

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

29 February 2016

Monday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS


29 FEBRUARY 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A25
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Poll exec warns Pacquiao	Carla Gomez	PDI p.1
4-6	Jaafar: Lanao due to failed BBL	Mario Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
7-8	'No BBL, No Peace'	Sandy Araneta	The Standard p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
9	Sporadic clashes in Lanao continue: 24 terrorists dead	Victor reyes	Malaya p.B1
10	AFP open to jungle training with Brazil	Fernan MArasigan	The Manila Times p.A3
11	Duterte visits MILF stronghold	Edd Usman	Tempo p.2
12	MILF opens camp to Lanao evacuees	Ryan Rosauero	PDI p.A18
AFP RELATED NEWS			
13	AFP: 24 Islamist rebels confirmed dead in clash	Julie Aurelio	PDI p. A4
14-15	Kids with rare disorders treated to ship, boat rides	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
16	Duterte MILF want to bring peace in Mindanao	Edith Regalado	The Phil Star p.8
17	MILF leaders call Duterte brave, welcome him with opens arms	Alexander Lopez	Manila BULleton p.1
18	P24 bilyong dagdag sahod sa AFP, ibibigay na	BRT	Bulgar p.2
19	Still no hero's burial for FM	Genalyn Kabiling	Tempo p.2
20	Alleged MILF leader nabbed for drugs in Central Luzon	-	www.inquirer.net
SPORTS			
21	Chinas' potential missile triangle	Bernie Lopez	PDI p.A14
22	Libingan ng mga Bayani	Raymond Burgos	Abante p4
ONLINE NEWS			
23-24	Govt admits 'huge disappointment' over failure to pass BBL	-	www.philstar.com
25-26	Govt stresses need for rule of law, peaceful resolution of sea disputes	-	www.philstar.com


29 February 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A25



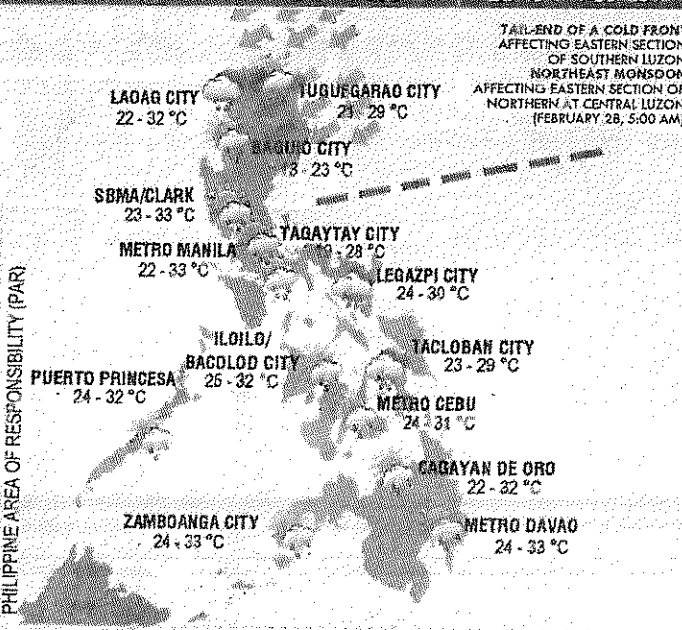
www.panahon.tv



PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 29, 2016 | MONDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

LAOAG CITY 22-32 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 23-29 °C

BAGUIO CITY 13-23 °C

SBMA/CLARK 23-33 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY 22-28 °C

METRO MANILA 22-33 °C

LEGAZPI CITY 24-30 °C

ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25-32 °C

TACLOBAN CITY 23-29 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA 24-32 °C

METRO CEBU 24-31 °C

CAGAYAN DE ORO 22-32 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY 24-33 °C

METRO DAVAO 24-33 °C

TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AT CENTRAL LUZON (FEBRUARY 28, 5:00 AM)





























SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:13 AM	6:04 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:14 PM	10:20 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
FEB 23 2:19 AM	MAR 2 7:10 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
8:13 PM	2:10 AM
0.15 Meter	0.62 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers




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


Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Light rains

	06:00-12:00	12:00-06:00	06:00-12:00	12:00-06:00	06:00-12:00	12:00-06:00		
METRO MANILA	 22-33 °C	 23-32 °C	TAGAYTAY	 20-27 °C	 20-20 °C	TACLOBAN	 23-31 °C	 24-31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 20-28 °C	 20-27 °C	LEGAZPI	 23-31 °C	 23-30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 22-32 °C	 23-31 °C
LAOAG	 22-31 °C	 21-31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 24-33 °C	 25-32 °C	METRO DAVAO	 24-34 °C	 25-33 °C
BAGUIO	 13-23 °C	 12-22 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	 24-32 °C	 24-33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 25-33 °C	 25-34 °C
SBMA/CLARK	 24-32 °C	 23-32 °C	METRO CEBU	 25-32 °C	 25-31 °C			

Watch PANAHO TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).



SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

1

February 2016

INQUIRER

Page: _____

Poll exec warns Pacquiao

TV showing of fight unfair—Guanzon

By Carla P. Gomez, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—Just like any movie star barred from making films while seeking elective office, Manny Pacquiao will also have to refrain from entering the boxing ring during his campaign for a Senate seat in the May elections, Election Commissioner Rowena Guanzon said yesterday.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) official said Pacquiao may have to face the consequences if he violated the Fair Election Act.

Pacquiao, a senatorial candidate under the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay, is set to fight Timothy Bradley in Las Vegas on April 9, exactly a month before the May elections.

The Sarangani representative has said he is willing to postpone his fight with Bradley if it would infringe on election campaign rules, but he is nevertheless continuing his training for the much-awaited event in Las Vegas.

"They say he's going to have a boxing match. He can, of course, box. That is his

POLL/A21

2

privilege, but if he shows his boxing match (on television) here, in my opinion, it will have consequences on his candidacy," Guanzon said.

"I don't want to preempt the commission. In my opinion, it will have consequences. Let's see if he will decide to have a match and air it here," she added.

Guanzon said the media exposure Pacquiao would get from the fight would unfairly boost his candidacy.

She compared the boxing champ with movie actors running for office who she said were not supposed to show their movies during the campaign.

"That's unfair," she said. "Newscasters, if they run, they go on leave because that would be unfair to the other candidates. That is the intent of the law."

The Comelec earlier said it would look into the possible violation of election rules should the Pacquiao-Bradley match push through.

But Comelec Chair Andres Bautista said he preferred to act on complaints filed against Pacquiao rather than having the poll body act unilaterally on its own on the matter.

Last week, independent senatorial candidate and former Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello asked the Comelec to compel Pacquiao to postpone the fight.

Bello filed a seven-page petition saying Pacquiao's extensive media exposure from his fight would give the boxer undue advantage over the other candidates.

In the latest Social Weather Stations survey conducted from Feb. 5 to 7, Pacquiao and former Justice Secretary Leila de Lima were tied in eighth place.

