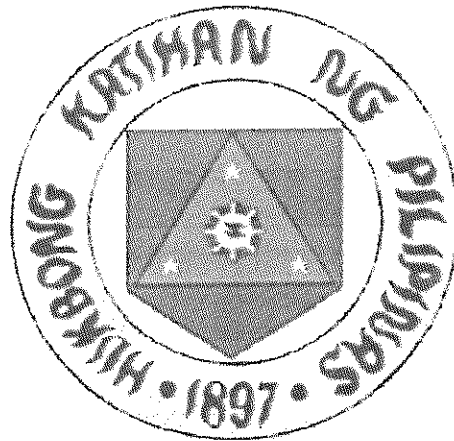


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

12 February 2016

Friday

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

12 FEBRUARY 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	Phil Star p.A-4
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Election 2016: agenda of the next President	-	PDI p.A1
4-6	Comelect to hold tests in 20 areas	Tina Santos	PDI p.A1
7-9	Us to expand war drills in S. China Sea	Niña Calleja	PDI p.A1
10	UN Chief warns against ISIS spread in south Asia	-	Mla Bulletin p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
11-12	Fresh encounters erupt in ComVal, 2 NPA rebels killed	Alexander Lopez	Mla Bulletin p.15
13	-Soldier, 4 BIFF men slain in Maguindanao clash -Ex-soldier shot dead	-John Unson -Ramon Efren Lazaro	Phil Star p.A-24
14	Abducted lumad leader's remains found in Surigao	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.15
15-17	Bohol gov't slams fact-finding mission, denies human rights violations	Mike Ligalig	Mla Bulletin p.14
18	-Army Sergeant killed, Pal hurt in ambush -Bomb defused in Cotabato City	-Anthony Vargas -Moh Saanduddin	Mla Times p.A7
19	Sundalo niratrat sa motorsiklo	Elevado	PM p.2
AFP RELATED NEWS			
20	Hot air balloon fest takes off in Clark zone	Justine Dizon	PDI p.A14
21-22	Sacked BI Chief not yet off the hook	Tarra Quismundo	PDI p.A11
23	Navy ship bound for Pag-asa Island breaks down	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.5
24-25	Next leaders must preserve gov't-MILF peace gains'	Jose Rodel Clapano	Phil Star p.1
26	Navy rescues stranded tourists in Masbate	Fernan Marasigan	Mla Times p.A7
27	MILF coddling BIFF, military official claims	Fernan Marasigan	Mla Times p.A8
28-29	Doubts cast on MILF peace sincerity; fighters 'aided' BIFF	Mario Mallari	Tribune p.1
30	Col. Marcelino kinasuhan ng gun ban	Doris Franche-Borja	PM p.2
SPORTS			
31	AFP, MMDA eye finals	-	Mla Bulletin p.17

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

12 February 2016



Page: A-4

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 12, 2016 | FRIDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (FEBRUARY 11, 5:00 AM)

LADAG CITY	21 - 29 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY	20 - 27 °C
BAGUIO CITY	14 - 22 °C	SEMAR/CLARK	23 - 32 °C
MANILA	22 - 32 °C	LAGAY CITY	20 - 29 °C
ILIGAN CITY	24 - 31 °C	DAVAO CITY	25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 31 °C	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	24 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 33 °C		

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	FEB 13 SAT	FEB 14 SUN	FEB 15 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	FEB 13 SAT	FEB 14 SUN	FEB 15 MON
METRO MANILA	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21 °C 27 °C	21 °C 28 °C	22 °C 29 °C	ILIGAN CITY	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
LAOAG	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	15 °C 22 °C	15 °C 23 °C	15 °C 23 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C
SEMAR/CLARK	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C
LAGAY CITY	21 °C 29 °C	21 °C 30 °C	21 °C 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C
LEGASPI	24 °C 28 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

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

12 February 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: 41

ELECTION 2016: AGENDA OF THE NEXT PRESIDENT

DAYS TO GO
87
VOTE
PH2016
ThiNQ. Vote.

THE INQUIRER is coming out today with the fourth installment of its 10-part series on pressing national concerns that should be high on the agenda of the five contenders in the May 9 presidential election. The series should help Filipinos choose wisely the country's next leader.

In line with our "ThiNQ. Vote." advocacy, we have asked the presidential candidates to outline their concrete plans of action in dealing with 10 decades-long issues—poverty, economy and jobs, food security, peace and order, corruption, healthcare, foreign policy, traffic, climate change and Internet connectivity.

To read the full positions of the candidates on peace and order, go to www.inquirer.net/elections2016/issues. For comments on the candidates' plans, tweet us at @Team_Inquirer and @inquirerdotnet through #VotePH2016.

Peace and order



The failure of the Aquino administration to pass the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law leaves the search for lasting peace in Mindanao to the next administration. The new government will also have to contend with other armed groups in Mindanao and communist rebels to achieve peace. For safe communities, the new administration will likewise have to deal with criminality, including extrajudicial killings, and ensure swift delivery of justice.



GRACE POE

- Continue peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, and with the MNLF and MILF with indigenous peoples and Christians in Mindanao included in the negotiations
- Push legislation for modernization of the PNP
- Turn over AFP's internal security role to the PNP
- Install security cameras for 24-hour operation in communities with high crime rates
- Set up local government-police witness protection program



RODRIGO DUTERTE

- Pursue the peace process with rebels, with efforts in Mindanao directed at specific areas, given cultural differences within the Bangsamoro
- Reinstate the death penalty for drug-related offenses and heinous crimes
- Institutionalize coordination between the police and the military through task forces in hot spots
- Increase the salaries of policemen and soldiers
- Develop Mindanao as a key effort toward Asean integration



MAR ROXAS

- Implement PNP "Oplan Lambat-Sibat" throughout the country
- Promote public trust in the police to foster cooperation and ensure safety in the communities
- Pursue the Mindanao peace process
- Invest in Mindanao infrastructure to stimulate development and bring government services to the people of the island, including education and healthcare
- Consult all sectors to improve the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law before refiling it in Congress



JEJOMAR BINAY

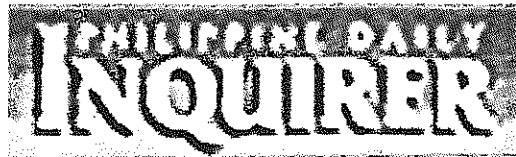
- Appoint Sen. Gringo Honasan as crime czar
- Ensure that PNP, AFP, NBI, DOJ and DILG work together to combat crime and ensure justice
- Implement the modernization of the AFP and PNP
- Strengthen the judiciary to make it effective in resolving criminal cases
- Pursue peace negotiations, work to deal with the causes of armed conflict, and introduce legislation that would protect the rights of the Bangsamoro people



MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO

- Launch aggressive fight against illegal drugs
- Restore the dignity of policemen and soldiers
- Dismantle private armies, invest in better equipment and training for the PNP and the AFP
- Abolish the "padrino" system in the AFP and the PNP through an antipolitical recommendations law
- Adopt a no-postponement policy for the courts, resolve the Maguindanao and Mamasapano massacres as well as "lunad" evictions and killings

12 February 2016



Page: A1

Comelec to hold tests in 20 areas

Candidates worry about glitches of vote counters

By Tina G. Santos
and Christine O. Avendaño

AMID fears among presidential candidates of potential glitches, mock elections are being conducted on Saturday in 20 key locations across the country to test voting system that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is using in the May 9 balloting.

