

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

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Monday

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

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on PTV (Channel 4).





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PH is 2nd most dangerous country for journalists after Iraq; 2,297 global media killings reported

BRUSSELS (AP) – Iraq remains on top of the list of most dangerous countries for journalists followed by the Philippines, as at least 2,297 journalists and media staff have been killed for doing nothing more than trying to inform the world on war, revolution, crime and corruption And killers continue to act with impunity, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) announced in a new report.

Over the past 25 years, Iraq has topped the list of most dangerous countries as the scene of

PH is 2nd most...

309 killings, the overwhelming majority of them since the 2003 US-led invasion and war. In second place is the Philippines, with 146 killings. Mexico and its drugs-related violence is third with 120.

Malacanang, however, decried the report saying the Philippines remains a bastion of press freedom as the government has dismantled the "machinery of impunity" in the violence against journalists.

"Since the triumph of the EDSA People Power revolution, the Philippines has become anew a bastion of freedom expression and of the press where there is no prior restraint or internal security regulations that hinder the work of journalists," Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

"The high number of killings attributed to the Philippines includes those slain in the Maguindanao massacre in 2009. The Aquino administration has dismantled the machinery for impunity by putting in place governance reforms and prosecuting those implicated in the massacre," he added.

The report also underscores the IFJ's "recurring finding that there are many more killed in peacetime situations than in war-stricken countries."

The annual total stood at 40 in the federation's first year of counting, 1990, but has not dipped under the 100-mark since 2010.

"The last ten years were the most dangerous," said IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger in an interview, with 2006 the worst year of all with 155 killed.

And despite vows of protection from as high as the United Nations, the IFJ said it produced the report "25 years of contribution towards safer journalism" to underscore a worsening climate of impunity which has helped killers get away with murder and turn journalists into soft targets.

"The IFJ estimates that only one of ten killings is investigated," the report said, with actual convictions lower still.

"That is the diplomatic issue. Let's stop the impunity that protects the killers," Bellanger said.

The 79-page report will be made public next week, but The Associated Press obtained a copy ahead of a debate Monday at the British Parliament on "deaths of professional and citizen journalists in conflict zones." The IFJ will also take the report to a major UNESCO meeting in Paris next Thursday devoted to the same issue.

"We bring this report to show to all that it really is time to do something about it," said Bellanger.

Last year stood out for the attacks on the Paris office of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, where two Islamic extremists killed 12 people at the satirical newspaper's office. The IFJ's total tally of the year stood at 112.

The IFJ says it bases its information on a variety of sources, including national affiliates in about 140 nations, police sources and political reports. It has published annual reports since 1990, focusing on the killings of journalists and media staff in work-related incidents. The totals center on deaths of media professionals in targeted assassinations, cross fire incidents and bomb attacks.

Beyond the sustained high totals, Bellanger said that there is also a disturbing trend in which kidnappers who seize journalists kill them, all too often without even seeking ransom.

The targeting of journalists has continued unabated this year too. Earlier this month, a suicide car bomb attack in the Afghan capital, Kabul, targeted a bus owned by Afghanistan's biggest media organization, Moby Group and a Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility saying Moby's Tolo TV was the target. Seven media workers were killed.

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Military deploys troops in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija against NPA activities

By Mario J. Mallari

To thwart any attempt by the communist New People's Army (NPA) from terrorizing civilians and combat criminality, police and Army forces in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija will deploy today almost a hundred troops to hold "bayanihan" activities in several barangays.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio Osias IV, commander of the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion (IB), said that the send off of "Bayanihan Teams" in nine barangays in Bulacan and two in Nueva Ecija is part of the proactive efforts of the military and police leaderships in Region III.

"Said areas were chosen specifically being the NPA's mobility corridors and for having crime incidents which are difficult for our law enforcers to address immediately," Osias said.

According to Osias, the "Bayanihan Teams" are composed of 55 Army troops and 39 police personnel. The teams are headed by Maj. Yacob Usman, Bayanihan Team Activity (BTA) commander of 48th IB.

Senior Supt. Ferdinand Divina, director of Bulacan provincial police office, will attend the send officeremony, along with local police chiefs, mayors and officials of the Department of Education.

He stressed that the teams completed a BTA training, including peace building seminars, youth leadership summit, information education campaign, rendering of public health services and provision of livelihood and financial assistance to former NPA rebels, last December in preparation for today's deployment.

Osias said that the deployment of "Bayanihan Teams" was

coordinated closely with local government units, particularly with the barangay chairmen where the troops would be deployed.

"We are conducting this as part of our pro-active measures to maintain peace and support law enforcement operations in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija," Osias said.

Osias said that the pro-active step was in compliance to the directive of Maj. Gen. Angelito de Leon, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division and Felimon Santos Jr., commander of 703rd Brigade.

"This is primarily aimed at attaining and sustaining peace and development in the deployment areas." said Osias.

"The move would also deny the NPA on their recruitment and recovery activities while addressing the criminality at the same time," he added.

The Manila Times

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Army, police deploy Bayanihan Teams

BULACAN: Some 55 Philippine Army (PA) personnel and 39 Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel under the Bayanihan Team will be deployed in nine barangays in Bulacan and two barangays in Nueva Ecija following a send off ceremony this Monday.

The operation, headed by Major Yacob M Usman, Bayanihan Team Activity (BTA) commander, is aimed to augment the current forces in sustaining peace and development in their respective deployment areas.

The 48th Infantry (Guardians) Battalion, 7th Infantry (Kaugnay) Division, PA, together with Bulacan and Nueva Ecija Provincial Police Offices will conduct the simultaneous

send-off for the Teams in the municipalities of Do a Remedios Trinidad and San Miguel in Bulacan, and in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.

Colonel Felimon Santos Jr., commander of 703rd Brigade, 71D, PA, said the deployment areas were chosen specifically being the New People's Army's mobility corridors and for having crime incidents which are difficult for the local law enforcers to immediately address.

During the send-off, a Memorandum of Understanding for the BTA will be signed between the 481B and the heads of LGUs concerned.

FREDERICK SILVERIO

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The Manila Times

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Soldiers, Reds clash in Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY: Elements of the 9th Infantry Division encountered about 12 suspected New People's Army (NPA) members while conducting internal security operation at about 11:42 a.m. on Sunday at the vicinity of Sitio Balalong, Barangay Villa Pogado, Cataingan, Masbate.

Police report said the rebels were believed to be members of Kilusang Larangang Gerilya-South led by Rogelio Suson, also known as "Ka Manong." The firefight lasted for 10 minutes with no casualty on the government side and an undetermined number on enemy side. The rebels withdrew toward southeast direction.

Chief Supt. Augusto Marquez Jr., Bicol police regional director, directed all chiefs of adjacent police stations to conduct checkpoint operations and intelligence monitoring in their respective areas of responsibility.

PNA

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NPAs attack, destroy equipment of pineapple plantations in Bukidnon

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO and ELENA L. ABEN

BUTUAN CITY – Heavily armed members of New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), struck again and destroyed several equipment that belong to two big food companies in Malabalay City, Bukidnon province, a regional Army spokesman reported yesterday.

Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, spokesman of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID), said NPAs belonging to guerilla-Front Committee 6 of the CPP-NPA North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) carried out two separate attacks and destroyed heavy equipment owned by Del Monte Philippines, Inc. and Lapanday Pineapple Plantation Company at Hagwaon, Gabunan and Impalambong areas, all in Malaybalay City early dawn on Saturday.

He said the rebels' first assault

came at 1 a.m. when they indiscriminately fired upon a mega spray truck of Dole Phils. Inc. at Sitio Upper Gabunan, Barangay Casisang.

Then, an hour later, two bulldozers of the same company were also burned by a separate group of NPAs at Field 97, Zone 6, Barangay Impalambong, both of Malaybalay City

A boom spray owned by Lapanday Pineapple Plantation Company was set ablaze by the NPAs at Sitio Hagwaon, Barangay Laguitas, the 4th ID spokesperson said.

No casualty was reported because of the burning incidents.

"The NPA bandits had long been attempting to extort money in a form of their so-called "Revolutionary Tax" from these multi-national companies to generate funds for the armed group," Martinez said in a statement sent to the Manila Bulletin.

"However said companies consistently refused to give-in to the NPA's demand," he added.

Only last January 26, at least 20 suspected NPAs swooped down on a

plantation site of Del Monte Philippines and also set on fire several of its equipment at Kitangalad area in Barangay San Juan, in Balingasag town, Misamis Oriental.

As of press time, troops belonging to the 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade, along with the Malaybalay City Police Station, have already been deployed to secure the incident sites.

