

ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 July 2016

Saturday

NEWS HEADLINES

09 JULY 2016

Groups file graft raps vs Noy, Abad over DAP
57% satisfied with Noy on exit

Now trending: Duterte, the tandem

Duterte open to joint exploration with China
Proper probe for narco cops vowed

FLAG hits nuclear explosion of violence

Rainy weekend as Butchay exits

What's in a name? 4,000 Peter Limas in Phil

Aguirre now prober of evil

Inside Trade

No more SONA fashion show

SINGLE/SINGLE

INQUIRER

Noy faces charges over DAP

Second case filed vs former President

Drug war 'spiraling out of control'

Mom grieves for 2 sons, insists one is innocent

US urges PH, China to respect UN ruling

Body to have own radio-TV program

Business upbeat about economic team

PEPETON TRI-ACTV

Tribune

Noy, Abad, sued on DAP malversation

Philippines willing to share South China Sea: govt

Snipers kill five police at US protest over shootings

Justice chief spits planned ops vs drug lords of MBP

Butchay leaves RP, but brings heavy rains to Luzon

Singapore police hunt bank 'note' robber

LA BULLETIN

Leni new housing czar

PDP-Laban asks SC to nullify Duterte resolution expiring SOR E filing deadline

10 SOR E lawsuits killed in Sorsogon

The Manila Times

Aquino, Abad charged over DAP

Duterte govt eyes island prison for top drug lords

'Blue alert' raised as heavy rains hit Luzon

Robredo wants Duterte to 'take care' finish term

Yesterday, today and tomorrow - a dream, a vision and a reality

Philippines willing to share South China Sea - Yasay

Butible or not?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

09 JULY 2016

| PAGE NR. | TITLE | WRITER | NEWSPAPER |
|----------|------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Weather Forecast | - | Business Mirror p. A2 |

NATIONAL NEWS

| | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|-------------------|
| 2-3 | Duterte open to joint exploration with China | Romina Cabrera | Phil Star p. 1 |
| 4-5 | US urges PH, China to respect UN ruling | AFP | PDI p. A1 |
| 6-7 | Philippines willing to share South China Sea - gov't | Joyce Rocamora | Tribune p. A1 |
| 8 | Beijing won't 'step back'; PH willing to share resources | - | Mla Bulletin p. 2 |

ARMY RELATED NEWS

| | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 9 | Pangalan ng mga sundalo ng Phil. Army na nagpositibo sa droga, isasapubliko | - | Police files p. 2 |
| 10 | 13 sundalo positibo s drug tes | Vyne Reyes | Bulgar p. 2 |
| 11-12 | 7,000 flee Sayyaf attacks in Basilan | Julie Alipala | PDI p. A9 |
| 13 | Troops kill 9 Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu clash | Rene Acosta | Business Mirror p. A4 |
| 14 | Soldier, 9 Abu Sayyaf rebs killed in Jolo clash | AFP | People's Tonight p. |
| 15 | 9 sa Abu Sayyaf, 1 sundalo patay sa bakbakan sa Sulu | Fer Taboy | Balita p. 5 |
| 16 | 9 na Sayyaf bulagta, 13 pa sugatan sa engkwentro | Betchai Julian | Abante p. 6 |
| 17 | Intel officer killed in traffic row | Francis Elevado | Phil Star p. A-19 |
| 18 | NPA rebels own up to killing of militiaman | Al Jacinto | Mla Times p. A7 |
| 19 | Northern Samar solon, gov linked to drugs ready face NDF | Joey Gabieta | PDI p. A9 |
| 20 | Clashes continue in Sulu, Basilan | Al Jacinto | Mla Times p. A7 |
| 21 | 135 all-Army peacekeeping contingent went to Haiti | Mario Mallari | Tribune p. 4 |
| 22 | 135 AFP UN Peacekeeping tumulak na sa Haiti | - | PM p. 2 |

AFP RELATED NEWS

| | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 23 | AFP Chief of Staff, 4 star na | Ricky Tulipat | Ngayon p. 3 |
| 24 | Duterte says Abus not criminals, blames US for Mideast violence | Allan Naval | PDI p. A6 |
| 25 | ARMM LGUs to support drive vs Abu Sayyaf | Roel Pareño | Phil Star p. A19 |
| 26 | No ISIS threat in Davao - AFP | Francis Wakefield | Mla Bulletin p. 3 |

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

| | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| 27 | Duterte to meet with Nur in Sulu next week | Edlith Regalado | Phil Star p. 9 |
| 28 | MILF keeps optimism over peace talks alive | Ryan Rosauo | PDI p. A9 |
| 29 | Duterte may consider BBL if federalism is rejected | Antonio Colina IV | Mla Bulletin p. 1 |
| 30 | Rody eyes failed BBL Con-con is rejected | John Paolo Bencito | The Standard p. A4 |

OPINION/ EDITORIAL

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 31-32 | Of crying generals and the bravest Filipinos soldiers | Carmen Pedrosa | Phil Star p. 11 |
|-------|---|----------------|-----------------|

ONLINE NEWS

| | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 33-39 | 13 sundalong nagpositibo sa droga, bibigyan ng 'due process' | Analy Soberano | www.philstar.com |
| | WINNING THE PEACE 69 NPA Members Surrender | Alvin Santiago | www.dwdd.com.ph |
| | Abu Sayyaf member caught in Basilan | Roel Pareño | www.tribune.com |
| | AFP chief Gen. Visaya is now a four-star general | Frances Mangosing | www.angoni.com |
| | 'Strengthen ranks, launch offensives' while working on alliance with Duterte – CPP | InterAksyon.com | www.aksyon.com |
| | Eastmincom head orders drug-testing among military personnel | - | www.pna.gov.ph |
| | Intel report on alleged ISIS threats on Davao City not from AFP, PN | - | www.tribune.com |
| | FOURTH STAR CSAFP Gen Ricardo R Visaya | Alvin Santiago | www.philstar.com |
| | BGen Padilla: Intel report on the alleged Death threat in Davao City not from AFP, PNP | Marycel Necio Batara | www.philstar.com |
| | AFP deploys another peacekeeping contingent in Haiti | - | www.pna.gov.ph |

09 July
2016

BusinessMirror

Page. A2

PANAHON TV

BusinessMirror
Shaping the Future



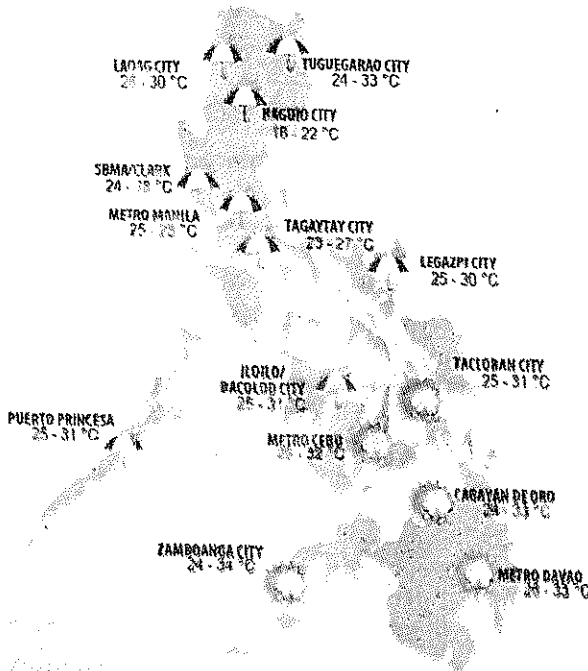
TODAY'S WEATHER



JULY 09, 2016 | SATURDAY

TYPHOON "BUTCHOY"
LOCATION: 365 KM NORTHWEST
OF ITBAYAT, BATANES

SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS
(JULY 8, 5:00 PM)



3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST

| | JUL 10 Sunday | JUL 11 Monday | JUL 12 Tuesday |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| METRO MANILA | 24 - 30 °C | 25 - 32 °C | 24 - 32 °C |
| TUGUEGARAO | 25 - 34 °C | 24 - 35 °C | 24 - 35 °C |
| LAOAG | 25 - 31 °C | 25 - 31 °C | 25 - 32 °C |
| BAGUIO | 17 - 23 °C | 16 - 24 °C | 16 - 25 °C |
| SBMA/ CLARK | 24 - 29 °C | 25 - 31 °C | 25 - 32 °C |
| TAGAYTAY | 23 - 28 °C | 23 - 29 °C | 22 - 30 °C |
| LEGAZPI | 25 - 30 °C | 25 - 32 °C | 24 - 33 °C |
| PUERTO PRINCESA | 25 - 31 °C | 26 - 32 °C | 25 - 32 °C |
| ILOILO/ BACOLOD | 24 - 32 °C | 25 - 33 °C | 25 - 33 °C |

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

Workday hourly updates: 6:00 AM on Raitoon, 7:00 AM & 8:00 AM on Good Morning Bus, 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM on News at 1, 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM, and 6:00 PM on News@6

