

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



TEAM ARMY

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oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 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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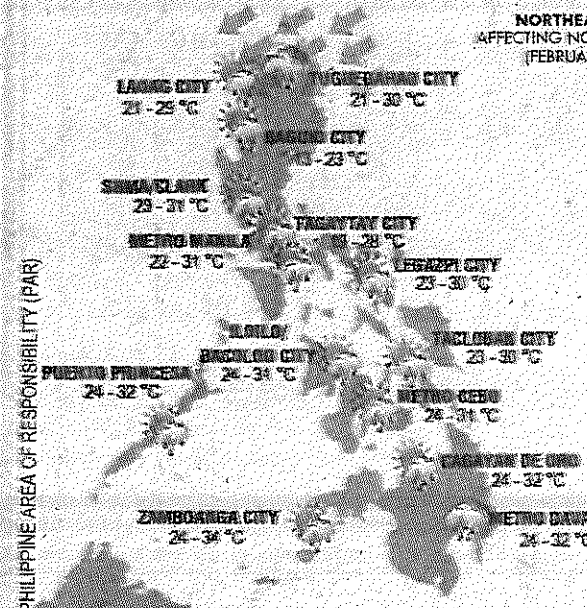
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 22, 2016 | MONDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



NORTHEAST MONSOON
AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
(FEBRUARY 21, 5:00 AM)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:17 AM	6:02 PM
MORNING	AFTERNOON
6:41 PM	5:40 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
FEB 15 3:45 PM	FEB 23 2:19 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
5:10 AM	5:15 PM
4:15 Meters	4:51 Meters

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rain

	FEB 22	FEB 23	FEB 24	FEB 25	FEB 26	FEB 27
METRO MANILA	22-31°C	23-32°C	20-29°C	19-29°C	24-31°C	24-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	22-30°C	22-31°C	24-30°C	24-31°C	24-32°C	25-33°C
LAOAG	21-30°C	21-30°C	24-32°C	24-33°C	25-33°C	25-32°C
BAGUIO	13-23°C	14-25°C	23-31°C	24-32°C	24-32°C	25-33°C
SMIT/CLARK	23-31°C	23-31°C	24-31°C	25-32°C		
TAGAYTAY						
LEGASPI						
PUEBLO PRINCESA						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
METRO DAVAO						
ILOILO/BACOLOD						
ZAMBOANGA						
METRO CEBU						

Watch PANAHON TV everyday at 6:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).



SAGOT KO, PADALA MOY

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Nuns keep alive story of Cory stay

By Ador Vincent S. Mayol
Inquirer Visayas

IN THE FACE of danger and uncertainty, a monastery in Cebu City provided shelter to a woman hunted by the Marcos dictatorship.

The episode behind the cloistered walls of the Carmelite Monastery in Barangay Mabolo lasted for just 14 hours. But it was enough for Cory Aquino to get past the night when she was reportedly the prime target of an assassination plot by the military.

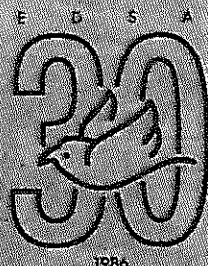
After three decades, the

Carmelite nuns recall with gratitude the time when they opened their doors to Cory and a few companions.

"We need to keep the memory alive. We need to keep on telling the story just like how the Hebrews relive the story of redemption. By paying attention to history, we learn lessons," said 87-year-old mother Mary Aimee Ataviado, who served as the mother superior of the Carmelite nuns when Cory spent a night in the monastery in 1986.

Except for their regular Mass and prayer schedules,

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the nuns have not prepared any special activity to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Cory's overnight stay at the monastery as well as the Edsa People Power Revolution.

But the twin events will always have an indelible mark in the history of the Carmelite order in Cebu.

Phone call

Ataviado can still clearly remember a phone call from Cory's close friend, Nancy Cuenco, around 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 22, 1986.

"It was my birthday. The nuns were washing the dishes after dinner when Nancy called me up and asked if she could bring Cory because she was in danger," she told the INQUIRER.

That day, Cory and her running mate, Salvador "Doy" Laurel, were in Cebu to launch a civil disobedience campaign against Ferdinand Marcos at Fuente Osmeña past 6 p.m. Also with them were Cory's youngest daughter, Kris, then 14, and her brother, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Cory's supporters requested her to spend the night in Cebu since it was dangerous to return to Manila.

At the time, Lt. Gen. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos had just withdrawn support from Marcos, and throngs of Filipinos began to gather in the streets of Manila, calling for the ouster of Marcos.

Diversion

While having dinner with opposition leaders, Cuenco called up Ataviado whom she requested to accommodate Cory and her companions. Ataviado agreed.

To divert the attention of military officers who were tasked

to monitor Cory, a convoy made its way to Mactan Cebu International Airport.

The military intelligence agents didn't have an idea that Cory was in a white Ford sedan driven by Cuenco's husband Antonio, who brought her to the Carmelite Monastery.

It took some time before Cory reached the monastery because the group still had to look for Kris. After a frantic search, they found out that Cory's teenage daughter was just shopping in Cebu with friends, Ataviado said.

Cory's group arrived at the Carmelite Monastery past 9 p.m.

Ataviado said the nuns let the car pass by a smaller gate, which was intended for the delivery of supplies. The Carmelites also turned the lights off so that no outsider would know about Cory's arrival.

Like 'Sound of Music'

Once inside the gate, Ataviado said Cory exclaimed "Oh, it's like the 'Sound of Music,' alluding to the Broadway musical.

And then, she asked us, "Is it safe here?" Out of the blue, I answered, "They have to kill us first before they reach you." Because of that, she felt safe, the mother superior said.

The Carmelite Monastery was supposed to be off limits to outsiders because contemplative nuns live there under papal enclosure.

Heads of state are exempted from such rule.

But at that time, it wasn't clear who between Cory and Marcos won in the Feb. 7, 1986, snap presidential election.

Marcos, who was President of the country for two decades, called for the snap election to prove that he still had the support of Filipinos. He was declared winner by the Commission on Elections, but his victo-



SISTERS' ACT Corazon Aquino, who challenged dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a "snap" presidential election in 1986, joined the Carmelite nuns for a group photo at their monastery in Barangay Mabolo in Cebu City where she sought refuge overnight when she was reportedly the prime target of an assassination plot by the military.

PHOTO FROM THE CARMELETE MONASTERY ALBUM

ry was marred by reports of fraud, violence and disenfranchisement of voters.

Based on its own quick count, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections had Cory winning in the snap election.

Nobody was supposed to enter the monastery but the nuns allowed Cory in because they believed she won in the election and so she was the rightful head of state at that point in time, Ataviado said.

"We let her in with a clear conscience that we didn't violate any Church rules. For us, she was the head of state. If we believed otherwise, we could have done something against our regulations," she added.

Cory and Kris were supposed to occupy the most comfortable room on the monastery's second floor. It has two big windows and a terrace, but Ataviado said Cory didn't feel safe staying in that room.

Cory instead chose a smaller

room where religious images and office supplies were kept.

Ataviado said the nuns cleared the room and placed two beds for Cory and Kris. "We did our best to arrange it," the mother superior said.

The nuns gave Peping Cuenco another room, while spouses Nancy and Antonio Cuenco occupied another room.

Past 11 p.m., Cory was seen praying the Holy Rosary in her room before she slept. The nuns, who stayed up all night, also prayed.

Loud banging

Around 2 a.m., while the guests were asleep, Ataviado said the Carmelites heard loud banging at the iron gate.

"We (nuns) were all very scared. I was trembling, thinking that the soldiers of Marcos had arrived," Ataviado said.

The nuns, she said, started to think of plans to hide Cory and Kris. They thought of letting the

two guests wear their habits and pretend to be nuns.

There was also a suggestion to hide Cory and Kris at the ceiling above the choir loft.

The nuns did not open the gates and instead hid in fear inside the monastery. After about 30 minutes, the noise outside stopped.

When morning arrived, they learned that the persons who banged the gates were Cory's supporters, Ramon Mitra Jr., John Osmeña and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who just wanted to join the group inside the monastery.

Cory woke up around 6 a.m. and attended Mass in the monastery.

Breakfast

After which, Cory, Kris and the other guests had breakfast. Most of the food served were leftovers from the mother superior's birthday dinner.

The menu included eggs cooked sunny-side up, sliced bread, *puto* (a Filipino rice cake shaped like an American muffin), *bibingka* (another type of rice cake that is traditionally cooked in clay pots lined with banana leaves), *sikwati* (hot native chocolate) and fresh papaya.

After breakfast, Cory received visitors who included US Consul Blaire Porter.

She was given the assurance that the United States would protect her in going back to Manila. The consul even offered a submarine so she could go back to Manila, Ataviado said.

Step down

While they were at the monastery, Cory's supporters requested her to prepare a speech she was to deliver when she arrived in Manila. The message she wrote urged other government leaders to defect from Marcos. She also asked Marcos to step down.

Despite the tension, the nuns noticed that Cory had kept her faith and entrusted everything to God.

"She was very prayerful, a woman of God," Ataviado said.

Cory left the monastery around 11 a.m. of Feb. 23, 1986, two days before Marcos relinquished his post and fled to Hawaii with his family in exile.

When Marcos left the country, Cory was sworn into office, becoming the first woman President of the Philippines.

Cory's visits

Shortly before her six-year term ended in 1992, she returned to the Carmelite Monastery to visit the place where she took refuge at a time when her life was at risk. It was followed by two other visits, the last of which was in 1996.

Ataviado entertained queries and showed the *INQUIRER* photographs of Cory's visits to the Carmelite Monastery. The elderly superior was accompanied by four other nuns, who were present during the 1986 visit. They were Sisters Marietta Paul Maluenda, Melanie Costillos and Maria Luz Tapales.

As the country marks the 30th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, the mother superior encouraged every Filipino not to waste the efforts of those who worked hard for freedom and democracy.

"[If we look at our history], God is really taking care of us. Let us continue to learn from the events of life and do our best to do God's will because the progress of the nation and the salvation of our souls depend on it," she said.

"We can say that God really has a mission for the Philippines. There is no end to problems, but we have to keep on working [for the good of our country]," she added.

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CROSS SWORDS Five rivals

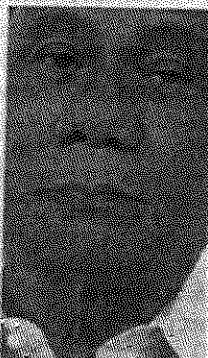
Jejomar Binay



I DON'T recall saying that most of our property were inherited. Some of them we bought, and we were financially capable to do so. It's not true that I have many pieces of property. I either bought or inherited them. And I

inherited them not only from my mother, but also from my father.

Rodrigo Duterte



CRIMINALS, well I go after them as long as I do it in accordance with the law. Any President can order the killing as long as it's in the performance of duty and in accordance with law. I will use the military and police

to go after criminality and drugs plaguing the country

Grace Poe



YES, I'm the least experienced among the candidates... But while I have the least experience, I have the perspective of a mother who sees the needs of her family... There's no proof that the longer your stint in government is, the

more qualified you are.