Below the belt

Bello said advertisements during the fight alone would give Pacquiao exposure that exceeded the allowed airtime of 120 minutes in every television station and 180 minutes in every radio station, as provided for by the new implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9006, or the Fair Elections Act.

Comelec Resolution No. 10049, or the IRR of RA 9006, prohibits showing publicly in a theater, through a TV station, or

any public forum any movie, cinematography or documentary, including concert or any type of performance, portraying the life or biography of a candidate.

The resolution also prohibits any radio, television, cable TV station, announcer or broadcaster from allowing any program or any sponsor to favor or oppose any candidate or party by repeatedly mentioning his name or his party.

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal, however, has argued that Pacquiao's match against Bradley cannot be a ground to disqualify the champ as a senatorial candidate.

There is no provision in election laws that justifies any complaint to disqualify Pacquiao because of his fight, he said.

If there is any election offense defined under Philippine laws, it could not be invoked against Pacquiao because the fight will be held in Las Vegas, Macalintal said.

Training goes on

There was no indication that the controversy had affected Pacquiao's preparations for the upcoming bout, although the training went roller-coaster last week.

He sparred for the first time against Canada-based Congolese Ghislain Maduma on Tuesday. Unfortunately, a glancing blow by Maduma in the third round grazed Pacquiao's left eye. Pacquiao rubbed his eye with a towel, irritating it with excess petroleum jelly, which is used to make the face slippery.

With his eye reddish and stinging, Pacquiao was unable to train on Wednesday and Thursday. He resumed his morning run on Friday and did gym work with chief trainer Freddie Roach in the afternoon, wearing dark shades to protect his eye from the sun's glare.

Reinvigorated, Pacquiao sparred for five rounds with Maduma on Saturday. Originally set to leave for the United States on March 5, Pacquiao had requested Roach to move his departure to March 15.

Pacquiao and Roach will resume training at Wild Card Gym in Hollywood and will head to Las Vegas on April 3 for his third showdown with Bradley on April 9 (April 10 in Manila) at MGM Grand. *With reports from Roy Luarda and Inquirer Research*

29 February 2016

THE DAILY
tribune
Without Fear or Favor

Page: 1

HINTS REVEAL... (Faint, illegible text)

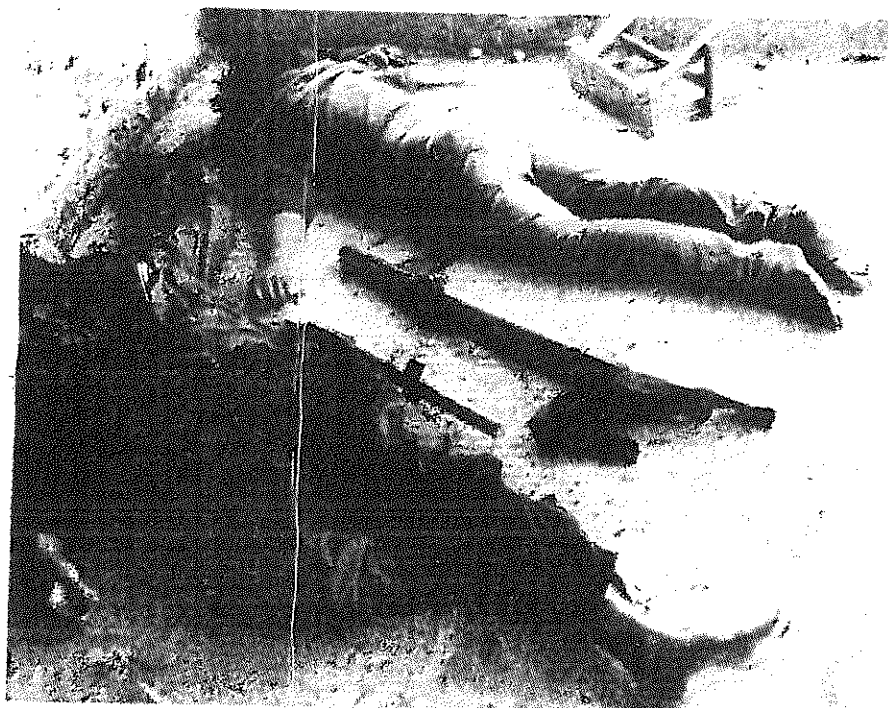
Jaafar: Lanao strife due to failed BBL

By Mario J. Mallari

No less than a top-ranking official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) admitted that the clashes in Lanao del Sur are linked to the failed enactment of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) as MILF vice chairman Ghazali Jaafar defended the groups involved in the clashes with the military are "not terrorists but disgruntled groups."

Jaafar said in a television interview the attacks were frustration by the government's mishandling of the peace agreement with the MILF but he stopped short of saying that the armed

Turn to page 2



Bodies of slain militants lie on the outskirts in Butig, Lanao del Sur after a military operation in the area which displaced more than 2,000 civilians during a week of fighting between Islamic militant and security forces in the area.

From page 1

groups were members of the MILF.

Jaafar said the only solution that the MILF sees to stop the clashes in Lanao del Sur is for the government to immediately "implement the Bangsamoro government."

Jaafar said the MILF leadership can't prevent its members based in nearby Camp Bushra and Camp Palestine who are planning to reinforce the group of Maute because of blood relations with the armed insurgents.

The BBL was stalled in Congress due to its many provisions that were deemed unconstitutional and its deliberations was overtaken by the election season resulting in absenteeism at the House of Representatives.

When the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) signed between the government under the Arroyo administration and the MILF in 2008 was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (SC), armed clashes broke out in Mindanao, with supposed MILF splinter groups occupied parts of North Cotabato and raised towns in Lanao del Norte and Sarangani.

MILF leaders blamed the attacks on field commanders impatient about the delay in the implementation of the agreement.

"Butig is very near a satellite office of the MILF. The attacks similar to what happened in Lanao del Sur, were not undertaken by terrorists," Jaafar, who was at the visit of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte in the group's Camp Darapanan in Maguindanan, said.

Jaafar claimed that the groups were among those who were disgruntled by the failed peace negotiations and how the government bungled its handling.

"Those are Moros and they did it (armed attacks) because of their anger on the way the Philippine government is handling the peace negotiation which has been always stuck to promises," the MILF

official added.

The Western Mindanao Command had identified the group as being led by brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute, who supposedly have links with the Southeast Asian regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

There were also reports that the Maute group was being assisted by supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Lt. Col. Billy dela Rosa, commander of the Philippine Army's 51st Infantry Battalion, said that the military had overrun the stronghold of the rebel groups at Butig town where 24 rebels were killed while five soldiers also died in the encounters.

The BBL would have paved the way for the creation of a Bangsamoro substate replacing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Marcos wants resolute AFP actions

Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr., chairman of the Senate local governments committee that deliberated on the BBL in the Senate, urged the national government to act fast in providing immediate assistance to the people of Lanao del Sur displaced by the clashes between government forces and Islamic militants.

Marcos was alarmed by reports that since the fighting erupted over a week ago reports said some 20,000 civilians have been displaced from Butig town, where the stronghold of the militants were located, and nearby areas in the province. About 7,800 were already in several evacuation areas.

