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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

07 July 2016

Thursday

NEWS HEADLINES

07 JULY 2016



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
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SHORT AND SWEET NEWS

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Mondays to Sundays

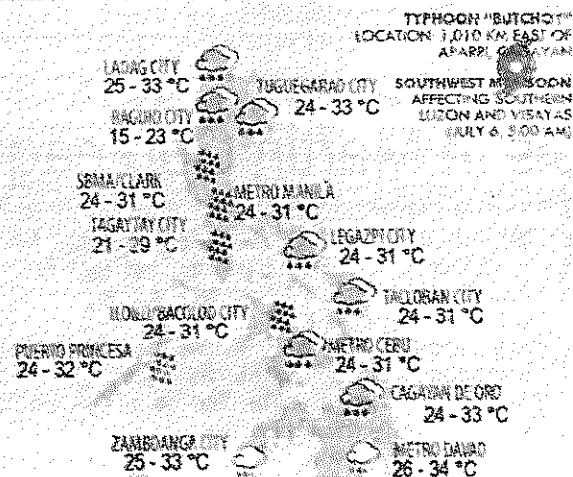
QR Code: Panahon.TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:32 AM	6:30 PM	7:58 AM	8:50 PM

LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
7:01 PM JUNE 4	9:52 AM JULY 12

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
7:30 PM 4.04 Meter
11:20 AM 1.35 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JULY 07, 2016 | THURSDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUL 8 FRI	JUL 9 SAT	JUL 10 SUN	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUL 8 FRI	JUL 9 SAT	JUL 10 SUN
METRO MANILA	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 °C 31 °C	23 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C
LADAG	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	15 °C 22 °C	15 °C 23 °C	15 °C 24 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C
AGAYTAY	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 29 °C	21 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C
LEGASPI	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C



02 July 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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'They have to face music'

Bato tears up with 3 suspected PNP execs

By Jerome Aning

"I WANTED to cry with them... but they have to face the music."

Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa said this after he met yesterday with three of the five ranking police officials whom President Duterte named on Tuesday as alleged protectors of drug lords.

A 17-second video released by the PNP showed Dela Rosa and Chief Superintendents Joel

Pagdilao, Edgardo Tinio and Ernesto Diaz huddled at one end of a conference table, barely talking and their faces grim-looking.

"They were sad. They want to explain their side and I listened to their side. What we talked about inside are purely intimate and personal and I cannot dis-

THEY/A8

'They have to face the music'

From page A1

cuss it in public. We'll just keep it among ourselves," Dela Rosa recounted in a press briefing.

He said he first met with Diaz in his official residence and the two later joined Pagdilao and Tinio in his office.

"I gave them the assurance that even if they belong to an upper class, I am their father right now," he said, referring to their schooling at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

"As the father, I have to look for their welfare. If they did anything wrong, then they have to face the music," said Dela Rosa, who received three additional stars when he was promoted to head the 150,000-strong PNP, bypassing a number of senior police officials.

Asked if any of the officials became emotional, the PNP chief replied: "That's very intimate. Please stop asking, I myself might cry if you persist in asking me. My tears might fall. I felt what they felt, I'm a human being, too."

He said he instructed the three officials, who are currently on "floating" status following the July 1 general revamp, to report to the National Police Commission (Napolcom), which was tasked by Mr. Duterte to conduct an administrative investigation.

Dela Rosa said the three officials promised their "100-percent cooperation."

Representatives of the Napolcom and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as well as Dela Rosa's directorial staff were present during the hourlong meeting that started at 11:50 a.m.

More heads to roll

In announcing the involvement of top police officials in illegal drugs on Tuesday, Mr. Duterte also named two retirees—former PNP Deputy Director General Marcelo Garbo and former Chief Supt. Vicente Loot, who is now mayor of Daanbantayan, Cebu province.

All of the five active and retired officials have denied wrongdoing.

Dela Rosa declined to discuss the evidence used by the Presi-



NEW PNP CHIEF PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa shows how he was sworn in as the Philippine National Police chief at a press conference in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

RAFFY LERMA

dent as his basis in publicly accusing the three active officials of being alleged protectors of drug lords.

"We don't want to preempt the Napolcom investigation. Let's just wait for it," he said.

"The President can have access to all intelligence information gathered here in the Philippines and overseas. He is the President, his information does not only come from the PNP, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency—all government agencies that have intelligence departments—the President has all the access and all the information," he said.

Duterte, being a lawyer and a former public prosecutor, knows what he was doing and this was the reason he wanted a formal investigation, Dela Rosa said.

He said the President might name other police officials involved with drug syndicates.

"For all we know the President's list is not just up the rank of senior superintendent, may even down to Police Officer 1. [His list] is several pages long," he said.

Swift probe

The Napolcom vice chair and executive director, Rogelio Casurao, said the agency was validating the allegations against the officials.

A team of lawyers from Napolcom tasked to investigate the three officials will complete

its probe within seven days, while the latter will be given five days to reply, after which the commission can already decide in one sitting if the officials are liable or not. The entire process would take up to a month, he added.

"There are already pieces of evidence that prompted the President to come up with that decision to name them in public. The task of the Napolcom now is validating these pieces of evidence for purposes of establishing probable cause to proceed with dismissal proceedings," Casurao said in a press conference.

The three officials could face dismissal from service, if their administrative guilt is established.

Casurao said possible administrative charges against Loot would be handled by the DILG. Criminal charges would be dealt with by the Department of Justice for prosecution in the regular courts.

Casurao said that the investigation would be swift.

Due process observed

"The President is very clear on this matter. He does not want the investigation to drag on. An investigation that drags on is always subject to suspicion that the case is being fixed. We are assuring now the public that the investigation to be conducted by the Napolcom is going to be a straight-ahead investigation," he said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yes-

terday he would ask his informants to testify against two of the generals. He said that two officers under him when he was still with the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force had the same information against two of the officials named. He did not identify them.

In text messages, Lacson, a former PNP chief, said his informants were "still active in anti-illegal group operations."

"I gathered from one of them, he had personal knowledge of one of the officials' involvement having served under the latter in one of their field assignments," Lacson said.

Roxas denial

Also yesterday, former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas denied news reports linking the police officials to his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in May and those implicated by Mr. Duterte in illegal drugs.

