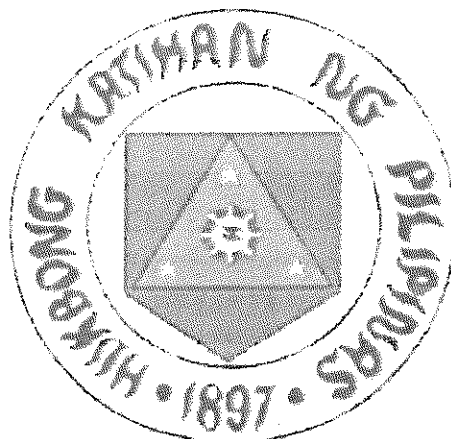


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 February 2016

Monday

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

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

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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 15, 2016 | MONDAY

EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (FEBRUARY 14, 6:00 AM)

Location	Temp Range
LAOAG CITY	16 - 20 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	20 - 31 °C
BAGUIO CITY	14 - 22 °C
SUBA/CLARK	23 - 29 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY	21 - 30 °C
ILIGAN/DAVAO CITY	21 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 34 °C
METRO MANILA	21 - 32 °C
LEGASPI CITY	24 - 30 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	24 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU	24 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C
METRO DAVAO	26 - 33 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 17	FEB 18	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 17	FEB 18
METRO MANILA	21°C / 32°C	20°C / 32°C	20°C / 31°C	20°C / 31°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24°C / 31°C	24°C / 31°C	24°C / 31°C	24°C / 31°C
TUGUEGARAO	18°C / 30°C	18°C / 29°C	18°C / 28°C	18°C / 28°C	ILIGAN/ DAVAO	26°C / 32°C	24°C / 32°C	24°C / 32°C	24°C / 32°C
LAOAG	18°C / 30°C	18°C / 29°C	18°C / 28°C	18°C / 28°C	METRO CEBU	26°C / 32°C	24°C / 32°C	24°C / 31°C	24°C / 31°C
BAGUIO	13°C / 21°C	13°C / 21°C	13°C / 21°C	13°C / 21°C	TACLOBAN	24°C / 32°C	24°C / 32°C	24°C / 31°C	24°C / 31°C
SUBA/ CLARK	23°C / 32°C	23°C / 32°C	23°C / 31°C	23°C / 31°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23°C / 33°C	23°C / 33°C	23°C / 33°C	23°C / 33°C
TAGAYTAY	21°C / 30°C	21°C / 30°C	21°C / 29°C	21°C / 29°C	METRO DAVAO	26°C / 34°C	26°C / 34°C	26°C / 34°C	26°C / 34°C
LEGASPI	24°C / 30°C	24°C / 30°C	24°C / 29°C	24°C / 29°C	ZAMBOANGA	24°C / 34°C	24°C / 34°C	24°C / 34°C	24°C / 34°C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms

Thunderstorms and rainshowers

Light rain

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms

Thunderstorms and rainshowers

Light rain

1

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machines rejected ballots with signatures of the BEI that went beyond the designated box.

Votes were not counted properly with undershaded ballots, he added.

In some of the precincts, voters took more than 10 minutes to cast their ballots—way beyond the estimated ideal time for voting of two to three minutes.

Bautista said the mock polls showed the need to ramp up voters' education for a more successful and orderly balloting.

"It was a good learning experience. At least we already saw what are the things we still need to fix, like for example, in terms of voter education," he said. "What we don't want is for the voting process to be too long as it might result in our

voters getting impatient and discouraged to cast their votes."

Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said over state radio yesterday that the Comelec should address concerns that emerged on Saturday "to ensure the conduct of honest, orderly and credible elections this coming May."

"The exercise underscored the need to create heightened

awareness among voters of what they need to do to be able to perform their civic duty properly," Coloma said.

"It also showed Comelec the potential glitches that need to be addressed in terms of transmission and other technical problems that could hamper voting and the sending of results," he added. *With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada*

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15 February 2016



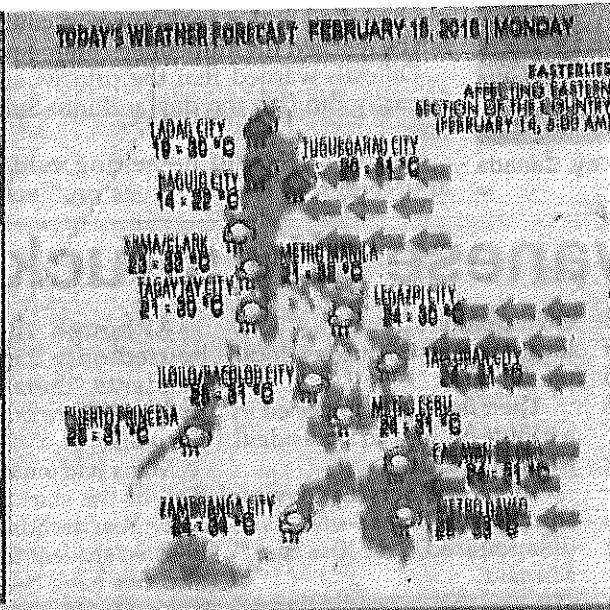
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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Monday to Sunday

6:00 AM **6:00 PM** **11:30 AM** **11:30 PM**

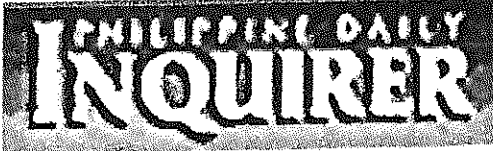
MANILA SOUTH BAY



LOCATION	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER	LOCATION	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
METRO MANILA	21 °C 32 °C	Partly Cloudy	PUERTO PRINCEPA	24 °C 31 °C	Partly Cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
TUGUEGARAO	18 °C 30 °C	Partly Cloudy	ILIGALIL/BACOLOH	25 °C 32 °C	Partly Cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
LADAG	18 °C 30 °C	Partly Cloudy	METRO CEBU	25 °C 32 °C	Partly Cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
BAGUIO	18 °C 31 °C	Partly Cloudy	TACLOBAN	24 °C 32 °C	Cloudy Skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
SBMA/ELAH	23 °C 33 °C	Partly Cloudy	CAGAYAN DE OR	25 °C 33 °C	Cloudy Skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
TAGAYTAY	21 °C 30 °C	Partly Cloudy	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 34 °C	Light Rain
IPGATPI	24 °C 36 °C	Partly Cloudy	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 34 °C	Light Rain

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Comelec sets more tests

Officials may widen scope of mock polls

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PRACTICE makes perfect.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is considering conducting another round of mock polls before the May 9 balloting in a bid to improve the voting process and fix the glitches that attended the dry run held over the weekend in selected areas nationwide.

"I believe that the more practice we do, the better. We should also look into the possibility of widening the scope of the exercise so we can fully observe the system end to end," Comelec Chair Andres Bautista said in an interview over dzBB radio yesterday.

