

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

16 February 2016

Tuesday

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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The Manila Times

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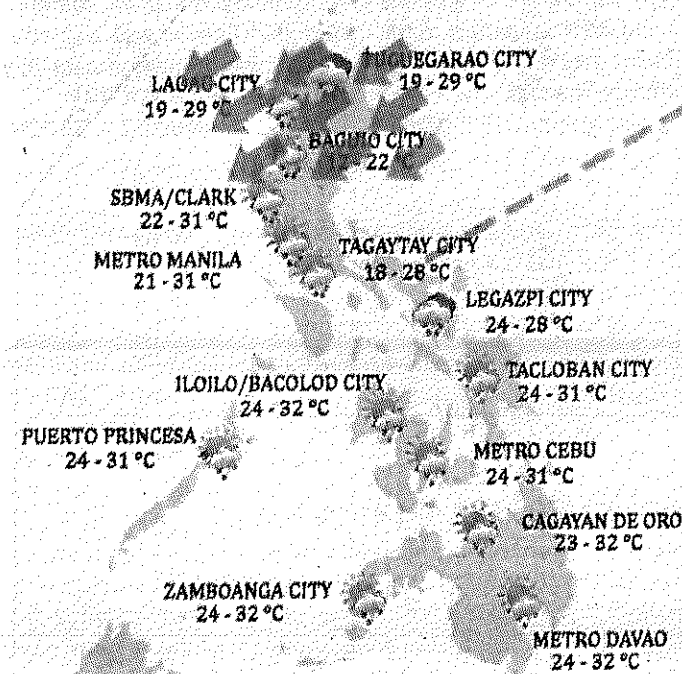
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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING BICOL REGION (FEBRUARY 15, 8:00 PM)

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON (FEBRUARY 15, 8:00 PM)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:20 AM	6:01 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
12:25 PM	12:32 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
FEB 15 3:45 PM	FEB 23 2:19 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
8:25 AM 0.19 Meter	4:21 PM 0.82 Meter




Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

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


Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Light rains


	FEB 17 WEDNESDAY	FEB 18 THURSDAY	FEB 19 FRIDAY		FEB 17 WEDNESDAY	FEB 18 THURSDAY	FEB 19 FRIDAY
METRO MANILA	20 - 31 °C	21 - 31 °C	22 - 32 °C	BAGUIO	12 - 22 °C	13 - 22 °C	14 - 23 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESSA	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C	BORACAY	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C



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Ballot printing starts

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

All six presidential candidates including the recently deceased are on the official ballot as printing finally got underway yesterday after several postponements.

With disqualification cases still unresolved by the Supreme Court, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) released the list of candidates in the May 9 local and national elections as the National Printing Office (NPO) began work on 55.6 million official ballots.

The NPO is also printing 1.2 million ballots that will be used by the Comelec for the preliminary logic and accuracy test, as well as the final testing and sealing test and other election paraphernalia.

The ballots will have the names of six candidates for president: Jejomar Binay (United Nationalist Alliance), Miriam Defensor-Santiago (People's Reform Party), Rodrigo Duterte (Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban), Grace Poe (independent), Mar Roxas (Liberal Party) and OFW Family Club party-list Rep. Roy Señeres, who died recently.

Under the Omnibus Election Code, someone can substitute for Señeres until mid-day of election day, Comelec Chairman Andres Bautista explained.

"We are confident that we can meet our deadline – that by April 25, we shall have finished printing all the ballots we need for the May 9 polls," Bautista said during yesterday's media tour at the NPO in Quezon City.

Turn to Page 14

Ballot

From Page 1

The 55.6 million official ballots include those for local absentee voters such as the police, the military, teachers and the media, and 1.18 million ballots for overseas absentee voting.

Three units of OCE Cannon Digital Printer are being used by the NPO, two of which had been leased from Holy Family Printing Corp. Each ballot costs P20, Bautista said.

He said the 2016 ballots are "significantly shorter" at 20 inches by 8.5 inches, compared to those used in the 2010 elections, which were 27 inches by 8.5 inches.

"In 2010, there were 10 candidates for president, now there are six. There were eight candidates for vice president, now it's only six. For the party-list, there were 187 compared to 115 now."

Bautista assured the public that despite the reduced size of the ballots, the texts are more readable than in 2013.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said the printers now have faster computer units so they are more efficient in reading the ballots.

The Comelec is expecting around 100,000 to 200,000 bal-

lots to be printed daily in the first few days of printing.

According to Genevieve Guevarra, head of the Comelec Printing Committee, they expect up to 1.1 million ballots to be printed daily when printing machines hit their peak in the coming weeks.

Printing runs in two shifts from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. from Monday to Sunday. Operations will stop on Maundy Thursday and Holy Friday.

"We are printing those for overseas absentee voting, and then the ballots for far flung areas like the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which is our priority," she told reporters.

As a rule, ballots intended for far-away places are shipped first. The last ones to be delivered are those intended for Metro Manila voting centers.

Guevarra said the ballots in ARMM are longer because they contain Arabic translation.

Official list of bets

The Comelec released yesterday the certified lists of candidates for president, vice president, senator and party-list system.