"The national government should act fast to help the provincial government in ensuring all these evacuees are properly taken care of. If the clashes are prolonged the Lanao del Sur government may find its resources inadequate to support a swelling number of evacuees," Marcos said.

Marcos added the military must take the necessary precautions to avoid civilian casualties in their offensive against the

militants.

Meanwhile, the senator also urged the military commanders to comply with the mechanisms in the peace agreement with the MILF which has forces just outside Butig town—to prevent any possible "misencounter" between its troops and the government.

The military has credited the MILF for assisting civilians fleeing from the Butig clash. But there was also a report that some of its forces were involved in an ambush of military troops out to resupply the group running after the militants.

"Both the military and MILF leadership should exercise the necessary restraint to avoid misencounter as our troops conduct their legitimate operation against the terrorist elements," Marcos said.

Marcos earlier stressed that while Congress has failed to pass the proposed law for Bangsamoro autonomous region that would embody the government's peace pact with the MILF, the two sides must continue their pursuit for peace.

There were apprehensions raised earlier that the collapse of the peace deal could embolden hardline militants who want to resume a violent separatist uprising against the government.

"I am glad to note that the MILF leadership has affirmed their commitment in the pursuit of the peace process. We must not stop until we find peace in Muslim Mindanao," Marcos stressed.

Government troops have yet to clear Butig in Lanao del Sur, which was venue to massive military operations last week, as intermittent shots are still being heard near the municipal center which is now being combed for possible "booby traps".

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said that military troops are still combing the area of possible improvised explosive device (IED) planted by the terrorists.

So far, 24 rebels have been confirmed dead during week-long of military bombardment particularly in Barangay

Bayabao.

Among those killed were Omar Maute, the leader of the "foreign local terrorist organization" targeted by massive air, artillery and ground assault by the military in Butig which started two weeks ago when the terrorists attacked a detachment.

Also killed was Indonesian Mohammad Muktar.

According to Padilla, about a dozen bodies were recovered from the encounter site which was bombarded by OV-10 bomber planes and MG520 attack helicopters.

"As of Saturday, the confirmed figures is 24 dead, we have names and there are about 10 to 12 body count...those are validated," said Padilla.

Padilla said that displaced residents have not been allowed to return home as the clearing operations continue.

"Clearing operations are ongoing and then intermittent shots are being heard," said Padilla.

"We will not allow residents to return until such time that we clear the area so that they will be safe. The clearing encompasses checking the whole place for explosives, unexploded ordnance, booby traps, if there are any," he added.

As of yesterday, Padilla said there are about 2,500 residents still displaced and currently staying inside evacuation centers.

"That's a modest estimate, it came from the municipal hall according to our troops," said Padilla.

"We have yet to clear the center of the town, of course, the people will not return while they are still hearing gun shots," Padilla added.

MILF rejects Poe, Duterte formulas

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is not satisfied with the stance of Sen. Grace Poe and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte regarding its proposed Bangsamor Basic Law (BBL) publicly made during the first presidential debate two weeks ago.

The MILF found Poe's statement on BBL as mere rhetoric while Duterte's push for federalism is harder than passing a law like the BBL.

"Frankly, we find Senator Poe's answer very rhetorical. She merely reiterated the need for transparent, inclusive, sustainable negotiation, and implementation if there is an agreement already," the MILF said in a statement over its website.

"We expect a more categorical commitment from her during the second and third debates, which are already in the pipeline," it added.

On the other hand, the MILF noted that Duterte brushed aside any need for the BBL and batted again for federalism in this country.

"While he spoke clearly for the need to address the 'legitimate grievances' of the Moros, but a shift to federalism in this country is harder to realize than just passing a law, which is the BBL," the MILF said.

The MILF said it is eager to hear the stance of Vice President Jejomar Binay, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Liberal Party standard-bearer Mar Roxas on the BBL.

It said that the answer should only be yes or no for BBL.

The MILF said that clear stance on BBL will make or break Moro votes for the five presidential candidates.

"We do not want the Moro voters to vote for someone who is not committed to solve the armed conflict in Mindanao. The question calls for a yes or no answer. Any other answer would mean their policy of government is just to manage the conflict in Mindanao, or they want other options, say an all-out war," the MILF said.

Aside from the BBL, the MILF wants presidential aspirants to make clear stance on other hard or controversial issues, such as death penalty, gays, lesbians, transgender, same-sex marriages, going to war with China, divorce and Sabah claim.

21 February 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: 1

'NO BBL, NO PEACE'

MILF, Deles say 'disgruntled' rebels joining clashes

By Sandy Araneta, Francisco Tuyay and Florante S. Solmerin

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Palace's chief peace negotiator warned Sunday that disgruntled Moros are joining attacks against government troops over the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

MILF vice chairman Ghadzali Jaafar admitted that the group could not control its members, and said those fighting with

government troops in Butig, Lanao del Sur, were not bandits or terrorists, as the military has reported.

"Those are Moros, and they attacked because they are angry at the way the Philippine government is handling the peace negotiations—always promising [but not delivering]," Jaafar said in Filipino.

Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles, head of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, said the failure of Congress to pass the BBL caused the clashes between government forces and armed men in Mindanao.

"Certainly, the huge disappointment over the non-passage of the

BBL provides more enticing, fertile ground for recruitment to radical, extremist thought and action," Deles said in a statement.

Jaafar made his statements during a visit by Davao City Mayor and presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte to the MILF camp in Maguindanao.

"Butig is very near the MILF satellite office. The attacks there and other attacks similar to what happened in Lanao del Sur were not launched by terrorists. They are not terrorists or extremists. These peo-

ple are not radicals," Jaafar said.

Earlier, Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the group of attackers was led by brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute, who supposedly have links with the Southeast Asian regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

There were also reports that the Maute group was being assisted by supporters of the Islamic State.

Lt. Col. Billy dela Rosa, commander of the Army's 51st Infantry

Next page

7

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

'No...

From A1

Battalion, said that they have overrun the stronghold of the Maute group at the heart of Butig town.

But Jaafar said MILF leaders would not be able to prevent its members based in nearby Camp Bushra and Camp Palestine from reinforcing Maute's group because many of them are related.

"If a member's uncle is in the battle, he won't listen to us because blood is thicker than water. That's what's happening now," Jaafar said.

Jaafar said the only way to stop the clashes in Lanao del Sur is for

the government to implement the Bangsamoro government—which is what the BBL was supposed to do.

Before the fighting began in Lanao del Sur, the Palace said the quest for peace in Mindanao would continue even without the BBL.

On Sunday, Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla said 24 bandits were killed in the fighting, lowering the government estimate from the 42 earlier reported.

Tan earlier said the bandits suffered 42 casualties while the government had lost three soldiers.

But Padilla said the Western Mindanao Command had been told to be careful in releasing

casualty figures, and said only confirmed deaths should be reported.

Padilla also said the number of residents fleeing the fighting was 2,500, not 8,000 as earlier reported.

On Feb. 20, armed men led by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute tried but failed to overrun a military detachment in Butig town, prompting the Army brigade there to send more troops that employed tanks and artillery against the enemy.

