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**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

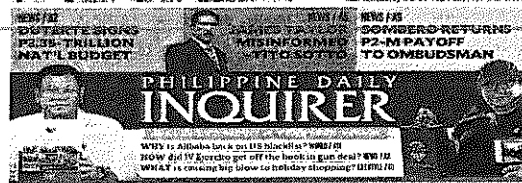
**23 December 2016**

**Friday**

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

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### 23 DECEMBER 2016



#### DUTERTE VENTS IRE ON AMLC

**Duterte threatens to slash AMLC's salary for failing to give him drug money** **STORY BY CELIA SALAZAR** **IT'S THE ONLY ONE TO FIRE** and if you don't resign, I'll treat you as a drug addict! **Low probability money** laundering doesn't mean giving info each other order



#### Plunder raps filed vs BI execs in casino bribe

Online gambling firms shut down



#### Duterte: UN rights chief a joker, idiot

AML.C execs told: Resign or be treated like addicts



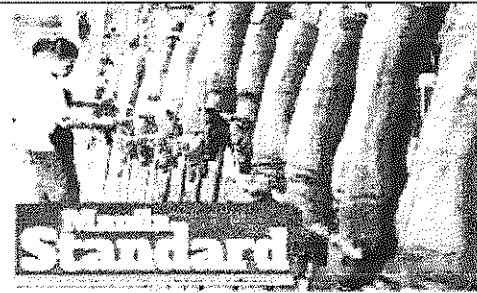
#### The Manila Times

Plot to lift Charter's restrictions revised



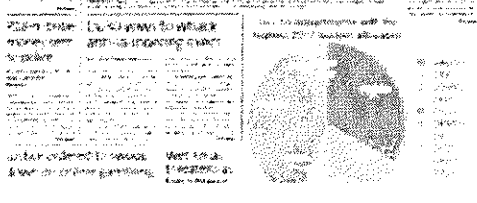
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#### Pro-poor budget signed

Duterte: P1.35 trillion spending plan with 10% for social change



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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER





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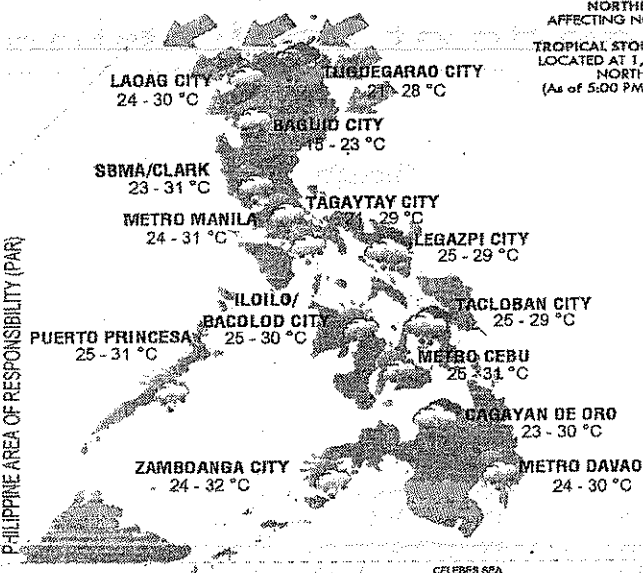
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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 23, 2016 | FRIDAY**



**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**


**CELEBES SEA**

**NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON**




**TROPICAL STORM "NOCK-TEN" LOCATED AT 1,320 KM EAST OF NORTHERN MINDANAO (As of 5:00 PM - Dec. 22, 2016)**

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:17 AM	5:33 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:58 AM	2:00 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
DEC 21 9:56 AM	DEC 28 2:53 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:20 AM 0.15 Meter	4:19 AM 0.49 Meter

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rain
- Rains with gusty winds
- Stormy

DEC 24		DEC 25		DEC 24		DEC 25		DEC 24		DEC 25	
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	23 - 30 °C	22 - 29 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	20 - 28 °C	19 - 27 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24 - 28 °C	23 - 28 °C			
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	22 - 28 °C	22 - 27 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	23 - 28 °C	22 - 27 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	22 - 29 °C	22 - 29 °C			
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<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	23 - 30 °C	22 - 29 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	24 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C	 <b>SABOT KO, PADALA MO!</b>					

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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# Duterte vents ire on AMLC

**FROM A1**

**By Leila B. Salaverria**  
@LeilasINQ

Apparently angry about the Anti-Money Laundering Council's failure to support his campaign against illegal drugs, President Duterte on Thursday threatened to "whack" officials of the regulatory body headed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor, accusing them of corruption and inefficiency.

Mr. Duterte demanded the AMLC members resign for failing to provide him an "assessment report." He did not say what that was but Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II told reporters the President obviously referred to the investigations into the bank accounts of Sen. Leila de Lima and suspected drug lords.