"Let me emphasize that I have never supported nor encouraged illegal drugs. It is a plague that afflicts families, rich or poor, and destroys the fabric of family life. During my tenure in the DILG, one of my priorities for the PNP was to escalate the fight against illegal drugs. Billions of pesos worth of illegal drugs were confiscated, and hundreds arrested and charged, in fulfillment of my directives," he said. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Christine O. Avendaño and Tarra Quismundo*

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Bato: More narco cops to be named

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

President Duterte could reveal more names of police officials linked to illegal drugs, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald de la Rosa said yesterday.

De la Rosa expressed belief that Duterte has more to reveal but refused to elaborate, saying he does not want to preempt the President.

"The President has more in his list. I don't want to preempt him from divulging that additional info. We'll just have to wait and see. My observation is that he has more to reveal," he added.

De la Rosa said the list could contain the names of lower ranking police officials.

Duterte on Tuesday named five police generals allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade.

Duterte said one of the police generals was former PNP deputy director general Marcelo Garbo Jr., whom he accused of being a "protector of drug syndicates."

The other four were identified as Director Joel Pagdilao, Chief Supts. Bernardo Diaz and Edgardo Tinio and retired police general Vicente Loot.

Garbo and Loot have left the police service. Loot is the newly elected mayor of Daangbantayan town in Cebu.

Diaz was relieved last week from his post in Region 7. Tinio served as director of the Quezon City Police District Office, while Pagdilao was director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Duterte disclosed the names of the police general in his extemporaneous speech during the 69th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force

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Bato From Page 1

at Clark Field, Pampanga.

He made the disclosure while reading the names written on a piece of paper.

"There will be more coming... For all we know, and you know from this coming list, from superintendent to PO1 (Police Officer 1), there's so many of them," De la Rosa said.

If ever the President has more information about other policemen involved in illegal activities, De la Rosa said the information is classified and should not be disclosed in public.

When asked if the information was supplied with the help of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (US-DEA), De la Rosa replied he would not discuss it.

"Even if there was (US-DEA help in information gathering),

I will not discuss that. We don't want to preempt the investigation... Let's just wait for the outcome of the investigation," he stressed.

Duterte ordered the relief of the three police generals and for them to report directly to De la Rosa before being placed under investigation of the National Police Commission.

As to the two who have retired from the service, De la Rosa said they would be treated as civilians and placed under investigation by the police.

De la Rosa said Duterte made the disclosure based on evidence.

"The President can have access to all intelligence and information being gathered here in the Philippines and abroad. He's the President. His information did not come from a single agency. All govern-

ment agencies have their own intelligence gathering methods and the President has all the access to those information," De la Rosa explained.

When asked if those agencies included the US-DEA, De la Rosa said if there would be information coming from foreign sources, the President would also accept it.

"We've been sharing intelligence information with (our) counterparts, so if there was information we will accept it," De la Rosa said.

Recycling

On the issue of policemen suspected of recycling illegal drugs, De la Rosa said he had some of them reassigned to remote areas in Mindanao in the attempt to put them to better use.

In two separate orders, De la Rosa relieved 32 policemen from the NCRPO and sent them to CARAGA, Autonomous Region in Muslim Min-

danao and Western Mindanao.

The orders have the name of a superintendent, a chief inspector, two senior inspectors, three inspectors and the rest non-commissioned police officers.

De la Rosa said he has a list of policemen involved in criminal activities, as he vowed to prioritize internal cleansing in the police organization.

When De la Rosa took over the PNP leadership last week, he called on the policemen involved in illegal drugs, particularly on the group tagged "Ninja," to surrender within 48 hours.

The deadline lapsed with no one coming forward, prompting De la Rosa to warn the police officers that they would be transferred to far-flung areas in Mindanao.

De la Rosa also said he does not want to hear the term "ninja," saying it causes his blood pressure to shoot up.

"They cause all the troubles

we are now facing. I hate to hear that term. I am sorry but whenever I hear the word ninja, I get angry," he remarked to reporters.

The so-called ninja cops are a group of policemen who recycle and sell drugs seized in police operations.

Name more names

Lawmakers, on the other hand, urged Duterte to reveal more, not confining the list to police generals.

"President Duterte should name more personalities, even government officials who are linked to the illegal drug trade and other crimes. They should all be given a day in court and justice should be served," Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate said.

"Hopefully this is the start of a serious cleansing in the ranks of law enforcement agencies, the police especially, to rid themselves of scalawags and criminals," he said.

Davao City Rep. Karlo

Nograles branded Duterte's revelations as one of the pillars of the Freedom of Information bill that the new administration will be espousing.

"That's FOI. President Duterte just delivered on his promise to name the generals after he gave the opportunity to surrender. And this is related to the government's policy of transparency," Nograles said.

"President Duterte made this clear even during the campaign period, that he has enough information about generals who are involved in this drug trade. It is now up to him on what to do with the sensitive intelligence information that have been verified," he said.

Nograles said the "narco generals" list will not end there.

"From the generals down the line, I think the President will name more names in his list," Nograles said.

- With Delon Porcalla

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13 Army soldiers flunk drug test

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE PHILIPPINE Army will be subjecting to further confirmatory tests 13 soldiers who failed a urine drug test conducted on Tuesday.

The Army's morning Taebo exercise on Tuesday provided the opportunity for the surprise drug test conducted on 2,500 personnel, in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

In a phone interview yesterday, Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said the

13 personnel failed the initial screening will now undergo blood and urine tests in a Health department-accredited facility.

"If the confirmatory test is positive, it is enough evidence for us to discharge our personnel," Hao said, in a statement. "But we emphasized that due process is given to all our personnel based on existing laws and regulations about illegal drugs."

The 13 personnel will remain in the custody of the Philippine Army while waiting for the confirmatory test result.

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The Manila Times

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13 Army personnel test positive for drugs

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN
REPORTER

THE Philippine Army is investigating its personnel who failed the initial screening of the mandatory drug test conducted on July 5 in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said 13 out of the 2,500 Army personnel from different units and offices failed the initial test and were immediately required to undergo further confirmatory test in

an establishment accredited by the Department of Health.

"Everybody was required to undergo the drug test led by our Army commanding general," Hao said.

The unannounced drug test was

held during the conduct of the Army's morning Taebo exercise on Tuesday.

"The Philippine Army is very serious in its anti-drug campaign. Since we started this campaign, 204 soldiers nationwide were already discharged from the service because of cases related to illegal drugs," he added.

Hao disclosed that 131 soldiers nationwide were discharged in 2013; 38 in 2014; 30 in 2015; and five so far this year.

"If the confirmatory test is positive, it is enough evidence for us to

discharge our personnel. But we emphasized that due process is given to all our personnel based on existing laws and regulations about illegal drugs," the Army official explained.