Padilla said intermittent fire-fights continued to break out as the government forces pursued the bandits.

"Our troops have to fully clear the area not only of members of

the Maute group but also from booby traps. We have to normalize the situation so the residents can go back to their houses," Padilla said.

Massive clearing operations were being conducted in Brgy Bayabao and 14 nearby villages to free the communities of explosive materials laid by the Muslim rebels, he said.

On Sunday, sporadic firing could be heard from the outskirts of Butig town.

The surrounding villages of Bayabao saw week-long ground fighting and aerial bombardment directed against some 400-strong rebel band that launched a series of attacks on military posts.

8

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

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

29 February 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B4

Sporadic clashes in Lanao continue: 24 'terrorists' dead

BY VICTOR REYES

SPORADIC fighting between government forces and members of a local terrorist group in Butig town, Lanao del Sur continued on its 10th day yesterday as the military establishment vowed to restore order in the area.

"Clearing operations are ongoing and intermittent shots are being heard," said Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla of the fighting which broke out last February 20 when armed men attacked a military detachment in the town.

SPORADIC

ments, presidential peace adviser Teresita Deles yesterday pushed anew for the passage of the BBL. She said its non-passage could lead to recruitment for radical and extremist activities. However, she expressed confidence that ceasefire mechanisms are enough to prevent this from happening.

"Certainly, the huge disappointment over the non-passage of the BBL provides more enticing, fertile ground for recruitment to radical, extremist thought and action. [Thankfully, our ceasefire mechanisms... are working closely and robustly with the security sector to maintain peace and order on

The military said the group is composed of members of a "local terrorist organization" but declined to give their affiliation.

Unconfirmed reports said the group is from the Khilafah Islamiyah Movement which has links with the Southeast Asian regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah and with the local bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

On Saturday, an official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front said the armed men are not terrorists.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chairman for political affairs, said the armed men are Muslims

disappointed with the way the government is handling the peace process. He also said the only way to stop the clashes is to "implement the Bangsamoro government," apparently referring to the Bangsamoro Basic Law which, if it had been passed by Congress, would have created a new Bangsamoro region in Mindanao. The passage of the BBL and the creation of the region is part of the peace agreement signed by the government and the MILF in March 2014.

Reacting to Jaafar's state-

See SPORADIC > Page B6

the ground, including curbing the spread of extremism," she said.

Padilla declined to comment on Deles' statement but assured the public the Armed Forces is "prepared for all contingencies."

Padilla said that as of yesterday, there were 24 confirmed fatalities in the Butig clashes on the enemy side, although only 12 bodies were recovered. The rest were based on accounts of local officials and residents.

On the military side, Padilla said five soldiers have been killed while six others were injured.

Previous reports quoted Col. Roseller Murillo, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, as saying there were 61 enemies killed in the fighting.

The fighting broke out on the night of February 20 when the group harassed a military detachment in barangay Bayabao in Butig. Government forces arrived and cornered the group, leading to fierce fighting.

The troops were supported by OV-10 bomber planes, MG-520 attack helicopters, artillery fires and armored personnel carriers.

Padilla said the fighting displaced at least 2,500 people.

"We will not allow the residents to return until such time we are able to clear the area, to ensure their safety. Clearing operation encompasses checking the whole place for explosives, unexploded ordnance, booby traps, etcetera," he said. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

29 February 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 13

AFP open to jungle training with Brazil

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has expressed willingness to take part in the joint jungle warfare training with the Brazilian Army as proposed by Brazil's Army commander.

"If our government will accept [the invitation], then the Philippine Army will be very willing to be part of it. The more training experience with other armies, the better for our troops," said Col. Benjamin Hao, Philippine Army spokesman, said over the weekend.

Hao was reacting to an earlier report that Gen. Eduardo Dias da Costa Villas Boas, Brazil's Army commander, has expressed interest in conducting joint jungle warfare training between the two countries.

Boas reportedly brought out the matter during a recent meeting

with Philippine Ambassador to Brazil Jose D.R. Burgos.

Col. Noel Detoyato, chief of the AFP Public Affairs Office said Boas' proposal is a recognition of the importance of joint and combined exercises for future inter-operability of allied forces.

Besides the jungle warfare training, the Brazilian commander also proposed that both countries conclude an anti-drug trafficking cooperation agreement even as he cited his country's crime problem as a result of rampant drug smuggling and drug use.

The Brazilian Federal Police, according to Boas, has estimated that 80 percent of crimes committed in the country are drug-related.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

10

29 February 2016



Page. 2

Duterte visits MILF stronghold

Presidential aspirant Davao City Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte visited the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao Saturday.

However, the MILF said they cannot forget the hurt and humiliation heaped on its leadership by Duterte's running mate, Senate Majority Floor Leader Alan Peter S. Cayetano.

Ghazali Jaafar, the first MILF vice chairman, welcomed Duterte who was without Cayetano, but Al-Haji Murad Ebrahim, the MILF chairman, was not present during the meeting at the Peace Process Secretariat Office.

With Jaafar were the Front's military head, Sammy Al Mansor, chief of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, and some members of the Front's policy-making body, the Central Committee. (Edd K. Usman)

11

29 February 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A16

MILF opens camp to Lanao evacuees

By Ryan D. Rosaura
Inquirer Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has opened one of its controlled areas in Lanao del Sur province to evacuees from the weeklong fighting between government troops and a group of armed men known to harbor extremist views.

The arrangement to accommodate the evacuees in Barangay Sandab in Butig town was made through the peace mechanisms set up by the government and the MILF, according to a statement of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp).

Sandab village is a stronghold of the MILF's armed wing, the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), and hosts

a satellite office of its peace negotiating panel.

The Opapp statement quoted Ameruddin Usman, a member of the MILF Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities, as saying the hosting of the evacuees was coordinated with the front commander in the area.

Usman said around 500 families were evacuated and secured in Barangay Sandab. He said more families stayed with their relatives in other villages away from the encounter site.

Maj. Carlos Sol Jr., head of the government contingent in the joint ceasefire committee, said Barangay Sandab has enough facilities, like school buildings, to serve as temporary shelters for evacuees.

Apart from providing sanctuary to evacuees, Sol said the

continued cooperation between the government and the MILF was shown by the BIAF's decision to reposition its troops in Butig to prevent clashing with Philippine Army troops.

Sol said repositioning BIAF elements was also aimed at giving government forces "the freedom to pursue operations against the lawless group."

The clashes in Butig, a town in Lanao del Sur's border with Maguindanao province, started on the night of Feb. 20 when armed men attacked a detachment of government soldiers in Barangay Bayabao. The fighting has spilled over to the nearby village of Poktan.

The gunfights displaced about 4,000 families, military reports said. Army officials said two soldiers died from the clashes. While they claimed

that at least 50 members of the armed group were killed, only two bodies were recovered from the clash sites.

On Feb. 23, armed men ambushed soldiers in an area between Tugaya and Balindong towns in what was initially believed as an attack to divert military attention from Butig.

While the military did not name the group behind the Butig attack, it said it is composed of "foreign and local terrorists."