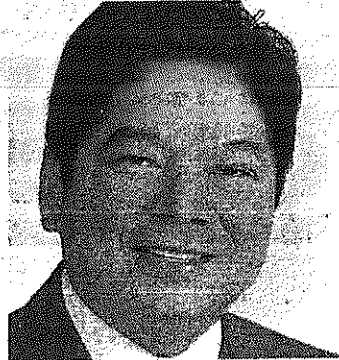
De Lima has been accused of receiving drug money when she was justice secretary, a charge she has denied.

"I'll count one to three and if you don't resign, I will treat you as a drug addict," said the President, who is waging a brutal antidrug campaign that has left about 6,000 people dead since he took office in July.

"Better prepare there because I'll give you a whack. But you are all, you are all corrupt," he said in a speech after signing the 2017 national budget.

"I am going to charge all of you there, criminally," Mr. Duterte said without naming any council official in particular.

The four-member council is headed by BSP Governor Amando Tetangco and also includes the government's chief insurance and securities regulators, as well as the council's executive director.



Tetangco

The Anti-Money Laundering Law prohibits the council from sharing any information with anyone else except under court order.

Last month, Mr. Duterte warned the central bank and the council to "avoid a confrontation between us." At the time he said government agencies had to "do more, especially on dig-

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ging records that would show laundered money.”

The President said on Thursday he had learned from the National Bureau of Investigation that the council had yet to submit an assessment report.

#### **Second warning**

Mr. Duterte said he was warning the AMLC for the second time, noting that the council took action only after he castigated it during his remarks at the NBI anniversary last month. There, he had lashed out at the AMLC for giving the Department of Justice a hard time in its investigation of the illegal drug transactions inside New Bilibid Prison.

On Thursday, he said the NBI director had told him that there were still money-laundering reports that have yet to be submitted.

“I was told by the director

that up to now, there’s no report of this AMLC,” he said.

He said the officials were “contributing to the corruption of this country.”

“You have reported to the NBI and submitted it very late. Yet you do not have the assessment report. You were placed there because you have a job to do,” he said.

They should get out of the office if they cannot do their job, he added.

#### **‘Stonewalling’**

Tetangco is about to retire, the President said. “Better prepare there ‘cause I’ll give you a whack. You are all corrupt and serving a master. You are not supposed to engage in politics. Goddamnit.”

Aguirre told reporters that Mr. Duterte, in his tirade, was referring to people implementing the Anti-Money Laundering

Law, those in the office of the AMLC executive director.

“I’m sure he was referring to that because there’s stonewalling. They haven’t given the assessment, the analysis of the account,” Aguirre said in an interview.

The only documents given to the DOJ were the statement of accounts of De Lima and the other alleged drug lords, he said.

The council referred requests for comment to the central bank.

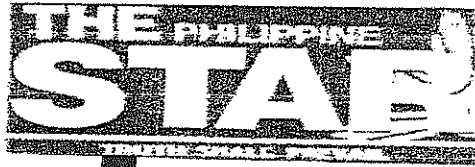
The fiery Duterte won a landslide election victory this year after pledging to kill 100,000 criminals to prevent the country from turning into a “narcostate.”

Since July police said they have killed 2,124 drug suspects while more than 3,000 others were gunned down or stabbed by unidentified assassins.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

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# Duterte: UN rights chief a joker. *'3 of 5 Americans idiots'* idiot

By ALEXIS ROMERO

After a day of silence, President Duterte yesterday lashed out at the United Nations human rights chief for saying that he should be investigated for murder, calling the UN official a "joker" and an "idiot" who has no right to tell him what to do.

Duterte said UN member-nations like High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein cannot dictate on him, saying the international body is being funded by sovereign nations like the Philippines.

"The United Nations human rights (chief) said Duterte should be charged for murder. This guy is either a joker or *medyo sirang ulo* (a little crazy)," the President told a gathering of civilian drug watch volunteers in Pampanga.

"You (UN) officials who are sitting there, we pay your salaries. You idiot, you don't tell me what to do. I am your employer. You do not do it to a nation," Duterte said.

He explained that

"Who gave you the right? You lack knowledge of international law. We have contributions to the United Nations, you rowdy son of a b\*\*\*\*," Duterte said. "I am a member state, a sovereign state. Please shut up because you lack brains. Do not do that. You're just an employee there, by appointment. Got it?"

Al Hussein is a prince of Jordan and career diplomat who played a key role in the creation of the International Criminal Court, which investigates genocide and crimes

Turn to Page 14



## Duterte From Page 1

against humanity.

On Tuesday, he said Duterte should be probed for murder after the President admitted to killing people.

Al Hussein said Philippine authorities should investigate what he described as the "shocking number of killings" linked to Duterte's narcotics crackdown. About 6,000 suspected drug offenders have been killed since Duterte assumed office on June 30.

Hussein said it is "unthinkable for any functioning judicial system not to launch investigative and judicial proceedings when someone has openly

admitted being a killer."

Duterte's spokespersons, however, believe the UN official raised old issues that are already being addressed.

Duterte said UN officials should go back to school to review diplomacy. He also threatened to slap Hussein if he visits the Philippines.

"Tell him if he wants to come here. If not I will slap you, you devil," he remarked.