For vice president, the candidates are Alan Peter Cayetano (independent), Chiz Escudero (Independent), Gringo

Honasan (UNA), Bongbong Marcos (independent), Leni Robredo (LP) and Antonio Trillanes IV (Independent).

Based on a memorandum of Comelec Law Department director Maria Norina Tangarocasingal dated yesterday, the senatorial aspirants are: Sharrif Albani (Independent), Aldin Ali (Partido ng Manggagawa at Magsasaka Workers and Peasants Party), Raffy Alunan (Independent), Ina Ambolodto (Liberal Party), Godofredo Arquiza (Independent), Levito Baligod (Independent), Greco Belgica (Independent), Walden Bello (Independent), Sandra Cam (Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino), Mel Chavez (WPPPM), Neri Colmenares (MKBYAN), Leila de Lima (LP), Isko Moreno Domagoso (PMP), Ray Dorona (Independent), Frank Drilon (LP), Larry Gadon (Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan), Win Gatchalian (National People's Coalition), Dick Gordon (Independent), TG Guingona (LP), Risa Hontiveros (Akbayan), Eid Kabalu (Independent), Lorna Kapunan (Aksyon), Princess Jacel Kiram (United Nationalist Alliance), Alma Moreno Lacamana (UNA), Panfilo Lacson (Independent), Rey Langit (UNA), Mark Lapid (Aksyon), Dante Liban (Independent), Romeo Maganto (Lakas), Edu

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Manzano (Independent);

Allan Montano (UNA), Mon Montaño (Independent), Getulio Napeñas (UNA), Susan Ople (Nacionalista Party), Sergio Osmeña III (Independent), Manny Pacquiao (UNA), Mr. Coop Paez (Independent), Samuel Pagdilao (Independent), Jovito Palparan Jr. (Independent), Kiko Pangilinan (LP), Carlos Jericho Petilla (LP), Ralph Recto (LP), Martin Romualdez (Lakas), Roman Romulo (Independent), Dionisio Santiago (Independent);

Vicente Sotto (NPC), Francis Tolentino (Independent), Diosdado Valeroso (Independent), Joel Villanueva (LP), and Migz Zubiri (Independent).

Final testing

Meanwhile, the Comelec has instructed the Board of Inspectors (BEI) to do the final testing and sealing of the vote counting machines (VCMs) from May 2 to 6.

In Comelec Resolution 10057, the poll body said the BEI shall convene to do such procedures on the VCM assigned to their respective polling precincts.

But Comelec noted the election officers would have to notify the candidates, registered political parties, party-list organizations or the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting not later than April 29.

After the VCMs have been sealed, it can only be opened

on election day.

The resolution contains the general instructions for the BEI, which will administer the May 9 elections. Each BEI is composed of three public school teachers.

It shows that casting of votes shall run from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on election day. Voters who have not cast their votes but are within 30 meters of the polling place by 5 p.m. shall still be allowed to vote.

The poll clerk will have to get the names of these voters and number them consecutively.

The Comelec said watchers of candidates or parties are not allowed to enter the places reserved for voters and the BEI and/or "mingle and talk with voters."

Unless specifically authorized by the Comelec, the poll body said it is unlawful for members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) or Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), any police officer or any armed person belonging to any extra-legal police agency, special forces, reaction forces, strike forces, Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units, barangay tanods or other similar forces or paramilitary forces to go near voting places.

It added that no voter would be allowed to vote as illiterate or people with disability unless they are registered as such.

The Comelec also cautioned that taking "selfie or groupie" photos is not allowed inside polling precincts.

Additional policemen

The PNP will deploy additional police personnel on the streets as part of security measures for the elections in May.

PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez has been conducting inspection on the security setup of police stations in the provinces and expressed satisfaction on the implementation and compliance so far.

Marquez, however, pointed out that other contingency planning should be improved.

"As I move around (the country), the lines of operations are implemented properly. What should be improved I believe is the contingency planning. The contingency planning should be conducted with the AFP, Comelec and other relevant agencies," he said.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor said territorial police units are directed to set up checkpoints in strategic areas in their respective jurisdictions to preempt any election-related violent incidents. – **With Cecille Suerte Felipe**

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Army battalion deployed to Sulu

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A battalion of Army soldiers has been deployed to Sulu in support of the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo de la Cruz, Western Mindanao Command chief, said the

soldiers would join the newly retrained members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 deployed to the province earlier this month.

De la Cruz said Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry,

during a recent visit here, did not set a deadline but only discussed guidelines to ensure the success of the operations to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf.

"We will review where we have failed and determine

how we can enhance our capability," Cruz said.

Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu are believed to be holding more than a dozen kidnap victims, including foreigners.

– Roel Pareño

6 February 2016

The Manila Times

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Stop ComVal killings, farmers urge AFP

A FARMERS' group on Monday urged the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to end the spate of killings in Compostela Valley by immediately putting a stop to the military offensive against what the government forces described as communist rebels.

Carlos Trangia, an officer of *Hug-ong Mag-uma sa Wantog ComVal* (Humawac), said the ongoing military operation by the Philippine Army's 46th Infantry Battalion has led to the deaths of three farmers and the wounding of several others, including a 14-year-old boy early this month.