Mar Roxas



tourist, and then left.

"YOLANDA" was the most powerful typhoon in history. I was there before, during and after the typhoon. I didn't leave until the situation stabilized. I'm not like others who flew by chopper, had their pictures taken, acted like a

Miriam Defensor-Santiago



something, you're disqualified.

DON'T YOU know that an illness could go worse or not, or be completely healed? That's my right [to run]. Under our Constitution, there's no constitutional provision that if you get sick of

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Questions focused on candidates' vulnerabilities

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Marlon Ramos and Kristine Angeli Sabillo, *Inquirer.net*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—They came to pitch their message and slug it out with each other—they did well there—but their answers to questions about their vulnerabilities would be remembered most after the debate.

Sunday night's opening presidential debate at Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City was the first national debate organized by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in 24 years, in cooperation with GMA 7 and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, to shift attention to policy talk in a country where many have been fascinated by personalities and show biz-like campaigns.

To be sure, Vice President Jejomar Binay, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Sen. Grace Poe and former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas were ready for the criticisms, though some of them grappled with the knocks on their candidacies.

Binay faced the question about how he amassed wealth while in public office, squarely saying some of his wealth were passed on to him by his parents.

Santiago snapped back at debate host Jessica Soho when she read the question about her health.

"That's my right," Santiago replied, explaining that illnesses fluctuate and that it is her right to choose to run for President.

Asked about her absences in the Senate, Santiago shot back that she was suffering from stage 4 cancer.

"I waited to die, but my guardian angel did not let me die," she said.

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5 presidential candidates cross swords

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Instead of arguing with Santiago, Duterte came to her support.

"I will not go into a debate with Ma'am Miriam. I do not see Senator Santiago passing away in the next 20 years so there is no problem," he said.

An amused Santiago replied: "I do not want to spend the next six years lying in bed feeling sorry for myself ... I felt sorry for my country. Because graft and corruption is endemic. Nobody did much except Mayor Rody Duterte."

Duterte beamed and raised his right hand as the audience applauded him and Santiago.

Asked about his foul mouth, reputation as a womanizer and human rights record, Duterte said he would continue to kill criminals.

He denied allegations of extrajudicial killings, but said that if elected President, he would use the law to go after illegal drugs and criminals.

"We will order the killing of all criminals," he said.

Not OJT

Asked about the thinness of her resumé, Poe, a freshman senator, replied, "There is no proof that you will do better because you have been in office longer."

Roxas said the presidency was not "OJT," or on-the-job-training.

Roxas, who had wooed Poe to become his running mate, said there was a "right time for everything, especially since a President is responsible for the lives of 100 million Filipinos."

Roxas, who vowed to continue President Aquino's reform program, defended his work at the Department of Transportation and Communication and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

He also defended himself against criticism about his absence during Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan), insisting he was there before, during and after the world's worst storm.

Poe said that while Roxas had experience with three administrations, she herself had investigated numerous irregularities involving her rival's former agencies.

"I don't need extensive experience to understand our transportation problems," she said.

Sharing suffering

Binay opened the debate by declaring that poverty was the main problem of the country, that he shared the suffering of the poor because he used to be one of them, and that he was successful in reducing poverty in Makati City when he took over as mayor 30 years ago.

Binay said his and his family's reputations were tarnished by his political enemies.

Santiago also zeroed in on

poverty as the biggest problem of the country, blaming it on "people who want the money of the government."

Duterte started by coming out in the open about his admiration for Santiago, describing her as "one of only two persons qualified to run this country."

He cited criminality and corruption as the main issues in these elections. "If I am President, I will get rid of criminality, drugs and corruption in three to six months," he said.

Poe went micro in her opening spiel as she cited the importance of Mindanao in the production of pineapple, banana, coconut and corn for both the domestic and export markets.

She promised to allocate a third of the national budget to Mindanao if elected President.

It was Roxas, however, who threw the first punch right out of the starting gate.

Track record

"I have simple question with a simple answer. Who will you choose as your daily driver to entrust your child: Is it someone with a case of corruption, a hot-head who is prone to accidents, or someone who is just learning to drive? Or will you choose someone you have known for a long time, someone who has never taken advantage of you, and someone who comes with a good recommendation from a former employer," Roxas said in a bid to

set an antagonistic tone to the face-off.

The five candidates were confronted head on with the burning issues against them.

Binay was asked about his assets, liabilities and net worth, specifically how much of his properties were obtained through inheritance or through their income and whether these were obtained before or after he became mayor.

"[Three decades] is a long time. Some assets I inherited [from both my father and mother] before I got my position in 1986. Some I bought. It doesn't mean that if you're in government, you don't have the means to buy. I practiced law and my wife practiced medicine. And it's not true that we have a lot of land," Binay said.

Political dynasty

Santiago, who was surprisingly tame for the good part of the debate, nearly went ballistic when Binay turned the tables on her when the question about political dynasties came up.

"Miriam has a son who was also elected," Binay said in his rebuttal to the question thrown at him about members of his family holding public offices.

Santiago immediately turned to Binay and looked daggers at him.

Asked by debate host and GMA 7 Mike Enriquez if she wanted to respond, Santiago said: "What he said was wrong.

My son ran for a party-list but did not run for another post after one term."

Binay, whose wife and three children were elected to different offices, defended his position on the issue, saying while the Constitution barred it, no law had passed defining political dynasty.

He said it was wrong to prevent qualified people to run for public office just because they have relatives in the government.

But Santiago, a former judge who was also elected to the International Criminal Court, said the constitutional provision on political dynasty was enough.

"It's a basic principle of constitutional law that anything written in the Constitution ... should be literally applied if possible," she said. "The Constitution is always and always supreme."

On peace in Mindanao, Poe said she would push for a transparent, inclusive and sustainable discussions in forming a new agreement.

"We should follow this up with projects in Mindanao to sustain its development," she said, adding that powers should be devolved to give Moro leaders more autonomy.

Closing remarks

Duterte said he would push for federalism as an alternative, especially for the people in the western side of Mindanao led

by Moro National Liberation Front founder Nur Misuari.

Binay's closing remarks hammered on the Aquino administration's underspending and its adverse impact on infrastructure and social services without answering directly the main question: Why should he be elected President.

Santiago said the voters themselves had the responsibility to choose the next leader based on three criteria: He or she should have academic excellence, professional excellence and moral excellence or no record of corruption.

Duterte said he was running for President because he was tired of complaints about rising corruption, criminality and illegal drugs, all of which he promised to wipe out in three to six months.

Poe pressed her spiel about giving Mindanao a bigger share of the budget and said her first act as President was to push for the enactment of the freedom of information bill.

She sought to ease worries about her lack of experience, saying there were more experienced leaders who continued to employ worn-out solutions to the country's persistent problems.

Roxas ended the debate with a swipe at his rivals. "Why do I want to be President? Because I want your life to be like mine, free from hunger, free from poverty, and free to dream," he said. *With a report from AP*

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Beijing out to expand military reach

HONG KONG/BELJING—From listening posts to jet fighter deployments and now surface-to-air missiles, China's expanding facilities in the Paracel Islands are a signal of long-term plans to strengthen its military reach across the disputed South China Sea.

Diplomats and security experts in contact with Chinese military strategists say Beijing's moves to arm and expand its long-established holdings in the Paracels will likely be replicated on its man-made islands in the more contentious Spratly archipelago, some 500 kilometers further south.

Eventually, both disputed island groups are expected to be used for jet fighter operations and constant surveillance, including antisubmarine

BEIJING / A20

**Australian leaders call for halt
to Chinese expansion / A20**

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patrols, while also housing significant civilian populations in a bid to buttress China's sovereign claims.

Crucially, that would give Beijing the reach to try to enforce any effective air defense zone in the South China Sea, similar to the zone it created over the East China Sea in late 2013.

US officials confirmed on Thursday the "very recent" placement of surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island, the site of the largest Chinese presence in the Paracels, criticizing the move as contrary to China's commitments not to militarize its claims in the South China Sea.

Beijing says it is entitled to "limited defensive facilities" on its territory, and dismissed reports about the missile placement as media "hype."

Spratlys expansion

Ian Storey, a South China Sea expert at Singapore's ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, said he believed similar weapons could be deployed to China's holdings in the Spratlys within a year or two.

"This would enable China to back up its warnings with real capabilities," he said.

Bonnie Glaser, a military analyst at the Center for Security and International Studies in Washington, said the Paracels buildup was a likely precursor to similar military deployments on China's recent reclamations in the Spratlys.

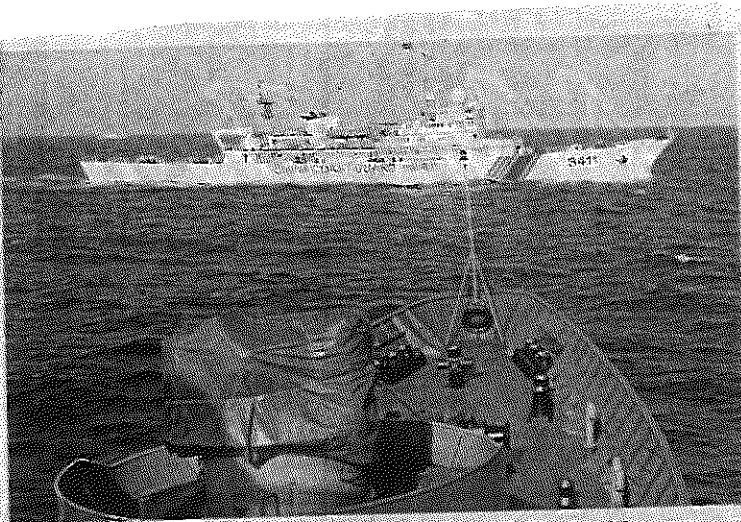
While Chinese officials might use ongoing US operations in the South China Sea as justification, "there is a plan that has been in place for quite some time," Glaser said.

The HQ-9 missile batteries, guided by radar tracking systems, have a range of 200 kilometers and are the most significant defensive weapon China has yet placed in the Paracels, according to regional military attachés.

Steady expansion

The move could complicate surveillance patrols carried out routinely by US and Japanese aircraft as well as flights by US B-52 long-range bombers, operations China objected to last November.

It could also challenge operations by Vietnam's expanding fleet of Russian-built SU-30 jet fighters.



CHINESE PRESENCE A Chinese Coast Guard ship (top) is seen near a Vietnam Marine Guard ship in the South China Sea, 210 kilometers off shore of Vietnam in this May 14, 2014, file photo. REUTERS

China's expansion in the Paracels, which it has occupied since forcing the navy of the then South Vietnam off the islands in 1974, predates its moves to begin large-scale reclamations on seven reefs in the Spratlys three years ago.