Duterte once again took a potshot at the US, which has been critical of his brutal campaign against illegal drugs.

"For every five Americans, three of them are idiots. Only

two of them are in their right minds," he said.

Duterte maintained there is no crime committed when he threatened to kill criminals and drug lords. He reiterated though that he does not endorse extrajudicial killings.

"We do not kill our own fellowmen. Of course it hurts to see a Filipino die in front of you. Of course it is despicable," Duterte said during the signing of the 2017 budget yesterday in Malacañang.

### Admission cannot stand

Hussein has said the Philippine authorities should investigate the killings attributed to Duterte in Davao City when he

was still mayor of the city.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, on the other hand, defended the President, saying Hussein should know first how the criminal justice system in the Philippines works. "Apparently, the UN rights chief is not familiar with the Philippine Constitution and our laws. First, our President enjoys immunity from suit during his term," Lacson said.

"Second, no matter how many times a person in our country admits having committed murder, as long as there is no other evidence to corroborate his extrajudicial confession, the case cannot stand in any court of law," he added.

Lacson said the UN official can "shout to high heavens to

investigate the President but unfortunately for him, he can't get past that call."

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has responded to the challenge to investigate Duterte and the so-called Davao death squad (DDS), which has been linked to him in the past.

CHR chairman Chito Gascon said a team has been created to further investigate the DDS and to look into new revelations and public admissions "that may shed light on our previous findings."

Meanwhile, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, acting president of the Liberal Party, has called for a stop to the killing of suspected drug personalities, which has

breached the 6,000 mark since Duterte took office.

"The killings must end, drug addicts must be given the chance to be rehabilitated and this government must go after those behind the more than 4,000 vigilante murders committed since then," Pangilinan said.

In his Twitter account, Pangilinan noted the strong stand taken by acclaimed singer-songwriter James Taylor against summary executions taking place in the Philippines, which led to his decision to cancel his concert in the country next year.

Pangilinan urged all Filipinos to take a similar stand against these killings.

– With Marvin Sy



13 December 2016

## CHRISTMAS DAILY INQUIRER

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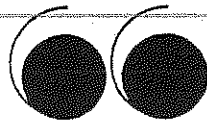
### HEAD OF ARMY BATTALION TELLS NPA REBELS THEY WON'T BE ARRESTED

DAVAO CITY—The head of an Army battalion that operates in areas with heavy rebel presence sought to give communist guerrillas assurance they would not be arrested if they decided to come out of hiding to celebrate the holidays with their families.

Lt. Col. Ronnie Babac said no member of the unit that he heads, the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, would arrest any rebel who comes down from the hills to reunite with family for the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Babac's statement came days after President Duterte urged New People's Army guerrillas to come down from the hills and enjoy the holidays like normal people.

"Take the opportunity to enjoy the holidays," said Babac, referring to a ceasefire between



**Take  
the opportunity  
to enjoy  
the holidays**

**Lt. Col. Ronnie Babac**  
73rd Infantry Battalion commander

the government and NPA.

"This Yuletide season, we are asking our NPA brothers to take this chance of visiting their loved ones and feel the spirit of Christmas peacefully in their homes without fear of being arrested as our unit is in all-out

support of ongoing peace talks and ceasefire," said Babac, whose unit is based in Malita, Davao Occidental.

Babac's unit has jurisdiction over Sarangani and Davao del Sur provinces, areas with heavy NPA presence.

Babac said NPA rebels also need not worry about military operations because "with the resumption of the peace talks, military activities such as combat operations have discontinued and priority efforts of the unit have shifted to peace and development efforts."

The NPA has not responded to the invitation for rebels to come down from the hills.

But actions speak louder than words as communist guerrillas are suspected of being behind another attack on a bus plying South Cotabato and Ko-

ronadal City on Wednesday.

The bus, the fourth to be attacked in South Cotabato since Nov. 13, was torched past 7 p.m. on Wednesday as it was on its way to General Santos City from Cotabato City.

Quoting witnesses, Supt. Franklin Alvero, South Cotabato provincial police chief, said the Husky Bus was on the road in Tacurong City when a man boarded it. As the bus reached the village of Morales in Koronadal, the man told the driver to stop the bus.

At this point, six to eight men armed with handguns hopped into the bus and, at gunpoint, told the driver to alight.

A passenger told police that one of the suspects ordered all passengers to alight, too, as the bus would be burned. —ALLAN

NAWAL AND EDWIN FERNANDEZ INQ



New People's Army guerrillas stand in formation in a guerrilla camp somewhere in the Sierra Madre mountain range after a clandestine press conference in November. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## Bomb blast hits Maguindanao

MAGUINDANAO—A bomb exploded along a highway in Shariff Aguak town yesterday.

No one was hurt in the explosion, but the incident triggered panic among villagers.

The bomb exploded shortly after a military truck carrying soldiers from the 601st Reconnaissance Co. passed in Barangay Satan at around 7:20 a.m., said Chief Superintendent Theodore Sindac, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director.

Local officials said members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters could be behind the bombing.

An investigation is underway.

