is "a transparent person."

Several members of the PNP were disgruntled when they learned on Monday that only high-ranking officials have cash gifts from the President.

PNP spokesman Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos assured every policeman they will receive their performance-based bonuses this year.

"No one will be left out," he said.

On the amount of the cash incentives to be given, Car-

Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana said he was not even aware about the extra Christmas gift for the police as announced by Dela Rosa.

When asked if he too is hoping for the cash gift like that of the PNP, Lorenzana said he is not losing hope.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, said there no is such extra bonus in the military.

Arevalo said that as far as the military is concerned, the entire rank and file are happy with the President's full support to the entire organization in order to accomplish its mission.

- With Jaime Laude

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157 Sayyaf men killed, 159 hurt in Sulu, Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY – At least 157 Abu Sayyaf bandits, including some of their sub-leaders, have been killed and 159 others wounded in military operations since July, an official said yesterday.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said 114 bandits

were killed in Basilan and 43 in Sulu.

Tan said 13 other bandits were arrested in Sulu, 10 in Zamboanga peninsula and six in Basilan. He said 41 who surrendered in November yielded 45 high-powered firearms.

He said the bandits are us-

Tan said.

He said the government incurred fewer casualties due to improved force protection and casualty evacuation.

Air Force helicopters could pick up casualties even at night, unlike before when government troopers had to stop their operations at 3

ing the money they amassed from kidnapping to recruit new members. The military is validating the number of those who were killed and the new recruits to determine the exact number of Abu Sayyaf members.

Meanwhile, Tan said 29

p.m., Tan noted.

The military operations also aim to free 18 foreigners and five Filipinos who remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

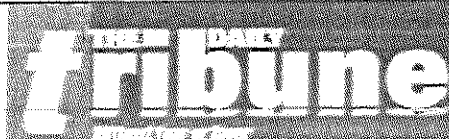
Among the captives are a Dutch, a German, a Korean, five Malaysians, four Indonesians and six Vietnamese.

By ROEL PAREÑO

soldiers were killed and 122 others wounded in the military operations in Sulu and Basilan.

"We are doing our best to prevent casualties, but in war it's a reality... Because enemies are hit, we also expect casualties from our side,"

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Lawmaker calls on gov't to release combat pay for cops, military personnel

By Charlie V. Manalo

Deputy Speaker Rolando Andaya yesterday called on the government to bring holiday cheer to policemen and soldiers by rushing the payment of higher combat duty rates owed them before the year ends.

Andaya issued the "reminder" for the implementation of President Duterte's Executive Order (EO) 3 which took effect last September. 1.

The EO raises to P3,000 per month the "Combat Duty Pay" of the officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

On top of this, the EO grants a "Combat Incentive Pay" of P300 to uniformed personnel "who figure directly in actual combat against members of various insurgent, terrorist and lawless elements."

Qualified to receive the "Combat Incentive Pay" are personnel involved in a "specific combat mission" covered

by an operations order by the AFP or a mission order by the PNP.

Personnel involved in combat must be in the "published task organization" of the AFP or the PNP for the missions executed, the EO states.

The EO, however, limits to P3,000 a month the "total additional Combat Incentive Pay" a qualified AFP or PNP personnel can receive.

Prior to the EO, Combat Duty Pay of a soldier was pegged at P500 a month while the Combat Incentive Pay was set at P150 per day of "actual combat" but not exceeding P1,500 a month.

For policemen, the previous Combat Duty Pay rate was P340 a month.

The EO in effect "harmonizes and aligns into one" the two allowances paid out by the two agencies, Andaya explained.

In his appeal, Andaya remained confident "that soldiers and policemen who have been to dangerous missions and combats and are entitled to new combat pay would get theirs soon."

"Those who haven't received yet, there is no doubt their pay is already in transit. Maybe the HQ (headquarters) just needs to iron out some kinks in their documents based on the EO guidelines," Andaya said.

"So that there would be no problem with the Commission on Audit, they have to validate their list. And these reports will be coming from the field," Andaya said, adding Duterte's compassion for servicemen should never be doubted.

"He has been to all major military camps," Andaya said.

Andaya also reminded concerned agencies regarding the rice subsidy Duterte promised to all uniformed personnel corps, including jail guards, firemen and Coast Guard personnel.