On the other hand, combat troops from the First Special Forces Battalion based in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon are conducting a wide and massive pursuit operation against the attackers who reportedly fled towards the provincial border of Bukidnon, Agusan and Dayao.

Col. Jesse A. Alvarez, commanding officer of the 403rd Peacemaker Brigade, said NPA rebels have now been reduced to being bandits.

"The burning of these companies' equipment is clear evidence that the NPA has now resorted to banditry and is no longer fighting for ideology," the brigade commander yesterday said.

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2 soldiers killed in Kalinga clash

By FREDDIE G. LAZARO

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte – Two soldiers from the Philippine Army's 50th Infantry Battalion were confirmed died while one was critically wounded during an encounter with suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Balantoy, Balbalan, Kalinga province on Tuesday, a belated report disclosed.

The fatalities were identified as Corporal John Rey B. Dayag and Private First Class Josel B. Abbacan.

Critically wounded was Pfc. Jordan C. Bolar.

Major General Lysander Suerte, commander of the army's 5th Infantry Division, confirmed yesterday the deaths of the soldiers and said that his command is conveying their deepest sympathy to the families of

the slain Army troopers, who are serving and protecting the people of Kalinga.

Suerte said the soldiers were on routine security patrol when they encountered an undetermined number of suspected Communist rebels on January 26.

"We are deeply saddened by this loss, we extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families, and we will ensure that the families are extended full assistance during this difficult time," he said.

"Despite of what happened, our troops will continue protecting and serving the people and maintain the peaceful environment in Northern Luzon," he added.

Suerte said teams have been formed to track down the suspected rebels who fled after the encounter.

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Antimining activist dies after ComVal gun attack

By Frinston L. Lim Inquirer Mindanao

TAGUM CITY—A community leader known for her campaign against the entry of a large-scale mining company in Pantukan, Compostela Valley province, died on Saturday, two days after being shot by two men wearing ski masks, according to a human rights group.

Teresita Navacilla, 60, was attacked inside her store in Purok Bardown in Barangay Kingking at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the Pantukan po-

lice earlier reported.

Navacilla died on Saturday morning while undergoing treatment in the hospital here, said Hanimay Suazo, Karapatan spokesperson in Southern Mindanao.

Suazo described the victim as a "purok" (community) leader who staunchly opposed the entry of Kingking Copper-Gold Project, a \$2-billion venture between local mining firm Nationwide Development Corp. (Nadecor) and the Canadian company, St. Augustine, in Pantukan.

Kingking, an open-pit mining

project, was estimated to extract 63 million kilograms of copper and more than 107,000 kg of gold throughout its 22-year operation. The project involves 1,548 hectares of land in Barangay Kingking and is covered by a mineral production sharing agreement.

Small-scale miners have been operating in the gold-rich municipality for more than 20 years.

Navacilla was one of the convenors of the Save Pantukan Movement, which has been against alleged mining-related land-grabbing activities in the

town, Suazo said. She was also a critic of human rights violations supposedly committed by soldiers, she added.

The leader of the militant group cited a separate attack by unidentified gunmen in Pantukan on Thursday, which resulted in the wounding of Alex Josol, a leader of the farmers' organization Indug Kautawan (People Stand Up).

"Navacilla and Josol were fighting for the rights of their fellow small-scale miners and their community against the encroachment of [mining compa-

town, Suazo said. She was also nies] on their lands," Suazo said in a statement.

Nadecor denied it was encroaching on private lands.

"For now, we do not have any activity in the area," it said in a statement.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, commander of the Army's 10th Infantry Division, which has operational control over the 46th Infantry Battalion, said he had yet to receive reports about the attacks. He promised to check with battalion officers about Karapatan's allegations that their men were involved.

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Anti-mining activist slain in ComVal

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

AVAO CITY – A staunch antimining activist died Saturday, three days after she was shot by still unidentified gunmen in Barangay Kingking, Patukan town, Compostela Valley.

Teresita Navacilla, 60, died at a Tagum City hospital where she was brought after assailants shot her while she was tending to her store in Barangay Kingking. She was shot in the head and nape.

According to the human rights group Karapatan in Southern Mindanao (Karapatan-SMR), Navacilla had been a determined oppositor to large scale mining operations in Compostela Valley

"She is the 54th victim of extrajudicial killings in Southern Mindanao since 2010 and the fourth victim here in just one month," said Karapatan-SMR secretary general Hanimay Suazo in a statement to the media here.

Suazo said the attack was an attempt to silence Navacilla, a small-scale miner for her opposition against the entry of Nationwide Development Corporation (Nadecor) and St. Augustine Gold and Copper Limited in the area of Pantukan.

Navacilla is the purok chairman in Gumayan in Barangay Kingking, Pantukan and one of the convenors of the Save Pantukan Movement, a network

opposed to large-scale mining.

"The attackers could have come from the 46th Infantry Battalion, who had been on a rampage in Pantukan lately, arresting innocent civilians and portraying them as members of the New People's Army, and assaulting human rights of progressive leaders in the area as well," Suazo alleged.

But the claim of Suazo was quickly dismissed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), saying that the accusation was just one of the attempts of leftists to discredit the Army in the

"The 10th Infantry "Agila" Division welcomes and will support formal investigation on any abuses or violations committed by our troops. We do not condone any misbehavior of our soldiers," said Capt. Rhyan Batchar, chief information officer of 10th ID in a statement.

Batchar also emphasized that the group Karapatan-SMR, in the past, had been serving as mouthpiece for the CPP-NPA propaganda machinery.

"We hope that at this instance, these allegations will go beyond propaganda, so that we in the 10th ID can cleanse our ranks of misbehaving soldiers," he added.

Batchar said they will wait for the formal complaints and investigation that will be conducted by duly constituted authorities before making any further announcement.

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'Lumad' seek help amid new abuses

By Frinston L. Lim Inquirer Mindanao

TALAINGOD, Davao del Norte—Ata-Manobo villagers are crying anew for help to stop what they call another wave of atrocities being committed by suspected anticommunist militiamen in their communities here.

The "lumad" (indigenous) leaders aired their appeal shortly after returning to their homes from a Protestant Church-operated sanctuary in Davao City in May, where they took shelter from alleged abuses committed by the Alamara, a tribal militia unit purportedly propped up by the military for its counterinsurgency activities.

They renewed calls for the pullout of soldiers from their villages and the dismantling of the Alamara.

Maj. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, Eastern Mindanao Command chief, said the mili-

tary had never tolerated abuses against lumad communities. He denied that the military was supporting the Alamara, though he acknowledged that it was recognizing legitimate tribal armed groups such as the "baganis" (tribal warriors).

"The bagani is part of the political structure of the tribes. We don't know about that Alamara. We are consistent with our view that this Alamara is nonexistent," Guerrero said.

Contrary to claims by human rights groups that the military has been using the Alamara as a

proxy against the New People's Army (NPA), Guerrero said he "has yet to find any evidence that the Alamara has helped in our counterinsurgency efforts."

Datu Cris Olaño told North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco, chair of the House committee on indigenous peoples, during her visit on Friday that "barely three days after we returned to our homes, killings happened again and the Alamara continues to threaten us."

Since November last year, hundreds of Ata-Manobo people have gone back to their communities here, months after they descended in Davao City to seek refuge at Haran, which is owned by the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

They spoke of abuses and human rights violations allegedly committed by military units and the Alamara in the hinterlands of Davao del Norte

and Bukidnon provinces.

A 17-year old Manobo girl was also reportedly raped by soldiers. The victim has filed charges against her supposed attackers.

In November, more than 200 of the 700 Haran evacuees agreed to return home after government officials and law-enforcement authorities gave assurance that they would be protected this time.

But Olaño said recent incidents, such as the killing of a datu and a 15-year old boy, proved that the words of assurance were empty. Over 170 of the villagers have been forced to flee anew, he said.

"We really wanted to solve their concerns as these have been recurring," Catamco said. "We brought the national agencies like the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development), DOH (Department of Health) and Department of Education to help provide their immediate needs."

She said she was coordinating with a technical working group that President Aquino created to look into the plight of the lumad communities and find solutions to their problems.

Datu Nardo Bontuas, another tribal leader, said he could not blame anybody else for his people's predicament but the soldiers and the Alamara.

"We used to eat three meals a day before the military and Alamara came to our village. Now that they pass by frequently, we could eat only once a day," Bontuas said through an interpreter.

Catamco said she could not prevent the military from entering the villages as it was mandated "to protect the lumad against armed groups out to hamper the delivery of government services."

But Bontuas said no other

armed groups were sighted in the villages, including the communist NPA, which they have been accused of supporting.

Romy Maas, another lumad leader, said the situation in the indigenous communities would end once the military and the Alamara stop labeling residents as communist supporters.

