

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

26 February 2016

Friday

TABLE OF CONTENTS 26 FEBRUARY 2016

PAGE	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER	
NR.				
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. A18	
	NATIONA	L NEWS		
2-3	Noy: Stop Marcos return	Aurea Calica	Phil Star p. 1	
	ARMY RELA	TED NEWS		
4	NPA commandeer killed in Bukidnon encounter Alexander		Mla Bulletin p. 16	
5	NPA assassin killed in Bukidnon	PNA	Tribune p. 2	
6	NPA leader killed in clash	Alexander Lopez	Tempo p. 4	
7	'Child soldier' hawak na ng DSWD	Betchai Julian	Abante p. 6	
8-9	Rebel leader killed in botched attack against troops in Bukidnon		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com	
	Caraga rebels threaten to shoot down sprayer planes	-	www.interaksyon.com	
	AFP RELAT	ED NEWS		
10	New Military Allowances Not Tax-Exempt	Prinz Magtulis	Phil Star p. 18	
11-12	Allowances for military personnel taxable - BIR	Bianca Cuaresma	Business Mirror p. A1	
13	Fire at camp of 'lumad' seen as arson	Germelina Lacorte	PDI p. A9	
14	Senators press deeper probe into torched lumad center	Butch Fernadez	Business Mirror p. B7	
15	Duterte orders probe of lumad refuge fire	John Paolo Bencito	The Standard p. A4	
16	Probe on burning Lumad dorm in Davao City sought	Angie Rosales	Tribune p. 2	
17	MILF to help in AFP offensive vs BIFF	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p. A27	
18	MILF troops move away from AFP, BIFF fight sites	Rene Acosta	Business Mirror p. B7	
19	MILF puts up evacuation center as clashes continue	Sandy Araneta	The Standard p. A4	
20	MILF repositions 1,737 fighter to avoid misencounter with AFP	Mario Mallari	Tribune p. 3	
21	Cheating feared with Cory's close-in aide at Smartmatic helm	Gerry Baldo	Tribune p. 1	
22	AFP officials disappointed, saddened by placing Edsa museum inside Crame	Mario Mallari	Tribune p. 3	
23	Propaganda war sa Lanao uminit pa	Al Jacinto	Abante p. 6	

	Nanunog sa Lumad: 'Mas masahol pa sa hayop'	Aries Cano	Abante p. 6
24	Duterte to let police, military act vs cheating	Ben Rosario	Tempo p. 2
25-26	Youth urged: Protect all forms of freedom	Aurea Calica	Phil Star p. 14
27	Where are the foreign ASG hostages?	Edd Usman	Mla Bulletin p. 16
28	US to step up South china Sea patrols	Reuters	PDI p. A1
29	China hits foreign press reportage on sea dispute	Roy Mabasa	Mla Bulletin p. 2
30	US to boost South China Sea freedom of navigation moves	Reuters	Malaya p. B1
	ONLINE	NEWS	
	Drug pusher killed, 2 ASG members captured in Jolo shootout	-	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
31-35	MILF repositions troops to assist AFP in BIFF pursuit PAF participation graces 30th EDSA People Power anniversary		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
	Gang leader linked to Abu Sayyaf may walk free		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
		•	www.inquirer.net
	Abu Sayyaf member among captured in Jolo shootout	Roel Pareño	www.philstar.com

26 February 2016



Page: AU

		100	W WW	panahon.	v		UIIR	
AFFECTING TO SECTION OF C (FEBRUARY 25	ENTRAL LUZC	N	TURUEGARAI 20 36	D CITY	FFECTING NOR	e e com	SUNRISE	SV#VSET
			000 CITY 13 - 21 °C				6:15 AM MOONNISE	6:03 PM Moonset
	23 - 27 ° WETHU N	C ()	T1014181	ogganistication of the second			8 52 PM	9 21 AM
ILITY (PAR)	21 - 31	Aroiro\ .c	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	24-31°C	Meteru .		FULL MOON 155 23 219 NA	LAST QUARTER MAR 2 7.10 AM
	JERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C 23 - 30 °C 24 - 31 °C 24 - 31 °C 24 - 32 °C 24 - 32 °C						LOW TIDE MANILA HAPA 652 AM 0.05 Mater	MANILA SOUTH MANILA SOUTH MARCOR 1248 PM
PPINE AREA					29 °C Ro Davao		Party Gouldy to at terms closely with releasings Party allowly to at terms about with talkelloways mode throwbendowns.	
Ë	MUS and providing conjugate	idilitye		:			Chresty within and Transform Constitution of C	n edendrousers inema
ETRO Ianila	22 - 32 °C	23 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	-**\ 19-29°C	20 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	77	
IGUEGARAO	19-26 °C	20 - 27 °C	LEGAZPI	23 31 *0	20 - 30 ° C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	22 - 29 °C / / 23 - 30 °C	21 - 29 °C
DAG	22 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C	PRINCESA	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	METHO DAVAO	23 - 22 °C	23 - 31 °C 22 - 31 °C
3010	12 - 22 °C	The state of the s	PACOTED.	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	ZAMROANG	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
un N			METRO CESTO			e grave en		20-00 G

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

24

February 2016



Noyf Stop Marcos return

By AUREA CALICA

Forced to flee the country 30 years ago by a popular uprising, the Marcoses are poised to regain power unless the people – especially the youth – shun attempts by the late dictator's family and supporters to revise history, President Aquino warned yesterday.

The President raised the warning in a speech at yester-day's commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the EDSA people power revolution that ousted Ferdinand Marcos and

Youth urged: Protect freedom Story on Page 14

catapulted Corazon Aquino to the presidency.

Marcos' only son and namesake is running for vice president. The dictator's widow Imelda is an llocos Norte congresswoman, while daughter Imee is provincial governor.

Aquino said supporters of the Marcoses were trying to rewrite history by glossing Turn to Page 14 over the abuses and repression during martial law.

"Is this not happening now? Those who want to revise our history have reached some success, in that they have been able to fool a number of the youth," the President said.

"You can even see the style of the loyalists in traditional and social media: they continue to dictate a narrative, in order to manipulate the opinions of the people," he added.

"I believe that it is not our fate to repeat the gried parts of our past; our fate is the sum of the decisions we make in the present," Aquino pointed out.

"I believe in the greatness of our people. I believe that, even if we are known for our patience, it has its limits – and if those limits are reached, then no one will be able to stop the wave of solidarity that will follow."

Recent developments, he said, remind him of a famous line in a movie: "The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist."

He said it was appalling that some groups were trying to make it appear that the martial law era was a "golden age" for the country.

age" for the country.

"To all those who maintain that Mr. Marcos should not be blamed for the things that took place under his regime, I can only say: Is it not true that, if you assume all power in yourself, you should also assume all responsibility?" he said

Without referring to the younger Marcos by name, Aquino said he couldn't accept the senator's pronouncement that he knew nothing to be sorry about during his father's rule.

The President argued that if the senator was clueless about what his family had done, "how can we be confident that he will not repeat the same?"

"All I can say is, thank you, because you have at least been honest in showing us that you are ready to emulate your father," Aquino said.

"Do not mistake me: this is not about the Aquinos versus the Marcoses; it is clear to me that this is about right versus wrong," he added.

Puzzled

In some of his trips abroad, Aquino admitted having difficulty answering queries on whether the Marcoses were still in power.

"Every time I leave the country, I tend to get asked: 'Is it true that the Marcoses are still in power?' I have to admit, it is very difficult to explain. To this day, it is still painful to think that a Filipino had the gall to inflict such abuse on his countrymen, like what Mr. Marcos did," the President said.

Citing a report, Aquino said the 1986 Commission on Elections tabulators were fearful and worried that the Marcoses would return to power because they themselves had seen the blatant cheating to favor the dictator during that time

He said the abuses coul have continued had the per ple not mustered the courag to stand up.

"We were able to unite a one people, and by the grac of God, we toppied the dictatorship without "Serting to bloody civil a wolution," the President said.

He added that if the sur veys were to be believed, th son of the dictator was gaining success in winning supporter and sympathizers. This could also mean the people hav

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC responsibility?" he said.

i55 Local: 5285, 5295

forgotten "what we once said he said.

- enough is enough."

The President also said it was not surprising that those who benefited during the dictatorship would continue to say that Filipinos did not get

anywhere since EDSA.

"They want us to believe that we had a better life under Mr. Marcos - since, anyway, that was the promise forcibly sold by the dictator. But where did his 21 years of leadership take us? Did our country not turn into the 'Sick Man of Asia?' Indeed, they are trying to smother all that we have achieved on the straight and righteous path," Aquino said.

The President said he could only shake his head in disappointment whenever he was told Marcos' time was the golden age of the Philippines.

"Perhaps they were golden days for him, who - after completing two terms as president, which is equivalent to eight years - created a way to cling to power," he main-

There had also been stories of businessmen not wanting their ventures to grow for fear of getting noticed by the dictator and forced to share earnings with him and his cronies, Aquino said.

'Golden age' of turmoil

And if it's any golden age at all, the martial law era was a golden age of rising national debt, brain drain, communist insurgency and violence in Mindanao, he added.

When Marcos began his time in office in 1965, Aquino said the national government owed P2.4 billion and by the end of 1985, national debt had grown to P192.2 billion.

"And because this money did not go where it was supposed to, the payment of this debt burdens us to this day,"

The President said many Filipinos also left for the Middle East during martial law.