In a statement, the Comelec said it expected more than 25,000 voters to join the exercise which would test and ensure the adequate security, accuracy, system and functional capability and integrity of the vote-counting machines (VCMs), transmission devices, consolidation and canvassing system.

The Comelec said the event would simulate the conduct of election (deployment, voting and consolidation) and transmission procedures, and enhance public confidence and acceptance of the Automated Election System (AES).

Among other issues, about 1 to 2 percent of ballots were rejected by vote-

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OFFICE

Comelec to hold tests in 20 key areas across the country

il: 5285, 5295

From page A1

counting machines (VCMs) during a ballot verification test earlier this week, according to Mike Santos of international certifier SLI Global Solutions.

With over 50 million ballots scheduled to be printed for the May polls, the rejection rate would translate to between 500,000 to 1 million ballots that may be rejected by the VCMs.

The mock elections will be held in following areas:

- Taguig City – Tuktukan and Western Bicutan
- Pateros – Poblacion and Aguho
- Quezon City (First District) – Bagong Pag-asa and San Isidro Labrador
- Manila City (Fifth District) – Barangays 669 and 649
- Dagupan City – Poblacion Oeste and Pugaro
- Alaminos – Poblacion and Linmansangan
- Tuguegarao City – Centro 1 (Poblacion) and Nambalan Norte
- Aparri – Centro 1 (Poblacion) and Paddaya
- Sorsogon City – Poblacion and Osiao
- Matnog – Camcaman (Poblacion) and Calintaan
- Kalibo – Poblacion and Linabuan
- Malay – Poblacion and Balabag



JUST CHECKING Commission on Elections Chair Andres Bautista tries out a counting machine stored in a Comelec warehouse in Sta. Rosa, Laguna province, during a walk-through last week. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

- Cebu City (First District) – Mabolo and Lusanan
- Santander – Poblacion and Cabutongan
- Dipolog City – Barangay Central (Poblacion) and Sinaman
- Sindangan – Poblacion and Tinaplan
- General Santos City – Dadiangas East and San Jose
- Surallah – Libertad and

- Canahay (Godwino)
- Jolo, Sulu – San Raymundo and Tulay
- Lamitan City, Basilan – Malinis and Parangbasak

Undesirable feedback

In a letter to the Comelec, George Garcia, counsel of presidential candidate Sen. Grace Poe, requested that a

comprehensive written report on the result of testing of the VCMs be issued by its technical evaluation committee as soon as possible.

Garcia made the request following "several negative reports regarding the result of the initial testing of the VCMs."

"Unfortunately, the result of such testing are hounded by un-

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desirable feedback, such as ... failure of the VCMs to recognize the paper ballots, failure of the VCMs to count the votes, and the fact that the report of SLI Global Solutions, which was tasked to conduct the required review and certification of the source code, is unavailable for inspection,” he said.

Garcia said the appeal “is interposed purposely to dispel said negative reports and to affirm that the Comelec is doing its best to ensure that the forthcoming election will be free from technological glitches and other similar irregularities.”

Concern also was expressed by the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay and PDP-Laban of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Suspension

In a statement, UNA spokesperson Mon Ilagan said: “It seems that someone is already laying the predicate and some do allow these problems to surface to give them enough window to manipulate the elections ... We hope that these issues and concerns being raised in relation to the delays and glitches will not be used as reasons to allow the Comelec to invoke their power to suspend the polls or

force them to go back to manual voting.”

Section 5 of the Omnibus Election Code allows the Comelec to suspend the elections, Ilagan said, “in case of violence, terrorism, force majeure and other analogue causes” that may cause for a failure to elect officials.

In a phone interview with reporters, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III, PDP-Laban president, said Tuesday’s hearing of the joint congressional oversight committee of the Automated Election System would allow the party to “officially and formally ask the Comelec what is really happening.”

“We have to revisit their own timetable which they submitted way back in August 2015 and I am also asking an updated timetable. We will compare the two (timetables) so we could see how delayed they are,” Pimentel said.

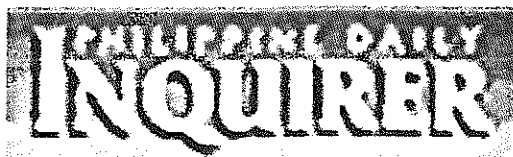
He said he was “worried and disappointed” over the Comelec’s latest pronouncements of delays in the preparations.

Under the law, Comelec should have already “certified the system was already OK” before the 90-day campaign season, Pimentel said.

If the elections will not push through in May, Pimentel said, the “present crop of commissioners will go down in history as the most incompetent.”

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12 February 2016



Page: A1

US to expand war drills in S. China Sea

By Niña P. Calleja

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii—The chief of the US forces in the Pacific on Wednesday defended US freedom of navigation operations in the disputed South China Sea, saying these are aimed at reducing tensions in the region.

Speaking to visiting journalists from Southeast Asia ahead of the special summit of the 10 Southeast Asian leaders, including President Aquino, with US President Barack Obama in California next week, Adm. Harry

US TO EXPAND / A12

From page A1

Harris Jr., US Pacific Command (Pacom) chief, also stressed the US desire to expand military exercises in the South China Sea.

"The patrols we have, whether singularly or jointly, not only in the South China Sea but also in the region help decrease tension and improve stability because it reinforces the notion that the freedom of navigation is important," Harris said at Pacom headquarters here.

Harris, however, refused to confirm reports that the United States and India plan to conduct joint patrols in the South China Sea.

"I am not going to talk about future joint patrols," he said, adding that any statement about the US plans would be mere "conjectures."

United stance vs. China

The United States wants its regional allies and other Asian nations to adopt a more united stance against China over the South China Sea, where tensions have spiked since China's construction of seven artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago.

China claims most of the South China Sea, while Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan have rival claims.

A US defense official told Reuters this week the United States and India had held talks about joint naval patrols that could include the South China Sea.

The official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the United States and India were hopeful of launching the joint patrols within the year.

The official, however, gave no details on the scale of the proposed patrols.

A Pentagon spokesperson, Cmdr. Bill Urban, said the United States and India "continue to explore ways to deepen defense



CHINA WATCH The American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln transiting the Indian Ocean. AP

cooperation, including in the area of maritime security,” but no decisions had been made on joint patrols.