"We're not NPAs. We're just farmers and civilians. The Alamara should not target us," he said.

All the communities want a peaceful existence and that they should be spared from the government's anticommunist campaign, Maas said.

Guerrero said the soldiers would even hunt down Alamara members if their group really existed. "We will run after Alamara and other lawless elements in upland communities, especially now that elections are approaching," he said.

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The Manila Times

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Enrile wants debate with PNoy on Mamasapano

SENATE Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile on Sunday said he is willing to engage President Benigno Aquino 3rd or any of his "henchmen" in a public debate on the Mamasapano incident to show the mistakes they made in a government operation that led to the death of the 44 Special Action Force (SAF) police commandos.

At the same time, Enrile disclosed that he has the original copy of the audit operation report containing crucial information about the mission that was altered to hide some crucial information on Oplan Exodus.

"I will bring this issue [Mamasapano] to the people [in the coming elections] and I will make them [accountable to the people]," he said in a radio interview aired over dzBB.

Enrile added that Aquino can face him in public debate about issues surrounding the Mamasapano incident so that he (Enrile) can show to the people what kind of a leader the sitting President is.

During reopening of the Senate investigation of the Mamasapano incident on Wednesday, the senator said Aquino "compartmented" the operation to himself and then-suspended Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Alan Purisima.

Enrile claimed, during the hearing, that the President "actively and directly participated" in the planning and preparation of Oplan Exodus; that President Aquino was the approving authority of Oplan Exodus; that during its execution, President Aquino was fully aware of what was going on; and that the President wantonly disregarded the command systems of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

He said the President was actually intentionally and directly dealing with the person who before and at the time of the Mamasapano massacre was not an active part of the command system of either the AFP or the PNP; that he did not make any effective decision or issue any effective order or do any effective action as President of the Republic of the Philippines to prevent the barbaric slaying and slaughter of the 44 PNP-SAF troops; and that the President deliberately hid or was hiding behind Purisima.

But some senators said Enrile was not able to present new evidence on the issue and the only new matter introduced during the reopening of the investigation was the term "compartmented."

The military even turned the tables on former SAF chief Getulio Napanes during the hearing and virtually blamed the police officer for the death of his men.

But Enrile said they are only using Napenas as a "scapegoat" to shield the President from any liability.

"Kung tanga si Napenas na

pinili niyang operator niya, ano kayang kalidad nung hari, e di tanga din [If Napenas, whom he [Aquino] chose to lead the operation, is an idiot, then it is likely that he is also an idiot king]," he added.

Right time

Enrile said besides text messages exchanged between the President and Purisima and other officials of the government on January 25 or the date when Oplan Exodus was executed, he was able to obtain a copy of the audit operation report of the PNP that contains crucial information regarding the operation.

He said his copy is the unaltered version of the report but he declined to provide additional details, noting that it can be used as evidence against the President when the right time comes.

Enrile said he is just waiting for the right time for the unraveling of the drama and when that time comes, everyone will be enlightened about the Mamasapano incident.

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He admitted that he doe not expect anything that to happen during the Aquino administration because it is using money to silence those who may have information to confuse everyone on what really happened in that operation.

"But they will not be able to do it in the coming days and at that point I'm not a senator anymore, so there will be no politics involved," Enrile said, adding that he can serve as private prosecutor against the President.

US participation

Senate President Franklin Drilon in an interview on Saturday said the United States government violated no treaty over its involvement in the January 25 Mamasapano operation that aimed to capture suspected terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan.

It was Enrile who insisted during last week's hearing that the government should explain the participation of US forces in the operation that was carried out by the national police.

But Drilon said the US need not explain its role in Oplan Exodus that was part of counterterrorism efforts of the Philippine government.

Enrile, however, said it was the Philippine government that requested US support to the operation and it was confirmed to him by the ambassador of the United States.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel 3rd called on the PNP leadership to release an official statement regarding the participation of the US in Oplan Exodus if it really has nothing to hide.

He said the PNP should explain the legal basis as well as the extent of assistance it sought from the US in the execution of the Mamasapano operation.

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8 bases on table in Edca talks with US

3y Jerry E. Esplanada

FOP Philippine diplomats and defense officials will soon meet with their US counterparts to discuss the implementing details of he 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, or Edca, between Manila and Washington, including the designation of at east eight local military bases for US use.

Presidential Communications Secretary Terminio Coloma told the Inquirer yesterlay that "the decision on which (military) pases will be used jointly by the Philippines and the US will be subject to mutual agreement between the two countries."

"This is one of the matters that will be discussed during the forthcoming meeting of the Mutual Defense Board and the Security Engagement Board" of the two allies," he added.

Col. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, earlier said that Manila had offered Washington eight bases where it could build facilities to store equipment under the Edca: Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga; Clark Air Base, also in Pampanga; Fort Magsaysay in Palayan, Nueva Ecija; Camp Antonio Bautista and a naval base in Palawan; Camp Benito Ebuen and a naval base in Cebu, and Lumbia air field in Cagayan de Oro City.

Many of these facilities are already AFP "exercise sites," he noted.

According to Padilla, "the list was prepared many months ago."

The Americans are also seeking access to three seaports, including Subic Bay, the former US naval base in Zambales, and airfields on Lu-

base in Zambales, and airfields on Luzon.
Last year, more than 100 US Navy ships reportedly docked at Subic,

ships reportedly docked at Subic, while two advanced nuclear-powered stealth submarines made visits in early January.

Last month, Philippine and US officials met in Washington to discuss locations Manila could provide access to US forces for their "mutual benefit,"

The high-level meeting was held at the Department of State hours after the Philippine Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Edca signed by the two countries four years ago.

Brink of war

The pact allows American forces, warships and planes access to Philippine military camps.

China's official Xinhua news agency, in an English language commentary, had warned that the Edca would only escalate tensions and "could push the situation to the brink of war."

The Philippines "appears to be now turning to Uncle Sam to back its ambition to counter China," the article said.

The deal, it claimed, was "groundless because China, which sticks to a defensive defense policy, has never coerced any country on the South China Sea issue."

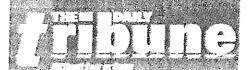
Supreme Court spokesperson Theodore Te explained that the high court's ruling simply affirmed the rotational presence, not the permanent basing, of US troops in the country.

The decision was clear in saying that the Edca should remain within the bounds of both the 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement and the 1951 Mutual Defense Defense Treaty.

The high court's ruling declaring the Edca constitutional bolstered US efforts to assert its presence in Asia and dovetailed with Manila's desire for American assistance in countering Beijing's maritime claims in the South China Sea.

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



Page:

Marcelino to allow banks accounts to be opened

By Mario J. Mallari

Detained Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino is willing to sign a waiver for the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to open and check on all his bank accounts as requested by his accusers from the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (PNP-AIDG).

Marcelino's personal spokesman former Army Maj. Vonne Villanueva, in an interview yesterday, said his mistah from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Bantay Lava" Class of 1994 is ready to sign the waiver anytime the AMLC seeks for it.

"Anytime, he is willing to sign the waiver unconditionally," he stressed.

According to Villanueva, Marceline is willing to sign any waiver that will cover anything the AMLC wishes.

"Anything the AMLC wishes to check, Colonel Marcetino is open," he said.

He added Marcelino hopes that his accusers will also sign a similar waiver.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIE

Marcelino to allow banks accounts to be opened

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From page 1

"Colonel Marcelino only prays that those who are accusing him of wrongdoing are also willing to do the same. As accusers, they should come out clean also in the spirit of fairness," Villanueva said.

The PNP-AIDG, headed by Senior Supt. Antonio Gardiola, earlier turned over to AMLC bank deposit slips, with total amount of P2.2 million, seized from Marcelino when he was "arrested" two weeks ago by combined AIDG and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) operatives.

The PNP-AIDG urged the AMLC to look into Marcelino's hank accounts.

Marcelino was "arrested" by combined PDEA and PNP-AIDG operatives last January 1 allegedly inside a clandestine laboratory being used in the manufacture methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Nabbed with Marcelino was Chinese Yan Yi Shou, a supposed action agent of PDEA and interpreter.

Recovered from the alleged shabu laboratory was 76 kilograms of shabu with an estimated street value of P380 million.

Meanwhile, the PNP-AIDG also yesterday said it is up to the Department of Justice to decide on the Navy's request to take custody of Marcelino, who was transferred from Camp Crame to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology jail facility in Camp Bagong Diwa last Friday.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Suan, PNP-AIDG chief of staff, said as far as they are concerned, Marcelino will be safe at the BJMP detention facilities in OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUB Bicutan where he was transferred last Friday.

"We will just let the DoJ decide on that. But as far as we know, Marcelino committed a criminal offense so he cannot be placed. under military custody. They, (Navy) can take him into custody? once he committed servicerelated offense," he added.