The martial law period, he said, also saw the growth of the New People's Army from only 60 armed members to 25,000 because of the people's disillusionment with the government.

"It was also the golden age for those who abused our Moro brothers and sisters. Land grabbing became a trend in Mindanao and the Marcos regime, in stead of siding with those who were abused, seemed to approve of the actions of the abusers,' Aquino said.

While the regime could have worked for justice or passed a law to fix the situ-"the solution they pushed for involved the Philippine Constabulary and the Armed Forces," the President said.

Aquino reminded people of the achievements of his administration in forging peace with Muslim rebels through the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. He said the only thing missing is a Bangsamoro Basic Law.

'I feel a deep sense of disappointment, because the only law that can bring forth justice and peace is being blocked," he said, pointing out that Marcos heads the Senate committee where the BBL got stalled. He cited Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile's long interpellation of the measure in the last session day.

"And is it not true that these two surnames were the ones who pushed for a military solution against the Moros during the dictatorship?" Aquino said.

To our bosses: Many of us who suffered during martial law can understand the plight



A handout photo from the Philippine Air Force shows a fighter plane hovering over EDSA during yesterday's celebration of the people power revolution.

of our More brothers and sisters. My family likewise confronted the extreme abuses of those in power," the President

Son's anguish

On a personal note, the President said his father was put in solitary confinement for seven years and seven months at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija for being a threat to the dictatorship.

"They took his reading glasses so that everything he saw would be blurry. They took his watch so that he could not measure the passage of time. They took his ring so that he could not have anything to remember his wife and his family by. They painted his cell white, so that he would forget that there was a world outside those walls," Aquino said.

While his father was a civilian, he was tried in a military tribunal and it was Marcos who appointed the members of the prosecution and the defense as well as

the judge.
"The one lawyer who disagreed with what was happening was likewise removed. It was such incidents that popularized the term: 'Lutong Macoy:' situations 'Lutong Macoy:' situations cooked up precisely to suit the dictator's tastes," Aquino

The President said the dictator did not stop with his father, as the licenses of their drivers were revoked so that they could not work.

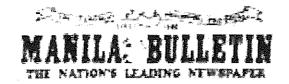
Even our helpers who were not even employed by us anymore - like my nanny and her husband, who was our driver - were apprehended so that they could be forced to testify against my father. The last time my nanny was arrested, she was six months pregnant," Aquino said.

The President said their gardener was also taken by the authorities and went home with only a few of his teeth remaining and his faced badly bruised.

"In almost every part of our nation, there are stories of those who were taken without warning, tortured and killed, or those who disappeared, whose bodies have not been found to this day," Aquino

"Let me emphasize: All this happened. Is there anyone here who can accept the possibility that we will return to a time in which these things can happen to you, or to your loved ones? A government that was given power by the people, used this very same power to abuse the people," the President said.

DQ February 2016



Page: 16

NPA commander killed in Bukidnon encounter

PALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

AVAO CITY - A top commander of the New People's Army (NPA) was killed when the military repulsed an attack by the communist insurgents on government troops in Barangay Kalanganan, San Fernando, Bukidnon Tuesday, the Army's Tenth Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID) reported yesterday.

According to 10th ID chief information officer Capt. Rhayn Batchar, Nardo Manlologpis, alias Bugsong and vice commander of the Guerrilla Front 55 (GF 55) of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC), was slain in the failed assault the NPA rebels waged against soldiers of Bravo Company of the 68th Infantry Battalion in Purok 8 of Barangay Kalanganan.

Batchar said four NPA rebels arrived onboard motorcycles and suddenly fired on the soldiers, who were quick to return fire.

Manlologpis was reportedly instantly killed in that fierce exchange and was left behind by his retreating

comrades.

Recovered from his possession was a .9mm pistol. The motorcycle used by the rebels was also recovered by the soldiers. No soldier was hurt during the incident, Batchar said.

The cadaver of Manlologpis was later handed over by the soldiers to San Fernando Police Station for proper disposition.

10th ID commander Maj. Gen, Rafael Valencia commended the 68th IB soldiers for their swift and courageous act against the attack.

"This NPAs' ploy manifests the desperate situation they are in now. Our soldiers will not hesitate to use legitimate force to protect themselves in accordance with our rules of engagement," Valencia said.

In another report, the 10th ID also reported on the capture of an NPA bomber last February 19 in Purok Humabon, Barangay New Panay, Maragusan, Compostela Valley province.

Batchar identified the rebel as Elmer Dagatan, alias Ka Eric, 32 and a resident of Purok Acasia, Barangay Poblacion, Maragusan

Recovered from his possession

were an improvised explosive device (IED), a 50-meter electrical wire, eight batteries, two blasting caps; and an IED trigger mechanism.

The arrest of Dagatan came after concerned civilians reported his presence in the area.

During interrogation, Dagatan admitted that he was a member Guerrilla Front 27 of SMRC and was tasked to conduct IED attacks against military personnel passing along the road in the area.

Dagatan was turned over to Maragusan PNP for the formal filing of criminal charges.

In an earlier incident, Patchar reported that a series of harassments was also carried out by the NPA rebels in Davao City last February 21, particularly in Calinan District.

In a report, elements of 84th Infantry Battalion were conducting medical and dental mission as part of its Peace and Development Outreach Program (PDOP) on Sundaymorning in Sitio Quibaton. Barangay Dominga, Calinan when fired upon by an undetermined number armed men believed to be NPA rebels.

 \mathcal{Q}_{Q} February 2016



Page: 2

NPA assassin killed in Bukidnon

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A suspected assassin of the communist New People's Army (NPA) was killed in a "chance" encounter with government troopers in Bukidnon, a police report reaching here yesterday said.

Police identified the fatality as Nardo Balite, aka "Kumander Bugsong," believed to be the team leader of the NPA Sparrow Unit of Front 55.

The Sparrow Unit, is the dreaded assassin team of the NPA that operates on specific target personalities, which was active in the 1980s.

Police investigator Nestor Aniñon of the San Fernando Municipal Police Station in Bukidnon said the shootout with government troops occurred in Kalagangan, a mountain village of San Fernando last Tuesday afternoon.

He said a team from the Army's 68th Infantry Battalion was conducting an "administrative movement" when fired upon by the suspect who was with three other suspects on board a motorcycle.

Aniñon said the government troops fired buck, which resulted in the killing of Balite. The three other suspects reportedly fled, leaving behind the motorcycle.

The responding policemen recovered one unit black Honda 155 TMX motorcycle with plate number MC32450KT, one 9mm pistol with a magazine and one magazine of a .45 caliber pistol.

26

February 2016



Page. ____

NPA leader killed in clash

DAVAO CITY – A New People's Army (NPA) leader was killed when his group attacked troops of the Philippine Army in Barangay Kalanganan, San Fernando, Bukidnon, Tuesday morning.

Captain Rhayn Batchar, 10th Infantry Division chief information officer, said that four NFA rebels on board a motorcycle attacked the soldiers of Bravo Company of 68th Infantry Battalion in Purok 8, Barangay Kalangan.

The soldiers, however, quickly retaliated, forcing the rebels to retreat, leaving behind their dead commade identified as Nardo Manlologpis alias Bugsong, vice commander of Guerilla Front 55 of Southern Mindanao Regional

Committee (SMRC).

Recovered from the slain rebel's possession were a .9mm pistol and the motorcycle used by the insurgents. No soldier was hurt during the incident, Batchar said.

The body of Manlologpis was turned over to San Fernando Police Station for proper disposition. (Alexander D. Lopez)

26 February 2016



Pahina.

Child soldier hawak na ng DSWD Nasa pangangalaga na ngayon ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) ang isang 'child saldia'

ng mga pasabog sa Pantukan, Compostela Valley.

Ayon kay Capt. Rhyan Batchar, Public Affairs Office chief ng 10th Infantry Division ng Philip-pine Army (PA), humingi ng tulong ang dalawang tiyuhin ni alyas John, 14, sa Peace and Development Team ng 46th Infantry Battalion para isuplong ang pamangkin at maging maayos ang magka-engkuwentro sa

sila dahil nakakatanggap sila dahil nakakatanggap na rin ng mga pagbabanta sa buhay ang kanilang Julian)

ang isang 'child soldier' na sinanay ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa paggawa ng mga pasabag sa Pantu sundin ang utos ng mga iturn-over sa Pantukan Police, agad naman itong dinala sa pangangalaga ng DSWD.

Una nang nakaaresto ang militar at pulisya noong Pebrero 9 ng isa pang 'child soldier' na si alyas Dong, 14, habang kasama ang isa pang CPP-NPA member sa isang checkpoint habang tumatakas makaraang pagti-turn over nito sa pagitan ng mga tauhan mga awtoridad. pagitan ng militar at NPA sa Sitio Pahayag ng mga ti- Post 4, Pantukan, Com-yuhin ng bata, natakot postela Valley at ngayon

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Rebel leader killed in botched attack against troops in Bukidnon

A ranking New People's Army (NPA) leader was killed during a botched attack on troopers from 68th Infantry Battalion conducting routine patrol missions in San Fernando town, Bukidnon last Tuesday.

Reports forwarded Thursday by Capt. Rhyan Batchar, 10th Infantry Division spokesperson, said the clash took place 10:30 a.m. at forested area of Barangay Kalangangan.

He said that troops were conducting routine patrol missions when four NPA fighters, reportedly from Guerrilla Front 55 of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee and all aboard a motorcycle, popped out of nowhere and began firing on the patrolling soldiers.

