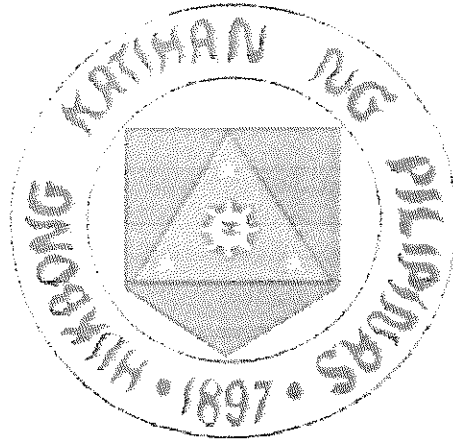


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08 July 2016

Friday

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LADANG	 25°C 32°C	 25°C 32°C	 25°C 33°C	METRO CEBU	 24°C 30°C	 24°C 31°C	 25°C 32°C
DAVAO	 16°C 24°C	 16°C 24°C	 16°C 25°C	TACLODAN	 24°C 31°C	 25°C 31°C	 25°C 32°C
SARAWAK	 25°C 31°C	 24°C 31°C	 24°C 32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 25°C 33°C	 25°C 34°C	 25°C 34°C
TAGAYTAY	 22°C 29°C	 22°C 30°C	 22°C 31°C	METRO DAVAO	 25°C 34°C	 26°C 34°C	 26°C 34°C
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with close to 40
inches of rain with
strong winds and
heavy rain.

Claudia

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08 July 2016

THE MORNING DAILY
INQUIRER

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US destroyers sail close to Sino-held reefs

PING KONG—US destroyers have sailed close to Chinese-held reefs and islands in the disputed South China Sea in recent weeks, US naval officials said on Thursday, patrols likely to fuel tensions ahead of an international court's ruling on Beijing's sweeping maritime claims.

The destroyers Stethem, Spruance and Momsen have been patrolling near Chinese-held reefs in the Spratlys archipelago and Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, which is near the Philippines, the officials said.

The patrols were first reported by the Washington-based Navy Times newspaper.

Pressure has been rising in the region ahead of a July 12 ruling by the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration on the dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea in the Dutch city of The Hague.

US DESTROYERS / A14

Decision nears but China opts to snub case • China envoy visits Duterte 5 days before UN ruling / A14

From page A1

China has refused to participate in the case and vowed to ignore the ruling, which the United States insists is binding and an important test of Beijing's willingness to adhere to international law.

While not close enough to be within 21.6 kilometers—a so-called freedom-of-navigation operation that would require high-level approval—the destroyers operated within 25.2 to 36 km of the Chinese-occupied features, the Navy Times reported.

US carrier patrol

The USS Ronald Reagan and its escort ships have also been patrolling the South China Sea since last week.

Lt. Clint Ramsden, US Pacific Fleet spokesperson, said he could not go into operational or tactical details but that the patrols were part of a "routine presence."

"All of these patrols are conducted in accordance with international law and all are consistent with routine Pacific Fleet presence throughout the Western Pacific."

US Navy officials said Chinese naval ships, and sometimes fishing vessels, frequently track US ships in the South China Sea but it is not yet known if the presence of the destroyers attracted particular attention.

Manila is challenging the legality of Beijing's actions and claims to almost all of the South China Sea—the first legal case involving the South China Sea.

With legal experts expecting the ruling to go Manila's way, nullifying the basis for Beijing's territorial claims, US and other regional naval officials are

bracing for tensions in the weeks and months after the ruling.

Peaceful resolution sought

China frequently blames the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, where its territorial claims overlap in parts with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Speaking in Beijing following a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that while he could not comment on the Philippines' legal case, he called for a peaceful resolution of differences.

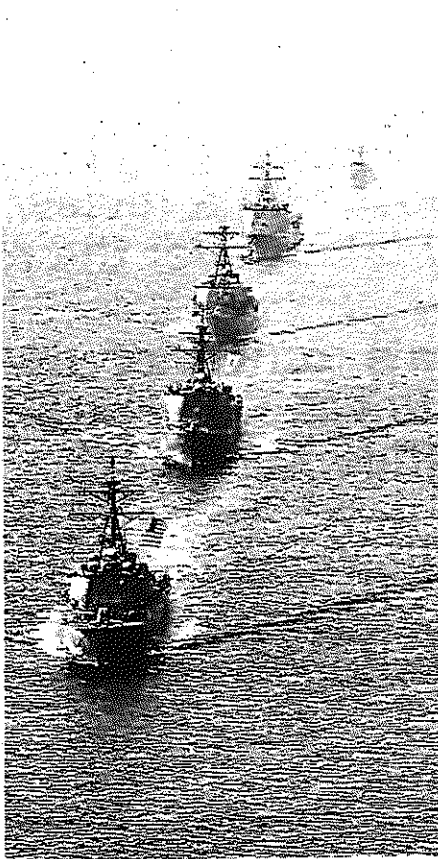
"I did stress to Minister Wang, as I have with all other countries involved, the need to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner and to avoid any escalation or misunderstandings that could put security and development in the region at risk," Ban said.

Forced arbitration

Wang repeated China's position that it also wanted a peaceful resolution, but that it could not accept forced arbitration.

"This approach will not help bring about a peaceful resolution of disputes. On the contrary, it would only escalate the disputes and tension and should be resisted by all countries and people who uphold justice," he said.

China has accused the United States of militarizing the waterway with freedom-of-navigation patrols, while Washington has expressed concern about China's building of military facilities on artificial islands it controls in the South China Sea.



US SEA PATROL US destroyers Stethem, Spruance and Momsen have sailed close to Chinese-held reefs and islands in the disputed South China Sea in recent weeks.

US NAVY

In an editorial published on Wednesday, China's Communist Party newspaper People's Daily warned that there would be a "price to pay" if the United States crossed China's "bottom line" by meddling in the South China Sea disputes.

"If the United States, regardless of the cost, chooses the path of 'brinkmanship' that pressures and in-

timidates others, there will be only one result, that is, that the US bears all the responsibility for possibly further heightening tensions in the South China Sea," the editorial said.

On Tuesday, Chinese state-run newspaper Global Times wrote in an editorial that China should prepare for military confrontation over the South China dispute, but foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei played down the comment on Wednesday, saying China was committed to peace.

Hong said China would work with Southeast Asian countries "to safeguard the peace and stability of the South China Sea."

US response

US officials say the US response should China stick to its vow to ignore the ruling could include stepped up freedom-of-navigation patrols close to Chinese-claimed islands in what is one of the world's busiest trade routes.

In a telephone call on Wednesday, Wang told US Secretary of State John Kerry that the United States should do nothing to harm China's sovereignty and security in the South China Sea.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement that Wang told Kerry, who initiated the phone call, that the United States should stick to its promises not to take sides in the dispute.

China hopes the United States "speaks and acts cautiously, and take no actions that harm China's sovereignty and security interests," the statement paraphrased Wang as saying.

Wang also said relations between China and the United States were generally on a sound track and that the two sides should further focus on coopera-

tion while managing their differences.

Issues of mutual interest

The US state department confirmed that Kerry had spoken to Wang, without providing details.

"The two discussed issues of mutual interest. We are not going to get into the details on this private diplomatic conversation," said state department spokesperson Gabrielle Price.

US officials say they fear China may respond to the ruling by declaring an air defense identification zone in the South China Sea, as it did in the East China Sea in 2013, or by stepping up its building and fortification of artificial islands.

Ironclad commitment

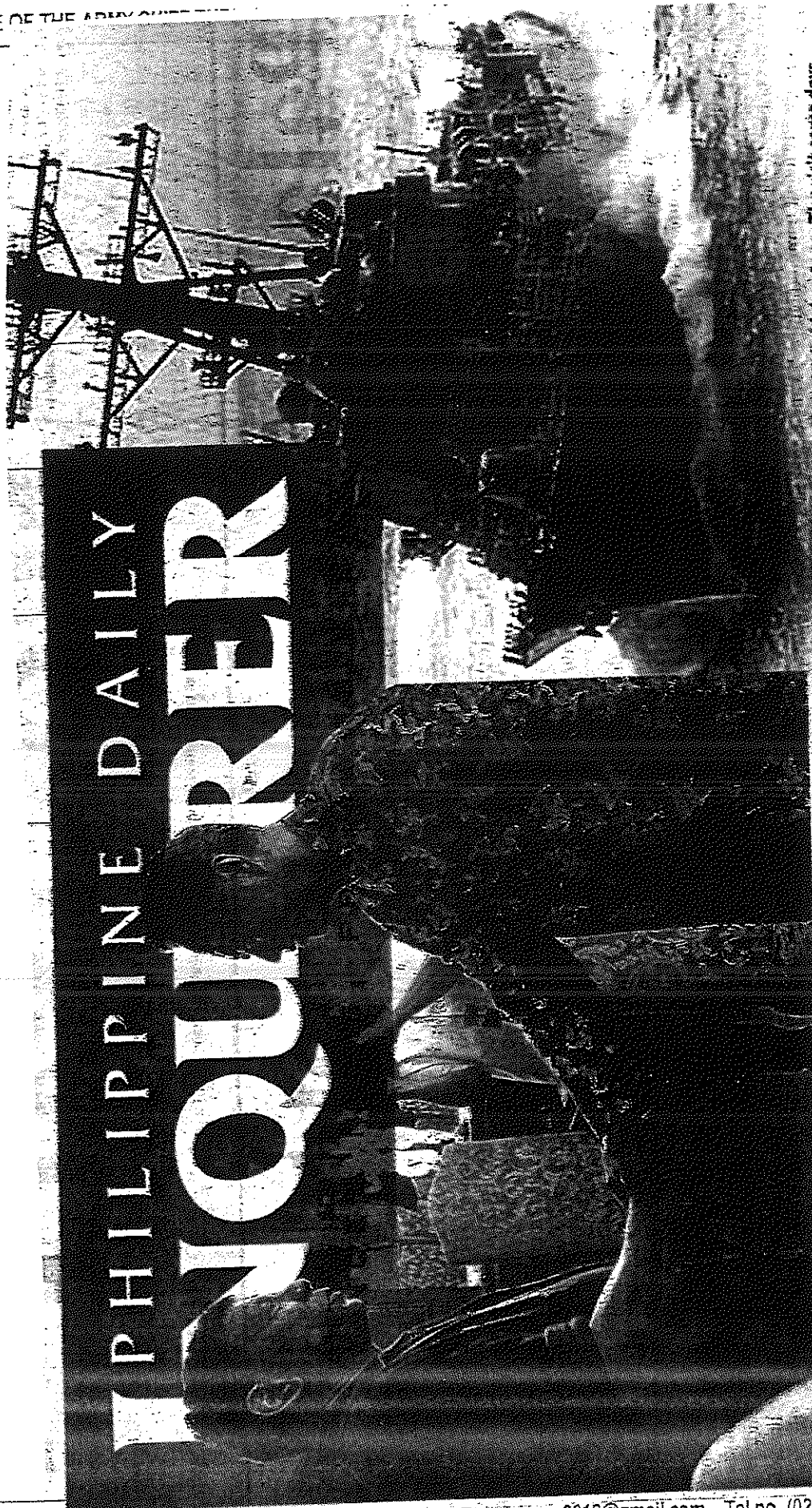
On Wednesday, US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg reiterated that the US commitment to stand side by side with the Philippines was "ironclad" and extended to bringing legal, diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the South China Sea dispute.

"As allies, we stand together whenever the other is threatened and we will always continue to do so," Goldberg said in a speech during the celebration of the 240th anniversary of US independence in Manila.