3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST

| | JUL 10 Sunday | JUL 11 Monday | JUL 12 Tuesday |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| METRO CEBU | 25 - 33 °C | 24 - 32 °C | 26 - 33 °C |
| TACLOBAN | 24 - 32 °C | 25 - 32 °C | 25 - 32 °C |
| CAGAYAN DEORO | 25 - 34 °C | 24 - 33 °C | 25 - 31 °C |
| METRO DAVAO | 24 - 34 °C | 25 - 34 °C | 26 - 33 °C |
| ZAMBOANGA | 25 - 33 °C | 24 - 33 °C | 25 - 31 °C |

| SUNRISE | SUNSET | MOONRISE | MOONSET |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5:33 AM | 6:30 PM | 9:42 AM | 10:15 PM |
| NEW MOON | FIRST QUARTER | LOW TIDE MARIA SOUTH HARBOR | HIGH TIDE |
| JUNE 4 7:01 PM | JULY 12 8:52 AM | 8:47 PM 0.10 Meter | 12:42 PM 1.15 Meter |

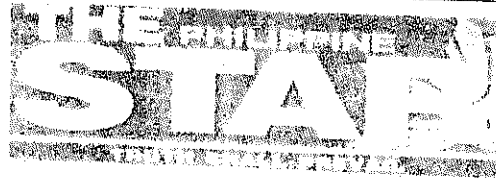
- Partly cloudy to almost overcast
- Intermittent drizzle or rain
- Scattered clouds and showers
- Intermittent drizzle
- Drizzle or rain
- Intermittent drizzle



AIR 21

www.panahon.tv SAGOT NG PROALA MOY
@PanahonTV

09 July 2016



Page: 1

Duterte open to joint exploration with China

The Philippines is willing to share natural resources with Beijing in contested South China Sea areas even if it wins a legal challenge to China's maritime claim next week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said yesterday.

Yasay said President Duterte's administration hopes to quickly begin direct talks with China following an international tribunal's verdict on the case, with the negotiations to cover jointly exploiting natural gas reserves and fishing grounds within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"We can even have the objective of seeing how we can jointly explore this territory: how we can utilize and benefit mutually from the utilization of the resources in this exclusive economic zone where claims are overlapping," Yasay told AFP in an interview.

The Philippines, under the previous Aquino administration, filed in 2013 a legal challenge with a UN-backed arbitral tribunal in The Hague contesting China's claims to nearly all of the strategically vital sea.

China's claims reach almost to the coasts of the Philippines and some other Southeast Asian nations, and the Asian Turn to Page 12

giant has in recent years built enormous artificial islands in the disputed area to enforce what it says are its indisputable sovereign rights.

The Philippines case against China, which repeatedly vowed to ignore the tribunal's ruling and is currently holding military drills in the northern part of the sea area, is less of force.

Duterte, who took office on June 30, has adopted a more conciliatory approach to China than Aquino.

The previous president refused to hold direct talks and blamed China's expansionist efforts in the sea to start a new arms race between parts of Europe ahead of World War II.

Yasay signaled yesterday that Duterte would be making no such analogies, emphasizing his administration would seek to ensure the

best possible relations with China.

"I would like to be forward looking on these matters," he said when asked to comment on Aquino's Nazi statement.

"I would like to make sure whatever actions this administration will take, the statements we will be making will be in the pursuit of strengthening our relationship with everybody and will be for the purpose of making sure there will be no stumbling block to our negotiating a peaceful solution to the issue."

He also said China and the Philippines had agreed not to make any "provocative statements" following the release of the ruling.

Yasay said after the ruling is released, the Philippines would study it closely, discuss it with allies and then

seek to launch talks with China "as soon as possible".

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) falls within 200 nautical miles of its coast. A nation has sovereign rights to exploit natural resources within this zone. Both China and the Philippines are signatories to the treaty.

Fish, drill together

Yasay said the Philippines was open to sharing Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, a rich fishing ground within the Philippines' EEZ, that China took control of in 2012 and has banned Filipino boats from entering. The shoal is also called Kapo de Mindoro.

It is my understanding that in the long course of history, Scarborough Shoal has been the traditional fishing grounds not only for Filipinos but also for Vietnamese, Chinese. We can continue

with this arrangement," he said.

The resources there are laid given for all and for everyone to enjoy. We can work at joint benefit in so far as using the marine resources in the area.

Yasay said the Philippines would also consider jointly exploring a natural gas field at Poota (Poota Bay), which is similarly within the Philippines' EEZ and far from China's nearest major landmark.

"I think it would be in the pursuit of our national interest to do that and that will be a big step forward if everyone can agree on proceeding on that basis," Yasay said when asked about jointly developing Poota Bay.

Yasay insisted the Philippines would not concede any of its rights in the sea.

But he said the issue of sovereignty would not be solved for many years, de-

scribing it as a "generational issue" and that rival claimants must in the meantime work cooperatively.

Duterte and Yasay met with China's ambassador Zhao Jianhua on Thursday. Zhao was seen again at the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

Former foreign assistant secretary Alberto Encomienda also said the Philippines should consider joint development and exploration of disputed areas with China, whether it wins or loses its case in The Hague.

"We may win some or lose some but the bottom line is, the best way to go whichever the arbitration comes down, whether you set it aside or not, is to go ahead with discussing the joint exploration and development. That is the soft way to go to reconcile," he said at a forum in Quezon City.

He added the Philippines and China should set aside the ruling for future consultations and cooperation, once a dispute is resolved.

Both sides were here to put it aside and continue with the bilateral talks. "The country will be a loser because of anything because both states are just pushing their vital interest," Encomienda added.

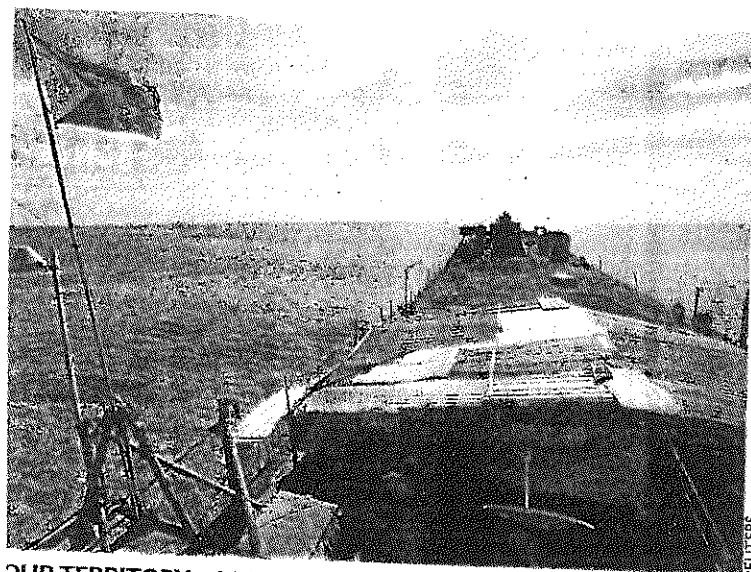
He said he remains optimistic of a fruitful relationship between the Philippines and China under the Duterte administration.

He added the three meetings between Chinese officials and Duterte should be considered proof of both sides' readiness to communicate with each other. "It is a limited Duterte's visit and the handling of the issue is against Aquino's too narrow approach," WBH AFP Romyn Calera.

07 July 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1



REUTERS

OUR TERRITORY A Philippine flag flutters from the BRP Sierra Madre, a dilapidated Navy ship that serves as a military detachment on Ayungin Shoal in the disputed Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea.

US urges PH, China to respect UN ruling

WASHINGTON—The United States on Thursday urged respect for a decision on territorial disputes in the South China Sea set to be handed down by an international arbitration court next week.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Dutch city of The Hague is set to make its final decision on July 12 in the case between the Philippines and China.

"We urge both parties to comply with the ruling and urge all claimants to avoid provocative actions or statements," Abraham Denmark, the senior Pentagon official responsible for East Asia, told a congressional hearing about the decision, already rejected in advance by Beijing.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea strategically.

US URGES/A4

cally important for world maritime trade where the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims.

Although Washington is not directly part of the territorial disputes, it has urged they be resolved through diplomacy, not Chinese force.

Beijing has artificially enlarged islets and reefs to build runways, ports and other installations to legitimize its claims.

US boosts presence

The United States has meanwhile boosted its military presence in the region, dealing with neighboring countries' concerns about China's actions. Washington has also strengthened its defense alliances with the Philippines, Vietnam and other countries.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is currently patrolling the sea.

The Virginia-based Navy Times reported this week that three US destroyers—Spruance, Stethem and Momsen—have been patrolling near the artificial islands that China has built in the Spratly archipelago and Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, a resource-rich reef that China wrested from Philippine control in 2012.

"We will provide critical support for diplomacy by providing a credible deterrent against the use of force," Denmark said.

China will 'fight back'

Chinese media on Tuesday said Beijing was ready for a "military confrontation" with the United States in the region.

On Friday, the Global Times newspaper, which is close to the ruling Communist Party and often takes a nationalistic tone, said: "If the US and the Philippines act on impulse and carry out flagrant provocation, China will not take a single step back."