It landed fully armed jet fighters on an expanded airstrip on Woody Island in November last year, and reinforced hangars have been completed,

said regional diplomats.

Coast Guard and fishing facilities have also been expanded, along with fuel storage tanks and housing for more than 1,000 civilians in what was declared "Sansha City" in 2012, say Chinese analysts.

Radar coverage and other electronic surveillance equipment have also been improved, and analysts expect the Paracels to play a key part in protecting

China's nuclear armed submarine fleet on Hainan Island, 200 km to the north.

Speaking privately, Vietnamese officials say it is now far more difficult for their fishing fleets and Coast Guard to get close to the Paracels as they try to assert their own sovereign claims.

A similar buildup in the Spratlys would give China its first permanent military presence deep in the maritime heart of Southeast Asia, military attachés say.

China claims most of the South China Sea and while Vietnam and Taiwan also claim both archipelagos in their entirety, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei also claim part of the Spratlys.

The waterway carries some \$5 trillion in seaborne trade each year.

Higher stakes in Spratlys

Chinese officials have repeatedly stressed the civilian nature of the Spratlys expansion, including lighthouses, search and rescue bases and environment research stations.

Three runways have recently been completed, and China last month announced the first suc-

cessful test landings of civilian airliners on the new 3,000-meter airstrip on Kagitingan (Fiery Cross) Reef.

Chinese analysts say the first military flights from the Spratlys could start within months.

Wu Shicun, the head of China's National Institute for South China Sea Studies, said lessons learned from the Paracels expansion could be transferred to the Spratlys, particularly to manage water supplies and waste.

"There is no real dispute in the Paracels ... so the development in the Paracels has been much faster and governance has also been more complete," he said.

Yanmei Xie, a Beijing-based security analyst with the International Crisis Group think tank, said China would seek to exploit dual-use facilities, such as radars and runways, in the Spratlys but would be cautious about openly deploying military assets.

"The Spratly Islands are more complicated because they involve every claimant," she said. "It can be more costly to China diplomatically and geopolitically." Reuters

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Australian leaders call for halt to Chinese expansion

By Tarra Quismundo

AUSTRALIA is working closely with the Philippines and other claimants in the South China Sea to reduce tensions and achieve a peaceful resolution of the disputes in the region, Canberra's top diplomat in Manila said on Saturday.

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Amanda Gorely spoke after Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop separately called for a halt to further Chinese expansion in the South China Sea following discovery that China had placed surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island in the Paracel archipelago.

"We, of course, work very closely with all countries in the region, including the Philip-

pines. And you know, we believe that the best way of resolving this situation is for countries to talk to each other and come up with a negotiated outcome to the issue," Gorely told reporters.

"South China Sea is a very important area for Australia. Most of our trade passes through those sea-lanes. The security of the Asia-Pacific region is absolutely essential to our own security," Gorely said.

Turnbull and Bishop condemned China's deployment of surface-to-air missiles on the Woody Island, which it controls but is also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

Call for restraint

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key joined Turnbull in calling for restraint, saying after meeting his Australian counterpart in Syd-

ney on Friday that his country could leverage its deepening economic relationship with China to push for a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes.

The Philippines also criticized the deployment on Friday, saying the latest Chinese action further stoked tensions in the region and brought to question China's commitment to earlier claimant pacts against militarization in the waterway.

China claims almost all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea, but Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan also claim parts or all of the waterway through which \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year and where islets, reefs and atolls are believed to be sitting atop vast energy reserves.

Gorely said Australia had long been promoting sober negotiations to settle the disputes.

"Those comments, in many ways, are nothing new. We've been saying for a long time that we support a peaceful resolution of disputes arising in the South China Sea. We support freedom of navigation. Our ships and airplanes have always operated through that region and will continue to do so," said Gorely, who assumed the Manila post last month.

Gorely spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the launch of Celebrate Australia 2016, a mall roadshow that is part of the embassy's celebration of 70 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and the Philippines.

Gorely led the launch of a touring exhibition featuring Australian tourism, food and retail products

at SM Aura at Bonifacio Global City on Saturday afternoon.

In remarks during the program, Gorely noted longstanding ties between the Philippines and Australia, including the participation of 4,000 Australian soldiers who fought alongside Filipinos and other allied forces in World War II.

'Yolanda' response

Gorely also cited Australia's contribution to the global response to the devastation caused by Super typhoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan) in Eastern Visayas in 2013, the worst humanitarian emergency suffered by the Philippines.

Gorely is traveling to Tacloban City this week to visit projects funded by the Australian government as part of

the rebuilding process.

"One of the things I'll be doing while I'm there is inaugurating a new day care center that has been funded by the Australian government as part of our aid program," she said.

"That's going to be exciting for me to see, and I will be going to see some of the houses we have helped to rebuild and also meeting the local mayor and governor and the people of Tacloban who have been so resilient throughout this process," she said.

Australia is an important trading partner for the Philippines, with two-way trade pegged at A\$4.1 billion in 2014, or P139.76 billion.

Australia is also a highly preferred destination for Filipino immigrants, now numbering 250,000.

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The Manila Times

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STRATFOR ANALYSIS

A modern command system for the Chinese military

CHINA'S NEW THEATER COMMANDS



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■ The redrawing of China's military theater command districts will incorporate the restructuring of the military's command systems, for the first time putting army, navy and air forces under a unified combined command. (GETTY IMAGES)

CHINA may have more or less finished the broader steps to restructuring its military. On Feb. 1, Chinese President Xi Jinping presided over the inauguration of five new theater commands, replacing China's seven former military regions. While not the first time China has cut down the number of its military regions and redrawn their borders, this particular reform is the first instance in which the function and role of the military regions have been drastically altered by unifying the chains of command of China's military forces. These changes are intended to reinforce the ability of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to conduct effective joint military operations. China needed to make such changes if it wanted to compete with the world's most advanced militaries.

The old regions were controlled entirely by ground forces, which in peacetime focused more on administration and preparation than command of actual military operations. The regions could be upgraded into "war zones" in times of military emergency, during which these zones would bring the region's naval

and air forces under the command of the military region commander — always an army general. The process presumably disrupted chains of command for naval and air forces, which were independent in peacetime but had to subordinate their operations to the demands of ground forces in war.

The new command scheme will be a huge step forward in improving the cross-service cooperation of PLA operations. Like the unified combatant commands of the US military, the new Chinese commands appear to have integrated military staffs composed of members from all branches of military service. In addition, announcements from the Chinese Defense Ministry imply that air force and naval operational forces will also be subordinated to the new theater commands, similar to the US structure in which regional land, air and naval component commands report to overarching combatant commands. The new PLA structure will have joint commands even during peacetime, minimizing the disruption that might have occurred under the old model.

After establishing its new theater commands, China's military will begin

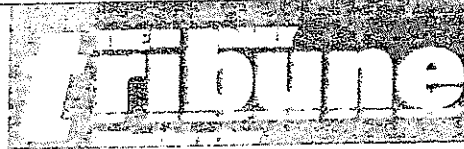
perfecting their function. It will test not only whether it can effectively integrate the operations of all forces but also how well they interface with the new Central Military Commission staff and the service headquarters responsible for equipping and training those forces.

Still, several key pieces of information are not yet fully known. China has not officially published how it is dividing the commands, though there have been various unofficial source reports hinting at the rough breakdown. It is also unclear whether the new theater command system will lead to serious changes to how the Chinese military projects power. The degree of control that the theater commanders will have over their units is not known either.

Still, these reforms have the potential to improve the PLA and make it a force capable of meeting the challenges of modern warfare. There will be obstacles: Even the United States' military reorganizations have historically been long and difficult processes. But China knows it needs to adapt to be prepared for future conflicts.

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POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

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Page 1

US will continue to test China over disputed islands - Obama

MOSCOW - Washington has declared that it will push Beijing on the issue of disputed islands, promising to "test" China while accusing the emerging Asian superpower of abusing its "might."

President Barack Obama, in an interview with Channel News Asia, said his administration will "continue to test" Beijing's pledge to not militarize the disputed South China Sea.

He accused China of abusing its power in the region by placing missiles on islands in the disputed Parcel archipelago.

"We think China is resorting to the old style of might makes right, as opposed to working through international law and international norms to establish claims, and to resolve disputes," Obama said. **Turn to page 2**

US will continue to test China over disputed islands - Obama

From page 1

The US President made the comments following a summit of Southeast Asian nations and after reports that included satellite imagery purporting to show missile systems being set up on the islands.

China and other nations - including Vietnam and Taiwan - all claim islands in the region but China has argued that the chain belongs exclusively to them.

The Philippine government has earlier said China's action was considered a "clear violation" of the Declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China or DoC and other relevant Asean-China Declarations and Statements.

The DoC is a nonbinding political accord signed in 2002 by China and Asean members Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

It discourages aggressive actions and bars construction of new structures in the contested region that could spark armed conflicts.

But many regard the 2002 accord as lacking in teeth and a dispute-settlement scheme to effectively deal with the territorial disputes, sparking calls for a more effective and legally-binding Code of Conduct.

China, Manila said, "put into question the good faith of China" to work with Asean for the early conclusion of a code of conduct, and "to cooperate in the efforts of all parties to find ways forward for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with UNCLOS."

Manila has a pending case against China before the The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration. A final decision, Philippine diplomats said, may be handed down in May.

The Chinese Defense Ministry, meanwhile, called reports about the missile deployment "hype by certain Western media outlets," adding it has controlled the Paracels since the end of the Vietnam War. **PNA/Sputnik**

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Army retakes BIFF-controlled village

MAGUINDANAO: The Philippine Army seized a village in Datu Salibo town controlled by the radical Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) where dozens of improvised bombs were found and disarmed.

Clearing operations were underway on Sunday with bomb experts checking other booby traps planted by the brigand group, military officials said.

Since skirmishes began in February 5, the military had sent 200 ground troops and utilized 10 armored personnel carriers and two MG-attack helicopters to drive away forces of the BIFF who were occupying the village.

"Troops are in the area [Barangay Tee] clearing a lot of IEDs [improvised explosive devices]," Col. Felicisimo Budiongan, commander of Maguindanao-based 1st Mechanized Brigade told The Manila Times.

The military official could not say when the village would be declared secured even as majority of the BIFF forces have withdrawn.

"There are still some BIFF elements delaying the troops' movement while [its] main body is retreating," Budiongan said.

At least one soldier was killed and seven others injured during the past three days of clearing operations. There was no clear data on the number of casualties from the BIFF side.

Army personnel were first attacked by the BIFF in February 5 while they were disarming a reported bomb planted under a

bridge in Datu Salibo. The rebels also damaged heavy equipment being used for flood control projects in the Liguashan Marsh river.

Abu Misri Mama, BIFF spokesperson, said the attacks were carried out to express their opposition to projects being implemented in their territory. Mama also claimed that dozens of soldiers were killed and that they had destroyed three tanks, which the military, however, refuted.