But in Lanao del Sur, they are called "Isis" as a reference to their harboring of extremist views of jihad similar to what is espoused by the Middle Eastern terrorist network Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

A local commander of the MILF in Lanao del Sur has denied the involvement of his

troops in the recent clashes in the province.

In a 59-second video clip circulated on social media by the group called Free the Bangsamoro Movement, Abdullah Macapaar, known as Commander Bravo, said the MILF was not part of the fighting in Butig and Balindong towns.

"The MILF continues to be a party to a peace process with the government, and as such, we in the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces of the Northwestern Mindanao Front, will maintain our defensive posture," Macapaar said.

He also brushed aside reports linking him to an extremist group in Lanao del Sur.

"I remain loyal to the MILF because its leader, Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, is a faithful follower of Allah and the Prophet Mohammad," Macapaar said.

29 February 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A4

AFP: 24 Islamist rebels confirmed dead in clash

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWENTY-FOUR rebels belonging to the Jemaah Islamiyah-affiliated Maute group have been confirmed killed after government troops seized control of its stronghold in Butig, Lanao del Sur, last week.

The Maute group is led by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said the fatalities on the enemy side are only those identified by name and are included in the body count.

"There could be more than 24, but unless validated we won't report it yet," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesperson.

Padilla said that of the 24 confirmed deaths, 12 bodies were recovered. The identities of the fatalities were disclosed by the Butig local authorities.

This figure is lower than the 42 initially reported by the Western Mindanao Command when it said it seized a stronghold of the Maute group in Butig town, where lawless elements started harassing government troops two weeks ago.

On Thursday, three soldiers

were killed and 11 were wounded in the firefight that led to the recovery of two M16 rifles, two rocket propelled grenades and a homemade .50-cal. rifle.

The group led an attack on the detachment of the 51st Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in Barangay Bayabao on Feb. 20, killing two soldiers and wounding six others.

The military has been conducting clearing operations since then, with intermittent fighting reported every now and then.

Padilla said the government troops' objective is to clear the town of armed lawless elements so that the situation will normalize and the residents can finally go back to their homes.

"We will not allow the residents to return until such time that we clear the area and check it for explosives, unexposed ordnance and booby traps," the military spokesperson said.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao showed that the number of displaced individuals due to the series of firefights went up as high as 20,091 individuals or 4,311 families.

29 February 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1



'Fly and Sail with Rare.' Navy men with their little buddies from the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders.

Kids with rare disorders treated to ship, boat rides

BY VICTOR REYES

THIRTY-ONE children afflicted with rare orphan disorders were treated to free ship and plane rides by the Philippine Navy in Cavite City on Saturday as parts of efforts to raise awareness and support for Filipinos with the diseases.

Most of the children have stunted growth because of their disease. Some of the rare diseases are MPS II Hunter Syndrome, which results in short stature, among others; Apert syndrome, which is characterized by fingers

and toes fused together; Maple Syrup syndrome, inability of the body to process protein blocks, resulting in urine smelling like maple syrup; Rett syndrome, or delay in gross motor development; Gaucher Disease, a disorder that affects many of the body's organs and tissues; and osteogenesis imperfecta, a disorder characterized by bones that easily break easily.

The event was organized by the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders, a non-government organization attending to patients with

See KIDS > Page B6

14

KIDS

rare diseases, in collaboration with the Navy.

The children, in lavender shirts marked "Fly and Sail with Rare," were welcomed by the Marine Drum and Bugle Team at the Naval Air Group hangar. After an orientation, the children took turns flying in an Islander plane, and sailing with the patrol gunboat BRP Heraclio Alano and with a rigid hull inflatable boat at Sangley Point area in the city.

"Our sailors and Marines served also as close in buddies or big brother and sister of these children," said Cmdr. Lued Lincuna, Navy public affairs officer.

Lt. Leizl Vidallon, public affairs of-

ficer of the Navy's Philippine Fleet based in Sangley Point, said the Navy pursued the activity to create awareness about the disease.

"Their medicines cost a lot so if we are able to create awareness, it would be easier to solicit for help," Vidallon said.

Vidallon said the activity is the Navy's small way of helping the children.

The PSOD, in its website, said there are 6,000 to 8,000 rare diseases, with 75 percent of these affecting children. It said 30 percent of rare disease patients die before the age of five and 80 percent of rare diseases have identified genetic origins.

"Other rare diseases are the result of infections (bacterial or viral), allergies and environmental causes,

or are degenerative and proliferative," it added.

Angelita Obeda, a mother of three children with rare disorders, thanked the Navy and the other sponsors for the experience, particularly plane and ship rides, which she said brought happiness to her children.

The PSOD was established in 1991 by medical professionals from the Institute of Human Genetics (IHG) of the National Institutes of Health, UP Manila. These physicians have been sourcing funds from local and foreign donors, and making arrangements with drug companies to provide "special food formulas, medications, and enzyme replacement therapies" need by the patients, its website also said.

29 February 2016



Page: 8

Duterte, MILF want to bring peace in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY – Presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) look forward to resolving the conflict in Mindanao.

While he admitted that he does not expect the MILF to endorse his presidential bid during his visit to their Camp Darapanan in Barangay Simuay, Sultan Kudarat on Saturday, Duterte still met with the MILF Central Committee to present his proposal on how to resolve the conflict in Mindanao and the issues

confronting the Moro people.

Duterte's meeting with the MILF came after Congress failed to pass the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which would be the legal basis for the creation of an autonomous Bangsamoro region in accordance to the peace agreement between the government and the MILF.

For Duterte, the Aquino administration "only dribbled BBL."

"I know you are very frustrated and I know you are hurt. This could have created a prob-

lem had it not been for the moderation of the Central Committee," he told members of the MILF Central Committee.

Duterte promised that if he is elected president, he would not only pursue a system that would make the aspirations of the Moro people into a reality, but would also "make everybody happy." This, he said, can be done through federalism.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chairperson for political affairs, asked Duterte what he specifically planned to do.

Duterte said his administration "will create a commission that would eventually come to a consensus."

"I have been proposing federalism. But your territory will not be touched. It will be our collective position," he explained.

Duterte also said his administration would create territories for the Tausugs, Sama, Iranons, Maranaos and the indigenous peoples.

"Other groups, the other tribes who are hungry for better life, will be given their share and their chance," he added.

"Through federalism, we will correct the injustice committed against the Moro people, against Mindanao."

Jaafar said he admires Duterte's brand of leadership, describing him as magiting or brave.

"We are inspired by his courage as we are impressed by what he did to Davao, a city that is progressive where business is good and where people are given the opportunity to better their lives. God willing, if he will win, he will also transform the Philippines just like how he transformed Davao," Jaafar added.

But Jaafar clarified that the MILF is not endorsing any candidate.

"Members of the MILF, their families and the members of the communities will be given their independence to choose whoever they want to choose," he said.

Among the five presidential aspirants, Duterte was so far the only one who visited the MILF camp.

Duterte explained that his visit to Camp Darapanan was not a form of campaign.