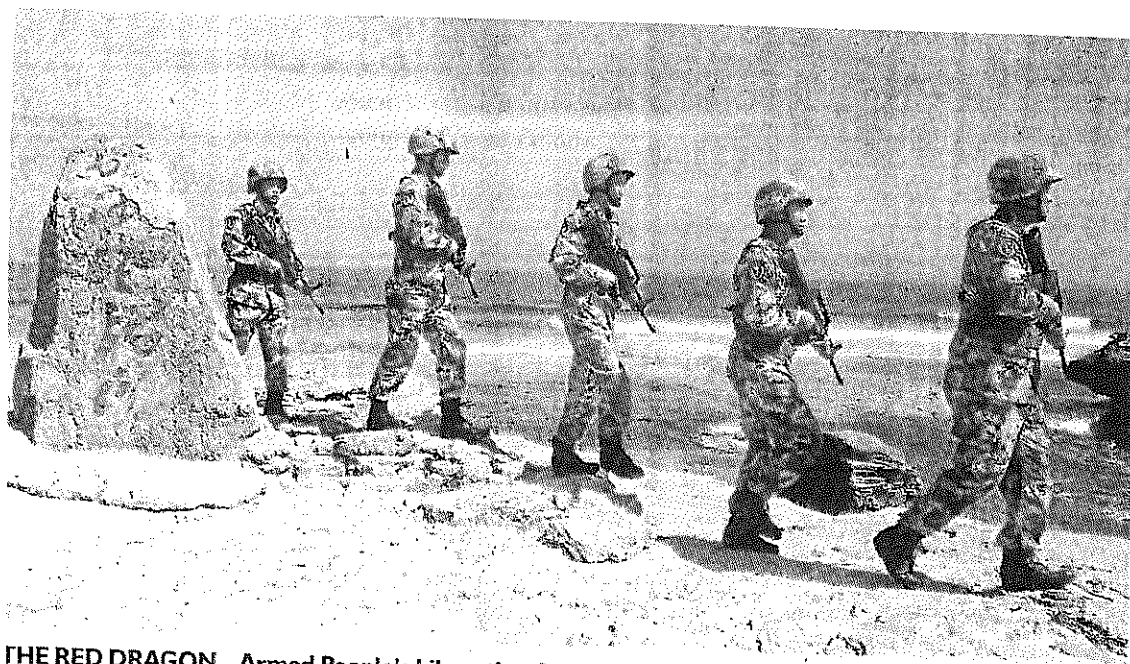
Faced with further escalation from Manila, the paper said China would "fight back."

It could turn Panatag Shoal "into a military outpost," the paper said, and "tow away or sink" an old landing craft, the BRP Sierra Madre, that Manila grounded on Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal in 1999 to mark its territory in the Spratly archipelago, to "resolve the standoff once and for all."

The loss of Panatag Shoal forced the Philippines to bring the case in January 2013.

Most officials and analysts expect the arbitral tribunal's decision to go against China, depriving it of its basis in claiming almost all of the South China Sea.

President Duterte, earlier this week proposed dialogue with



THE RED DRAGON Armed People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers walk past a sign on a rock that reads "Xisha Old Dragon" as they patrol the coast at Woody Island, in the Paracel archipelago, known in China as the Xisha Islands, in this January photo.

REUTERS

China following the court's decision next week, offering discussions about issues such as setting up joint ventures for sharing resources in the disputed waterway.

"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," Mr. Duterte said.

His foreign secretary, Perfecto Yasay, on Friday said the

Philippines was willing to share natural resources with China even if it won the case.

Yasay said the Duterte administration hoped to quickly begin direct talks with China following the court ruling, with the negotiations to cover jointly exploiting the sea's natural gas reserves and fishing grounds with the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

US officials testifying at Thursday's congressional hearing declined to say whether any move

by China to militarize more disputed land features would prompt US military response.

World is watching

Denmark said the arbitral court's ruling would be a chance to determine "whether the Asia-Pacific's future will be defined by adherence to international laws and norms that have enabled it to prosper, or whether the region's future will be determined by raw calculations of power."

Rep. Randy Forbes, the Vir-

ginia Republican who chairs the House subcommittee on sea power, said that the world is watching whether China behaves like a responsible stakeholder in the international system, and, if not, to see how America responds.

"What we do or don't do to support our allies and the rules-based international system in the weeks ahead will have echoes across the region and in other corners of the globe," Forbes said.

Senior US state department official Colin Willett told the hearing that the United States would not hesitate to defend its national security interests and honor commitments to Asia-Pacific allies and partners.

But Denmark declined to comment on whether militarization of Panatag Shoal by China would hurt US national security interests, or invoke a US-Philippine treaty, which calls for the allies to help defend each other if there is an armed attack on their Armed Forces, public vessels, aircraft or island territories under their jurisdiction in the Pacific.

"Scarborough Reef is a disputed feature that we don't recognize any countries sovereignty over. That said, our treaty commitment to the Philippines is absolutely ironclad," Willett said. *Reports from AFP and AP*

09 July 2016



Page: A1

Philippines willing to share South China Sea – gov't

The Philippines is willing to share natural resources with Beijing in contested South China Sea areas even if it wins a legal challenge next week, Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told *Agence France Presse* Friday.

Yasay said President Duterte's administration hoped to quickly begin direct talks with China following Tuesday's verdict, with the negotiations to cover jointly exploiting natural gas reserves and fishing grounds within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"We can even have the objective of seeing how we can jointly explore this territory. How we can utilize and benefit mutually from the utilization of the resources in this exclusive economic zone where claims are overlapping," Yasay told *AFP* in an interview.

The Philippines, under Benigno Aquino's previous administration, filed a legal challenge with a UN-backed tribunal in The Hague contesting China's claims to nearly all of the strategically vital sea.

Turn to page 7

From page 1

China's claims reach almost to the coasts of the Philippines and some other Southeast Asian nations, and it has in recent years built giant artificial islands in the contested areas to enforce what it says are its indisputable sovereign rights.

The Philippines' case enraged China, which repeatedly vowed to ignore the tribunal's ruling and is currently holding military drills in the northern part of the sea as a show of force.

Duterte, who took office on June 30, has adopted a more conciliatory approach to China than Aquino.

The previous president refused to hold direct talks, and likened China's expansionist efforts in the sea to Nazi Germany's march on parts of Europe ahead of World War II.

Yasay signaled on Friday that Duterte would be making no such analogies, emphasizing his administration would seek to ensure the best possible relations with China.

"I would like to be forward-looking on these matters," he said when asked to comment on Aquino's Nazi statement.

"I would like to make sure whatever actions this administration will take, the statements we will be making will be in the pursuit of strengthening our relationship with everybody and will be for the purpose of making sure there will be no stumbling block to our negotiating a peaceful solution to the issue."

He also said China and the Philippines had agreed not to make any "provocative statements" following the release of the ruling.

Yasay said after the ruling the Philippines would study it closely, discuss it with allies, and then seek to launch talks with China "as soon as possible."

Yasay said the Philippines was open to sharing Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone that China took control of in 2012.

He said the Philippines would also consider jointly exploring a natural gas field at Reed Bank, which is also within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

However Yasay insisted the Philippines would not concede any of its rights in the sea.

Duterte and Yasay met with China's ambassador to the Philippines, Zhao Jianhua, on Thursday. Zhao was seen again at the Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

Ex-embassy: China can't afford to be an enemy of RP

Former Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary and Philippine Ambassador Albert Encomienda yesterday said our leverage in the South China Sea dispute does not end with the upcoming Permanent Court of Arbitration decision only, as China cannot afford to be an enemy of the Philippines.

The looming ruling of the PCA filed by the Philippines against China contesting the latter's so-called nine-dash line claiming 90

percent of the South China Sea and various territorial areas of its neighboring countries will be decided by July 12.

In a forum, the former envoy to the Philippines said that our immediate action is to observe silence, noting that the PCA ruling should be subjected for review first. In consolation, Encomienda said the upcoming award is not the sole weight of our country in this row.

Alleviating fears he said "China cannot afford to be enemy of the Philippines just as we cannot afford to be an enemy of China. Our location as a state and a transit to a lot of ships is leverage for us."

Oust US on SCS issue

In the same lecture, Professor of the University of the Philippines Roland Simbulan noted that there is tension growing between the two powerful countries displaying military exercises in the region ahead of the arbitral decision, China and the United States.

According to him, Philippine interest on the maritime issue should be upheld without being a pawn to the latter.

"Actually the US wants the decision to be favorable to the Philippines because the position of China will weaken internationally."

Simbulan noted the award will be legally part of international law, "China may not recognize it but for the US, the ruling will back up its assertion, its submarine fleets, and its aircraft carriers can have a show of force in the South China Sea for its own interest."

On this note, "we should be magnanimous even if the ruling is favorable to the Philippines. We should not make very strong statements because we would still want to be open for bilateral talks with China."

In late June US sent two carriers in the area for operational activities and just this week China announced its own drills in the contested area from July 5 ending on July 11, a day before the decision.

According to the professor, it is China's way of saying "that whatever the decisions will be even if it's not favorable to China, it is not going to recognize it" but despite these instances, "we should not close ourselves from bilateral talks with China, we have tried multilateral. If we win this case I think that will just be leverage for us and for our bilateral negotiations," he clarified.

He was positive that Beijing will be open talking to the Philippines, "They (China) do not want our territory to be used against them because through Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, we are allowing US forces to actively use our territory against them," he said adding that such possibility could "lead to war".

"If there's a war, it will be the Philippines that will be hit, since China's target will be the US forces."