Section 36, Article 3 of R.A. 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, mandates the conduct of random drug testing to public and private officers for purposes of reducing the risk in the workplace. It also requires the conduct of annual mandatory drug test to all members of the military.

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Pahina. 2

13 sundalo positibo sa drug test

Isinalang na sa masusing imbestigasyon ang 13 sa kabuuang 2,500 sundalo na nag-positibo sa drug test o paggamit ng ipinagbabawal na gamot o droga base sa resulta ng inisyal na mandatory test na isinagawa nitong Hulyo 5, ayon sa opisyal kahapon. Ayon kay Philippine Army Spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao, kasalukuyan ang drug test ay pinangasiwaan ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA). Ang nasabing mga sundalo, ayon kay Hao ay mula sa iba't-ibang units at tanggapan ng Philippine Army. Sinabi ni Hao na ang mga nag-positibo sa inisyal na drug testing ay isasalang sa confirmatory test sa Department of Health. "The Philippine Army is very serious in its anti-drug campaign," said Hao. "Since we started this campaign, 204 soldiers nationwide were already discharged from the service because of cases related to illegal drugs (131 soldiers nationwide were discharged in 2013; 38 in 2014; 30 in 2015; and 5 so far this year)". anang opisyal. "If the confirmatory test is positive, it is enough evidence for us to discharge our personnel. But we emphasized that due process is given to all our personnel based on existing laws and regulations about illegal drugs", paliwanag pa ng opisyal. -Joy Caribis-

13 soldiers test positive for drug use at Army HQ

Published July 6, 2016 6:45pm

By JUN VENERACION, GMA News

Thirteen soldiers tested positive for drug use after surprise tests were conducted at the Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday.

The soldiers were immediately placed under military custody pending the result of confirmatory tests, Army spokesman Col. Benjie Hao said.

"We do not tolerate these things, we don't tolerate illegal drugs in the Philippine Army," Hao said.

More than 2,500 soldiers assigned at the Army headquarters were subjected to mandatory tests after their morning exercises on Wednesday.

In 2013, 131 Army personnel were discharged from the service after they tested positive for drug use. Thirty-eight were discharged for the same reason in 2014; 30 last year. —NB, GMA News

-www.gmanews.com

SERIOUS CAMPAIGN | PA Investigates Personnel Who Failed Random Drug Test

FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig City – The Philippine Army is investigating its personnel who failed the initial screening of the mandatory drug test conducted here on July 5 in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Thirteen out of 2,500 Army personnel from different post units and offices based here failed the initial screening test and were immediately required to undergo further confirmatory test in a DOH-accredited drug testing establishment.

"Everybody was required to undergo the drug test led by our Army commanding general," said Col. Benjamin L. Hao, the Army spokesperson.

The drug test was unannounced. It was implemented during the conduct of the Army's morning Taebo exercise on Tuesday.

"The Philippine Army is very serious in its anti-drug campaign," said Hao. "Since we started this campaign, 204 soldiers nationwide were already discharged from the service because of cases related to illegal drugs (131 soldiers nationwide were discharged in 2013; 38 in 2014; 30 in 2015; and 5 so far this year)."

"If the confirmatory test is positive, it is enough evidence for us to discharge our personnel," explained Hao. "But we emphasized that due process is given to all our personnel based on existing laws and regulations about illegal drugs."

Section 36, Article 3 of R.A. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, mandates the conduct of random drug testing to public and private officers for purposes of reducing the risk in the workplace. This same section of R.A. 9165 also mandates the conduct of annual mandatory drug test to all members of the military.

The 13 personnel are now under custody of the Philippine Army for further investigation while waiting for the confirmatory test result. **OACPA / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com

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Pahina. 2

13 sundalo positibo sa drug test

May 13 sundalo ang nag-positibo sa droga sa isinagawang drug testing sa hanay ng Philippine Army (PA).

Ayon kay PA Spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao, isinalang na sa masusing imbestigasyon ang 13 sundalo. Sila ay kabilang sa 2,500 sundalo na isinalang sa mandatory drug test na isinagawa nitong Hulyo 5, 2016.

Sinabi ni Hao, ang drug test ay pinangasiwaan ng

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Ang nasabing mga sundalo, ayon kay Hao ay mula sa iba't-ibang units at tanggapin ng PA.

Ang mga nag-positibo sa inisyal na drug testing ay isasalang sa confirmatory test sa Department of Health.

Ayon kay Hao, seryoso ang Philippine Army sa anti-drug campaign ng Duterte administration.

Sinabi pa ni Hao na

simula nang umpisahan nila ang kampanya, may 204 sundalo na ang nasabak sa tungkulin dahil sa pagkakasangkot sa illegal drugs. Sa nasabing bilang, 131 sundalo ang natanggal sa serbisyo noong 2013; 38 noong 2014, 30 noong 2015 at lima ngayong taon.

Magpapatuloy aniya ang kanilang gagawing drug testing sa lahat ng sundalong kasapi ng PA. (Joy Cantos)

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3 killed in Zamboanga clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two communist rebels and a militiaman were killed in an encounter in Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur on Tuesday.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, did not identify the slain militiaman pending notification of his family. The slain insurgents were identified only as Nilo and Chery.

Tan said the rebels shot it out with members of the 53rd Infantry Battalion and civilian volunteers who responded to the reported presence of communist guerrillas in Barangay Supon.

An M16 rifle, subversive documents, medical equipment and personal belongings were recovered at the scene.

– Roel Pareño

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2 rebels slain in Zamboanga del Sur clash

CAMP NAVARRO, Zamboanga City (PNA) – Two communist rebels and a government militiaman were killed in an encounter between the military and the New People's Army (NPA) in the hinterlands of Zamboanga del Sur, a military official announced Wednesday.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) spokesman, said the clash took place around 3:05 p.m. Tuesday at Purok 7, Barangay Supon, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.

Tan said troops from the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion, backed by members of a Civilian Volunteer Or-

ganization (CVO), were conducting security operations when they chanced upon a group of NPA rebels in Barangay Supon, Bayog town.

Tan said a firefight ensued that resulted to the death of two NPA rebels and a CVO member on the government side.

Tan identified the slain NPA rebels as a certain Ka Nilo and Ka Cherry, both members of the NPA's Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP)-KARA.

He said the remains of the slain rebels were turned over to the village authorities for proper disposition.