"I am here not to campaign," he said. "I know that you are apolitical. I also know that you will give independence to your people and you will respect their decision."

– Edith Regalado

February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

MILF leaders call Duterte brave, welcome him with open arms

By **ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ**
and **EDD K. USMAN**

DAVAO CITY - "Duterte is brave," according to Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Vice Chairperson Ghadzali Jaafar as he hailed presidential aspirant Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's person and leadership.

Duterte visited Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao on Saturday as part of his continuing political sortie in Mindanao.

"We are inspired by his courage as we are im- ►18

pressed by what he did to Davao, a city that is progressive -- where business is good and where people are given the opportunity to better their lives," said Jaafar, as he, together with other top MILF leaders and members warmly welcomed Duterte into their camp.

Jaafar added that if Duterte wins, he will also transform the Philippines just like how he transformed Davao City.

Among the five presidential aspirants, no one has visited the camp so far except Duterte.

But Jaafar also clarified to reporters prior to his meeting with Duterte that the Central Committee of the MILF will not endorse any candidate.

"Not even Duterte," he pointed out. "Members of the MILF, their families and the members of the communities will be given their independence to choose whoever they want to choose," he stressed.

During the meeting, Duterte emphasized that his visit at Camp Darapanan was not to campaign but to present to MILF leadership his proposal in resolving Mindanao conflicts and discuss the pressing issues that confront the Moro people nowadays.

He told the MILF leaders about his worries on setbacks due to the failure

of Congress to enact the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

"I know you are very frustrated and I know you are hurt. This could have created a problem had it not been for the moderation of the Central Committee," Duterte said adding that the Aquino administration "only dribbled BBL."

"I only wanted peace for everybody and the failure to pass the BBL is a sensitive issue. But if I become president, I will not only pursue a system that will make the aspirations of the Moro people into a reality, but also make everybody happy through federalism."

During the sharing and discussions Jaafar asked Duterte how he will exactly come up with a peaceful solution to the problems of Mindanao.

Duterte replied: "We will create a commission that will eventually come to a consensus. I have been proposing federalism. But your territory will not be touched. It will be our collective position."

The mayor stressed that his administration will also create territories for the Tausugs, the Sama, Iranons, the Maranaos, and even the indigenous peoples.

Warm welcome

The MILF welcomed Duterte with

open arms at its Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao.

At the same time, the MILF made clear the Moros cannot forget the hurt and humiliation heaped on its leadership by Duterte's running mate, Senate Majority Floor Leader Alan Peter Cayetano.

Jaafar led in receiving the mayor of Davao City on Feb. 27, Saturday, without Cayetano.

With Jaafar were the Front's military head, Sammy Al Mansor, chief of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF-BIAF), and some members of the Front's policy-making body, the Central Committee.

Cayetano was described by the MILF as "a staunch critic of the BBL who categorized the Moro Front and the Moro people as 'terrorists.'"

29 February 2016



Pahina. 2

P24 BILYONG DAGDAG-SAHOD SA AFP, IBIBIGAY NA

NAKATAKDA nang ilabas ng Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ang kabuuang P24 bilyon para sa dagdag na suweldo at allowance sa lahat ng mga tauhan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Kabuuang P18.6 bilyon dito ang nakalaan para sa salary adjustments ng mga civilian personnel ng AFP, samantalang, kabuuang P5.36 bilyon naman ang inilaan para sa dagdag na allowance at hazard pay para sa mga Military and

Uniformed Personnel (MUP).

Mula sa dating P240, magiging P390 na kada buwan ang hazard pay para sa mga tauhan ng militar.

Ayon kay Budget Sec. Florencio Abad, naglaan din sila ng kabuuang P33 bilyon bilang pang-suweldo sa mga dagdag na tauhan ng AFP at para na rin sa mid-year bonus ng mga military personnel na ibibigay sa May 15.

Bibigyan din ng dagdag na suweldo ang mga tauhan ng Govern-

ment Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) basta sakop ng R.A 10149 o Compensation and Classification System sa loob ng GOCC Law.

Dagdag pang kalihim, malapit na nilang matapos ang pagsasaayos sa Government Manpower Information System (GMIS) para madagdagan ang mga tauhan ng pamahalaan na mabibigyan ng tax exemption mula sa kanilang mga suweldo at bonus.

(BRT)

29 February 2016



Page. 2

Still no hero's burial for FM

For his dictatorial rule marred by violence and human rights abuses, the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos will never be given a hero's burial under the watch of President Aquino, Malacañang said yesterday.

And if the country's next President plans to do otherwise, he or she would have a lot of explaining to do, Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

Coloma explained the Presi-

dent's decision against Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City is "based on his firm belief and conviction on the primacy of justice."

"The late President Marcos never apologized for the violence and oppression that characterized Martial Law and the dictatorship," Coloma said in a text message.

"If the next President does not believe in the guiding principles upon which President Aquino

decided not to allow the transfer of former President's remains to Libingan ng mga Bayani, then he or she will have to justify that decision to the people," he added.

The burial issue has been revived following the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the popular uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship. Some poll candidates have offered their positions on the proposed hero's burial for Marcos if elected into office. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling)**

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

www.inquirer.net

Alleged MILF leader nabbed for drugs in Central Luzon

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Feb 28): **Alleged MILF leader nabbed for drugs in Central Luzon**

A man identified as a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and suspected of operating as a bulk supplier of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in Central Luzon was arrested on Feb. 26, an official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said on Sunday.

Alan Lao, allegedly a platoon leader of the MILF, was arrested together with Andi and Latip Baraiman, said Gladys Rosales, PDEA director in Central Luzon.
The Philippine Daily Inquirer could not independently confirm if the 21-year-old Lao was indeed a leader of the MILF.

Lao and the Baraiman brothers are natives of Lanao del Sur and live in Barangay San Pablo in Castillejos town in Zambales province, Rosales said.

They were nabbed when Lao handed 50 grams or P230,000-worth of shabu to a poseur buyer in a shopping mall here last Friday.

PDEA believes he was "responsible for the bulk distribution of shabu" in Olongapo City in Zambales, Dinalupihan town in Bataan province as well as in Lubao and City of San Fernando, both in Pampanga province, according to Reyes.

The three men are now being held at the PDEA jail in the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas here pending the filing of charges for selling dangerous drugs.

The Philippine government has been pushing the Bangsamoro Basic Law with the MILF to fulfill a peace agreement. The 16th Congress has not passed it into a law.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/769298/alleged-milf-leader-nabbed-for-drugs-in-central-luzon>

20

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

29 February 2016

INQUIRER

Page: XIV

China's potential 'missile triangle'

COMMENTARY

Bernie V. Lopez

WITH THE report from the United States and Taiwan of Chinese missiles installed on Woody Island in the Paracels, China has upped the ante in the seemingly inevitable naval confrontation with the United States in the South China Sea. This signals "Defcon 1," (or maximum force readiness), the beginning of imminent danger and heightened threats.