COMELEC/A20

But he noted that each dry run would entail expenses. "So it won't be that easy," he said, adding that the Comelec would likely schedule another test run of the transmission system in April.

The Comelec described the mock polls conducted on Saturday as generally a success, with 92 percent of selected clustered precincts in various locations able to quickly transmit results to the National Board of Canvassers stationed at the Comelec's leased warehouse in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Bautista said 37 out of the 40 clustered precincts were able to transmit results within two hours after the voting ended. "That's a good omen to us," he said.

Two of the clustered precincts—in Quezon City and in Manila—simulated the actual voting time from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. so they were not included in the report.

Bautista said the Comelec would also be using SIM cards in the next round of transmission tests in April.

He said that on Election Day, many voting machines would rely on SIM cards in transmitting results from the voting centers. He said telecommunication providers were not ready yet for this.

Bautista also identified other aspects that needed improvement, including the proper shading of the ballot, the correct placement of signatures by the members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI), and the right way to feed the ballot into the machines.

He said the poll body observed that the vote counting

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machines rejected ballots with signatures of the BEI that went beyond the designated box.

Votes were not counted properly with undershaded ballots, he added.

In some of the precincts, voters took more than 10 minutes to cast their ballots—way beyond the estimated ideal time for voting of two to three minutes.

Bautista said the mock polls showed the need to ramp up voters' education for a more successful and orderly balloting.

"It was a good learning experience. At least we already saw what are the things we still need to fix, like for example, in terms of voter education," he said. "What we don't want is for the voting process to be too long as it might result in our

voters getting impatient and discouraged to cast their votes."

Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said over state radio yesterday that the Comelec should address concerns that emerged on Saturday "to ensure the conduct of honest, orderly and credible elections this coming May."

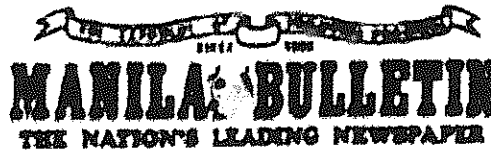
"The exercise underscored the need to create heightened

awareness among voters of what they need to do to be able to perform their civic duty properly," Coloma said.

"It also showed Comelec the potential glitches that need to be addressed in terms of transmission and other technical problems that could hamper voting and the sending of results," he added. *With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada*

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Remains of lumad leader recovered

BUTUAN CITY (PNA) – The remains of a tribal leader, abducted last November by armed men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels, was discovered recently in a mountainous area in Barangay La Purisima, Cagwait town in Surigao del Sur.

In a Philippine Information Agency Region 13 (PIA 13) report released last Friday, the remains of 54-year-old Cristituto Garcia, a Manobo tribe leader and resident of Sitio Hinayhayan, also in Cagwait town, bore signs that he had been shot numerous times.

This sparked an outrage among lumad communities with Rico Maca, tribal leader of San Miguel and Chairman of the Indigenous People Crisis Committee of Surigao del Sur, expressing his grief over the killing of another lumad leader.

Garcia's family has also called for

justice for their slain kin, according to the PIA 13 report.

The slain lumad leader worked for the "Bantay Banwa," or the lumad forest guard, and was a known anti-illegal logging advocate.

A former NPA member had claimed that Garcia was forcibly taken by an armed group from his house as his children watched on the evening of November 15 last year.

The armed men, believed to be NPA rebels, reportedly brought the victim to Sitio Cagburao, Cagwait, Surigao del Sur where he was believed to have been executed.

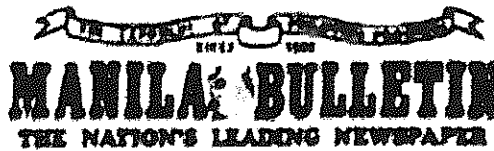
"We have been praying for years to receive justice for the other 428 tribal people (lumads) who were also killed and we cannot do this alone. We need each others' help and cooperation. We need the government and the different organizations to be firm in response to

our call to abate the misery and series of killings of our tribal (lumad) brothers. We cannot afford to lose more lives. We are human and we cannot allow these ruthless NPAs rule over us. We need to act now! I believed that humanity will still reign in us," stressed Maca.

The PIA report also said that, as a result of Garcia's death, the commanding officer of the 36th Infantry (VALOR) Battalion, Fourth Infantry Division based in Surigao del Sur, Lt. Col. Randolph P. Rojas, has condemned the execution-style killing of yet another lumad leader by communist insurgents.

"The NPA has already killed hundreds of innocent lumads in Mindanao and most of their victims came from Caraga region. We will continue to conduct security operations to protect the lumad communities in the province from that group who sows terror to them," Rojas said.

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Soldier, NPA rebel killed in Surigao del Sur encounter

BY MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY—A soldier and a New People's Army (NPA) rebel were killed in a fierce encounter in Barangay Sta. Fe, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur Saturday as government troopers successfully repulsed an attempt by the insurgents to attack a banana plantation, an Army report said yesterday.

First Lieut. Karl Jan S. Devaras, commander of 41st Civil-Military Operations (41st CMO-Magkahiusa) Company of the 4th CMO Battalion, said elements of "Charlie" Company of the 75th Infantry (Marauder) Battalion (75th IB) were conducting security patrol when they

were engaged by an undetermined number of heavily armed NPAs at the vicinity of SUMIFRO Farm Company.

Devaras said the rebels were believed to have hatched a plan to burn heavy farm equipments of the company as part of their extortion racket.

He said the fire fight lasted for almost 10 minutes before the suspected members of NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) withdrew to the forest.

He said an NPA rebel was killed in this fire fight and troops were also able to seize an improvised explosive devices (IEDs) with blasting cap and detonating chord and a caliber-.45 pistol from him.

February 2016



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Kalinga NPAs hunted

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — Government troops have intensified hot-pursuit operations against New People's Army (NPA) rebels that encountered elements of the army's 50th Infantry Battalion in Pinukpuk, Kalinga, and resulted in the killing of a soldier last Thursday.

Lt. Colonel Gulliver Senires, commander of the army's 50th Infantry Battalion, said that he coordinated to the Pinukpuk Municipal Police Station (MPS)

for the conduct of checkpoint operations to contain the rebels.

Last Thursday's encounter in Sitio Bacras, Barangay Apatan, Pinukpuk, Kalinga resulted in the killing of Private Roderick Azada, a native of Abra and the wounding of Corporal Joel De Leon, a native of Ilocos Sur.

Senires said they suspect the rebels encountered by soldiers were from the Kilusang Larangang Guerilya (KLG) unit under the NPA's Lejo Cawilan Command.

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2 suspects in judge's slay, soldier fall in drug raid

By NON ALQUITRAN

Two men tagged in the killing of a judge in Cagayan in 2010, a soldier and a police trainee were among the 21 people arrested in a drug raid in Taguig City at dawn yesterday.