‘Threat to peace’

On Thursday, China warned that interference from countries outside the region threatens peace and stability.

“No cooperation between any countries should be directed at a third party,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in an e-mailed statement to Reuters, in response to a request for comment on the report published on Wednesday.

“Countries from outside the area must stop pushing forward the militarization of the South China Sea, cease endangering the sovereignty and national se-

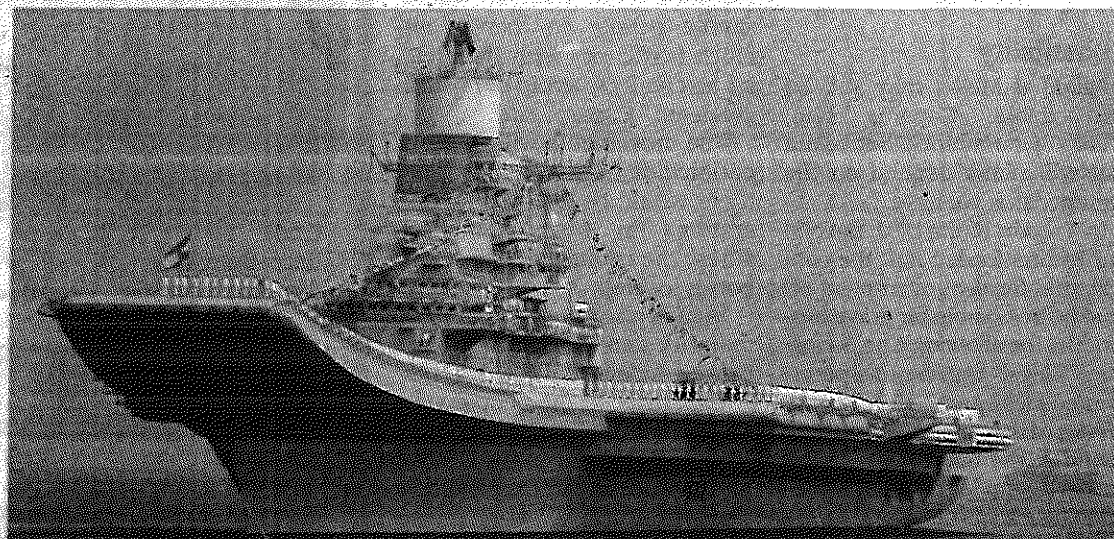
curity of littoral countries in the name of freedom of navigation and harming the peace and stability in the region,” Hong said.

China accused the United States this month of seeking maritime hegemony in the name of freedom of navigation after a US Navy destroyer, the USS Curtis Wilbur, sailed within 22 kilometers of the disputed Triton Island in the Paracel chain in the South China Sea in late January.

US-PH patrols

The US Navy conducted a similar exercise in October, sending the guided missile destroyer USS Lassen sailing near one of seven artificial islands China had built in the Spratly archipelago.

The Philippines has proposed joint naval patrols with the United States in the South China



JOINT PATROL Indian sailors man the INS Vikramaditya, a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier, as the United States and India talk about joint naval patrols in the South China Sea.

AFP

Sea, something a US diplomat said this month was a possibility.

Harris said he welcomed any plans from countries in the Pacific to join the US freedom of navigation operations, the American challenge to China's claim to almost all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea.

"I support the right of every country to patrol in the South China Sea because the South China Sea at large does not belong to any country," Harris said.

"I welcome Japan's potential of patrolling in the South China Sea, just as I welcome India's and I welcome all of your navies' abilities to patrol there," he said.

"I do seek more multilateral exercises in the whole region," Harris said citing the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat), a series of annual military exercises among Southeast Asian nations; the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RimPac), the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, and Cobra Gold, an Asia-Pacific military exercise annually held in Thailand.

At the briefing, Harris spoke against what he said as China's

"bullying tactics," admitting he had been critical of China ever since he assumed his post as the Pacific Fleet commander in 2013.

Provocative activities

"We are very aware of China's activities in the South China Sea. I believe that China's activities in the South China Sea are provocative. I think they contribute to the tensions in the region," said Harris, the first Asian-American to achieve the rank of admiral in the US Navy.

"China's approach is not only salami-slicing the region but it [also] likes to apply bullying tactics with each Asean country bilaterally, one on one, rather than taking on Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) as whole," he said.

Harris noted that the recent developments in the South China Sea call for the conclusion of a legally binding code of conduct for all the claimants to ensure peace and stability in the region.

The closest to such a code that the Asean and China have is the 2002 Asean-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which requires the claimants to maintain the

status quo to avoid tensions.

"You should work stronger together as Asean. I applaud your efforts, Vietnam and the Philippines, to hold China accountable," he said.

The Philippines, a US treaty ally, has taken its territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea to the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague for resolution.

The court is expected to hand down a resolution by June.

Vietnam, a strategic partner of the United States and the Philippines, has bolstered the Philippine case through a position paper submitted to the UN arbitral tribunal.

Rebalance to Asia

The US-Asean summit next week will cast light on Obama's rebalance to Asia strategy, a significant shift from the US focus on the Middle East.

The meeting is the first stand-alone summit between the United States and Asean, coming shortly after the United States and the Southeast Asian bloc scaled up their relationship to a strategic partnership in Kuala Lumpur last year. *With a report from Reuters*

17 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

UN chief warns against ISIS spread in South Asia

UNITED NATIONS (PNA/PTI) - United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has warned of the danger of the Islamic State terror group spreading its tentacles to South Asia through orga-

nizations like the Tehreek-e-Khilafat in Pakistan.

"The recent expansion of the ISIL sphere of influence across West and North Africa, the Middle East and South and Southeast Asia demon- ▶8

UN chief warns against... ◀1

strates the speed and scale at which the gravity of the threat has evolved in just 18 months," Ban said in a report to the UN Security Council.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, ISIL continues to develop a network of contacts and sympathizers who carry out attacks in its name, Ban said in his report which was submitted to the Security Council by Jeffrey Feltman, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs during a debate on the threat posed by ISIL also known as Daesh to international peace and

security.

On January 13, 2016, the ISIL group 'Khorasan province,' which operates in Pakistan and Afghanistan, issued a statement claiming credit for an attack on the Pakistani Consulate in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, he said.

The complexity of recent attacks and the level of planning, coordination and sophistication involved raise concerns about its future evolution, said the Secretary General.

"Moreover, other terrorist groups,

including the Islamic Youth Shura Council and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant Libya Province (Derna) in Libya, the Mujahideen of Kairouan and Jund al-Khilafah in Tunisia, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Tehreek-e-Khilafat in Pakistan, and Ansar al-Khilafah in the Philippines, are sufficiently attracted by its underlying ideology to pledge allegiance to its so-called caliphate and self-proclaimed caliph," Ban said.

In his report, Ban said ISIL has also benefited from the arrival of a steady stream of foreign terrorist fighters, who continue to leave their communities to replenish its ranks.

