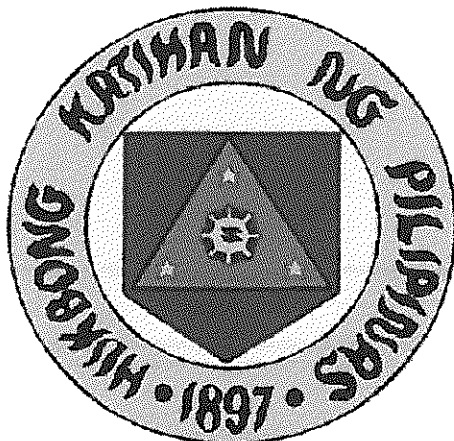


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# **ARMY**

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**06 February 2016**

**Saturday**

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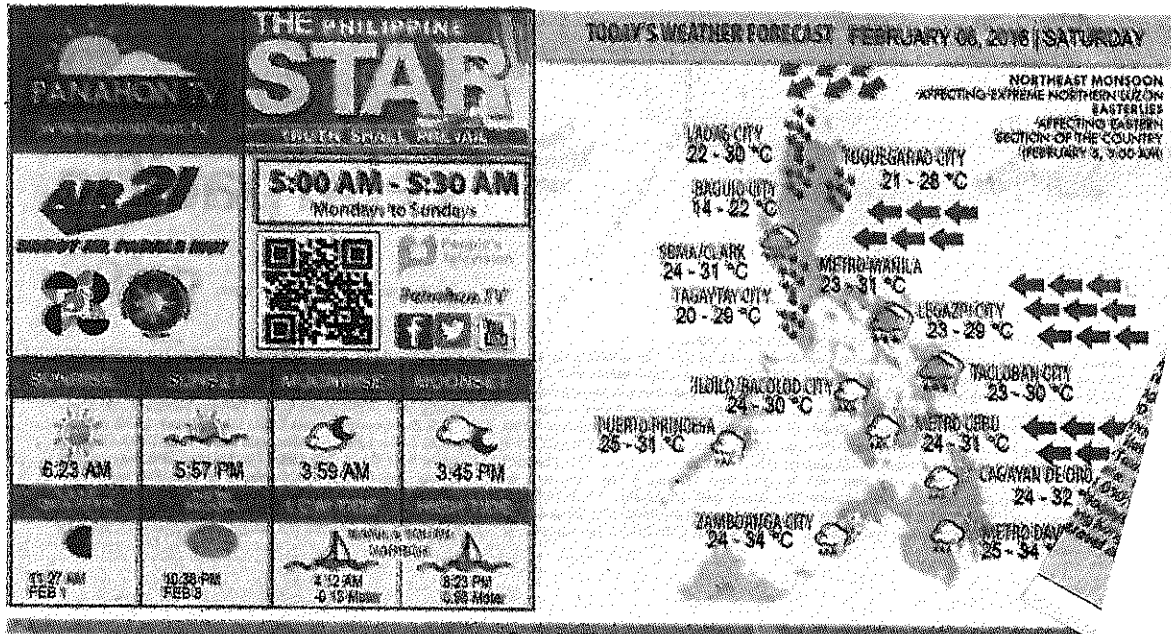
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














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**THE PHILIPPINE  
STAR**  
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	FEB 7 SUN	FEB 8 MON	FEB 9 TUE	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	FEB 7 SUN	FEB 8 MON	FEB 9 TUE	
METRO MANILA	 23 °C 30 °C	 22 °C 30 °C	 23 °C 30 °C	PUNYO PUNKESA	 25 °C 30 °C	 25 °C 30 °C	 25 °C 31 °C	 444 Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
TUGUEGARAO	 21 °C 28 °C	 20 °C 28 °C	 20 °C 30 °C	KOMO/ BACOLOD	 24 °C 31 °C	 24 °C 31 °C	 24 °C 32 °C	 444 Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
LAROC	 21 °C 30 °C	 21 °C 30 °C	 22 °C 31 °C	METRO ORIN	 25 °C 31 °C	 25 °C 32 °C	 25 °C 32 °C	
BAGUO	 19 °C 22 °C	 19 °C 22 °C	 14 °C 23 °C	BAKLOMAN	 24 °C 30 °C	 24 °C 31 °C	 25 °C 31 °C	 444 Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
SAMA/ CLARK	 23 °C 31 °C	 23 °C 30 °C	 23 °C 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 24 °C 33 °C	 25 °C 33 °C	 25 °C 34 °C	
INAYAW	 20 °C 28 °C	 19 °C 28 °C	 20 °C 29 °C	METRO DINAO	 24 °C 33 °C	 24 °C 34 °C	 24 °C 33 °C	
LEGAZPI	 23 °C 30 °C	 24 °C 30 °C	 24 °C 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 25 °C 34 °C	 24 °C 34 °C	 24 °C 33 °C	 Light rains



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## MILF to continue peace process with next gov't

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has vowed to stick to the peace process in finding a solution to the conflict in Mindanao despite the failure to pass the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chairman for political affairs, however, said they have to see the conditions that would be set by the incoming administration regarding the peace process.

"Our position since the start when we agreed to sit down with the

Philippine government in the negotiating table, our policy remained, that the most civilized, peaceful way to achieve the aspiration of the Bangsamoro people is through the peace process," Jaafar told radio station dxRZ yesterday.