Police raiders headed by Senior Superintendent Ronald Lee, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) National Capital Region, recovered five firearms, three M203 grenades, three hand grenades, 100 grams of shabu worth P600,000 and drug paraphernalia during the raid in Barangay Pinagsama.

Among those arrested were Jose Cabeza and Noel Ismael, both suspects in the killing of Judge Andres Cipriano of the Cagayan Regional Trial Court (RTC); Eugene Arreglado, a police trainee of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), and Pfc. Philip Abad of the Army's 51st Brigade.

Lee said Cabeza was the leader of the Cabeza gun-for-hire group. Another member

of the group, Wilson Polo, was nabbed in the operation.

Cabeza has pending arrest warrants for murder, frustrated murder and violation

of Republic Act 10591 or illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, police said.

The raid was conducted after the CIDG received information that Ca-

beza's group was maintaining a drug den in Barangay Pinagsama.

Armed with search warrants issued by Judge Lorifel Lacap Pahimna of the Taguig RTC Branch 69, members of the CIDG, Regional Public Safety Battalion of the NCRPO and the Highway Patrol Group swooped down on the suspects' seven hideouts at past 2 a.m.

According to Lee, they were approaching the group's seventh safehouse when somebody lobbed a hand grenade at them. The grenade did not explode.

A shootout ensued and one of the suspects, identified as Richard Santiago, was hit. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

The suspects will be charged with illegal possession of firearms, explosives and drugs before the Taguig RTC.

They are being held at the CIDG headquarters at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

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Samar village chief gunned down

TACLOBAN CITY – A village chief was shot dead by two assailants in San Jorge, Samar on Saturday afternoon.

Romulo Barcuma was driving a motorcycle in Barangay Mabuhay when he was shot at around 1 p.m. by gunmen believed to be tailing him in a Mitsubishi Montero.

The 56-year-old Barcuma died at the scene from gunshots to the chest and head.

Responding police officers recovered five bullet shells for an M16 rifle and a .45 caliber pistol at the crime scene.

Police withheld the identities of the assailants in order not to jeopardize the investigation.

Probers have yet to determine the motive for the killing, which occurred amid the deployment of additional police and military forces in the province's first district.

Last week, Interior and Local Government Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento dispatched 80 officers of the Special Action Force, Criminal Investigation Group and the Army's 43rd Infantry Battalion in the area to avert election-related violence.

Samar police director Superintendent Rommel Cabagnot urged the community to help maintain peace and order.

– Miriam Desacada/Freeman

15 February 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Soldiers, cops shed blood for Day of Love

HUNDREDS of cops and military personnel yesterday donated blood during the Valentine's Day bloodletting activity of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) at its headquarters in Camp Karlingal in Quezon City.

QCPD director Chief Supt. Edgardo Tinio said at least 500 per-

sonnel of the QCPD and 30 from the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Joint Task Force-National Capital Region donated blood.

The activity, dubbed "Alay Dugo at Gamutan sa Araw ng mga Puso," was held by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Quezon City Chapter in cooperation with

the QCPD Health Service.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) took care of the needed pharmaceuticals for the bloodletting.

Aside from the bloodletting activity, doctors and nurses of the QCPD Health Service provided free medical and dental consulta-

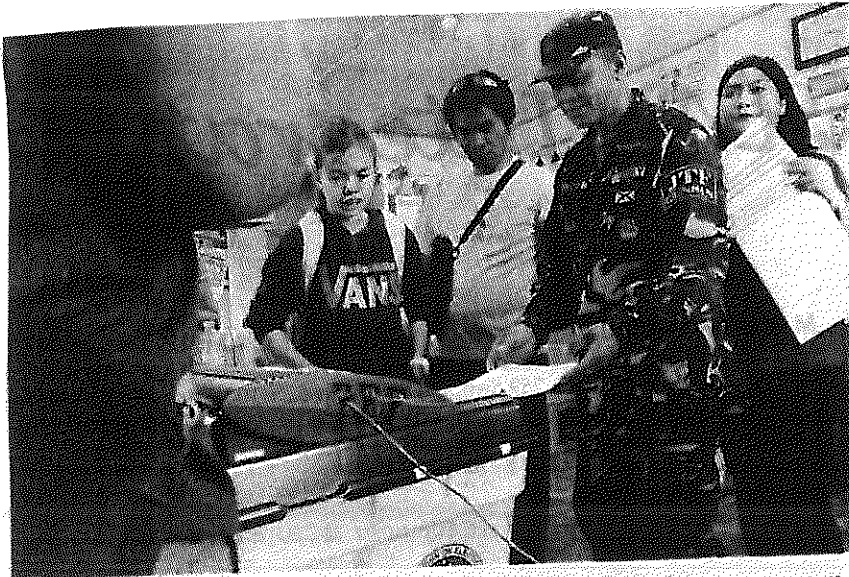
tions and treatments for QCPD personnel, dependents, and people residing around its headquarters.

Attendees were also treated to a free spa, facial treatment, and massage from health and wellness establishments invited by the QCPD Health Service. – **Angela Loper de Leon**

15 February 2016

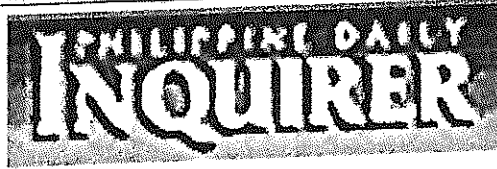
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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MOCK ELECTIONS – An Army trooper assigned with the Joint Task Force Gensan feeds the ballot into the Vote Counting Machine during the mock elections conducted in General Santos City on Saturday. The Commission on Elections noted a low voters' turnout and minor technical hitches during the conduct of the mock elections in General Santos City last Saturday. (Joseph Jubelag)

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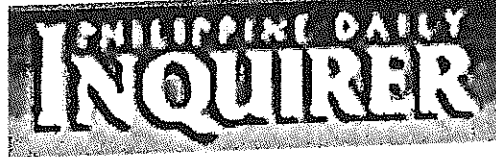


SOLDIERS watch over seized lumber from the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in Quezon province in this 2005 photo.

DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

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15 February 2016



Page: A1

US: We'll use only PH bases under Edca

By Niña P. Calleja

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Honolulu—The United States has no plans of building American military bases in the Philippines even with the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) between the two countries, according to the commander of US forces in the Pacific.

US: WE'LL USE / A20

Noy to meet with business leaders in LA / A18



HARRIS NINA CALLEJA

From page A1

"[The Edca] is an agreement between the US and [the] Philippines [that] will allow us to use some Philippine bases and allow us to improve infrastructure at those bases. It is not about [establishing] new American bases, it is about using Philippine bases," Adm. Harry Harris Jr., chief of the US Pacific Command (Pacom), told reporters at a recent briefing here.

Constitutional

Harris avoided the question whether the United States would step up the frequency of its South China Sea naval patrols now that it was getting access to Philippine military bases.

"[The Edca] was challenged in the Supreme Court. Now we have a green light. We are involved in the planning now," Harris said without giving details.