The return of these fighters from the battlefields of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and other conflict zones is a further major concern, as returnees can extend the presence of ISIL to their states of origin and use their skills and combat experience to recruit additional sympathizers, establish terrorist networks and commit terrorist acts, the Secretary General said.

The report further analyses ISIL's finances, highlighting the group's capacity to mobilize vast resources rapidly and effectively.

Its main sources of financing included the exploitation of oil and

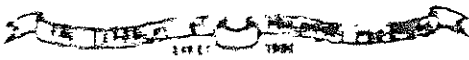
other natural resources, "taxing," confiscation and the looting of archaeological sites, as well as external donations and use of the Internet and social media to raise funds.

The report recommends member states to criminalize travel by foreign terrorist fighters, in accordance with relevant resolutions and take measures to strengthen border-management regimes.

The United Nations, for its part, should step up capacity-building assistance in that context, he said, asking member-states to strengthen their tools for disrupting ISIL's capacity to plan and facilitate attacks.

5285 5295

12 February 2016


MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 15

Fresh encounters erupt in ComVal, 2 NPA rebels killed

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

DAVAO CITY - Clashes between government forces and New People's Army (NPA) rebels erupted anew in the province of Compostela Valley last February 9 and 10, resulting in the death of two rebels amid the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) intensified security operations in the Davao region.

Captain Rhyen Batchar, chief information officer of the 10th Infantry (Agila) division on Wednesday said that elements of the 46th Infantry battalion again figured in another encounter in Sitio Post 4, Barangay Tagdangua, Pantukan town last Tuesday.

A high-powered firearm was recovered by the government forces while two wounded NPA rebels were intercepted at a checkpoint set up after another encounter in Barangay Tibagon in the same town.

A soldier, identified as Corporal Boskie Carcellar sustained gunshot wounds during the encounter and was immediately airlifted to a military hospital in Camp Panacan here.

Batchar said that the armed confrontation on Tuesday erupted when the 45th IB soldiers were running after the group of alias Raden, a notorious NPA rebel in the area.

The captured NPA rebels were identified as Ronel Paas alias Dondon, 35, a resident of Lower Lahi, Purok 6,

Magnaga, Pantukan and a teenaged a resident of Purok 3, Barangay Panibasan, Maco town.

Paas, who sustained a gunshot wound in his chest, was pronounced dead-on-arrival at the hospital while the minor, with a gunshot wound in the leg, was also brought to hospital.

Child soldiers

Batchar added that the 10th ID is coordinating with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in the area to look into the case the minor, considered as a child soldier employed by the NPAs.

"Some of the NPAs, including the wounded sought refuge in the min-

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ing tunnels in the area. Soldiers tried to pursue them but had a hard time finding their way inside the tunnels because it has several branches," Batchar said.

In a separate incident on the same date, patrolling soldiers of Bravo Company, 46th IB discovered and disarmed an improvised explosive device with a 200-meter wire at Sitio Logpaton, Barangay Kingking also in Pantukan.

More skirmishes

On Wednesday, February 10, elements of 46th and 67th Infantry Battalions again clashed against NPA rebels in Compostela Valley province in two separate occasions that left one rebel dead and the recovery of two more IEDs.

Elements of 46th IB were on security patrol when they engaged a group of heavily armed NPA rebels at around 9:55 a.m. in Sitio Panganason, Napnapan, Pantukan.

No soldier was wounded in the encounter while the NPAs were believed to have incurred casualties after they immediately fled the area, Batchar said.

The second encounter on Wednesday happened in Sitio Putingbato, Ngan, Compostela at around 10:00 a.m.

Batchar reported that patrolling soldiers of 67th IB chanced upon a group of 30 NPAs belonging to Guerilla Front 25 of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, triggering a 20-minute firefight.

Gallant soldiers

10th ID commander Major General Rafael Valencia lauded the gallantry of the soldiers and reiterated his appeal to the remaining NPAs to finally abandon the armed struggle.

"Our use of legitimate force against the NPAs shall continue until the NPAs abandon violence paving the way for peace and development in Compostela Valley Province," Valencia said.

Meanwhile, the Youth for Peace Movement in the Davao region issued a statement of sympathy on Wednesday afternoon in relation to the wounding of the minor NPA rebel.

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12 February 2016



Page: A-24

Soldier, 4 BIFF men slain in Maguindanao clash

CAMP SIONGCO – A soldier and four members of the

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed in an encounter in Maguindanao on Wednesday night.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division, declined to identify the soldier pending notification of his family.

Two of the slain BIFF bandits were identified only as Ahmed and Sangid.

Petinglay said the encounter occurred at the border of Salibo and Datu Piang towns when the bandits fired at members of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

– John Unson

Ex-soldier shot dead

MALOLOS – A former member of the Philippine Air Force was shot dead by motorcycle-riding men in Baliwag town after midnight yesterday.

A report to Senior Superintendent Timoteo Pacleb, officer-in-charge of the Bulacan police, identified the victim as Jonathan de Leon, 49, a resident of Barangay Subic.

Initial investigation showed the victim was walking on his way home around 12:45 a.m. when the incident occurred.

Scene of the crime operatives recovered a bullet and five

bullet shells for a .45 caliber pistol at the scene.

– Ramon Efren Lazaro

12 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 15

Abducted lumad leader's remains found in Surigao

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - The corpse of a Manobo tribal leader in the Caraga region who was allegedly abducted by heavily armed men believed to be members of New People's Army (NPA) was found buried in a mountainous area in Barangay Purisima, Cagwait town, Surigao del Sur, 1Lt. Karl Jan S. Devaras, company commander of 41st Civil-Military Operations Company of the 4th CMO Battalion, 4th ID disclosed yesterday.

Devaras said the corpse was that of lumad leader Cristituto Garcia, 54, of Sitio Hinayhayan, Cagwait, Surigao del Sur.

The corpse that was already in an advanced stage of decomposition and bore several gunshot wounds, was positively identified by Garcia's relatives along with the elements of the 36th Infantry (Valor) Battalion (36th IB) and the Philippine National Police.

"Garcia's remains were positively identified by his family members and was brought to the authorities for the conduct of Medico-Legal Examination," he said.

Devaras said the discovery of his corpse was a result of the revelation from a former NPA member who surrendered to the 36th IB stationed in Surigao del Sur recently.

In his revelation, the former member of the NPA Guerilla-Front Committee 19-B said Garcia was forcibly taken from his residence on November 15, 2015, and was brought to Sitio Cagburao in the municipality of Cagwait, where he was shot.

The Manobo tribal leader worked as a 'Bantay Banwa' or lumad forest guard and was an active anti-illegal logging advocate.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Randolph P. Rojas, commanding officer of the 36th IB based in Surigao del Sur condemns the killing of the tribal leader.