The BIFF, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) also denied involvement in a recent bombing that killed and wounded several people in Datu Salibo town.

The military found and successfully detonated two more bombs in Guindulungan and Datu Odin Sinsuat, both in Maguindanao, the same day on Tuesday when another blast hit Cotabato City.

The bombings happened exactly the same day when IS released online a video purporting its existence in the Philippines.

Authorities also reported that 100 new BIFF recruits are preparing for a "test mission" after having trained in bomb making with bomb expert Salahudin Hassan.

Hassan is a known member of the Al Khobar extortionist group and the Khilafah Islamiyah Movement or Black Flag Movement, a group blamed for the 2013 bombing in Cagayan De Oro City and the toppling of grid towers in North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

MOH SAADUDDIN

22 February 2016



Page. 2

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA ₱8.00

Landmine attack vs. Army troopers, naudlot

Napigilan ng mga tauhan ng Philippine Army ang planong pagtatanim ng landmine ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos masamsam ng mga sundalo ang materyales na gamit sa pagkukumpuni ng landmine sa Cabanglasan, Bukidnon.

Sinabi ni Capt. Norman M. Tagros, commanding officer ng 8th Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion, na nasamsam ang mga explosive material matapos ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng mga tauhan ng 8th Infantry Battalion, na pinamumunuan ni Lt. Col. Lennon G. Babilonia, at mga rebelde sa Barangay Iba, Cabanglasan, nitong Biyernes.

"Our field troops preemptive the attack of the NPA targets after our field troops seized bomb materials detonating wires and radio communication," ayon sa ulat ni Tagros.

Aniya, ang mga rebelde ay kabilang sa SDG Dario ng Section Committee 89 ng Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCRMC), na pinamumunuan ni Noel Gabute, alyas "Commander Cesar".

Nagsimula ang bakbakan dakong 1:30 ng hapon nitong Biyernes.

Rumesponde ang mga tauhan ng Philippine Army sa lugar makaraang iulat ng mga residente na nagtatarum ng mga improvised explosive device ang mga rebelde sa isang kalsada sa lugar, na kasalukuyang sinesemento.

Ignit din ng mga sundalo na mayroong napatay sa hanay ng mga rebelde subalit binitbit ng mga kasamahan ang mga bangkay sa pagtakas.

Mike U. Crismundo

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UNITY WALK FOR SAFE 2016 – A day after signing a peace covenant, the Lucena City Police Station under Supt. Joel de Mesa (2nd from left), in cooperation with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) headed by city election officer Atty. Ana Mei Barbacena (3rd from right), hosted a "Unity Walk" for Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) 2016 on Saturday. Leading a thousand of participants from different government agencies, private and religious sectors, along with the two are, from left, 201st Infantry Brigade deputy commander Col. Georgie Domingo, Quezon police director Senior Supt. Eugenio Paguirigan, 201st Infantry Brigade commander B/Gen. Rhoderick Parayno and deputy police provincial director Supt. June Urriquia. The activity ended at the grounds of SM City Lucena where symbolic dove and balloon flying for peace and unity was held.

Photo by GEMI FORMARAN

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Extortion eyed in NPA attacks

Recent attacks by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas were reportedly meant to step up the communist movement's extortion activities against politicians and businessmen, a military official said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, issued the statement in the wake of recent ambushes in Bukidnon, Cagayan and

Negros, which killed eight police officers and left several others wounded.

"Our initial assessment showed the rebels are targeting the security escorts of politicians, particularly police officers, to intensify their extortion activities," Padilla said.

On Tuesday, six members of the Cagayan Valley-Regional Public Safety Battalion were killed and nine others were injured when a group of

insurgents ambushed them in Baggao, Cagayan.

In Negros Oriental, two of four officers responding to a stabbing were killed when the rebels waylaid them in Candoni.

In Bukidnon, Army and police forces foiled attempts by the NPA to sabotage a government road project in Cabangsalan.

Padilla said the attacks could be election-related, noting the campaign period for

local politicians is nearing.

He said the NPA rebels wanted to show that they are still very much around, and politicians and businessmen should pay them revolutionary taxes.

Padilla urged politicians to coordinate with the military and police when conducting campaign sorties in remote areas.

He urged them not to pay revolutionary tax.

– Non Alquitran

22 February 2016



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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Cop, gangmen slain in shootouts

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna – A police officer and two alleged leaders of a criminal group were killed in separate shootouts in Sta. Rosa and Calamba in this province over the weekend.

Casa Ampuan and a certain Omar, reportedly both leaders of the Ampuan drug group, were killed after exchanging shots with lawmen in Barangay Pook, Sta. Rosa on Friday afternoon.

Ampuan's brother Fahad and a certain Antonio Belicano were arrested after the firefight, according to Laguna police director Senior Superintendent Ronnie Montejo.

Police seized from the suspects two rifles, two grenades and six plastic sachets said to contain shabu.

In the same day, Police Officer 3 Arnold Zaguirre, 40, of the Sta. Rosa police station, was shot and killed by two motorcycle-riding men in Barangay Real, Calamba.

Zaguirre and his companion, Eric Luciano, were having snacks when the assailants shot at them.

Luciano was taken to the Calamba Medical Center for treatment.

– Ed Amoroso

Free legal aid sought for cops, soldiers

A measure seeking to provide free legal assistance to soldiers, police officers and other law enforcers facing charges in

connection with their jobs has been filed before the House of Representatives.

The House committee on justice has endorsed the measure for plenary consideration, according to the bill's author, Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentebella.

Law enforcers should not be left on their own to defend themselves against complaints arising from the performance of their duties, Fuentebella said, adding many of these state workers do not have the means to hire lawyers.

"The government should provide them with free legal assistance through the Public Attorneys Office," he said.

Fuentebella is hoping the House and the Senate would have to time to pass his bill.

"The passage of the measure will demonstrate the government's commitment to protect the rights and welfare of the men and women in the active service," he said.

The lawmaker proposed the allocation of P200 million in the annual budget for the free legal aid.

– Jess Diaz

Soldier killed, 5 hurt in BIFF attack

A soldier was killed while five others were wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) believed planted by the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) went off in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao on Saturday.

It was the second attack launched by BIFF bandits in four days.

Last Tuesday, five persons – including the municipal treasurer and his five-year-old daughter – were killed in another roadside bombing.

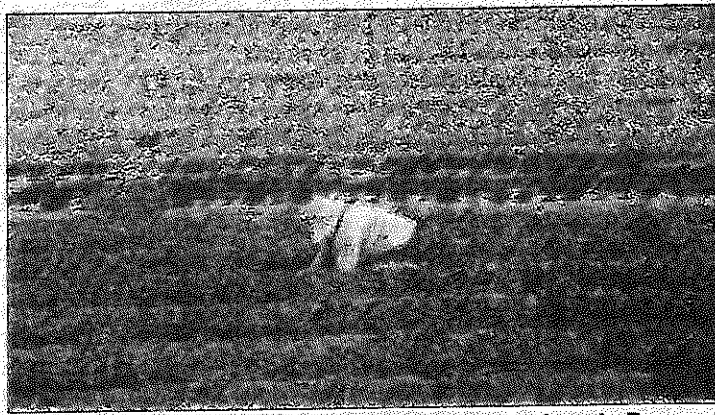
Reports said the soldiers were scouring the roadside for booby traps when the explosion occurred.

Villagers confirmed the BIFF had planted IEDs in several areas of the town following last week's encounters with government security forces that killed 16 bandits.

The slain soldier and his companions belonged to the Army's 7th Infantry Battalion, which was deployed on Thursday in Datu Salibo to help bomb experts clear villages of IEDs.

Soldiers have recovered a dozen IEDs since the clearing operations started.

Authorities withheld the names of the slain and wounded soldiers until after their families are notified. – John Unson



A farmer harvests lettuce and strawberries at a farm in Benguet on Friday.

ANDY ZAPATA JR.

27 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Lumads join DENR's forest protection, secures school for kids in Agusan del Sur

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

SIBAGAT, Agusan del Sur — Who would have thought that by planting trees, children of the lumad tribe will be given the chance to learn basic education?

Being located in a far flung community with the nearest school located some 80 kilometers away via a challenging trail, not to mention the lack of money to spend, families are unable to send their children to school, leaving them illiterate.

But through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR's) national greening program, lumad people are seeing a better future.

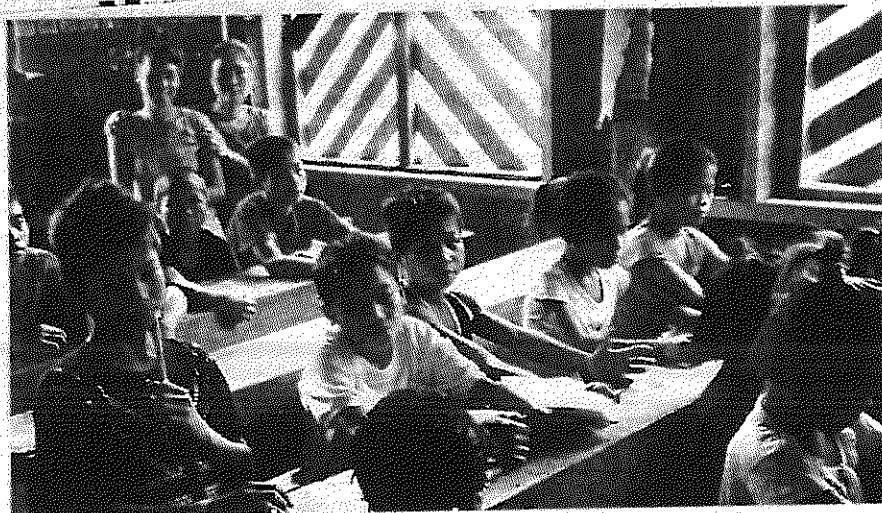
Forest poachers turn protectors

This lumad (Manobo) tribe organization which has 612 families or 7,000 individuals made a complete transformation after the government approved their community-based forest management agreement (CBFMA) and their certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADT) for them to cultivate their own ancestral lands was issued.

Datu Subang said "I joined the National Greening Program (NGP) of the DENR and formed the Tribal Returnees Community Development Association, Inc. (TRCDAI). Our decision of joining the NGP paved the way to a lot of opportunities for our organization."

TRCDAI has 612 members, 69 of which are NGP beneficiaries.

He related that peoples organizations were approved of their CBFMA covering an area of 1,204.60 hectares. Of the total, 471 hectares have been developed. In 2013, the 289 hectares were planted with coffee, falcate, rubber and fruit tree plantation while another 182 hectares were again planted with the same species in 2014.



LUMAD KIDS — Lumad children now enjoy free education in their wooden four-room school building built by the Manobo tribe in their highland community in Padiay, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. (Mike U. Crismundo)

"From the time I joined the NGP, I always set aside a portion of the budget for the construction of our primary school which we called "NGP Primary School". This is an initiative of our organization which aims to give the children of our community a chance to learn basic education without spending so much," Datu Subang said.