The Philippine Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Edca last month, ending more than a year of uncertainty caused by a challenge to its legality mounted by some lawmakers and left-leaning groups who feared the security deal would allow the United States to build new military bases in the Philippines.

Harris said Manila and Washington were working on the "prioritization of bases and the possible infrastructure improvement" the United States

would provide.

"This will help the Armed Forces of the Philippines, but it will also help us. It is for our mutual benefit," Harris said.

Last month, Philippine military officials said that five military airfields, two naval bases and a jungle training camp had been offered to the United States. These were Basa Air Base in Pampanga province, Camp Antonio Bautista and a naval base in Palawan province, Clark Air Base in Pampanga, and Lumbia Airfield in Cagayan de Oro City.

"Infrastructure improvements to Philippine bases would enhance support capabilities for a rotational presence of US forces and assets," US Air Force Capt. Cody Chiles, spokesperson for Pacom, said when asked for details of the improvements plan.

Importance of Asean

In a presentation to journalists ahead of US President Barack Obama's meeting with the leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Nations (Asean) at Rancho Mirage, in Sunnylands Estate in California, Harris explained why the South China Sea and Asean, including the Philippines, were important to the United States.

"Southeast Asia is at the heart of the Asia-Pacific region and is the central pillar to [the] US re-balance to the Pacific," Harris said, referring to Obama's strat-

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egy of shifting the US defense focus from the Middle East to Asia.

"The leadership of Asean as a whole is key to the rules-based international order in the whole region," he said, explaining why the United States continues to strengthen its defense ties with Asia-Pacific countries, five of which—the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Australia—are already its treaty allies.

The United States carries out annual joint military maneuvers with those countries, exercises that Harris called "investments for a reason."

"They improve our interoperability. They improve our relationships. And they improve our readiness," he explained.

Challenges for US

The United States faces challenges in the region, Harris said.

"We see an assertive China, a resurging Russia. There is a thousand miles of Russian coastline in the Asia-Pacific region, which includes strategic nuclear and submarine bases," he said.

"There is a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, that is North Korea, although five countries in Asia-Pacific are nuclear-capable," he added.

The United States is leading the global opposition to North Korea's nuclear ambitions and it is championing freedom of navigation to counter China's claim to almost all of the 3.5-million-

square-kilometer South China Sea.

To bolster that claim, China has built artificial islands on seven reefs in the Spratly archipelago that could be used for military purposes, raising tensions with rival claimants to territory in the South China Sea—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The seven artificial islands are within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines, which has taken the dispute to the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague for resolution. A decision is expected by June.

Analysts said a more constant and increased US military presence in the Philippines through the Edca would slow down China's expansion in the South China Sea.

P-Noy to raise China issue

President Aquino may be expected to raise China's expansionism at the Sunnyslands summit, according to Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr.

Mr. Aquino "has always represented the Philippines' position on the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight" in the South China Sea, as well as adherence to international law in resolving disputes in the strategic waterway, Coloma said in Manila on Sunday.

The President leaves for the summit today, accompanied by

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario and some Cabinet officials.

On Wednesday, Del Rosario disclosed a proposal for the rival claimants in the South China Sea to meet on the sidelines of the summit, but it was uncertain if the leaders' schedules would allow for it.

Strategic partners

Obama proposed the summit during the third US-Asean meeting in Kuala Lumpur in November last year, following the decision of the leaders to elevate their relations to the strategic-partner level.

In a statement issued in December last year, the US government said the summit aimed to provide leaders a forum to strengthen cooperation under the new US-Asean strategic partnership on political, economic and security issues.

Briefing reporters in Malacañang last week, Assistant Foreign Secretary Hellen Barber-de la Vega said it would be the first meeting between Asean and the United States as strategic partners.

The summit aims to "explore how Asean and the [United States], after elevating their relations to the strategic-partner level, can work more effectively together and especially now with the establishment of the Asean Community," De la Vega said.

With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Jerry E. Esplanada in Manila

15 February 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Pols kept out of PMA alumni rites

But graduates running in May polls allowed to join homecoming

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Only candidates who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) would be allowed to march alongside their “mistah” (classmates) at this year’s alumni homecoming on Feb. 20, according to the academy’s new superintendent.

But Maj. Gen. Donato San Juan II, who was installed as the new superintendent by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hernando Iriberry in a ceremony here on Saturday, was silent about candidates who are adopted members of PMA classes.

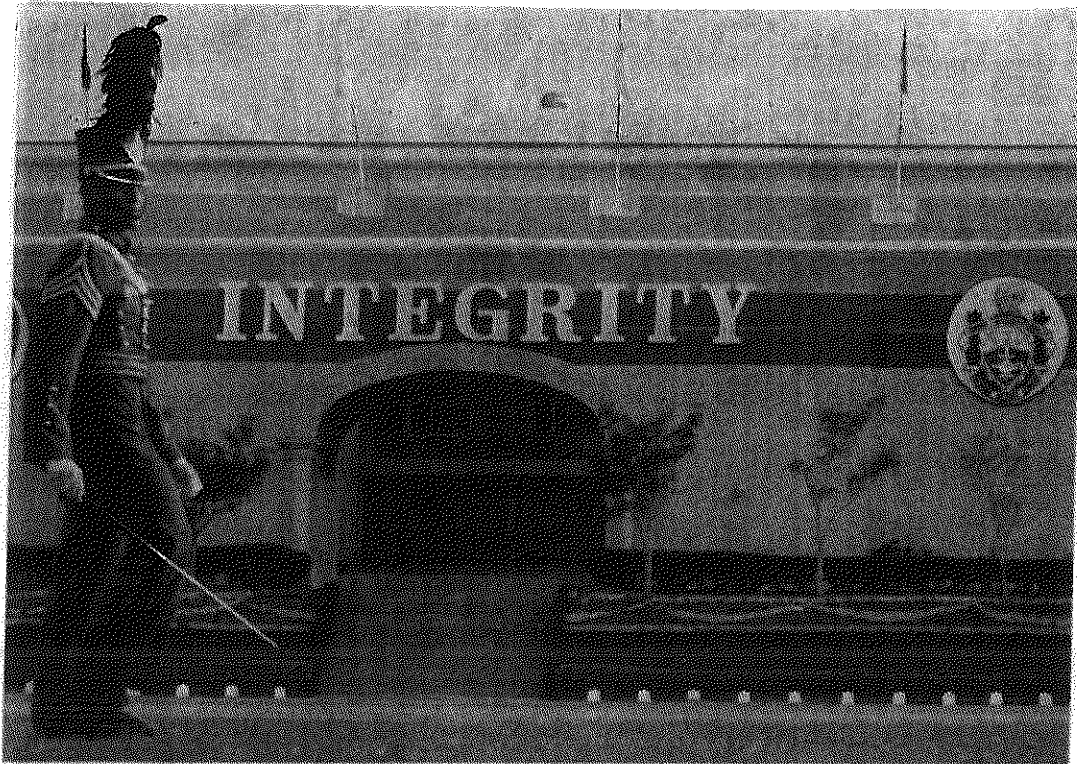
Liberal Party standard-bearer Mar Roxas is an adopted member of PMA “Maharlika” Class of 1984 and has been joining the homecoming activities.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, another presidential candidate, is an adopted member of PMA “Maringal” Class of 1988, while another presidential bet, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, is an adopted member of PMA Class of 1969.