He said the MILF would still note the conditions to be set in the resumption of the peace process by the new administration.

According to Jaafar, the MILF has laid down all the conditions about the Bangsamoro issue for the past 38 years when peace negotiations started with the Tripoli agreement in 1976, the 1996 final peace

By ROEL PAREÑO

agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Comprehensive Agreement of the Bangsamoro (CAB) of the MILF signed in 2014.

"It's not from us the MILF. How many times – pardon my language – have the Muslims been saying that it appears the government is misleading us," Jaafar said in Filipino.

Jaafar believes they have nothing to explain about the Bangsamoro issue to the Philippine government on how to achieve the solution of peace through the peace process.

He said it is now the responsibility

of the government, through the agreements, to implement the aspiration of the Bangsamoro people.

"It appears the government is playing treachery. Treacherous to us Muslims. We keep on signing agreement after agreement for the Bangsamoro people, for the Muslims of the Philippines but it is not implemented," Jaafar lamented.

While the rest of Mindanao remains silent over the failure of Congress to pass the BBL, Jaafar said many Muslims felt hurt and betrayed.

"It's not true that the feelings of Muslims were not hurt, it's not true that Muslims were not affected that

we have to be unmindful," he said.

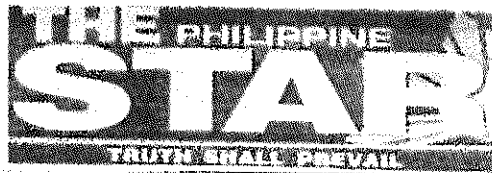
Jaafar said critics have to worry since the leadership and political solution did not work out after the proposed BBL was not signed and peaceful resolution was not implemented.

The MILF leader appealed to everyone to help one another and influence the leaders in Congress to end the conflict in Mindanao through a peaceful solution.

"Because there are groups who were really dismayed (over the negotiation) and they were thinking of (other radical) ways," Jaafar said.



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## Duterte open to joint Spratlys exploration with China

Presidential aspirant Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte disclosed yesterday that he is willing to enter into a joint agreement with China for the exploration of oil and gas in the Spratly Islands, provided that Beijing does not insist on its territorial claims over the disputed area.

Speaking to businessmen in Go Negosyo's "Meet the Presi-

dentiables Series" in Makati City, Duterte said talks over the disputed territory are going nowhere as the United States is insisting on a round-table or multilateral discussion among claimants China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.

Duterte said the US position is being opposed by China, which insists on bilateral talks

with other claimant nations.

According to Duterte, the situation in the area has become dangerous and China has not stopped building structures in the disputed islands.

"There are conflicting claims between the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Thailand and even Malaysia. This has created a very dangerous

situation when China decided to build structures there. *Ang problema nito* is we want to talk about it and the United States is asking that it must be multilateral to include those with conflicting claims including faraway Australia and Japan," he said.

There appeared to be a hiatus, he said. "The talks are not

moving and they are in still waters and China is adding structures day-to-day. Something has to be done," he said.

Duterte said that the Spratly Islands is within the territorial boundaries of the Philippines.

If elected president, Duterte said he would convince China to engage in talks on the premise that the disputed islands

belong to the Philippines.

"Give me two to three years... and if China says it is ready to talk, this will be my predicate. I will talk to you (China) but I will place a margin. I usually fold a paper and write something there. This is my margin. I cannot talk beyond this margin," he said. – With Jess Diaz, Perseus Echeminada



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## Criminal raps filed vs Purisima over Mamasapano

Anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) yesterday filed criminal charges against former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Alan Purisima for his role in the Mamasapano incident where 44 policemen were killed on Jan. 25 last year.

Dante Jimenez of the VACC and lawyer Ferdinand Topacio lodged the complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman accusing Purisima of usurpation of official functions under Article 177 of the Revised

Penal Code.

Purisima was charged for allegedly having a hand in the planning and execution of Oplan Exodus despite being under preventive suspension.

Purisima reportedly dictated Oplan Exodus to capture Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, and local confederate Basit Usman, who were hiding in a remote village in Mamasapano.

The raiding police team of the Special Action Force (SAF) killed Marwan

while Usman escaped but was later killed in another encounter.

The police commandos figured in firefights with Muslim rebels and armed villagers in the area. A total of 44 policemen, 18 rebels and five civilians were killed.

The VACC's complaint was anchored on the Senate investigation report citing Purisima had admitted bringing former SAF commander Getulio Napeñas to Malacañang on Jan. 9, 2015 to discuss the operation.

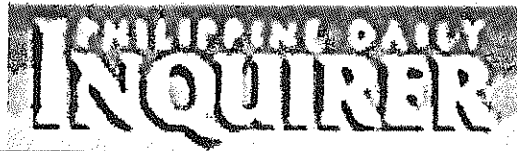
The VACC said Purisima, who was under suspension, had no business participating in a police mission.

"The respondent is guilty of usurping official functions. He could not have legally participated in the planning and execution of Oplan Exodus while under preventive suspension," the VACC said.

The Office of the Ombudsman is investigating Purisima's role in the Mamasapano encounter and is conducting a preliminary probe that will determine if he should be charged in court.