At the height of illegal logging activities in the region, the members of the federation used to be forest poachers, which was their livelihood.

"We cut those trees inside our ancestral domain and we felt bitter when EO 23 or the 'Anti-illegal Logging Campaign' was imposed by the DENR because we could no longer trade freely the trees we harvested. But now, we could already see the bad effects of our actions. The financial freedom brought by money from timber poaching is only temporary. The NGP has made us realize that the forest could offer more than just logs, if only we would take care of it and use it correctly," Datu Subang said.

"The NGP has drastically changed our lives," he said.

Establishing a school

For the residents of highland communities in Agusan del Sur, education is priceless. Most of them were not given the chance to attain formal education. Going to school is a day to day struggle since the nearest school is about 80 kilometers away from their highland communities, not to mention the challenging trail that they have to pass through.

Education, even the simplest skill of reading and writing is a far reality but not long until the lumads organized themselves, forming the Sibagat Tribal Community Agro Farmers Development Association, Inc. (SIFTRICAFARDA), a group of 21 peoples' organizations in Barangay Padiay, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur led by Arnold M. Acebido also known as "Datu Subang".

This tribe with their respective elders took the initiative to establish a school in their community.

They built the one-storey school building with four classrooms thru "bayanihan" with the support of the DENR. Lumads attend school for free and the ₱5,000 salary of the teachers are

paid by the association.

As of today, the school started operation in 2013 with lumad children enrolled from grades 1 to 4.

While the school is yet to be accredited by the Department of Education (DepEd), the parents are thankful that their children are learning how to read and write, even if they do not have money.

“Through this initiative, we believe that we could inspire the younger generation to strive harder and hopefully secure a brighter future,” he said.

“We are hoping that in the future, DepEd will recognize this school and will even fund the expansion of the infrastructure and provision of funds for additional teachers.”

Community members who were lucky enough to finish a degree in education are the ones teaching in the school, Datu Subang pointed out.

Lifestyle change

DENR 13 Regional Executive Director Nonito M. Tamayo expressed his appreciation for the efforts done by the group of Indigenous Peoples.

“I am happy to note that the NGP was able to change the behavior and attitude of a group of IPs known for their involvement in illegal logging activities,” Tamayo said.

The region's top DENR official assured the organization that the agency is willing to extend its help to the federation especially when it comes to the NGP.

Datu Subang said that the members of the organization are fully convinced of the NGP program because it is not only for livelihood but also for global warming and climate change mitigation. “We are waiting for the right season to harvest coffee. By that time, most of the members of the federation will be millionaires.”

“Through the NGP, we learn to dream and make those dreams come true” he added.

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Troops thwart NPA landmine attack

BUTUAN CITY — Government security forces engaged New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in an hour-long gunbattle in the outskirts of Barangay Iba, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, last Friday and thwarted a landmine attack planned by the rebels, the 8th Civil Military Operations (8thCMO) reported yesterday.

"Our field troops preempted the attack of the NPA targets after our field troops seized bomb materials detonating wires and radio communication," said Capt. Norman M. Tagros, 8th CMO commander.

Tagros said combat maneuvering troops of the 8th IB under Lt. Col. Lennon G. Babilonia engaged rebels belonging to the SDG Dario of Section Committee 89 of the CPP-NPA North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) allegedly led by Noel Gabute, alias "Commander

Cesar."

"The firefight happened after the soldiers responded to the reports of local residents on the presence of unidentified armed men who were seen laying Improvised Explosive Device (IED) along the road where a government road-concreting project is being done," Tagros said.

He said the NPAs withdrew after sensing that they were outnumbered, bringing with them their wounded or killed comrades.

"Our ground troops believe that there are casualties on the enemy side as evidenced by the globs of blood found by our troops at the site," Tagros said.

Hundreds of 5.56 mm ammunitions and several backpacks and anti-government documents were also found in the area.

Meanwhile, forces from the Bukidnon

Police Public Safety Company who are supporting the operations of the 8th IB also clashed with the retreating NPA rebels around 2 p.m. of that same day at kilometer 25, Barangay Iba.

Col. Babilonia said the incident portrayed the value of cooperation and collaboration of the security forces and the peace-loving people of Bukidnon in thwarting and preempting terroristic plans of armed groups.

"We have received reports that NPA bandits will continue to resort to bombings and burning of properties in order to fuel their extortion activities. There is an on-going road-concreting project of the government and we believe that these rebels are out to burn heavy equipment in the construction site when they were encountered by our troops." (Mike U. Crismundo)

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BusinessMirror

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Troops thwart NPA bomb try

BY RENE ACOSTA

A REPORTED attempt by members of the New People's Army (NPA) to bomb an ongoing government project in Bukidnon was thwarted over the weekend, after government troops clashed with the rebels.

The clash occurred at around 1:30 p.m. on Friday in Barangay Iba, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, according to Capt. Norman Tagros, civil-military operations officer of the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion (IB).

Tagros said the more than an hour firefight happened after residents reported the presence of eight armed men in Barangay Iba, who were reportedly laying a homemade bomb along the road where there is an ongoing road-concreting project.

The rebels were later identified as members of the Section 89 of the NPA's North Central Mindanao Regional Committee, under Noel Gabute, alias Commander Cesar.

The soldiers sustained no casualty, while Tagros said they believed the guerrillas incurred casualties, as evidenced by blood stains along the routes of their withdrawal.

Recovered from the scene of the firefight included 300 meters of detonating wire, a handheld radio, four backpacks and several documents.

Tagros said policemen who were supporting the operations of the soldiers against the rebels also clashed with a group of the guerrillas nearly an hour later in a different location also in the barangay.

The successive clashes followed the killing of two policemen by rebels during an ambush in Barangay Caningay, Candoni, Negros Occidental, on Thursday.

Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, chief of the public affairs office of the 3rd Infantry Division, said rebels ambushed members of the Candoni Municipal Police Station, killing PO3 Joe Harry Peralta and PO1 Henrey Pacheco.

The ambush, which occurred at around 10:20 p.m., also resulted in the wounding of PO2 Jay Arroyo and PO1 Modesto Viña, and civilian Rey Duales.

"Personnel of Candoni Philippine National Police were waylaid by the NPAs at around 10:20 p.m. while on their way back to their station, after responding to a call for help and conducting investigation in a hacking incident in the area," Tiongson said.

"Based on the investigation, the two fatalities—PO3 Joe Harry Peralta and PO1 Henrey Pacheco—were shot point-blank on their heads and finished off by the murderous NPA," he added.

On Tuesday last week, elements of the 8th IB also clashed with rebels belonging to Section 89 of North Central Mindanao Regional Committee in Barangay Can-ayan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

Capt. Lorenzo Siobal Jr., civil-military operations officer of the 403rd Brigade, said the firefight happened after residents reported the presence of armed men in the area.

"The military operation was prompted by reports from concerned citizens regarding the continued sightings of rebel group in the area," he said.

22 February 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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2016 will see lowest number of PMA graduates in decades

By Vincent Cabreza
and Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The graduation rites of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) that President Aquino will grace for the last time next month will see the smallest number of graduating cadets in 40 years.

PMA “Gabay Laya” Class of 2016 will be composed of 63 cadets, at least as of Feb. 20, said Lt. Col. Reynaldo Balido, PMA public affairs officer.

The class started in 2012 with 121 cadets out of 1,120 applicants who passed the 2011 PMA entrance examination. But when the class conducted its cadet immersion program in Pangasinan province in November last year, its strength went down to 65.

Balido said half of the class were no longer graduating in March due to bad grades or for violating regulations. Some cadets may have been “turned back,” a reference to those who failed to make the grade and had to join an underclass.

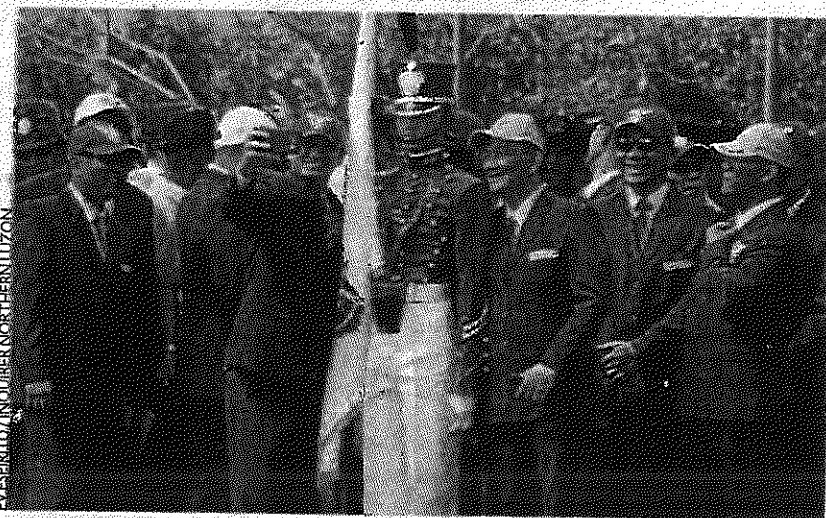
Balido did not say if some cadets were dismissed.

“The normal reason for the attrition rate was for violating regulations like the honor system and the honor code,” he said.

All cadets are bound by the honor system, which is best expressed by the oath: “We, the cadets, do not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate among us those who do.”

Previous classes have had their numbers cut down by almost half, like the Gabay Laya, Balido said.

For instance, PMA “SinagLahi” Class of 2015 started with 228 cadets in 2011 but only 172 of them graduated



PHILIPPINE Military Academy alumni take selfies with cadets who served as honor guards during the academy’s alumni homecoming on Saturday.

and were given military commissions.

The PMA class in 1936 started with 10 cadets but only eight graduated: Luis Franco, Dominador Garcia, Ramon Laconico, Aquilino Manapul, Romulo Manriquez, Dionisio Ojeda, Eustacio Oroba and Ricardo Papa.

In 1937, 13 cadets graduated. The following year, 27 graduated. Classes from 1936 to 1938 were the transition classes when the Philippine Constabulary Academy became the PMA, which offered a new curriculum.

According to the Scribe, the academy yearbook, 56 of 76 cadets graduated in 1941, the start of World War II. Members of what would become PMA Class of 1943 were commissioned as third lieutenants despite the fact that they were on their second class year.

The government graduated PMA Classes 1942 and 1943 so their members could serve in the war. PMA Classes of 1944 and 1945 “were

disbanded,” according to the Scribe.

The graduates of PMA Class of 1942 numbered 71, out of the original 110 cadets, while 60 of the original 96 cadets of PMA Class of 1943 graduated formally in 1961.

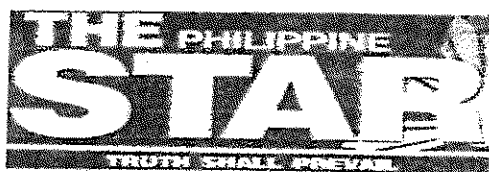
After the war, what constituted PMA Class of 1944 graduated in 1979. They numbered 83 cadets and war veterans. PMA Class of 1945 graduated earlier, in February 1950, and they numbered 76 of the original 92 cadets.