Presidential survey leader Sen. Grace Poe was considered for adoption late last year by PMA “Sambisig” Class of 1991.

“One revelation I read... I think it’s been announced [that] only graduates will join the parade,” said San Juan when asked about the homecoming’s policy on political campaigns. San Juan is a mem-

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NO POLITICS Philippine Military Academy (PMA) officials are prepared to bar campaign posters and colors from being displayed at next week's alumni homecoming. It has been a policy imposed by the PMA Alumni Association in previous events that took place during election years. *EYESPIRITU / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON*

ber of PMA Class 1984.

He said these are regulations being enforced by the PMA Alumni Association (PMAAA), not the academy. Other PMA officials said they were not provided details about the next week's homecoming.

But in past homecoming parades that took place on election years, PMAAA had not allowed political campaign posters or colors from being displayed at the annual event that drew hundreds of active and retired military and police officials.

The policy was instituted

when some retired members of the uniformed services entered politics, said an alumnus, who asked not to be named because he was not been authorized to speak about the event.

The Constitution shields the military from political interference. Article 16, Section 5, of the Charter states: "The Armed Forces shall be insulated from partisan politics. No member of the military shall engage directly or indirectly in any partisan political activity, except to vote."

"Every year [during home-

comings] we troop back here to... reflect on the glorious past... and the concerns of the [AFP]," Iriberry said in his speech on Saturday.

This was echoed by San Juan, who said he had been joining the homecoming "to reflect and renew my commitment to the ideals the academy has inculcated."

The PMA corps of cadets also honored outgoing PMA superintendent, Maj. Gen. Oscar Lopez, a member of PMA "Dimalupig" Class of 1981. *Vincent Cabreza and EV Espiritu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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AFP chief nagsumite ng retirement papers sa pension office,'di kay

PNoy

By Bombo Anne Soberano *Senior Correspondent, Philippine News Agency*

Nilinaw ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Hernando Iribberri na hindi siya nagsumite ng retirement papers kay Pangulong Noynoy Aquino kundi retirement documents para sa military pension office kung saan matagal na itong polisiya.

Sinabi ni Iribberri na ang pagsusumite niya ng kaniyang retirement documents ay compliance sa AFP policy para sa mga magreretirong AFP personnel.

Pahayag ni Iribberri kaniya itong isinumite sa AFP Pension and Gratuity Management Center anim na buwan bago ang kaniyang retirement date.

Pagbibigay-diin ni Iribberri na hindi niya sinabing nagsumite siya ng retirement papers kay Pangulong Aquino.

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Navy insists on Marcelino's custody

The Philippine Navy should have custody of Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, an official reiterated yesterday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, spokesman for the Navy, said Marcelino is an active military officer and should therefore be subject to military law.

"Our basis is not only his security but the fact that he is a military personnel," Arevalo said in an interview.

Marcelino is being held at the Quezon City jail annex at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

Earlier, the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (PNP-AIDG) opposed a proposal of the Department of Justice to transfer Marcelino to another detention facility while

undergoing preliminary investigation on drug charges.

The Navy requested custody of Marcelino last month, saying he should be confined in a military-controlled facility.

It cited the need to ensure Marcelino's security pending result of the investigation of his case.

PNP-AIDG chief Senior Superintendent Manolo Ozaeta, however, said allowing the transfer of Marcelino to the custody of the Navy or the National Bureau of Investigation would "set a bad precedent and open the floodgates for similar requests from military personnel who are in jail."

Ozaeta believes that keeping Marcelino at a

Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility would prevent public perception that the Marine officer is receiving special treatment while in detention.

Marcelino, a former official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and his Chinese interpreter Yan Yi Shou were arrested in a raid on a shabu storage facility in Manila last month.

Authorities seized some 76 kilos of shabu worth P383 million during the operation.

Marcelino claimed that he was on a mission with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at the time of his arrest. He claimed he had nothing to do with the drug ring.

– Alexis Romero

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Over 1,000 gun ban violators arrested

Over 1,000 gun ban violators have been apprehended since the start of the election period 35 days ago.

Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor said yesterday 1,004 individuals were arrested from Jan. 10 to Feb. 14.

Of those arrested, 965 are civilians, seven are policemen, 10 are government employees, 15 are security guards, five are from other law enforcement agencies and two are members of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

The PNP confiscated 810 firearms, 9,169 deadly weapons, 30 firearm replicas, 277 bladed or pointed weapons, 43 grenades, nine other explosives and 8,810 bullets.

Because of the increasing number of gun ban violators, the PNP would further intensify the conduct of checkpoints and efforts against loose firearms, which in the past elections were used in committing crimes.

"We will continue to implement the gun ban in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and in compliance with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) resolutions until June 8 after election period," Mayor said.

Mayor also reminded policemen manning checkpoints of the Comelec to strictly follow the poll body's guidelines to protect the rights of every citizen.

"Our policemen detailed at checkpoints should remember that all checkpoint areas must be well-lighted, the Comelec signboard is visible and police officers manning the checkpoints should be led by an officer with a rank of at least Inspector," he said.

Police officers must also be in proper uniform.

"No person may be subjected to a physical or body search in the absence of any reasonable ground. The public is not obliged to open their vehicles' compartment, trunk or bags," he added.

Law enforcers who violate the gun

ban will face a penalty of not less than one- to six-year imprisonment, dishonorable discharge from public service and forfeiture of all retirement privileges and benefits.

Erring government employees shall be also disqualified from public service.

– Cecille Suerte Felipe

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Mission to re-supply troops in Spratly Islands delayed

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Philippine Navy yesterday said it will resume its re-supply mission for troops in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea or West Philippine Sea as soon as soon as it completes repairs on its logistics ship, the BRP Laguna.

But even if the re-supply mission has been stalled, troops stationed at Philippine-held territories in the South China Sea still have enough supplies, said Navy spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo. Re-supply missions are scheduled way before supplies run out, he said.

"Not really, they still have sufficient provision. We do not re-supply at the last minute," Arevalo said on concerns the troops will be running out of

food and water.

Arevalo could not say when the re-supply mission will resume but said BRP Laguna is undergoing minor repairs.

The ship cut short its mission last February 8 after one of its engines broke down. It had just completed a re-supply mission at Rizal Reef and was on its way to Kota Island when it encountered engine trouble, forcing it to return to Puerto Princesa City.

The ship still has to bring supplies to troops in Kota, Pagasa, Lawak, Parola, Patag, Likas and Panata islands, and Ayungin Shoal.

The Navy usually re-supplies its troops in the Spratlys every three months.