He said Marcelino was transferred to Camp Bagong Diwa since the AIDG detention facility is small.

"We cannot work properly. We need additional personnel to guard him at night. And we need a standby doctor since he is on a hunger strike, and we don't want to be blamed if something bad happens to him in relation with the hunger strike," he added.

Suan said the AIDG can transfer Marcelino to regular jail facility as provided for under a memorandum of agreement between the BJMP-and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. The AIDG is under the direct supervision and control of PDEA.

"He is safe there at the BJMP jail facility and he can be monitored there because there is a standby doctor there," Suan said.

According to him, Marcelino filed a motion to post hail before a Quezon City court

"So, tomorrow (Monday) the motion will be heard," he added.

Marcelino started his hunger strike as a protest against his detention as he denied any link to illegal drugs trade. He accused PDEA director general Arturo Cacdac Jr. of presenting him as an "accomplishment."

Known as a no-non sense drug buster during his time as chief of PDEA-Special Enforcement Service, Marcelino is highlyregarded by PDEA enforcers but earned the ire of some agents for his all-out "crusade" against illegal drugs.

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Even with policemen rized elections. serving as Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs), the our last option," Bautista said. Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday allayed fears of "militarization" in the May elections.

Comelec Chairman Andres Bautista said the impending passage and implementation of the Election Service Reform Act, which makes poll duties optional for public school teachers resulting in policemen serving as BEIs, would not result in milita-

"We don't want that. That is

Some sectors have expressed fear that making poll duty optional for teachers could force policemen to serve as BEIs.

But Bautista stressed that the Comelec would only designate Philippine National Police officers in "extreme situations."

"We believe they should only come in when there is real peace and order problem

that no one is willing to serve as BEIs. At this point, our police should really get into the picture," the poll chief explained.

In previous polls, the Comelec tapped police trainees as members of BEIs after some teachers refused to serve on election day due to prevailing violence in some areas.

Last week, Congress passed Senate Bill 2178, making election duties non-mandatory.

Bautista assured the public

that the poll body would continue to encourage teachers to volunteer and serve as BEI members.

He said the Comelec would come out with guidelines providing "clear preference" for public school teachers to serve as BEI members.

An estimated 300,000 teachers are needed to man about 95,000 clustered polling precincts nationwide.

If teachers would not be available, Bautista said the Comelec would turn to gov-

ernment employees as replacement.

The Omnibus Election Code provided that "no person shall be appointed chairman, member or substitute member of the BEIs unless he is of good moral character and irreproachable reputation, a registered voter of the city or municipality, has never been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six months of imprisonment."

– Mayen Jaymalin

(°)(February 2016



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The mystery beneficiary of Trump's veteran fundraising

BY AMY TENNERY

EPUBLICAN presidential ront-runner Donald Trump left ongues wagging this week when announced he would skip hursday's GOP debate in favor of hosting a fundraiser for veterns. And on Thursday afternoon, rump unveiled on Twitter a dedicated website for his supporters of donate funds for veterans.

But as the clock ticked closer to he start of Trump's veteran event, either Trump nor his dedicated lonation website had specified there exactly any funds raised rould go or how they would be sed. And of the 12 charities that Reuters was able to contact, none said that they were aware of any offer from Trump or his campaign staff to become the recipient of the funds, as of Thursday afternoon.

To be sure, Trump is under no requirement whatsoever — legal or otherwise — to choose the recipient of the donations prior to collecting them. He could decide a month or even a year from now. It's his choice.

But to those who wonder where, exactly, the money is going: many charities are wondering as well.

Army Emergency Relief, Thanks USA, Fisher House, The Armed Services YMCA, Disabled American Veterans, Operation Homefront, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and Wounded Warriors Family Support all confirmed to Reuters that neither Trump nor his campaign had contacted them. Other groups confirmed the same off-the-record.

"It is my great honor to support our Veterans with you!" Trump (@realDonaldTrump) tweeted Thursday. "You can join me now. Thank you! #Trump4Vets." The tweet included a link to the website DonaldTrumpForVets.com.

The website, however, did not specify any specific veterans' charity to which the funds would go and rather included an insignia bearing the name of the Donald J. Trump Foundation.

"Honor their valor," the page reads, "Donate now to help our Veterans."

Above the donation field, the website reads, "I want to support veterans with the following amount." Below that, it says that "100% of your donations will go directly to Veterans needs," without specifying what those needs are or what organization will receive the funds.

The Federalist reported today that the website directs all donations to Trump's personal foundation. – Reuters

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Lina should have been axed, says ex-BOC exec

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CITING command responsibility, one of the eight dismissed officials of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said that Commissioner Alberto Lina should have been the one fired for the agency's failure to meet its 2015 revenue target of P436 billion.

"Why put the blame on us instead? Why should we be faulted for the ports' reduced revenue collections attributed mainly to the fall in global oil prices? It's unfair," retired Army Brig. Gen. Bonifacio de Castro told the INQUIRER.

The bureau collected only P366 billion, for a shortfall of over P70 billion last year.

De Castro also assailed Lina for allowing them to be dismissed based on political concerns, not on merit. That, he said, made his former boss "inutile" and "inefficient."

The former Armed Forces officer had served as Customs district collector at the Port of San Fernando in La Union.

De Castro alleged that their removal from the BOC was part of a "last-minute fund raising activity" by some unnamed people and groups supporting certain candidates in the May elections.

He said was an issue some top Customs officials would rather not talk about.

Contacted by phone, Lina brushed aside De Castro's claims, saying he had nothing to do with the dismissal of the ex-military officers.

"It's Congress that disapproved (the generals') budgetary appropriations," Lina said. Customs Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence Jessie Dellosa, resigned BOC Commissioner John Phillip Sevilla and Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares have joined some BOC reform team members in taking up the cudgels for the retired military officers.

Dellosa said that same politicians, including certain congressmen he did not identify, actually worked hard to have the eight retired Armed Forces officers removed from their posts.

Both Dellosa and De Castro belong to Philippine Military Academy Class of 1979.

Sevilla had posted on his Facebook account that the officers had "stepped on plenty of toes."

"Congress, that great institution of vested interests in Customs, finally figured out a way to get them fired," Sevilla said.

Aside from De Castro, also dismissed from the BOC were Esteban Castro (Clark International Airport), Ernesto Benitez Jr. (Port of Batangas), Mario Mendoza (Port of Manila), Elmir de la Cruz (Manila International Container Port), Arnulfo Marcos (Port of Cebu), Jerry Lorescom (Port of Zamboanga) and Rolando Ricafrente (Port of Limay in Bataan).

Last year, 11 of the country's 17 major ports missed their revenue goals, with the ports of Batangas and Limay posting the highest collection shortages during the period.

Limay reportedly fell short of its P45.27-billion target by over P23 billion while Batangas collected only P82.3 billion of its P96.03-billion goal.

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Gotcha

By JARIUS BONDOC



Can PNP, AFP still trust each other after massacre?

The STAR Associate Editor Doreen Yu put it succinctly: "Seventy percent of our misery is caused by the DOTC."

Take a slice of life of OFW Juan dela Cruz. Homebound, his plane circles above NAIA for half an hour, unable to land due to runway congestion. So much fuel wasted; no wonder airfares remain high. The problem has been festering for years. Transport Sec. Joseph Abaya has ignored a private firm's offer to pave another runway at no cost to government. He refuses to make nearby Clark International Airport an extension of NAIA, for it happens to be named after the father of the predecessor whom his boss President Noynoy hates so much.

Nightfall at the arrival terminal Juan and a seatmate find the money exchanges closed. Abaya's uniformed NAIA policeman offers to convert their cash to pesos, at swindler rates. The seatmate hails an airport taxi and gets ripped off again, by the cabbie, the cop's brother.

Juan's son picks him up, by van with no license plate. Abaya had contracted inept plate makers: a Filipino blacklisted for forgery and an undercapitalized Dutch financier. The son has just renewed his driving license, a mere paper receipt since Abaya's agency ran out of plastic cards months ago. Juan's wife couldn't come to welcome him: she's down with urinary tract infection from holding her bladder through daily traffic. Juan and son plow through three

juan sails to the province to visit his parents. The rickety wooden-hulled launch should have been grounded years ago, but Abaya's maritime factorums keep taking bribes to renew its operating permit. No toilets work at the piers. Abaya has diverted to only he knows what the money for hundreds of such basic facilities. Juan gets a taste of what the left-behinds have to endure everyday, courtesy of Abaya's dysfunction: reckless jeepney and drug-crazed bus drivers, mulcting inspectors of the flying school where the son works, life-threatening train rides.