Beijing will not 'step back' in SCS: media

Beijing will not take a "single step back" in the contested South China Sea, state-run media said Friday, despite reports of US naval

patrols close to its artificial islands ahead of a tribunal ruling in the dispute.

Beijing asserts sovereignty over almost all of the strategically vital waters in the face of rival claims from Southeast Asian neighbours, and has rapidly turned reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

It is currently holding a week of military drills around the Paracel Islands in the northern part of the sea, during which other ships have been prohibited from entering the waters.

The Virginia-based *Navy Times* reported this week that three US destroyers — the Spruance, Stethem and Momsen — have been patrolling near the Chinese-claimed Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands further south.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and supporting vessels are also in the South China Sea, the US Navy has said.

The *Navy Times* cited experts describing the deployments as "a message of resolve to the Chinese and US allies in the region" and "a deliberate show of force" ahead of an international tribunal ruling.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague is set to release its final decision Tuesday in a case brought by the Philippines, challenging China's position.

In an editorial Friday the *Global Times* newspaper, which is close to the ruling Communist Party and often takes a nationalistic tone, said: "If the US and the Philippines act on impulse and carry out flagrant provocation, China will

not take a single step back."

Faced with further escalation from Manila, the paper said China "will fight back."

It could turn Scarborough Shoal — an islet it wrested from Philippine control in 2012 — "into a military outpost", it said, and "tow away or sink" an old landing craft Manila grounded on the Chinese-claimed Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratlys to "resolve the standoff once and for all".

It blamed Vietnam and the Philippines for provoking tensions by carrying out reclamation work in the area earlier.

Beijing cites a vaguely defined "nine-dash line" on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s as the source of its territorial claims, but Manila contests that the line has no basis under international law, and that Beijing has no historic right to the area.

Manila lodged the PCA suit against Beijing in early 2013, saying that after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all political and diplomatic avenues to settle the dispute.

Beijing has boycotted the proceedings, with an editorial in the *China Daily* newspaper Friday calling them a "farce" and the tribunal's forthcoming ruling "illegal, null and void from the outset", saying the court had no jurisdiction over the issue.

The ruling was likely to result in "increasing threats" to China, which "has to be prepared for all eventualities", it said, adding: "This is not being alarmist, it is being realistic."

AFP and Joyce Rocamora

July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Beijing won't 'step back'; PH willing to share resources

BEIJING/WASHINGTON (AFP/AP) – Beijing will not take a “single step back” in the contested South China Sea, state-run media said Friday, despite reports of US naval patrols close to its artificial islands ahead of a tribunal ruling in the dispute.

But the Philippines is willing to share natural resources with Beijing in contested South China Sea areas even if it wins a legal challenge next week, Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told AFP Friday.

Yasay said President Rodrigo Duterte's administration hoped to quickly begin direct talks with China following Tuesday's verdict, with the negotiations to cover jointly exploiting the sea's natural gas reserves and fishing grounds within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The United States, meantime, urged respect for the decision an international arbitration court is expected to hand down next week on territorial disputes in the South China Sea. ►8

“We urge both parties to comply with the ruling and urge all claimants to avoid provocative actions or statements,” Abraham Denmark, the senior Pentagon official responsible for East Asia, told a congressional hearing about the decision, already rejected in advance by Beijing.

Beijing asserts sovereignty over almost all of the strategically vital waters in the face of rival claims from Southeast Asian neighbors, and has rapidly turned reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

It is currently holding a week of military drills around the Paracel Islands in the northern part of the sea, during which other ships have been prohibited from entering the waters.

The Virginia-based Navy Times reported this week that three US destroyers – the Spruance, Stethem and Momsen – have been patrolling near the Chinese-claimed Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands further south.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and supporting vessels are also in the South China Sea, the US Navy has said.

Military outpost

The Navy Times cited experts describing the deployments as “a mes-

sage of resolve to the Chinese and US allies in the region” and “a deliberate show of force” ahead of an international tribunal ruling.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague is set to release its final decision Tuesday in a case brought by the Philippines, challenging China's position.

In an editorial Friday the Global Times newspaper, which is close to the ruling Communist Party and often takes a nationalistic tone, said: “If the US and the Philippines act on impulse and carry out flagrant provocation, China will not take a single step back.”

Faced with further escalation from Manila, the paper said China “will fight back.”

It could turn Scarborough Shoal — an islet it wrested from Philippine control in 2012 — “into a military outpost”, it said, and “tow away or sink” an old landing craft Manila grounded on the Chinese-claimed Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratlys to “resolve the standoff once and for all.”

Rule of law or power

Denmark also told the congressional hearing that the ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal would be a chance to determine “whether the Asia Pacific's

future will be defined by adherence to international laws and norms that have enabled it to prosper, or whether the region's future will be determined by raw calculations of power.”

Rep. Randy Forbes, the Virginia Republican who chairs the House subcommittee on sea power, said the world is watching whether China behaves like a responsible stakeholder in the international system, and, if not, to see how America responds.

“What we do or don't do to support our allies and the rules-based international system in the weeks ahead will have echoes across the region and in other corners of the globe,” Forbes said.

Senior State Department official Colin Willett said the US will not hesitate to defend its national security interests and honor commitments to Asia Pacific allies and partners.

Some experts have speculated that China might militarize Scarborough Shoal off the Philippine coast where a standoff with China prompted the Philippines to initiate the legal case in 2013. In the past two years, China has constructed artificial islands and placed military facilities on disputed features elsewhere in the South China Sea.

Willett said the ruling in the case would not resolve sovereignty issues, but could potentially narrow down the areas that are legitimately subject to dispute.

CC July 2016

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

Pangalan ng mga sundalo ng Phil. Army na nagpositibo sa droga, isasapubliko

ISASAPUBLIKO na ng Philippine Army ang pangalan ng mga sundalo na nagpositibo sa isinagawang drug testing noong Martes.

Pero ito ayon kay Philippine Army Spokesperson Col Benjamin Hao ay kapag natapos na ang confirmatory test na kaagad isinagawa sa 13 sundalo ng Philippine Army na naunang nagpositibo sa surprise drug test.

Paliwanag ni Hao, sa oras na makumpirma na gumagamit nga ng shabu o marijuana ang mga sunda-

lo ay maari na nilang isapubliko ang katauhan ng mga ito.

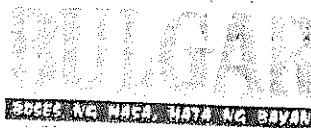
Giit ni Hao, walang lugar sa AFP at partikular sa Philippine Army ang mga sundalong lulong o gumagamit ng illegal drugs at hindi umano kinukunsinti ng liderato ng AFP ang mga ganitong uri ng sundalo.

Ani Col Hao, bilang

patunay mayroon nang kabuuang 209 ang mga sundalo mula sa Philippine Army ang nasibak sa serbisyo simula 2013 dahil sa paggamit ng illegal na droga.

131 dito noong 2013, 38 nasibak noong 2014, 35 na dismiss noong 2015 at ngayong taon mayroon ng 5 ang nasibak dahil sa illegal drugs.

009 July 2016



Pahina. 2

13 SUNDALO POSITIBO SA DRUG TEST

ISASAPUBLIKO nang Philippine Army ang pangalan ng mga sundalo na nagpositibo sa drug test.

Gayunman, ayon kay Philippine Army Spokesperson Col Benjamin Hao, ito ay kapag natapos na ang confirmatory test na agad isinagawa sa 13 sundalo ng Philippine Army na naunang nagpositibo sa surprise drug test.

Ani Hao, sa oras na makunipirma na gumagamit ng shabu o marijuana ang mga sundalo ay maaari na nilang isapubliko ang katauhan ng mga ito.

Giit ni Hao, walang lugar

sa AFP, partikular sa Philippine Army ang mga sundalong lulong o gumagamit ng illegal drugs at hindi umano kinukunsinti ng liderato ng AFP ang mga ganitong uri ng sundalo.

Mayroon nang kabuuang 209 sundalo mula sa Philippine Army ang nasibak sa serbisyo mula 2013 dahil sa paggamit ng ilegal na droga kung saan 131 dito noong 2013, 38 nasibak noong 2014, 35 na-dismiss noong 2015 at ngayong taon mayroon ng 5 ang nasibak dahil sa illegal drugs.

(Vyne Reyes)

(16) July 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 47

7,000 flee Sayyaf attacks in Basilan

UNGKAYA PUKAN, Basilan—The terror group Abu Sayyaf continued its offensive against the Army yesterday with gun battles spreading to three towns in Basilan province and sending at least 7,000 residents fleeing their homes and pleading for government help.

No official, however, had come to visit the evacuees as of yesterday, according to some residents who fled the fighting on Thursday.

Hadjiya Asjail, 60, resident of Barangay Magcawa in Al Barka town, Basilan, said there was no help from the government since the residents fled.

"I have been here for two days now and we just rely on good neighbors for food," said Asjail, who had sought shelter in houses of fellow Yakans in Barangay Cabangalan in Tipo-Tipo town.

Abdulbaki Kadari, another evacuee, said the lack of food forced some of the residents to risk getting caught in the cross-fire to return to their homes to get supplies.

"We will die here, we cannot wait for them, we need to eat and we feel ashamed relying on our good neighbors," Kadari said.

Anwary Akalun, the provincial social welfare officer, admitted that the provincial government could not provide food

yet to the evacuees.