This prompted government troops to return fire, killing one of the rebels, scattering the other three.

Pursuing troopers recovered a 9mm pistol, the motorcycle, and the slain rebel identified as Nardo Manlologpis, vice commander of Guerrilla Front 55's SDG Platoon.

His remains was immediately turned over to the San Fernando Police station for turnover to his relatives.

www.interaksyon.com

Caraga rebels threaten to shoot down sprayer planes

By: InterAksyon.com

MANILA, Philippines — Communist rebels in the Caraga region said they would shoot down aircraft used to spray the banana plantations of commercial agricultural firms "because of the damage it causes to the workers, residents and the environment."

A statement issued earlier this month by the National Democratic Front Northeast Mindanao Region said they had warned two firms — Sumitumo Fruits or SumiFru in Tagbina, Surigao del Sur, and Del Monte-Philippines in Cabadbaran and Tubay, Agusan del Norte — in December to stop aerial spraying "but they continued to use this, not considering the damage it causes to the surrounding people, plants and animals."

"We call on the pilots of the aerial spray aircrafts to stop and look for other jobs. Even if they are not the targets of the shooting, they are at risk to be hit by the bullets," NDF-NEMR spokesperson Maria Malaya said.

Malaya pointed out that thousands of families live around the two firms' plantations and "many of them acquired lung and skin diseases because of the chemicals that they cannot help but breathe and get on their skins."

Because of the spraying, she added, other plants "are dying and no longer bearing fruit" and water sources are contaminated.

Malaya noted that aerial spraying has been banned in other places like Davao because of the adverse effects and "the strong opposition of the people, especially the victims and environmental groups" but said the practice persisted because the national government allowed it and security forces are bribed to protect the companies.



February 2016



New military allowances not tax-exempt - BIR

By PRINZ MAGTULIS

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has clarified ahead of a budget release next week that the new military allowances granted under President Aquino's order on pay hikes would be subject to income tax.

allowance and monthly officers' allowance given to military personnel/officers under

the recently signed EO are subject to income tax," Revenue Memorandum Circular 19-2016 stated.

Aguino, who signed Executive Order (EO) 201 last Teb. 19, authorized the first tranche of sal-"The monthly provisional ary adjustments for government employees under the proposed Salary Standardization program, which is still stuck in Congress.

Last Wednesday, Budget Secretary Florencio Abadissued two new circulars that effectively implemented the EO, which also included the allowances for the military.

(This is) an interim measure to supplement the total compensation until such time that a pension reform measure is

passed in Congress," Abad said in National Budget Circular 562.

But the BIR made it clear that the new set of allowances is not among those covered by tax exemptions on military benefits as provided by Republic Act 9040.

It reasoned that under Section 3 of RA 9040, only the longevity pay, collateral pay

and the hazard, mandatory and clothing allowances are exempted from taxes.

The BIR circular stressed that those that are not mentioned in Section 3 should be taxed.

Aside from the new set of alloweness, the FO also increased the hazard pay of uniformed personnel from P290 to P390 a month.

Abad said on Wednesday that the P57.91-billion fund will be released next week and is just short of the final permits that each government agency needs to submit.

"This will ensure that they (state workers) will get at least the first tranche of the pay increase that we have planned for them," Abad said in a statement.

He February 2016

Allowances for military personnel taxable—BIR

By BIANCA CUARESMA

HE newly approved additional allowances for civilian and uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are taxable under the law, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Just last week, President Aquino signed an executive order (EO) that modified the salary schedule for civilian government personnel and authorized additional benefits for both civilian and uniformed personnel.

P390



New monthly hazard pay for all military and uniformed

personnel starting this year, from P240 per month

Sections 7 and 9 of the new mandate effectively grant additional "monthly provisional allowance" and "monthly officer's allowance" to military personnel and officers as an interim measure until such time that their base pay schedule is modified and rationalized.

BusinessVirror

Page. <u>M</u>

The BIR was quick to clarify that these additional allowances are taxable under the law, as these provisional grants are not listed under the 2001 law on tax exception for certain allowances and benefits granted to the members of the AFP.

Under Section 3 of the 2001 law, known as Republic Act (RA) 9040, only the following pay and allowances shall not be included in the gross income and shall be exempt from taxation: longevity pay, cost-of-living allowance, personnel economic-relief allowance, hazardous allowance, specialist pay, combat pay, flying pay, air mechanic's pay, sea duty pay, hazardous duty pay,

instructor's dutypay, parachutist's pay, hardship pay, special clothing allowance, cold winter's clothing allowance, cold weather clothing maintenance allowance, winter clothing allowance, initial enlistment and reenlistment allowance, and laundry allowance.

"A reading of Section 3 of RA 9040 would show that the monthly provisional allowance and monthly officer's allowance given to military personnel and officers pursuant to the recently signed EO are not among those enumerated as exempt from income tax under the law," the BIR said in a memorandum.

"Accordingly, it is hereby clarified that—not being included under the enumeration of pay and allowances exempt from income tax under Section 3 of RA 9040—the Monthly Provisional Allowance and Monthly Officer's Allowance given to military personnel and officers under the recently signed EO are subject to income tax," the BIR added.

This means the new monthly provisional allowance—which ranges from P95 to P1,149 and the monthly officer's allowance—which ranges from P7,000 to P35,000—are all subject to the income-tax brackets applicable.

In the case of a candidate soldier, under the granted monthly provisional allowance, he or she will have his or her allowances at P267 on the first tranche, P547 on the second tranche, P842 on the third tranche and P1,149 on the fourth tranche—all subject to income-tax rates.

The monthly provisional allowances get incremental raises depending on the rank of military and uniformed personnel—the lowest of which are candidate soldiers and the highest of which are generals and director generals, who will receive P14,214 on the first tranche, P35,260 on the second tranche, P63,977 on the third tranche and P95,399 on the fourth tranche, all minus taxes due.

The P1,000 allowance on the first tranche given to a captain—under the monthly officer's allowance provided in the EO—is also clarified to be taxable under the law along with the P3,000 in the second tranche, P4,500 in the third tranche and P7,000 in the fourth tranche. The allowance ranges increasingly with higher-ranking officials—with the captain, senior inspectors and lieutenants senior grade at the bottom of the officers' list and the generals and director generals on top. The lattertwopositions will receive P9,000 on the first tranche, P18,000 on the second, P25,000 on the third and P35,000 on the fourth tranche—all minus income taxes.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

What is exempt from income tax under the newly signed EO is the increase in the hazard pay of all military and uniformed personnel from the current rate of P240 per month.

Under the President's mandate, hazard pay will increase to P390 per month starting this year; then to P540 per month starting January 1, 2017; P690 per month starting January 1, 2018; and P840 per month starting January 1, 2019—all exempt from income taxation by the BIR.

Meanwhile, Col. Noel Detoyato, Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs office chief, thanked the President for the additional allowances as he welcomed the hazard-pay tax exemption.

"It is a much-needed reprieve. The exemptions will go along, long way for soldiers. It will not only increase our salaries, but will also increase our take-home pay," he said. With reports from Rene Acosta

JG February 2016

Rounis

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Fire at camp of 'lumad' seen as arson

DAVAO CITY—A young "lumad" woman at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines' (UCCP) Haran compound here was roused from sleep at dawn on Wednesday by pieces of burning tarpaulin dropping near where her 2-year-old baby slept.

Barely past her teens, Tata Manayap seized her son, Demon, and jumped out of the makeshift hut that, for the last several months, had served as her home after she and 700 other lumad fled militia atrocities in Davao del Norte and Bukidnon.

Demon suffered second degree



A YOUNG "lumad" woman carries her
2-year-old baby who suffered second degree
burns in a fire that swept through a lumad
evacuation site in a Protestant church compound
in Davao City.

GERMELINALACORTE/INQUIRERMINDANAO

burns. The baby is among five lumad wounded in the 2 a.m. fire that also destroyed two dormitories in the Haran compound that housed 20 college students and medical interns.

Investigators said the fire could be a case of arson.

Jong Monzon, secretary general of the lumad group Pasaka, said he awoke to the commotion and quickly called for police help, which came after 20 minutes.

He was narrating what he saw to policemen when the lights went out and shouts were heard about a fire at the other end of Haran.

"We've always been on alert because we have been receiving threats," said Monzon.

Rainbe Bartolome, 17, a student at Davao Doctors College and resident of one of the burned dormitories, sifted through piles of debris looking for her belongings—a mobile phone, a laptop, a mobile Wi-Fi router.

Her search went for naught. "Now, you can't do anything but cry," she said.

She said dorn residents had been trained well on fire prevention, but this fire could not have been an accident.

SFO4 Orencio Grado, chief investigator of the Bureau of Fire Protection, said the odor of gasoline still filled the air six hours after the fire, an indication of arson.

More signs of arson had been found—the wire fence at the back of the dormitory ripped open and empty bottles with gasoline residue.

Evacuees said the perpetrators, which they suspect were members of the military-backed Alamara militia, doused the entire place with gasoline first.

In a text message, the human rights group Karapatan said the LIC AFFAIR lumad evacuees have been complaining of harassment Purpos even after they had fled their communities.

Page: Aa

The group blamed authorities, including North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco, chair of the House indigenous people's committee.

Catamco and several policemen went to Haran last year trying to convince the evacuees to return home.

A melee ensued when the evacuees refused to heed Catamco's plea.