"We vehemently condemn the NPA for the murder of another innocent lumad leader. They already killed hundreds of innocent lumads in Mindanao and most of their victims came from this region (Caraga). We will continue to conduct security operations to protect the lumad communities in this province from this terrorist group," Rojas said.

12 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

Bohol gov't slams fact-finding mission, denies human rights violations

By **MIKE ORTEGA LIGALIG**

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol – The provincial government of Bohol has denied incidences of human rights violation alleged by what it called a "self-styled" international fact-finding group.

In a letter to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Sec. Jesus R. S. Domingo of the Office of the United Nations and International Organizations, the provincial government questioned the legality of the international fact-finding Mission (IFFM) created by the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC), a non-government organization (NGO).

The province government cited several United Nations (UN) protocols which it said IFFM members violated, "thus the fact-finding group has no legitimacy to conduct any investigation" in Bohol.

"The APC-IFFM is seemingly illegitimate and biased. Its members have not established their competence, experience and expertise in the subject matter," said Liza M. Quirog, head of the province's Social, Economic and Environment Management (SEEM) cluster, in the letter.

Quirog said there was no formal order from any national agency on International Affairs received by the

provincial government supporting the legitimacy of the APC-IFFM's presence and purpose in the province nor any international organization giving them legitimacy to conduct such investigation.

Notwithstanding its doubts regarding the illegitimacy of the organization, Bohol Gov. Edgar M. Chatto and some local officials welcomed the APC-IFFM at the People's Mansion.

After meeting with Chatto, APC-IFFM members, led by Rafael Mariano, chairperson of the militant peasants group Kilusang Magbubukid Ng Pilipinas (KMP), called for a press conference in Cebu City and distributed press statements accusing the provincial government and the military here of human rights violation.

Earlier in 2014, members of the Hugpong sa Mag-uumang Bol-anon (HUMABOL) and the Cebu-based

Farmers Development Center (FARDEC) accused the military and local officials of human rights violation, claiming they were harassed by the military in a rice mill facility in Trinidad town, Bohol.

Militant farmer groups questioned the establishment of a military camp north of Bohol.

In response to the allegation, Col Arnulfo Matanguihan, Deputy Brigade Commander of the 802nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army in Bohol, clarified that the establishment of the military detachment camp in Trinidad town was due to the request of the people living in the area.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) had also asked the Philippine Army for assistance in providing security for agrarian reform beneficiaries which were said to be harassed by members of a militant farmer organization.

In her letter to Domingo, Quirog said the allegations of harassment and human rights violations inside the 4 Panaghiusa Rice Mill in Barangay San Vicente, Trinidad town have already been thoroughly investigated by various agencies including the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) Local Monitoring Board (LMB) Fact Finding Team (FFT), the Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Justice through the Provincial Pillars of Justice.

Meanwhile, identified as members of the APC-IFFM were Shonei Takimoto and Hosue Hatae from Japan, L. Muh Sandy from Indonesia, Roy Rodrigo from Sri Lanka, and Raja Mujeeb from Pakistan.

The military said the background and origin of the alleged members of the IFFM were unverified.

Quirog said two IFFM members "cannot present a visa or passport" when military officials here asked for those documents.

The provincial Capitol also asked how these foreign nationals could conduct an investigation in Bohol without the presence of a local interpreter, which is a UN requirement for an NGO.

doing an investigation.

"We did not receive any document as proof that the APC-IFFM informed the national government, either the Office of the President or any national

agency mandated to receive groups like this, that the mission will take place," Quirog said in her letter.

"Worse, the organizers include FARDEC and HUMABOL whose

members are the subject of the investigation. Was there another organizer or member of the IFFM who came from other legitimate NGOs in Bohol?" Quirog asked.



CANINE LOVE, IN THE MONTH OF HEARTS — Irishman Patrick Murray pushes a bed with dogs from the Iloilo Provincial Capitol to Plaza Libertad across Iloilo City Hall. In this month dedicated to love, Murray wanted to call for fair treatment and affection for animals. The bed-push and dog walk by Murray, who is now a resident here, was done in partnership with the Iloilo City Veterinarian Office. (Tara Yap)

12 February 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A7

ARMY SERGEANT KILLED, PAL HURT IN AMBUSH

A PHILIPPINE Army (PA) Sergeant was killed and his companion was hurt in ambush by suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Barangay San Isidro, Libmanan town in Camarines Sur on Wednesday. Camarines Sur Police Chief, Senior Supt. Wilfredo Pormillos identified the slain officer as Sgt. Rodel Rala, of the Army's 22nd Infantry Battalion (IB). Rala was riding a motorcycle with the unidentified backrider and negotiating the curved portion of the road when fired upon by two suspected NPA rebels. The wounded victims ran for cover but were chased by the gunmen who caught up with Rala and fired more shots on him. Rala was later declared dead-on-arrival at Libmanan District Hospital.

ANTHONY VARGAS

BOMB DEFUSED IN COTABATO CITY

COTABATO CITY: Bomb experts safely defused an improvised explosive device (IED) planted near Police Station 1 here on Wednesday evening that alarmed residents following the arrest of Hassan Indal of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao. City chief of police Senior Supt. Raul Supiter said the IED was successfully rendered safe along Don Roman Street at about 8:40 p.m. MOH SAADUDDIN

12 February 2016



Pahina. 2

Sundalo niratrat sa motorsiklo

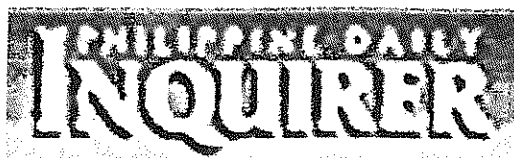
Namatay noon din ang isang sundalo matapos na ito ay pagbabarilin ng mga luhinhalang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) habang sakay ng kanyang motorsiklo kamakalawa sa Sitio Vicita, Brgy. San Isidro, Libmanan, Camarines Sur.

Kinilala ang biktima na si Sgt. Rodel Rala, 42, may-asawa, ng Brgy. Taisan, Basud, Camarines Norte at detachment commander ng 22 Infantry Battalion, 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army na nakabase sa Pag-Oring Nuevo-Libmanan.

Batay sa ulat, dakong alas-10:00 ng umaga ay lulan ang biktima ng kanyang motorsiklo at binabaybay ang lugar

nang harangin ng tatlong lalaki at walang kaabog-abog na ito ay pinagbabaril -**Francis Elevado**.

12 February 2016



Page: 414

Hot air balloon fest takes off in Clark zone

By Justine Dixon
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—A Philippine flag, a dragon the size of a bus, overgrown twin boys and other images flew over the skies above this free port and neighboring Angeles City as the 20th Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta took off here.

The four-day event, dubbed "Weekend for Everything that Flies," features balloons of different shapes, colors and sizes from different nations, including France, Germany and the United States.

Among the crowd favorites are balloons shaped like a cracked dinosaur egg, a cathedral, a clown, a crocodile and the one simulating twin boys.