Sen. Grace Poe, head of the public services committee, proposes the least that Abaya deserves: to be charged with criminal neglect. But Deputy Presidential Spokesman Elmer Fudd cries "foul," squawking that anyone who wants to help must suggest and not condemn. Duh?

Back meanwhile at NAIA for his flight out, Juan falls victim to "tanim-bala" extortion by Abaya's airport security screeners. He is lucky to be milked of "only" P30,000 to avoid flight offloading. His seatmate had had to pay triple, for his shakedown was by graver "tanim-droga."

Worrisome was the claim of Defense Sec. Gazmin and AFP ex-chief Catapang at the Senate re-inquiry into Mamasapano. Supposedly they receive many cell-phone texts of armed clashes everyday. They didn't mind the one about the SAF in the early hours of Jan. 25, 2015, because it was just another one of those.

To shield P-Noy from fallout of the SAF-44, sycophants promoted a public blame game between the uniformed services.

hours of megalopolis gridlock to home. The cause of it is the rundown commuter rail. Abaya, president of the ruling Liberals, keeps granting the maintenance to inept party-mates.

But generals (and journalists who cover them, like I used to) know that isn't so. An Operations Group at AFP-GHQ in Camp Aguinaldo sends out such texts. More than that, it monitors the unfolding of every skirmish it reports out. Any that lasts more than 30 or 60 minutes is red-flagged. It means "the enemy" has not disengaged, likely because it is of superior strength than, say, the AFP or PNP unit being ambushed. More texts are then beeped to the top brass, who should sit down to assess if heavier assets — artillery, tanks, aircraft—need to be dispatched.

Last week's hearing looked rehearsed. Quoting sources, SAF ex-Gen. Napeñas said the Army officers spent two weeks with Malacañang propagandists prepar-

ing their statements. The aim was not just to muffle Minority Leader Enrile's reported bombshell, but more to overshadow the first inquiry's conclusion that P-Noy ultimately was responsible for the massacre of the SAF-44. This time, Napeñas alone would be blamed. Even the alleged usurper of authority Purisima would be portrayed as Napeñas' victim of inaccurate reporting.

And so it was made to look normal for the highest ranking DND-AFP officials, and their DILG counterpart Roxas, to not react to certain regular updates on the Mamasapano battles. Separate clashes began before daybreak after terrorist Marwan was taken down. Only 12 hours later, at 5:30 p.m., did it occur to them to tell P-Noy to, hey, let's hold a command conference. It was snack time, so more like "kumain conference."

Retired and active-duty generals keep whispering to media friends, however: "I'm ashamed of my Army." They know that 6th Infantry Division Gen. Pangilinan and 1st Mechanized Brigade Col. del Rosario shouldn't have wasted any minute to help the beleaguered police commandos. Fine, that upstart Napeñas had not coordinated with them, till "time-on-target." But that was of no import then, when lives of brothers-in-arms were at stake. As then-PNP O-I-C Espina begged, and to which his PMA "mistah" (classmate) West-Min-Com Gen. Guerrero readily agreed, "Let's find fault

later, but for now please help my boys." Guerrero is a Marine: "walang iwanan."

As it happened, Pangilinan had to power-trip about "being the boss around here," while del Rosario quibbled over "doctrine" of when and why to use white phosphorus first before live cannon fire. That, as 36 men of the 55th SAC were being mowed down, and 28 of the 84th Seaborne repeatedly were being ambushed by "cease-fired" Moro separatists. They even "noticed" that Napeñas and his deputy Taliño were "only in T-shirts, meaning unready to take command." Of course they were in civvies, for operational security, knowing that the MILF monitors the entry to all PNP and AFP camps in Maguindanao.

They also claimed that 392 backup SAFs were just lying by the side of the highway when the Army tanks arrived. They were ducking for cover, because also being fired at. The tanks were of no use in the marshland the commandos wanted to enter to help extract their comrades. They just needed artillery cover, which never came till dusk.

Will the PNP still trust the AFP, and vice versa, after Mamasapano? Malacañang, and the sycophant DND-AFP-DILG protectors of P-Noy don't care. But there's a long history and deep philosophy behind the merging of the PC and the INP, their placement under the AFP, and consequent separation yet still entwined with the PNP. The police and military complement each other in national security.

Sen. Greg Honasan, as an ex-Army colonel, spoke before the hearing about the importance of the chain of command – in the AFP and PNP, even in the MILF or a crime syndicate, or a family. There is a parallel but informal chain, the PMA "mistah" ties. But the AFP and PNP will soon drift part, as the former's officers continue to graduate from the PMA, while those of the latter from the PNP Academy. They will long remember the lesson of Mamasapano to not rely on each other anymore.

When that day comes, it will also be the death of the Republic.

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Opaqueness won't save Noynoy

he value of the Freedom of Information (FoI) Law and the sinister plot of the incumbent president in denying its passage during his term is all but exposed in the suppression of the truth in the Mamasapano debacle.

A group, Bayan-USA, took steps on the United States government to compel it to present documents that would show its participation in Oplan Exodus, the disastrous mission to get Marwan dead or alive that cost the lives of 44 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos in January 25 last year.

Such forms of action remain a dream for Filipinos since Noynoy had frustrated the passage of the transparency bill during his entire term despite his 2010 campaign promise that the FoI bill will be passed under his term.

An FoI Law would have been instrumental in inquiring for instance on the agreement between the United States and the Philippine government regarding police operations revealed by no less than US Ambassador Philip Goldberg.

The current agreements on military cooperation such as the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement could have some hidden clauses covering the police force to accommodate what Goldberg said was a request from Noynoy for US presence in Oplan Exodus.

Through an FoI Law, through a demand for the presentation of documents, it would have been possible to get answers to many lingering questions on the Mamasapano incident such as the papers in which Noynoy ordered the participation of then suspended Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Alan Purisima in Oplan Exodus; the correspondence between Noynoy and Purisima regarding the mission, including text messages of Purisima with other officials about the operation on Mamasapano; Noynoy's and Purisima's communication with the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities before and during the operation, particularly when the SAF 44 was pinned down by a combined force of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

Also worth hitting with an FoI Law are the updates throughout the day of the mission sent to Noynoy at the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Zamboanga; the guidance given by Noynoy in consideration of the peace talks with the MILF and of course the papers from PNP related to US intervention, from the planning, funding, training, ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) and the conduct of the operation and the subsequent evacuation.

Noynoy has been averse to the FoI Law despite even the strong clamor for the passage of the bill.

A Social Weather Stations survey showed that business executives want an FoI Law which they consider necessary to counter the culture of corruption in government.

Even the fiercely pro-Noynoy Makati Business Club (MBC) said in a study that the FoI bill was direly needed to institutionalize reforms, enhance the country's competitiveness and empower the people.

The MBC said in a recent report the Philippines is among the few countries in the world without an FoI Law and the only one among the original eight founding members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) without a national legislation on FoI.

On Sept. 20, 2011, the Philippines, along with Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States became the eight founding members of the OGP which is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from government to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness technologies to strengthen governance.

Under the 15th Congress which falls under Noynoy's term, the House committee on public information only managed to report out a consolidated version where it remained pending on second reading.

The MBC said the closest chance the country had of having an FoI Law was in the 14th Congress, from 2007 to 2010, when the measure was almost passed but absenteeism in the House, intended or otherwise, intervened and resulted in the wasted opportunity.

The Palace said that Noynoy has never wavered on his commitment to pass the transparency measure.

The reality, however, is that despite such claimed commitment, the FoI bill never made it to the House plenary throughout the term of Noynoy.

The standard line of the Palace was that the FoI bill is not a necessity since the administration of Noynoy has been practicing transparency from the start, which is pure BS.

Denying the FoI bill, however, will merely delay the inevitable which is the prosecution of Noynoy when he steps down for his many acts of incompetence and breach of the Constitution.

February 2016



Pahina. 4



Inamin ni Napeñas: SAF duda sa AFP

LUMANG kaalaman lang ang lumitaw -- at binale-wala -- sa repaso ng Senado sa Mamasapano Massacre nu'ng Miyerkoles. Dati nang lumabas na mali si P-Noy sa pag-atas sa kalbigan pero suspendidong PNP chief na pamunuan ang

sa kaibigan pero suspendidong PNP chief na pamunuan ang maselang misyon laban sa international terrorists.