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# Nokor rocket launch worries PH

By Niña P. Calleja

THE PHILIPPINES on Friday expressed concern over North Korea's plan to launch a rocket between Feb. 8 and 25, in violation of the United Nations ban on the use of ballistic missile technology. *(See related story in World, Page A15.)*

"The Philippines is deeply concerned about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) notification that it intends to conduct a rocket launch as this will violate numerous UN Security Council resolutions," the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila said in a statement on Friday.

North Korea had reportedly told

the International Maritime Organization that it intends to launch an Earth observation satellite.

The notification from Pyongyang particularly worried airlines in Japan and South Korea which announced they would divert planes that fly over waters in the Philippines where missile parts and debris are expected to

fall after the launch.

Japan has threatened to shoot down the North Korean rocket if it flies over its air space.

"The Philippines strongly urges the DPRK to desist from such provocative acts that threaten the peace and stability of the region and the rest of the world," the DFA said.

The flight diversions will affect three All Nippon Airways flights—from Tokyo's Haneda airport to Manila, from Manila to Tokyo's Narita International Airport, and from Jakarta in Indonesia to Narita.

Two Japan Airlines flights—one from Jakarta to Narita and another

from Narita to Manila—will also be rerouted.


All the lights are expected to suffer delays of between five to 10 minutes, the airlines said.

South Korea said a total of 39 flights to and from the southern resort island of Jeju would be rerouted, involving the country's two main carriers Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, as well as some Chinese carriers.

Another 36 flights from Korean Air and Asiana will adjust routes to avoid waters off the Philippines, the Korean government said, adding that the changes would cause an additional average flight time of six minutes.



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# MILF allays tension fears

## Iqbal assures UN of continuous peace engagement sans BBL

By EDD K. USMAN

**A**mid fears of war in Mindanao after Congress failed to pass the proposed Bangsamoro law, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday assured the United Nations (UN) of its continuing engagement on peace.

Mohagher Iqbal, chief negotiator of the MILF, met yesterday with UN Undersecretary General Adama Dieng in Manila and conveyed the Moro front's assurances that peace will be pursued in Mindanao even without the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) being passed into law.

Iqbal, also the chairman of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), drafted the original BBL.

In a statement received by the Manila Bulletin, he said the MILF "gave its assurance... that it would continue its engagement with all stakeholders including the interna-

►6

## MILF allays tension...

◀1

tional community in spite" of the BBL being denied passage by legislators of the 16th Congress.

It can be recalled that President Aquino had committed to push the enactment of the BBL crafted to establish a Bangsamoro government to replace the inadequacies of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Aquino's failure to make good his commitment to steer the BBL to the finish, has revived some sectors' fears of renewed violence in Mindanao.

Expectedly, Malacañang is drawing up plans to continue the peace process through consultations, including the MILF, now that BBL is virtually dead in the water.

Iqbal assured Dieng the MILF is "fully committed to pursue the path of peace and would continue its engagements" even with the 16th Congress adjourning its sessions with passing the BBL.

Dieng is UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocides.

In his meeting with Iqbal, Dieng encouraged the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro rebel organization "to continue seeking the

avenues for the implementation of commitments made over the 17 years of negotiations."

He was quoted in the MILF statement as being very interested on how the peace process between GPH and MILF could move forward when the BBL was not enacted under Aquino's term that expires on June 30 this year.

Among others, the UN official and the MILF leader traded views on "how to overcome the incipient challenges on security given the growing restlessness and frustration of people in Mindanao; the stalled normalization process; the need to commence transitional justice mechanisms as well as promoting dialogues by and between Muslims and Christians in the country."

In November last year, MILF Chairman Al-Haji Murad Ebrahim asked the UN to help in the peace process, particularly Normalization phase that covers the Moro rebel's decommissioning its weapons and combatants.

The MILF chieftain made the request when a delegation led by UN Philippine Coordinator Ola Almgren visited the Moro Front's leadership at Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.



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# Gazmin optimistic non-passage of BBL will not lead to conflict

By Mario J. Mallari

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin is optimistic that the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) agreed upon by the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace panels will not lead to armed conflict in Mindanao.

Gazmin said that the "long period of deliberations" of the BBL was part of democracy.

The defense chief said that while some people are disappointed "but everyone is

taking it in stride for as long as the peace process continues."

"That is democracy—there are debates, we come up with arguments and counter arguments before a law is passed. That is really the system, it was just really unfortunate it fell short of time," Gazmin said.

Gazmin said that what is important now is for the government to deliver basic services to the people who were deprived of such before.

"It is important that the government delivers basic services

that we have promised," said Gazmin.

The BBL was scrutinized for more than a year before both Senate and House of Representatives.

While several contentious provisions have been removed from the original draft agreed upon by Malacanang and MILF, the proposed law still did not pass.

Up to the last minute, the MILF remained hopeful that BBL would pass.

Sulu Rep. Habib Tupay Loong expressed concern that the "death" of BBL would force the MILF to return to war.

Loong, a former leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), said that Moros are ready to offer themselves for the cause of their people, faith and homeland.

But Loong stressed that armed conflict would only bring destruction and more deaths to the country and will drive further division in Mindanao.

The MILF has blamed Congress for the non-passage of BBL, citing the House of Representatives' leadership's allowing anti-BBL lawmaker to filibuster to block its passage.