One of the event's highlights was a skydiver, who leaped from a plane carrying the Philippine flag while the national anthem played.

The 20th staging of the festival showcases the partnership between civilians and the military in raising awareness about aviation, according to Capt. Meynard Halili, a member of the event's organizing committee.

"I would rather look at this [festival] as a threshold towards a longer era of Philippine aviation events and we expect to grow more by way of attendance, both nationally and internationally," he said.

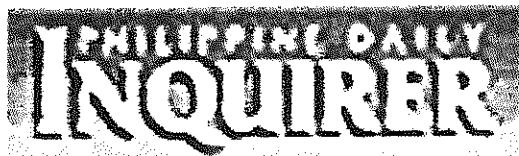
Lawyer Arthur Tugade, president of the state-owned Clark Development Corp. (CDC), said the annual festival was a commitment of the Philippine Air Force, the local governments of Porac town and Angeles and Mabalacat cities and the private sector to promote tourism in the free port.

"We are creating international awareness about Clark and the Philippines," Tugade said. "These activities help improve business in the area," he added.

Retired Maj. Gen. Ricardo Banayat, CDC vice president for security, said the free port has doubled its security for the event. Because the festival would run until Sunday, Valentine's Day, the opening program drew couples on a date.

"It's our first time [to join the festivities] but we wanted to have our advance date for Valentine's Day here," said Paul Camacho, 28, from Bulacan province who came with his girlfriend.

12 February 2016



Page: A11

Sacked BI chief not yet off the hook

By Tarra Quismundo

FORMER Bureau of Immigration (BI) Commissioner Siegfred Mison may still have to answer allegations against him even if he has already left government service.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has vowed to "revisit" grave misconduct charges earlier recommended filed against Mison by the National Bureau of Investigation for the escape of a Korean fugitive from detention in October.

This developed as reforms continued to be implemented at the agency under its recently assigned head Ronaldo Geron, including a nationwide reshuffle for the bureau's frontliners in ports across the country to clip familiarity in their areas of assignment, and the possibility of accommodation and other irregularities.

"Now that [operations at the BI] are normalizing—I think the employees are now used to the commissioner, the commissioner is now also used to his job and has gotten to know his employees better—then we can revisit that," said acting Justice Secretary Emmanuel Caparas in a press conference.

A possibility

Asked if Mison may still be held liable, Caparas said, "That's a possibility, but again that will really depend on the evidence that we have."

In a report to the DOJ, the NBI had recommended that the controversial former government official be held liable for grave misconduct for allowing Cho Seong-dae's "illegal" transfer to a poorly secured facility at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces Compound at the military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, which led to his escape on Oct. 21.

It was the second escape for Cho, a Korean national wanted for human trafficking and extortion, who had fled the BI's Warden Facility in Bicutan, Taguig City, on Sept. 29 through an alleged P1-million payoff to immigration officers.

Before the charges could prosper, Mison was removed from his post. He has been tagged in "highly illegal, irregular and anomalous activities," at the BI, according to highly placed sources.

Other allegations against Mison include the questionable release of undocumented Chinese national Fu Gaofeng in March 2015, the unauthorized withdrawal of P1.575 million in overtime pay from the BI's Express Lane Trust Fund, the facilitation of the entry of blacklisted for-

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eigners for a fee, and the questionable lifting of hold departure and exclusion orders against foreigners facing criminal charges.

Caparas said the administrative charges may have been mooted by Mison's departure from the government but he would meet with the NBI agents who handled the case and see how to go from there.

"That will depend on the... recommendations of the NBI agents who investigated the case. So I will not preempt it, I still have to talk to them. They might be pressured and I don't want to do that," the official said.

Meanwhile, he said reforms continue at the BI even as processes at the bureau have sped up, among them visa applications.

Regular revamp

Caparas said the BI would undertake a nationwide reshuffle of its ground personnel soon as part of a "regular" revamp of port frontliners.

"There are proposals on movements within the bureau and the proposals have been there for more than a month already," he said.

"They are not big movements, but the bureau normally would shuffle people so there's not much familiarity with the area, it's just really to avoid untoward incidents," Caparas said.

The movements will be seen nationwide, but Caparas said there would be a "focus on operations in Metro Manila," where the country's busiest airport is located.

"Again it's just to remove familiarity and to be able to improve efficiency," he said.

Caparas said the people may voice their displeasure with the BI or its personnel in the DOJ or in the office of the Immigration Commissioner.

'Cleaning' the bureau

"If you have any suggestions, any complaints, feel free to come to the commissioner, or the department and see me personally. Put it in writing please, if you've observed any anomalies, have knowledge of any wrongdoing taking place in the bureau or participated in by bureau or its personnel," Caparas said.

He said the BI, an agency whose image is tainted by allegations of corruption and other anomalies, is working at cleansing its ranks.

"I understand Commissioner Geron is working very closely with the Ombudsman. We're not casting suspicion on anyone. It's just steps we're taking, so the public's confidence will improve," the official said.

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12 February 2016



Page: 3

Navy ship bound for Pag-asa Island breaks down

By JAIME LAUDE

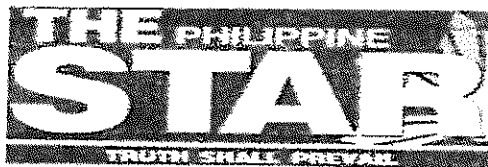
An aging Navy supply ship transporting provisions to Pag-asa Island sailed back to mainland Palawan due to mechanical trouble.

The Navy's supply and logistic ship *BRP Laguna* was halfway on her supposed three-day voyage when it suffered mechanical trouble and had to get back to Palawan for repairs.

The ship has yet to dock at the Ulu-gan Bay in Puerto Princesa City after making a turnaround within the vicinity of Ayungin Shoal in the West Philippine Sea on Wednesday.

"Am very sad when I got word from my staff that PS 501 has to return due to mechanical trouble. Again, this would mean a delay in the delivery of the basic needs of our people out there," Kalayaan Island Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon Jr. said yesterday.

12 February 2016



Page: 1

'Next leaders must preserve gov't-MILF peace gains'

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

Leaders of the next administration must preserve the gains of the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), international monitors said yesterday.

Chairman Alistair MacDonald, who along with other members of the Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) joined the

Turn to Page 12

Next From Page 1

two-day meeting of the government and MILF in Malaysia, said the next leaders have no other recourse but to preserve the gains of the peace process and to continue its implementation toward the passage of the Bangsamoro Bill.

"No government can afford to neglect the peace process: not for reasons of national development, not for reasons of national security, and not for reasons that [belittle] the importance of not creating a climate for violent extremism," he said.

Malaysian third party facilitator Tengku Dato Ab Ghafar Tengku Mohamed said that the upcoming elections must not keep the peace process from moving forward.

"We must preserve the gains, we must continue... Changing of government doesn't mean changing of infrastructure. We may add, but not [subtract]," he said.