The fatalities – Alejandro Laya-Og, Jennifer Albacite, and Ronel Paas – actively opposed the entry of Agusan Petroleum Mining Company (AgPet) in Compostela province where it is engaged in large-scale mining.

Humawac claimed that the AFP described the farmers who have expressed their strong opposition to AgPet's entry as members of New People's Army (NPA), but the farmers disputed this as baseless.

According to the military, Compostela Valley is widely perceived as one of the remaining mass bases of the NPA in Mindanao.

Trangia said the slain farmers were not NPA soldiers, nor were they connected with the Maoist armed group in any way.

Interviewed by *The Manila Times* over the phone, Trangia angrily said in Filipino that the AFP "has no heart. They kill farmers without valid reasons."

"The AFP leadership and soldiers must bear in mind that their

duty and obligation is to protect the people as pointed out in the Constitution," he added.

Captain Rhyen Batchar, spokesman for the 10th Infantry Division, earlier told the media that the AFP had no involvement in the February 7 and 9 killings and wounding of farmers.

But he admitted that the military was engaged in a series of gun battles against the NPA in the area.

"On February 11, three armed clashes happened in Pantukan, Compostela Valley Province (CVP) and Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental. The first and second encounters happened in Barangay Napnapan, Pantukan when a group of NPAs fired upon the detachment of 5th CAGU Active Auxiliary (CAA) Company, 72nd Infantry Battalion located at Sitio Riverside, and when patrolling elements of 46th Infantry Battalion encountered the escaping NPAs led by alias Raden at Sitio Post 4," Batchar elaborated.

The third encounter was between the 73rd Infantry Battalion soldiers and suspected rebels belonging to Guerilla Front 71 of Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR) at Sitio Binaloy, Barangay Marabatuan, Jose Abad Santos. Corporal Joel Camus was hurt in the battle.

The fourth incident took place on February 12 when members of the Alpha Company, 67th Infantry Battalion, engaged in a firefight with NPAs in Sitio Km 28, Barangay Panansalan.

Two slain guerillas were left behind and a "child soldier" was captured, Batchar said.

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Pahina. 3

Sundalo patay sa Batangas ambush

Hindi nakaligtas sa tiyak na kamatayan ang isang 43-anyos at aktibong miyembro ng Philippine Army matapos tambangan ng hindi nakilalang suspek sa kahabaan ng Aguila St. Barangay Poblacion 2 San Jose Batangas, pasado alas-otso ng gabi kamakalawa. Kinilala ng San Jose Municipal Police Station ang nasawing biktima na si Reynald Granada, kasalukuyang nakatalaga sa Camp Eldrige Los Baños Laguna, tubong Agusan del Sur at kasalukuyang residente ng Brgy. Dagatan San Jose Batangas. Nagtamo ng mga tama ng bala sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ang biktima at bagama't naitakbo pa sa ospital ay deklara-

do na ring dead on arrival. Batay sa paunang imbestigasyon, sakay ng kanyang Kawasak ki Rouser (4208 UN) si Granada at pauwi na sana sa kanilang bahay nang tambangan ng nag-iisang suspek. Nakatakbong ito subalit sinundan ng suspek at pinagbabaril pa hanggang sa matuluyan. (Rossel Calderon)

75IB chief mourns fallen soldier

From the Philippine Information Agency (Feb 15): 75IB chief mourns fallen soldier

TANDAG CITY, Surigao del Sur – Commanding officer Lt. Col. Haron Akaz of 75th Infantry Battalion, 402nd Brigade, Phil. Army based in Bislig City expressed his grief over the untimely and unexpected passing of one his soldiers who was killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels around 11:30 p.m., Feb. 12 in Brgy. Sta. Fe, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur. An NPA rebel was also killed during the incident, it was learned.

"We are saddened that one of our brothers paid the ultimate sacrifice for protecting the locals of Tagbina town. Likewise, we are also saddened that another NPA was killed because of their futile struggle and wrong idealism," said Akaz.

Pursuit operations have continued against the 10 fully armed NPA guerillas who fled after a five-minute firefight at the compound of Sumitomo Fruits Corp. (SUMIFRO) Farm in brgy. Sta. Fe. The government troops recovered one improvised explosive device (IED) with blasting cap and detonating chord and one caliber .45 pistol from the NPA. Extortion letters and some subversive documents were also discovered from the killed rebel.

The latest encounter between the government troops and NPA bandits in the said town was the result of the reports from the concerned civilians who reported to the 75th IB that the NPAs threatened to burn the equipment of SUMIFRO if they do not give extortion money to them.

"We condemn the NPA for their extortion activities. They should put an end to these kind terrorist activities especially that their victims are innocent hardworking farmers and lumads," he said.

"It is very evident that this terrorist group (NPA) does not abide by the Comprehensive Agreement in Respect to Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHHL) for their continuous manufacture and use of IEDs," Akaz added.