In an interview with reporters after his speech, Goldberg said that while the United States was neither a party nor an observer in the arbitration case, it supported the Philippines and hoped parties would abide by the arbitral tribunal's ruling.

"We hope that it's observed, because the rule of law ... is always the best way [to deal with sea disputes]," Goldberg said. *Reports from Reuters and Estrella Torres*

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CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN PALACE: Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jinhua pays a courtesy call on President Duterte in Malacañang. The visit came days before a UN-backed arbitral court hands down a decision on the Philippines' challenge to China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea. (See story on Page A14.) At right is a file photo of the USS Momsen II, one of the three American destroyers patrolling near Chinese-held reefs in the Spratlys and Panatag Shoal.

PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS' DIVISION/US NAVY

Local: 5285, 5295

06 July 2016



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Leni gets housing post

By GIOVANNI NILLES and JANVIC MATEO

After two meetings, President Duterte has had a change of heart and offered Vice President Leni Robredo a Cabinet post, as head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

He immediately got "yes" for an answer.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II announced in an early evening press conference at Malacañang that Duterte called the Vice President yesterday to offer her a Cabinet post to address "persistent questions" on whether Robredo would be part of the official family.

In a statement, Robredo welcomed the decision of Duterte to appoint her as HUDCC chairperson, saying this would enable her to serve Filipinos who do not have shelter and at the same time fulfill her promise to support those in the fringes of society.

While Duterte was on a live broadcast over government station PTV-4, he instructed his special assistant Christopher Go to call the Vice President.

"He asked the Vice President if she would accept a Cabinet post, that of HUDCC. We did not hear the answer of the Vice President, but from the face of President Duterte, we knew that the Vice President accepted the offer," Aguirre said.

Duterte used the phone of Go during the call aired on PTV-4.

"*Pwede ba housing, ma'am? Can you be the housing secretary? Tanggapin mo, ma'am?*" the President was heard to have said.

"The executive secretary will hand you the appointment. *Mahinto na ito (questions) ma'am, kai tanggapin mo kaya?*"

Robredo, Aguirre added, was told to attend her first

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Leni From Page 1

Cabinet meeting on Monday. The date of her oath-taking, however, was not announced.

The HUDCC and other housing-related agencies were also given to former vice presidents: Jejomar Binay during the time of former president Benigno Aquino III, and Noli de Castro under the Arroyo administration.

"Many of the Cabinet members are happy (about) the development. At last the Vice President is no longer an elected officer without a Cabinet post," Aguirre said.

He attributed the change of heart to the two "amiable" meetings that Duterte and Robredo had – first at the change of command ceremony at the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on July 1 and then at the Palace where the Vice President paid a courtesy call on Duterte on Monday.

Reminded that Duterte was previously opposed to Robredo's appointment to the Cabinet because of his closeness to former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who was Robredo's closest opponent in the vice presidential race, Aguirre said "it was a reason given by the President at that time."

"With the passage of time, there must have been a reconsideration of that decision," Aguirre added.

Reacting to her appointment, Robredo noted that addressing the problems concerning lack of housing had been an advocacy of her late husband, former interior secretary Jesse Robredo.

"*Maisasakatuparan ito at mabibiyayaan ang mga nasa laylayan sa pakikipagtulungan ng lahat* (We will be able to fulfill this and help those who are in the fringes with the help of everyone)," she added.

HUDCC was among the agencies covered by Duterte's first executive order, which reorganized several offices to streamline poverty reduction programs of the government.

The agencies covered by the EO will be under the supervision of Secretary to the Cabinet Leoncio Evasco Jr.

Following their first meeting, Robredo said she was no longer expecting an offer of a Cabinet post from the President.

"I am ready that I won't have a post. In fact, we already have a lot of discussions with the private sector," she said in Naga City on Saturday.

She said it would be a bonus if given a Cabinet post, "but if there won't be, we are also ready."

On Tuesday, Robredo said she informed the President during her courtesy call that he would get her full support with or without a Cabinet post.

Against death penalty but for federalism

Earlier in the day in Marawi City, Robredo said she was against the revival of the death penalty being pushed by Duterte but stressed that any disagreement with the policies of the current administration would not affect her support for the President.

"Ever since, I have been an advocate against death penalty," she stressed.

But Robredo said she was open to the proposal to change the system of government to federalism, noting that her late husband was an advocate for local autonomy.

However, the Vice President said some questions about the

proposal must be answered, particularly on the readiness of some regions to stand on their own.

"A lot of municipalities are heavily dependent on IRA (Internal Revenue Allotment). The locally generated funds are small. I want to know how will that be resolved," she said.

Robredo also expressed support for the passage of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law, noting that criticisms such as lack of consultation might be remedied.

"This is an important first step so we can move forward," she added.

Speaking before local officials and supporters in Lanao del Sur also yesterday, Robredo paid tribute to the achievements of former president Aquino and expressed confidence that the current administration would continue to bring progress to Mindanao.

Robredo said Duterte would ensure that progress is achieved in Mindanao as he himself comes from the south. "I think he will not neglect us," she said.

"The benefits that Lanao del Sur has received in the past five years, we can expect that (to continue) at least in the next three years," she said in Filipino.

"The challenge to our local officials is how to maximize those that we receive," she added.

Paying homage to Aquino, Robredo said a lot of projects were initiated in the province during the past administration.

"There is no reason for us not to expect (that progress will continue) because the new president is from Mindanao," she added.

The Vice President went to Marawi City to lead the ceremonial oath taking of local officials and attend the celebration of 57th Araw ng Lanao.

It was the first trip of Robredo to Mindanao following her assumption of the second highest post in the land.

She thanked her supporter for helping her win in the province in the recent elections.

"The office of the Vice President is always here to support you," she said, expressing confidence that the local leaders would work together for the benefit of the people.

"I will never forget that when I was in need, you were there to support me," she added. "We will pay it off in service that you will not be ashamed of. You will not regret that you chose me."

Meanwhile, Robredo on Wednesday called on artists to guide the government on how it could help them in the struggles.

"I understand that many of you are among those who are overworked and underpaid. The least the government can do is to help you out, make life easier for you without thinking so much on making a living," Robredo said during the unveiling of an art exhibit at Solaire Resort and Casino Pasay City.

"I am very honest that I need you to guide me and make me understand how you can help you," she added.

Robredo urged artists to continue being a source of inspiration, saying their creativity should be a unifying force for the Filipino people.

"We do understand the value that you give to society," she said. "I hope that from now on, we will be able to work together."

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July 2016

The Manila Times

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RODY NAMES THEM, TOO

'Top drug traders operating from jail'

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE
REPORTER

■ LORDS FROM A1

Top drug traders

In a Malacañang briefing aired over the government-owned People's Television network, Duterte named Wu Tuan alias Peter Co, Peter Lim alias Jaguar, and Herbert Colangco alias Ampang as leaders of big drug syndicates operating in the Philippines.

Co and Colangco are in jail and allegedly directing illegal drug operations from the New Bilibid Prison, while Lim is out of the country.

Duterte warned the inmates they risked death if they tried to escape.

"They destroy the country, they're destroying the youth of the land. My appeal to them, since they are beyond redemption, they

can stop and commit suicide because I will not allow these idiots to run their show not during my watch," Duterte told reporters two days after revealing the names of five police generals involved in the illegal drug trade.

Duterte specifically pointed to retired Philippine National Police (PNP) deputy director general Marcelo Garbo Jr. as a protector of drug syndicates. A diagram provided to reporters linked Garbo to Co and Lim.

Duterte bared that Colangco was a member of the Kuratong Baleleng kidnapping syndicate.

Co is the "head of 'Bilibid 19,' a group of convicted drug traffickers detained at the New

Bilibid Prison, he said.

Co's operations, he added, cover Luzon and Metro Manila.

Lim, who is reportedly behind the drug trade in the Visayas, goes in and out of the country based on information from PNP chief Director General Ronaldo "Bato" de la Rosa, Duterte said.

"The moment he lands at NAIA [airport], he will die. That is my assurance to the Filipino people," he declared.

Solicitor General Jose Calida, who briefed reporters after a Cabinet security cluster meeting, said Garbo was the "coddler" of the top drug dealers.

"According to briefing we received earlier, he's level five associate/protector. In short, coddler," Calida said of Garbo.

08 July 2016



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13 soldiers assigned to Fort Bonifacio found positive for drug use

By Mario J. Mallari

Thirteen Army soldiers are now under custody after they were tested positive for illegal drug use after a random drug testing ordered by Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano on troops assigned to Fort Bonifacio.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said the 13 soldiers are currently under custody of the Philippine Army Custodial Center pending confirmatory testing by Department of Health (DoH)-accredited testing center.

According to Hao, about 3,000 Army troops assigned to various post units at Fort Bonifacio were required to undergo the random drug testing after the morning exercise on Tuesday.

Hao said Ano himself took the drug test.

"The 13 failed the initial screening test and were immediately required to undergo confirmatory testing in a DoH-accredited drug testing establishment," Hao said.

"They are currently placed under custody at the Custodial Center," he added.

Hao, however, refused to identify or at least give the ranks of the 13, citing due process and pending the results of the confirmatory test and investigation.

"Everybody was required to undergo the drug test led by our

Army commanding general," Hao said.

According to Hao, the drug test was unannounced and was done after the troops' regular Taebo exercise.

"The Philippine Army is very serious in its anti-drug campaign," Hao said. "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 five so far this year)."

"If the confirmatory test is positive, it is enough evidence for us to discharge our personnel," Hao explained.

"But we emphasized that due process is given to all our personnel based on existing laws and regulations about illegal drugs," he added.

Section 36, Article 3 of Republic Act (RA) 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 RA 9165 also mandates the conduct of annual mandatory drug test to all members of the military.

Hao stressed the drug test among Army soldiers has been ongoing since 2012 as part of the efforts of the military leadership to keep its ranks from drug users.

July 2016



Page. 3

13 sundalo bagsak sa drug test

Inilimbetigahan ngayon ng Philippine Army (PA) ang 13 sundalo na bumagsak sa paunang drug test na isinagawa ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) noong Martes. Ayon kay Col. Benjamin L. Hao, Army spokesman, 13 sa 2,500 Army personnel na nakabase sa Fort Benifacio ang nag-positibo sa drug test at inutusang sumailalim pa sa confirmatory test sa DoH-accredited drug testing centers. "Everybody was required to undergo the drug test led by our Army commanding general," pahayag ni Hao. Sinabi niya na isinagawa ang biglaang drug test sa araw mismo ng Taebo exercise ng mga sundalo. "The Philippine Army is very serious in its anti-drug campaign," pahayag ni Hao. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

08 July 2016

POLICE FILES

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13 sundalo positibo sa drug test, sisibakin

BUMAGSAK ang labingtatlo sa 2,500 na tauhan ng Philippine Army sa isinagawang surprise mandatory drug test sa Fort Bonifacio noong Martes.

Dahil dito, inatasan agad na sumailalim ang labingtalong sundalo sa confirmatory test sa anumang drug testing center na accredited ng Department of Health.

Ayon pa kay Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao, isinailalim na rin nila ang mga nasabing sundalo sa kanilang kostumaryo babang hinuhintay ang resulta ng confirmatory tests at para na rin sa mas malalim na imbestigasyon.

Paliwanag pa ni Hao, lahat sa kanila ay obligadong magpa-drug test alinsunod na rin sa utos ng Army commanding general.

Oras aniya na mag-positibo pa sa confirmatory tests ang mga ito, sapat na itong ebidensya para tanggalin sa serbisyo ang kanilang tauhan ngunit iginait naman nila na dadaan pa rin sila sa due process.