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## **Bomba narekober sa inabandonang military detachment sa Sulu**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Isang improvised explosive device (IED) ang narekober ng militar malapit lamang sa inabandonang military detachment sa may Sitio Bulabog, Barangay Bonbon, lalawigan ng Sulu.

Ayon kay B/Gen. Alan Arrojado, ang commander ng joint task group (JTG) Sulu, ang nakuhang bomba ay binubuo ng dalawang bala ng mortar na may nakadikit na mga wire.

Kaagad namang na-dispose ng tropa ng Explosive Ordnance Division (EOD) ng Philippine Army (PA) ang IED.

Paniwala ng militar, pansamantalang itinago ang naturang bomba sa lugar at naghahanap lamang ng pagkakataon ang grupo ng Abu Sayyaf para gamitin ito sa pagpasabog sa mga dadaanan ng militar.

Matalandaan na nasa pitong mga Marines ang nasugatan sa nang-yaring roadside bombing kamakalawa.

Sumabog ang nakatanim na IED habang dumadaan ang convoy ng Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT-10).

Nananatili namang nakaalerto ngayon ang militar sa Sulu laban sa pag-atake ng Abu Sayyaf sa pamamagitan ng pagpasabog ng bomba.



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## AFP tightens security in Sulu

Security has been tightened in Sulu amid reports that the Abu Sayyaf is targeting civilians and government installations, particularly in Jolo.

-Brig Gen Alan Arrojado, commander of Joint Task Group-Sulu, said they received reports that the bandit group has deployed six newly trained bombers, led by Majan Sajidjuan, alias Apo Mike.

Among the reported targets of the bombings are the Jolo Cathedral, Jolo market, naval vessels, karaoke bars frequented by policemen and soldiers, Coast Guard stations and business establishments.

The reports also cited planned roadside bombings along the Jolo-Tagbak highway.

Another bombing at-

tempt was believed to have been averted with the discovery of an improvised bomb along the road in Patikul, Sulu on Thursday.

Arrojado said the bomb was planted some 200 meters away from an abandoned detachment in Sitio Bulabog in Barangay Bonbon.

He said the bomb was discovered a few hours after a convoy of Marine vehicles hit an improvised explosive device in Barangay Lagtoh in Talipao town that left seven soldiers injured.

Arrojado said five of the suspects were identified as Amrin Absara, Abrial Alih, a certain Asaral, Tala Jumsah and Jumidin Wali, who were under the group of Radullan Sahiron, Amah Maas and Hajan Sawadjaan. — **Jaime Laude, Roel Pareño**



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# Task force activated for power tower bombings

By DANESSA RIVERA

President Aquino has activated an inter-agency task force to address the bombing of power transmission towers in Mindanao and right-of-way issues with landowners, Energy Secretary Zenaida Monsada said yesterday.

Monsada said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Security of Energy Facilities (IATFSEF) would report to the President on a weekly basis.

The IATFSEF is composed of representatives of the National Transmission Corp. (TransCo), who will handle right-of-way issues with landowners who are seeking compensation for the installation of transmission lines in their properties; Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines, security matters; Department of Justice, legal aspect; National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), community relations; and Department of Energy (DOE), information, education and communication campaign.

Monsada said the task force has called on communities near the transmission facilities to help the police and military secure the area.

"We have to work together, both Mindanaoans and industry participants...there can be no development without power. Stable power fuels development," she said.

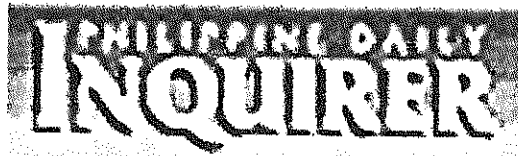
To address right-of-way issues, the DOE, during the meeting of the Mindanao Power Monitoring Committee in Davao on Thursday, said there should be an inventory and identification of affected properties, including the vegetation and structures therein; valuation of the properties and identification of priority areas.

Aside from the DOE, representatives of the Mindanao Development Authority, National Electrification Administration, National Power Corp., Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management, TransCo, NGCP, Mindanao Electric Power Alliance and Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives attended the meeting.

The DOE assured the public the government is doing its best to ensure reliable, sufficient, stable and secure power supply in the country.



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## Moro rebs staying the course despite restlessness—Iqbal

By Nikko Dizon

THERE is a "growing restlessness and frustration" in Mindanao with the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) but the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) assured a ranking official of the United Nations that it is staying the course on the peace process.

MILF peace panel chair Mohagher Iqbal on Thursday met with UN Undersecretary General Adama Dieng, who is also UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special adviser on the prevention of genocide.

At their two-hour meeting, Iqbal and Dieng discussed the imminent security challenges in Mindanao following the failure of lawmakers to pass the BBL, a key component in the peace agreement, and exchanged views on how these security issues could be overcome.

### 'Fully committed'

Iqbal assured Dieng that the MILF is "fully committed to pursue the path of peace and would continue its engagements" with stakeholders, including the international community.

"We expect problems to arise in the coming days and we discussed, in general terms, what we could do to prevent these problems from taking place," Iqbal told the INQUIRER by phone.

The UN website said the special adviser on the prevention of genocide "acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide, to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide, and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action."

At the meeting, Dieng also said both the government and MILF peace panels should "continue seeking the avenues for the implementation of commitments made over the 17 years of negotiations," as he expressed interest on how the two parties would pursue the peace process despite the setback.