European Union Ambassador Franz Jessen said the two-day meeting in Malaysia is a strong message to the public that they are still committed to the peace process in the Philippines.

"The journey has not yet ended but the meeting today demonstrates that the perseverance and commitment have not been lost," he said.

"The parties, meeting here today, are proving that they, that you, are resilient and truly committed to peace. This is an important message to the public."

Jessen, who was invited by the panels to observe the meeting, urged the government and the MILF to continue the peace process.

"I encourage the government of the Philippines and the MILF to continue seeking the paths for the implementation of commitments made over the 17 years of negotiations and continue their engagements," he said.

"This meeting is crucial as it will offer the opportunity to reassess, reschedule and prepare for the next phase of the process."

Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission chairman Mo Bleeker commended the government and MILF peace panels for their hard work.

"I want to commend both panels and this architecture

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for peace mediation,” Bleeker said.

“It is true. On the one hand it is unique. On the other there are many examples in the world in which I’ve also been involved and in which transitional justice and reconciliation efforts appear to be one of the main components of what becomes a durable solution.

“We have been told that there was a Bangsamoro problem. We come here with one unique message — that there is a Bangsamoro opportunity for the Philippines.”

Independent Decommissioning Body chairman Mustafa Pulat said politicians in the Philippines would allow them to continue the decommissioning process.

“I wish that the domestic politics in the Philippines would allow us to carry forward our work,” Pulat said.

Pulat said that the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Bill would delay the decommissioning process of MILF weapons and combatants as the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro dictates that its process moves along with the legislative progress of the proposed measure.

“The IDB is committed to continue as an independent, relevant, adaptable, active and

a stakeholder in the normalization,” Pulat said.

“I can also reaffirm the support of the Turkish, Norwegian and Brunei governments as member countries of the IDB.”

Government peace panel chairman Miriam Coronel-Ferrer said the government and the MILF peace panels, together with the various peace structures working under the Bangsamoro peace process, are meeting in Malaysia to re-assess means of moving forward in light of the 16th Congress’ failure to pass the Bangsamoro Bill before it adjourned last week.

“Today could have been a much happier occasion if only we had the law that would have moved our road map forward in leaps and bounds. But we do not have the law — yet,” she said.

“Despite the extraordinary efforts of our teams and all the other tireless peace advocates and congressional allies who traveled with us in this difficult journey of a thousand miles, we saw the session days in Congress wither away without a BBL in sight.”

MILF peace panel and Bangsamoro Transition Commission chairman Mohagher Iqbal warned of widespread frustration within the MILF

“We have learned our lessons,” he said.

“The problem is structural and systemic. There is widespread frustration on the ground by our people and members of the MILF. They accused the government of resorting again to delaying tactic and just managing the conflict in Mindanao.”

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are on recess since Feb. 5 until after the May 9 national and local elections without passing the Bangsamoro Bill.

It would have established a strong autonomous regional parliamentary government that would replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The non-passage of the Bangsamoro Bill would lead to its archiving by the current Congress, which means it would have to be re-filed again when the new Congress convenes in July.

While the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Bill has made it difficult for the peace process to move forward and increased uncertainty on the ground, the path remains clear as the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro remains signed and in place, together with the many peace infra-

structure established through it, Ferrer said.

“The CAB remains our most viable road map, the source of the substance of the policies and legislation that we will continue to pursue under the next administration and the 17th Congress,” she said.

“The next administration would be foolhardy to wage war, and [will have] everything to gain by upholding this pathway. It will have enough time to see both the CAB and a CAB-compliant law realized.”

Ferrer urged her counterpart in the MILF to join the government in finding ways to avoid actions that may increase the frustrations.

“The MILF and the government shall jointly find ways and means to address this dangerous situation and avoid actions that may increase the frustrations,” she said.

Addressing the Filipino people directly, Iqbal said that everyone should “work together to overcome the barriers to peace, justice and reconciliation.”

“Let us end the war, the suffering, the tragedy and pain of our peoples, of the soldiers and our heroic fighters, of our mothers and sisters, of our children. Let us try to live quiet and peaceful lives,” he said.

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12 February 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 47

NAVY RESCUES STRANDED TOURISTS IN MASBATE

ABOUT 100 local tourists stranded in an island in Masbate because of strong winds

and rough sea condition, were rescued by the Philippine Navy - Bicol on Wednesday. Lt. Col. Angelo Guzman, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) spokesman, said the tourists were on the last day of their three-day island hopping tour in Sombrero Island in Masbate when the weather condition worsened. A distress call from the stranded tourists reached the attention of the Naval Forces Southern Luzon, and promptly deployed its Patrol Gun Boat under Lt. Edwin Nuestro, Jr. for rescue. The group transported the tourists to safety, mostly from Manila, to nearby Burias island. **FERNAN MARASIGAN**

12 February 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 48

MILF coddling BIFF, military official claims

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN REPORTER

A SECURITY official wants the provision of the guidelines on the government's ceasefire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) revised he accused the separatist group of coddling the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) whose jihadist members recently engaged government forces in a firefight in Maguindanao.

"There is a need to revisit *yung* provisions *ng* ceasefire guidelines, *dahil marunong nang gumamit ng* ceasefire guidelines *itong* BIFF. *Hindi kasi sumusunod sa tama yung* MILF. *Ang sinasabi nila* they will not allow lawless elements or criminal elements or terrorists to go inside their community, *kung meron man huhulihin nila ito at i-contain nila papunta sa security. Ginawa ba yan?* Wala! *E sila rin ang nanguna dyan e, nanunog ng backhoe BIFF, pero pag habulin mo MILF na sya, yan ang reality pero papaano i-report yan, I do not know*"

(There is a need to revisit the ceasefire guidelines because the BIFF is taking advantage of the MILF's ceasefire with the govern-

ment. The MILF is not following the rules. They said they will not allow lawless elements or terrorists to go inside their community. If ever, they will arrest and contain these people. Did they implement it? No! The BIFF burned a backhoe but when you pursue them, they became MILF. That's the reality. How can you report it, I do not know)," said a disgusted military official who requested anonymity.

He was referring to the recent clashes between the BIFF and government forces where the bandit group attacked a dredging project in Datu Salibo town in Maguindanao.

Asked to confirm if the armed group that the military encountered on Wednesday belonged

to the MILF, the official said this is still being determined because its community is teeming with the BIFF. The soldier who was reportedly wounded during the encounter died Wednesday night, the official disclosed.

"Bakit pinayagan nila yung BIFF na pumasok dun sa community na sinasabi nilang community nila when in fact hinahabol yun dun sa katabing barangay which is adjacent, yung Barangay Andavit at Barangay Tee? Wala kaming na-violate sa ceasefire provision dahil allowed naman yung pursuit dahil pi-nursue sila. Pumasok, bakit in-allow ng MILF na pumasok dun sa community nila, pero ang totoo lang nyan e iisa lang naman yan, yan ang totoo sa ground pero hindi naman natin pwedeng isulat yan dito o ilabas sa public dahil holding pa naman yung peace talks e, holding yung ceasefire.