Dagdag pa niya, seryoso rin ang kampanya ng Philippine Army laban sa tilgal na droga at mula aniya nang maunipisahan nila ito, 204 na sundalo na sa buong bansa ang natanggal na sa serbisyo dahil sa mga kasong may kinalaman sa tilgal na droga.

07 July 2016

INQUIRER

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MERGER OF FORCES

Top Abu leaders lead attacks in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 200 members of the terror group Abu Sayyaf, led by two of their highest-ranking leaders, attacked an Army headquarters surrounded by civilian communities in Basilan province on Sunday, sending residents fleeing to safety and starting a gun battle that was still going on as of late yesterday afternoon.

Joel Maturan, former mayor of Ungkaya Pukan town in Basilan, said the terrorists, armed with .50 cal. machine guns, had positioned themselves on four hills surrounding the community of Punoh Butigan in the village of Sungkayot where the 18th Infantry Battalion headquarters is located.

The terrorists, said Maturan, "seemed to be determined to get the headquarters." He said he and his rubber plantation workers had armed themselves and prepared to fight alongside government soldiers.

He said false reports that the town of Tipo-Tipo was the one under attack, not Ungkaya Pukan, sent residents there fleeing in panic.

The terrorists launched the attack on Ungkaya Pukan around 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday until 2 a.m. yesterday. They resumed the attack around 7 a.m. yesterday.

"It's on and off," said Maturan. "I wonder why these bandits are not running out of ammunition and food."

Supt. Oscar Nantes, Basilan provincial police chief, said he sent more policemen to Tipo-Tipo and Ungkaya Pukan to help the military.



ABU SAYYAF is now using this logo under its other name.

INQUIRER MINDANAO

The terrorists are led by top Abu Sayyaf leaders Puruji Indama and Isnilon Hapilon.

Nantes said at least 2,000 families from Ungkaya Pukan, Tipo-Tipo and Al Barka towns had been displaced.

He said police and military were also bracing for an attack on the municipal hall and police station.

Nantes said he could not provide casualty figures yet.

Maturan said the terrorists repositioned themselves in the community of Punoh Al-

ibasa, which falls within the jurisdiction of Tipo-Tipo, Ungkaya Pukan and Al Barka.

"But the volley of fire is landing on us," Maturan said. At least 400 families had already fled, he said.

Tong Isarul, former Tipo-Tipo mayor, said classes in all eight elementary and high schools in his town had been canceled.

"We were all caught by surprise," said Isarul. "We were winding down our Eid (end of Ramadan) celebration when the attack happened."

"People are afraid to move around," Isarul added.

The attack took place as a Tausug trader was freed by his Abu Sayyaf captors on Wednesday after almost a year in captivity.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said Araj Maani, who is into money-lending, was freed in the village of Wanhi Piyanjihan in Parang, Sulu.

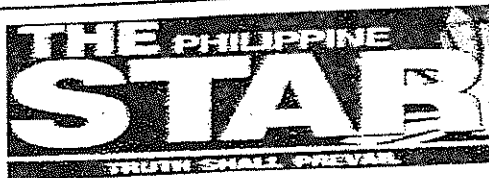
Maani was kidnapped on July 27 last year.

The terrorists have beheaded two of their captive Canadians after their ransom demands were ignored by the government.

A terrorist spokesperson had said Abu Sayyaf was dedicating the beheadings to then incoming President Duterte.

After the beheadings, Duterte said the time for reckoning for the Abu Sayyaf would surely come. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

07 July 2016



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10 killed in Sulu clash

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – At least nine Abu Sayyaf men and a soldier were killed while 19 others were wounded in a clash between the group and the military in Sulu yesterday.

The military said 13 of those wounded were Abus and six were government troops that encountered about 130 militants led by senior leader Radulan Sahiron in Barangay Kabuntakas, Patikul town.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the troops from the 45th Infantry Battalion (IB) initially encountered the Abu Sayyaf group at about 3 p.m.

The fighting lasted several hours until militants retreated.

However, troops from the 32nd IB closed in and clashed the fleeing Abu Sayyaf group of Sahiron sending fierce encounters.

The military also launched

heavy artillery strike against the positions of the Abu Sayyaf.

Basilan battle

Meanwhile, a series of encounters also erupted in Basilan when combined forces of 200 Abu Sayyaf members attacked the military camps in Ungkaya Pukan town and Barangay Magcawa, Al-Barka town.

Tan said the troops encountered the Abu Sayyaf led by Furuji Indama and Isnilon Hapilon, the alleged appointed amir of the Islamic State late Wednesday night until Thursday.

The Abu Sayyaf group attacked the camps of 18th IB in Ungkaya Pukan and in Barangay Magcawa, Al-Barka at about 7 a.m. on Thursday.

The militants reportedly attempted to raise its black flag in Tipo-Tipo but were repelled by troops.

08 July 2016



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10 slain, 19 wounded in Sulu firefight

By Mario J. Mallari

Government troops yesterday clashed with two main bands of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Basilan and Sulu provinces, resulting in at least one soldier and nine bandits killed while six troopers and 13 terrorists were wounded, the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) said.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., Wesmincom spokesman, said that elements of the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion (IB) encountered the band of ASG senior commander Radplan Sahiron in Patikul, Sulu at around 3 p.m.

Tan said that the troops were conducting focused military operations along Barangay Kabuntakas where they clashed with the group of Rahiron, composed of about 150 bandits.

Fighting was still ongoing as of press time yesterday.

Tan said that initial results showed that one soldier was killed in action while six others were wounded.

On the other hand, Tan said that intelligence report showed that at least nine Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed while 13 others were wounded during the clashes.

Tan said that elements of the Air Force provided indirect fire support to the engaged ground troops while members of the Army's 32nd IB were sent to reinforce the 45th IB.

In Basilan, elements of the Joint Task Force-Basilan engaged the group of ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon and Furuji Indama in a series of encounters in Ungkaya Pukan and Al Barka towns.

Tan said that the initial firefight erupted at around 8 p.m. Wednesday which lasted for five hours.

"This morning 7 a.m. (Thursday), firefight resumed in different sitios in Ungkaya Pukan and Magcawa, Al Barka, Basilan," Tan said.

"Continuous indirect fire support and air strikes are being done and additional troops deployed in the area of operations as firefight still ongoing as of this time," he added.

08 July 2016

The Manila Times

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Soldiers clash with Abu Sayyaf rebels, 10 dead

GOVERNMENT forces fought hundreds of Islamic militants on two remote islands Thursday, with the military aircraft-backed campaign leaving up to 10 people dead, the army said.

The gun battles on the southern islands of Jolo and Basilan followed orders by new President Rodrigo Duterte for the security services to go after the Abu Sayyaf Group, which recently beheaded two foreign hostages and is also blamed for the worst terror attacks in Philippine history.

The fighting was continuing late Thursday with more troops being rushed in, backed by

military aircraft and artillery, regional military spokesman Major Filemon Tan told reporters.

"Continuous indirect fire support and air strikes are being done and additional troops were deployed," he added without giving details.

Army troops hunting down Abu Sayyaf units clashed with about 130 of the gunmen near the Jolo town of Patikul, killing a soldier and wounding six others, Tan said.

Military intelligence reports later determined that nine Abu Sayyaf members were also killed and 13 others wounded, he added.

Meanwhile, up to 200 Abu Sayyaf gunmen

have been fighting running gun battles with government forces in three Basilan towns since late Wednesday, Tan said, but did not say if there were casualties.

The Jolo militants are believed to be holding a Norwegian resort manager abducted elsewhere in the south in September last year and a Dutch birdwatcher kidnapped in 2012.

The Abu Sayyaf beheaded in April and June two Canadian tourists who were kidnapped along with the Norwegian, while a Filipina who was abducted with them was freed last month.

AFP

July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

10 ASG bandits killed in Sulu clash

FRANCIS J. WAKENFIELD and MONTE E. LACSON

At least 10 Abu Sayyaf Group bandits were killed while government troops suffered a lone casualty when Army troopers clashed with the group of Radulan Sahiron at about 3 p.m. yesterday in the jungles of Barangay Kabuntakas, Patikul, Sulu, wounding at least 19 others. ►8

10 ASG bandits killed... ◀1

Major Filemon Tan, Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) spokesman, said heavy firefight was still ongoing as of press time last night.

Tan said operating troops from the Army's 45th Infantry Brigade and 501st Brigade were conducting Intensified Focused Military Operations against Sahiron's group when a firefight en-

sued.

The 8th Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) provided indirect fire support to the engaged troops while the 32nd Infantry Battalion was directed to close in on the enemy and provide reinforcement.

Field reports showed six soldiers were wounded in the clash.

Meanwhile in Basilan, a series of encounters between members of Joint Task Force (JTF) Basilan and about 200 ASG bandits under Isnail Hapilon and Furuji Indama engaged patrolling troops to a firefight that lasted for five hours Wednesday night. The battle resumed yesterday morning in Sitio Ungkaya Pukan and Magcawa, Albarka also in Basilan.

There were no reports of casualties on either side but firefight is ongoing.

28 July 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: 15

10 killed amid air strikes on ASG lair

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Meanwhile up to 200 Abu Sayyaf gunmen have been fighting running gun battles with government forces in three Basilan towns since late Wednesday, Tan said, but did not say if there were casualties.

The Jolo militants are believed to be holding a Norwegian resort manager abducted elsewhere in the south in September last year and a Dutch bird-watcher kidnapped in 2012.

Tan did not reply when asked about the impact of the fighting on the hostages.

The Abu Sayyaf beheaded in April and June two Canadian tourists who were kidnapped along with the Norwegian, while a Filipina who was abducted with them was freed last month.

The Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of a few hundred Islamic militants, formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network, that has earned millions of dollars from kidnappings-for-ransom. **AFP**

08 July 2016

POLICE FILES

Page. 3

9 Abu Sayyaf, 1 sundalo patay sa bakbakan sa Sulu

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Siyam na kasapi ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) at isang sundalo ang napaulat na namatay sa panibagong bakbakan sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Barangay Kabuntakas sa Patikul, Sulu kahapon.

Ayon kay Major Filemon Tan, ang tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), base rin sa nakatira nilang intelligence report ay umabot na sa 13 ang sugatan sa panig ng mga bandido.

Nasa anim namang sundalo ang nasugatan sa engkwentro na ngayon ay nilalapatan na ng lunas sa ospital ng military headquarter.

Inihayag ni Tan na dakong 3:00 ng hapen habang nagsasagawa ng focused military operations ang tropa ng 45th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army (PA) nang makasagupana ang humigit-kumulang 130 na Abu Sayyaf na pinangungunahan umano ni ASG Commander Radulan Sahiron.

Dito na nagsimula ang matinding sagupaan. Nagpapatuloy naman ang clearing operation ng militar.

Ang operasyon ng mga sundalo sa naturang lugar ay bahagi pa rin umano ng ginagawang paraan ng militar upang masalba ang mga natitira pang bihag ng Abu Sayyaf kabilang na dito ang siyam na dahuyang biktima at tatlong Pinoy.

Una nang sinabi ng militar na si ASG Commander Radulan Sahiron ay ang siyang humahawak sa Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad na binantaang pupugutan din ng ulo katulad ng ginawa ng mga kidnapper sa dalawa pang dayuhang biktima na kasama rin niyang dimukot sa Samal Island sa Davao de Norte.

08 July 2016



Pahina. 6

Lumad tribal leader niratrat

Dead-on-the-spot ang isang Ata tribal leader at kasama nito nang pagbabarilin ng mga pinaghihinalaang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) kamakalawang hapon sa Panabo, Davao Del Norte.