President Aquino will end his term on June 30, sealing a peace deal with the MILF but unable to secure its ultimate conclusion which is to create a new Bangsamoro autonomous region that promises to bring security and development to Central Mindanao that has been mired in conflict and poverty.

The Mamasapano debacle on Jan. 25 last year dealt a serious blow on the peace process, after the deaths of 44 elite police commandos were blamed on the MILF.

Then Special Action Force (SAF) Director Getulio Napeñas admitted he disregarded the ceasefire mechanisms in the operation to take down Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan because of his distrust in the military and the MILF.



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# ASG recruiting for bombing missions?

By ELENA L. ABEN

**T**he military has tightened security in Sulu after it received intelligence information that recruits of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) are out to conduct test bombing missions in the province.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, commander of the military's Joint Task Group Sulu, said six trainees from the group of ASG sub-leader Majan Sahidjuan alias "Apo Mike" were monitored roaming in Jolo.

He said the trainees were in a mission to conduct widespread bombing, wherein the targets include the commercial establishments, the Jolo Cathedral, the Jolo wet market, naval vessels, video bars frequented by policemen and soldiers, Coast Guard stations and other business establishments.

The test missions are a requirement before the trainees become full members of the Al Qaeda-linked terror group.

"Allegedly, they were instructed by alias Apo Mike to conduct bombing in Jolo as pre-condition to become regular members of the ASG," Arrojado said in a text message to reporters.

He added that the trainees were also instructed to conduct roadside bomb-

ings, particularly along the Jolo-Tagbak routes, targeting military convoys.

"Maghagis daw sa sasakyan ng IED or ilagay habang naka-park ang military vehicle," according to a military source.

The improvised bombs were reportedly made by ASG bomb experts, two of them identified as certain Muamar and Abu Jihad.

Arrojado steps have been taken to thwart any attack.

The official also said that bombings could be part of diversionary tactics of the ASG noting that the military has been continuously conducting operations against terror group in the whole province.

Meanwhile, an unexploded fragmentation grenade was discovered by elements of the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion on Friday near one of the military detachments in Patikul, Sulu.

The grenade was reportedly found at around 5:45 a.m. near the Taglibi Detachment in Patikul.

"It was believed that said grenade was thrown at around 5:45 a.m. when the sentinel heard something drop/falling from the rooftop, but when he searched the area at that time found nothing until its discovery during daybreak," Arrojado said quoting a report.



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## Enrile's 'friendly fire'

PEOPLE EXPECTED a bombshell blast from Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile at the Jan. 27 Senate hearing on the Mamasapano incident, the probe of which was reopened at his request to present his new information proving President Aquino's culpability for the deaths of the SAF 44. Mainstream media was not impressed; the INQUIRER pronounced the bombshell a "dud."

Enrile presented no new information not already accessed by one or any of the nine bodies that independently investigated the incident. Neither did he raise new questions or accusations that had not earlier surfaced in congressional hearings or in the media.

No one has disputed that P-Noy knew and authorized Oplan Exodus, the last of a series of operations in a decade-long effort to capture Marwan. Or that he permitted the continued involvement of suspended Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima in the planning and implementation of Exodus, the basis of the criticism that P-Noy broke the chain of command.

P-Noy himself had repeatedly acknowledged that he bore the ultimate responsibility for the Exodus failure. But Enrile wanted to prove that P-Noy directly caused the Exodus disaster and then compounded his guilt by denying assistance to the beleaguered Special Action Force commandos.

Through the aggressive grilling of AFP officers and the tedious, occasionally comical, effort to connect disparate text messages from different parties, Enrile tried to spin a narrative to support his thesis: P-Noy was (or should have been) micromanaging Oplan Exodus from the start of the encounter early in the morning of Jan. 25. Either by inaction or an explicit "stand-down order" that prevented the Armed Forces of the Philippines from supporting the SAF forces, P-Noy was accountable for the SAF deaths.

The text messages instead proved the opposite: Even if he had so desired, P-Noy could not conduct long-distance combat micromanagement whose

### BUSINESS MATTERS

*Edilberto C. de Jesus*



appropriateness experts would question, because he did not have the data in Zamboanga to make informed decisions. Neither did the PNP officers in Mamasapano responsible for Exodus.

The flurry of text messages precisely sought to obtain or to confirm information. Information was lacking because Purisima and then SAF Director Getulio Napeñas deliberately withheld Exodus from parties with whom it should have been shared, not least, the officer in charge of the PNP and the interior secretary.

Failure to coordinate with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as required by the ceasefire agreement, delayed efforts to stop the firefight. It was the MILF chair of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) who alerted his AFP counterpart at 6:38 a.m. to the ongoing encounter and initiated a ceasefire process. The CCCH members from Cotabato could only meet with the MILF area commanders in Mamasapano at 11:30 a.m. Coming under fire, the team could only enter the 55th SAC encounter site at around 1:15 p.m.

Failure to coordinate with the military, as explicitly ordered by P-Noy, delayed timely artillery support. But forces were immediately available to assist the 55th Special Action Company (SAC) among from the rest of the nearly 400 men the PNP had mobilized to capture two terrorists. AFP units rushing to the battle site around 10 a.m. saw them waiting along the road. We still have no clear explanation for what the President and the PNP board of inquiry had also wondered about: the fail-



ture of these forces to support the 55th SAC?