"First we thought it was raining because we heard the sound of rain," said Annabelle, a lumad evacuee from Talaingod.

"Then someone saw a lit torch and soon there was fire," she said.

"We were warned before that our camps will be torched to force us to move out and go home," said Monzon. "Indeed, it happened," he said.

Reacting to accusations that she is partly to blame, Catamco said she is just as outraged as the evacuees are over the fire.

"While I condemn this inhumane act, I nevertheless denounce the seemingly puerile and frivolous accusations implicating me," said Catamco in a text message.

She declined further comment.

Arson investigator Ramil Gillado, of the Central Fire Station, said at least seven structures, including the evacuee shelters, were destroyed by the fire.

Hazel Navarra, of the UCCP, said witnesses reported seeing several suspects aboard a motorcycle.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he has already ordered an investigation, reiterating support for the lumad evacuees. Germelina Lacorte and Dennis Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

ail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Securing the land

Hebruary 2016

BusinessVirror

Page. <u>\$7</u>

Senators press deeper probe into torched lumad center

By BUTCH FERNANDEZ

ENATORS are seeking a deeper inquiry into the burning of a lumad evacuation center housing hundreds of indigenous families in Davao City.

This developed as Sen. Francis G. Escudero, in a statement, cited reports on "frequent killings in the lumad communities widely believed to have been perpetrated by armed groups with ties to the military" that "forced these indigenous people to leave their homes."

Escudero, former chairman of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, is asking authorities in Davao City to conduct a thorough investigation of the torching of an evacuation center on Wednesday that injured five individuals, which included three minors.

City officials must act immediately to determine who are behind the burning, Escudero said in Filipino. What the lumads need now is justice, he added.

Escudero said his office received initial reports that five lumads, including two children, were hurt during the fire that broke out in the Haran Center providing shelter to dislocated Manobo families from Davao del Norte and Bukidnon. According to him, these indigenous peoples had earlier sought safe refugé in the church-run dormitory.

Escudero reminded authorities concerned that the basic principle in social justice is that "those who have less in life should have more in law."

Escudero is coauthor of Senate

Bill 2358, also known as the Anti-Discrimination Bill, which seeks to make any form of discrimination a "crime against humanity and human dignity."

The proposed law aims to prohibit discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion or belief, sex or gender or sexual orientation, language, disability, educational attainment and other forms of discrimination.

In a separate statement, Partylist Rep. Fernando Hicap of Anakpawis described the attack as an act of terror. Even a sanctuary where the lumad sought refuge due to the was not spared from the atrocities perpetrated by state forces and its military-backed groups, Hicap said.

"In the commemoration of the toppling of the Marcos dictatorship, our people continue to experience this kind of inhumane act," Hicap said in a separate statement. "The recent scorching of a lumad refugee center clearly manifested that our country continues to live in terror especially those who fight to expose abuses of the government."

President Aquino talks about how his family suffered from the atrocities of martiallaw, but, it is cally, his government was doing the same thing now against our lumad brothers and sisters in Mindanao, he added.

The army in Mindanao is using the Alamara, a military-trained and sponsored paramilitary group to sow terror among the lumads who evacuated, according to Hicap. He said the lumads now number to 900 in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) compound since May last year.

"They want to make it appear that the UCCP Haran [compound in Davao City] is unsafe for the lumad evacuees to justify their supposed rescue attempt and return them to their militarized communities."

In July last year, Rep. Nancy A. Catamco of the Second District of North Cotabato allegedly led the supposed lumad rescuing, accompanied bypoliceandsome Alamara members. Her group attempted to force the lumad out of UCCP Haran, but failed. "Now with the latest incident, we are wary that Catamco will attempt another rescue stunt" Hicap said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

34

February 2016

Page: A4

Duterte orders prob of lumad refu

By John Paolo Bencito and Macon Araneta

PAGADIAN CITY-Presidential candidate and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday ordered the local police to probe deeper into the fire that broke out at an evacuation camp sheltering displaced tribal folk inside a church-owned property Wednesday.

"I deplore the burning if it's intentional. The police should dig deeper and find out who did it," said Duterte who was campaigning here Thursday.

Peter Laviña, Duterte's spokesperson, said the mayor wants the police to find evidence whether the incident that injured at least five indigenous peoples, four of them children, was

indeed a case of arson.

"Duterte and the peace-loving people of Davao sympathize with the plight of the lumad [tribal folk] and join their call for respect for their right to self-determination, right over their ancestral land, cultural integrity, meaningful economic growth, and justice," Laviña said in a statement.

Witnesses from the lumad organization Pasaka said unidentified men in motorcycles set fire to the camp and dormitories inside the Haran compound of the United Churches of Christ of the Philippines, the temporary home for lumad refugees who were driven from their homes by paramilitary groups in Davao del Norte and Bukidnon since last year.

The lumads had sought shelter at the UCCP's Haran Compound in Davao City due to the presence of military units in their communities purportedly because of the presence of communist rebels in the area.

The Bureau of Fire Protection in Davao City said its initial investigation showed that arson was the cause of the fires that broke out on opposite ends of the Haran Mission House.

Also on Thursday, teachers' network Educators for Development decried another attack on lumad evacuees that included student evacuees. They called on the presidential candidates to pool efforts to immediately stop grave atrocities against the indigenous group.

"The intensifying militarization has deliberately attacked lumad schools, teachers and children. No one has been held accountable and justice has not been attained for the massacre of lumad educators and leaders, the killing of a lumad student, nor the burning and ransacking of schools and cooperatives," the group said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

February 2016



Probe on burning Lu rm in Davao C

By Angle M. Rosales

Senators yesterday demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged burning of a dormitory in Davao City that has been serving as evacuation camp for some of the hundreds of displaced Lumads that left five injured, including two children.

A twin call was made by Senators Grace Poe and Francis "Chiz" Escudero as the two pressed for the immediate identification of the perpetrators of the alleged arson.

* "We condemn this act against the Lumad evacuees to the highest level. We call on the authorities to investigate at once the incident, get to the bottom of things and

punish the perpetrators. We also call for the demilitarization of Lumad communities and to respect their right to determine their own path to prosperity based on their culture and beliefs." Poe, a presidential candidate, said.

In a separate statement. Escudero, who is Poe's running mate, emphasized the urgency in identifying the culprits behind the burning of the dormitory, saying that the Manobos from Davao del Norte and Bukidnon should not be made to suffer due to discrimination.

"Those who have less in life should have more in law. That's the basic principle in social justice," Escudero, former chairman of the Senate committee

on justice and human rights, said.

Initial reports showed that five Lumads were hart during the fire that broke out at dawn Wednesday in Haran Center, which shelters Manobos from Davao del Norte and Bukidnon who sought safe refuge in the church-run dormitory.

Last year, Poe filed Senate Resolution 1572, seeking an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Lumad killings that had become more frequent and brazen. She called on lawmakers to formulate legislative measures protecting, furthering and improving the welfare of various indigenous peoples and tribes in the Philippines.

Poe denounced the closure of

schools and the threats to teachers who serve in Lumad communities.

Frequent killings in the Lumad communities, widely believed to have been perpetrated by armed groups with ties to the military, have forced these indigenous people to leave their homes.

In 2014, Escudero co-authored Senate Bill 2358, also known as the Anti-Discrimination bill, along with Poe, to make any form of discrimination a "crime against humanity and human dignity."

The bill prohibits discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion or belief, sex or gender or sexual orientation, language, disability, educational attainment and other forms of discrimination.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

L February 2016



Page: A27

MILF to help in AFP offensive vs BIFF

DAVAO CITY – The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has offered to help government troops in their pursuit operations against members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

The MILF has repositioned more than 1,000 of its armed men in several barangays in Maguindanao, Carlos Sol Jr., head of the government panel's Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities Secretariat, said yesterday.

"This would allow our armed forces the freedom to operate against the BIFF. We want to avoid misencounters between government forces and the MILF," Sol said.

The Army's 1st
Mechanized Infantry Brigade
led the offensive against the
BIFF in Barangays Gawang
and Madia in Datu Saudi
Ampatuan town and Tee and
Andavit in Datu Salibo on
Feb. 5.

Prior to the operations, the MILF repositioned 1,737 of its armed members to assist government forces.

Sol said the MILF soldiers were deployed to Sitio Udsuran in Barangay Kitango in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town; Sitio Diate, Barangay Pamalian and Sitio Balbugan and Barangay Pagatin in Shariff Saydona Mustapha.

Sol said military operations are ongoing in Salbo, Pagatin, Mamasapano and Shariff Aguak towns, where around 6,000 B1FF members and their families reside.

Sol said the MILF has given assurance it would reposition its forces if pursuit operations would spread to other areas. – Edith Regalado, Jose Rodel Clapano

20

February 2016

BusinessMirror

Page. B7

MILF troops move away from AFP, BIFF fight sites

By RENE ACOSTA

HE Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has already moved its more than 1,000 fighters away from the scenes of the ongoing government lawenforcement operations in Central Mindanao.

A statement from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp) said the repositioning of MILF combatants in several barangays, particularly in Maguindanao, was made in order to avoid any "misencounter" between the pursuing troops and MILF forces.

However, military officials expressed doubts whether the ordered moving away of forces would be followed by MILF commanders on the ground, noting that such was not usually followed in the past by some MILF commanders.