Kinilala ang nasawi na sina Ata Paquibatō District tribal leader Datu Reben Labawa, 42, at Romeo Tanio, 49.

Base sa ulat ni 10th Infantry Division spokesperson Capt. Rhy-an Batchar, bumibahe umano sa national highway ng Panabo City ang mga biktima nang biglang lumitaw ang mgasuspek na sakay ng dalawang motorsiklo at pagbabarilin ang mga ito ng makailang ulit.

Bago ang insidente, kasama sina Labawan at Tanio sa mga Ata-Manabo tribal leaders na dumalo sa isang conver-

gence forum and consultation na inorganisang National Commission for Indigenous People (NCIP) XI sa RJ3 Restaurant, Brgy. Gredu ng nasabing lungsod.

Pinag-usapan ang pagpapatupad ng Slope Agriculture Land Technology, isang pilot projects para sa lumad, sa ilalim ng Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NCIP at Technical Education and Skills Development Authority kaagapay ang Municipal Agrarian Reform office at ang City Environment and Natural Resources Office ng Panabo na nagsipagdalo rin sa nasabing pagtitipon.

Samantala, patuloy pa rin ang operasyon sa pagtugis samga salarin ayon kay Batchar. (Edniel Parrosa)

03 July 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 18

Army fears tribal war after Davao datu slain

TAGUM CITY—Guerrillas killed an anticommunist tribal leader in Panabo City, Davao del Norte province, on Wednesday, raising fears that the victim's family would launch a tribal war in retaliation.

Datu Ruben Labawan, 49, was riding a motorcycle driven by one Romeo Tanio Escosar, 49, when they were attacked by five gunmen on three motorcycles on the national highway in the village of Gredu in Panabo, said Chief Insp. Andrea dela Cerna, spokesperson of the Southern Mindanao police office.

Labawan and Escosar were taken to a hospital where they were declared dead. Labawan had multiple gunshot wounds while Escosar was shot once.

Capt. Rhyann Batchar, spokesperson of the Army's 10th Infantry Division, said the military feared the family of Labawan would retaliate and wage a "pangayaw," or tribal war.

The slain tribal chieftain headed the Supreme Tribal Council for Peace and Development, a staunch anticommunist ally of the military.

The New People's Army has yet to issue a statement on the

killing of Labawan, who had survived previous attacks by communist guerrillas.

In August 2010, guerrillas ambushed Labawan, who was with a group of soldiers on their way to Paquibato district for a dialogue with tribal communities over an agricultural project for indigenous peoples in remote areas of Davao City and Davao del Norte.

Two soldiers were killed in that attack but Labawan was unhurt.

Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, head of the Army's 1003rd Infantry Brigade, condemned Wednesday's attack on Labawan, calling it "treacherous."

Batchar said Nepomuceno expressed fears of a pangayaw over Labawan's killing.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, 10th Infantry Division chief, expressed grief over the killing of Labawan, who had been actively helping the military in efforts to uplift the living conditions of indigenous peoples.

The head of the Southern Mindanao police has ordered the creation of a special investigation task group to solve the killing. *Friston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao*

07 July 2016



Page: A-23

2 lumads shot dead

DAVAO CITY – Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels shot dead the leader of a *lumad* tribe and his associate along the national highway in Panabo City, Davao del Norte on Wednesday.

Capt. Rhyen Batchar of the public affairs office of the 10th Infantry Battalion identified the victims as Ruben Labawan, 42, chieftain of the Ata-Manolo tribe in Paquibato district, and Romeo Tanio, 49.

The victims had just attended a meeting organized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples at the RJ3 Restaurant in Barangay Gredu when unidentified men on two motorcycles shot them from behind.

The victims were pro-

nounced dead on arrival in a hospital.

Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, 1003rd Infantry Brigade commander, condemned the attack even as he questioned the sincerity of communist insurgents to resume peace negotiations with the government.

Peace talks with communist rebels are set to resume in Oslo, Norway this month.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, 101st Infantry Division commander, said Labawan had actively worked with the government in identifying programs to alleviate the condition of *lumad* communities.

Pursuit operations have been launched for the rebels.

– Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude

05 July 2016



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2 lumads shot dead in Davao del Norte

By ANTONIO COLINA
and JAS D. Ocampo

DAVAO CITY – Two lumads were shot and killed by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels at around 4 p.m. on Wednesday, after attending a forum organized by the National Commission for Indigenous People (NCIP) in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

Datu Ruben Labawan, 42, tribal leader of the Ata tribe of Paquibato District and his companion Romeo Tanio, 49, were shot from behind by armed men on board two motorcycles.

Capt. Rhyen B Batchar, chief of Di-

vision Public Affairs Office of the 10th Infantry Division, said that the two victims joined the convergence forum and consultation organized by the NCIP in Brgy. Gredu, Panabo, along with other lumad leaders and representatives of the national and local government agencies.

The meeting supposedly discussed pilot areas within lumad communities for the Slope Agriculture Land Technology, a farming method implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NCIP and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Municipal Agrarian Reform

Office and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Panabo.

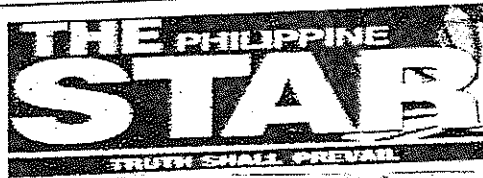
Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, 1003rd Infantry Brigade commander, linked the killing to the communist rebels and questioned the group's sincerity in the resumption of peace talks.

But he added he is not also discounting the possibility that it could be due to "pangayaw," or tribal war, between the families of the two victims.

He vowed that the military will do its part to prevent further bloodshed involving lumads.

The Philippine National Police, meanwhile, echoed the condemnation of the death of the Lumad leader.

08 July 2016



Page: 1

IS threat in Davao? If I die, *babay na lang*

Fatalistic about his safety, President Duterte brushed aside yesterday reported death threats and said the Vice President would continue the fight against illegal drugs if he is killed.

"I'm confident God will decide everything. If God does not want me to die, I will not die. If God wants me out of the scene, I will be gone. So *babay na lang* (that's a goodbye)," Duterte said when asked on

state-run PTV 4 from Malacñang to comment on reports about the Islamic State (IS) planning an attack in his home city of Davao. He was to leave last night for Davao City.

Duterte said he is aware of

reports that some illegal drug personalities are raising more than P1 billion to have him assassinated.

"You have your Vice President...that is why we have

Turn to Page 3

IS From Page 1

a vice president. There is always this rule of succession," Duterte said.

Duterte expressed confidence that even if he will be out of the picture, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police will not take the issue on illegal drugs "sitting down."

"Even if I'm gone, they will not allow these animals... Leni Robredo becomes president (and she) will also be harsh (because) we're talking about the welfare of the country," he said.

He said those involved in kidnap-for-ransom syndicates have shifted to the illegal drug trade because it is easier to do and less risky.

Duterte again called for the reimposition of the death penalty in the country, saying the criminals can always choose to shift from one operation to another without threat of capital punishment.

He believes the lack of the death penalty is the "meat of the problem."

Duterte was reacting to a question on his security, particularly on his going home to Davao City in the wake of threats of Islamic State (IS) militants.

His son, Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte yesterday revealed the city is facing threats from the IS.

Duterte, the presidential son who is now the acting city mayor, said he has already ordered the police and military to beef up security and intensify intelligence gathering to avert possible attacks.

The younger Duterte said he has some information about the whereabouts of the

group linked with the IS but refused to give specific details.

"We are intensifying the gathering of information. We cannot disclose details or confirm anything as yet," he said.

The vice mayor said that he has coordinated with the city's anti-terrorism group, Task Force Davao, the Davao City Police Office and the military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) to

get more information about the threat.

Davao City police chief Senior Supt. Michael Dubria said they would look further into the intelligence report and make sure the necessary security measures are in place.

Dubria said the city has also

been on heightened alert since it is the hometown of President Duterte, who goes home every weekend.

"We also factor it in, that since the President is also from Davao City. That is why there is also that threat," Dubria said.

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IS From Page 3

He said authorities are now validating the reports.

Eastmincom commander Lt. Gen. Leonardo Ray Guerrero said the military is coordinating with police counterparts to verify the threats.

Guerrero said they have no information that would confirm the supposed presence of IS terrorists in the city.

But just the same, Eastmincom has raised and intensified its security monitoring in the

city, he said.

"Being a progressive city and the place of residence of the President, we expect the level of threats will also go higher. Also, the city is celebrating the yearly Kadayawan Festival next month," Guerrero said.

"As far as we are concerned, we don't have any information on any direct threat coming from IS in the city," he added.

- Giovanni Nilles, Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude

July 2016

THE BULLETIN
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

Davao City bracing for possible ISIS attacks

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – The city government here remains unfazed amid reported threats from the terrorist group ISIS, but warned the public to be vigilant and coordinate with authorities.

Security has been beefed up along the city's entry and exit points after City Hall on Thursday revealed that terrorist group ISIS has targeted the hometown of President Duterte.

Acting Mayor Paolo Z. Duterte said that the military and police have been informed of the report.

The acting mayor also ordered the intensification of intelligence – gathering to avert possible attacks from the international terror group.

Intelligence-gathering

He said he has already some informa-

tion about the whereabouts of the group but refused to give specific details.

The information, he said, must be validated first.

"We are intensifying the gathering of information. We cannot disclose details or confirm anything as of yet," he said.

Duterte said that he has already coordinated with the city's anti-terrorism group, Task Force Davao, the Davao City Police Office, and the Eastern Mindanao Command of the military to get more information about the said threat.

The main entry points of Davao City are manned by personnel from the TF Davao, who ask passengers of public transport to step out of their vehicles while the personnel scan the vehicles using K9 units.

"I already instructed Task Force Davao commander Col. Henry Robinson

and Davao City Police Office director Sr. Supt. Michael John Dubria to intensify their intelligence gathering efforts and double their security operations especially in the boundaries of the city," Duterte said.

"Be vigilant," he added. "If there is someone acting suspiciously who is not a member of your community, you can inform the PNP, TF Davao, or even your Barangay Officials."

Coastal security muscle

Meantime, the Philippine Coast Guard-Davao will get one of the 10 brand new 44-meter multi-role response vessels (MRRV) from Japan that will be assigned off the shore of the "Malacañang of the South" at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) compound in Pandacan, this city where President Duterte holds office.

PCG-Davao acting station commander LCDR Restituto Concio Jr. said that the new sea asset is expected to arrive in

the region in September this year, which would also boost their rescue capabilities, maritime patrol, and marine environmental protection efforts.

He said that all 10 vessels will be delivered in two years, and the PCG-Davao is expected to get another unit since Davao is the priority area to ensure the safety of the president while the rest will be distributed to 12 other coast guard stations in the country. (With a report from Antonio L. Colina IV)

08 July 2016

THE PHILIPPINE
STAR

Page: 4-23

Abu Sayyaf frees Zamboanga trader

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A local businessman kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits last year was freed on Wednesday.

Araji Maani was released at around 10:45 a.m. in Barangay Wanih Piyanjihan in Parang town in Sulu, said Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao

Command.

Tan said soldiers who responded to reports that Maani was seen in the area brought the businessman to the headquarters of Joint Task Force

Sulu, where he underwent debriefing and counseling.

Maani was taken from this city on July 27.

It was not immediately known if ransom was paid, but Tan said focused military operations pressured the Abu Sayyaf to release Maani.

Three other Filipinos and nine foreigners – a Nor-

wegian taken from Samal Island, a Dutch birdwatcher and seven Indonesians – remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

About three hours before Maani was freed, an Abu Sayyaf gunman was killed in an encounter with government troops in Barangay Maligay in Patikul town.