He said the troops were able to recover an M-16 Armalite rifle, subversive documents, medical paraphernalia and other personal belongings abandoned by the other members of SYP-KARA, who fled leading behind their dead comrades.

Tan did not release the identity of the slain CVO based in Barangay Supon, Bayog.

He said the military will continue to support the police and the local government units in the conduct of law enforcement operations to pin down NPA members in the province of Zamboanga del Sur.

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6th Army Division hosts Eid'1 Fitr prayer

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Maguindanao – The Sixth Infantry (Kampilan) Division, the Army's battle-scarred unit based here known for its fierce combats with communist and Moro rebels, yesterday opened the doors to its fortified compound for the first time to the holding of a congregational prayer among Muslims celebrating Eid'1 Fitr, or the end of the Islamic fast on Ramadhan.

Muslim officials, including Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Governor Mujiv Hataman and Maguindanao Governor Esmael Mangudadatu sent messages hailing the military-hosted congregational prayer as "awesome."

They also thanked 6th ID Commander Maj. Gen. Edmundo R. Pangilinan for hosting the event, saying that he "deserved more our salutation."

And in support of the rare event in the military compound, Hataman and Mangudadatu reportedly asked their subordinates to supplement the food prepared by the host command that was shared by hundreds of Muslim soldiers and civilians after the Eid'1 Fitr congregational prayer yesterday.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, 6th ID spokesperson, said their division has 800 Muslim soldiers and "our commander wants to show to them that religions should not set boundaries among us (because) we are all siblings, believing in one God."

Officials of ARMM and Maguindanao also staged separate prayers and thanksgiving food banquets in Cotabato City and Buluan town yesterday.

Earlier, on June 30, Pangilinan and his staff also hosted an iftar (breaking of fast for the day) inside the 6th ID camp, which was also a first in the region.

The iftar dinner was attended by ARMM officials led by Regional Health Secretary Kadil Sinolinding Jr., Cotabato City Vice Mayor Cynthia Sayadi, Maguindanao Rep. Sandra Serna, some mayors from North Cotabato and Deputy Governor Ramil Dilangalen.

In his brief message at the event, Pangilinan cited his command's promotion of interfaith building as a potent tool for bringing lasting peace and sustainable development in its areas of jurisdiction that include Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and part of Lanao del Sur.

"As the commander of 6ID, I have a firm understanding on the sensitivities, the practices, and the cultures that our Muslim brothers and sisters are observing and our Command has always been very supportive of your religious endeavors," Pangilinan said.

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Pahina. 4

SUNDALO TODAS SA PARAK

MASBATE CITY — Isang sundalo ang binaril at napatay ng isang pulis kamakalawa sa Bgy. Ibingay sa lungsod na ito.

Ang biktima ay nakilalang si Pfc. Nards Saldivar ng Philippine Army (PA), samantalang, ang suspek ay si PO1 Kurt Rigon, nakatalaga sa Masbate Police Station.

Ayon sa ulat, pag-urwi sa kanilang bahay ay dinatnan ni Rigon si Saldivar na kasama ang kanyang misis sa loob ng kanilang kuwarta at dahil dito, binaril ng suspek ang biktima.

Matapos ang pamamaril sa biktima, kusang sumuko sa mga awtoridad ang suspek.

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Pahina. 6

Sundalo napatay ng pulis

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay - Patay ang isang sundalo ng Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) makaraang makipagbarilan sa pulis na kanyang nakasagian ng motorsiklo sa Barangay Magurang, bayan ng Polangui, Albay kamakalawa ng umaga. Kinilala ang biktima na si Corporal Anthony P. Manuel ng Barangay Balogo sa bayan ng Oas, Albay habang sumuko naman ang suspek na si SP01 Ernesto P. Lladones Jr. ng Barangay Magurang at naka-assigned sa PSPG-PEU sa Camp Crame. Sa ulat ng Polangui PNP na nakarating sa Camp Simeon Ola, nagtalo ang suspek at biktima nang magkasagian ang kani-kanilang motorsiklo. Nauwi sa pambuno ang dalawa hanggang kapwa bumunot ng baril subalit naunang pumutok ang pulis kaya bumulagta ang biktima dahil sa tama sa ulo. **Jorge Hallare**

Muslim soldiers, dependents join congregational prayer at Army camp

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 6): Muslim soldiers, dependents join congregational prayer at Army camp

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao -- The Army's 6th Infantry "Kampilan" Division hosted a Muslim congregational prayer early on Wednesday to celebrate Eid'l Fitr, the end of fasting month of Ramadan.

About 1,200 Muslim faithful composed of soldiers, their families and civilians gathered in front of the 6th ID grandstand at 6:00 a.m. for an early morning congregational prayer in the observance of Eid'l Fitr.

The event marks the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan for the Muslim believers, which is the season of prayer and fasting.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, 6th ID spokesperson, said the Muslim soldiers all gathered at their cleanest attire to pray in celebration for peace, unity and thanksgiving.

Major General Edmundo R. Pangilinan, 6th ID chief, expressed his wholehearted solidarity with the Muslim soldiers and key stakeholders in support to their tradition of peace and compassion.

"I wish to greet our Muslim brothers and sisters in celebrating the Eid'l Fitr that reminds us of the need to sacrifice, fasting and peaceful co-existence with each other," Pangilinan said.

"I also encouraged you to join me in prayer for peace and security in Mindanao so that economic boost and development will reign," he added.

After the prayer, the participants were served with Halal meals for the traditional "Kanduli" (thanksgiving) of Islam.

This is the first time that the 6th ID hosted the Eid'l Fitr celebration at the 6th ID grounds or in an Army Camp for a congregational prayer.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=901619>

Armed men abduct cop in Carmen, Surigao del Sur

By: **Erwin M. Mascarinas, InterAksyon.com**

July 6, 2016 7:25 PM

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

BUTUAN CITY – A police officer was abducted Tuesday morning, July 5, outside his house in Carmen, Surigao del Sur.

Police Superintendent Michael B Lozada, public information officer of the Philippine National Police office in Caraga Region said Police Officer 1 Richard V. Yu Jr., assigned to the Carmen Municipal Police Station, was abducted by heavily armed men at 6:25 a.m. while he was taking care of farm animals outside his residence in Sitio Hubason, Barangay San Vicente.

"Police personnel together with our military counterparts are already tracking down the armed men and are exhausting all efforts to locate the abducted police officer," Lozada said in a statement.

Also, Lozada said teams from the Surigao del Sur Provincial Public Safety Company and police personnel from the local government units together "with our soldiers have set up checkpoints to restrict the movements of the captors."