Pinalampas lang muli ang pahayag ni SAF chief Getulio Napeñas ng pagduda sa AFP. Anang heneral, naudlot ang O-Plans Wolverine at Terminator nang makapaghanda ang "kalabang" Moro Islamic Liberation Front matapos nila ito ipaalam sa Army. Kaya ginawa nilang T-O-T, o time on target, ang pag-abiso ng O-Plan Exodus sa AFP nu'ng Jan. 25, 2015. Ang ora-oradang

pagpapaalaman sa AFP ay nauwi sa kalituhan, turuan ng sisi, at huling pagtulong ng Army sa SAF Maraming sanhi ang pagdududa. Isa ay duty. Tungkulin ng Army sa ceasefire na ipaalam ang PNP operations sa truce monitors. Tungkulin naman ng huli na palayuin ang MILF sa lugar. Natural nakakapaghanda ang mga separatista kung sila ang target. Sira ang misyon.

Maari rin dahil sa kapabayaan. Minsan may operasyon na SAF na nangailangan ng aerial support. Nang naghandang mag-scramble ang Air Force ng fighters, naalerto lahat ng MILF units sa paligid. Anang SAF, may enlisted men na kamag-anak mga nasa pook ng MILF.

Sanhi din ang credits at rewards. Tiyak ang promotion at magandang posting ng PNP o AFP commander na makahuli ng international terrorist. Natural, nagpapaligsahan sila ng misyon. Pero naglalaban din para sa pabuya. Napakalaki ng reward para sa pagkuha kina Marwan at Basit Usman: \$7 milyon mula sa US at P7.5 milyon mula sa Pilipinas. Bawal tumanggap ng pabuya ang lawmen. Ganunpaman, ang informants mula mismo sa MILF ang nag-aalok ng parte ng makukubra. Kaya, nag-uunahan ang SAF at Army sa paghuli sa dalawa.

Makinig sa Sapol. Sabado. 8-10 ng umaga, DWIZ

Makinig sa Sapol, Sabado, 8-10 ng umaga, DWIZ (882-AM).

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Marcelino open to AMLAC looking into his bank accounts

T. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, through a classmate lat the Philippine Military cademy, said he is willing to ign a waiver for the Anti-Money aundering Council to look into is bank deposits, after the Philppine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group — told media that hey found among his things delosit slips amounting to P2.2 milion.

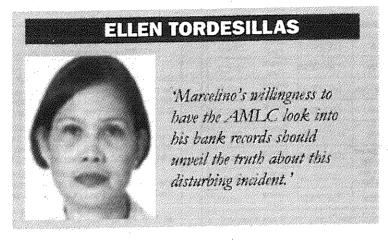
At the same time, Marcelino said ie is praying that his accusers will also open their bank accounts to MLC scrutiny.

This is a dramatic move by farcelino, who is desperately ighting, not only for his dignity, out also for his life.

Marcelino's explanation was nade through a statement by Maj. Jonne Villanueva.

Villanueva, who is now into prirate practice, said in a text mesage to media: "My mistah, Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, cat-gorically denies the insinuations by PNP-AIDG that he is profiting rom illegal drugs trade.

"The bank transactions that "NP-AIDG presented were neant to discredit Ltcol Marceino. The bank receipt and AFP passbooks were kept as part of his personal financial records and



his confidential operational fund records when he was still with ISAFP. I would not discuss the details in public due to its sensitive nature and the fact that they have not filed another case against him related to these bank deposits."

Villanueva further said, "Lt Col Marcelino is willing to sign a waiver for AMLC for the sake of transparency and in compliance with the law praying that his accusers will do the same."

Marcelino's accusers are PDEA and the PNP-AIDG. His lawyer, Dennis Manalo, said the arrest of the officer, much-admired for his anti-drug crusade, was the handi-

work of PDEA head Arturo G. Cacdac.

Let's see what Cacdac is going to say in his press conference today.

Marcelino was nabbed, together with A Chinese national, Yan Yi Shuo alias Randy, who is also a PDEA agent and translator, in a raid of a shabu lab in Sta. Cruz last Jan. 21. PDEA said the haul was all of 76,697.7 grams, with an estimated street value of P383 million.

Marcelino insisted on his innocence saying he was doing intelligence work on a tip provided by Randy. He claimed it was a misencounter. He, however, couldn't produce a mission order for his clandestine operation.

Marcelino's lawyer, Dennis Manalo, in a TV interview cried "frame up" by Cacdac.

Last week the PNP-AIDG said

they are coordinating with the AMLC on Marcelino's bank deposits after they found deposit slips among his confiscated things. A Philippine Star report, quoting AIDG spokesman Chief Inspector Roque Merdegia, said the deposit slips were for P500,000 on May 26, 2014 followed by P200,000 on June 25, 2014 and P300,000 on July 31, 2014. There's a deposit slip for P30,000 made on

Merdegia said they also found P86, 000 cash in his bag, along with a handgun.

March 4, 2015.

Other items they seized from Marcelino included \$210, P2,510, 15 Australian dollars, 20 Hong Kong dollars and a SIM card for satellite phone, the Philstar report said.

Marcelino's willingness to have the AMLC look into his bank records should unveil the truth about this disturbing incident.

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February 2016



Pahina.



'Droga na ang nagpapatakbo sa Pinas?'

HINDI ako nangangalakal ng anumang takot, kaguluhan

Nakakabahala lang ang pananaw na maging *narco* Nakakabahala lang ang pananaw na maging *narco* state na ang Pilipinas kung hindi maaagapan ang paglao kalituhan

ganap ng ilegal na droga.

Mismong si dating PDEA Chief Gen. Dionisio Santiago,
naaalarma. Samantalang ang Aquino administration, relax

lang. Sa loob ng matatapos nang anim na taong termino, Sa loob ng matatapos nang anim na taong termino, hindi man lang nakaringgan si PNoy na nagdeklara ng

Kakarampot pa rin ang pondo ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency na ginagawang laruan lang. Nasa ilalim ito ng tanggapan ni PNoy.

Wala na ngang sapat na suporta sa ahensya, nangingibabaw pa ang intramurals sa PDEA, PNP — AIDSOTE at NBI. Lahat gusto ng accomplishments para sa pangulo. Ayaw nila itong sabihin.

Isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit may paligsahan at nagpapatalbugan ang mga ahensyang nabanggit ang kawalang data base ng pamahalaan sa mga sindikato o personalidad na sangkot sa droga.

Walang unified central agency. Panaginip pa rin hang-

Walang unified central agency. Panaginip pa rin hang-Walang unified central agency. Panaginip pa rin hanggang ngayon ang information sharing. Ang nangyayari overlapping operations sa hanay ng mga alagad ng batas. Kaya nga hanggang ngayon sentro pa rin ng imbesti-Kaya nga hanggang ngayon sentro pa rin ng imbesti-gasyon si Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino. Hanggang ngayon, pahirapan pa rin sa pagpapalabas sa kaniyang 'coplan'. Subalit ang marine officer na matagal na sa mundo ng intel, nagpauna na. Confidential at sensitibo raw ang kaniyang mga nalalamang impormasyon.

ng Intel, nagpauna na. Conndenual at sensitio raw ang kaniyang mga nalalamang impormasyon.
Posibleng magkabukingan din daw kung sino sa mga matataas na opisyal ng militar ang sangkot sa ilegal na droga sa Pilipinas at makompromiso pa ang mga susunod pang congression.

pang operasyon.

Kung totoo man ang mga sinasabi ni Marcelino na ayaw niya pang ilabas, ibig sabihin positibong may 'narco-politics' sa Pilipinas.

May gobyerno sa ating gobyerno. Droga na ang nagpa-patakbo sa ehekutibo, lehislatura, hudikatura maging sa mga (Sundan sa pahina 5)

BAHALA SI BITAG... Mula pahina 4

alagad ng batas. Nabibili na ang mga husgado at nababayaran na

ang mga nasa lokal na pamahalaan. Mabuti pa si Gen. Santiago na-babahala. Sa Metro Manila palang. 92.26 porsyento barangay napasok na ng ipinagbabawai na gamot.

Sa Region 4A sa Calabarzon 49.9% o sa 4,011 barangay, 1,969 na ang apektado ng droga; 48.82% o sa 3,003 barangay 1,466 na ang apektado sa Region 7 sa Central Visayas habang 41.42% o 1,285 na ang apektado sa 3,102 kabuuang bilang ng barangay sa Region 3.

Narco-state ang tawag dito. Napasok na ng mga sindikato ng droga ang mga lalawigan at rehiyon.

lto rin ang sinasabi nina Mayor Rodrigo Duterte at Sen. Alan Cayetano na tanging mga kumakandidato sa pagka-pangulo at pangalawang pangulo na nagsasalita sa droga. Kung hindi maaagapan, magiging 'narco state na ang Pilipinas.

Ngayon pa lang nagiging aktibo ang administrasyon sa pagwawalis ng droga. Hindi matiyak kung ito ay bahagi ng pamumulitika at ang PDEA, PNP-AIDSOTF at NBI, pang-

front lang. Abangan ang BITAG Live arawaraw na sabay na napapanood at napapakinggan tuwing alas 10:00-11:00 ng umaga sa Radyo5 92.3 News FM at AksyonTV. Para sa digital streaming, mag-log on sa bitagtheoriginal.com.