Post-war PMA classes show the same attrition rate that PMA still deals with today, based on the Scribe’s records.

Only 36 cadets of PMA Class of 1952 graduated on March 10, 1952, out of the 67 cadets who were originally appointed.

PMA Class of 1957 had 105 appointed cadets for the first time but only 72 of them graduated on April 16, 1957.

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DOJ to release Mamasapano raps resolution this week

By EDU PUNAY

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is set to release this week its resolution of the criminal charges against 90 commanders and members of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and private armed groups tagged in the massacre of 35 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos during the Mamasapano clash last year.

Prosecutor General Claro

Arellano, head of the DOJ's prosecutorial arm, said they would just review the findings of the investigating panel, led by Assistant State Prosecutor Alexander Suarez, before releasing the resolution.

"Most probably this week, we will release the resolution after review," he said yesterday.

Acting Justice Secretary Emmanuel Caparas earlier said the resolution on the complex

crime of direct assault with murder that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed against the members of the MILF, BIFF and private armed groups over the killing of the SAF would be released to the public.

Caparas again appealed for understanding on why the DOJ has not resolved the charges a year after the incident, saying the panel needed to carefully study the evidence collected in the course of the preliminary investigation to ensure an airtight case against the respondents.

The charges covered the cases of 35 slain SAF men who belonged to the 55th SAF company attacked by MILF and BIFF fighters and private armed groups in the cornfields of Barangay Tukanalipao.

Of the 90 respondents, only four submitted counter-affidavits denying the charges: alleged MILF field commander Pendatun Utek Makakua, who claimed to be a farmer; Mustapha Tatak, a barangay chairman in Sapakan; and civilians Laki-man Dawaling and Khalim Keda, who were accused of being field commanders of the MILF.

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No to candidates favoring MNLF

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Zamboangueños were cautioned yesterday by City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco not to support national candidates favoring the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) whom she blamed for the attack in this city in September 2013 and displaced over 160,000 people.

"Those who favor Misuari must

not be voted," Climaco said after receiving reports that some aspirants for national positions in the May 9 elections has issued statement favorable to the MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari.

The chief executive reminded the Zamboangueños about the MNLF siege in this city that resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians, including children, police and military officers, and the thousands of internally dis-

place persons.

"Even up to now, we are very sensitive on matters that affect the security of the city. Never again can we allow any atrocities like that by the MNLF, and we hold the MNLF leadership accountable for the losses and destructions we suffered during the siege," Climaco said during her weekly press briefing in City Hall, the mayor here said.

She believes that the MNLF

members, who came to Zamboanga to stage the attack, were duped by Misuari.

"They fought the battle for Misuari and now they are the ones languishing in jail, while he (Misuari) is enjoying freedom at the cost of the lives of innocent civilians," she said.

The city government has charged Misuari and more than 200 of his followers with rebellion and violations of the International Humanitarian

Law in connection with the 2013 Zamboanga siege.

The case is still pending at the Pasig Regional Trial Court, while the accused MNLF members are locked up in Taguig jail.

Climaco further called on the Zamboangueños "not to forget the sufferings of the Filipino soldiers and policemen, who risked their lives in defense of Zamboanga and liberated us from the MNLF attackers."

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BusinessMirror

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Abu Sayyaf releases kidnapped MNLF kin

A KIDNAP victim was released on Sunday by members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), after learning he was a nephew of a former top commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)-Misuari faction.

Brig Gen. Alan Arrojado, commander of the military's Joint Task Group Sulu, identified the victim released by the ASG's Ajang-ajang Group as Omar Carlo Masdal, 20, a student of the Sulu State University.

Arrojado said Masdal was released at around 11 a.m. on Sunday in Barangay Latih, Patikul, one of the areas where the dreaded Ajang-ajang Group operates.

Masdal, resident of Godinez, Barangay Latih, was a nephew of the late MNLF commander Khabier or Habier Malik, who led Moro fighters in attacking six villages in Zamboanga City in September 2013.

More than a hundred MNLF fighters, soldiers and civilians were subsequently killed during the exchange of gunfire.

Malik, who sustained wounds during the fighting, died several months later due to complications from diabetes. He was the top commander of Nur Misuari, the founder and former chairman of the MNLF.

Arrojado said Masdal was abducted at around 11:30 a.m. on Valentine's Day in Barangay Buanza, Indanan, by Abder de la Cruz, a member of the Ajang-ajang Group, after he suspected the victim to be a member of a wealthy family.

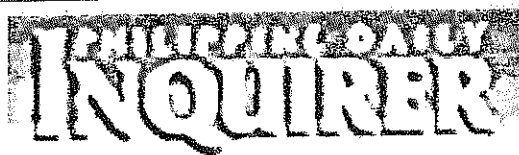
The victim was released, after the group learned he was Malik's nephew.

"No ransom was paid, because he was a relative of an MNLF commander. He was not different from them," Arrojado said.

He added the release was also facilitated by commanders of the MNLF, who Arrojado did not name.

Rene Acosta

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Final farewell

MORE THAN 60 years ago, on April 1, 1952, 77 young men aged 17 to 21, arrived at Fort General Gregorio del Pilar, home of the Philippine Military Academy. The nation's finest military institution, which traces its origins all the way back to the 1898 revolution against Spain, is located on the outskirts of Baguio City. At that time, the place was a desolate, one-building affair in a site where one could say, only fools would rush in to spend a considerable amount of time. To this day, for some reason never fully explained, new cadets entering the PMA would always be received on April Fool's Day each year.

REVEILLE

Ramon
J. Farolan



Four years later, on April 4, 1956, 51 survivors of the PMA obstacle course, forming the Class of 1956, were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They ended up in the four major services of the AFP—Army, Air Force, Constabulary and Navy. (The Constabulary has since been separated from the AFP leaving the latter with only three branches of service.)

The political and economic elites of the country have always shown little enthusiasm, almost bordering on disdain, for the military as a career for their children. As such, the great majority of young men joining the PMA—and this is true for the Class of 1956—come from the middle-class. Many are products of provincial high schools, with a few coming from Metro Manila educational facilities. All were chosen by merit rather than connections, using as basis, competitive exams held nationwide. Many would cite the free education supported by the Filipino taxpayer as the main reason for joining the academy.

The commander in chief in our early years was President Elpidio Quirino, an Ilocano from Ilocos Sur. In 1952, his administration was wracked by charges of corruption, injustice and electoral fraud (it was said that even the birds and bees joined the voting process) the same issues that continue to plague the nation today. History would be kind to Quirino as he was recently remembered as one of our best.

In November 1953, another Ilocano, the hugely popular and beloved Ramon Magsaysay, took over as commander in chief. For the members of Class 1956, it really didn't mean much as far as our daily lives were concerned. We remained focused on getting through the heavy academic workload and keeping physically fit for the future.

A few thoughts: In four years at the PMA, we never saw Presidents Quirino or Magsaysay on the fields of Fort del Pilar. It seemed as though the academy was a world apart from politics and politicians. For one thing, there was never any doubt about the principle of civilian supremacy over the military. The idea of taking up arms against the government never entered our minds as political discussions seldom intruded into our sheltered existence. In its purest form, we were a truly apolitical segment of the military organization. Perhaps that is how things should have remained.

When we graduated in 1956, the guest of honor and commencement speaker was Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr. Today, at least since the martial law years, the guest of honor at PMA graduation rites has always been the commander in chief. This practice appears to have been institutionalized over the years.

On a number of occasions, I have brought up the idea of choosing as guest of honor in graduation ceremonies other distinguished personalities and not necessarily limited to the military profession. The president of the republic is always a good choice, particularly since he attracts a lot of attention and adds prestige to the occasion. But the continued practice of a president in attendance contributes to a political atmosphere that may not be in the best interests of the military organization. The graduating cadets and the military as a whole, could benefit from a leader of society with other viewpoints that reflect different perspectives.

A few years ago, the US Naval Academy in Annapolis had as its graduation speaker Sen. John McCain, one of its own graduates. This was before he ran for president. McCain finished fifth from the bottom of his class, spent five horrible years in a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp known as the Hanoi Hilton, and came out a war hero. He lost in the presidential contest against Barack Obama, but continues to be an influential force in American society. We welcome presidents, but we should also call on heroes to inspire our cadets.

In 1956, the nation was at war with a peasant guerrilla army known as the Huks, short for Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon. With a large mass base and a substantial armed component, it represented a formidable threat against the government. Because of this serious issue, President Magsaysay decreed that all new graduates be sent to the field, where they served as platoon leaders in battalion combat teams. In all these units, members of Class 1956 served with distinction.

In defeating the Huks, and acting as guardians of electoral polls, the Armed Forces won a reputation for professionalism and integrity. Magsaysay would also draw from the ranks of the military, utilizing them for purely civilian functions. It was the first time political involvement crept into the lives of soldiers who were basically imbued with an apolitical sense of professionalism. The martial law years would exacerbate the situation, when soldiers were called out from their barracks and things would never be the same again.

During the Edsa Revolution, the class found itself deeply divided, with some continuing to serve AFP chief of staff Gen. Fabian Ver, while others joined the rebel group of Minister Enrile and General Ramos. But the bonds of friendship and camaraderie nurtured over the years helped set aside the issues that for a brief moment kept them apart.

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Last Saturday, on the parade grounds of Fort del Pilar, the 500-strong corps of cadets paid a final salute and farewell to the academy's diamond jubilarians. They honored them with a parade and review to mark 60 years of a life spent mostly in the service of the nation. In their active years, the class produced 29 generals and flag officers, a record among previous academy classes. After retirement, some continued to serve in government as Cabinet members, ambassadors, members of Congress, and heads of government agencies and corporations. Perhaps the most productive of the group, Filoteo Arevalo, sired five sons, all of whom graduated from the PMA and in the tradition of a proud father, remain in the service of the country.

As of December 2015, 25 of the original 51 members of Class 1956 have answered God's call.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Do Filipino youth care about the Edsa Revolution?

EXACTLY 30 years ago, on Feb. 22, 1986, Jaime Cardinal Sin made his fateful call over Radio Veritas for Filipinos to take to the streets. Then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, speaking of conscience and justice, announced their rebellion. Many feared they would die at Edsa as President Ferdinand Marcos broadcast his boast of wiping out the rebels.

Any Filipino may now google scenes of people pushing against armored personnel carriers, the human wall massed from Ortigas Avenue to Cubao, attack helicopters dramatically defecting instead of firing, and triumphant protesters holding up the INQUIRER's immortal Feb. 25, 1986 issue, headlined, "It's all over; Marcos flees!" YouTube even archives the moving music video of "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo," whose lyrics are etched onto the Edsa Shrine's wall.