(Why did the MILF allow the BIFF to enter the community that they claim is theirs when in fact the BIFF was being pursued in Barangays Andavit and Tee? We violated no ceasefire provision because we are allowed to pursue an enemy. The BIFF entered and the MILF allowed

them. The fact is, the BIFF and the MILF are just one group, but we cannot say it publicly because the peace talks and ceasefire are still holding)," he explained.

As a result, the official said ground troops could no longer determine which is MILF and which is BIFF.

On Wednesday, a military source disclosed that members of the 61st Division Reconnaissance Company and MILF rebels clashed in Barangay Dawang, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao.

Asked if those engaged by the soldiers were indeed MILF, the security official said: *"Isang grupo lang yan. Kapag gumawa ng kata-rantaduhan at hinabol mo na, nagiging MILF. Kaya sino ba ang maniniwala, kaya nga sincerity, kaya ang hrap ibenta ng BBL (They are one and the same. They will create atrocities and when you pursue them they suddenly become MILF. Who will ever believe that. That is why we need sincerity here. This is the reason why it is hard to pass [into law] the BBL)."*

According to him, the problem has been brought to the attention of higher authorities but the primacy of the peace process always prevails.

12 February 2016



Page: 1

Doubts cast on MILF peace sincerity; fighters 'aided' BIFF

**By Mario J. Mallari
and Charlie V. Manalo**

The sincerity of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is again put into question after its fighters engaged government troops pursuing members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom

Fighters (BIFF) responsible for attacking a government project in Maguindanao province.

Sporadic clashes in various barangays in Datu Salibu and Datu Saudi Ampatuan have so far resulted in the killing of one soldier while two others were wounded, including an Army captain.

Turn to page 3



Doubts cast on MILF peace sincerity; fighters 'aided' BIFF

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF P

From page 1

Elements of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID) have launched pursuit operations against BIFF tagged in last Friday's attack on a dredging project in Datu Salibu town. The BIFF went inside an MILF community in Barangay Gawang near Datu Saudi Ampatuan last Wednesday. But instead of blocking or containing the BIFF rebels as part of the peace process, the MILF reportedly engaged pursuing government troops.

"Why did the MILF allow them (BIFF) entry to their community? The reality on the ground is that they are one and the same," a security official said.

"We are fooling ourselves if we say they are different. MILF fighters only become BIFF when they are caught doing criminal activities. That is the reality on the ground," the official added.

Wednesday's clash was not the first time that the MILF has been accused of coddling criminals within its areas despite the ceasefire agreement with the government as part of the peace negotiations.

During the launching of Oplan "Exodus" by the police's elite Special Action Force in Mamasapano, Maguindanao on Jan. 25, 2014, combined BIFF and MILF fighters engaged SAF commandos in a day-long clashes in barangays Tukanalipao and Pidsandawan.

The SAF operatives were deployed to arrest Malaysian terrorists Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, and Amin Baco, alias Jihad, and Filipino bomb expert Basit Usman. Forty-four SAF commandos were "massacred."

In 2011 in Basilan province, 19 Army Special Forces troops were killed after MILF forces, led by Dan Laksaw Asnawi, aided the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Long Malat, who was the subject of warrant of arrest, in a clash in Al Barka town.

"There is a need to revisit the provisions of the ceasefire. The BIFF is learning to use the ceasefire guidelines to its advantage and the MILF is not following what should be observed," one source said.

"They (MILF) said they will not allow lawless elements or criminal elements or terrorists to go inside their community, if

there are any they (MILF) will arrest or contain them. Did they do that? No," the official added.

But for MILF chief peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal, the non-passage of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in Congress has caused "widespread frustration" within the Muslim group and among the people of Mindanao.

"There is widespread frustration on the ground by our people and members of the MILF," he noted during a meeting with government negotiators in Kuala Lumpur last Wednesday.

"They accused the government of resorting again to delaying tactic and just managing the conflict in Mindanao," he said.

Relatedly, Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos yesterday said President Aquino might be needing some enlightenment on the process on lawmaking in order to understand why the BBL was not passed.

Marcos, chairman of the Senate committee on local government who sponsored the Basic Law for Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BLBAR), his substitute bill to the BBL of Malacañang, was reacting to reports that the President alleged that two senators had conspired to block the passage of the BBL.

Although the President did not name names, it was quite obvious that he was referring to Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Marcos.

"Maybe someone has to explain to the President that BBL, which we are deliberating on, is a law of local application or a local law," said Marcos.

"Under the rules, if it concerns laws of local application, we have to wait for the House of Representatives to finish its version before we could proceed with the voting on the Senate version," Marcos said in radio interview.

He stressed the upper chamber could not vote on the bill if the House of Representatives has not yet finished on its version and transmitted it to the Senate.

The BLBAR was in the period of interpellation with Enrile propounding questions to Marcos when Congress adjourned last February 5. Congressmen also failed to approve their version.

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12 February 2016



Pahina. 2

Col. Marcelino kinasuhan sa gun ban

Nadagdagan ang Justice operation nuong January
kasong kinakaharap ni Ayon sa PNP AIDG 21 sa Maynila
Marine Lt. Col. Ferdi paglabag sa election gun Magugunita na unang
nand Marcelino matapos ban ay nang makuhaan kinasuhan si Marcelino
sampahan ng paglabag si Marcelino ng mga at dating interpreter ng
sa election gun ban ng baril na walang mga PDEA na si Yan Yi Shou
PNP-Anti Illegal Drugs kaukulang papeles nang ng illegal drugs. - Doris
Group sa Department of maaresto sa drug bust Franche-Borja-

12 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 17

BASKETBALL

AFP, MMDA eye finals

Games Today
(Ynares Sports Arena, Pasig City)
4 p.m. – MMDA vs PNP
5:30 p.m. – AFP vs NHA

Top seed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and No. 2 seed Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) try to forge a title showdown when they go up against their respective semis rivals in the 4th UNTV Cup at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

Out to regain the title they won two years ago, the AFP Cavaliers collide with the National Housing Authority (NHA) Builders at 5:30 p.m. while the MMDA Blackwolves take on the Philippine National Police (PNP) Responders at 4 p.m.

For finishing 1 and 2 in the

two-phase elims, both AFP and MMDA secured a twice-to-beat privileges, thus needing to beat their rivals only once to arrange a best-of-three title series in the tournament organized by UNTV president and CEO Daniel Razon.

The champion gets the ₱2 million top prize which it will donate to its chosen charity.

While the Cavaliers topped the elims, they can't take the Builders for granted because their losses were inflicted by the Builders in the elims.

With Tony Lustestica exploding for 29 points, the Builders brought the Cavaliers down to their knees with a masterful 96-76 victory in a game that revived their flickering quarterfinal bid alive.