"The Crisis Management Committee headed by the town Mayor Hon. Jane Valeroso has been activated to handle the situation," he added.

Michael Escuyos, municipal council member and designated spokesperson of the LGU, said they had been trying to communicate with the captors.

"We have exerted all efforts in aiding the family of the abducted police officer to communicate with the captors. The family of the abducted cop, revealed to us that Yu contacted them and stated that he is all right and fine and that they should not worry about him," he said.

"We are hoping that the armed group who abducted Yu will also contact us and provide us detail as to why he was taken," added Escuyos.

He said the LGU was trying its best to resolve the situation through peaceful means and was hoping that Yu would be returned to his family unharmed.

"A few months ago his wife give birth to their first child, I hope those who abducted him will not do anything that would rob the child of his father," said the council member.

Police Inspector Alan Blasco said the abducted police officer was new to the force.

"Yu who is 32 years old started his assignment in Carmen (in) 2014, and so far we cannot find any reason why someone would abduct him since he is known in the community as a good person and does not have any issues related to his service in the town. We hope that the group who abducted him would shed a light into their motive," said Blasco.

Both PNP-Caraga and the Philippine Army's 16th Infantry Battalion based in the neighboring town of Madrid believe that the armed group that abducted the police officer is part of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

"Based on the intelligence reports that we have gathered, we believe that the abductors are members of the NPA. As of now our efforts, since yesterday, have been to search the whereabouts of Yu and his abductors," said Captain Welmar Ladlad, Civil Military Operations Officer of the 16th IB.

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

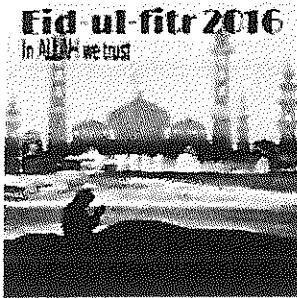
Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

"Our troops are currently on hot pursuit operation in the mountains areas covering Carmen and the nearby towns of Madrid, Cantilan, Lanuza and Cortes. In the ground, we've already established check points together with the police covering several towns in the area," added Ladiad.

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

EIDL FITR | 4ID Joins Muslim Brethren in Celebration

Army Savage July 6, 2016 3 Comments, 0 Pressing headlines



CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan de Oro City (DWDD) – In a two-day activity, the 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division, Philippine Army joins our Muslim brethren in celebrating Eidl Fitr at 4ID Gym Camp Evangelista, Patag, Cagayan de Oro City today and ends tomorrow July 07, 2016.

Eidtl Fitr marks not only the end of fasting but also the thanksgiving to Allah for the strength and and help that He gave to every Muslim throughout the month of practicing self-control. The feast will start from the first sight of the new moon then followed by various activities throughout the celebration.

At exactly 04:30 o'clock in the morning today, our Muslim community starts the festival with Takbir Mursal and then followed by the Eidl Fitr prayer and Sermon at Pelaez Complex, Cagayan de Oro City. After which, Ballgames will be held at 4ID Gym and Islamic Competitions in the afternoon.

Furthermore, on the second day of Eidl Fitr, guests are welcome to join the Cultural and Solidarity Lunch as part of the special celebratory meal of our Muslim comrades. Eidl Fitr is also a time for forgives and amendments. **4DPAO / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com

07 July 2016



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Rody: AFP to get all equipment it needs

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte has vowed to provide the military all the equipment it needs to address terrorism and other security threats.

"You will have all the things that you need. I will see to that," Duterte said during the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on Tuesday.

"We will acquire more helicopters and night vision capability. If we have that we can improve our performance," he said.

Duterte said lack of equipment is hampering the efforts of the military to fight threat groups.

Days before he assumed the presidency, Duterte said the acquisition of 12 FA-50 jets

from South Korea is a waste of money.

"Money was wasted there. You cannot use them for counterinsurgency, which is the problem at the moment. You can only use them for ceremonial fly-by," Duterte told a business forum in Davao City on June 22.

The jets were not part of the fly-by during the PAF anniversary due to bad weather.

The Aquino administration purchased the jets from Korea Aerospace Industries for P18.9 billion to strengthen the country's territorial defense capability.

The PAF received two of the jets in November. Ten other jets will be delivered next year.

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GMA bill doubles salary of AFP, PNP personnel

**By RYAN PONCE
PACPACO**

FORMER President-turned-Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has filed a proposed law doubling the salary of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed

Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel while ex-Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. refiled his proposed Salary Standardization Law of 2016 (SSL 2016).

In her House Bill (HB) No. 304, Mrs. Arroyo underscored the need to fur-

ther professionalize the police and military organizations by providing them adequate remuneration and benefits to its members.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is tasked to make a detailed schedule of the pay adjustment, said Mrs. Arroyo.

Under the proposed law, the funding requirement for the initial implementation will be sourced from the PNP and AFP savings and/or other definite sources as determined by the DBM.

For his part, Belmonte, a Quezon City congressman, pushed anew this 17th Congress his HB No. 11 or the SSL 2016 aimed at modifying the compensation and position classification system of civilian government personnel and the base pay schedule of military and uniformed personnel.

"The bill seeks to raise the pay of the government personnel to be competitive with the market rates, strengthen the link between pay and performance through an enhanced performance-based bonus system, temper the cost of benefit, while maximizing the benefits of employees, and allow higher take-home pay particularly for government personnel belonging to the lower salary grades," said Belmonte.

07 July 2016



Pahina. 2

Pagtaas sa sahod ng pulis, sundalo ikinasa sa Kamara

Ikinasa na rin sa Kamara de Representantes ang panukala para doblehin ang suweldo ng mga pulis at sundalo.

Ito ay matapos ihain ni Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ang House Bill 304.

Kasunod na rin ito nang pangako ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na dodoblehin nito ang sahod ng mga sundalo at pulis.

Nakasaad sa panukala, na ipinaubaya na sa Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ang schedule ng adjustment para madoble ang take home pay ng mga pulis at sundalo.

Layon pa ng panukala ni Arroyo na maipatupad ang dagdag sahod ng mga pulis at sundalo ng staggered sa loob ng limang taon.

Inaatasan naman dito ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at National Police Commission na maglatag ng reporma.

Ang nasabing reporma ay tungkol sa sistema ng selection, hiring, appointment, transfer, promotion at dismissal ng kanilang mga tauhan. (Gemma Garcia)

07 July 2016

The Manila Times

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Formal peace talks to resume this month

FORMAL peace talks between the Philippine government and the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front) will resume this month. Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd said on Wednesday.