Akalun said the immediate need of the evacuees was food and the provincial government needed at least P365,000 initially.

The offensive, a first by Abu Sayyaf in recent years, led to clashes that started on Wednesday evening when at least 200

terrorists attacked the headquarters of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion (IB) here.

Authorities said there were brief respites from the clashes.

Joel Maturan, former mayor of this town, said the terrorists, some of whom armed with .50 cal. machine guns, had posi-

tioned themselves on four hills surrounding the community of Punoh Butigan in the village of Sungkayot, where the 18th IB headquarters is located.

The terrorists, said Maturan, "seemed to be determined to get the headquarters."

Maturan said he and his rubber

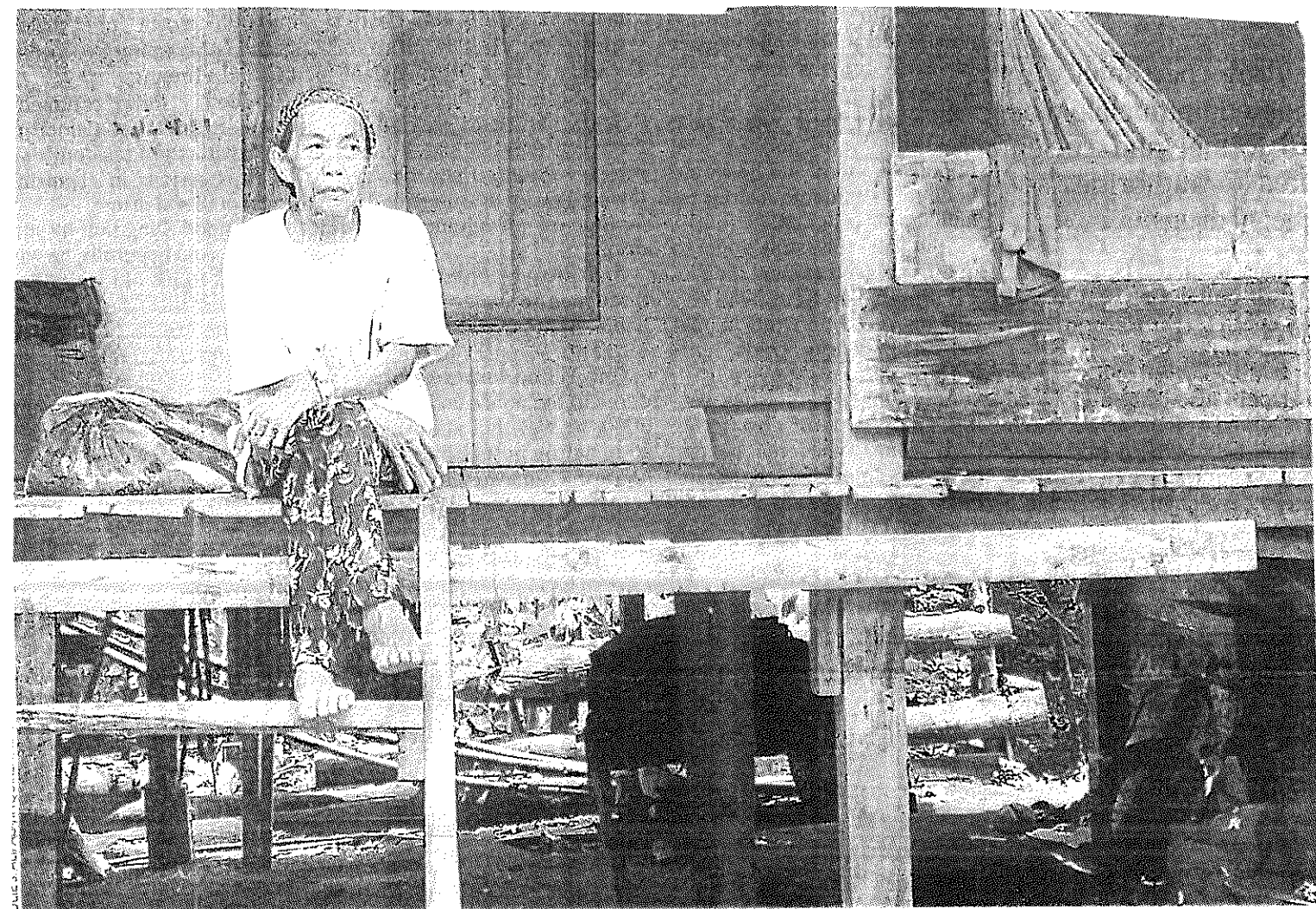
plantation workers had armed themselves to help government soldiers repel the Abu Sayyaf.

The fighting, he said, is "on and off." But he said he wondered "why these bandits are not running out of ammunition and food." *Julie S. Atipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

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

ore Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

//



HADJIYA Asjail, a 60-year-old woman from the village of Magcawa in Al Barka town, Basilan, is one of hundreds of residents of three towns in the province who fled attacks by the Abu Sayyaf. Asjail sought shelter in this house behind a school in the town proper of Tipo-Tipo, awaiting government aid.

July
2016

BusinessMirror

Page. Ad

Troops kill 9 Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu clash

NINE Abu Sayyaf bandits and a soldier were killed in fresh clashes between the lawless group and government forces in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan on Thursday, the military said.

The encounters happened as the Armed Forces refocused its operations on the Abu Sayyaf as part of the overall effort to rid the country of criminality, as ordered by President Duterte.

Maj. Filemon Tan, Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command spokesman, said troops of the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion clashed with at least 130 terrorists believed to be led by Commander Radullan Sahiron at around 3 p.m. on Thursday.

He said the troops were operating at Barangay Kabuntakas, Patikul, Sulu, "under an intensive focused military operations," when they encountered the large group of bandits.

As a result, nine terrorists and one soldier were killed.

Nineteen others, including six soldiers, were wounded in the gun battle, which raged until early evening.

Tan said the bandits were pounded with artillery, while other ground forces, which reinforced the Army troops, also engaged Sahiron's group.

In Basilan a series of encounters also broke out between troops of the Joint Task Force Basilan and a combined group of the bandits with 200 members led by Commanders Isnilon Hapilon and Furiji Indama.

The Abu Sayyaf group under Hapilon has pledged with allegiance with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Tan said the firefight with the bandits occurred at around 8 p.m. on Wednesday and raged for about five hours. The clash reignited at around 7 a.m. on Wednesday in several villages in Ungkaya Pukan and Magcawa in Albarka.

Tan said airstrikes and shelling were carried out against the bandits. *Rene Acosta*

CC July 2016



Page. 2

Soldier, 9 Abu Sayyaf rebs killed in Jolo clash

PHILIPPINE 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, 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.

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-Qaeda network, that has earned millions of dollars from kidnappings-for-ransom.

Although its leaders have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, analysts say they are mainly focused on lucrative kidnappings.

Last month, as Duterte prepared to assume office after winning the May presidential elections by landslide on a law and order platform, he ordered the military defeat the Abu Sayyaf.

"Our first priority is the Abu Sayyaf because that is the order of our new president: address the Abu Sayyaf immediately so we can neutralize them," Delfin Lorenzana told reporters before he was sworn in as defense secretary. AFP

001

July 2016



ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ P8.00

Page. 5

9 sa Abu Sayyaf, 1 sundalo, patay sa bakbakan sa Sulu

Ni FER TABOY

Iniulat kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na siyam na kasapi ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at isang sundalo ang namatay sa bakbakan ng dalawang panig sa Barangay Kabuntakas sa Patikul, Sulu.

Sinabi sa report ni Major Filemon Tan, tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), na nasa anim na sundalo at 13 naman sa panig ng Abu Sayyaf ang nasugatan sa nasabing engkuwentro.

Avon kay Tan, dakong 3:00 ng hapon at nagsasagawa ng focused military operations ang tropa ng 45th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army (PA) sa lugar nang makasagupa nila ang nasa 130 bandido, na pinangunahan ni ASG Commander Radulan Sahiron.

Sinabi ni Tan na ang operayon ay bahagi pa rin ng pagsisikap na iligtas ang mga nalalabing bihag ng Abu Sayyaf, na kinabibilangan ng siyam na dayuhan at tatlong Pinoy.

Sinabi ng militar na nagbantay si Sahiron na pupugutan din ang nalalabi sa mga dinukot nila sa Samal Island noong Setyembre 2015, ang Norwegian

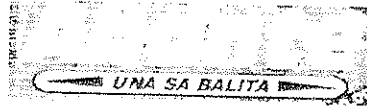
na si Kjarlan Sekkingstand, kung hindi maibibigay ang hinilingi nilang ransom.

Una nang pinugutan ng Abu Sayyaf

ang dalawang Canadian na sina John Ridsdel at Robert Hall, habang pinalaya naman noong nakaraang buwan si Marites Flor.

001

July 2016



Pahina. Ce

9 na Sayyaf bulagta, 13 pa sugatan sa engkwentro

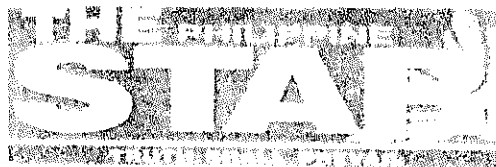
Siyam na kasapi ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang nasawi habang 13 bandido pa ang iniulat na nasugatan sa panibagong pakikipag-bakhakan sa militar sa Patikul, Sulu kamakalawa ng hapon.