No less than Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin said during the Senate hearing on the Mamasapano debacle that the MILF leadership has no control over its fighters. This is principally the reason behind the massacre of 44 police commandos in January last year, Gazmin said.

Senior military officers also noted that the repositioning of fighters did not cover MILF fighters in Butig in Lanao del Sur where fighting is ongoing between soldiers and more than a hundred members of a terrorist group.

Butig is a stronghold of one of the most senior commanders of the MILF, Abdulah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo.

The military is spearheading a combination of law enforcement, election-related and counterterrorism operations in Maguindanao, Basilan and Lanao del Sur, a culmination of its preparation and building up of forces in those areas during the past weeks.

In Maguindance, ground forces, including the 1st Mechanized Brigade were pursuing a biggroup of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) who fought with soldiers guarding a government flood-control project at Barangay Tee in Datu Salibo on February 5.

While Barangay Tee has been cleared from terrorists, the area is still being cleared from planted homemade bombs as troops pursue BIFF members who have sought refuge or escaped into adjoining areas, some even controlled by the MILF.

At the height of the sporadic fighting between soldiers and the BIFF, the terrorists ran into a village controlled by the MILF in the neighboring municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan where the MILF engaged the pursuing troops.

The Opapp said the MILF has repositioned a total of 1,737 members in Barangays Gawang and Madia in Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Barangays Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibo "to give way to the AFP's [Armed Forces of the Philippines] pursuit operations against the BIFF."

"All MILF forces in these areas are repositioned to allow our armed forces the freedom to operate against the BIFF. We want to avoid 'misencounters' between the government forces and the MILF," the Opapp said, quoting Director Carlos Sol Jr. Sol heads the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities Secretariat.

Hebruary 2016

Ständard

Page: 4

MILF puts up evacuation center as clashes continue

By Sandy Araneta

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Thursday declared one of its strongholds an evacuation center for some 500 families caught in the fighting between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and bandits.

Clashes erupted on Feb. 20 when a group the military described as foreign and local terrorists harassed a military camp of the 51st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bayabao, Butig in Lanao del Sur.

The attack spilled over to a nearby village in Barangay Poktan in the

same municipality.

Ameruddin Usman, a member of the MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities in Lanao, said they coordinated with the MILF front commander to declare Barangay Sandab an evacuation center.

MILF spokesman Von Al Haq said they received reports that the group that harassed the military in Butig called themselves members of the ISIS or the Islamic State.

Usman said about 500 families fled their homes and have found refuge in Barangay Sandab. Others went to their respective relatives in the other barangays away from the fighting

barangays away from the fighting.

The head of the government's CCCH secretariat Carlos Sol Jr. said the barangay was prepared to ensure the safety of the evacuecs. "There are facilities. There are schools, and other houses where the evacuees could

go for temporary shelter," he said.

Sol said that through the ceasefire arrangement with the MILF, members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces in the area were immediately informed and repositioned to prevent a misencounter between the military and the MILF.

The ceasefire between the government and the MILF was first instituted in 1997. While there had been occasional violations over the years, there were no skirmishes from 2012 to 2014.

Al Haq said the MILF had no involvement in the fighting and that they had no reason to engage the military.

"We are very sad about the attacks in Lanao del Sur." he said.

Top BIAF Commander Abdullah Macapaar, also known as "Commander Bravo," denied allegations that he and his group were involved in the attack on government soldiers

in Balindong and Butig, Lanao del Sur. He urged the ceasefire committees of the government and MILF to investigate the attacks.

A few days ago, MILF Chairman Murad Ebrahim issued a statement saying that "the MILF will continue to uphold the peace process and ensure that all the gains will be preserved."

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process said on Feb. 5, the AFP's 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade initiated a law enforcement operation against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters that traversed through barangays Gawang and Madia in the municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan and barangays Tee and Andavit in the municipality of Datu Salibo.

Before the operation, the MILF repositioned 1,737 members of its BIAF to give way to the AFP's pursuit operations against the BIFF.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

26 February 2016



Page:

MILF repositions 1,737 fighters to avoid misencounter with AFP

By Mario J. Mallari

More than 1,000 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters were supposedly repositioned out of the conflict area in Central Mindanao where the military has been conducting law enforcement operations against various armed groups.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), in a statement, announced that MILF combatants were repositioned in several barangays, particularly in Maguindanao, to avoid any misencounter between the pursuing troops and MILF forces.

The OPAPP said the MILF has repositioned a total of 1,737 members in Barangays Gawang and Madia in Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Barangays Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibo "to give way to the AFP's pursuit operations against the EFFF"

"All BIFF forces in these areas are repositioned to allow our armed forces the freedom to operate against the BIFF. We want to avoid mis-encounters between the government forces and the MILF," OPAPP said, quoting Director Carlos Sol Jr., head of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines-Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) Secretariat.

"We repositioned the MILF from their communities to three repositioning sites," it added, naming the forces as those from the 105th and 118th Base Commands and the Interim and National Base Commands.

Sol identified the areas as Sitio Udsuran, Barangay Kitango, Datu Saudi Ampatuan; Sitio Diate, Barangay Pamalian and Sitio Balbugan, Barangay Pagatin, Shariff Saydona Mustapha.

However, military sources expressed doubts if the MILF fighters will follow the repositioning order coming from their leaders.

Military sources cited past experiences when the MILF leadership order was ignored by their fighters on the ground. No less than Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said during the Senate hearing on the Mamasapano debacle that the MILF leadership has no control over its fighters, and this is principally the reason behind the massacre of 44 police commandos in January 2015.

Senior military officers also noted that the repositioning of fighters did not cover MILF fighters in Butig in Lanao del Sur where there is currently an ongoing fighting between soldiers and a more than a hundred members of a terrorist group.

Butig is a stronghold of one of the most senior commanders of the MILF, Abdulah Macapaar alias Commander Bravo.

The military is spearheading a combination of law enforcement, election-related and counter terrorism operations in Maguindanao, Basilan and Lanao del Sur, a culmination of its preparation and building up of forces in those areas during the past weeks.

In Maguindanao, ground forces, including the IstMechanized Brigade were pursuing a big group of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) who fought with soldiers guarding a government flood control project at Barangay. Tee in Datu Salibo on Feb. 5.

While Barangay Tee has been cleared from terrorists, the area is still being cleared from planted homemade bombs as troops pursue BIFF members who have sought refuge or escaped into adjoining areas, some even controlled by the MILF.

At the height of the sporadic fighting between soldiers and the BIFF, the terrorists ran into a barangay controlled by the MILF in the neighboring municipality of: Datu Saudi Ampatuan where the MILF engaged the pursuing troops:

The government did not raise the violation of the MILF.

It is worth noting that the recent clashes happened after the "death" of the MILF-proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law before the 16th Congress.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

26

February 2016



Page:

Cheating feared with Cory's close-in aide at Smartmatic helm

By Gerry Baldo

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has joined 39 percent of Filipinos who have already expressed serious doubts that the May elections would be clean.

According to the communist group, a consultant of the late President Corazon "Cory"

Turn to page 3

6 A 22"

From page 1

Aquino, Lord Mark Malloch Brown, is the man behind Smartmartic which will control the voting infrastructure for the May 9, 2016 elections.

Brown, a Cambridge-trained diplomat and former journalist with The Economist became a lifetime peer in 2007, and had had his share of woes defending his boss, former United Nations (UN) Secretary Kofi Annan, whose oil-for-food program was savaged for the loss of \$557 million in UN funds for the program as well as the \$310 million for UN peacekeeping operations that could not be accounted for.

He is closely associated with Tinancier George Scros of the Quantum Fund.

In November 2014, Brown also became the chairman of the London-based SGO, the parent company to Smartmatic, a company that provided automated voting machines in the Philippines in 2010 and 2013.

But his more relevant work was the fantastic registration of 95 percent of the voters for the Feb. 2, 1987 plebiscite on the 1987 Constitution and the May 11, 1987 elections.

Aquino failed to win that

election, but the ensuing "people power" revolt ousted then strongman Ferdinand Marcos Sr. and installed her as revolutionary president.

In both exercises, 90 percent of registered voters participated.

Commenting on the Cory Aquino resort to a quick plebiscite on the 1987 Charter, the CPP said on the Feb. 21, 2016 issue of "Ang Bayan" that "the Cory Aquino regime revived somewhat the processes of democracy by changing the Constitution, reestablishing Congress, restoring press freedom and launching elections."

It, however, stressed, "it did not take long for the people to see the cheating during the Feb. 2, 1987 plebiscite and the May 11, 1987 elections, when, unbelievably, 95 percent of the voters registered and 90 percent of them voted."

"Involved in this was the now Lord Mark Malloch Brown, a political consultant of Corazon Aquino, who is now the chairman of SGO, the parent company of Smartmatic, which owned the machines used in the 2010 elections and the ones to be used in the May 2016 elections," CPP said.

Cory Aquino also restored the

writ of habeas corpus and freed hundreds of political prisoners.

"The Cory Aquino regime also increased the military budget by 47 percent and raised the salaries of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by 60 percent, which succeeding regimes also raised," the communist group noted.

"Under the direction of the leaders of the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) like Gen. John Singlaub and Ray Cline, the military and paramilitary units attacked activists in the cities and countryside as early as 1986, leading off with the brazen assassinations of Rolando Olalia, chairman of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Bayan secretary general Lean Alejandro," the party added.

"While openly calling for reconciliation, more than 15 combat battalions were assigned against the revolutionary forces as early as March 1986," CPP stressed.