Basilan clash

Tan said fighting erupted in Al-Barka town in Basilan on Wednesday night and early yesterday when around 200 bandits attacked military camps.

He said Abu Sayyaf gunmen stormed the headquarters of the 18th Infantry Battalion and its detachment in Baran-

gay Magcawa.

A village official said another group attacked a school in Tipo-Tipo, damaging some classrooms.

The official said the attack could be a diversionary tactic of the Abu Sayyaf.

There was no immediate report on the number of casualties.

08 July 2016

The Manila Times

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Attacks threaten Duterte town

AUTHORITIES have tightened security in Davao City – hometown of President Rodrigo Duterte – following intelligence reports that the Islamic State (IS) may launch terror attacks there.

Acting mayor Paolo Duterte, the president's son, ordered police and military to stay alert and tighten security in all entry points to Davao City.

He urged residents to be vigilant while the authorities were verifying the reported threat.

AFP Eastern Mindanao Commander, Lt. Gen. Leonardo Guerrero, has directed army commanders to coordinate closely with the police authorities and intensify intelligence gathering and conduct anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism activities not only in Davao, but the whole region.

Guerrero pointed out that the military's posture on the matter remains the same as the threat

leveled against Davao increased being the President's hometown.

The heightened security in Davao also coincided with on-going military operations in Basilan and Sulu provinces.

Army Major Ezra Balagtey, spokesman for the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City, said they have intensified support to law enforcement and strengthened anti-terrorism operations.

The threats came following recent ISIS attack on a night club in Puchong, Selangor in Malaysia just outside the capital Kuala Lumpur that wounded eight people, and a suicide attack on a police station in central Java in Indonesia that injured an officer.

ISIS has also threatened the Philippines and, in one of its latest propaganda, called for jihadists around the world to go to the largely Catholic country and wage holy war.

However, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya on Thursday said they have not received any information on the alleged threat as revealed by the younger Duterte.

"I haven't received any similar report, but as always terrorist threats are part of our intelligence units' monitoring efforts," he said.

Asked about the presence of ISIS in the country, Visaya said that the same was not validated.

"Only groups like ASC (Abu Sayyaf Group) that have publicly declared support to the said group," he added.

Just recently, suspected jihadists ambushed a convoy of the 65th Infantry Battalion and 51st Mechanized Company in Marawi City in Lanao del Sur, killing an army soldier and wounded three others.

**AL JACINTO AND
FERNAN MARASIGAN**

08 July 2016

The Manila Times

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More IS killings loom in Mindanao

BY MOH SAADUDDIN
CORRESPONDENT

MORE atrocities are threatening Mindanao after several attacks in Lanao del Sur and Basilan provinces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have been claimed by the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) which hinted ties with local jihadists groups in the country.

The IS recently boasted to have carried out attacks during the last week of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, a few days after IS Asian fighters in Syria surfaced in a video ordering its supporters in Southeast Asian countries, such as

Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, to wage more attacks and unify under one umbrella group.

Security forces confirmed the separate incidents in Al-Barka town in Basilan and Marawi City in Lanao del Sur but pro-

vided no further details. Marawi police said they were tracking down the suspects.

But in its bulletin on July 2, the IS's Amaq news agency website claimed that "2 Filipino soldiers [were] killed in the municipality of Tugaya, in addition to the destruction of an armored vehicle, killing those inside, near a Filipino army base in the city of Marawi in the Southern Philippines."

On June 29, the news agency also reported that "15 Filipino soldiers [were] killed, as Islamic State fighters carried out 2 attacks during the last 2 days in the city of Marawi."

The Amaq reports were being shared online by IS Ranao, known to the military as "Maute group" or "foreign and local ter-

rorist organization (FLTO)" in the remote town of Butig in Lanao del Sur and a jihadist group previously known as Khilafah Islamiyah Movement (KIM).

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman, downplayed the threat, calling it a propaganda of the local jihadists to get the attention of the foreign terror group for support.

"They are part of the propaganda of these groups. They sensationalize and twist the atrocities like claiming that at least 200 of their armed members attacked a military detachment.

"Parang may nangyari tapos papalakihin nila at babaluktutin yung katotohanan para ma suit yung purpose nila para maisu-

long yung propaganda nila at maipakita na malakas sila (If something happened they will blow it out of proportion, twist the truth to suit their purpose and push their propaganda to show their might)," Padilla said.

Since June the military temporarily stopped its operation against Abdullah Maute's group in respect to the sacred month of Ramadan while continuous military offensive was on-going in Basilan and Sulu against another local jihadists, the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) led by Isnilon Hapilon. The two groups had both pledged allegiance to the IS.

The ASG, known for kidnapping, bombing and beheading activities, is still holding several hostages in Sulu including Norwe-

gian Kjartan Sekkingstad, who was snatched in Samal Island, Davao del Norte province last September 21, 2015 along with Robert Hall and John Ridsdel and a Filipina, Maritess Flor.

The group released Flor without ransom but decapitated Hall and Ridsdel after deadlines lapsed to pay the P300-million ransom they were demanding for each of their hostages.

The ASG has warned that Sekkingstad might have the same destiny of Hall and Ridsdel if the government fails to pay the ransom or express intent to negotiate.

Earlier reports said that private negotiations are taking place for the safe release of Sekkingstad under the Duterte administration.

WITH FERNAN MARASIGAN

July 2016



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Davao under threat from ISIS, says Duterte son

By Mario J. Mallari and Ted Tuvera

The hometown of President Duterte is reportedly facing threats from international terror group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, according to his son, acting Mayor Paolo Duterte, but government security forces maintained that there is no IS-affiliated group in the region or Mindanao.



Paolo Duterte said he has ordered the Task Force Davao and Davao City Police Office to beef up security and intensify intelligence gathering to avert possible attacks from the jihadist group, also referred to by the name Daesh, responsible for various deadly attacks in different countries.

Terrorist linked to IS were responsible for the Brussels bombings at the city's airport and a subway station in March and the Paris attacks last November.

"We are intensifying the gathering of information. We cannot disclose details or confirm anything as of yet," he told a press briefing.

The acting mayor also advised the public to remain calm and vigilant.

The Davao City Information Office posted an "additional quote" from Duterte on its Facebook wall, hours

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Davao under threat from ISIS, says Duterte son

From page 1

after the press conference, that "whether the information is real or not, whether there is an actual threat from ISIS or none, what is important is that the people are now informed. And because of that, all of us are vigilant now. The public and all concerned agencies have been alerted and are doing everything to avert the threat from ISIS.... I repeat, we are still verifying this information."

Both police and military authorities, however, downplayed the terror threat sounded by Duterte.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya said he has not received any report as he maintained there is no ISIS presence in the country.

"I haven't received any similar report but as always terrorist threats are part of our intelligence units monitoring efforts," he stressed.

"Per validation of reports, none so far," replied Visaya when asked of the AFP assessment of the presence of ISIS in the Philippines, adding "only groups like the ASG (Abu Sayyaf group) have publicly declared support to the said group."

Eastern Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Leonardo Guerrero said they have no information yet regarding any terror threat but they are now in communications with the mayor regarding the specific threat of the ISIS.

He, however, stressed his troops are on alert so that they can immediately put a stop to any form of terrorism.

Davao City police chief Senior Supt. John Michael Dubria also downplayed Duterte's information but called on the public to remain vigilant.

He said the information he got was that there is threat against Cotabato region but not Davao City.

But Dubria was quick to defend Duterte in revealing the supposed threat to the public.

The Davao City police chief said such move prompted further intensification of security operations there.

Dubria said he already ordered intensified conduct of checkpoint operations, additional deployment of troops and doubling of beat and foot patrols around the city.

He said coordination with other government security agencies like the AFP and the Coast Guard was also strengthened.

Dubria also admitted that there are other threats the city is facing from lawless armed groups.

"Other regions are experiencing threats from lawless armed group. Davao Region is different because we not only experienced threats from lawless armed group but also from BIFF, ASG ... most especially now that the police have stepped up their campaign against illegal drugs, so it is also possible that drug lords and personalities involved in drugs and those whose businesses were affected in our intensified campaign against illegal drugs that they plan to retaliate,"

MindaNews quoted him as saying. The jihadist Islamic State had earlier advised its followers to troop to the Philippines as a stage of terror operations in Southeast Asia as it created a "province" in Mindanao with Abu Sayyaf Group leader Isnihan Hapilon as emir of the "Islamic State in the Philippines."

According to the US-based Long War Journal of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies which was an offshoot of the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001, the IS has officially created a province in the Philippines "after months of buildup which included pledges of loyalty from various local groups." In a video, three supposed IS militants – a Filipino, a Malaysian and an Indonesia, urged their followers to troop to the Philippines if they can't afford to join IS ranks in Syria. It also issued a warning to President Duterte of their potential activities as they have urged their followers to target the Philippines.

08 July 2016



Pahina. 3

Banta ng grupong kaalyado ng ISIS

DAVAO PASASABUGIN

PINANGANGAMBAHAN ang pagsabog sa Lungsod ng Davao

Ito ay kaugnay ng pagbanta umano mula sa teroristang grupong ISIS na maghahasil ng karahasan sa Davao City.

Inihayag ito ni Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte na nakipag-ugnayan na sa pulisya at militar upang beripikahin ang banta ng ISIS ang international terrorist group na responsable sa mga pag-atake na ikinasawi ng daari-daang tao

sa iba't ibang panig ng mundo.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na inaalam pa ng kanilang hanay ang importasyon patungkol sa banta sa syudad.

Hindi naman makumpirma o maitanggi ni Davao City Police Office (DCPO) Chief Michael John Dubria ang nasabing banta sa syudad bagama't tiniyak nito na mahigpit

na ang kanilang pakikipagtulungan sa AFP.

Sinabi pa ni Dubria na hindi pupwedeng maging kalimado ang mga otoridad sa ngayon at patuloy ang kanilang pagiging alerto at pagpapakilos ng mga tauhan upang tiyaking ligtas ang syudad.

Pinayuhan din ang publiko na maging mapagmatiyag at kaagad ipagbigay-alam sa pulisya ang kahina-hinalang mga tao o gawain.

Noong Hunyo, naglabas ang Davao City Police ng isang terrorist watchlist na ginawa bago pa man idaos ang thanksgiving party ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ito'y matapos umanong makatanggap ng ulat ang mga pulis Davao na nakapasok na sa Mindanao ang ilang miyembro ng teroristang Jema'ah Islamiyah Movement na kaalyado ng ISIS.

JEFF GALLOS

28 July 2016



Pahina. 6

ISIS threat sa Davao kumpirmado

Kimumpirma ng acting Mayor Paolo Duterte na may malaking banta ang Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) sa siyudad ng Davao.

Ipinag-utos na ni Duterte sa kapulisan at kasundaluhan na lalong paigtingan ang seguridad sa buong lungsod upang mapigil ang mga posibleng pag-atake ng teroristang grupo.

Nagbigay ito ng instraksyon sa mga awtori-

dad kaugnay ng napabalitang banta.

Pinaigting din ang pagkuha ng mga importasyon sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-alyansa ng lokal na pamahalaan sa Davao City Police Office, Eastern Mindanao Command at iba pang awtoridad.

Sa kasalukuyan ay may hawak ng importasyon si Duterte ngunit hindi muna ito nagbigay ang detalye dahil kaila-

ngan pa itong iberipika ng intelligence network.