Sa inisyal na ulat ni Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman ng Western Mindanao Command, isa namang sundalo ang nasawi sa nasabing engkuwentro pero tumanggi pang kilalanin habang anim pa ang sugatan, base na rin sa ulat na ipinarating sa Camp Aguinaldo kahapon.

Napag-alaman sa report na nagsasagawa ng focused military operations ang tropa ng 45th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army (PA) sa Barangay Kabuntakas, Patikul, Sulu kamakalawa ng hapon nang matiyempuhan ang may 130 miyembro ng ASG sa pangunguna kumander na si Radulan Sahiron.

Sinabi ni Tan na ang pagpapatrulya ng militar ay bahagi rin ng patuloy na pagkilos para maisalba ang mga natitira pang bihag ng ASG na kinabibilangan ng siyam na dahuyan at tatlong Pinoy. (Betchai Julian)

July 2016



Page: 1-19

Intel officer killed in traffic row

CAMARINES NORTE – A member of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was killed by a police officer following a traffic altercation in Polangui, Albay on Tuesday.

Cpl. Anthony Manuel, a resident of Barangay Balogo in Oas, Albay, died at the scene.

Senior Police Officer 1 Ernesto Lladones Jr., 36, surrendered and turned over his service firearm.

Initial investigation showed that Manuel and Lladones had a heated argument after their motorcycles almost figured in an accident at around 11:30 a.m.

– Francis Elevado

July 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A7

NPA rebels own up to killing of militiaman

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Communist rebels on Friday owned up to the killing of a tribal leader they accused of being behind the murder of an Italian missionary in North Cotabato in 2011.

Rigoberto Sanchez, a spokesman for the New People's Army (NPA), said rebel forces killed Ruben Labawan, a leader of the militia group called Alamara, in Panabo City on July 6.

He said Labawan was also working for the military and behind the numerous killings of indigenous people and civilians suspected of supporting or aiding the NPA.

"The AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) troops, with Labawan's Alamara and other paramilitaries at their heels, have committed the most fanatic and barbaric acts of war crimes around

the region, such as the cold-murder of Fr. Fausto Tentorio," Sanchez said.

Tentorio, who was accused by the Alamara group of being a sympathizer of the NPA, was shot outside his convent in Arakan town in North Cotabato province on October 17, 2011.

Sanchez said most recently, Labawan's group was allegedly responsible for the rape and summary killing of two NPA members in Paquibato district in Davao City and the brutal slaying of rebel leader Noel Gulmatico on July 1 in Magpet town, North Cotabato.

He said government forces captured and tortured Gulmatico before brutally killing him and mutilating his body.

"The New People's Army in Southern Mindanao and the *lumad*

and peasant masses in the region commend the NPA-1st Pulang Bagani Battalion in successfully carrying out the standing order of the People's Revolutionary Court in dispensing justice against Ruben Labawan last June 6 in Panabo City."

"Labawan was guilty of blood debts and thereby meted with the death penalty for serious crimes against the people, especially the *lumad* and peasant settlers of Davao City and North Cotabato. He was also guilty of grave acts of collusion in the reactionary regime's campaign of duplicity and disunity among *lumads*," Sanchez said.

He added Labawan threatened hapless indigenous people of violent retaliation in order to force them to enlist in the Alamara. Last year, alongside troops from the 69th and 72nd Infantry Battal-

ions, coerced 70 tribesmen to join pro-government militia groups and tagged those who resisted as rebel supporters.

"He deputized his minions to carry out widespread land-grabbing and cattle-rustling that victimized poor *lumad* and settlers in Paquibato, Marilog, Malabog and other areas in Davao City. He peddled the occultist deception of being impervious to bullet wounds, carrying wherever he went to his mysterious oils and amulets. At the time of his death, he was carrying a .45-caliber pistol along with an assortment of oils and amulets," Sanchez said.

The indigenous organization Kalumuran Mindanao has called on President Rodrigo Duterte to give justice to the killing of Labawan.

AL JACINTO

(14) July 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 11

Northern Samar solon, gov linked to drugs ready to face NDF

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A spokesperson for a Northern Samar congressman who, with his governor-uncle, had been linked by communist rebels to drug trafficking said representatives of the two officials were willing to meet with rebel leaders to clear their names.

Rei Josiah Echano, speaking on behalf of Rep. Edwin Ong, said the congressman and his

uncle, Northern Samar Gov. Jose Ong, had never been involved in any way in drugs, blaming a political opponent, who is close to the rebels, for what Echano said was a smear campaign against the Ongs.

Echano, however, declined to identify who the political rival was.

Reports about the Ongs' involvement in drugs, according to Echano, are not true. "He (the congressman) and his family are legitimate businessmen

since the 1950s," said Echano.

The Ong family is engaged in steel and food businesses and have worked with some of the country's renowned businessmen, Echano said.

Echano called up the INQUIRER to react to a report that came out on Friday about a National Democratic Front (NDF) statement linking the Ongs to the drug trade in Northern Samar, one of the country's poorest provinces.

Edwin Ong is on his first term as congressman of the

province's second district while his uncle, Jose, won a second term as governor.

The governor is out of the country and is expected to return on July 12.

The Ongs are considered to be the most influential political clan in Northern Samar.

While they dismissed the NDF statement as part of a smear campaign, the family, according to Echano, fears that it would be used to bring down the Ongs politically.

Duterte administration officials had said Mr. Duterte might soon announce the names of local officials who were involved in drugs after naming five former and active police officials.

Echano said the Ongs were willing to sit down with NDF leaders to discuss the rebel statement and disprove allegations that the congressman and governor were involved in drugs.

"Due process should be observed even though they claim to be a revolutionary govern-

ment," said Echano.

"They (rebels) should not rely on the information coming from our political opponent. They must investigate to get the truth," he said.

Echano said the Ongs were also against drugs and had supported efforts to stop drug trafficking in the province.

One proof of this, he said, is a summit set on Aug. 17 by the provincial government to address the drug problem in the province.

21 July 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 47

Clashes continue in Sulu, Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY: A soldier died as sporadic clashes between the military and Abu Sayyaf forces continued on Friday in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan, where militants are holding captive at least 10 foreigners in the restive Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the fighting, which began on July 3, but on Thursday, troops battled with about 130 gunmen under Radulan Sahiron in the village of Kabuntakas in Patikul town in Sulu, where a soldier died and six troopers were wounded.

No other details were provided by the military, except that security forces were continuing

operations in Sulu against the radical group blamed for terrorism and ransom kidnappings in the troubled region.

The army is also battling about 200 Abu Sayyaf fighters in nearby Basilan, where troops are targeting to kill terrorist leader Isnilon Ilapilon and another senior commander, Puruji Indama.

Fighting was raging between the two groups since Wednesday in Ungkaya Pukan and Tipo-Tipo towns.

The military – quoting intelligence reports – insists many Abu Sayyaf fighters had been killed and wounded in the battle field, but not a single body had been recovered by soldiers in the provinces.

ALJACINTO

CCF

July 2016



Page: 4

135 all-Army peacekeeping contingent sent to Haiti

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday sent off a 135-strong peacekeeping contingent to Haiti in a simple ceremony at Villamor Air Base.

Newly promoted AFP chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya led the send-off ceremony, together with Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez and Col. Eugenio Hernandez, chief of the AFP Peacekeeping Operations Center.

The 135 all-Army contingent is led by Col. Rosalio Pompa and it will be deployed in Haiti for one year.

The contingent, the 20th deployment by the Philippines in various United Nations peacekeeping missions, is complemented by 15 officers and 119 enlisted personnel, including 14 women.

"The contingent is the Philippines contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Operations worldwide. To date this is the country's largest deployment after the Philippines pulled out its contingent in Liberia and Golan Heights," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman.

Padilla said the contingent to be replaced will be returning to Manila on July 11.

Meanwhile, Visaya officially received his fourth star from Defense Secretary Defen Lorenzana during simple donning of rank ceremony at the Department of National Defense at Camp Aguinaldo.

The ceremony was attended by all the Joint, Personal and Special staff of the AFP led by Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, the vice chief of staff and the deputy chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Salvador Mison III, and members of the enlisted corps and civilian employees of Camp Aguinaldo.

Visaya assumed as AFP chief of staff last July 1 vice Miranda who has served as chief of staff since April.

04 July 2016



Pahina. 2

135 AFP UN Peacekeepers tumalak na sa Haiti

Lumisan na kahapon patungong Haiti ang nasa 135 sundalo upang magsilbi bilang AFP UN Peacekeeping contingent sa nasabing bansa.

Kahapon, pinangunahan ng bagong promote na nasungkit ang kaniyang ika-apat na estrelya na si AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya kasama ang iba pang

mga matataas na opisyal ng militar ang send-off ceremony na isinagawa sa Villamor Air Base, ang punong himpilan ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) sa Pasay City.

Ang 135 man UN Peacekeeping Contingent ay idedeploy sa Haiti sa loob ng isang taon.