Contrary to some media reports, the battle involving the 55th SAC did not last the whole day. By around 1 p.m., all of the 55th SAC commandos in the encounter site were dead and beyond anyone's help. But at 1:30 p.m., Napeñas still could not confirm that any SAF commando had been killed.

The AFP PowerPoint at the Senate hearings showed a photograph of Napeñas, in civilian clothes and seemingly smiling, which suggested that, at past 4 p.m., he was not yet aware that the 55th SAC had been wiped out. The commentary noted that Napeñas' demeanor reflected no sense of urgency about the situation and his attire indicated that he had not planned to go to the frontlines to assess the situation personally and to inspire and lead his men.

It was also only after 5 p.m. that the military learned that another SAF unit, the 84th SAC, was on the field and still engaged in combat. Fortunately, the AFP was able to get the data required by its protocol to render supporting artillery fire. Three rounds of phosphorous shells relieved the pressure on the 84th SAC and possibly prevented more casualties.

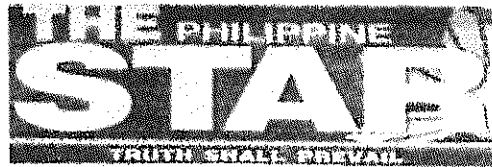
Although already available in the Mamasapano documentation, the additional Senate session led to the release of materials from executive committee records and their wider dissemination. These were especially damaging to Napeñas and to the commanders of the SAF units that failed to support the 55th SAC. Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV has called for their investigation.

The Enrile bombshell was not really a "dud." It detonated but backfired, causing "friendly fire" casualties among those he had not intended to hurt.

*Edilberto C. de Jesus (edcdejesus@gmail.com) is professor emeritus at the Asian Institute of Management. Professor Rofel Brion's Tagalog translation of this column and others earlier published, together with other commentaries, are in <http://secondthoughts.ph>*



06 February 2016



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## **AFPSLAI: We don't manage AFP's pension**

This is in reference to the news article that came out in the **Philippine STAR** on Jan. 31, 2016, regarding the Salary Standardization Law (SSL), where the Armed Forces and Police Savings & Loan Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) was mentioned.

In particular, the article highlighted the following:

"...President Aquino requested Congress in his last State of the Nation Address to reform the pension system of the military since the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) that used to fund this had collapsed. The AFPSLAI is the military's in-house version of the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System... the

pension for military retirees had to be included in the national budget when the AFPSLAI ceased to exist."

We would like to clarify that AFPSLAI does not manage the pension of the military. AFPSLAI is a private non-stock savings and loan association which offers deposit and loan products to its members. AFPSLAI started its operations in 1972 and continues to exist, with more than P69 billion in total assets and 500,000 members. For more than 40 years that it has been in the industry, AFPSLAI has provided financial assistance to our members and their respective families, while they risk their lives in the service of our nation.

We hope we have clarified the matter, and that necessary actions be taken to correct the statements for the sake of our members who have put their trust in us. – Lt. Gen. VIRGILIO O. DOMINGO AFP (Ret), president and CEO, AFPSLAI



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# Goal is peace, not a substate

**A** hate campaign against Congress seems to have been launched by those who were severely frustrated by the shelved Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) making the future of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)'s dream of a Bangsamoro substate uncertain.

The original plan under an agreement between the MILF and the government was for a moro substate in place by the time that Noyonoy steps down from office.

Not surprisingly, the MILF and the government negotiating panel came out with one voice denouncing legislators for not seeing the need for the BBL their way.

Government chief negotiator Miriam Coronel Ferrer accused members of the House of Representatives of sheer indifference and chronic absenteeism.

She cited the lack of quorum almost on a daily basis in the House of Representatives, and the prolonged and repetitive interpellation of oppositors that she claimed ate up the remaining sessions.

"In the Senate, the intermittent absence of the bill sponsor and the remaining interpellator stalled the deliberation. Moreover, a belated change in procedure was entertained. Only last December 2015, the Senate practically conceded that the Bangsamoro bill is of local application and therefore the upper chamber should have waited for the House version to be remanded to it," she said.

Contrary to lawmakers' claim that the refiling of the bill would facilitate the proceedings for the BBL, since most of the views needed for it was already in the various public hearings and deliberations held, Ferrer's view was that everything went to waste.

Ferrer said, in all, 40 public hearings and 14 plenary deliberations conducted by the House ad hoc committee chaired by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, and 15 public hearings and 14 sessions of plenary interpellations led by local governments committee chair Sen.



Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. amounted to nothing, "along with the millions of pesos of taxpayers' money used up to finance these drawn-out proceedings." Ferrer should have placed the blame on herself and her panel members, along with Teresita Deles, peace adviser, for coming up with an unconstitutional peace agreement which wouldn't have been passed anyway. They wasted people's money too. Noynoy gave millions in public money to the MILF leaders in that secret Tokyo meeting before the talks even started.

The MILF leadership also blamed Congress but absolved Noynoy for the BBL's death.

"Why did the leadership in the House allow the enemies of the BBL to filibuster its passage?" the MILF said.

"The Bangsamoro Basic Law has fallen on the wayside. Congress has snuffed its life, citing various, if not shallow, reasons. Lack of time is merely an alibi," the MILF stated in an editorial.