Ipinagutos din nito sa Task Force Davao na lalong higpitan ang mga entry points ng lungsod. Lalo pang pinagbuti ang pagmonitor ngayon sa may mga kadada-dudang kilos.

Nanawagan din ito sa mga taga Davao na manatiling kalmado at maging alerto rin sa pamamagitan ng pagreport sa anumang ka dada dudang kilos sa paligid. (Malou Cablinda)

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INQUIRER

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NDF links solon, gov to drug trade

North Samar congressman, uncle deny being drug protectors, blast Reds

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A newly elected congressman and his uncle, who is governor in Northern Samar, were accused by the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Eastern Visayas of involvement in illegal drugs in the province.

On its website, the NDF, an umbrella group of underground Leftist organizations, including the Communist Party of the Philippines, identified Rep. Edwin Ong as the "biggest drug lord" in Northern Samar, one of the country's poorest provinces, who is being supported in the illegal trade by his uncle, Gov. Jose Ong.

But Governor Ong, who is now on his second term, brushed aside the allegation raised by NDF through its spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas.

"I don't know where the (NDF) got that information," said the governor.

"It's their practice to accuse anybody without any basis," he said.

The governor insisted that he had been fighting illegal drugs in Northern Samar.



GOV. JOSE ONG

Northern Samar is rated as the poorest province in Eastern Visayas where six out of 10 people are classified as poor, according to the survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority during the first quarter of 2015.

The other provinces in Eastern Visayas are Samar, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte and Biliran.

The statement issued by the NDF on its website and distributed to media outlets here, was made apparently in response to the call of President Duterte for the communist group to help him in his campaign to rid the country of the illegal drug menace.

In a one-page statement, the NDF claimed that the two officials were behind the "widespread illegal drug trade in the province."

The rebels expressed concern over the alleged proliferation of illegal drugs in Northern Samar that "these are even sold to elementary students and in remote towns."

NDF also alleged that the Ongs were using the local police to arrest drug pushers who were not under their protection.

The communist group, however, did not cite specific cases or present evidence to back its claim.

Rogellette Urgel, information officer of the regional Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), in a phone interview, said that the agency did not have any information on the alleged involvement of the Ongs on the illegal drug trade in Northern Samar.

Asked if the PDEA is monitoring local officials in Eastern Visayas who are involved in drugs, Urgel said yes.

"We consider them as high-value targets," she said.

Urgel, however, declined to provide other details.

But in Cebu, a brother of a town mayor did not wait for police to arrest him for his involvement in drugs.

Jover Jusay, brother of Catmon town Mayor Dan Jusay, is the first drug suspect to present himself at the police station in the town in northern Cebu and promise to stop selling drugs.

Senior Insp. Roberto Hugo, chief of the Catmon police precinct, said the mayor's younger brother was No. 2 on the police list of drug personalities. With a report from Carmel

Loise Matus, Inquirer Visayas

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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China envoy visits Duterte 5 days before UN ruling

By Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Duterte met with Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua in Malacañang yesterday, five days ahead of an international court's ruling on Manila's challenge to Beijing's claim to almost all of the South China Sea.

Zhao went to the Palace to convey a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulating Mr. Duterte on his election as the Philippines' 16th President, according to the presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella.

Asked if the South China Sea dispute was discussed, Abella said no further information was available.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay was also present at the meeting.

July 12 ruling

The UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration will hand down its ruling on the Philippine case on July 12, with international officials and experts expecting the decision to go against China.

China has refused to take part in the arbitration and says it will not accept the court's ruling.

Mr. Duterte on Tuesday said he was optimistic that the ruling would be in the Philippines' favor. And if it is, he said he was willing to talk with China.

'War' a dirty word

"If it's favorable to us, let's talk. We are not prepared to go to war. War is a dirty word now, but we will proceed accordingly after we shall have the copy of the arbitral judgment," he said.

Zhao was one of the first few diplomats with whom Mr. Duterte met after the May 9 elections, with partial returns showing him on the way to being elected President.

Zhao was also among the diplomats present at Mr. Duterte's inauguration on June 30.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Decision nears but China opts to snub case

BELJING—Five judges and legal scholars from around the world presided over a hearing last fall in an elegant, chandeliered room in The Hague.

Arranged before them on one side of the chamber were lawyers for the Philippines, armed with laptop computers and notepads.

On the other side were three empty chairs.

For more than three years, China has refused to participate in the proceedings of an international tribunal considering a challenge to its expansive claims in the South China Sea, arguing that the panel has no jurisdiction to rule on the dispute with the Philippines.

But with a decision scheduled to be announced next week, Beijing seems to be getting nervous.

Show of strength

In a show of strength, it kicked off a week of naval exercises in the South China Sea on Tuesday near the disputed Paracel Islands, where the Chinese military has installed surface-to-air missiles.

And in recent months, it has mounted an arduous campaign outside the courtroom to rebut the Philippines and undermine the tribunal, enlisting countries from Russia to Togo to support its claim to waters that include vital trade routes and may hold oil and other natural resources.

The flurry of activity is a sign of how much is at stake in what was once an obscure legal case before an obscure arbitration panel.

Respect for int'l law

The outcome could alter the dynamics of the South China Sea conflict, shifting it from a race to establish physical dominance over the waters to a conspicuous test of Beijing's respect for international law and multilateral institutions.

China has pulled ahead in the physical race, dredging sand to build one island after another over the objections of its neighbors and the United States, and equipping many of the islands with airstrips and radar.

But if the tribunal rules in favor of the Philippines on key issues, it could put President Xi Jinping of China on the defensive—or, some worry, push him into a corner.

"This is a matter of wider significance than the South China Sea," said Bilahari Kausikan, a Singaporean ambassador at large, noting that China has signed the United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea (Unclos), which is the basis of the Philippine complaint and the tribunal's deliberations.

"The importance of the issue is whether international rules will be obeyed," Kausikan said.

China, he added, "cannot pick and choose which rules to follow or only comply when convenient."

US diplomatic push

Sensing an opportunity, the Obama administration has begun a diplomatic push of its own, backing the tribunal and persuading allies to speak out for a "rules-based order at sea" and the use of international law to settle territorial disputes.

Neither Washington nor Beijing paid much attention when the Philippine foreign secretary, Albert del Rosario, began the case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2013, not long after China wrested control of an atoll known as Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal from the Philippines.

The US state department's senior diplomat for East Asia, Daniel R. Russel, has said he was unaware of the Philippine case at the time.

The Chinese leadership quickly dismissed the tribunal without extensive consultation with the foreign policy establishment, according to several Chinese scholars.

Beijing's position has not changed. Because the sovereignty of scattered reefs, rocks and islands in the South China Sea is in dispute, it argues, the tribunal cannot rule on competing claims to the waters surrounding them.

Unclos says nothing about the sovereignty of land.

No question of sovereignty

But the Philippines has been careful to frame its complaint in a way that sidesteps the question of who has sovereignty over the islands and reefs.

For example, Manila has asked the tribunal to declare that nine specific reefs and rocks, including some that China has built into artificial islands, are too small to be used to assert economic rights to the waters around them, regardless of who controls them.

Unclos allows a nation to exercise sovereignty over waters up to 21.6 kilometers from its coast, and it grants economic rights over waters on a nation's continental shelf and to 360 km from its coast.

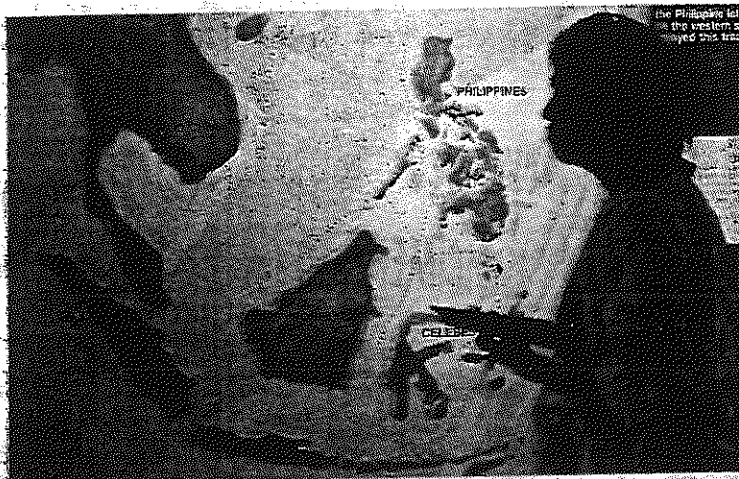
But the treaty says reefs that are entirely submerged at high tide and artificial islands can-

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FROM TRADE PARTNERS TO RIVALS A Bahay Tsinoy museum guest views a map showing the ancient route of early Chinese traders. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is expected to issue next week a decision on the Philippines' challenge to China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea. LYN RILLON

not be used to justify any maritime rights.

Philippine officials have asked the tribunal to find that China has violated the treaty by building islands in the Philippines' economic waters, interfering with its fishermen, endangering its ships and damaging the marine environment.

Void 'nine-dash line'

The Philippines' most sweeping demand is for the tribunal to reject China's claim to sovereignty over waters within a "nine-dash line" that encircles almost all of the South China Sea.

China seeks to justify the nine-dash line by citing what it calls historical evidence, including maps published in the 1940s and 1950s that show the dashes.

But it has never drawn a continuous line clearly marking its claim, nor has it been specific about what rights it is asserting in the area.

Critics say the Chinese government gave up any special claim to the sea when it signed the UN treaty in 1996, during a period when it sought respectability on the global stage.

Beijing's clout

Now, Beijing may believe it has enough clout to ignore the treaty. It has labeled the arbitration court a "law-abusing tribunal" and its proceedings a "farce."

Chinese diplomats have suggested that the government may even renounce the treaty.

"We will not accept it or recognize it," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Lu Kang, said of the coming ruling.

That position has made some in China uncomfortable, including foreign policy experts

who have privately criticized the government's position, saying that China has ceded the moral high ground in its rivalry with the United States.

The United States signed the UN treaty but never ratified it.

US challenge

The Obama administration has struggled to deter Beijing from building islands and military outposts in the South China Sea, with increased naval patrols and stronger alliances in the region having little effect.

But it concluded last year that the tribunal case presented an opening to push back in a different way.

When President Park Geun-hye of South Korea visited Washington in October last year, Obama said he expected Seoul to speak out on the need for China to "abide by international laws and rules."

Russel, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia, was sent to Germany, where he made the case at a prominent public policy school in Berlin.

"The Chinese are fond of saying that the Pacific is big enough for both of us," he told the audience. "What that does not mean is that they can draw a line in the center of the Pacific and say, 'You stay on the east, and we'll have control over everything west of the nine-dash line.' That's unacceptable."

The administration also persuaded the Group of 7 nations to issue two joint statements on the South China Sea, drawing a complaint from Beijing that the group should stick to economic policy.

A state department official,

Robert Harris, even traveled to landlocked Laos to explain the Philippine case.

Chinese propaganda

China's foreign ministry says that dozens of countries have endorsed its position, and reports about foreign politicians denouncing the tribunal appear in the state-run news media almost daily.

But Beijing has adopted a broad interpretation of what it means to have won over a country.

Russia, for example, agrees that the tribunal should not resolve the dispute, but it has been silent on the Chinese buildup, in part because of its close relationship with Vietnam, which also claims part of the sea.

At a contentious meeting it hosted last month, China pressured the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations not to issue a joint statement on the subject. (In a fit of pique, Malaysia leaked the draft statement anyway.)

President Duterte, who favors closer ties with China than his predecessor, said on Tuesday that he was ready to open talks on maritime cooperation.