Meanwhile, earlier on the same day another report received that the newly deployed troops under the 16th IB led by Lt. Col. Andres Ferrer while conducting security patrol at the vicinity of Mabahin-Matho Complex of Cortes town this province reportedly encountered an undetermined number of fully armed men. The said incident resulted to the recovery of an IED with one blasting cap while it is believed that several NPAs were wounded and killed after the government troops discovered several blood stains from the NPAs' position.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1741455500930/75ib-chief-mourns-fallen-soldier>

Army, partners initiate livelihood training in Northern Samar

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 15): Army, partners initiate livelihood training in Northern Samar

CATUBIG, Northern Samar -- A community-based skills training program initiated by the Philippine Army's 20th Infantry Battalion, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and local government unit of Las Navas, in this province is now benefitting 128 residents.

Various livelihood activities were launched following the training culmination last January 29 at the Las Navas Agro-Industrial School in Las Navas town.

These include livestock and poultry production, swine raising, vegetable planting, sewing, bread and pastry making, and motorcycle engine repair

Some 128 local beneficiaries from the towns of Catubig and Las Navas, Northern Samarsuccessfully completed the training requirements for National Certification Level II.

The beneficiaries received "Pangkabuhayan Starter Tool Kits" during their graduation as a jump-start to uplift their livelihood and economic condition.

They extended appreciation for the soldier's best initiatives on poverty alleviation.

"We cannot always wait for what the government can provide us, rather, we can better help others by teaching them how to fish. In this way, the attainment of success and resolution of social issues will be resolved," said 20th IB commander Lt. Col. Hilarion Palma.

The military has vowed to get closer to the hearts of people in Northern Samar as the bring all the government programs, which is "anchored on a people-centered, comprehensive and sustainable approach toward the attainment of their core purpose in serving the people and securing the land."

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=857185>

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6th ID soldiers give flowers, token and gifts to churchgoers on Heart's Day

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 15): 6th ID soldiers give flowers, token and gifts to churchgoers on Heart's Day

Soldiers who could not celebrate Valentine's Day with their loved ones back home have other way of celebration Sunday, officials said today.

On heart's day, men and women soldiers went out of their way, proceeded to the Cotabato Cathedral and offered flowers, bouquets, tokens and smiles to persons they do not know personally. Capt. Joan Petinglay, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said on orders of Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, 6th ID chief, for soldiers "to spread love in simple but meaningful way" while still performing their duties as peacekeepers. The soldiers, armed with red roses, tokens in a form of hearts, and sporting smiles greeted Churchgoers at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in downtown Cotabato City. "Give love and gets love in return," Petinglay said, explaining why the soldiers chose this kind of celebration. With the theme "Pusong Handog ng Kampilan para sa Mamamayan," soldiers in complete uniform braved the scorching sun to give flowers, balloons and candies to churchgoers as they emerged from the Catholic Church. The 6th ID, in a statement, said the activity simply aimed to spread the spirit of love to the community they are serving. Surprised to see soldiers in complete uniform milling around the Church entrance, Aling Solima Vergara was reluctant at first, thinking something was wrong. She was surprised when a male soldier approached and offered her flowers then kissed her hands. Residents and Churchgoers, initially expressed surprise to see men in uniform just outside the cathedral on Valentine's Day. "It was an act of giving importance and appreciation to the mothers, the wives and the daughters who inspired and nurtured love in our families," a soldier who asked not to be named, said.

About 200 men and women, children and elderly (including men) were given the simple gifts and flowers, including Monsignor Antonio Pueyo, the mass celebrator on Sunday.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=857068>

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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AFP asks politicians: Stay away from camps

LUCENA CITY—Military officials here have asked politicians and their supporters to respect their camps by avoiding campaign activities that may put the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a bind.

"We hope that they respect this by not putting the AFP in a position where we can be perceived as partisan," said Maj. Angelo Guzman, spokesperson of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom).

Candidates know the military's position during the election season, Guzman said. "And that is for the AFP to remain nonpartisan, protectors of our freedom, as sentinels for a free, honest and peaceful election."

Solcom headquarters at Camp Nakar in Barangay Gulang-Gulang here is also home to the Quezon provincial police.

Guzman also urged soldiers and Solcom's civilian employees to avoid wearing politically partisan shirts or vests, ballers, caps and other campaign trinkets in and out of military camps.

The duty of every AFP member "is to vote, guard the process, and secure the sanctity of the ballot," he said.

"We have a big role to achieve this and they (candidates), too, have a big role. So we encourage that we all respect and work together to attain this vision," he added.

Any candidate who enters their camp is treated as a visitor, said Brig. Gen. Erick Parayno, commander of the Army's 201st Infantry Brigade based in Calauag town. "The camp is open to all [people]. But they cannot conduct election campaign activities here," he said by telephone.

Parayno said candidates visiting the camp would often ask for information on the security situation in their respective areas. "But we cannot provide them with security [aides] or bodyguards. We are not allowed to do that," he said.

In an earlier interview, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, Solcom commander, said the military might provide security to candidates during the campaign period to prevent harassment from New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

"Inform us of your election campaign plan and tell us where you are going ahead of time so Solcom can arrange security in the area," Visaya said in a message to politicians.