— John Unson, Emmanuel Tupas

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## **54th IB commander calls for community support**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Dec 22): 54th IB commander calls for community support

A military officer enjoined every "Immipuggo" (Ifugao) to support the Philippine Army in the fulfillment of its mandate.

"As we do our best to fulfill these endeavors, we recognize and accept the reality that we, the members of the 54th IB, cannot achieve our mission and objectives alone. We need the support of other agencies, the cooperation of the private sectors and each and every one in the community," appealed Lieutenant Colonel Nicolas Quemado, Jr., 54th Infantry Battalion (Magilas) commanding officer based in the province, during the unit's 31st anniversary recently.

"Let's put our efforts together to bring light to those who are still blinded by the promise of prosperity by people who do not believe in democracy for a lasting peace in our land," the army officer stated.

Every Magilas trooper he said has expressed his or her commitment to continue serving the people and securing the land for the benefit of every Filipino.

Quemado also disclosed that when he assumed command of the unit, he prioritized the morale and welfare of personnel. "I believe that human resources are the most important component of an organization. A unit composed of people with high morale is a unit that could maximize the potentials of the personnel to become prolific," he said.

More than 100 stakeholders and soldiers were given commendation for their contribution to the success of the 54th IB's programs and services.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/161482236952/54th-ib-commander-calls-for-community-support>

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### **3 children hurt in Army camp blast in Abra**

By: Vincent Capreza - Reporter / Glenn E. Escala

Inquirer Northern Luzon / 02:19 PM December 22, 2016

BAGUIO CITY—three children were hurt when they stumbled on a fragment of a spent grenade that blew up at the firing range of a military camp in Lagangilang, Abra province, on Saturday, a belated report said.

The children, aged 9, 10, 11, were treated for minor wounds and were back at the camp of the Army's 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in Lagangilang, said its commander, Col. Thomas Baluga.

Two of them were children of a soldier who brought his family to celebrate the Christmas holidays in the camp, Baluga said. The third victim was the child of a civilian staying in the camp.

"I take responsibility for that accident. The children should not have been allowed to loiter around the firing range where we discharge weapons like grenade launchers," Baluga said.

"The children were foraging for metal scraps and found the bottom of a spent grenade. They threw it and it exploded. The children were hit by small stones and gravel. All that was ignited was the [blasting] powder," he said. *RAM/rga*

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## Rody hikes gratuity pay of valor medal awardees

President Duterte has raised the monthly gratuity pay of the awardees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s medal of valor (MOV).

From P25,000, all MOV awardees or their beneficiaries will receive P75,000 in monthly gratuity pay starting in January, retired Army chief and MOV awardee Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz

said yesterday.

Ortiz said presidential special assistant Christopher "Bong" Go relayed to him the good news on Wednesday as they were attending the AFP's anniversary celebration at Camp Aguinaldo.

Retired Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, a MOV awardee, lauded the

By JAIME LAUDE

President's action, saying the huge increase in the MOV's gratuity pay will benefit low-ranking awardees and their families.

There are five MOV awardees who are currently in active service and holding field and administrative positions in the AFP.

Querubin said retired AFP chief

- 1 Gen. Ricardo Visaya endorsed their
- 2 recommendation seeking to raise the
- 3 gratuity pay of all 47 MOV awardees.

- 4 "The MOVs have been left behind
- 5 in terms of pay raise. The P25,000
- 6 gratuity pay was provided in 2001
- 7 based on Republic Act 9049," Querubin said.

The MOV is given to soldiers who, beyond the call of duty, performed extra ordinary deeds in the field of combat.

Aside from the monthly gratuity pay, dependents of MOV awardees are given extra perks such as free education and entry to the Philippine Military Academy.

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## ‘Medal’ of Valor awardees get ₱75,000 as gratuity pay – AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Soldiers who have received the Medal of Valor (MOV) welcomed yesterday the Duterte administration's decision to increase the monthly gratuity given to those awarded with the prestigious medal.

Retired Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, who was a former recipient of the medal, said they are very happy that from ₱25,000 every month, the monthly gratuity has been increased to ₱75,000.

The increase takes effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

“Well, we are very, very happy. Although that doesn't have much effect on us senior officials, but to those enlisted

personnel or low ranking soldiers that's a big deal because their allowance is much bigger compared to the basic pay of the AFP chief of staff,” Querubin said during an interview shortly after the AFP 81st Founding Anniversary celebration at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City last Wednesday.

AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año announced the increase on the gratuity of MOV awardees in a speech he delivered during the anniversary rites attended by President Duterte and high-ranking government and military officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

Querubin said they have been working for the increase in the gratuity given to MOV recipients and they didn't expect that

their recommendation will be approved.

“This was actually the recommendation of then AFP chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya and it was endorsed by the Secretary of National Defense (SND) Delfin Lorenzana. This was also endorsed by Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno and it was approved by President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday. This was announced during the party of the generals,” Querubin said.