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Gov't panel off to Rome for peace talks

The government peace panel is set to leave for Rome next month for the third round of talks with the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (NDF-CPP-NPA), presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza said yesterday.

Both panels are to hold the talks on Jan. 18 to 25.

"Topping the agenda in the Rome round of talks are the social and economic reforms that the rebels are putting across the negotiating table," Dureza said.

The peace negotiators are expected to tackle and agree on the mechanics and guidelines for a bilateral ceasefire agreement and political and constitutional reforms, he added.

He announced that the government is open to "amending or even rewriting" the 1987 Constitution to address the root causes of armed rebel resistance to the government.

"If you really look up what they aspire for, you have to open up our Constitution to be able to accommodate them. That is the reality," Dureza said in his remarks during the recent Konsult Mindanao Peace Conference in Davao City participated in by Lumad, Muslim and Christian leaders.

The existing Constitution, he added, has become

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO
a "stumbling block" in effectively negotiating for peace with the communists, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels.

"If you talk with the CPP and even the Bangsamoro (MILF, MNLF) they will never admit and agree that they will be circumscribed by a Constitution or by our laws," Dureza said, noting that all agreements previously signed with the rebels made no reference to the Philippine Constitution.

"We always refer to international laws and protocols," he added.

As government negotiators, Dureza said they have to work within the "confines of the Constitution"

in order to allow both parties to continue working on a final peace settlement despite their opposing views and ideologies.

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Gov't From Page 5

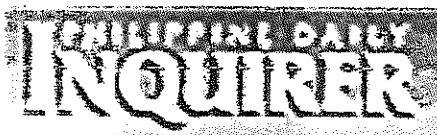
As for the Bangsamoro issue, he believed that including the issue in the revisions to the Constitution would be better than filing another law like the Bangsamoro Basic Law which Congress failed to approve the last time.

He also underscored the need to fur-

ther strengthen and expand the existing "peace tables" in order to make them more inclusive and ensure the success of the ongoing peace negotiations with various rebel groups.

"If you do not get the bigger public first to be informed of what is happening in the peace tables, and if they don't understand what we are doing, chances are they will reject what we agree on in negotiation," Dureza said.

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BONUSES FOR GENERALS: WHO GOT HOW MUCH?

**By Julliane Love De Jesus
and Cynthia D. Balana
@Team_Inquirer**

Hours after Malacañang denied that it had distributed cash gifts for cops, a police source revealed to Inquirer.net that top officials started receiving their Christmas bonuses worth at least P100,000 each.

A police official, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal, admitted to claiming the cash gift from President Duterte on Monday, upon the instructions of Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

"It's true. They've given it to us yesterday," he told Inquirer.net in a phone interview on Tuesday. "It's given in cash. They had prepared the envelopes already. You just have to sign a list before claiming the money."

He said he and the rest of PNP officials got the cash from Dela Rosa's office in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

But Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said earlier on Tuesday that the Christmas bonus for key PNP officials "has not been given and is apparently, not forthcoming."

Dela Rosa also backtracked

on his earlier announcement that Duterte would give Christmas bonuses worth P40,000 to P50,000 only to high-ranking police officials.

"I thought I was going to receive a big amount of money yesterday because I thought Malacañang was going to hand out bonuses," he said. "But the media kept on asking where the money came from so we had to wait until nothing came."

Now that the release of bonuses for PNP is uncertain, Dela Rosa said Duterte might give the officials a sack of rice each as a substitute.

The bonuses were publicly announced by Dela Rosa during a Christmas event on Monday at the PNP Grandstand in Camp Crame attended by police officials, noncommissioned officers, nonuniformed personnel and their family members.

Being the only PNP official with a four-star rank, Dela Rosa said he would receive P400,000. Francisco Uyami and Ramon Apolinario, who both have a rank of Deputy Director General, will receive P300,000 each. All officers with Police Director or two-star rank will receive P200,000.

Chief Superintendent or

star-rank officers in the PNP directorial staff, regional and provincial directors and heads of national support units down will also receive P100,000.

Key officials with ranks of Senior Superintendent below will receive cash above P50,000.

Dela Rosa has raised eyebrows for accepting cash gifts, which could total millions of pesos, for select officials, a move that could be considered a violation of Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials.

Dela Rosa also refused to divulge the source of President Duterte's funds.