NPA units operating in parts of Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions are major threats to the conduct of peaceful elections this year, he said. "But we're also not discounting the capability of the private armed groups [to create trouble]," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
Inquirer Southern Luzon*

16 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PDEA, police, military team up to destroy ₱28.2-M fields of marijuana

By **ZALDY C. COMANDA,**
FREDDIE G. LAZARO,
and **ERWIN G. BELEO**

CAMP BADO DANGWA, Benguet/CAMP DIEGO, La Union/LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) joined forces with the police and military to locate and destroy marijuana plantations in Benguet, La Union, and Kalinga provinces, resulting in the eradication of ₱28.2 million worth of marijuana plants in over four days.

The biggest marijuana eradication operation happened in Sitio Bekes, Barangay Takadang, Kibungan, Benguet since last Thursday when PDEA, along with the Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-Cor), raided the 2,850-square-meter plantation.

Chief Superintendent Ulysses Abellera, police regional director (RD), said the operatives uprooted 53,900 fully-grown marijuana plants and destroyed 110 kilos of dried marijuana stalks and three kilos of marijuana seeds valued at ₱25.105 million as estimated by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

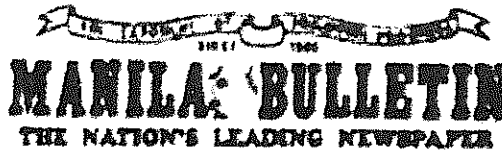
Meanwhile, operatives from the Santol Municipal Police Station (MPS) swooped down on a marijuana plantation in the boundary of La Union and Ilocos Sur and uprooted 8,800 fully-grown marijuana plants worth about ₱1.7million last Sunday.

The operation in Sitio Bat-ongan, Barangay Sapdaan, Santol, La Union, involved operatives from the PDEA and the Philippine Air Force (PAF), said Senior Supt. Angelieto Dumangeng, La Union Police Provincial Office (PPO) director.

"The concerted effort of La Union police and the support of the community is vital in the fight against all forms of criminality," Dumangeng said.

In Kalinga province, ₱1.4 million worth of fully-grown marijuana plants were uprooted in two plantations in Barangay Bugnay, Tinglayan town, last Friday.

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PNoy bats for internal and int'l peace

By GENALYN D. KABILING

RANCHO MIRAGE, California — A relentless commitment to the Bangsamoro peace process and a peaceful resolution to the territorial dispute in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) will be highlighted by President Aquino in his final appearance during a regional summit in the United States this week.

The Philippine leader shared his agenda ahead of his arrival to California on Monday (early Tuesday in Manila) for the two-day special summit of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Summit (ASEAN) and United States President Barack Obama.

The summit, hosted by Obama on February 15 and 16 in Sunnylands, in California, will tackle efforts to deepen the ASEAN-US political, economic and security cooperation under the recently approved Joint Strategic Partnership.

Aquino, in a speech before departing for California, said he would present concrete plans in forging ahead the peace initiative in Mindanao following the failure of Congress to pass the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

"This will be the last ASEAN summit I will attend as President of the Philippines. This will also be the final opportunity to share with our fellow ASEAN leaders our commitment to the peace process – our contribution

to efforts in addressing the issue of extremism and lack of stability," Aquino said in Filipino.

"While the Bangsamoro Basic Law might have not been passed by Congress, our position on BBL has not changed: This is the best path to peace and progress in Mindanao. In our summit talks, we will present concrete steps that will be implanted despite the non-passage of the BBL," he added.

In the same summit, the President plans to make a final pitch for the "rule of law" in resolving the maritime dispute in the South China Sea, citing that the United States and fellow ASEAN member nations have rallied behind such position.

Aquino recognized that the United

States has made huge contributions to maintaining peace, order and stability in the region particularly in the face of the issues in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

The special summit between Obama and the ASEAN leaders will be held amid renewed tension in the South China Sea as a result of China's controversial land reclamation. A US warship earlier sailed close to one of Beijing's man-made islands in the South China Sea, which China has strongly criticized.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia Jr. said the ASEAN-US summit seeks to expand cooperation in advancing peace, security and progress in the region.

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CAAP ready to help US military on EDCA

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said it is ready to assist American military officials in relation to the Enhanced Defense

Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Although the agency didn't specify what assistance it can provide American officials, the agency said it is tasked to assure the smooth implementation of EDCA.

Under the law, EDCA, forged in 2014, will mean bolstering ties between the United States

and the Philippines militarily.

The agreement allows the US to rotate troops in the Philippines for extended stays. It also allows the US to build and operate facilities on Philippine bases, for both American and Philippine forces.

The US is not allowed to establish any permanent military bases under this agreement. It also gives Philippine personnel access to American ships and planes.

The EDCA is a supplemental agreement to the previous Visiting Forces Agreement.

Many critics are against EDCA, saying it's like resurrecting the agreement in 1992 that rejected the stay of several US military bases in many provinces of the country.

Since then, all the six US military installations were turned over to the Philippines after almost a century of presence in the country.

A source at CAAP said there is still no directive for them to assist the US in relation to the agreement.

"That is government's call," the source said.

CAAP manages 84 airports all over the country.

However, only less than 10 of these airports are making enough revenues. CAAP deputy director general Rodante Joya said they don't have information yet on how they will assist the Americans.

The CAAP official also said they've not done any study which among the 83 airports they are supervising is capable to be used for military operations/missions in relation to EDCA. "We don't have information on that yet," the official told the *Daily Tribune* in a text message.