Ol February 2016



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Bommonsense

By MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

'Code of honor'

Soldiers and police know beforehand they have to lay down their lives when they chose this field of profession. These uniformed men in the service were trained at the military and police academies, respectively, to help prepare them well as officers to lead their troops, especially in times of armed battles.



We have such institutions in our country like the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) based at Fort Gen. Gregorio del Pilar in Baguio City. The Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), on the other hand, is at Camp Gen. Mariano Castañeda in

Silang, Cavite.

Before he steps down from office, President Benigno "Noy" Aquino III will deliver the traditional commencement address at the graduation rites for the 2016 batches of cadets from the PMA and the PNPA. This will be his last and final task as their Commander-in-chief.

Every cadet who went through the rigors of training and discipline at the PMA and PNPA – upon graduation from these institutions - naturally dreams of one day becoming part of the top brass or if not top cop. To become one, they must also pursue higher studies and further

training here and abroad.

During their cadetship, they were taught, trained and practically brainwashed to obey lawful and legal orders and to abide by and follow the chain of command. As future officers of the military and police organizations, they were honed on the concept of command and control.

Not all, however, can become five-star general or chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or become a five-star rank director-general of the Philippine National Police (PNP). And they must face the reality that their dream lies in the hands of the appointing authority - their Commander-in-chief.

Now in his last five months in office, the outgoing President has had six AFP chiefs of staff, including incumbent Gen. Hernando Irriberi during his watch.

In the case of the PNP, President Aquino installed five

director-generals, including incumbent PNP chief

Ricardo Marquez.

Last week, the Senate public hearing on the reopening of the legislative inquiry into the Mamasapano incident brought back bitter memories of how the chain of command and command in-chief. control broke down and

In arguing for strict adherence to the chain of command, Honasan maintained, however, it should not weaken the hand of the President as Commander-

crossed between the military and the police establishments.

The Filipino nation witnessed anew on live TV the unfortunate specter of our military and police pointing at each other at the Senate hearing over the botched Oplan Exodus.

In the aftermath of this Oplan to capture a most wanted Malaysian terrorist bomber, Zulkifli bin Klir, alias Marwan, 44 PNP Special Action Force (SAF) troopers were killed in action on January 25 last year.

In pursuit of Marwan, they were slain by Muslim rebels, bandits from other private armed groups in Barangay Tukanalipao in Mamasapano on that fateful day.

We had discussions about this latest public hearing of the Senate on the Mamasapano incident last Friday at the Kapihan sa Manila Bay where we invited PMAersturned politicians. The panel of guests were, namely, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, ACTT-CIS party-list Rep. Samuel Pagdilao; ex-AFP chief of staff retired Gen. Dionisio Santiago, and ex-SAF chief Getulio Napeñas.

The most senior PMAer of them is Santiago (PMA Class 1970). Honasan is PMA Class 1971 while Pagdilao is PMA Class 1979. The most junior is Napeñas who belongs

to PMA Class 1982.

Pagdilao, Santiago and Napeñas are all running for the Senate. Pagdilao is adopted Senate candidate of the Poeticket as well as the PDP-Laban ticket. Santiago is running as independent bet while Napeñas is under UNA Senate ticket.

Honasan is the vice presidential candidate of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) in the coming May 9 elections. He is the running mate of Vice President Jejomar Binay, UNA's presidential standard-bearer. Incidentally, Honasan is the vice chairman of Sen. Grace Poe in the Senate committee on public order as the lead committee that looked into the Mamasapano incident.

Honasan took the opportunity during our weekly breakfast forum to reiterate his call for sobriety and statesmanship in the discussion and debate on the Mamasapano tragedy. He lamented anew how the top brass of the military and the police flippantly discussed national security matters in public, including that pertaining to

enemies of the state.

All four erstwhile military and police officers were in agreement on the need to strengthen institutional systems such as the "chain of command" and "command and control" to prevent a repeat of this sorrowful episode that should not have happened if these principles were strictly followed.

In arguing for strict adherence to the chain of command, Honasan maintained, however, it should not weaken the hand of the President as Commander-in-chief.

The concepts of the chain of command, and the principle of command and control, Honasan rightly underscored, are not exclusive the use of the police and military. These are the same management tools being applied in civilian and private offices. The same concepts, he added, are also the principles being observed in our homes. As the basic unit of society, the family hierarchy is followed: father, mother, son/daughter.

The reopening of the probe on the Mamasapano incident merely led to the resurfacing of mistrust, or shall we say distrust between the AFP and the PNP. Ironically, some of those involved in this tragic drama were their own fellow PMAers, if not a "mistalı," or PMA lingo for classmate.

Ex-PNP chief Alan Purisima and retired AFP chief of staff Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang were "mistahs" of PMA Class 1981. But when he carried out Oplan Exodus while under Ombudsman suspension, Purisima kept his "mistah" out of the loop until the SAF needed rescue and were nearly wiped out.

Calling themselves as "Closer than Brothers" (lifted

from a book title about PMAers), all four of them insisted, however, there is nothing wrong with their "mistah" system. While calling themselves "brothers in arms," they all swore to their "code of honor" (God, country and family in this order of priority) as the one that prevails over their "mistah" system.

by February 2016



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Before stepping down, a P-Noy trip to Pagasa

SPEAKING ABOUT the Kalayaan Atin Ito (KAI) student volunteers who last month visited Pagasa, Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said the Palace was not against the idealism of the youth group that wants to assert the country's claims to islands in the West Philippine Sea. It was concerned about the group's safety due to "the risks of traveling in that area citing rough sea conditions." Coloma added that "it was also ignoring warnings by

China against these activities."

If this were true, then why did the government not offer to transport the students by air and thus avoid the risks of "rough sea conditions"? It could easi-



ly have called on the Air Force to fly them to Pagasa, just as China used commercial jetliners to fly in planeloads of Chinese nationals to Kagitingan Reef.

The fact that it was discouraging our idealistic students from visiting Pagasa only showed that instead of ignoring warnings from China, the Philippine government was actually scared of incurring the displeasure of the neighborhood bully which is now telling us that the Philippines' occupation of these islands is "against the law and without effect." Pretty soon, they will be demanding that we evacuate Pagasa.

By the way, various dictionaries define "bully" as one who intimidates weaker people with aggressive behavior or threats of violence." We should always stand up to bullies because if we show restraint, more often than not this is taken as a sign of weakness and results in greater

If the Aquino administration truly believes in the idealism and patriotism of our KAI student volunteers, it is only fitting and proper that the leader, President Aquino, himself demonstrates his love of country, his commitment to upholding Philippine sovereignty and maintaining territorial integrity, by visiting Pagasa before stepping down from office. Of course, to avoid "rough sea conditions," air travel is suggested. Secretary Coloma should be part of the presidential party. There can be no greater demonstration of our resolve and determination to pursue what is fair and just within the framework of the rule of law.

Only a few days ago, Taiwan President Ma Ying-Jeou flew to Itu Aba (also referred to as Taiping Island) in the disputed West Philippine Sea. The trip was aimed at reaffirming Taipei's sovereignty over the disputed islet. The Taiwanese president flew in on an Air Force C-130 and offered New Year greetings to residents on Itu Aba, mostly Coast Guard personnel, medical workers and environment scholars. Perhaps someone in the Aquino administration should have thought of the same idea—a P-Noy visit to Pagasa—instead of discouraging our students from such an undertaking and citing "rough sea conditions" as an obstacle. Incidentally, Taiwan has built an airstrip, a hospital and a freshwater facility for the island. Recently, it finished a \$100-million upgrade of port infrastructure.

What have we done for Pagasa to show similar concern and interest for its inhabitants and those of neighboring communities?

Washington called Ma's trip "extremely unhelpful" for resolving ongoing disagreements. It is very likely that Uncle Sam would also say the same thing about a P-Noy visit to Pagasa. Unfortunately, unlike the Taiwanese, P-Noy would probably heed Uncle Sam's advice and stay away. Perhaps the next president can make a visit to Pagasa as his first out-of-town trip.

ONLINE NEWS 01 FEBRUARY 2016

www.news.abs-cbn.com

Marcelino denies profiting from illegal drugs

488-08N News Posted at 0101/06 1/10 PM

MANILA - The camp of Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, a former drug buster arrested inside a narcotics laboratory in Manila last week, denied Sunday that he gained profit from illegal drugs trade.

This after the police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) claimed that 13 bank deposit slips with amounts totaling P2.25 million were found inside a bag seized from Marcelino during his arrest in Santa Cruz district.