"The plan is to use the same ship but in the event it is not

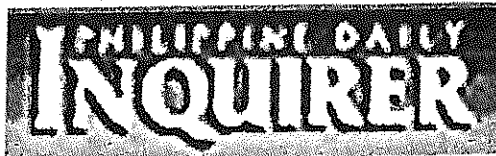
okay, we will determine the available assets to bring the supplies....We have available assets capable of doing that," Arevalo said. The Navy has several other logistics ships in its inventory.

Asked how many days the supplies in the seven islands and Ayungin Shoal will last, Arevalo said, "I have no clear information how many days more...The intention of the commander of the Naval Forces Northwest is (re-supply) immediately. It's (ship's) derangement is not that big so maybe anytime."

The Sprightly Islands is being claimed in part or in whole by Philippines, China, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan. Of the claimant countries, China has turned aggressive on its claim over the chain of islands and islets.

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AFP action rectifies historical injustice

IN SEPTEMBER 1907, Macario de Leon Sakay, the most prominent of the Filipino revolutionaries who continued the fight for independence against US forces, was hanged by American authorities in the Old Bilibid Prison in Manila. Earlier after his arrest, Sakay was charged and convicted under the Bandolerism (Brigandage) Act of 1902 that proclaimed all captured resistance insurgents as bandits, robbers and *ladrones*.

For more than a century this falsehood, foisted on the Filipino people by colonial rule, was accepted by many chroniclers of the era.

Last month, as part of continuing efforts to rectify distortions in our military history, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of

Staff Gen. Hernando DCA Iriberri paid tribute to Macario Sakay's heroism and leadership in the struggle for freedom and independence from Spanish rule and American domination. He issued General Orders No. 30, renaming Camp Eldridge in Los Baños, Laguna, to Camp General Macario Sakay.

REVEILLE

Ramon
J. Farolan



Background information

In 1902, US President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation, officially ending what Americans referred to as the "Philippine Insurrection." In his announcement, he declared that "peace had been established in all parts of the archipelago, except in the country inhabited by the Moro tribes." I am thinking now that more than 100 years later, we have not been able to firmly establish peace in areas populated by our Muslim brothers, the same situation faced by Roosevelt.

The proclamation did not reflect the reality. It was issued mainly in response to domestic pressure from anti-imperialist elements in the United States. The American public was frustrated more than ever by the seemingly endless struggle in the Philippines, keeping in mind that the Philippine-American War started in February 1899. They were horrified by the slaughter taking place, particularly the Balangiga massacre of American soldiers in September 1901. Roosevelt feared that a prolonged conflict would damage his bid for reelection.

The surrender of Gen. Miguel Malvar in April 1902 provided the United States with a basis for declaring that the war was over. This position completely disregarded the resistance activities of Macario Sakay and other freedom fighters who continued the struggle against the new colonizer. As part of the US pacification effort, the US government branded Sakay and others as "bandits" and "*tulisanes*" to support the American propaganda line that the Philippine-American War was over and only common criminals were being rounded up and executed.

The so-called "insurrection" was expensive and bloody for both sides. The Americans spent some \$600 million—or roughly \$10 billion in today's currency—and lost 4,234 men killed in action. (This is almost the same as the US losses in Iraq between 2003 and 2014.) Our casualties came up to some 20,000 soldiers and 200,000 civilians.

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Who is Macario Sakay? What was his role in the fight for freedom?

It is important to know more about our heroes, particularly those whose reputations were tarnished by black propaganda depicting them as common criminals because of their anti-American activities.

Macario Sakay was born in Tondo, Manila, in 1870. He worked as a blacksmith, a tailor and a stage actor, before joining the Katipunan Movement led by Andres Bonifacio. During the revolution against Spain, he led his men to victory in San Mateo, Rizal, establishing his headquarters in the Marikina-Montalban area.

From 1902-1906, he continued the fight against the new colonizer, leading an effective guerrilla campaign against US forces. Vowing that he and his men would not cut their hair until freedom was achieved, Macario kept his locks long and this became a symbol of resistance. The "Sakay look" (long-haired and unkempt) was used by the Americans to portray him as a bandit and not a freedom fighter.

Sakay's main area of operations was in the southern Tagalog provinces of Rizal, Batangas, Laguna and Cavite. So successful were his exploits that the Americans resorted to "hamletting" (concentrating villagers in one location for more effective control) in areas where Sakay had strong mass support.

Using an *ilustrado*, Dominador Gomez, to speak to Sakay, US Governor General Henry Ide offered him amnesty. Part of the offer was the establishment of a Philippine Assembly as a starting point toward eventual independence. The idea appealed to Sakay and as a result, he came down from his mountain redoubt and surrendered. It was a trap. Once he and his subordinates were disarmed, they were arrested and charged with refusing to give allegiance to the American government in the Philippines. Sakay was sentenced to death and executed.

His last words were: "We are not bandits and robbers as the Americans have accused us. We are members of the revolutionary force defending our mother country, the Philippines. Farewell! Long live the Republic! Long live the Philippines!"

Camp Eldridge was named after an American serviceman, Sgt. George Eldridge, a Medal of Honor recipient in the fight against American Indians in 1870. Renaming the camp after General Sakay is historically appropriate since the military facility is located in the Calabarzon area where Sakay operated against enemy forces.

More than just honoring one of our freedom fighters, the name-change is another step in bringing closure to the historical distortions that one can find in abundance in our military history. It is a difficult and tedious exercise often surrounded by controversy, but it must be done if we are to discover the truth about ourselves.

Recognitions

There are a few individuals and organizations who must be recognized for their efforts in bringing about this change.

- Lt. Col. Ronald Jess Alcudia, PMA Class 1993, through his writings in various Army publications, was able to call attention to the need for rethinking the Philippine military's perspective of the post-1902 resistance movement, promoting a patriotic and nationalist viewpoint.

- Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, as head of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, supported Alcudia's advocacy.

- The Philippine Historical Association, in a board resolution, recommended to the Department of National Defense the renaming of Camp Eldridge after Gen. Macario Sakay.

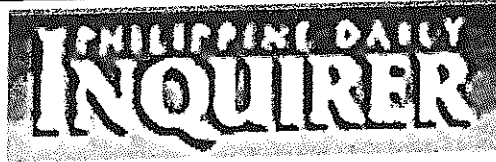
- Gen. Hernando DCA Iriberry, as commanding general of the Philippine Army, and now AFP chief of staff, approved the recommendations for the proposed change and kept a close eye on the paperwork all the way to the highest levels of government. Change comes about when the leadership is sincere in its concern for renewal and rededication.

In a memorandum dated Dec. 28, 2015, final approval was issued by Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin.

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February 2016



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BBL's nonenactment a blessing in disguise

WAS like the parting of the Red Sea. On one side were the pros, on the other the antis. Theartis' motivation for rejecting the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) was largely ethnic discrimination against the Moro people. Let's admit it: The BBL aroused age-old prejudices that we all thought had died out as we moved farther away from our colonial years. Prejudice is and will always be the wrong lens for judging the BBL.