“Our recommendation was based on the computation they made on the increase of the basic pay of soldiers. This is how much the percentage is so that is where we based it. If their salary increase, the incentive of MOV awardees should also increase. Our computation reached ₱75,000,” he said.

There are about 40 Medal of Valor Awardees in the AFP, 17 of which are still alive while five are still in the active service.

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## DND STUDYING CHINA'S \$500-M LOAN OFFER FOR BOATS, DRONES

By Cynthia D. Balana  
@cynchdbINQ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines is eyeing the acquisition of fast boats, drones, night-vision goggles and communications equipment from China under a soft loan offered by the Beijing government.

According to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the offer of a low-interest, long-term loan amounting to \$500 million was being studied by the Department of National Defense (DND) for the current AFP modernization program.

Lorenzana said the Philippines was set to receive a one-time grant of 100 million yuan (about \$14 million) from China for defense equipment, following the meeting of President Duterte with Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua on Dec. 19 at Malacañang.

The Chinese envoy conveyed that the grant of P720 million worth of firearms is in support of the President's war on illegal drugs and terrorism.

Lorenzana, who joined the meeting, said the Philippines will have to tailor-fit the list of equipment to be obtained within the offered grant.

He said the DND would see to it that the purchases would match the modernization needs of the AFP.

"We at the DND and AFP are still preparing our list," Lorenzana said, adding that his aides would visit China next year to inspect the weapons being offered.

China has also pledged to help build a mega drug rehabilitation facility located in a military camp north of Manila. INQ



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## China \$14-M grant eyed for AFP modernization

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is looking to further modernize the organization through the acquisition of fast boats, drones, night vision goggles and communications equipment using a \$14-million grant from China.

But "we do not know yet the quantities," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

According to Lorenzana, the country is set to receive a one-time grant of 100 million yuan for defense equipment, following the meeting of President Duterte with Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua last Monday.

The Chinese envoy conveyed that the grant was China's support for the President's war on illegal drugs and terrorism.

Lorenzana, who joined the meeting, said the Philippines would have to tailor the list of the equipment to be obtained within the amount equivalent to P720 million.

But Garcia clarified they would still have to take up the matter with Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade.

"We have to arm the vessel for the purpose of law enforcement activity. The Coast Guard could use these ships for its role of policing at sea (to) counter terrorism and... narcotics operations," Garcia said.

"When we speak of... narcotics, it is everywhere. When we speak of deterring narcotics it's not just happening on land but basically the bulk of the precursor chemical elements are coming from the sea. So the more that we have to guard our seas from the entry of precursor chemicals elements in concocting shabu," the Coast Guard official added.

He also said that the Philippines was a signatory to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Act against the Safety of Maritime Navigation at Sea Convention of the International Maritime Organization.

"We at the DND (Department of National Defense) and AFP are still preparing our list," he said in a statement.

The DND chief also revealed that the Chinese government offered the country a low-interest long-term loan amounting to \$500 million.

Lorenzana said the DND would study the offer vis-à-vis the current AFP Modernization Program.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it was planning to arm its two new multi-role response vessel (MRRVs) – the *BRP Tubbataha* and *BRP Malabrigo* – as a deterrent to lawlessness at sea.

During the commissioning of the 44-meter *Malabrigo* yesterday morning, PCG officer-in-charge Commodore Joel Garcia disclosed the plan was to place 50 caliber firearms on board the newly acquired MMRV ship.

Garcia said this would help ensure maritime safety and security, environmental protection and law enforcement.

A source said that six units of 50 caliber firearms might be installed on board the *Malabrigo* and the *Tubbataha*.

"It is but proper and fitting that we... comply with the minimum requirements of suppressing unlawful acts," Garcia said.

The *Malabrigo*, to be led by Lt. Cmdr. Geronimo Tuvilla, has a stabilizer that would help lessen the rocking motion during rough sea condition.

It also has night vision cameras, fire monitors, radio direction finder and bullet-proof navigational bridge and will be deployed to the different Coast Guard Districts including Manila, La Union and Puerto Princesa.

The *Malabrigo* is the second of 10 new MRRV that will be built in Japan and to be delivered over three years.

The 10 MRRVs would be provided by the government of Japan through its Official Development Assistance.

The *BRP Tubbataha*, which arrived last October, has been commissioned and has already seen sea action. It was the vessel used by the PCG in rescuing the 14 fishermen in Occidental Mindoro last Monday.

The PCG said it would like to arm all 10 MRRVs.

– With Evelyn Macairan

23 December 2016

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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# SM Foundation completes 15th military hospital renovation project

By ANTONIO DELOS REYES

A COUNTRY'S military force serves as the defenders of any country's sovereignty. These individuals lay down their lives to protect the population's right to freedom and injuries, whether in combat situation, or in routine military training. However, military hospitals might not be equipped to handle cases such as this and for this reason, SM Foundation has tied up with the AFP to address this growing issue.