In March 1987, after the Mendiola Massacre in which 13 peasants were killed, Aquino scrapped the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF) and waged war against the CPP and the New People's Army.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: cacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

2G February 2016



AFP officials disappointed, saddened by placing Edsa museum inside Crame

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was placed on an awkward situation with the setting up in Camp Aguinaldo of the Edsa People Power I Experiential Museum which showcases military abuses during the martial law years.

The museum, set up in front of the Camp Aguinaldo grandstand as part of the 30th anniversary celebration of Edsa People Power I, contained a supposed "torture chamber"; photographs of hundreds of missing people; children looking for their loved ones, and several prominent activist who were killed.

There was also a room where one can peek from small holes and would see ongoing party, apparently in reference to the life of the Marcoses and their cronies.

In the "torture chamber," a man in uniform doing torture acts like putting out lighted cigarette from the skin of a civilian captive called "Boy Balaois," who was also electrocuted and made to hang in the air.

Also portrayed in the museum, set up by the Edsa People Power Commission, were several activists

from various parts of the country who described how they were killed by government troops during separate incidents during the martial law.

The museum was originally planned to be set up along White Plains Avenue, beside Edsa People Power Monument but was moved to Camp Aguinaldo.

Many, if not most, of those who have seen the museum noted that it was more of an anti-Marcos piece than promoting the spirit of Edsa People Power I which is unity and loved of country.

The military was demonized highlighting its abuses during the martial law years.

Top-ranking AFP officials, who requested anonymity, were saddened and disappointed by what they saw in the museum.

"The organization (AFP) was placed in the bad light. There should at least be a transition from the martial law years to what is the AFP now, a transformed and a very professional organization," a senior official told *The Tribune*.

"It's like hosting an anti-military rally right inside the general headquarters, not for one day but for four straight days," another official said

A mid-ranking officer said "it's okay if it is not here at GHQ (general headquarters). I really feel awkward."

Ask for his comment, Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP-Public Afrairs Office chief, said that what was portrayed in the museum was the "dark past" of the 125,000-strong military.

"That was the dark past of the military...we want to stress it is dark and it is past. We now have transformed and a very transparent Armed Forces," Detoyato said.

Former Commission on Human Rights Chairman Etta Rosales, who admitted being a torture victim during the martial law, visited the museum and said she can't help but reminisce on the hardships she and other fellow activitists suffered during the Marcos years.

"I was a torture victim as a young teacher...there were sexual molestations, electrocution," said Rosales.

"I remember myself being tortured, I remember my friends who disappeared," she added.

Rosales, however, said that the government now is different. "It instituted change, it takes care of human rights."

X

February 2016



Pahina.

Propaganda war sa La**nao** umin**it p**a

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Mistulang propaganda war na ang inilulunsad ng militar matapos ang sunudsunod na pagkasawi ng mga sundalo sa sagupaan sa mga jihadist group at rebelde sa lalawigan ng Lanao del Sur sa magulong Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Tatlong sundalo ang nasawi sa labanan sa mga nakalipas na araw sa bayan ng Butig kung saan iginigiit ng militar na mahigit sa 20 mga rebelde ang diumano'y nasawi at kabilang pa rito ang isang Indonesian Jemaah Islamiya militant na nakilalang si Omar Maute

Ngunit lahat ng pahayag na ito ay pawang nakabase umano sa intelligence report. Gayunma'y wala namang maipakitang pruweba o nabawing mga bangkay ang militar sa Butig.

Patuloy pa rin kahapon ang operasyon ng militar sa naturang lalawigan ngunit hindi pa mabatid kung may mga nadamay o nasawing sibilyan sa karahasan.

Subalit libu-libong katao na ang sinasabing nagsi-

likas sa naturang bayan.

Unang napabalitang sumabak sa sagupaan ang puwersa ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front na siyang nasa likod din ng ilang mga atake sa militar sa nasabing lalawigan.

Kasama rin nito ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters at Khilafah Islamiyah Movement. (Al Jacinto)

Nanunog sa Lumad: 'Mas masahol pa sa hayop'

Mariing kinondena ng Anakpawis Partylist ang pinakahuling atakeng ginawa laban sa mga Lumad evacuees sa United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCI) sa Haran Compound sa Davao City at tinawag pang mas masahol pa sa hayop ang asal ng mga nasa likod ng panununog.

Ayon sa isang opisyal ng Anakpawis na si Ariel Casilao, alas-dos ng madaling-araw kamakalawa nang sunugin ang evacuation camp at dormitoryo ng mga Lumad ng hindi pa nakikilalang mga kalalakihan.

Dalawang paslit ang isinugod sa ospital matapos na magtamo ng sugat dahil sa nangyaring panununog.

"The perpetrators are worse than animals, they are non-humans in human-shape form," git ni Anakpawis Rep. Fernando "Ka Pando" Hicap na kasama sa nagprosteta para tutulan ang Republic Act No. 8550 o ang Fisheries Code of 1998 in Quezon City. (Aries Cano)

X

February 2016



Page. 2

Duterte to let police, military act vs cheating

Presidential candidate Davao City Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte will let the military and police act in case he and other candidates lose the presidential race through widespread cheating.

Duterte said that while he may consider leading civil disobedience to protest massive poll fraud, he would prefer the military and police to address the controversy.

He said the military intelligence community will easily discover poll cheating which many information technology experts believe happened in the past two elections.

The PDP-Laban standard bearer aired this position in a meeting with at least 200 businessmen Monday night in Makati City who shelled out P1,000 each for dinner and hear Duterte discuss national issues with them.

A doctor and an IT expert rose to warn Duterte that the administration should be expected to rely on cheating to ensure victory for its candidate, former Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II,

"I am a senior citizen and I am afraid you might not win because of cheating. The machinery for cheating is already on the go, if that happens are you willing to launch a countrywide civil disobedience?" a certain Dr. Sevilla asked Duterte.

Duterte responded: "I will, if the predicate is widespread cheating."

The PDP-Laban chairman said that an extended civil disobedience protest will be difficult to control and might only result to a confrontation between the protesters and law enforcement groups.

"If it becomes very, very clear that there was cheating, I will address the problem to the military and the police. I leave it to their hands," he said.

Rafael Garcia, who introduced



DUTERTE

himself as the inventor of the Botong Pinoy voting process, said fraud will be committed unless the Commission on Elections agree to restore the voter verification paper trail which is now the object of a Supreme Court petition filed by former Sen. Richard J. Gordon who is seeking a return to his former seat.

"When Comclec voted en banc to eliminate the voter verification paper trail which is a requirement of the law, I knew that was where the hole was going to be," Garcia stated. (Ben R. Rosario)

QG February 2016



Page:

Youth urged: Protect all forms of freedom

By AUREA CALICA

Won back through the sacrifices of the older generation, many of whom suffered torture and death during martial law, freedom should be nurtured and protected "so that darkness will never consume the Philippines once more," President Aquino said yesterday in a speech addressing the youth.

"Today, I ask the youth: Take it upon yourselves to learn of what happened during EDSA," the President said at the celebration of the 30th EDSA People Power revolution attended mostly by students or the so-called millennials.

While taking potshots at the Marcoses, especially vice presidential candidate Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Aquino stressed that EDSA 1 was not about them but the future generation.

"You will reap the fruits of whatever future we are sowing today. Let me relate to you what my mother once said: 'the problems we face are our generation's. It is our generation that has to correct them. Your role is to prepare yourselves better, to avoid making the same mistakes,'" Aquino said, quoting his mother, democracy icon and former president Corazon Aquino.

He said today's youth are enjoying the freedoms taken away from the generation that came before them.

"If you reached your 30th birthday while fighting against the dictatorship, you were already lucky to still be alive. Now, at 30 years old, your professional life has just started. You have the freedom to earn and to save money, to love and to start a family—the freedom to dream," the President said.

"You will benefit the most if we are able to protect our freedom, so, God willing, you understand the responsibility you bear," he pointed out.

"God willing, the freedom we so long dreamed of, will never, ever be taken away from us once more," he maintained.

He said as part of the commemoration of the 1986 revolution, an EDSA People Power Experiential Museum has been put up so that today's young can experience, "even in a farremoved way," the cruelty of the dictatorship.

"I hope that you make the most of this chance to see how important the freedom and the democracy you now hold in your hands are," he said.

"I believe that the current generations are aware of the fact that the stature they have reached today is because of the fact that they stand on the efforts and sacrifices of those who have come before them," he pointed out.

Energizing presence

The President was visibly energized by the presence of young people during yesterday's people power celebration.

Many of them participated in the traditional Salubungan with former president Fidel Ramos, the members of the military and the police, nuns, priests, religious groups, among others.

The Salubungan is a reenactment of the joining of anti-Marcos forces holed up at Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo in February 1986.

One group of marchers, including the military and Ramos, started from Camp Aquinaldo while the other group began walking from the EDSA Shrine.

The groups, complete with military tanks and the image of the Our Lady of Fatima, met in front of the People Power Monument at EDSA corner White Plains Avenue, where Ramos reenacted his famous jump after learning of Marcos' departure from the Palace. The celebratory gesture turned out

to be premature.

The President also joined the crowd in an emotional singing of "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" and "Bayan Ko."

EDSA revelers, especially young people, took selfies and group photos and expressed delight at the brief air show, confetti shower from helicopters and musical performances by artists Noel Cabangon, Ogie Alcasid and Ryan Cayabyab.