He expressed confidence that an agreement will be hammered out to put an end to 47 years of armed conflict that had left thousands of people dead and hundreds of millions in property destroyed.

Bello, head of the government peace panel, disclosed that their counterpart wanted the peace negotiations held from July 16-19 in Oslo, Norway, but they made a counter-proposal of July 23-25 so that they would be kept informed on the message of President Rodrigo Duterte in his first State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) on the fourth Monday of July, which falls on the 25th.

"Definitely, there will be a formal resumption of talks in July. In fairness to our third party facilitator, it will be held in Norway," he said.

Topping the agenda, according to Bello, is a "ceasefire" agreement, and after that they would go back to three remaining issues.

"First, we might consider talking about ceasefire [and] then go back to the three remaining issues. But instead of sequential consideration, we are considering proposing to them that the last three remaining issues should be done simultaneously so that we can fast-track [the discussion]," he said.

Among the contentious issues that need to be resolved is a long-standing demand of the communist group to release what it calls political prisoners.

Bello gave no details on the other two issues.

The last time the two panels met was in February 2011 but they failed to agree on many issues, including the release of detained communist leaders and members, which the CPP-NPA-NDF said was a violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig).

The Jasig protects all members of the communist peace panel from arrest for the duration of the peace

negotiations.

Bello clarified that the communist panel was not setting any condition, saying "if the President will order a release [of the political prisoners], it's a confidence-building measure and also in keeping with the provisions of Jasig."

According to him, they would try their best to come up with a confidence-building measure even as he assured that everything would pass through the judicial process.

"They were mentioning 20 or 21 [names]. They are saying that these are their consultants, some of them are security officers, some of them are just messengers. Now, we will validate and then as soon as we validate that they really participate in peace negotiations, then we will recommend to the President that

they be given temporary liberty so that they can participate in the negotiations," Bello said.

He added that there are more than 500 communist rebels held in government detention centers, including NPA leaders Benito Tiamzon and his wife Wilma, Allan Jasmynes and a dozen other NDF peace consultants.

The communist leadership is also asking for the release on humanitarian grounds of some 100 old and sickly members, many of them in jail for more than 15 years.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) earlier opposed the release of the political prisoners but said it has to obey if President Rodrigo Duterte decides to free them.

The AFP noted that the NDF had repeatedly used the same ploy, demanding the release of political prisoners, but later on abandoned the peace negotiations.

According to NDF Chairman Luis Jalandoni, Benito Tiamzon is holder of ID No. ND978227, while Wilma, whose maiden surname is Austria, is holder of ID No. ND978226.

As such, Jalandoni noted, the Tiamzons are entitled to the safety and immunity guarantees as provided under the Jasig for the duration of the peace negotiations, which, in effect, provides them with safe conduct and passage or immunity from arrest. **WILLIAM B. DEPASUPIL**

07 July 2016

The Manila Times

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ASG frees kidnapped trader in Sulu

AFTER nearly a year in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a kidnapped trader was freed in Sulu Wednesday morning.

Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) spokesman Major Filemon Tan said Araj Maani was freed in Barangay Wanih Piyanjihan in Parang town at about 10:45 a.m.

Maani was kidnapped last July 27, 2015 in Zamboanga City.

Joint Task Force Sulu, in coordination with the Sulu Police Provincial Office, conducted a counseling session before Maani was turned over to his family.

Meanwhile, troops from the 35th Infantry Battalion conducting operations engaged with an estimated 20 ASG terrorists in Barangay Maligay in Patikul town, killing one of the bandits.

Tan said these brigands are believed to be responsible for the killing of unarmed soldiers in different areas in Jolo.

The ASGs retreated, leaving behind the body of their fallen comrade and a .45-caliber pistol.

"The conduct of focused military operations in Sulu was believed to exert pressure on the ASG to release their remaining kidnap victims. To date, there are nine foreigners and three locals believed to still be in the hands of the bandits," said Tan.

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The National Newspaper

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Abu Sayyaf frees captive, first under Duterte admin

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Abu Sayyaf yesterday released in Sulu a money lender it kidnapped in Zamboanga City in July last year.

Araji Maani is the first kidnap victim to be released by the group under the Duterte administration.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command, said the military has no information if ransom was paid.

Tan said Maani was released around 10:45 a.m. in Barangay Wanih in Parang town, and

underwent medical checkup and counseling before he was turned over to his family.

"He is okay," Tan said.

The 65-year-old Maani was seized on July 27 last year in Zamboanga City and later brought to Sulu, a bailiwick of the Abu Sayyaf which is holding a dozen more Filipino and foreign hostages.

The military is aiming to finish off the Abu Sayyaf before the end of the year, in keeping with Duterte's promise to crush the group during his term.

See ABU SAYYAF ► Page B6

ABU SAYYAF

The kidnap-for-ransom group, which is notorious for beheading captives, is composed of around 300 to 400 men, mostly based in Sulu.

Last June 24, the Abu Sayyaf released Marites Flor in Sulu and was met by Duterte in Davao City hours later. Duterte assumed the presidency on June 30.

Flor is one of the four persons seized by the group in Davao del Norte in September last year. The three others are Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, who have been beheaded, and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad who is still being held.

An Abu Sayyaf member was killed by forces of the Army's 35th Infantry Battalion in a brief firefight in Patikul town,

also in Sulu, yesterday morning, said Tan.

Tan said the soldiers were on a security operation when they encountered around 20 Abu Sayyaf men in Barangay Maligay at around 7:55 a.m.

The bandits withdrew after a five-minute firefight, leaving behind the body of one of their companions. Also recovered at the scene was a cal. 45 pistol, Tan said.

07 July 2016



Page: 3

Stiffer penalties for military 'fashion'

By CHARISSA M. LUCI

A veteran lawmaker is seeking to penalize the indiscriminate wearing by civilians of the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Cebu Rep. Raul V. Del Mar said Republic Act No. 493 should be amended to include the ban on the use, manufacture and sale of military and police uniforms, its textile, or its imitations.

"This is to provide a strong and effective deterrent to crimes associated with the illegal use of AFP and PNP uniforms," he said.

RA 493 regulates the wearing, use, manufacturing and selling of insignias, decorations and medals, badges, patches and identification cards prescribed for the AFP and Philippine Constabulary, now the Philippine National Police, by persons not in the service.