"The contingent is the Philippines contribu-

tion to the UN Peacekeeping Operations worldwide", pahayag ni AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Ang mga peacekeepers ay pinangunahanan ni Col. Rosario Pompa ng Philippine Army na binubuo ng 15 opisyal at 119 enlisted personnel kung saan 14 sa mga ito ay mga babae.

Nabatid na ito ang

049

July 2016



Pahina. 3

AFP chief of staff, 4 star na

Nakanit na ng bagong talagang chief of staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na si Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya ang ranggong 4-star general na magdadala sa kanya bilang pinakamataas na opisyal ng militar sa bansa.

Sa isang seremonya na pinangunahan ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana sa Department of National Defense Building sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, iginawad kay Visaya ang minimithing 4 star, ayon kay AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Si Visaya, isang miyembro ng Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, ay tinapos ang full military honors na bumagay sa kanyang bagong ranggo sa harap AFP General Headquarters Building. Siya ay itinalagang chief of

staff ng AFP noong July 1 ni President Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte.

Ang seremonya ay dinaluhan ng lahat ng personnel at special staff ng AFP na pinangunahan ni Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, ang vice chief-of-staff at ang deputy chief-of-staff na si Major Gen. Salvador Mison III, at miyembro ng enlisted corps at civilian employees ng Camp Aguinaldo. Dito ginawa ni Visaya ang kanyang unang official visit bilang bagong 4-star general sa Philippine, Air Force headquarters sa Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. Sinalubong siya ni PAF commander Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina kasama ang leadership ng senior Air Force kung saan ginawaran siya ng PAF ng Honorary Aviator's Gold Wings bilang top honcho ng AFP. (Ricky T. Tulipat)

July 2016

INQUIRER

Page: *XC*

Duterte says Abus not criminals, blames US for Mideast violence

By Allan Nawal
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—President Duterte on Friday balked at calling the Abu Sayyaf criminals, even as he blamed US intervention for the bloody conflicts in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries.

"That's why I am not including Abu Sayyaf [activities] in criminality. You've never heard me say (they are) criminal(s). It is a different setup there because these are the guys who were driven to desperation," he said in a speech during the Hari Raya Eid al-Fitr celebration at SMX convention center here.

Duterte said he knew the situation "from Nun [Misurari] to the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao)."

"There is no sufficient semblance of governance and that is why they are pushed to the wall," he said, adding: "Then they became radicalized."

The celebration was attended by such prominent Moro leaders as Ghadzali Jaafar of the Moro Islamic

Liberation Front (MILF).

The President earlier warned the Abu Sayyaf to stop a wave of ransom kidnappings, and said he would eventually confront the militants.

Two Canadians were successively beheaded by the militants in Sulu after ransom deadlines lapsed.

A Norwegian, a Dutch bird watcher and a group of seven newly kidnapped Indonesian tugboat crewmen remain in Abu Sayyaf custody.

The United States and the Philippines have blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization for bombings, kidnappings for ransom and beheadings.

In his speech, Mr. Duterte also suggested that US policy was to blame for terrorist attacks on its soil, saying, "It is not that the Middle East is exporting terrorism to America, America imported terrorism."

He said the US-led invasion in Iraq, which was backed by Britain, led to Saddam Hussein's downfall but caused the oil-rich nation to descend into bloody strife, adding that America's action had no legal basis.

Mr. Duterte earlier said he would chart a foreign policy not dependent on the United States.

"They destroyed the Middle East," he said as he faulted foreign intervention in the Middle East for the worsening situation there.

Mr. Duterte said that before the US-led coalition invaded Iraq, Saddam Hussein was in control and the situation there was much better than today.

"Look at Iraq now," he said.

The President also said violence worsened in Libya when Moammar Ghadafi was ousted as president. He said foreign intervention continued to worsen the Middle East situation, citing Syria's case as another example.

He said the situation that gave rise to radicalism there was different, though the people there were against foreign intervention.

In the Philippines, he said the players were all Filipinos and "we are all brothers."

Mr. Duterte said he was talking to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the MILF in the hope of



DUTERTE

ending the decades-old conflict.

He said he thought of federalism as the effective way to resolve the Mindanao problem because it would give everyone the same opportunity.

What the MILF gets, he said, will also be the same thing that the MNLF gets.

With reports from AP

it: 5285, 5295

July 2016



Page: A19

ARMM LGUs to support drive vs Abu Sayyaf

ISABELA CITY – Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have vowed to support law enforcement operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits amid a spate of attacks on military camps and civilian communities in Basilan.

"It's time for us to unite to stop them from sowing terrorism here," ARMM Gov. Mujiv

Hataman said during a meeting of ARMM mayors and other local officials during the Eid'l Fitr celebration at the Basilan State College. "What they want is to sow fear to innocent communities. We will not allow this."

Hataman said they received reports that Abu Sayyaf recruits from Zamboanga City, Sulu, and Zamboanga Sibugay have

reinforced the group in Basilan.

"I suspected they were pressured by military operations (in Sulu) that's why they transferred here," he said.

At least 1,000 families were displaced in Barangay Baguindan when a group led by Isnilon Hapilon and Furiji Indama attempted to hoist an Islamic State (IS) flag at the

town hall, according to Tipo-Tipo Vice Mayor Tong Istarul.

Al-Barka town mayor Lajid Darus said the militants also tried to hoist an IS flag at their municipal hall.

The military said Abu Sayyaf bandits have been firing at the camps of the 18th Infantry Battalion since Wednesday.

– Roel Pareño

July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 3

No ISIS threat in Davao – AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said that it has not yet received any reports of any threat from jihadist militant group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Davao City.

This was disclosed by AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya who reacted to a statement made by acting Davao City Mayor Paolo Duterte that the international terror group is intending to launch attacks in the city.

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

He also said that there was still no military assessment on the ISIS, and if it has any presence in the country.

"Per validation, none so far... only from groups like the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) that have publicly declared support to the said group," he said.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Leonardo Guerrero, the chief of the AFP's Eastern Mindanao Command, said that, as far as the military are concerned, they have not received any information regarding any ISIS threat to Davao City.

"Wala kaming information. Ito nga katatawag ko lang

sa Police Regional Office 11 (PRO-11), kasi as far as we are concerned, wala kaming nakukuhang information about iyong direct threat coming from ISIS sa Davao City," Guerrero said.

"Although alam naman natin na itong Davao City continues to be on the list of yung mga cities under threat ng terrorism pero iyung position naman natin continues to remain the same. Pero iyung threat directly coming from ISIS wala kaming information dun kaya ito vine-verify namin," he said.

July 2016



Page: 9

Duterte to meet with Nur in Sulu next week

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte is set to meet with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari in Sulu next week in an effort to get the rebel's support for the proposed shift to a federal form of government.

Duterte met with over 700 Muslims from all over the island in celebration of the Mindanao Hari Raya Eid'l Fitr

2016 held at the SMX Convention Center here in SM Lanang Premier yesterday.

Among those who attended the celebration were officials of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) led by vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar.

"We all believe in the same God. What you give to the MILF, you also give to the

MNLF," Duterte said.

To those wondering why there are not many Muslims in his Cabinet, Duterte explained the government is now thinking of a reconfiguration of the territory in Mindanao.

"We are trying to do a framework, and if I succeed in convincing everybody in

Mindanao, if I could convince my MILF brothers and Nur Misuari of the MNLF, there will be a reconfiguration of the territory. And most of them will occupy regional or state positions," Duterte said.

The President said that he foresees that toward the end of the year he will be able to come up with a framework on

federalism.

"But if the Filipino nation in a plebiscite would not want it, then I am ready to concede whatever is there in the Bangsamoro Basic Law. We will see to it that it will pass and also in fairness to Nur, we might also configure his territory for the Tausug nation," Duterte said. "We will have new boundaries."

He said the boundaries are not intended to separate Moros from Christians but only to delineate territories "that should not keep us apart from being Mindanaoans."

In another development, Duterte yesterday said the US engendered terrorism overseas that led to the ruin of Iraq, Syria and Libya.

– With Giovanni Nilles

July 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 19

MILF keeps optimism over peace talks alive

OZAMIZ CITY—Moro rebel leaders are keeping their optimism alive that the peace process started by the Aquino administration would be continued and sustained by the administration of President Duterte.

In an Eid al-Fitr message to members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), its chair, Murad Ebrahim, said efforts to keep the peace process moving under the Duterte administration were ongoing.

As soon as Duterte was declared winner of the presidential race, Murad said MILF had already launched "back channeling engagement" to preserve the gains of the peace process that led to the signing of a peace pact with the Aquino administration but fell short in its target of having a new law passed by Congress that would create a new autonomous setup for the Moro people.

The MILF central committee, according to Murad, had formed a group that discussed the peace process with close aides of Mr. Duterte. Murad did not identify who they were, though.

The initial discussion with Mr. Duterte's aides, said Murad, led to the one-on-one meeting between him and Mr. Duterte in Davao City on June 17.

Murad recounted that during the meeting, which lasted some 20 minutes, he and Mr. Duterte "had very substantive discussions toward the way forward in the search for peace."

"We are now working for the continuation of that back channeling discussions until we are able to start the formal engagement," said Murad.

He said there was also an agreement to hold another set of back channel talks next week.

It was not clear whether the next round of discussion would still involve Murad and Mr. Duterte or members of government and MILF peace panels.