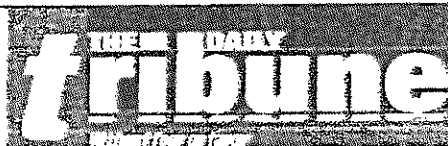
"Definitely it's not allowed by law that's why they are denying it," the source said.

Some junior officials and noncommissioned police officers also found it unfair for the President to give hefty sums to select officials rather than spend them on improving the equipment of the police as the government continues with its war against drugs.

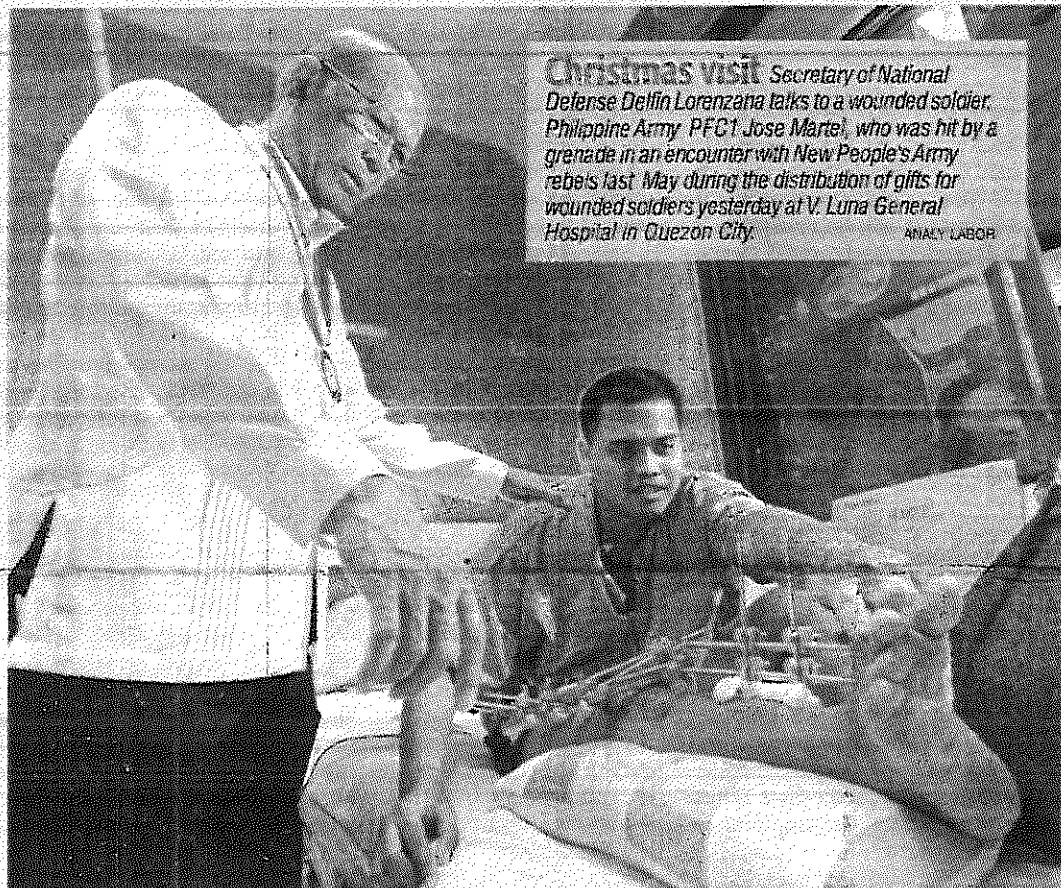
In Camp Aguinaldo, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said soldiers would receive Christmas bonuses and gifts allotted to state workers.

—WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS INQ

2¹ December 2016

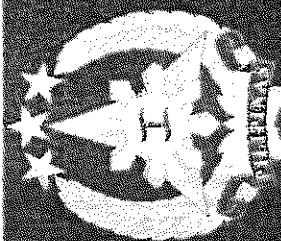


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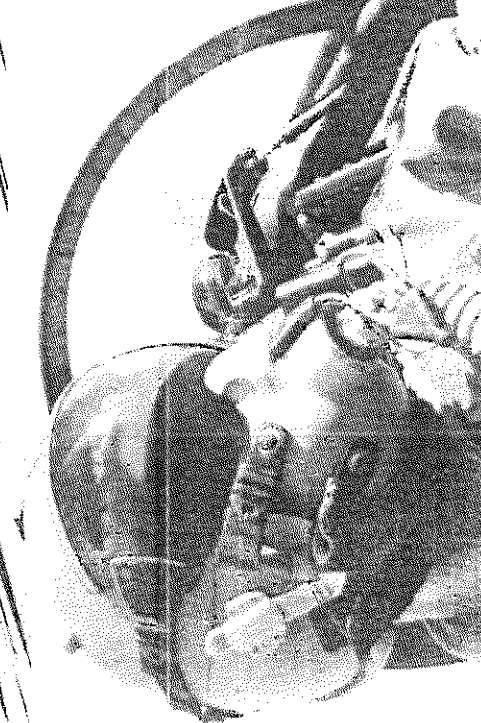
Christmas visit Secretary of National Defense Dellin Lorenzana talks to a wounded soldier, Philippine Army PFC1 Jose Martel, who was hit by a grenade in an encounter with New People's Army rebels last May during the distribution of gifts for wounded soldiers yesterday at V. Luna General Hospital in Quezon City.

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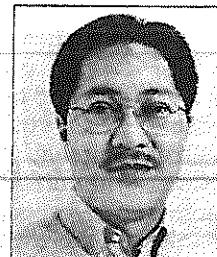
21 December 2016



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Gotcha

By JARIUS BONDOC



Gov't must protest sea militarization – Carpio

Beijing's heightened militarization of the South China Sea must be protested, lest it say that Manila accepts. Supreme Court Senior Justice Antonio Carpio called for such government action against China's deployment of weapons in all seven artificial islands it built in disputed waters. Foreign Sec. Perfecto Yasay preferred silence while building up strength.

New findings detail Beijing's placement of anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems at Mischief, Subi, and Fiery Cross reefs, beside illegally constructed military-length airstrips. China also has fortified the smaller Johnson, Hughes, Gaven, and Cuarteron reefs, the Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies reported Wednesday.

"If the Philippines does not formally protest, China can later claim that the Philippines consented, or at least acquiesced, to China's military fortifications in the Spratlys, including Mischief Reef," Carpio said last weekend. "The UNCLOS tribunal already has ruled that Mischief Reef is a

submerged area of the continental shelf of the Philippine EEZ, and thus only the Philippines can erect structures on Mischief Reef."

Mischief, Johnson, and Hughes (aka McKennan) are within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone, the four others in its additional 150-mile extended continental shelf. All are within Manila's jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. China and the Philippines are signatories of that pact that governs maritime rights of coastal states.

Asked about China's arms buildup, Yasay said Friday in Singapore that Manila will not protest via a note verbale. "Let them take whatever action is necessary in the pursuit of their national interest... and we will leave it at that," he told reporters. "For the Philippines, we have our bilateral engagements with China."

Yasay added: "We will make sure that there will be no further actions that will heighten the tensions between the two countries, particularly in the Scarborough Shoal." He was referring to another sea feature closer to Luzon that China invaded in 2012.

Carpio noted: "When China seized Luconia Shoals from Malaysia in Apr. 2013, Malaysia formally protested though without any publicity. Malaysia did not want China to later claim that Malaysia acquiesced to the seizure because Malaysia did not protest."

Manila last July won a UN court ruling of sole jurisdiction over features within its EEZ and ECS. The court rubbished China's nine-dash territorial boundary over all of the South China (West Philippine) Sea.

On Scarborough, the court said Manila must share the 250-sq-km (58-sq-mi) shoal as other nations' traditional fishing ground. Chinese coast guard vessels continue to bar Filipinos entry, however, into the mouth of the horseshoe-shaped seamount. Since 2012 Chinese harvesters of endangered giant clams and fan

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China could later construe Philippine silence as consent, as Palace avoids discord at present.

corals have destroyed three-fourths of the shoal bed, the CSIS reported from satellite photos.

Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana earlier said China's arms build-up is a "big concern" for the global community. Each year over \$5 trillion in world trade passes through the sea, said to hold deposits of oil and gas.

Yasay said Monday Manila will not deviate from the UN tribunal ruling, but will build trust with Beijing before discussing it. President Rodrigo Duterte also said he would bring up Scarborough with China, but not while Beijing holds military superiority.