The bill slaps a penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of ₱20,000 for the violation. Those who are engaged in the unauthorized sale of military and police uniforms to civilians, and the production of textile, which is being used for the production of the uniforms, shall face a five-year imprisonment and a fine of ₱10,000.

"Oftentimes, criminals facilitate the commission of their crimes by wearing AFP and PNP uniforms. This misrepresentation has also caused damage to the reputation of the military and the police," Del Mar said.

He laments that RA 493 does not cover the use and wearing of military/police uniforms as well as the manufacture and sale of military/police uniforms and the textile for these uniforms.

He noted the Revised Penal Code prohibits the use of military and/or police uniforms and accessories, but imposes "light" penalties against violators.

Article 177 of the Penal Code prohibits any person to falsely represent himself as officer, agent or representative of any department or agency of the Philippine Government, he said.

Article 179 of the Code provides that any person who publicly and improperly makes use of insignia, uniforms or dress pertaining to an office not held by such person or to class of persons of which he is not a member shall be penalized by arresto mayor.

"Despite these legal prohibitions, criminal syndicates and individuals have not been deterred in using military or police uniforms in their unlawful and illegal activities," Del Mar said.

"Many civilians could be seen wearing what resembles military or police uniform in public. In the recent past, the military look became fashionable that several imitations of the military uniforms were sold commercially and were often prominently displayed in department stores," he added.

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Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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'Penalize misuse of PNP, AFP uniforms'

By Maricel V. Cruz

A VISAYAN lawmaker has sought the passage of a measure that would penalize any civilian caught wearing a uniform of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or Philippine National Police.

Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar, in filing his proposal, sought to amend Republic Act 493 to provide a strong and effective deterrent to crimes associated with the illegal use of AFP or PNP uniforms.

The bill widens the coverage of the law to include the ban on the use and wearing of military and police or imitations and the manufacture and sale of military/police uniforms or imitations and the textile for these uniforms.

"Violators face a jail term of 10 years and a fine of P20,000 for the use and wearing of military and police or imitations, while a five-year imprisonment and a fine of P10,000 shall be imposed for the unauthorized sale of military and

police uniforms to civilian and the production of textile, which is being used for the production of the uniforms," Del Mar said.

Del Mar said oftentimes, criminals facilitate the commission of their crimes by wearing AFP and PNP uniforms. This misrepresentation has also caused damage to the reputation of the military and the police.

Del Mar noted that RA 493 regulates the wearing, using, manufacturing and selling of insignias, decorations and medals, badges, patches and identification cards prescribed for the AFP and Philippine Constabulary, now the Philippine National Police, by persons not in the service.

However, he said the prohibition under RA 493 does not cover the use and wearing of military/police uniforms as well as the manufacture and sale of military/police uniforms and the textile for these uniforms.

Del Mar also said the use of military and/or police uniforms and

accessories has been prohibited under special law and the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines.

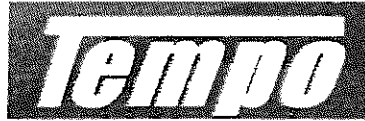
Article 177 prohibits any person to falsely represent himself as officer, agent or representative of any department or agency of the Philippine government, he said.

Article 179 of the Revised Penal Code provides that any person who publicly and improperly makes use of insignia, uniforms or dress pertaining to an office not held by such person or to class of persons of which he is not a member shall be penalized by arresto mayor.

Del Mar said Article 179 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines is universal to all departments of agencies of the Philippine government. Moreover, the penalties provided by these laws are perceived to be light.

"Despite these legal prohibitions, criminal syndicates and individuals have not been deterred in using military or police uniforms in their unlawful and illegal activities," Del Mar said.

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Page. 4

NDF hits arrest of commander

By YAS OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – The National Democratic Front (NDF) condemned the arrest of one of its commanders in the midst of warming relations between the Communist Party of the Philippines and the administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

In a statement, NDF southern

Mindanao region spokesperson Rubi del Mundo called foul on the arrest of Eduardo "KaLando" Genelsa last June 29, one day before President Duterte swore his oath as the 16th President of the Philippines.

Del Mundo said a combined force of the 10th Infantry Division, the 46th IB, the PNP and operatives of the ISAFP arrested Ka Lando in Sityo Sangi, Brgy. Bongabong, Pantukan, Compostela Valley last June.

The NDF official also noted that the arrest was done three weeks before the first phase of formal peace talks between both parties were scheduled to be held in Europe.

"Ka Lando's arrest and detention is an attempt by the AFP to sabotage President Duterte and the revolutionary movement's mutual efforts towards the peace process," del Mundo said.

"It is a reprehensible, premeditated act designed to preempt the peace negotiations that clearly exposes the innate warmongering character of the AFP which continues to kowtow the AFP-US Aquino's fascist Oplan Bayanihan."

07 July 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Navy cancels Vietnam port call

THE Philippine Navy has postponed a port visit by BRP Ramon Alcaraz to Vietnam next week due to what was called as “unavoidable circumstance” and “operational demand.”

In an advisory earlier yesterday, Navy public affairs officer Capt. Lued Lincuna said the ship was supposed to be sent off by the Navy from Pier 15 on Friday.

BRP Alcaraz, with 200 personnel on board, was to sail to Cam Ranh in Vietnam for a port visit from Monday to Friday next week. The ship carries a multi-purpose AW-109 helicopter.

Asked to elaborate on the “unavoidable circumstance” and “operational demand” that caused the postponement of the port visit, Lincuna said: “It’s operational in nature that at this moment I can’t divulge for security reasons.”

But a senior military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the postponement was part of a contingency measure in connection with an anticipated ruling of a UN arbitral court on Tuesday.

The court is due to announce its decision on the 2013 case lodged by the Phil-

ippine government against China’s nine-dash-line claim in the South China Sea or West Philippine Sea. Government officials are expecting a favorable decision.

“It’s actually the obvious major reason,” the source said.

A UN arbitral court is due to come out with a ruling on July 12 and we only have a couple of WHECs (weather high-endurance cutters),” he said.

The source said the decision to postpone the port visit was made in consultation with the military’s general headquarters and higher authorities.

– Victor Reyes

07 July 2016



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EDITORIAL

At this rate, gov't may well meet its 6-month deadline

PRESIDENT Duterte named three Philippine National Police (PNP) star officers and two retired ones in his continuing campaign against illegal drugs in the country this Tuesday. It was the latest development on the drug scene -- arrests, surrenders, and killings now seem to be happening daily all over the country.