But the Edsa Revolution has not seeped into society's consciousness. When did we last discuss Edsa and free speech together, outside martial law's context?

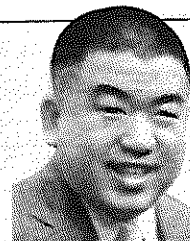
No one denounced Rep. Manny Pacquiao's recent statement that gays are worse than animals ("mas masahol pa sa hayop") as dehumanization that betrays Edsa. No one contrasted a bishop's defense of this with Sin's great moral authority in 1986, even as talk show host Boy Abunda cited Pope Francis' own words against Pacquiao. No one argued that a petition to ban the broadcast of Pacquiao's next fight smacks of martial law censorship, and goes beyond using one's own free speech to condemn.

Edsa is not a gauge to critique incumbent President Aquino, son of Edsa heroes former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former president Corazon Aquino. No one cited Edsa when a teenager who heckled Noynoy had his cloth banner stuffed in his mouth by security. No one cites Edsa to lament the continuing failure to pass the freedom of information bill. No one cited Edsa when our Supreme Court voided Noynoy's first executive order to investigate corruption in the preceding administration.

When a religious group massed at Edsa last

SISYPHUS' LAMENT

Oscar Franklin Tan



August to protest potential criminal charges against its leaders, Filipinos decried the traffic caused, not a profane appropriation of hallowed ground. Nor do Filipinos cheer recent peaceful protests elsewhere, such as Hong Kong's Umbrella Revolution, Kuala Lumpur's Bersih 4 rallies, or the "Hunger Games" salute flashed at generals in Bangkok.

If Edsa has been so glaringly absent from our national discourse, is it fair to harangue our youth over it?

When I ask patriotic students and recent graduates about Edsa, many answer they do not typically discuss politics. This in itself is a pregnant answer. It implies they see Edsa as but one episode in an unchanging cycle, not an idea so sacred that it transcends ordinary politics.

We keep emphasizing that the youth never saw Edsa—because they were not even born in 1986—but overlook how they ask, with the benefit of temporal distance, why so many failures of governance, which suspiciously parallel those of martial law, remain. Is it not fair for the youth to explore what Edsa means in 2016, beyond 1986?

The political stakes of Edsa's meaning have never been higher. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is a leading candidate for vice president. Presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte proclaimed in Ilocos Norte that he would allow Marcos' burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The INQUIRER ran the provocative story "Youth, loyalists enable Marcos to tie Escudero" last Feb. 16. The youth perception of Bongbong is more complex and intelligent than a stereotype of a gullible, sheltered generation willing to embrace tales of a supposedly

more disciplined martial law Philippines.

Individualistic millennials demand to judge Bongbong on his own merits, not his father's. Thus, many would hold him accountable less for abuses before 1986, but more for whether he disbelieves, condones or repudiates these today. The youth are not necessarily ignorant of the long list of martial law victims, but focus on the "solid north's" current economic state and Bongbong's ideas on the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

This is fair play in the youth's eyes. It follows from how they would likewise judge Noynoy solely by his merits, not his parents'. We should not be surprised after seeing American millennials' warmth to Sen. Bernie Sanders' socialist ideas just a generation after the Cold War and female millennials' not necessarily voting for Hillary Clinton solely because she could be their first female president.

Those who lament the youth's lack of an emotional tie to Edsa should ask why they inject memes of Gen. Antonio Luna, not Ninoy, into Facebook debates. Why does the movie "Heneral Luna" inspire today, like Washington DC's Holocaust Memorial Museum and Amsterdam's Anne Frank house, even though it tells a story from a century ago? Does "Heneral Luna" speak of an almost forgotten tragic death, or idealism versus political machination that frames the challenges of today?

By the 2022 elections, Filipinos younger than 43 will have no direct memory of Edsa. This year marks the last opportunity for those who stood at Edsa to influence its future meaning.

One hopes that instead of giving sermons, they respect youth perspectives as legitimate. One hopes they guide the search for tomorrow's greater meaning, beyond the necessary inventory of yesterday's sins.

One hopes they respect today's youth as worthy inheritors of Edsa's great legacy, who legitimately need to define this legacy on their own terms, and so charge them with the duty to return to Edsa at democracy's darkest hour.

React: oscarfranklin.tan@yahoo.com.ph, Twitter @oscarfbtan, facebook.com/OscarFranklinTan

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Musings of an 'Edsa baby'

COMMENTARY

Gerald M. Nicolas

I WAS born exactly 30 days before Cory Aquino was sworn in as the president who would start the restoration of democracy after decades of tyranny. My mother told me she had wanted to go to Edsa, but she couldn't for obvious reasons. I suspect, though, that faint-hearted that she is, the sight of military tanks aimed at the crowd of demonstrators would have only made her tremble and rush home. My father, on the other hand, was preoccupied with work so that he could provide for the needs of his wife and their first child. And like any other *probinsyano* trying his luck in the city, his priority was to earn enough to be able to feed his family.

Thirty years later, many of us born during that time are unappreciative—or, worse, ignorant—of what the bloodless revolution was all about. I have to admit that until I started working for a nongovernment organization, that event was just a fact of history to me. And even now that I am working with people who, in one way or another, experienced the horrors of martial law and participated in student demonstrations to overthrow a corrupt leader, I still have a lot of catching up to do to learn about recent Philippine history.

As it stands, the revolution fueled by "people power" and the difference it was supposed to have made do not mean much to my cohort. Politics doesn't spark conversation among us. In the cities, those who have work are more concerned about ticking the boxes on their list of must-try restaurants. Those of us who can afford, "seize the day" and hit the clubs, frolic on the beach, or fly somewhere to seek adventure. I am among the few who haven't given a thought to raising a family.

Those of us who were fortunate to go to college, hoping to become nurses abroad or computer programmers in some company, ended up looking for another job—never mind if totally unrelated to what we studied—after our contracts expire. The kinds of jobs available don't give us careers. We do not think labor unions can help us, if they still exist; we're just concerned about finding another job, not about job security.

Meanwhile, those of us who live outside Metro Manila are also facing daily hurdles. Others have joined rebel groups because it is probably more lucrative than farming or fishing. Besides, the land their fathers till still belongs to the rich families (and will be handed over to the heirs probably our age), and there is nothing much to catch from polluted or overfished waters. Their parents, like mine, didn't march on the streets in 1986. Or they felt they were spared from the brutality of martial law because they chose not to be aware of it, or did not have the means to know what was going on. For some, the revolution was waged by the educated, urban and elite few.

And now, thanks to constant media coverage of crimes—from the pettiest to the grimmest—we are made to believe that "peace and order" is a more urgent concern than protecting human rights and respecting due process. (Il)logic tells many of us that we need someone with an iron fist that can overcome the evil forces that democracy and human rights—the very things that the 1986 Edsa Revolution sought to restore and uphold—are said to have nourished. Even those who claim to have opposed martial law and then served in the government brazenly took advantage of their access to public coffers to amass wealth for themselves and their families.

Human rights, for many of us, are passé, if not vague, and democracy as we know and practice it grants us too much freedom. Discipline is sorely lacking, the older ones lament, and the only way to impose it is through coercion—a repeat of what was done more than 40 years ago. And for us, "moving on" means forgetting the past, not only a bitter relationship but also the abuses and the damage wrought by an abusive regime. Our generation did not make these up, though; we

were exposed to these—in our schools, in the government, in the media—as we grew up.

We have been surrounded by ideas, experiences, and values that seem to erase the memory of Edsa. Our generation and those born after us have pop stars, boxing champs, and comic book heroes to look up to. We can't find people who can inspire us to become responsible and involved citizens. We don't know where to go to remind ourselves about martial law, and our schools taught us very little about democracy and social justice. We can google the stuff, but we'd likely end up checking out what our virtual friends are up to.

There is a "shared experience" three, four or five decades ago that our generation received in thin trickles. But more obvious is the seeming ignorance—intentional or otherwise—of those ahead of us about the nightmare of martial law, what it feels like to lose a loved one for criticizing an arrogant dictator, his flamboyant wife and their children, and the possibility of a government that can suppress people's freedom.

I am certain, however, that a few of us born after 1986 are continuing the struggle for a better society. But the cynic in me hates to admit that ours is an ignorant generation. We are not worried sick of what is happening around us, and I apologize for disappointing those who fought hard so that we would grow up in a freer country. But that is the harsh truth we now face, not only because the young are disinterested and apathetic, but also because some of our parents and our parents' parents are still as poor as before. Others simply decided to forget.

Gerald M. Nicolas is a project officer of the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues.

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros is on medical leave.—Ed.



22 February 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The China delusion

NEW YORK—China's management of its exchange-rate peg continues to rattle global financial markets. Ongoing uncertainty about renminbi devaluation is fueling fears that deflationary forces will sweep through emerging markets and deliver a body blow to developed economies, where interest rates are at or near zero (and thus cannot be lowered to defend against imported deflation). Fiscal gridlock in both Europe and the United States is heightening the angst.

But the current bout of exchange-rate anxiety is really just a symptom of the fact that China's transition from an export-led growth strategy to one propelled by domestic consumption is proceeding far less smoothly than hoped.

For some people, visions of the wonders of capitalism with Chinese characteristics remain undiminished. They are certain that, after more than three decades of state-directed growth, China's leaders know what to do to turn their slumping economy around.

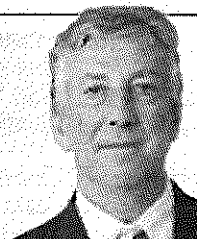
The optimists' unreality is rivaled by that of supply-siders, who would apply shock therapy to China's slumping state sector and immediately integrate the country's underdeveloped capital markets into today's turbulent global financial system. That is a profoundly dangerous prescription. The power of the market to transform China will not be unleashed in a stagnant economy, where such measures would aggravate deflationary forces and produce a calamity.

The persistent downward pressure on the renminbi reflects a growing fear that Chinese policymakers have no coherent solution to the dilemmas they face. Floating the renminbi, for example, is a dangerous option. After all, with the Chinese economy undergoing wholesale economic transformation, estimating a long-term equilibrium exchange rate that will anchor speculation is virtually impossible, particularly given persistent doubts about data quality, disclosure and opaque policymaking processes.

But if the current exchange-rate peg to a basket of currencies fails to anchor the renminbi and prevent sharp depreciation, the deflationary consequences for the world economy will be

WORLD VIEW

Rob Johnson



profound. Moreover, they will feed back on the Chinese export sector, thus dampening the stimulative impact of a weakened currency.

The key to stabilizing the exchange rate lies in creating a credible development policy. Only then will the pressure on the renminbi, and on China's foreign-exchange reserves, subside, because investors both within and outside the country will see a clear way forward.

Establishing policy credibility will require diminishing the muddled microeconomic incentives of state control and guarantees. It will also require reinvigorating aggregate demand by targeting fiscal policy to support the emerging economic sectors that will underpin the new growth model.