The President began his speech by picking a few lines from the song "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" (The Filipinos' gift to the world), which he said fully encapsulated the message of EDSA: "We will never allow our long desired freedom to be taken again."

Aquino said although his family was victimized during martial law, they were somehow more fortunate than the others because they were able to visit their father, the late

senator Benigno Aquino Jr. in detention.

"Others were not so lucky. Many of you here today went through even greater suffering — far greater than anything I can share. But what I will speak of... is not intended for you, but for the current generation that experiences so many forms of freedom," Aquino said.

"Today, if you are a fresh graduate, you can fly directly to Bora (Boracay island), or to another country, without the authorities keeping watch over your every move. You can go out with friends without fear of breaking the curfew. Being able to purchase a car or a condominium is not a distant dream. Today, you can access the world's information with the press of a smartphone button," he said.

"Perhaps, given your cur-

"Perhaps, given your current situation, it is difficult to understand that, at one point in our history, information was hard to come by," the President

said.

AC February 2016



Page: 16

Where are the foreign ASG hostages?

By EDD K. USMAN

Amid the election fever, a senior leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has raised concern over the welfare of at least five foreigners and some Filipinos still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu.

"I don't really know for sure, but it seems the government has forgotten the foreign and local hostages," the MNLF leader, who asked not to be named, asserted.

He said the case of the hostages still being held by the ASG may have been lost in "the ongoing election campaign and the military offensive in Sulu."

The foreign hostages he was referring to include three foreigners – Canadians John Ridsel and Robert Hall, and Canadian Kjartan Sekkingtad – and a Filipina, Maritess Flor.

A Dutch bird watcher, Ewold Horn,

is also among the foreign hostages after he and Filipino colleague, Lorenzo Vinciguerra were abducted in Tawi-Tawi four years ago. Vinciguerra has since been able to escape from their captors.

There, too, is Italian Rolando del Torchio, a former priest who now owns a pizza parlor in Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte. He was kidnapped in October last year.

The MNLF leader said he believed that the foreign captives were all with various ASG sub-groups scattered in Sulu and are being dragged around in the jungles as the bandits try to elude relentless military offensives.

ASG sub-leader Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan, whose group is holding the four Samal Island captives, had earlier demanded a P3-billion ransom for the three foreigners, which he later reduced to P900 million.

The source also said the ASG subleaders and groups, among them, Al-Habsi Misaya, Sawadjaan, Ilo Group (Orphans' Group) and Ajang-Ajang recognize senior Radulan Sahiron as their overall chieftain and they share any ransom money they get with him.

The sub-groups are helping each other and they can easily gather some 400 armed fighters combined if they are cornered.

The MNLF leader said a relative of an ASG sub-leader and another source from the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) in Zamboanga City provided him with these details.

He said he spoke with them and asked if there was any ongoing negotiation or effort to secure the hostages' freedom.

"My friends told me that at present, there was no negotiation," the MNLF leader in Sulu said.

26 February 2016



Page: A1

US to step up South China Sea patrols



AGAINST CHINA Filipino activists, Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian students picket the Chinese Embassy in Makati City on Thursday to protest China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea.

WASHINGTON—The United States, worried by China's military buildup to assert dominance in the South China Sea, will increase freedom-of-navigation operations there, a senior Pentagon official said on Wednesday.

"We will be doing them more; and we'll be doing them with greater complexity in the future and ... we'll fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows," Adm. Harry Harris Jr., head of the US Navy's Pacific US TO STEP/A20

Candidates must state
position on S. China
Sea-Carpio • Southeast Asian
students, activists protest
Beijing's assertiveness in
South China Sea/A20

From page Al

Command, told a hearing of the House of Representatives armed services committee.

"We must continue to operate in the South China Sea to demonstrate that water space and the air above it is international," Harris said.

On Tuesday, Harris said in comments coinciding with a visit to Washington by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that China was "changing the operational landscape" in the South China Sea by deploying missiles and radar as part of an effort to militarily dominate East Asia.

He said China was militarizing the South China Sea, "and you have to believe in a flat Earth to think otherwise."

China insists its military facilities in the South China Sea are "legal and appropriate."

On Tuesday, in an apparent reference to US patrols, Wang said Beijing hoped not to see more closeup reconnaissance, or the dispatch of missile destroyers or strategic bombers.

Candid discussion

Wang met with US National Security Adviser Susan Rice on Wednesday and they "candidly discussed" maritime issues, the White House said in a statement.

Rice emphasized strong US support for freedom of navigation and urged China to deal with regional concerns, the statement said.

China's official Xinhua news agency said of the meeting that both countries believed all sides should work hard to maintain the peace and stability of the South China Sea.

"The South China Sea issue should be resolved via dialogue and peaceful means," Xinhua added.

US deterrent

Harris, asked what more could be done to deter militarization, said the United States could deploy more naval assets, although there were significant "fiscal, diplomatic and political hurdles" in the way of stationing a second aircraft carrier group in the region.

"We could consider putting another (attack) submarine out there, we could put additional destroyers forward ... there are a lot of things we could do, short of putting a full carrier strike group in the Western Pacific," he said.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have rival claims.

Harris' comments came a day after he said China had deployed surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island in the South China Sea's Paracel island chain and radars on Philippineclaimed Calderon Reef (international name: Cuarteron Reef) in the Spratly islands further to the south.

Disturbing trend

On Tuesday, Harris' command said China's repeated deployment of advanced fighter aircraft to Woody Island was part of a disturbing trend that was inconsistent with Beijing's commitment to avoid actions that could escalate disputes.

Last month, a US Navy destroyer carried out a patrol within 22 kilometers of Triton Island in the Paracels, a move China called provocative.

The United States has also conducted sea and air patrols near artificial islands China has built in the Spratlys, including by two B-52 strategic bombers in November.

China and the United States have been trading accusations over militarization in the South China Sea, where islets, reefs and atolls are believed to be sitting atop vast deposits of oil and natural gas.

The rhetoric has heated up since it emerged last week that China deployed antiaircraft missiles on Woody Island, which is also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

China denies it has aggressive intent. Its foreign ministry on Tuesday reasserted Beijing's

right to develop its South China Sea island outposts, saying it has sovereignty over them.

On Thursday foreign ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said China "really needs" its defenses in the South China Sea and accused the United States of militarization in the waterway.

"The United States is the real promoter of the militarization of the South China Sea," Wu said.

"China's construction of military facilities on the islands and reefs of the South China is really needed," he said.

The Philippines, a US treaty ally, has challenged China's excessive claims in the South China Sea in the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

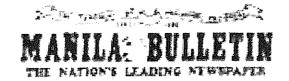
China has ignored the proceedings, but the court has proceeded to hear the case and is expected to hand down a ruling later this year.

On Thursday, the People's Liberation Army Daily reported that China commissioned a domestically produced missile frigate this week.

The paper said the frigate, with a displacement of more than 4,000 tons, has powerful long-range surveillance and antiaircraft capabilities.

Ships of that kind can be used alone or along with other naval forces to attack enemy surface ships, the report said. Reports from Reuters and AP

OG February 2016



Page:

China hits foreign press reportage on sea dispute

By ROY C. MABASA

China has lashed back at the foreign media accusing it of "selectively exaggerating what they want

to report" while "neglecting what they do not want to report" with regard to the situation in the West Philippine Sea particularly China's perceived expansion of maritime claim in the said region.

In a press briefing in Beijing, a transcript of which was posted in the official website of the Chinese Embassy in Manila, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying noted in particular that many members of the international press are "quite interested" in issues pertaining to China's actions in disputed islands, particularly the deployment of military assets to the said areas.

Hua was reacting to a question that cited reports about China's move to send fighter jets to one of the islands in the Paracel chain.

"I want to stress that the Xisha Islands (Chinese name for Paracel) are part of China's territory with no dispute at all," she stated.

"Construction and deployment on China's own territory is totally within China's sovereignty and perfectly justified."

According to Hua, when the foreign press reports about what China is deploying to the disputed South China Sea, it should also note that some countries have likewise deployed "quite a few radar and military facilities in the past decades on the islands and reefs that they illegally seized from China."

"It is hoped that friends from the press would stay sensible and cool-headed and write objective and impartial reports," said Hua adding that the international media should learn to present an "objective and accurate picture of the whole thing to the public."

Foreign media outlets earlier quoted the US State Department in its reports that a February 18 commercial satellite image showed that Chinese missiles were recently deployed to another contested island, Woody Island.

IG February 2016



Page: <u>\$1</u>

US to boost South China Sea freedom of navigation moves

WASHINGTON. - The United States, which is worried by China's military buildup to assert dominance in the South China Sea, will increase freedom-of-navigation operations there, a senior Pentagon official said on Wednesday.

"We will be doing them more, and we'll be doing them

with greater complexity in the future and ... we'll fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows," Admiral Harry Harris, head of the US Navy's Pacific Command, told a hearing of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

"We must continue to operate

in the South China Sea to demonstrate that water space and the air above it is international," Harris said.

On Tuesday, Harris said in comments coinciding with a visit to Washington by Chinese

See US≯ Page B2

US

Foreign Minister Wang Yi that China was "changing the operational landscape" in the South China Sea by deploying missiles and radar as part of an effort to militarily dominate East Asia.

China says its military facilities in the South China Sea are "legal and appropriate," and on Tuesday, in an apparent reference to US patrols, Wang said Beijing hoped not to see more close-up reconnaissance, or the dispatch of missile destroyers or strategic bombers.