Hard to back down

But it may be difficult for Xi to back down. He has used his defense of China's territorial claims to fan nationalist sentiment, bolstering the ruling Communist Party, and to strengthen his authority over the Chinese military.

Some analysts have suggested that Xi might respond to a ruling against China by moving even more aggressively in the South China Sea and taking steps to transform Panatag Shoal into an artificial island.

Doing so would give Beijing its first outpost on the eastern side of the sea, more than 720 km from the Chinese island province of Hainan and just 216 km from the Philippine coast.

Paul S. Reichler, the Washington lawyer retained by the Philippines as chief counsel in the case, said that if China refused to accept the tribunal's ruling, other countries would line up against it.

"China's choice would be to reach an accommodation, or embitter its neighbors and endure a prolonged period of chaos and instability in the region," he said.

New York Times News Service

08 July 2016



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UN to China: Resolve sea row peacefully

BEIJING - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday he has stressed to China the need for differences over the disputed South China Sea to be resolved peacefully.

UN to

From Page 1

the Philippines over the South China Sea in the Dutch city of The Hague.

Ban said that while he could not comment on the Philippines' legal case, he called for a peaceful resolution of differences.

"I did stress to Minister Wang, as I have with all other countries involved, the need to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner and to avoid any escalation or misunderstandings that could put security and development in the region at risk," he said.

China says the court has no jurisdiction and it will neither participate in the case nor accept its decision.

Wang repeated China's position that it also wanted a peaceful resolution, but that it would not accept forced arbitration.

"This approach will not help bring about a peaceful resolution of disputes. On the contrary, it would only escalate the disputes and tension and should be resisted by all countries and people who uphold justice."

Last Wednesday, Wang told US Secretary of State John Kerry the United States should do nothing to harm China's sovereignty and security in the South China Sea ahead of the court ruling on China's claims in the disputed waterway.

Speaking by telephone on Wednesday, the Chinese foreign minister told Kerry the US should stick to its promises not to take sides in the dispute.

China hopes the US "speaks and acts cautiously, and take no actions that harm China's sovereignty and security inter-

Ban was speaking at a news conference in Beijing with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Tension has been rising ahead of a July 12 ruling by an arbitration court hearing the dispute between China and

Turn to Page 2

ests," the statement paraphrased Wang as saying.

China is conducting military exercises around the Paracel Islands in the north of the region this week while US Navy officials said yesterday US destroyers had been patrolling around Chinese-held reefs and islands in the contested Spratly Islands to the south.

China frequently blames the US for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, where its territorial claims overlap in parts with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

China has accused the US of militarizing the waterway with freedom of navigation patrols, while Washington has expressed concern about China's building of military facilities on islands it controls in the South China Sea.

US officials say the US response should China stick to its vow to ignore the ruling could include stepped up freedom-of-navigation patrols close to Chinese claimed islands in what is one of the world's busiest trade routes.

In the call initiated by Kerry, Wang also said relations between China and the US were generally on a sound track and that the two sides should further focus on cooperation while managing their differences.

The US State Department confirmed that Kerry had spoken to Wang, without providing details.

US officials say they fear China may respond to the ruling by declaring an air defense identification zone in the South China Sea, as it did in the East China Sea in 2013, or by stepping up its building and fortification of artificial islands. - Reuters

08 July 2016

THE TIMES ~~PHILIPPINE~~
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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China warns US on sovereignty ahead of South China Sea ruling

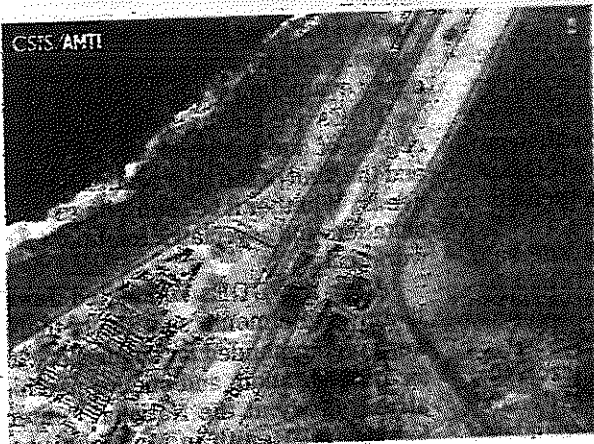
WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) — The United States should do nothing to harm China's sovereignty and security in the South China Sea, China's foreign minister told US Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday, ahead of a key court ruling on China's South China Sea claims.

Speaking by telephone, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Kerry

the United States should stick to its promises not to take sides in the dispute, China's foreign ministry said.

China hopes the United States "speaks and acts cautiously, and take no actions that harm China's sovereignty and security interests", the statement paraphrased Wang as saying.

Tensions and rhetoric have been rising ahead of a July 12 ruling by an



The center portion of the Subi Reef runway is shown in this Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative January 8, 2016 satellite image released to Reuters on January 15, 2016. (Reuters)

arbitration court hearing the dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea in the Dutch city of The Hague.

Wang repeated China's rejection of the case, saying the court had no jurisdiction.

"The farce of the arbitration court should come to an end," he said.

Regardless of its ruling, China will "resolutely safeguard its own territorial sovereignty and legitimate maritime rights and firmly safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea", Wang added.

China frequently blames the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, where its territorial claims overlap in

parts with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

China has accused the United States of militarizing the waterway with freedom of navigation patrols, while Washington has expressed concern about China's building of military

facilities on islands it controls in the South China Sea.

US officials say the US response should China stick to its vow to ignore the ruling could include stepped up freedom-of-navigation patrols close to Chinese claimed islands in what is one of the world's business trade routes.

In the call initiated by Kerry, Wang also said relations between China and the United States were generally on a sound track and that the two sides should further focus on cooperation while properly managing their differences.

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INQUIRER

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Gaming the generals

GOOD FOR President Duterte for taking the campaign against illegal drugs right to the highest ranks of the Philippine National Police. If only he hadn't taken shortcuts in doing so. If history—our own, still-recent history—teaches us anything, it is that, in the long run, shortcuts work against our own best interests.

Even during the campaign period, candidate Duterte had already suggested that some police generals were involved in big-time illegal drugs trade. During the transition, President-elect Duterte called on three police generals to resign; he did not name them, but during his thanksgiving rally in Davao City on June 4, he issued a clear warning.

EDITORIAL “Corruption must stop. I would have to ask about three generals *diyan sa* Crame (there in Camp Crame, the PNP headquarters) to resign. Do not wait for me to name you in public because I will only humiliate you.” Reporters working the police beat had an inkling about who the three were, but could not get confirmation.

And then last Tuesday, July 5, the President, at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Philippine Air Force, dropped a bomb. “I am compelled by my sense of duty to tell you [the names of] the police who contributed to deterioration of law and order in this country.” He then proceeded to name three generals in active police service and two recently retired generals.

He tagged Marcelo Garbo, former deputy director general of the PNP, and Vicente Loot, now a mayor of a town in Cebu province. He also named active-duty generals Bernardo Diaz of Police Regional Office 6, former National Capital Region Police Office chief Joel Pagdilao, and former Quezon City Police District chief Edgardo Tinio.

These officers are among the highest ranking policemen in the country, holding prime positions. That the President himself accused them, and the two who have already retired, of “protecting drug syndicates” is not only unprecedented; it is shocking.

Perhaps the shock will do wonders for the system; if some of the highest ranking police officials are involved in illegal drugs, we certainly join the public in supporting the Duterte administration's fight to flush them out, and then to hold them to account. But part of the shock is that, despite the lapse of time since Mr. Duterte raised the specter of high police involvement in the drugs trade in February, in spite of the full month that separated his thanksgiving rally from the PAF anniversary, he did not offer any evidence to support his accusation.

We do not necessarily mean evidence that would stand legal scrutiny beyond the customary measure of reasonable doubt; we only mean evidence to satisfy the inevitable public curiosity.

But aside from the admittedly powerful passage about the sense of betrayal we feel when we discover that the police we expect to protect us are themselves involved in crime—"It hurts to hear because you spent money on them, you sent them to school, you paid for even socks and shoes, then they commit [these crimes], by any language, it is treason"—the President did not explain why he thought these men had in fact committed treason.

Shouldn't investigation proceed accusation, especially when the accuser is the official designated as the Constitution's chief executive? The President could have offered one instance when one of the police generals was discovered in the act of protecting drug syndicates, or described one situation where a police general was compromised.

Instead, he gave a blanket accusation, and then called on the police generals named to prove their innocence. "I would like to talk to them and certainly, I would expect the [National Police Commission] to do their thing; *imbestigahan ninyo ito at 'wag ninyo akong bigyan ng zarzuela* (investigate this and don't play pretend)."

This turns the justice process upside down. The Constitution guarantees each citizen, police generals included, the right to be presumed innocent. What would it have cost the President to wait until the administration had gathered the necessary evidence? We wish to stress the point: The public would fully support the new administration's crackdown on the illegal drugs trade if it did not violate the law in the process. If police generals are involved, then, yes, "it is going to be a dirty fight, it's going to be a bloody fight," as the President said. Would that he had both law and the public on his side.

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Fighting ISIS as it shifts tactics

The New York Times editorial

The Islamic State extended its bloody rampage with a suicide bombing in Baghdad on Sunday that killed more than 200 people, the deadliest attack on the city since the 2003 American-led invasion. On Monday, three smaller attacks on the Saudi Arabian cities of Jidda, Medina and Qatif were also linked to the terrorist group. The recent violence, including in Turkey and possibly in Bangladesh, may indicate some adjustment in the group's tactics as its fortunes decline on the battlefields.

The multipronged assault reflects the Islamic State's growing desperation as it loses the territory it seized in Iraq and Syria. An American-led coalition has recaptured 20 percent of the ISIS-held land in Syria and 47 percent in Iraq, including Falluja, which was taken back by Iraq's beleaguered government last month.

After the Baghdad attack, the government's response was not encouraging. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced plans to speed up the execution of ISIS members and some weak security measures. If Mr. Abadi cannot find ways to secure Baghdad, pressure may grow to move army units to the capital from the battlefield, where they are fighting ISIS. This would undercut plans by the American-led coalition, including the Iraqi Army, to intensify efforts to retake Mosul, a major city in the north that has been in ISIS' hands for two years.

The latest attacks reveal an enemy that is adapting, becoming more sophisticated than Al Qaeda, and nurturing a far-flung network of operations, including in the West. A complex response is needed, but John Brennan, the Central Intelligence Agency director, said last month that "we still have a ways to go before we're able to say that we have

made some significant progress against them."

Bombing isn't the only recourse. Improved intelligence, coordinated operations to find terrorists before they strike and better strategies to counter extremist propaganda are equally needed. A central problem remains the tensions among countries in the region that have prevented a fully coordinated response to the Islamic State threat. The recent attack on Istanbul's airport, which killed 44 people and authorities said was the work of ISIS, should persuade Turkey, a NATO member, to get more involved in the anti-ISIS fight, especially in Syria.

The Americans need to work more closely with Iran, the leading Shiite Muslim country, against the Islamic State in Iraq. Iran on Tuesday condemned the attacks against Saudi Arabia, its Sunni-majority rival, as well as those against Shiite Muslims, and called for a united response to terrorism. Testy relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia have also undercut a coherent regional response to the Islamic State, which wants to destabilize both governments. The risk is especially acute for Mr. Abadi, who has long struggled to hold on to power against challenges from other Shiite leaders. Sunday's attack brought calls for his resignation from a population fed up with violence.

Experts say the Islamic State will wither as it loses more territory. But even then, it will no doubt continue to stage occasional attacks in Iraq and elsewhere. If Mr. Abadi and other Iraqi leaders are to protect their people, they will need the support of Iraq's Sunni population, which remains marginalized and susceptible to Islamic State propaganda. That is a central political and security problem Iraq's leaders have persistently failed to remedy.