The Foundation ends 2016 with the reopening of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) field hospital in Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui (NSLG) in San Antonio, Zambales. "The priority facilities are the classrooms and the laboratories, but our field hospital is of the same level as our classrooms and laboratories because our personnel, sailors, and marines go here, not just to be educated, but also for the improvement of their physical fitness. The standard of physical fitness here is a bit higher compared to the physical fitness regimen that they are subjected to outside the camp. In

the past years, there have been incidences of training accidents and the students or military personnel end up at the field hospital. That's why this particular station hospital, which has now been renovated and refurbished, is of equal importance as our classrooms and laboratories," Navy Chief Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado, AFP, shared during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The hospital was first opened in 1979 as a medical clinic to cater to the medical needs of the Philippine Navy personnel assigned in Subic Naval Base Command situated within the US Naval Base. It was upgraded into a medical infirmary in 1989 but with the rejection of the base agreement by the Philippine Senate in 1991, it was dissolved and the facility transferred to its current location. The NSLG hospital was downgraded and renamed the NSLG Medical Dispensary last June 2016 to conform to the Department of Health's rules and regulations governing the new classification of hospitals

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and other health facilities in the Philippines. The downgrade came about due to the former hospital's dilapidated structure and lack of medical facilities.

At present, the NSGL Medical Facility provides in and outpatient treatment and consultation, as part of its mandate to conserve the fighting strength of the AFP soldiers. The mission of the NSLG Medical Dispensary is to provide quality healthcare services to all military personnel, their dependents, as well as students undergoing professional military education in the NETC. It does so by offering ECG, X-ray, pharmacy, and ambulance transport services as well as providing a medical team to all Command and student activities.

"We from SM group of companies are deeply honored to be able to contribute in our own little way to those who serve the country, specifically with the improvement of this naval education and training command hospital.

For several years now, SM Foundation has been renovating and refurbishing military facilities to make it more conducive to the recuperation of this country's uniformed men and women who compromise their lives for the defense and security of our nation," said Connie Angeles, SMFT's Executive Director for Medical & Health Programs in a speech read for her by SM City Olongapo Assistant Mall Manager Ana Lorraine Azucena. "This is the foundation's 15th improved health facility for the armed forces of the Philippines – our way of saying that we are your partner in providing continuous quality healthcare and service to uniformed personnel, their dependents, and authorized civilians. We dedicate SM Foundation's program on the improvement of the AFP health facilities to you, beloved soldiers, who dedicated their lives and limbs so that we may enjoy the power of our freedom," she added.

The renovation includes floor retiling, repainting of the interior and exterior partitions, and interior design. Furniture, appliances, and medical supplies were also part of the donation to create a conducive environment for treatment and recuperation of patients. The renovation was aimed to contribute to the facility's goal to be a DOH licensed Primary Care Facility capable of providing various healthcare services with enhanced equipment, facilities, and competent health workers. With the completion of the program, the naval base medical staff will now be able to expand the facility's medical services and upgrade its classification as a Level 1 Hospital. "On behalf of the Philippine Navy, I would like to thank SM foundation for the very noble project that they have undertaken and given to this naval command. I hope we could continue our partnership in future projects," Vice Admiral Mercado said.

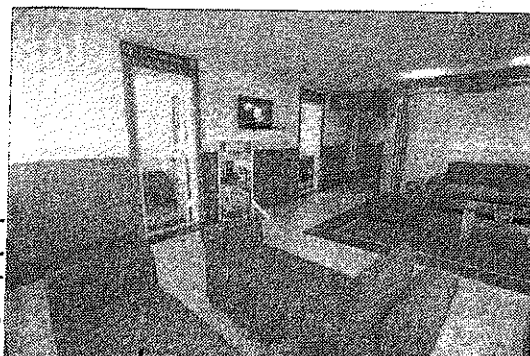
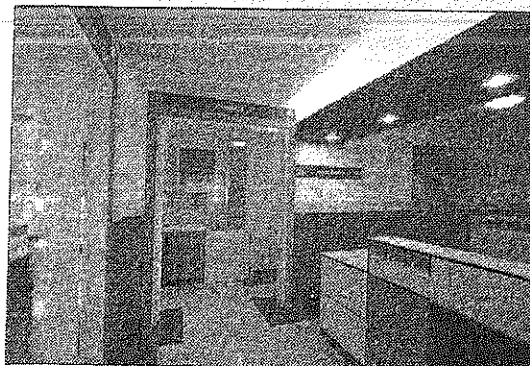
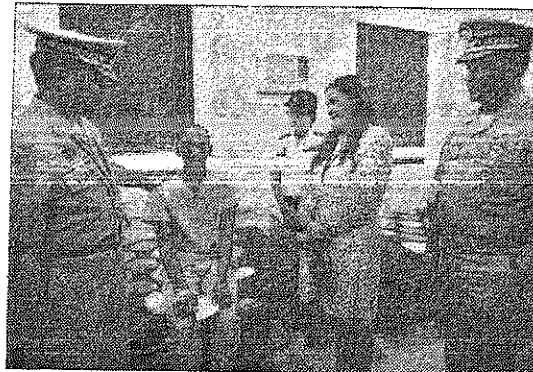
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VADM Ronald Joseph Mercado AFP and Assistant Mall Manager of SM City Olongapo Ana Lorraine Azucena, assisted by RADM Narciso A. Vingson Jr AFP lead the ribbon cutting of Naval Education & Training Command, Station Hospital renovated the refurbished by SM Foundation held at Zambales.