Woody Island is strategic to China, commanding a missile range at the heart of the Paracels in the northern portion of the South China Sea. There is oil in this area, and China wants it by hook or by crook. A few years ago, China built an oil rig a mere 260 kilometers from Vietnam's shores, and Vietnam, in a "bumping war," sent boats with water cannons to harass Chinese naval vessels guarding the oil rig. Vietnam also launched a nationwide boycott of Chinese goods, ultimately forcing China to abandon the oil rig. With the threat of missiles on Woody Island, China may revive the oil rig and other explorations near Vietnam's shore.

Fiery Cross Reef (known as Kagitingan in the Philippines) and Second Thomas Shoal (Ayungin in the Philippines) in the south and Woody Island in the north form a potential "missile triangle" across the vast South China Sea. All three have long airstrips capable of servicing heavy-load planes, which are the infrastructure for rapid buildup of submarine missile silos and for quick troop mobilization in case of a confrontation. Missiles from Woody can reach Vietnam in the east and Taiwan in the south, and missiles from Fiery Cross and Second Thomas, if they are the next in missile buildup, can reach the Philippines in the west, specially the perceived future US defense revival of former bases in Subic and Clark.

The Philippine Supreme Court recently upheld the Edca, or the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the United States and the Philippines, which identifies eight strategic defense locations nationwide, including Subic and Clark.

The way of Vietnam—which historically has fought and won wars with China, France, and

the United States—is defiance. The way of the Philippines is the opposite, seeking alliance with America, another giant that can face the giant; it is a way and a sign of weakness. Only time will tell which is a wiser geopolitical strategy in the long term. Either way, there will be huge collateral damage. Defiance rattles China, inducing caution. Alliance with the enemy giant does not.

So far, US psywar tactics, like sending warships near China's military installations in the disputed Spratlys, have failed to stop the frenzy of Chinese rapid military buildup in the entire South China Sea. There are two possible reasons. First, China has perhaps a pretty good idea of the latest US missile weapons after hacking into Pentagon websites. It believes that it is ahead in the missile technology game, and has come up with a Mach-10 missile ahead of the United States. Second, China has perhaps new secret weapons that have made it resort to brinkmanship. But there also may be US secret weapons that China knows nothing about. So there is caution on both sides. China believes that the United States will be limited to psywar and diplomatic threats for now, and will not go into a major confrontation.

However, the more the Chinese military buildup continues, the more nothing is done, and the more dangerous the situation because this will lead to a bigger future war. China must be preempted now, but the United States is not in a position to do this.

Modern missiles are a game-changer in naval warfare. They can easily take out an entire carrier armada in the blink of an eye. Retired Pentagon generals and admirals have admitted that large carrier fleets are becoming obsolete and are vulnerable to new smart missiles that can reach targets within minutes.

Gone are the days of the massive carrier battles of World War II. The possible naval battle in the Paracels-Spratlys will involve more of missiles and less of large carrier fleets.

America is not into territorial claims, which are the role of the small nations defying China—another reason why China is so brave in military expansion. It only wants free access to international shipping lanes. America and Japan, which exports all its oil from the Middle East via the Strait of Malacca, will not permit the closing of trade lanes. That is tantamount to strangling Japan's economy.

If China claims territorial rights according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which provides for a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone for a claimant, it would theoretically own the entire Paracels-Spratlys, not considering Unclos exceptions on conflicting claims. Paradoxically, China refuses to go to court in The Hague, to defend its Unclos rights, in fear of losing a legal battle. The Hague decisions require compliance, but China has defiance. It wants the Paracels-Spratlys by military force, not by law. Its territorial claims are ridiculously based on ancient maps. Victory at The Hague for other claimants is thus good only as a psywar tactic of international pressure.

For the first time in human history, an emerging superpower is claiming a vast marine area of planet Earth, almost the entire South China Sea, by military force.

Bernie V. Lopez (eastwindreplyctr@gmail.com) has been writing political commentary for the last 20 years. He is also a radio-TV broadcaster, a documentary producer-director, and a former professor at Ateneo de Manila University.

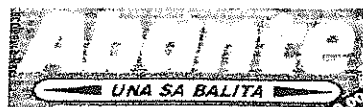
THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros is on medical leave.—Ed.



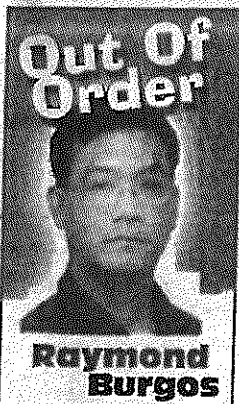
LP

29 February 2016



Pahina. 4

Libingan ng mga Bayani



Ngayong araw na ito, Pebrero 29, ay nakatakdang ilipat ang mga labi ni dating Pangulong Elpidio Quirino sa Libingan ng mga Bayani sa Bonifacio Global City mula sa South Cemetery sa Makati City.

Tinaon sa 60th death anniversary ni Quirino ang paglilipat sa kanyang mga labi sa Libingan ng mga Bayani ayon na rin sa hiling ng kanyang mga nabubuhay na mga pamangkin at apo sa pangunguna ng TV personality na si Cory Quirino.

Ikatlong Presidente pa lang si Quirino na mahihimlay sa Libingan ng mga Bayani at makakasa-

ma niya roon sina Pangulong Carlos P. Garcia na kilala sa kanyang "Filipino First Policy" at si Pangulong Diosdado Macapagal na ama ni dating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Si Quirino ang unang pangulo ng bansa na Ilocano na ipinanganak sa Ilocos Sur. Siya rin ang unang pangulo na nagsuspindi ng writ of habeas corpus noong kasagsagan ng kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB) na armadong grupo ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas-1930.

Panahon ni Pangulong Ramon Magsaysay na dating defense secretary ni Quirino binuksan ang Libingan ng mga Bayani sa loob ng Fort Bonifacio na siyang headquarters ng Philippine Army.

Noong wala pang Libingan ng mga Bayani, naging tradisyon na ilibing ang mga dating Presidente sa Manila North Cemetery pero nabago ito nang mamatay si Pangulong Garcia noong 1971 at hiniling ng kanyang pamilya na sa Libingan ng mga Bayani siya mahimlay.

Base sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Regulation The Allocation of Cemetery Plots at the Libingan ng mga Bayani na inilabas noong Abril 9, 1986 nina dating AFP chief of staff Gen. Fidel Ramos at Pangulong Corazon 'Cory' Aquino, ang mga sumusunod ang puwedeng ilibing sa Libingan ng mga Bayani: Medal of Valor awardees, mga dating Presidente, kalihim ng National Defense, mga retiradong heneral at dating mga opisyal ng AFP na sumanib sa Philippine National Police (PNP) at Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); mga beterano ng Rebolusyon ng 1896, World War I, World War II, Korean War at mga kinilalang gerilya noong panahon ng Hapon.

Nakalibing sa Libingan ng mga Bayani 'si Vice President Salvador H. Laurel; ang bayaning si Gen. Artemio Ricarte; dating UN Secretary-General Carlos P. Romulo, dating DND Secretary at AFP chief of staff Angelo Reyes at sina Senador Arturo Tolentino at Blas Ople.