A Philippine Star report quoted AIDG spokesman Chief Inspector Roque Merdegia saying that bank slips under Marcelino's name showed deposit transactions of P500,000 on May 26, P200,000 on June 25 and P300,000 on July 31, all in 2014. Another deposit slip indicated a P30,000 transaction in March 4, 2015, the report said.

Authorities did not identify the depository bank.

The police anti-drug unit has requested the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to conduct a complete financial investigation on Marcelino to determine if he is involved in money-laundering activities.

In a statement on Sunday, Marcelino's spokesperson, Major Vonne Villanueva said: "My mistah, Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, categorically denies the insinuations by PNP-AIDG that he is profiting from illegal drugs trade."

"The bank transactions that PNP-AIDG presented were meant to discredit Lt. Col. Marcelino," he added.

Villanueva said the deposit slips presented by AIDF are part of Marcelino's personal financial records and confidential operational fund records when he was still working for Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

Villanueva, however, refrained from discussing details of the bank transactions "due to its sensitive nature and the fact that they have not filed another case against him related to these bank deposits."

He also said Marcelino is willing to sign a waiver for the AMLC to examine his bank accounts only if his accusers will do the same.

Marcelino, former chief of the Special Enforcement Service (SES) of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), has insisted that he was acting on a mission order when anti-drug operatives arrested him along with a Chinese informant.

The former drug buster, who is now a superintendent at a Naval Officer Candidate School in Zambales, said he coordinated with the PDEA before going to the laboratory in his own capacity. He said his arrest Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

was ordered by PDEA Director General Arturo Cacdac, Jr., who had been "irate" at his continued involvement in the anti-drug campaign of the government.

Marcelino is currently detained at the Quezon City Jail annex in Camp Bagong Diwa.

The Navy has requested custody of Marcelino, saying he should be transferred to a navy detention facility since he is still in active service and subject to military law.

www.rappler.com

More Lumad flee homes amid 'harassment'

Lumad from Davao del Norte claim that military and paramilitary forces still threaten their community

Editha Z. Caduaya

Published 3:30 PM, January 31, 2016

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – Indigenous peoples from a village in Talaingod, Davao del Norte again expressed concerns about the alleged harassment by military and paramilitary forces in their area.

A week ago, around 170 Lumad from Talaingod fled to the Haran compound of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) in Davao City.

One of their leaders, Datu Mard Buntu-ag, told a congressional inquiry on Friday, January 29, that they continue to fear for their safety.

"We used to eat 3 times daily, but when the soldiers entered our communities, our lives were endangered. They accused us of being rebels," Buntu-ag said.

Tribal chieftain Datu Cris Olaño also said threats from the Alamara paramilitary group persist. The Lumad believe the Alamara is backed by the military.

"We went home December 30, thinking we will be safe [in Talaingod] and live a normal life, but here again we are threatened," he said.

The military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), however, maintained that they are not backing the Alamara.

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"We do not encourage paramilitary groups. We have yet to get evidence that the Alamara is helping the soldiers in our counter-insurgency efforts," said Eastmincom commander Major General Rey Leonardo Guerrero. "We will run after Alamara and other lawless elements in upland communities, especially now that elections are approaching."

Guerrero added that the military regularly conducts foot patrols because it receives reports that New People's Army (NPA) rebels are disturbing the residents.

Datu Intu Sayad, a former NPA rebel, also said that rebels who infiltrate Lumad communities make the indigenous peoples vulnerable to attacks.

"Leave us alone," Sayad said. "We are capable of protecting our communities because we have our own political structure, we have our way of keeping peace. Rebels must be driven out from our lands."

Romy Maas, another Lumad leader from Talaingod, appealed to authorities to spare them from the government's fight against communist rebels.

"We're not NPAs, we're just farmers and civilians. The Alamara should not target us," Maas said.

In May 2015, more than 700 Lumad were displaced from Talaingod after alleged government forces and the Alamara occupied several villages in the town. Human rights groups reported cases of harassment and indiscriminate firing.

United Nations Special Rapporteur Chaloka Beyani visited the displaced Lumad in July 2015, and urged the Philippine government to defend the indigenous peoples from militarization.

"They described to me their concerns including their alleged forced recruitment into paramilitary groups, known as Alamara, under the auspices of the AFP and harassment in the context of the ongoing conflict between the AFP and the NPA," Beyani said.

Friday's congressional inquiry was led by North Cotabato 2nd District Representative Nancy Catamco, the chairperson of the House committee on indigenous peoples.

Catamco came under fire last July for allegedly insulting the Lumad, but she denied the allegation, pointing out that she herself was an indigenous person. She also insisted that the Lumad were being suppressed at the Haran compound.

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On Friday, Catamco vowed to address the plight of the Lumad.

"We really wanted to solve their concerns and these have been recurring, the health department, the social services and the education directors are all here because we are seriously looking into this situation and we are ready to provide them the urgent and the long-term needs of the community," she said. – Rappler.com

www.rappler.com

Armed men torch farm equipment in Bukidnon

(UPDATED) In two incidents at dawn, suspected NPA rebels burn down bulldozers and a truck in Malaybalay City. Armed men also strafe another truck in a third incident.

Rappler.com

Updated 6:24 PM, January 31, 2016

MANILA, Philippines (UPDATED) – Armed men alleged to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) torched farm equipment in two separate incidents in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, at early dawn Saturday, January 30.

Reports reaching the military said that two units of buildozers were burned down by unidentified armed men at Impalambong, Barangay 10, at around 2 am.

The bulldozers were reportedly owned by Del Monte Philippines Inc (DMPI).

Around half an hour later, a boom spray truck of Lapanday Diversified Products Corporation (LDPC) was also torched by 5 unidentified suspects at Sitio Hagwaon in Barangay Laguitas.

"While no lives were in danger during the incident, LDPC's farm equipment were damaged which badly affected its operations that put in grave peril the livelihood of its employees working in its plantation in the area," the company said in a statement Sunday, January 31.

Both agricultural companies are operating pineapple plantations in Malaybalay, added the reports.

The police, military, and the Bureau of Fire Protection are now investigating these arson incidents.

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The reports noted that the Lorenzo family owns Lapanday and a part of DMPI, the majority shares of which had been sold to the Campos Group many years ago.

While managing DMPI, the Lorenzos were known to have resisted extortion activities by the NPA, the reports added.

In a third incident also in Malaybalay City, a mega truck, while conducting a spraying operation at a Dole farm in Upper Gabunan in Barangay Casisang, was flagged down then strafed by suspected NPA rebels also at around 2:30 am

Five bullets hit the truck, said the report. The driver of the truck was able to get off the truck and run to safety. – Rappler.com

www.bomboradyo.com

Militar sa Sulu naka-alerto sa planong pamomomba ng ASG

By Bombo Anne SoberanoPosted in Latest News 1.

Lalo pang hinigpitan at pinalakas ng militar sa probinisya ng Sulu ang kanilang seguridad, matapos mabatid ang planong pamomomba ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf sa pamumuno ni ASG leader Radulan Sahiron.

Ayon kay Joint Task Group Sulu Commander BGen. Alan Arrojado kaniya ng ipina-alam sa lahat ng mga units ng militar na manatiling naka-alerto lalo na sa mga lugar na tinukoy na target pasabugin ng bandidong grupo.

Sinabí ni Arrojado na inatasan ni Sahiron si ASG member Namil Ahajari alias Gapas na magsagawa ng pamomomba sa downtown Jolo.

Pahayag ng heneral na ang nasabing banta ng ASG ay para i-divert ang atensiyon ng militar na lalo pang pina-igting ang kanilang focused military operations (FMO) laban sa bandidong grupo.

Target ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf ang mga military personnel.

www.pna.gov.ph

6 PAF 'Huey' up for maintenance, repairs

MANILA, Jan. 31 (PNA) — With helicopters playing a major role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) announced that it is procuring spare parts needed for the maintenance of six of its UH-IH "Huey" combat utility helicopters.

The budget for the maintenance project is placed at PHP17,241,236.23.

UH-IH helicopters slated for maintenance are those bearing tail numbers 276, 863, 504, 513, 517 and 507.

Submission and opening of bids is on Feb. 2, 9:00 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

The UH-IH is a military helicopter powered by a single turboshaft engine, with two-bladed main and tail rotors.

It was was developed by Bell Helicopter to meet the United States Army's requirement for a medical evacuation and utility helicopter in 1952, and it first flew on October 20, 1956.

Ordered into production in March 1960, the UH-1 was the first turbine-powered helicopter to enter production for the United States military, and more than 16,000 have been built.

The PAF is known to operate 41 variants of the UH-I helicopters for its transport, medical evacuation and ground support missions. (PNA) BNB/PFN

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