PHOTO BY RHOY COBILLA



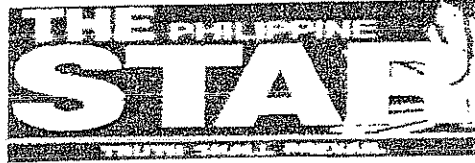
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## **EDITORIAL**

# **Selective respect for rights**

Respect human rights and humanitarian law and uphold the rule of law in all operations, President Duterte told the Armed Forces of the Philippines the other day. The AFP was celebrating its 81st anniversary, and the statement was issued a day after the United Nations human rights chief called on Philippine authorities to investigate the President for killings that he reportedly committed personally or endorsed.

Although the President yesterday continued to defend his vicious war on illegal drugs, the order to the AFP raises hope among rights advocates. The AFP has been criticized in the past for human rights violations and alleged extrajudicial killings, with retired Army general Jovito Palparan dubbed as "the butcher" and portrayed as the poster boy for military abuses.

AFP officials have insisted that all killings were done in the course of legitimate counterinsurgency or counterterrorism operations. Military officers have also complained

of violations not only of their human rights but also of rules on the conduct of warfare by enemies of the state, who are not bound by international agreements.

Human rights advocates are waiting for the President to issue a similar directive to the Philippine National Police, which is waging the bloody war on drugs that has so far claimed nearly 6,000 lives in just six months. Rights advocates may have a long wait ahead.

The President's adherence to human rights appears to be reserved only for the troops fighting the lowlifes who torch and pillage villages, burn churches, kidnap and mutilate victims, and bomb businesses and public utility towers. For those who are addicted to drugs, there is no mercy and rights are non-existent.

Like justice, respect for human rights cannot be selective. Soldiers cannot play nice with their foes while police are freely shooting to kill. There cannot be opposing marching orders for the military and police.

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## **ONLINE NEWS**

### **23 DECEMBER 2016**

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#### **TF Davao reaches out to IPs and urban poor this holiday season**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Dec 22): TF Davao reaches out to IPs and urban poor this holiday season

More than 500 Moro residents at the Muslim Village in Barangay 76-A received Christmas gifts from the Task Force Davao as part of the Pinaskuhan sa Lumad activity.

Major Mario Tena, civil-military operations officer of the Task Force Davao said the residents have helped a lot in the campaign against terrorism.

He said the residents have been effective as eyes and ears of the authorities, since they immediately report suspicious individuals in the neighborhood.

"They are part of our beneficiaries to the gift-giving activity," Tena said.

The Task Force conducted their gift-giving initially in December 5 simultaneous with the medical and dental activity at the Ramon Macsaysay Park where more than a thousand residents were benefitted.

Beneficiaries came from Barangay Leon Garcia, Agdao District and Barangay 27-C Poblacion District which are near the TF Davao Headquarters.

A total of 64 military doctors participated in the event.

Tena said their unit will always keep the peace and reaches out to poor communities.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/2381482378516/tf-davao-reaches-out-to-ips-and-urban-poor-this-holiday-season>

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## AFP@81 | Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Change

AFP@81

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared a cessation of hostilities with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), this Christmas season during his keynote speech on the 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.



In his statement, President Duterte announced a ceasefire from the rebel groups starting on December 23-27, and 31 to January 3, 2017. He called on all rebels, particularly the NPA, to come down from the mountains and be with their families on Christmas.

"I guarantee you na walang aresto, walang opresyon..." assured the President.

The Commander in Chief also commended AFP for implementing a new plan under the government's long-term vision in the "AmBisyon Natin 2040" and for continuing the capabilities of the AFP modernization program. President Duterte led the awarding ceremony for eighteen outstanding personnel who accomplished great feats in various areas of military service. This included two Outstanding Achievement Medal Award, one Distinguished Conduct Star Award and the AFP Bayanihan Award for civilian partners among others.

Former Philippine presidents Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, AFP Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Eduardo Año and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (J1) Brigadier General Arnel Duco assisted the President during the ceremony.

After the parade, the President viewed the static display of three mobile vehicles for the use of the Philippine Navy Mobile Command and Control Communications Center, Philippine Army Mobile and Control Communications Center and the AFP mobile kitchen.

This year's celebration carries the theme, "Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Change", and it began by a simultaneous flag-raising ceremony earlier today in different AFP camps and installations nationwide. **RTVM / MCAG / AFP**

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## Abu Sayyaf gets rid of middlemen, contacts families

From Asia One (Dec 22): Abu Sayyaf gets rid of middlemen, contacts families



*Mr Abdul Rahim Summas (in blue), one of the five Malaysians abducted by Abu Sayyaf gunmen from Lahad Datu waters in the east coast of Sabah on July 18, 2016. An SOS message has been sent out by one of the Malaysian hostage held by Abu Sayyaf, pleading for help as he has been starving and beaten up.*

Abu Sayyaf gunmen holding five Malaysians and others appear desperate to cash in on their hostages held in and near their stronghold of Jolo island in southern Philippines.