Tensions have risen in the region in recent weeks, with China flying a nuclear bomber in the Taiwan Strait. US President-elect Donald Trump's allowing his Taiwanese counterpart to land in the US en route to South America next year, following their phone chat, infuriated Beijing. The US then angrily demanded the return of a naval undersea drone that a Chinese submarine confiscated a short distance from the Philippines' 12-mile territo-

rial waters.

It's all a joke, President Duterte now says of his public rant last week about physical aches and pains. The media are fools, he says, for lapping up his claim of daily migraine, spinal pain that need opioid, and Buerger's disease due to past heavy smoking. He once stated to be suffering Barrett's esophagus disease; that too is a gag perhaps.

Those didn't sound light to political leaders, or even to Duterte's own aides, though. Sen. Panfilo Lacson called for the release of a medical bulletin. To which, presidential spokesman Ernie Abella and labor chief Silvestre Bello retorted that whatever ails him is due to wear and tear of age. Duterte, at 71, is the oldest to be elected Philippine president.

No one's too old to learn the lesson from Aesop's fable about the boy who cried wolf. Duterte's on-and-off remarks about his health would elicit varied actions from friends and foes. One has but to stretch the imagination, as his handlers often say.

Duterte had dismissed as a joke reports last year about his planning a presidential run. During the subsequent campaign he called a joke his threat to burn the Singaporean flags. His gang-rape joke did not dent his popularity with voters. His recent chat with God while on a plane ride was obviously a joke. But his order for US military consultants to leave Mindanao didn't sound jocular later to the White House. So did his admission, then denial, then re-admission of having killed crime suspects as mayor of Davao City, which have affected US aid releases.

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

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ONLINE NEWS

21 DECEMBER 2016

Oplan Bayanihan ends as Duterte orders AFP to support NDF talks

From Rappler (Dec 20): **Oplan Bayanihan ends as Duterte orders AFP to support NDF talks**

(UPDATED) The communist rebels have long called for the abolition of Oplan Bayanihan, which they claim is behind alleged human rights abuses committed by the military in the countryside



SUPPORT TALKS WITH LEFT. President Rodrigo Duterte asks the military to support his peace initiatives with communist rebels. Rappler photo

The Philippine military's counter-insurgency campaign "Oplan Bayanihan" ends this month, paving the way for a new campaign plan that will take into account the ongoing peace talks with communist rebels.

It's a policy decision that will please the communist guerrillas, who have long been campaigning against Bayanihan.

"We will be implementing the new campaign plan starting January 2017. There will be no formal launching but the CSAFP (chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Eduardo Año) is expected to announce it in his anniversary speech," said AFP Public Affairs Office chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo on Sunday, December 18.

The AFP will celebrate its 81st anniversary on Wednesday, December 21. President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to lead the celebration in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

A source privy to the preparation of the new campaign plan said it will reflect Duterte's orders to the military to support peace talks with the communist rebels.

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The Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) Bayanihan or "Oplan Bayanihan" is a public document detailing the military strategy under the previous Aquino administration to address security threats.

It's an offshoot of Oplan Bantay Laya, the counter-insurgency campaign under the Arroyo administration, that was blamed for the extrajudicial killings of political activists at the time.

Oplan Bayanihan supports peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front while seeking to defeat the Abu Sayyaf Group and the then dominant foreign terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), following a policy of non-negotiation.

In the case of the New People's Army (NPA), the armed group of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the military sought to diminish the armed group until it becomes "irrelevant," and the rebels are forced to abandon the armed struggle and go back to the negotiating table.

The military has credited Oplan Bayanihan for "clearing" several areas where the NPA was present. The military claims the rebels are now down to 2,000 armed combatants.

The NPA and leftist organizations, on the other hand, blame Oplan Bayanihan for alleged human rights abuses committed by the military in the countryside. They had long called for its abolition, stepping up their campaign against it after the peace talks resumed.

Talks between the communist rebels and the Duterte administration formally resumed in August. It paved the way for unprecedented unilateral ceasefires between the military and the NPA, which have been holding for 4 months now although both camps have reported complaints. The government also committed amnesty for political prisoners.

If issues are resolved, a more stable bilateral ceasefire will be signed before the 3rd round of talks in January.
(READ: PH, NDF closer to signing joint ceasefire deal)

The CPP and the NPA are responsible for the longest running communist insurgency in Asia. The CPP is celebrating its 48th anniversary on December 26 through "peace rallies" nationwide.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/155925-oplan-bayanihan-ends>