But, as usual with China, such a strategy is riddled with contradictions. For example, reducing the size of the state-enterprise sector is necessary, yet would be certain to depress aggregate demand at a time when demand is already soft. Likewise, cutting fiscal support (via government-directed bank lending) to zombie firms would free up fiscal capacity and enable resources to be redirected to new sectors that facilitate services and urban employment; but this would exacerbate—at least at first—today's demand shortfall.

Slashing the state sector abruptly and expecting to achieve transformation through austerity is not the way forward. Economic historians, notably Michael A. Bernstein in his study of the Great Depression in the United States, have convincingly shown that an economy in transition requires strong aggregate demand to pull resources into new sectors. If both the old and new sectors of an economy are in a slump, capital formation

will sputter, investment in upgrading human capital will decline, and structural adjustment will stall. Robust aggregate demand is always essential to successful transformation.

An equally large obstacle to China's economic transition—the problem that almost dare not speak its name—is the widespread worship of China's hybrid market economy. Simply put, today's muddled market incentives impede transformation by favoring state-owned enterprises.

In early 2012, when the Chinese leadership moved toward stronger private ownership, stocks in the private-sector sub-index outperformed the state-owned sector subindex on both the Shanghai and Hong Kong stock exchanges. But since the spring of 2014, this trend has reversed, and the state-owned sector subindex has outperformed the private-sector subindex. As the Chinese economy slows and default risk grows, the value of state guarantees rises, directing capital away from private-sector growth.

This hybrid system clearly impedes credit allocation from catalyzing development, while creating and sustaining vested interests opposed to reform. This holding pattern is particularly harmful because profound transformation will surely depend on financing from a sound sovereign bond market, which cannot function properly until uncertainty related to the government's contingent liabilities—all those implicit guarantees—has been resolved.

China has it within its power to stabilize its exchange rate via credible reforms, particularly policies that redirect resources to invigorate domestic demand and pull resources toward the newer high-value sectors. The reforms China needs cannot be accomplished in a slump, or by a large exchange-rate depreciation that deflates the world in a vain effort to turn back the clock to an era of export-led growth that stagnant demand in the West has rendered nonviable.

Project Syndicate

Rob Johnson is president of the Institute for New Economic Thinking and a senior fellow and director of the Global Finance Project for the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

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Kidnap suspect slain in rescue op

By NON ALQUITRAN

A suspected kidnapper was killed while three others were arrested during the rescue of a businessman's son and his nanny in Marawi City on Friday.

Two police officers were wounded in the incident that left Jun Naser Barao of Madulum, Lando del Sur dead.

Arrested were Michelle Awtin Mercedes, Mante Sultan Macaantal and Deleon Gumagadong.

Senior Superintendent Ger vacio Balmaceda, spokesman for the Police Regional Office 10, said the raiding team recovered the P500,000 ransom, a Tamaraw FX, a pistol, a hand grenade and four mobile phones from the suspects.

Balmaceda said the boy and his nanny were seized in Barangay Bugo, Cagayan de Oro on Feb. 12.

An informant led members of the Cagayan de Oro and Lanao del Sur police, regional intelligence unit and anti-kidnapping group to the suspects' hideout in Barangay Matampay.

A shootout erupted between the lawmen and the suspects, wounding Senior Inspector Ramsis Cartagena and Police Officer 3 Jermy Rivera.

Abus free student

In Sulu, Abu Sayyaf bandits released on Saturday a student they mistook for the son of a wealthy family.

Omar Carlo Masdal, 20, was freed at around 11 a.m. following negotiations initiated by some members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), according to Joint Task Group Sulu chief Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado.

Police said Masdal, reportedly a nephew of the late MNLF leader Habier Malik, was seized on Feb. 14 in Barangay Buahza, Indanan by Abdel de la Cruz, said to be a member of the Abu Sayyaf's Ajang-ajang.

Masdal reunited with his family after a week in captivity.

– With Roel Pareño

27 February 2016

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

Make peace not war

By **FLORO MERCENE**

A FAIRLY educated person with a little common sense can conclude that China's colossal reclamation in the contested area in the South China Sea is aimed at militarizing Asia's maritime heartland.

Why would China spend probably billions of dollars bringing dozens of rigs, suction dredges, mechanical excavators, and probably dynamite to far-flung islands to blast the undersea corrals?

The logistical and financial cost of such undertakings is enough to bankrupt a small country like us.

What are the strategic and military reasons behind such move?

The claim that China wanted to build weather stations, scientific research, and other infrastructure to provide

more "public goods and services to the international community," simply does not wash.

UNCLOS says that even if islands are built on top of "features" that lie beneath the sea, those islands are not entitled to a 200-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

China said it will not recognize the UNCLOS ruling.

After China has admitted that they have surface-to-air (SAM) missiles on Woody Island in the Paracels, what would prevent them from installing the same SAMs in the reclaimed lands in the Spratlys?

Someone said that when missiles are put on Mischief Reef, the missiles cannot be destroyed, because that would endanger the Filipinos in Palawan, which is nearer to Mischief Reef than China.

We will be China's human shields, protecting its missiles against those who can take it out. And China can use those missiles to control navigation in the South China Sea.

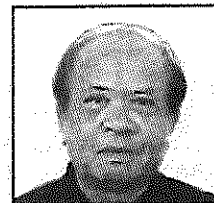
To engage in a costly militarization to confront the giant to the north would be foolish.

This is simply a "gun-and-butter" issue. We needed the money to promote development and to feed our people and not to buy arms.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos said the Philippines should always side with peace and not with war.

"We are one world, one community, one family. And we in the Philippines are for that," Ramos said.

He said out policy towards China and the US should be such that they will take care of our advantage as being in between the two superpowers.



22 February 2016

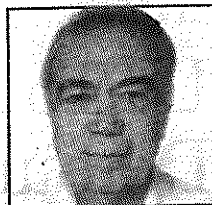
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NEVER ON A SUNDAY

Lost peace and order condition



By **ATTY. RENE ESPINA**
Former Senator

I AM fortunate in the sense that when I was a young man, I was appointed as Central Visayas coordinator of the Students Magsaysay for President Movement (SMPM). Ramon Magsaysay was President Elpidio Quirino's secretary of national defense. As such secretary, he was quite successful in defeating the Hukbalahap - Hukbong Magpalaya sa Bayan Laban sa Hapon. The Huks were the then prevailing communist insurgents who controlled many areas of Luzon. Magsaysay was later prevailed upon to join the Nacionalista Party (NP) by Senators Jose Laurel and Claro Recto, to become the NP official candidate for president against President Quirino (LP). Magsaysay defeated Quirino with an overwhelming majority vote. During Magsaysay's short term of office, the Huks were wiped out as a red rebel force.

Years later, a new communist Maoist ideology was founded inside an hacienda in Tarlac. Jose Ma. Sison, a UP professor, became the leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Since Sison did not have an army to start the revolution, a former Huk was appointed as the commander of the New People's Army (NPA). His nom de guerre was Commander Dante. His real name was Bernabe Buscayno. He was also a former driver of a famous lady who is already deceased. The secretary general of the CPP-NPA was a former Kabataang Makabayan leader who is now a bishop of a Christian sect. Later this group was expanded to include other groups named for maximum propaganda effect as the National Democratic Front (NDF). Jalandoni, a

former priest, became the NDF head so the whole "new" insurgency group is now known as the CPP-NPA-NDF.

During the Martial Law period almost all of the principal Maoist Communist leaders were captured and imprisoned. However after the revolutionary government was installed, post-EDSA revolution - all of the captured communists were released. The reason they were released by those in power, we were told, was that it was "a confidence-building action." What was left unsaid was that the Communists supported the

candidacy of the presidential candidate of the opposition party against President Ferdinand E. Marcos. Thus the CPP-NPA-NDF was again resurrected in parts of Bicol, Cagayan Valley, Samar, and mostly in Northeastern Mindanao because of the amnesty.

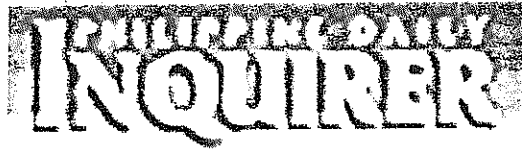
During the Martial Law regime, the insurgency in the Muslim Mindanao area subsided because of the Tripoli Agreement - plus the creation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). In the original Autonomous Region, there were in effect two seats of government. To my recollection, one was in Cotabato City for the Central Mindanao area. Another ARMM government center was in Zamboanga City for Western Mindanao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, and Sulu. The areas had their own elected representatives and governors. Relative peace and order began to prevail in the ARMM. However, when a new insurgent group calling themselves Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) seceded from the original Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a new series of firefights between the MILF and AFP erupted. The MILF established several camps in the interior areas of the ARMM. Their main headquarters was Camp Abubakar.

When Joseph Estrada became president, he tried his best to persuade the MILF to give up the armed struggle and return to the peace agreement already being implemented with the MNLF. When all peaceful efforts failed, President Estrada had to resort to the use of force. All the MILF camps, including Camp Abubakar, were captured by the AFP. Our Armed Forces had to pay the price in the blood of our heroic soldiers. The MILF leaders fled to Malaysia, the country that has been instigating, training, and supplying arms to the armed Muslim rebels in Mindanao.

Again, when GM Arroyo became president, she returned all the camps that were captured from the MILF. It was said again that this was a "confidence-building measure." Thus the rebellion again regained the momentum that it lost. If you were a member of the AFP, or just a plain Filipino citizen, would you be happy with the kind of leadership that our country has or had?

— rene.g.espina@gmail.com

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RONDA STAGE 2

Navymen keep top 3 spots

BUTUAN CITY—Navy-Standard dominated for the second straight day with Ronald Oranza claiming his second stage victory and Jan Paul Morales hanging on to the overall lead in the Mindanao leg's Stage Two of the LBC Ronda Pilipinas yesterday.

The 22-year-old Oranza clocked one hour, 17 minutes and 59.32 seconds to rule the 3.71-kilometer Stage Two criterium after topping the Stage One road race on Saturday.

"I knew someone from my team will win this stage. I'm just not sure I will have that chance again," said Oranza, who now has four stage triumphs in six Ronda editions.

Morales finished second in 1:17:59.47 despite figuring in a spill in the last 20 minutes of the required one-hour loop after he hit the rear wheel of Oranza in one of the turns.

The 31-year-old Marikina native suffered contusions on his right shoulder and thigh but didn't slow down.

Navymen Daniel Ven Carino, Rudy Roque and Joel Calderon finished third to fifth with clockings of 1:17:59.84, 1:17:59.88 and 1:18:00.25, respectively.

John Mark Camingao, the yellow MVP Sports Foundation local leader as the top cyclist from Mindanao, ended up at No. 6 in 1:22:01.65 despite gear problems.

Navy captain Lloyd Lucien Reynante wound up seventh in 1:23:09.58 that kept his grip at No. 2 overall with 23 points.

Oranza remained at No. 3 with 20 points.