Joya issued this statement weeks after the Armed Forces of the Philippines announced that at least eight military bases in the country are capable to be utilized as possible bases. Joya is a retired Philippine Air Force pilot and underwent training in the US.

"We are prepared to provide sufficient assistance and support," he added.

Ed Velasco

6 February 2016



Pahina. 3

63 lang ang PMA graduates

BAGUIO CITY — Unabot lamang umano sa animnapu't tatlo ang nakatakda magtapos sa Philippine Military Academy (PMA)-Class of 2016 na posibleng ganapin sa Marso 13 ng taong kasalukuyan.

Ngunit ayon kay Lt. Col. Rey Balido, Information Officer ng PMA, ang naturang batch ang may pinakamaliit na bilang ng magtatapos at maaari

pa umanong mabawasan kung may mga lalabag sa batas ng akademya.

Aniya, ang dating bilang ng naturang batch ay 104 ngunit unti-unting nabawasan ang mga ito dahil sa ilang kadahilang tulad ng paglabag sa panuntunan ng akademya, academics, honor system at honor code.

Samantala, sinabi ni Balido na nakatakda namang ganapin sa Abril

1 ang reception rites para sa PMA Class of 2020, na inaasahang bubuuin ng 400 kadete.

Nakatakda namang ganapin ang Grand Alumni Homecoming sa Pebrero 20, na dadaluhan ng dalawang libong alumni at inaasahan na si Ambassador Marciano Paynor mula sa Class of 1971 ang guest of honor. (Richard Buenaventura)

6 February 2016



ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BAKSA P8.00

Page. 3

Philippine Navy, ipaglalaban ang kustodiya kay Marcelino

Pinanindigan ng Philippine Navy ang kahilingan na makuha ang kustodiya ni dating Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) director at Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino.

Ito ay sa kabila ng pagharang ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa kahilingan ni Marcelino na idetine siya sa detention facility ng Navy o sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), sa katwirang hindi siya magandang pamanisan ng iba pang nagkasalang opisyal ng gobyerno na sangkot sa mga kaso ng droga.

Sinabi ni Navy spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo na gagawin ng Navy ang lahat ng legal na paraan upang mailipat ang kustodiya kay Marcelino.

"Nabalitaan ko nga 'yung ganung comment nila, so we are going to look into it. Ang precedence naman, hindi naman 'yan ang ating basis. Ang atin ay legal basis, it may create a precedence but if it does, then kung 'yun naman ang legal, 'yun naman ang naayon sa batas, so be it. But we respect their position and they are entitled to that," pahayag ni Arevalo.

Nang tanungin kung mayroon nang nangyari dati na kinuha ng militar ang kustodiya ng mga inakusahang opisyal

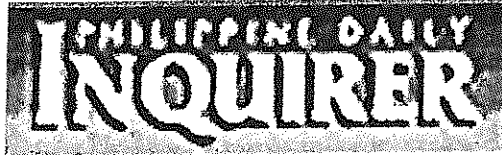
ng militar, sumagot ang tagapagsalita ng Navy na, "I think there are, wala lang akong ready information ngayon kung sino but I think there are. Hindi naman bagong batas 'yan. I'm sure in the past meron nang ganun kaya nga titingnan natin kung ano 'yung ating legal remedy to exhaust para diyan."

Naunang sinabi ng Navy na nakasandig ito sa mga probisyon ng Section 3c, Executive Order Nr. 106, series of 1937. Nakasaad dito na ang AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) personnel na inaresto ng pulisya o ng iba pang law enforcement agencies sa diumano'y paggawa ng krimen ay dapat na isuko sa pinakamalapit na awtoridad ng AFP.

Binigyang diin ni Arevalo na iginagalang nila ang posisyon ng PNP, at kung ang pagpapahintulot na mailipat si Marcelino sa ibang detention facility ay susundan ng iba pa, "I think it should be respected kung maging precedent man siya." Ito ang sagot ni Arevalo kasabay ng muling paggigiit na mayroong legal na batayan ang kanilang kahilingan.

Elena L. Aben

16 February 2016



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Fight for war vets, P-Noy urged

By Nimfa U. Rueda
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Filipino-Americans have urged President Aquino to take up the cause of Filipino veterans with US President Barack Obama, and assert Philippine claims to the South China Sea at a summit of US and Southeast Asian leaders here.

The President is attending the two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)-US summit that begins on Monday afternoon (Tuesday morning in Manila) at a resort oasis in California.

A handful of Mr. Aquino's supporters, mostly garbed in yellow and bearing heart-shaped balloons, held a welcome rally and a motorcade near Los Angeles International

Airport on Sunday afternoon.

Art Garcia, national coordinator of the Justice for Filipino American Veterans; Eric Lachica, executive director of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, and veteran Franco Arcebal called on the President to urge Obama to fulfill his promise to speed up the process of bringing family members of World War II Filipino veterans to the United States.

Responding to pressure from immigrant rights groups, the Obama administration announced a new policy in July last year to expedite this process. Filipino veterans, however, were still awaiting the promised guidance on the application process.

"It's been seven months but the guidance hasn't been released yet. That's one of our

problems. The veterans' widows have been calling me asking for updates. I hope this issue gets addressed while we're still alive," said the 92-year-old Arcebal.