The MILF said the January 25 launching of Operation Plan (Oplan) Exodus by the police's elite Special Action Force (SAF) contributed to the "hatred, biases and prejudices" against the Moros that somewhat affected the fate of BBL.

Never, however, has it been said that the tragic incident reflected on the Moro people but certainly it did change the view of the public on the MILF which cannot even claim full representation of the whole of the Muslim minority.

"Nobody wanted the incident to happen, especially the MILF, but it happened. This is the reason the MILF, without distinction, expressed deep sympathy and condolence to all those who have fallen in Mamasapano," the MILF said.

The MILF, however, refused to accede to the justice process in the aftermath of the incident as it never surrendered its members identified as having been involved in the massacre of the 44 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos, something that the administration of Noynoy merely let go.

It was, however, strange that Congress is being made to bear all the blame on the failed bill when it was the delay in the submission of the Palace-authored BBL that moved back the timetable on the BBL.

Also most of the provisions of the Palace and MILF drafted bill were patently unconstitutional.

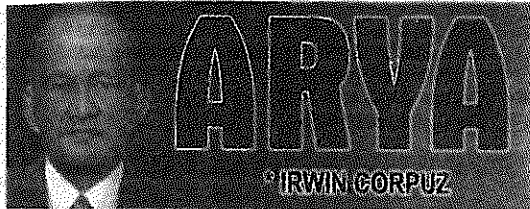
The MILF and their sympathizers in government were huffing about the loss of the unconstitutional substate and not the peace process.



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**PARA** matamasa ng mga susunod na henerasyon ang pambansang kagalingan ay hinihimok nitong si dating DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) SECRETARY RAFAEL ALUNAN III ang sambayanang Pilipino na pumili ng mahuhusay at matitinong mga kandidato para magkaroon ng positibong pagbabago sa ating bansa.

Aniya, napakahalaga umanong mapabuti ang pamamahala upang inakaahon sa kahirapan ang mamamayan at magkakaroon lamang ng kaganapan sa pamamagitan ng mahusay na pagpapasiya ng sambayanan, sa paraang pagpili sa kung sino ang kanilang mga iluluklok sa mga mahahalagang posisyon para maging mga lider ng ating bansa.

Si ALUNAN III ay 7-taong nagsilbi sa gobyerno bilang DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM; naging SECRETARY ni dating PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO at SECRETARY naman ng DILG sa administrasyon ni dating PRESIDENT FIDEL RAMOS ay tumatakbo ngayong independiyenteng SENATOR, na naglalayong makatulong sa pagsusulong ng tapat at mabuting pamamahala sa ating bansa.

“Napag-isip-isip ko na may puwang ngayon sa liderato kaya nalugmok ang ating bansa sa maraming krisis, para mapahupa ito, layunin kong itaon ang aking panahon sa 3 mahahalagang bagay na may taglay akong malawak na karanasang natamo sa publiko at pribadong sektor; Batas at Kaayusan, Pagpapaulad sa Ekonomiya at Pangangalaga sa Kalikasan,” pagpupunto ni ALUNAN III.

Ayon kay ALUNAN III ay basehan umano ang batas at kaayusan ng isang bansa at ng mga mamamayan nito upang mamuhay nang mapayapa at malaya; na, ang maunlad na ekonomiya ang pundasyon ng ating progreso at pakikipagsabayan sa pandaigdigang kompeti-

## SENTRO NI ALUNAN ANG SUSUNOD NA MGA HENERASYON

syon..., na aniya pa, kung walang proteksiyon ang ating kapaligiran ay walang batayan ang batas at kaayusan gayundin ang pag-unlad ng ekonomiya dahil walang nasasakupan at pagkukunan na lilinangin at iingat.

“Ang tatlong ito kasama ang wastong sistema ng edukasyon para sa ating mga kabataan, ang para sa akin, ay ang mga nakapahalagang saligan para matamo natin ang pambansang kagalingan. Umaasa ako na matatapatan ko ang hangarin ninyong makinabang ang bansa sa tulong ng mga pipiliin ninyong pinuno. Gusto kong mag-iwan ng pamana ng makatarungan, patas at epektibong pamamahala para sa mga kabataan ngayon at sa mga isisilang pang susunod na mga henerasyon,” pagdidiin ni ALUNAN III.

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### LT. COL. MARCELINO SWAK SA DRUG SYNDICATE?

Mukhang mahihirapang idepensa nitong si LT. COL. FERDINAND MARCELINO ang kaniyang sarili kung paano niya patutunayang siya ay nagsasagawa ng surveillance o pagmamaman sa lugar at walang kaugnayan sa drug syndicate, dahil naabutan siyang prente at parang ‘at home’ sa pagkakaupo sa loob ng unit na kinaroroonan ng shabu laboratory na sinalakay ng PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA) at ng PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS GROUP nitong nakaraang January 21 ng madaaling-araw sa FELIX HUERTAS ROAD, BRGY. 350, ZONE 35, DISTRICT 3, MANILA.