Kabilang naman sa mga hindi puwedeng ilibing sa LNMB ang mga "dishonorably separated, reverted or discharged from the service; and those who were convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude." Ang mga nabanggit na bawal ang siyang basehan ng pagkakait ng hero's burial kay Marcos sa Libingan ng mga Bayani na matagal nang hinihiling ng kanyang pamilya sa pangunguna ni dating First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Siguradong magiging mainit na isyu na naman kung dapat bang ilibing si Marcos sa Libingan ng mga Bayani dahil na rin sa pagkakalipat ng labi ni Quirino sa Libingan ng mga Bayani at mismong si Pangulong Benigno 'Noy' Aquino III ang mangunguna sa seremonya ngayong araw na ito.

At dahil panahon ng presidential campaign ay asahan nating magiging punto ito ng debate sa pagitan ng mga kandidato sa pagka-pangulo at pagka-bise presidente. Abangan...

ONLINE NEWS

29 FEBRUARY 2016

www.philstar.com

Gov't admits 'huge disappointment' over failure to pass BBL

From the Philippine Star (Feb 28): Gov't admits 'huge disappointment' over failure to pass BBL



Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles said the ceasefire mechanisms are still working and that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are not standing in the way of the law enforcement operations in Lanao del Sur. File photo

The government on Sunday admitted that there is a "huge disappointment" over Congress' failure to pass the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) amid ongoing clashes between security forces and armed men who are said to be dismayed by the bypassing of the measure.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles, nevertheless, said the ceasefire mechanisms are still working and that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are not standing in the way of the law enforcement operations in Lanao del Sur.

"Certainly, the huge disappointment over the non-passage of the BBL provides more enticing, fertile ground for recruitment to radical, extremist thought and action," Deles said in a statement forwarded to reporters by Presidential Communications and Operations Office Herminio Coloma.

"Thankfully, our ceasefire mechanisms particularly, the GPH (Government of the Philippines)-MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, with the International Monitoring Team are working closely and robustly with the security sector to maintain peace and order on the ground, including curbing the spread of extremism," she added.

Reports have quoted MILF vice chair Ghadzali Jaafar as saying that the armed men who are clashing with military forces in Butig, Lanao del Sur are not terrorists but Moros disappointed with the way the government handled the

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

29

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

peace process.

The Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) previously said that security forces are launching offensives against local terrorists led by brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute. The Maute brothers are believed to have ties with the Southeast Asian regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Deles said the ceasefire mechanisms have repositioned MILF troops to allow law enforcement operations to proceed. She said the MILF has also provided sanctuary to displaced civilians.

The proposed BBL aims to form a new Bangsamoro political entity with enhanced autonomy. It will also implement the peace agreement signed by the MILF and the government in 2014. Congress adjourned sessions early this month without passing the BBL, one of the priority measures of the Aquino administration.

The military launched law enforcement operations in Butig after the Maute group raided a detachment of the 51st Infantry Battalion in Butig town, leaving two soldiers dead and six others wounded.

Three soldiers were killed and 11 others were wounded during the pursuit operations, according to a Westmincom report released last Friday.

Security officials claimed to have received reports that as much as 42 members of the Maute group were killed during the clashes, which also displaced about 2,500 civilians. The military has so far validated 24 fatalities on the side of the Maute group.

Coloma said the government is working hard to ensure that the gains of the peace talks with the MILF would cross over to the next administration.

"It is the position of this administration that it is this comprehensive social justice-based approach that would deter the rise of violent, extremist groups in southern Philippines and comprehensively sustain past and present efforts for peace and development in Mindanao and the rest of the country," Coloma said.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/02/28/1557739/govt-admits-huge-disappointment-over-failure-pass-bbl>

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

24

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

Gov't stresses need for rule of law, peaceful resolution of sea disputes

From the Philippine Star (Feb 28): **Gov't stresses need for rule of law, peaceful resolution of sea disputes**



Screengrab from a surveillance video taken by the P-8A Poseidon showed China's reclamation activities in the West Philippine Sea. US Navy YouTube account

Malacañang on Sunday stressed the need to respect whatever decision will be made by the United Nations (UN) tribunal on the Philippines's complaint against China following an assessment by an American think tank that Manila would likely get a favorable ruling on the case.

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma, Jr. said respecting the ruling would ensure freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where more than \$5 trillion worth of international trade passes through every year.

"At the recently concluded special ASEAN-US summit, President Aquino called upon all countries who believe in the rule of law and in peaceful dispute resolution to follow and abide by the decision of the UN arbitral tribunal on the PH petition," Coloma said.

"Such call, if heeded, will serve to promote the primacy of freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea and in all international sea lanes as this is essential to the continuous flourishing of global trade and commerce," he added.

Earlier, the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) said the UN arbitral tribunal would "almost certainly" rule that China's expansive maritime claim in the South China Sea is not valid and that the country is "not entitled to any historic rights beyond the regime of territorial seas, exclusive economic zones, and continental shelves laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

"This will not affect China's territorial claims to the disputed islands and rocks of the South China Sea, nor will it necessarily mean that Beijing cannot make large claims to the seabed and waters in the area," AMTI director Gregory Poling said in an article posted on the group's website.

"But it will amount to an order that China clarify its maritime claims based on entitlements from land features, not

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

25

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

ambiguous dashes on a map," he added

Poling said Beijing would not suddenly clarify its claims in the South China Sea because the tribunal orders it to do so.

"The Chinese government has repeatedly said that it will not recognize any ruling. But it has also worked hard since Manila brought the case in early 2013 to get the Philippine government to drop it. That is because being branded an international outlaw will involve significant reputational costs for Beijing," he said.

"It will undermine China's narrative that it is a responsible rising power that deserves a greater hand in global governance. It will make other countries wary of Chinese commitments and will drive regional states even closer to Tokyo and Washington," he added.

Poling said a political compromise, which may involve entering into negotiations with the Philippines, might become appealing to China.

"In order to promote that kind of political compromise, Manila and Washington will need to embark on a sustained campaign to garner international support for the tribunal's ruling. That support will need to come not only from like-minded countries like Australia, Japan, and European states, but also from the Philippines' Southeast Asian neighbors," the AMTI director added.

China claims about 90 percent of South China Sea while the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan also have overlapping claims.

China said its claim is based on "historical rights," a concept rejected by the Philippines and other countries who believe that territorial claims should be consistent with international law.

Unfazed by criticisms, China built what appear to be military structures on at least seven South China Sea reefs that are also being claimed by the Philippines.

In 2013, the Philippines challenged the legality of China's territorial claim before the international arbitral tribunal, calling it "excessive" and "exaggerated." China, however, refused to answer the complaint, saying it has "indisputable sovereignty" over the South China Sea.

Last October, the Philippines bagged a legal victory after an arbitration court in The Hague ruled that it has jurisdiction over the case it filed against China. The court said China's refusal to participate in the proceedings does not deprive it of jurisdiction over the case.

With the issue of jurisdiction settled, the next hearings will focus on the merits of the Philippines's case.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/02/28/1557754/govt-stresses-need-rule-law-peaceful-resolution-sea-disputes>

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

26