On the same day, two drug pushers were killed in Cavite, two in Pampanga, and another two in Pasay City. A day before, four were killed by police in a buy-bust operation in Pangasinan. Four were killed in Quezon by unknown gunmen. Some 200 drug users and pushers surrendered to the police in Pasay City. Fifteen surrendered to the mayor and chief of police of Diffun, Quirino. The Western Visayas PNP said a total of 1,323 had surrendered since the start of the new administration. Drug tests were being conducted on policemen and of 2,400 already tested, nine had tested positive.

The new PNP headed by Director General Ronald "Bato" de la Rosa, following the lead of President Duterte, has taken a hard line on the drug problem in the country, with focus on the involvement of policemen, either in connivance with drug lords or as drug addicts themselves.

Surprisingly, the New People's Army (NPA) has joined in the campaign against drugs. Leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines have ordered the NPA to arrest and kill drug traffickers if they resist. The President sought the NPA's cooperation and support on drugs in his address at the turnover of command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

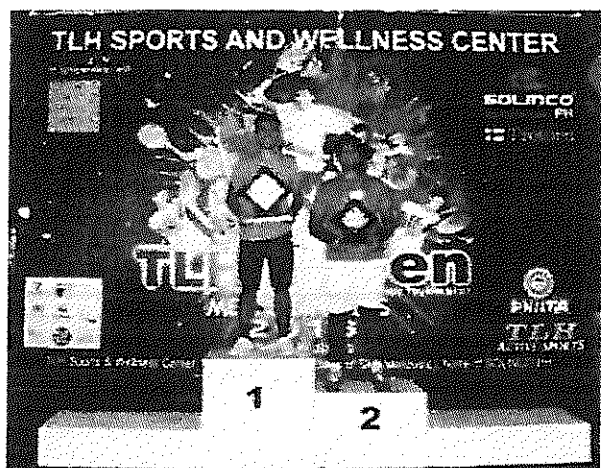
When Duterte vowed during the election campaign to solve the drugs problem within three to six months, many doubted he could do it within the time promised. Nevertheless, the people voted for him because he, alone among the candidates, vowed to do something concrete. The promise on drugs epitomized the overall theme of change that won the election for Duterte.

Today, change is taking place in all departments and agencies of the government. The President's people are moving in agriculture, in mining and other natural resources, in traffic, in Charter change, in Mindanao peace efforts, in Justice Department preparations for impending graft cases. We expect big things to happen in all these areas, but right now, we are impressed by the all-out campaign against drugs.

At the rate the police are making arrests and drug users are giving themselves up, the government may well meet the six-month deadline set by President Duterte. The issue of five high PNP officials named by the President may complicate the situation somewhat, but it should not hold back the momentum of the campaign.

POWER AND COURT SAVVY | Army Athlete Claims Philta Crown

Manila Standard July 6, 2016 2 Columns 282x100 00000001



FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – A 34-year old Army

corporal claimed the championship awards of the Philippine Tennis Association (PhilTA) in the recently concluded second Taking Life Healthy (TLH) Open Tennis Tournament held at the TLH Sports and Wellness Center in Valenzuela City.

Corporal Vicente Elbert Anasta of the Special Service Center, Philippine Army used his power and court savvy to defuse his toughest rival Patrick John Tierro, winning the men's Open singles crown of the tournament presented by Solinco, Tretorn and Duty Free Philippines.

After having lost to Tierro in the previous TLH men's Open, Anasta won with a score of 6-3; 6-4. The game was the finals in the tournament which began last June 28, with thirty-two players playing for the grand prize of 20,000 pesos.

"I dedicate the award to the Philippine Army's new athletes hoping that this will inspire them," said Anasta. "As of now, our team are preparing for the next national open tennis tournament on July 11 in Makati City."

Meanwhile, Army Chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo M. Año said that the Philippine Army takes pride in its soldier-athletes who brought honor and pride to the organization by winning championship awards in various competitions both in local and international arena. **OACPA / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com

ONLINE NEWS

07 JULY 2016

ASG frees kidnapped trader in Sulu

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, July 6 (PNA) -- After nearly a year in Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) captivity, a kidnapped trader was freed by captors in Sulu Wednesday morning.

Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) spokesman Major Filemon Tan identified released victim as Araj Maani.

He was freed at Barangay Wanih Piyanjihan, Parang, Sulu at 10:45 a.m.

Maani was kidnapped last July 27, 2015 in Zamboanga City.

Counseling was conducted by Joint Task Force "Sulu" in coordination with Sulu Police Provincial Office and other law enforcement prior to his turn-over to his family.

As this develops, at 7:55 a.m. Wednesday, troops from the 35th Infantry Battalion conducting focused military operations engaged an estimated 20 ASG terrorists in Barangay Maligay, Patikul, for at least five minutes, killing one of the bandits.

Tan said these brigands are believed to be responsible for the killing of unarmed soldiers in different areas in Jolo.

The ASGs retreated leaving behind the body of their fallen compatriot and a .45 caliber pistol.

"The conduct of focused military operations in Sulu was believed to exert pressure on the ASG to release their remaining kidnap victims.

To date, there are nine foreigners and three locals believed to still be in the hands of the bandits," said Tan. (PNA)
LGI/PFN

www.pna.gov.ph

2 NPA rebels die in Zamboanga del Sur clash

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 6): 2 NPA rebels die in Zamboanga del Sur clash

Three people, including two New People's Army (NPA) rebels, were killed in a clash with government forces in the hinterlands of Zamboanga del Sur, a military official announced Wednesday.

Major Filemon Tan Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) spokesman, said the clash took place around 3:05 p.m. Tuesday at Purok 7, Barangay Supon, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.

Tan said the troops from the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion backed by members of the Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO) were conducting security operation when they chanced upon a group of NPA rebels in Barangay Supon, Bayog town.

Tan said a firefight ensued that resulted to the death of two NPA rebels and a CVO member on the government side.

Tan identified the slain NPA rebels as a certain Ka Nilo and Ka Cherry, both members of the NPA's Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP)-KARA.

He said the remains of the slain NPA rebels, which the troops recovered, were turned over to the village authorities for proper disposition.

He said the troops have recovered an M-16 Armalite rifle, subversive documents, medical paraphernalia and other personal belongings abandoned by the other members of SYP-KARA, who fled leading behind their dead comrades.

Tan did not release the identity of the slain CVO based in Barangay Supon, Bayog.

He said the military continues to support the police and the local government units in the conduct of law enforcement operations to pin down NPA members in the province of Zamboanga del Sur.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=901621>