Inihayag ni PDEA DIRECTOR GENERAL UNDER-SECRETARY ARTURO CACDAC JR na mahirap paniwalaan ang depensa nitong si LT. COL. MARCELINO dahil wala umanong tao o sinumang taong nagmamay-ari ng isang unit na basta pagkakatiwalaang makapasok sa kaniyang unit; kung saan, napayagan lamang umano si LT. COL. MARCELINO at kaniyang kasamang Chinese national na si YAN YI SHUO na



patuluyin ng mga guwardiya nang mismong ang may-ari ng unit na si MAY CO ang tumawag sa mga guwardiya at nag-abisong may mga bisita itong darating na nakasakay sa Toyota Camry na may plakang XEV 665.., at ang susi ng unit ay ipinagkatiwala pa ni MARY CO kay MARCELINO.

"Kung ikaw ang may-ari ng unit, basta-basta ka na lang ba magpapasok ng taong hindi mo kilala sa unit mo? Ibibigay mo ang susi sa taong hindi mo kilala para makapasok sa unit mo dahil wala ka sa unit mo nung pagkakataong iyon?" pahayag ni CACDAC JR.

"One thing is certain; Shou and Marcelino were allowed by Co entry to her unit. This alone establishes that the unit's owner knew Shou and Marcelino," pagpupunto ni CACDAC JR, kung saan, ang nagmamay-ari ng Toyota Camry na ginamit nina MARCELINO na si HYDEE UY ay isasailalim sa masusing pagsisiyasat.

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PAUNAWA PO SA  
MGA TAGASUBAY-  
BAY NG ARYA NA  
ITEXT LAMANG PO  
NINYO ANG INYONG  
MGA NAIS NA ISI-  
WALAT, PROBLEMA O  
ANUMANG PANUKA-  
LA AT ANG TAWAG SA  
CELFONE AY HINDI  
PO MAHAHARAP..  
MAGTEXT LAMANG  
PO SA 09494251356 o  
kaya ay mag-email sa  
winzuproc@yahoo.com.ph..  
SALAMAT PO!



February 2016



Pahina. 3

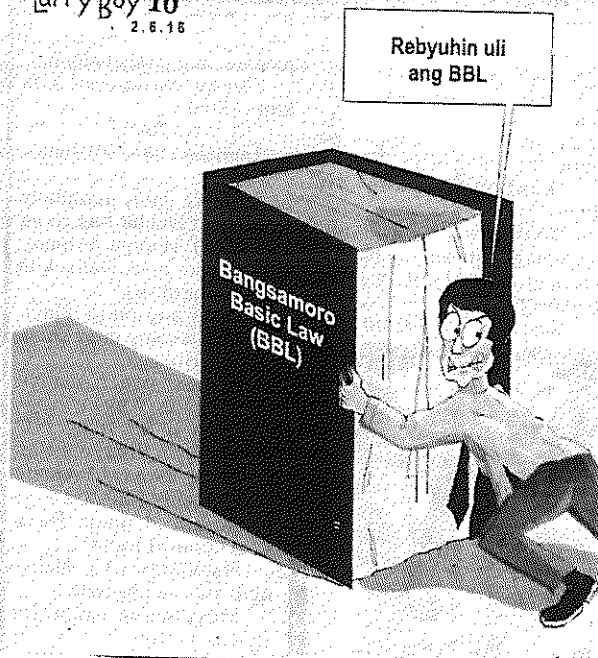
### Editorial

## Busisiin munang mabuti ang BBL

**H**INDI naipasa sa termino ni President Noynoy Aquino ang Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). Nag-end na ang session ng Kongreso at sa huling sandali, hindi nakakuha ng suporta sa mga kongresista ang BBL. Hindi nagkaroon ng katuparan ang marubdob na pagnanais ni P. Noy na maipasa ang panukala. Ang BBL ang pangunahing component ng peace deal na nilagdaan ng gobyerno sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) noong nakaraang taon.

Pero marami pa rin ang positibo na ang maipapasa ang BBL sa mga darating na panahon. Mangyayari raw ito kung ang “manok” ng administrasyon ang mananalo sa May 2016 presidential elections. Nani-niwala ang marami na itutuloy ng kaalyado ni P. Noy ang pagsasakatuparan ng BBL sapagkat marami

Larry Boy '16  
2.6.16



nang umasa rito.

Mayroon namang nangangamba na ang hindi pagkakasabatas ng BBL ay magpapasiklab na naman ng kaguluhan sa Mindanao. Ang mga hindi sumasang-ayon sa BBL, gaya ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ay maghahasik ng gulo hanggang sa tuluyan nang mawasak ang peace process. Gagawin lahat ng BIFF at iba pang rebeldeng grupo ang kanilang makakaya para wasakin ang pakikipagkasundo ng MILF sa gobyerno.

Maraming nagsasabi na ang hindi pagkakapasa ng BBL ay dahil sa pagmasaker sa 44 na miyembro ng Special Action Force (SAF) noong Enero 25, 2015. Malaki ang epekto ng masaker sapagkat hindi naging parehas ang MILF habang iniimbestigahan ang kaso. Hindi ganap ang pakikiisa ng MILF para mapadali ang paghahanap ng katotohanan sa Mamasapano massacre.

Marahil, mayroon pang dapat isagawa kaya hindi nagkaroon ng katuparan ang pagsasabatas ng BBL. Siguro, kailangan rebyuhin uli ang BBL bago ito tuluyang ipasa. Kailangang dumaan sa mabusising pag-aaral, pagkakaroon ng transparency at parehas ba ito sa iba pang rebeldeng grupo na naghahangad din ng pagbabago sa Mindanao.