As is the lens of President Aquino and his barkers. Many roundly endorsed the BBL: "It's the best there is," in the manner of the French "*c'est ce qui se dit de mieux*." But we in Mindanao were not born yesterday, as Manila. For all that is being touted about it, the BBL merely provides an illusion of peace in southern Mindanao. Its nonenactment could now be deemed a blessing in disguise.

Those who say the BBL is dead are not quite correct. It may lie dormant but it is not in rigor mortis. As the saying goes, every black cloud has a silver lining. The BBL has "abnormalities" that the next legislature can and must address to correct. To say that it doesn't is like inflicting despotism upon the Moros and indigenous peoples. And this is where the Aquino administration must be held accountable for: the charade of peace it regaled us with.

Those who have their feet on the ground in Mindanao will easily acknowledge the gravity of poverty in the Moro regions. (How many of our Manila-based pundits have lived in or, at least, have stepped foot on Moroland?) Moro society continues to be for the most part feudal. Land ownership and access largely lie in the hands of royal families. This is even compounded by the Manila-centric, traditional politics that breeds political dynasties and the mercenary elite.

Under the BBL, Moro feudalism will be vaguely addressed, if at all, by the Bangsamoro Parliament it opposes to create. How will the BBL stop the wealthy and the powerful from controlling parliament? This is the proposed law's greatest deformity, which promises only an illusion of peace in Mindanao. It calls for "equitable representation of

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



constituencies" but through—and we know what this implies—political parties? It does not guarantee inclusive democracy for the Moro people, the kind of democracy that would demolish political elitism.

The war in southern Mindanao is not "all military vs. protest forces." Yes, there are cries for nationhood (a valid clamor which I can understand, as a social science academic). It is also about feuding families. In fact, the clan wars can be more vicious for it completely disregards the lot of the poor who have no access to political power. Mass evacuations from war-torn areas are an indication of that. In many cases, both the military and the protest forces are even used as surrogates in the clan wars which are telling indicants of the disenfranchisement of the poor—a condition that basically ails Moro society. Would the Bangsamoro Parliament have been able to cure that basic problem? For now, that remains a rhetorical question.

The other farce the Aquino administration delighted us with was on the plight of the indigenous peoples (IPs) who live in their ancestral lands within the proposed Bangsamoro territory. Not many of us are well aware that south central Mindanao, particularly the vast Cotabato riverine plain, is the point of greatest cultural diversity in Mindanao. This is an area populated by the Teduray, B'laan (various localities), Erumanen Menuvu (the towns of Carmen, Pikit, Aleosan and Pigkawayan), and the Erumanen-Livunganen Menuvu, not to mention the Higaunon in the boundaries of Iligan City and Lanao del Sur and the animist Sama Dilaut sea nomads who are at the lowest rung of the Bangsamoro society in the Sulu archipelago.

The scenario for non-Moro *lumad* is one of cultural callousness: Once the BBL is imposed, all ancestral domain claims and titles under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8371 or Iprra) will be "abolished." RA 8371 will be replaced by a new ancestral domain law; how constitutional is that as Iprra was duly legislated? Since last year, cultural communities in the affected territory were living on edge. The BBL effectively threatened to pull the rug from under their feet, so to speak.

Both Moro and non-Moro communities in the Cotabato plains share a legend about their common origin. To this day this legend continues to be told and retold. The storyline may shift, but the plot remains the same: Once there were two brothers, Mamalu and Tabunaway. The latter converted to Islam at the time of Sharif Kabungsuwan's arrival (believed to have taken place in 1414), but the former held fast to his animist faith. Tabunaway became the ancestor of the Maguindanao people, but both brothers maintained their close fraternity. The story is received with strong resonance among both Moro and non-Moro peoples in the Cotabato plains. Modern age, of course, frowns on legends, but such are a potent facet of cultural identity that even framers of the BBL should not miss out. The Mamalu-Tabunaway legend offers a strong clue on cultural coexistence.

However, all that the IPs got from Mr. Aquino's "peace summit for dissecting the BBL" were machinations against them. One legal anthropologist was listed among the participants; in fact he was in Europe for his doctoral studies. A participant said Teresita Deles tried to influence the discussions in the summit. Mr. Aquino had said the summit would be independent; it turned out to be a parody.

Doomsayers who claim war is the alternative to the BBL's nonpassage are the real mercenaries who put the Moro masses at their mercy. Use the interregnum to craft a more inclusive and collaborative basic law that improves on the present one. Why is that such a big deal?

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MILF or BIFF?

Confusion marks new Maguindanao fighting

FOR six days starting Friday two weeks ago, troopers of the Philippine Army's 61st Division Reconnaissance said they were engaged in a series of fierce fights in Maguindanao with armed men they believed to be Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). The fighting started in Datu Salibo town and moved on to Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

A military source was quoted as saying the armed men they believed to be BIFF turned out to be Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). But an MILF spokesman, in a published report, blamed the soldiers for not coordinating with the MILF in their pursuit of the BIFF into an MILF area.

There seems to be an intelligence gap in the ongoing military operations. In Mindanao today, a peace agreement is supposed to be in force between the Philippine government and the MILF. The Army troopers were thus fighting BIFF men; they were simply surprised to find that in the course of the fighting, the enemy forces were now MILF.

Had the troopers pursuing the BIFF entered an area of the MILF who then proceeded

to shoot back? Or, as one military source feared, was the enemy force really a composite of both groups?

This confusion recalls the Mamasapano battle of January, 2015, in which the Special Action Force commandos found themselves cornered by armed men, some of whom were MILF, some were BIFF, and still others were members of private armed groups.

Now that Congress has adjourned without approving the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) which would have created a Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, there are fears of a resurgence of fighting in the area. The MILF has vowed to carry on its efforts for peace, but, as seen in the fighting last week in Datu Salibo and Datu Saudi Ampatuan, fighting goes on amid great confusion in the military as to who the enemy is.

There is an urgent need for new efforts to reach out to the MILF and perhaps draw up a new agreement, minus the provisions that caused senators to reject it. An effort should be made to reach out to the BIFF, perhaps with the help of the MILF, for the two groups seem to be operating quite well with each other.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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BELOW THE LINE

Last weekend with everything that flies



By **JOSÉ ABETO ZAIDE**

FEB. 1-14, 20th Philippine International Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta. Like love that never fades, what can you do with an affair for over 20 years?

DAY 1. The Philippine Air Force band with marching majorettes serenaded the crowd before crack of dawn. At 6:00 hours, with military precision, Air Force skydivers bailed out of helicopter, and as the lead skydiver unfurled the Philippine flag, the band struck "Lupang Hinirang," PAF commanding general Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Delgado inaugurated the first burn, and all air balloons followed suit and up, up and away.