Wang met with US national security adviser Susan Rice on Wednesday and

they "candidly discussed" maritime issues, the White House said in a statement. Rice emphasized strong US support for freedom of navigation and urged China to address regional concerns, the statement said.

China's official Xinhua news agency said of the meeting that both countries believed all sides should work hard to maintain the peace and stability of the South China Sea.

"The South China Sea issue should be resolved via dialogue and peaceful means," Xinhua added.

Harris, asked what more could be done to deter militarization, said the United States could deploy more naval assets, although there were significant "fiscal, diplomatic and political hurdles" in the way of stationing a second aircraft carrier group in the region.

"We could consider putting another (attack) submarine out there, we could put additional destroyers forward ...there are a lot of things we could do, short of putting a full carrier strike group in the Western Pacific," he said.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims. – Reuters

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

ONLINE NEWS 26 FEBRUARY 2016

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Drug pusher killed, 2 ASG members captured in Jolo shootout

A suspected drug pusher was killed while two alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were captured during a shootout with government troops in the province of Sulu on Thursday.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, Joint Task Group Sulu commander, said the shootout took place around 10:30 a.m. Thursday in Sitio Unique, Barangay Busbus, Jolo town.

Arrojado said the slain suspected drug pusher remained unidentified. His remains were brought to the police headquarters in Jolo.

Arrojado identified the two arrested suspected ASG members as Al-Aziz Hadjiru Binang, 24, and Annuar Dalawis Hamid alais Totoh, 25. Both are followers of Indanan-based ASG sub-leader Alden Bagade.

He said the shootout ensued when the policemen were fired upon while they were responding to an intelligence report about the presence of the suspects in a drug den in Sitio Unique, Barangay Busbus, Jolo.

He said the responding troops have recovered from the drug den one K-G9 pistol, one samural sword and drug paraphernalia.

He said the captured two suspected ASG members were taken to the police headquarters in Jolo for appropriate action.

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

MILF repositions troops to assist AFP in BIFF pursuit

The military wing of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have repositioned more than a thousand of its fighters in several barangays to avoid a mis-encounter as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) continues its law enforcement operations against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and other terrorist groups operating in the province.

Last February 5, the AFP's 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade initiated a law enforcement operation against the BIFF that traversed through Barangays Gawang and Madia in Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality and Barangays Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibo town. Prior to the operation, the MILF repositioned a total of 1,737 members of its Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) to give way to the AFP's pursuit operations against the BIFF.

"All BIAF forces in these areas are repositioned to allow our armed forces the freedom to operate against the BIFF. We want to avoid mis-encounters between the government forces and the MILF," said Director

Carlos Sol Jr., Head of the GPH Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) Secretariat. "We repositioned the MILF from their communities to three repositioning sites."

Established in 2003, the CCCH is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF. Aside from resolving complaints over ceasefire violations so that small skirmishes do not intensify, the CCCH is also instrumental in maintaining peace and order in communities with members of the MILF.

The sites mentioned by Dir. Sol include Sitio Udsuran, Brgy. Kitango, Datu Saudi Ampatuan; Sitio Diate, Brgy. Pamalian and Sitio Balbugan, Brgy. Pagatin, Shariff of Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao. The more than one thousand BIAF members are from the MILF's 105th, 118th, and the Interim and National base commands.

Meanwhile, civilians affected by the law enforcement operation composed mostly of families of the repositioned BIAF combatants are being assisted by the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao-Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (ARMM-HEART), the provincial government of Maguindanao, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Majority of the civilians are temporarily staying with their relatives in Barangays Madia, Dapiawan, Kitango, and other secured areas. The DSWD 12, through the CCCH, have been providing those affected by the repositioning with provisional food packs every ten days. The CCCH said that the DSWD 12 will be assisting until the situation normalized.

Sol explained that the repositioning was an excellent example of how the coordination between government and MILF forces was pivotal in the conduct of law enforcement operations and preventing mis-encounters. The MILF, on the other hand, has expressed its continued commitment in assisting the Philippine government in its pursuit of the BIFF.

"[T]he partnership [between the government and the MILF] is on because the peace agreement and [the] ceasefire agreement did not collapse," said one MILF member assigned to the CCCH.

The ongoing AFP operation is near the so-called SPMS Box – Salbo, Pagatin, Mamasapano, Shariff Aguak– where about 6,000 BIAF members and their families reside. Sol said the MILF has given assurances that in case the pursuit operation would spread, the MILF would also be willing and ready to reposition their forces there.

www.retiredanalyst.blogsoot.com

PAF participation graces 30th EDSA People Power anniversary

Military participation, especially the Philippine Air Force (PAF), was very much evident during the 30th anniversary of the EDSA-1 People Power Revolution Thursday morning.

This includes a high-speed opener pass of two FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" light-interim fighter aircraft which took place at 7:46 a.m. as President Benigno S. Aquino III was being given the traditional military honors at the People Power Monument.

This was followed by the dropping of yellow confetti of two UH-IH "Huey" helicopters during the traditional "Salabungan" rites which demonstrated the consolidation of military and civilian sympathizers of the revolt. This took place at 8:33 a.m.

The military contingent was headed by former president Fidel V. Ramos while the civilian re-enactors were led by Bobby Aquino, son of the late senator Butch Aquino, one of the people instrumental in starting the EDSA People Power Revolution.

A Simba armored fighting vehicle, bedecked with yellow flowers, was one of the highlights of the estimated 600 military personnel participating in the "Salubungan" ceremonies.

At 8:43 a.m., a fly-by consisting of 15 SIAI-Marchetti SF-260FH trainer aircraft, trailing red, yellow and blue smokes, passed overhead the skies over the EDSA People Power Shrine followed shortly by three Bell 412 combat utility helicopters and three attack version of the AgustaWestland AW-109 helicopters.

Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs office chief Col. Noel Detoyato said the participation of the military's brand-new air asset highlighted the AFP's transformation and capability upgrade.

"The (high-speed opener pass of the FA-50PH) is just to highlight AFP's transformation and capability (upgrade)," he added.

Detoyato said the decision to use the two brand-new jets is to show Filipinos that the AFP Modernization Program is now taking off.

"And while the (FA-50PHs) also made an appearance during the 80th AFP anniversary last Dec. 21, 2015 at Clark Air Base. Pampanga, it had to be repeated so that Filipinos could see and feel that their AFP has (indeed) transformed," the AFP public affairs office chief stressed.

www.inquirer.net

Gang leader linked to Abu Sayyaf may walk free

KOTA KINABALU — Notorious cross-border kidnap gang leader Kadafi Muktadil could walk free from a southern Philippines police lock-up if Filipino prosecutors fail to secure the original Malaysian warrant of arrest issued by a magistrate's court in Sandakan.

Lawyers for Kadafi, who took part in the kidnapping of beheaded Sarawakian engineer Bernard Then Ted Fen, have applied to the Philippines court for his release because the arrest warrant submitted by the prosecutors was merely a photostated copy.

The lawyers have filed an urgent motion of habeas corpus seeking Kadafi's immediate freedom.

They also argued that Kadafi, who is a key player in the Muktadil brothers gang linked to the Abu Sayyaf terror group, should be freed as there was no extradition treaty between Malaysia and the Philippines.

However, other Filipino officials say that if Malaysian authorities wanted Kadafi to face kidnapping charges in Sabah, they could try using the Mutual Legal Assistance treaty under Asean to seek his extradition.

Jolo police chief Major Junpikar Sitin told The Star they hoped that Malaysian authorities would send the original arrest warrant as a photostated copy might not be accepted by the court.

"We have submitted a photostated copy but it is quite a weak document for us to argue our case in court and detain him further," Major Sitin said.

He added that Kadafi remained in custody under Jolo police pending the conclusion of their investigations into other kidnapping cases.

Kadafi and his brother Mindas were part of the kidnap gang which snatched Then, 37, and Thien Nyuk Fun, 50, manageress of Ocean King Seafood restaurant, in Sandakan on May 14 last year.

Thien was released on November 8 while Then was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf gunmen after ransom negotiations collapsed on November 17.

Kadafi was arrested by Philippines security forces at a hospital in Jolo after he was injured following a motorcycle accident on November 28.

His arrest was seen as a major breakthrough in efforts by both the Philippines and Malaysia to cripple the gang linked to cross-border kidnappings.

Two other Muktadir brothers, Nikson and Badong, who are members of the gang based in the southern Philippines' Tawi Tawi chain of islands, remain at large.

www.phlistar.com

Abu Sayyaf member among captured in Jolo shootout

By Roel Pareño

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines - At least two suspects, including a member of the Abu Sayyaf group, were captured while another was killed in a shootout Thursday with the police forces in Jolo, Sulu, security official said.

The firefight came when intelligence unit of the Joint Task Group Sulu (JTGS) monitored an armed man while casing in against Abu Sayyaf bandit Annuar Dalawis Hamid, 24, a member of the Indanan-based Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Alden Bagade.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, JTGS commander, said elements of the Jolo Municipal Police Station who immediately verified the information at Sitio Unique, Barangay Busbus were shot by the gunman about 10:30 a.m.

He said the brief firefight erupted that left the unidentified suspect killed while his two other cohorts were arrested.

The arrested suspects were Hamid also known as Totoh and Aziz Hadjirul Binang.

The police recovered from the suspect a KG9 machine pistol, a samural sword and drug paraphernalia inside the drug den.