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SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

The Navy's Board of Advisers



By DR. JESUS P. ESTANISLAO

IN a crisis and while in a period of relative decline, the usual items that get thrown overboard are the research and development capabilities of an organization. In the case of the Philippine Navy (PN), during its long period of "benign neglect, and when naval assets were simply allowed to deteriorate, its Research and Development units and offices were de-activated. No funds could be found to keep them going.

Under the Sail Plan, with the Navy's "vision" to become a "strong and credible Navy for a maritime nation," this sad state of affairs could not be allowed to continue. The Philippine Navy simply had to think strategic and long-term, taking into account the maritime character of the nation it serves. Outside of the internal core processes which it had to bring up to global standards, it also had to focus on developing systems and assets that would take advantage of the geographical characteristics and maritime contours of our national territory. This may require a research and development program,

which would take years to pursue; but it is a program that would have to be started immediately.

Indeed, the Board of Advisers of the Philippine Navy was profuse with its encouragement in re-activating the Navy's research and development units and offices. The interest was deep, and there were Navy officers – at least a few – who were enthusiastic about the recommendation. Thus, even while the CNLE was still in the process of finalizing Book II of the Navy Sail Plan, the Flag Officers in Command (FOIC) made the decision to re-activate the Office of Naval Strategic Studies; the Fleet Marine Warfare Center; and the Naval Research and Technology Development Center. Moreover, the commitment was formalized to include re-activation of these offices among the breakthrough results that should be delivered by 2015.

The PN action teams were quick to respond. Thus, when the external auditors were sent in August, 2015 to check on whether this specific performance commitment had been delivered, they came back with this report:

— The offices and units – specifically the three that had been identified and committed – were already operating. Moreover, they were rated "mission capable"

— Although a few final outputs remained pending, the re-activated offices and units already could show "emerging results" indicating "sufficient progress (towards) eventually meeting the targets set in their performance scorecards." Furthermore, they were well on the way towards the "project milestones that would indicate "the attainment of their breakthrough goals." External auditors are not known for their diplomatic language, but their statement indicated that these newly re-activated offices were still below the performance targets they had set. Nonetheless, they showed promise that given a bit more of time – and perhaps of budget and other types of support – they are likely to deliver their breakthrough goals in the foreseeable future.

— Moreover, the external auditors noted that these offices and units need to be more strongly coordinated with each

other. Although all these offices and units were linked together through the FOIC, still the external assessors found the need for "creating formal linkage" that would strengthen and tighten "cooperation of their activities and outputs."

Based on the above observations, the PN was given a passing mark of "6" out of ten, in recognition of the actual re-activation of these research and development units and offices, which a "strong and credible Navy" would most absolutely need, sailing forward.

The impact assessment of these newly re-activated offices, however, based on testimony from directly affected stakeholders was more positive. Typical comments are the following:

— Regarding the Office of Naval Strategic Studies, from a N5 officer: "for N5, the ONSS has significant impact (since) they are "focused, and they were able to link up with other strategies... and to partner with other think tanks and academic institutions." I give them a rating of "8.7" out of 10."

— Regarding the Naval Research and Technology Development Center (NRTDC), from another Navy officer:

NRTDC is "a must especially for a Navy aspiring to be better, stronger, and more capable." I give them a "rating" of "9.8" out of ten."

— Regarding the Fleet Marine Warfare Center, from an N8 officer: "Satisfied, giving a rating of "8" out of ten, especially with regard to planning; but the Unit may consider involving subject matter experts in formulating doctrines and manuals."

The external auditors finally came to their conclusion that these newly re-established offices and units would need more time to mature. In the meantime, the auditors assessed them to have made a good positive start, and with their initial activities they already were receiving a favorable impact assessment from their stakeholders. The auditors gave a final rating of "8" out of ten for the positive impact of this breakthrough initiative.

Thus, despite the over all reticence of the CNLE when it made a "health check" on where the Navy was with respect to its governance and transformation program, these three re-activated offices and units of the Navy represented points of light indicating progress with the Sail Plan.

08 July 2016



Pahina. 16

MARAÑO, REYES, GONZAGA AT DAQUIS, IKAKASA SA AVC CUP

NAG-DRAFT ang Foton Tornadoes ng apat na Philippine Superliga (PSL) stars bilang dagdag na players para sumabak sa AVC Asian Women's Club Championship sa Manila sa Setyembre 3 hanggang 11.

Sinabi ni Foton Team Manager Alvin Lu na sina Aby Maraño ng F2 Logistics, Jen Reyes ng Petron at Jovelyn Gonzaga at Rachel Anne Daquis ng RC Cola-Army ang mga talerit na ipaparada sa lineup bilang paghahanda sa mas de-balidad na kompetisyon sa prestihiyosong continental tourney.

Ang apat na stars ang higit na may mga karanasan, gaya nina Maraño, Reyes at Daquis na bahagi ng Petron squad na sumabak sa naturang torneo noong nakaraang taon. Si Gonzaga ay isang seasoned international campaigner ng National Team noong 28th Southeast Asian Games, 2015.

Nagpapakita rin sila sa training at lalahok sa Tornadoes sa opening camp sa Bangkok matapos ang ongoing PSL All-Filipino Conference. "Their experience in the international competition will be a major boost to our team," ayon kay Lu, na aniya ay sisikapin ng mga

bataan ni Coach Villet Donce-de Leon na magpapakita ng magandang performance ang mga bata.

"This shows how serious we are in forming a very competitive team. We will be playing before our countrymen, we want to make sure that our team will put up a gallant stand."

Ang apat na PSL stars ay sasamahin nina American imports Ariel Usher at Lindsay Stalzer habang ang locals na sina Laja Santiago, Angeli Araneta, Patty Orendain at Ivy Perez ay una sa 18-woman pool.

Nasa team din sina Bia General, Rhea Dimaculangan, Maika Ortiz, Kara Acevedo, El Laure, Cherry Rondina at Carol Cerveza na pormal na ihaharap sa presscon sa Hulyo 22.

"We will trim the lineup to the final 12 right after we arrive from Bangkok," ani Lu. *"So we expect everybody to show up and give their best because representing the country is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."*

Ang Tornadoes ay nasa light bracket ng Pool A kasagupa ang Lien Viet Post Bank ng Vietnam at ng Hong Kong National Team.

Pero mahihirapan sila dahil kailangang talunin ang Asian Heavyweights tulad ng champion na Bangkok Glass ng Thailand, April 25 ng North Korea, Sarmayeh Bank ng Iran, Hisamitsu Springs ng Japan, Zhetysu Almaty ng Kazakhstan, Jakarta Electric PLN ng Indonesia, Taiwan Power ng Chinese Taipei at Bayi Army ng China bago nakuha ang korona.

Sasabak din ang Malaysia, pero hindi pa naaabisuhan ang organizers kung anong team ang ilalahok.

"We really have to put our best foot forward because this tourney is an Asian championship," ani Lu. *"It is not a walk in the park."* (MC/VA)

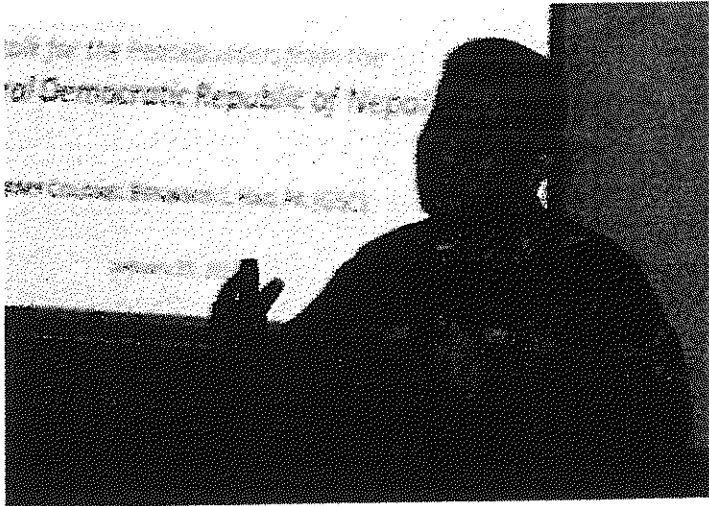
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ONLINE NEWS

08 JULY 2016

ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN | Army assures due process for 13 soldiers found positive for illegal drug use

Marycel Necio Batara July 7, 2016 0 Comment 13Soldiers. army. dueprocess



MANILA — Due process will be given to the 13 Philippine Army (PA) personnel who were initially found to have failed the initial screening of the mandatory drug test conducted in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Tuesday.

"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," PA spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said in an interview by DWDD-Katropa Radio 1134KHz AM.

He added that the 13 Army personnel are now undergoing investigation and were immediately required to undergo further confirmatory test in a Department of Health-accredited drug testing establishment.

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

The drug test, which was conducted in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, was unannounced.

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

"The PA 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 (131 soldiers nationwide were discharged in 2013; 38 in 2014; 30 in 2015; and five so far this year)," Hao added.

Section 36, Article 3 of Republic Act 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.

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It also mandates the conduct of annual mandatory drug test to all members of the military.

These soldiers are now under custody of the Philippine Army for further investigation while waiting for the confirmatory test result.

10 killed, 19 wounded as military, ASG bandits clash anew in Sulu

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 7):

Nine Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists were believed to have killed while another 13 were wounded in the ongoing "focused military operations" (FMO) in Sulu Thursday afternoon.

In the said operations, a trooper from the 45th Infantry Battalion was killed while six others were injured.

The series of firefights started 3 p.m. at Barangay Kabuntakas, Patikul, of the above-mentioned province, said Western Mindanao Command spokesperson Major Filemon Tan.

He added that government troops were conducting FMO when they encountered an estimated 130 ASG bandits reportedly headed by Radulan Sahiron.

In the ensuing gun battles, nine of the terrorists were reported by intelligence reports with another 13 wounded, Tan stressed.

Government losses were placed at one soldier killed and six wounded.

"Firefight is still ongoing. A78FAB (Alpha Company of the 8th Field Artillery Battalion) provided indirect fire support to the engaged troops while 32nd Infantry Battalion was directed to close in with the enemy and provide reinforcement and was engaged in by the same ASG group," Tan said.

Meanwhile, in Basilan, a series of clashes between troops from Joint Task Group Basilan and an estimated 300 ASG bandits headed by Isnilon Hapilon and Furuji Indama clashed 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The firefight lasted for five hours with undetermined losses on the bandit side and no casualties for government forces.

"This 7 a.m. firefight resumed in different sites in Ungkaya Pukan and Magcawa, Al-barka, Basilan. Continuous indirect fire support and air strikes are being done and additional troops deployed in the area of operations as firefight still ongoing as of this time," Tan added.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph>

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No ISIS in PHL -- Visaya

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 7):

There are no members of the jihadist terror group Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Philippines.

This was stressed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya Thursday in a message to the PNA.

"There are no ISIS here. Only groups like ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) that publicly declared support to the said group are in Mindanao but they are not ISIS," he added.

Visaya made this statement in response to claims made by acting Davao City mayor Paolo Duterte who earlier said that ISIS militants are threatening the city.

"I haven't received any similar report but as always terrorist threats are part of our intelligence units monitoring efforts," the AFP chief stressed.

The younger Duterte said that he has already alerted the local military and police to avert the plot.

But he did not elaborate on the threat which he said still being validated by authorities.

Nevertheless, he asked the public to be vigilant and report individuals who are acting suspiciously.

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