At the same time, Arcebal urged Mr. Aquino to "be brave" in defending the Philippine claims to the West Philippine Sea.

"We want to boost the President's resolve to carry on the fight," he said. "Veterans like us are getting annoyed. What they're doing is invasion."

China, which claims 90 percent of the 1.35-million square mile South China Sea, last year undertook rapid reclamation around at least seven reefs in Spratly Islands in the sea, based on satellite images. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan partly claim the sea.

Bernie Ganon, assistant ex-

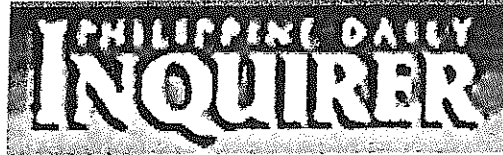
ecutive director of the nonprofit Filipino American Service Group Inc. (Fasgi), said her group was glad to welcome Mr. Aquino in Los Angeles.

"If there's forever, then that would be President Noynoy," Ganon said in her brief remarks at the rally on Century Boulevard, about half a kilometer from the international airport.

The welcoming party included the President's second cousin Andrea Aquino and a few members of her family who are based in Anaheim, California.

Several community leaders, including known supporters of presidential candidate Grace Poe and vice presidential candidate Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, were supposed to be part of the welcoming party, but many of them did not show up.

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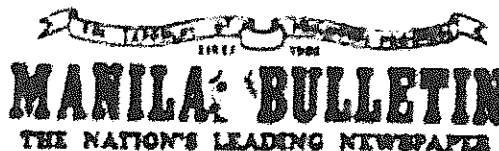
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OFF TO CALIFORNIA President Aquino, escorted by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hernando Iriberry, troops the line during send-off ceremonies at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 on Monday. The President will attend the Asean-US summit in California.

MALACANANG PHOTO

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BASKETBALL

AFP destroys NHA, gains UNTV finals

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) scored a vengeful 88-78 win over National Housing Authority (NHA) and advanced to the finals of the 4th UNTV Cup held last Friday at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

Getting enough time to prepare for the game after advancing outright to the semis for topping the two-phase elims – the AFP Cavaliers dominated the Builders from the get-go to secure a return trip to the finals.

The Cavaliers, who came into the game enjoying a twice-to-beat privilege, likewise avenged their 96-76

loss to the Builders in the elimination round of the event presented by UNTV through its CEO and president Daniel Razon.

Winners of the annual event two years ago, the Cavaliers will face either the Philippine National Police (PNP) or Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in the finals tentatively set on Feb. 28.

Led by former University of the East player Ollan Omiping, the PNP Responders defeated the MMDA Blackwolves, 77-72, at the start of their own semis series to force a rub-

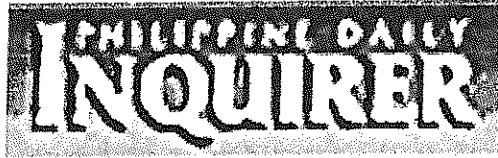
ber match on Sunday.

Omiping led the Responders with 19 points but it was Police Officer 1 Alejandro Yanquiling III who delivered the telling blows as he scattered 16 points – most of them at crunch time.

Technical Sergeant Rolando Pascual emerged as the best player for the Cavaliers as he willed his way inside the paint to finish with 23 points on 9-of-16 shooting from the field.

Corporal Eugene Tan also shone for the Cavaliers with 7 markers, 7 boards, 7 assists and 3 steals.

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Cavaliers secure first UNTV Cup finals slot

ARMED Forces of the Philippines scored avengeful 88-78 win over National Housing Authority to advance to the finals of the 4th UNTV Cup last Friday at Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

With enough time to prepare for the match after advancing outright to the semifinals, the AFP Cavaliers dominated the NHA Builders right from the opening buzzer to secure a return trip to the finals.

The top-seeded Cavaliers, who came into the game enjoying a twice-to-beat privilege, likewise avenged their 96-76 loss to the

Builders in the elimination round of the event presented by UNTV through its CEO and president Daniel Razon.

Winners of the annual event two years ago, the Cavaliers will face either the Philippine National Police or Metro Manila Development Authority in the finals tentatively set Feb. 28.

Led by former University of the East ace Ollan Omiping, the PNP Responders survived the MMDA Blackwolves, 77-72, at the start of their own semifinal series to force a rubber match this Sunday.

Omiping paced the Responders with 19 points but it was Police Officer 1 Alejandro Yanquiling III who delivered the telling blows as he scattered 16 points, most of them at crunch time.

Technical Sergeant Rolando Pascual emerged as the best player for the Cavaliers as he willed his way inside the paint to finish with 23 points on 9-of-16 shooting from the field.

Corporal Eugene Tan also shone for the Cavaliers with 7 points, 7 rebounds, 7 assists and 3 steals.

ONLINE NEWS

16 FEBRUARY 2016

2 extra battalions deployed in Sulu for offensive vs Abu Sayyafs

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated February 15, 2016 - 4:53pm

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines - An additional two battalions of soldiers have been deployed in Sulu to hunt and tire out the Abu Sayyaf group, according to a military area commander.

Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said an Army battalion was deployed and joined the Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 (MBLT) that replaced the MBLT 2 the other week.

He said aside from the two additional battalions augmenting the current military forces in Sulu, a company of marines under the test mission also joined the pursuit mission against the Abu Sayyaf group.

"We have intensified the operations. In fact, we deployed additional battalion in Sulu and the marines for test mission were also deployed," Dela Cruz said.

"Hindi namin titigilan ito as we follow the order of Armed Forces chief of staff (General Hernando Iriberry)," Dela Cruz said.

Iriberry during his recent visit in Zamboanga and Sulu urged the ground forces to produce results in its offensive against the Abu Sayyaf group until May and review its campaign plan to address the remaining concerns of the operations.

Dela Cruz clarified that the AFP chief has not imposed a deadline in its operation but issued guidelines to ensure that the intensified operations continue to flush out the Abu Sayyaf group.

"Kung may natira pa sa kanila (Abu Sayyaf), we will review kung saan kami nagkulang at kung ano pa ang puwede naming ma-improve to enhance our hunt against this group," Dela Cruz said.

In Philippines, reports of extremists pledging allegiance to IS spark fear

From Channel News Asia (Feb 15): **In Philippines, reports of extremists pledging allegiance to IS spark fear**

ZAMBOANGA: Against the backdrop of a spate of terrorist attacks in Europe and Asia, there are now fears that extremists in the southern Philippines have banded together to pledge their allegiance to the terror group Islamic State (IS).

The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and Abu Sayyaf were two of the biggest groups in the Philippines who recently announced they would join forces with IS.

"That period of the last quarter of 2013 and first quarter of 2014 - we have estimated that this was the period when several Philippine militant organisations like the Abu Sayyaf, the BIFF, the JIS embedded in Sulu and Zamboanga peninsula in central Mindanao started to prepare for the eventuality of taking their oath of allegiance," said Rodolfo Mendoza, a terrorism expert at the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research.

A video released in November had purportedly showed the merger of four Philippine militant groups holding an IS flag and pledging their allegiance to the militant group.

Zulkifli bin Abdu I Hir, also known as Marwan, was a notorious but elusive member of Asia-wide terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah. He was reportedly among the four militants who were actively recruiting Filipino Muslims for IS.

Just a year ago, Marwan was killed in a botched operation led by the Philippine police in Zamboanga. The operation also killed 44 Special Armed Forces soldiers.

Last year, there have also been several attacks by smaller rebel groups in the name of IS across Mindanao.

A former mayor of a town on the island of Basilan, western Mindanao, said there are reports of active recruitment in local mosques and schools. "They give guns, fee, and money. The fee is 30,000 to 50,000 (pesos) (US\$630 to US\$1,050) per person," said the mayor, who did not want to be named.

So far, the Philippine government and the military has denied any presence of IS.

However, security analysts have warned that these movements should not be ignored, especially given the history of the Philippines.

The Sulu archipelago in Western Mindanao, which is a strategic bridge linking the Philippines, and Malaysia, used to be a training ground for foreign terrorists, including those who went on to become part of the September 11 and Bali bombings.

Said Maria Ressa, CEO of Rappler: "ISIS is grafting onto the same extremist networks, which Jemaah Islamiyah had in the past. Jemaah Islamiyah actually used the Philippines not just as a theatre of operations but largely as a training ground and Indonesia, which has the world largest Muslim population became the theatre of operations. We're seeing the same thing being to take shape now."

According to Mr Mendoza, the main issue holding the extremist groups back from becoming official members and launching an IS caliphate in Southeast Asia is their disunity.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/in-philippines-reports-of/2514294.html>

AFP, PNP in Zamboanga bare plans for poll security

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated February 15, 2016 - 3:13pm

AMBOANGA CITY, Philippines - The police and military authorities in Zamboanga laid down their contingency plans to ensure a peaceful, orderly and honest May 9 elections.

Chief Superintendent Miguel Antonio, director of Police Regional Office 9 (PRO), said Monday that their contingencies have been submitted to the Commission on Election (Comelec) during the Joint Security Coordinating Council (JSCC) last Friday.

The measures have considered all the areas under the Zamboanga peninsula, Antonio said at the sidelines of their belated commemoration of the 25th PNP founding anniversary with Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz as guest speaker.

Antonio said among their contingencies is the possible tapping of the police personnel as possible special board of election inspectors (BEIs) in critical areas, availability of the service vehicles to transport elections paraphernalia and security.

Dela Cruz, for his part, said the military is ready once they are directed to assist the Comelec.

"We will do our best to provide them with the logistical support," Dela Cruz said assuring that military choppers and sea crafts have been made available especially to transport Comelec election materials and personnel in areas that are not accessible by land.

Meanwhile, Antonio said there is no area yet in Zamboanga peninsula under the area of concern.

But Antonio said they placed at least three areas, including Tungawan town in Zamboanga Sibugay, Sibuco and Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte as 'areas of interest.'

He said Tungawan was named under areas of interest due to the ambush incident that left Mayor Randy Climaco dead last October 12 and the succeeding slaying of his supporter and candidate last January.

The police director said security checkpoints have been intensified in Zamboanga peninsula to avert suspects from staging attacks against their targets.