The gunmen no longer rely on intermediaries and instead are dealing directly with the families of the captives for the ransom.

Jolo-based anti-kidnapping activist Prof Octavio Dinampo said the gunmen were finding it more difficult to hold on to their captives amid an intensifying Filipino military offensive against them.

He said the military was stepping up operations against the gunmen with skirmishes occurring about 1km from Jolo town.

The gunmen could be finding it too slow to go through intermediaries and that was why they were contacting the families of the captives directly, he said.

The five Malaysians - Abd Rahim Summas, 62, Tayudin Anjut, 45, Fandy Bakran, 26, Mohd Zumadil Rahim, 23, all from Tawau, and Mohd Ridzuan Ismail, 32, from Pahang - are reportedly being held in the hinterlands of Talipao in Jolo. The five tug boat crewmen were abducted on July 18 in waters off Dent Haven near Lahad Datu in what is believed to be the first ever such incident in broad daylight.

Mohd Ridzuan's wife Hariyanti Hamsih, 31, had been quoted as saying that she had been getting calls from the gunmen who allowed her to speak to her husband.

Hariyanti said in the conversation, Mohd Ridzuan pleaded for them to raise the ransom as all of the hostages were suffering.

The kidnappers are said to have demanded about 100 million pesos (S\$2.9 million) for the release of the hostages.

Hariyanti said the families managed to raise RM30,000 (S\$9,670) from public donations and relatives were looking at other ways to get more money.

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## **Sayyafs demand P100 million ransom for 5 Malaysian sailors**

From the Mindanao Examiner (Dec 22): Sayyafs demand P100 million ransom for 5 Malaysian sailors

Abu Sayyaf rebels were demanding P100 million ransom for the safe release of 5 Malaysian sailors being held captive in southern Philippines, reports said.

The notorious group tied to the Islamic State did not give any ultimatum and released a photo which showed one of the hostages being surrounded by gunmen and probably taken in Sulu, one of 5 provinces under the Muslim autonomous region.

The five captives – Mohd Ridzuan Ismail, 32; Tayudin Anjut, 45; Mohd Zumadil Rahim, 23; Fandy Bakran, 26; and Abd Rahim Summas, 62 – were seized by the Abu Sayyaf from a Malaysian tugboat off Sabah's Lahad Datu town during a daring cross-border raid in July.

The Abu Sayyaf has phoned the families of the hostages to demand ransoms, according to Malaysian media.

There was no immediate statement from the Philippine military on the rebels' demand, although it has repeatedly said that security forces were tracking down the Abu Sayyaf to rescue the kidnapped sailors – at least 2 dozen Indonesian and Vietnamese hostages are still being held by the group in the restive region.

Military propaganda claimed that over 300 rebels had been reportedly killed and wounded in Sulu and in nearby province of Basilan in fierce clashes in recent months.

President Duterte has ordered an intensified military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and other jihadist groups operating on Mindanao Island, south of the Philippines in an effort to put an end to the violence that affected tens of thousands of civilians in the autonomous region where Muslims are demanding a separate homeland.

<http://mindanaoexaminer.com/sayyafs-demand-p100-million-ransom-for-5-malaysian-sailors/>

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[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

## **IED 'meant for troops' explodes in Shariff Aguak**

By: Edwin O. Fernandez, Nash E. Mautana - @Inquirerootnet  
Inquirer Maguindanao / 11:32 AM December 22, 2016

COTABATO CITY—Suspected Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) gunmen set off a powerful improvised explosive device along the national highway in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao as a military convoy was passing by around 7 a.m. Thursday, the Army said.

Colonel Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the 601st Infantry Brigade based in Tacurong City, said the military convoy was heading toward the headquarters of the 6th Infantry Division in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao when a blast rocked the roadside in Barangay (village) Satan.

"Luckily, nobody was hurt, it was really meant for our troops," Sobejana said.

He said post-blast investigation was still going on at the blast site located about a kilometer away from the headquarters of 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Poblacion Shariff Aguak.

No one has claimed responsibility but military and police officials said they were looking at the possible involvement of the BIFF.

Prior to the blast, BIFF spokesperson Abu Misri Mama warned of attacks against the military in Maguindanao.

He also said the BIFF would not declare a unilateral ceasefire this Christmas and New Year.

Sobejana said government forces had been placed on double red alert since Dec. 16 to ensure the safety of commuters passing by Maguindanao and those having Church-related activities.

More checkpoints were put up along the highway from Shariff Aguak to Cotabato City as a preventive measure.

Sobejana sought understanding from commuters on the delays the checkpoints might be causing them but he stressed it was for the safety of everybody.

Last week, at least four IED attacks occurred in the towns of Datu Salibo and Datu Piang, also in Maguindanao.

In the attacks last week, a soldier and a civilian were wounded./rga

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