SOMETHING NEW. The Philippine International Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta has been hovering in and around Valentine's Day. On February 11-14 this year, the organizers introduced something new and twice as good – the champion Twins Timothy and Anthony Green jumping off a hot air balloon from 3,000 feet to perform aerobatic somersault paragliding.

ONE-MAN BAND. On Day 2, our OMB Capt. Joy Roa took the hot-air balloon pilots to the Malabanas Integrated Elementary School where the kids waving Japanese, German, French, Malaysian, American, Thai, Netherlands, Hungarian, Irish, Dominican Republic, and Philippine flags greeted the visitors.

Students and faculty performed self-choreographed dances, the highlight of which was a dance with hot-air balloon head gear. Guests could not resist the invitation to trip the light fantastic. No speech could have been more moving than the spontaneous chemistry between the schoolchildren and the visitors. The Swedish and American crew said they looked to the school visit as the high water mark of their swing. And first-timer Irish pilot told Ting Roa that he will start an initiative to help the school.

Philippine Aviation 2016 Christine Malicsi and Cello Santos and Tricia Abaya, first and second runners-up, respectively, graced the occasion (and the four-day event), and children crowded for selfies with beauty queens.

Books were donated by balloonists and the PIHABF foundation gave 1,000 tickets for the fiesta for the children. School Principal Edna Tonggol jokingly suggested that the school should declare next year the day closest to February 10 as "Capt. Joy Roa holiday."

BTW, the bonding between balloonists and their chase crew is evident from the number of balloonists who sponsor the schooling of children. One balloonist has his air balloon parked in storage with

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his chase crew here.

DAY 3. We lunched at the "Museo ning Angeles" and walked to the Pamintuan Museum for culinary experience and a bit of history. The latter was the venue of the second year of Philippine Independence under President Emilio Aguinaldo.

There's one more day to go before my column's deadline. The German, Venezuelan, and Mexican ambassadors are enroute, and the Thai ambassador's lady has already arrived. We await Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Evan Garcia and his wife, our Ambassador to Thailand Jocelyn Garcia.

There's still the evening hot-air balloon glow, the rockin' concert, more flybys and aerobatic demonstrations, kites, RCC planes, etc., and everything that flies tonight... and repeats all over again and more the following morning with the the Sunday Valentine Specials.

Capt. Andrew Florentino says that the only way we could top this act next year is if we can convince his partner, the octogenarian safety director Capt. Amado Soliman Jr., to do tandem jump on the next year with Antony and Timothy Green.

Our aerobatic Capt. Meynard Halili showed that he was equal with words when he rhapsodized John Gillespie Magee Jr.'s "High Flight" for a Sunday homily:

*"Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds
of earth,*

*And danced the skies on laughter-
silvered wings;*

*Sunward I've climbed, and joined
the tumbling mirth*

*Of sun-split clouds - and done a
hundred things*

You have not dreamed of -

Wheeled and soared and swung

*High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring
there*

*I've chased the shouting wind along,
and flung*

*My eager craft through footless halls
of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning
blue*

*I've topped the wind-swept heights
with easy grace*

*Where never lark or even eagle
flew -*

*And, while with silent lifting mind
I've trod*

*The high untrespassed sanctity of
space,*

*Put out my hand, and touched the
face of God."*

FEEDBACK: joseabetozaide@gmail.com

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ONLINE NEWS

15 FEBRUARY 2016

www.philstar.com

Navy insists it has legal basis on request to get Marcelino's custody

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated February 14, 2016 - 5:39pm



The Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group rejected a proposal of the Justice department to move Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino to another detention facility while undergoing preliminary investigation on drug charges. File photo

MANILA, Philippines - The Navy on Sunday maintained that its request to place Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, the military officer facing drug-related charges, under its custody has legal basis.

Navy spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo stressed that Marcelino is a soldier and should therefore be subject to military law.

"Our basis is not only the threat but it's the fact that he (Marcelino) is a military personnel, he is subject to military law so that is our primordial basis," Arevalo said in an interview.

Earlier, the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (PNP-AIDG) rejected a proposal of the Justice department to move Marcelino to another detention facility while undergoing preliminary investigation on drug charges.

The Navy requested custody of Marcelino last month, saying he should be confined in a military-controlled facility since he is an active military officer. The Navy also cited the need to ensure Marcelino's safety while awaiting the results of the investigation.

PNP-AIDG chief Senior Superintendent Manolo Ozaeta, however, said permitting the transfer of Marcelino to a facility of the Navy or the National Bureau of Investigation would "set a bad precedent" and "open to the floodgates of similar requests" from military personnel who are in jail.

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

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

Ozaeta also believes that keeping Marcelino at a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility would prevent public perception that the Marine officer is receiving special treatment while in detention.

Ozaeta also said that the BJMP can keep Marcelino safe while he is inside the Quezon City jail annex, where drug suspects are also detained.

Arevalo said the Navy respects the PNP-AIDG's position but insisted that the request to detain Marcelino in a military-controlled facility has legal basis.

"Precedence is not our basis. Our basis is legal basis. It is properly rooted in legal basis. It may create a precedence but if it does, and if it is legal, then it is in accordance with the law," the Navy spokesman said.

"The basis of the Navy is the law," he added.

Marcelino and Chinese national Yan Yi Shou were arrested last month in a raid on a suspected shabu laboratory in Manila. Authorities seized some 76 kilos of illegal drugs worth P383 million during the operation.

The Marine officer is now facing charges for allegedly manufacturing, conspiring to manufacture, and possessing illegal drugs.

Marcelino is claiming that he was on a covert mission with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines when he was arrested and that he had nothing to do with the drug syndicate. The Marine officer, who was described by his military colleagues as a serious anti-drug crusader, used to be the Director of the Special Enforcement Service of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

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Navy: Enough goods in Pag-asa while delivery ship under repair

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated February 14, 2016 - 4:50pm



Last week, BRP Laguna, the aging ship delivering goods to Pag-asa, sailed back to mainland Palawan after experiencing a mechanical problem. *File photo*

MANILA, Philippines - There is enough supply to sustain residents of Pag-asa Island in the Spratlys chain while the mechanical problems of the ship tasked to deliver goods to the Philippine-occupied area are being fixed, the Navy said on Sunday.

Navy spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said they always take into account possible problems in their resupply efforts.

"Their (Pag-asa residents) provisions are still sufficient and this (resupply mission) is programmed is such a way that in case we experience such problems, we still have window (to fix it)," Arevalo said in an interview.

Last week, BRP Laguna, the aging ship delivering goods to Pag-asa, sailed back to mainland Palawan after experiencing a mechanical problem.

The supply vessel was reportedly halfway to the destination of its resupply mission when it suffered mechanical glitches and returned to the mainland for repairs.

Arevalo said BRP Laguna did not sustain severe damage and that the resupply mission may be conducted anytime.

"I've been told that it (resupply mission) will be conducted immediately once the ship is fixed," the Navy official said.

"In case the ship is not okay, we have other assets to perform the task," he added.

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