The Duterte administration has not formed a peace panel for the MILF yet.

In his inaugural address on June 30, Mr. Duterte vowed to honor all peace agreements signed by previous administrations with both communist and Moro rebel groups.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the Duterte administration would also seek the convergence of peace initiatives with MILF and Moro National Liberation Front. *Ryan Rosauero, Inquirer Mindanao*

07 July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Duterte may consider BBL if federalism is rejected

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte yesterday vowed to effect change in the country in two to three years, stressing that if the nation rejects federalism he will consider the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Speaking at the Mindanao Hariraya

Edi'l Fitri 2016 at the SMX Convention Center Davao, Duterte said it is possible to restore peace in Mindanao and make a major overhaul in the government through federalism and encouraged the Moro people to build a nation "founded on peace and understanding."

"I might be able to do this within the six years. It will not be over- ▶7

night, certainly not next year, it would be something two to three years from now but I assure you something will change before I end my term," he said.

Duterte said he is coming up with a framework where – if both members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) would be convinced – there will be "reconfiguration of territory."

The President did not elaborate on the "reconfiguration" but he said if the nation will not agree on federalism, "I will proceed whatever is in the BBL."

He assured Muslims: "A promise is a promise. My word of

honor is something I value very much. Kaya ako pagnagbitaw ng salita yun na yun at hindi ko papalitan."

"I do not think there will be another chance for the Mindanaoans to expect change," he added.

Duterte said he does want to include the Abu Sayyaf in his fight against criminality because "these are the people who are driven by desperation".

"We are a nation, we are all brothers and sisters by blood. I am not including (the) Abu Sayyaf in the criminality because they are pushed to the wall because of the failed promises," he said.





July 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: 4

Rody eyes failed BBL if Con-Con is rejected

By John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte declared Friday night that he would ask Congress to pass the controversial Bangsamoro Basic Law pushed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front should Filipinos reject his proposed shift to federalism through a Constitutional Convention.

Speaking to the Muslim community during the *Eid'l-Fitr* celebration in Davao City, Duterte hoped he could persuade the Moro community to accept federalism because it will fulfill the aspirations of the Bangsamoro.

"If I could persuade everybody in Mindanao, if I could persuade my Muslim brothers, including Nur Misuari of the MNLF, there will be a reconfiguration of the territory and most of them would occupy regional and state positions," Duterte said.

He said his federalism proposal is also one of the reasons why Moros were not given key positions in the government even if he is a "son of Mindanao."

"It will be difficult because I see that at the end of the year, we will be able to come out with a framework on how to implement federalism," Duterte said.

"But if the Filipino nation [does not] want it, then I am ready to concede whatever is there in the BBL. We will see to it that it will be passed [by Congress]," he added.

Duterte also outlined some of his ideas on sub-states under a federal government, including, for instance, a separate territory for the Tausug people.

"In fairness to Nur, we will

reconfigure his territory for the Tausug nation. Then we will have new boundaries which are not intended to separate Moros from the Christians. Rather it is only to delineate territories," he said.

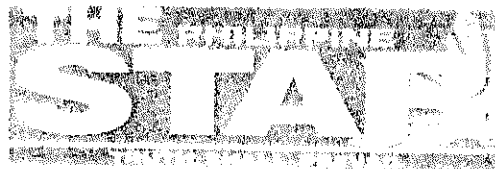
"But that should not keep us apart from being Mindanaoans because most of the Christians here in Mindanao are supporting federalism and the BBL," he said.

If he succeeds in pushing for Federalism, Duterte envisions the actual shift to come in the middle of his six-year term.

"We must accept that we will be a nation that will be founded on peace and understanding. I think, with the grace of Allah, I might be able to do it in six years. It will not be overnight but certainly it will come two to three years from now," he added.

"I assure you that something will change before I end my term so to my brothers in the MILF, a promise is a promise. My word of honor is something that I value very much so when I've already given my word, that is it and I will not change it," the President said. "These are things that we must work in, our aspirations. This will be another chance for the Mindanaoans to expect change, it might not come again," he added.

(2) July 2016



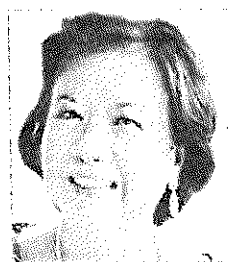
Page: 11

From A Distance

By CARMEN N. PEDROSA

Of crying generals and the bravest Filipinos soldiers

I don't know what you make of it but I was repelled by the story of crying generals. To my mind, generals whether good or bad do not cry. We would never have known who these generals were until we had a brave leader, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte came along to expose them. He gave them ample warning to resign and surrender but still they refused, relying instead on our ignorance. They could have continued with their alleged criminal lives under the protection of a government that did not care. Duterte cared.



Yet when they were apprehended for alleged crimes committed during their tenure they broke down and cried. One would expect that they were made of sterner stuff and strong enough to accept they had been wrong. But to cry? Geez. I have only read the story in the newspapers. But I can imagine how they thought that crying on the shoulder of the newly appointed Gen. Bato de la Rosa would have pity on them, as it would have been in past uncaring Philippine governments.

These self-centered men who are supposed to defend us have been utterly disgraced. It is not they who should be pitied. Instead we do need to cry and feel pity for their victims – the men, women and children who were victims of the drug cartels they protected. No crying can right the wrongs that were done to them.

If we did not have a Duterte, these crying generals would have continued with the evil trade and the damage it did to our countrymen and country. It is what we should cry for.

Duterte named Deputy Director General Marcelo Garbo Jr. (retired), Chief Superintendent Vicente Loot (retired), Chief Superintendent Bernardo Diaz, Director Joel Pagdilao, and Chief Superintendent Edgardo Tinio as the police officials involved in the illegal drug trade.

My cousin, Rose Adea Sarte whose father, Gen Luis Adea, was also a military man and who in the Bataan Match was so moved by this incongruity of crying generals. She sent me this post that we should not despair. It told that crying generals are not what the Philippine military is all about. The post comes from the blog *Filipknow*. It is entitled "The Ten Most Fearsome One Man Filipino Armies." It tells of men who fought bravely till their dying day. I have never heard their names until I read the post. She wanted to console me that there there are Filipino generals and soldiers whom we can be proud of and it is a good antidote to compare with the crying generals.

These men can inspire us not to lose hope. We do have good and brave generals.

Douglas MacArthur was so moved by their bravery and heroism he said, "Give me ten thousand Filipinos and we will conquer the world." He knew some of them first hand. They should not be forgotten in the scandal of crying generals accused of protecting drug lords and crooked politicians.

"Filipinos are warrior race, often fighting with the odds stacked against them. A glance at the different battles and wars Filipinos fought throughout history prove that," adds the post.

It also talked of the unbelievable display of fighting prowess and near-reckless abandon by these Filipinos who were literal one-man armies. MacArthur's praise for ten thousand able to conquer the world is something to be reminded of in these days.

Among the one-man armies MacArthur was referred to were Jesus Villamor, Narciso Ortilano, Jose Nespiros, Jose Bandon Jr., Romualdo Rubi, Julius Javier, Ramon Alcaraz, Jose Ignacio Pua. And Rodelio Caballes.

Here are some excerpts on their bravery.

"Arguably one of the greatest Filipino pilots ever, Villamor led a squadron (read: six) of P-26 fighters against 54 Japanese enemy planes consisting of dozens of Mitsubishi Zeros over the skies of Batangas during the opening stages of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in December 1941.

Where many of us would probably falter at the sight of bayonet-wielding Japanese screaming "Banzai" at the top of their lungs, Ortilano did the exact opposite. Guarding his machine gun nest in the wee hours of the morning on January 12, 1942 in his sector of Bataan, Ortilano was suddenly greeted by gunfire and the screams of 11 heavily-armed Japanese soldiers who broke out of a nearby sugarcane field and who were quickly charging towards his position.

With his fellow machine-gunner killed by the initial hail of bullets, Ortilano alone manned his machine gun and took out four of them until it finally jammed. Undeterred, Ortilano took out his pistol and shot another five dead.

A native of La Union, Nisperos earned his colors when as a Philippine Scout he fought off a huge number of Moro insurgents who ambushed his unit in Lapurap, Basilan on Sept. 24, 1911.

Barely able to stand due to bleeding from several stab wounds and having his left arm broken with a gunshot wound, Nisperos nevertheless kept firing his rifle with his right hand at the assailants until they finally withdrew.

In the six-hour gunfight, Bandong was hit with a bullet to the left shoulder. Seeing they were about to be overwhelmed, Bandong heroically ordered his men to withdraw and took it upon himself to make a last stand.

His supreme sacrifice of which he earned a posthumous Medal of Valor no doubt saved the lives of his men. Legend has it he also ordered artillery to be fired on his position to wipe out the enemy.

Julius Javier was also deemed to be "unkillable" as he survived his armed encounters and at least three attempts on his life without injury, leaving some to believe he wore an amulet that protected him from harm. However, two of Javier's greatest accomplishments involved him defeating the enemy without firing a single shot.

The namesake of one of our warships, Ramon Alcaraz was one of the naval heroes of World War II. Then an officer of the Offshore Patrol (the predecessor to the Philippine Navy), Alcaraz commanded the torpedo boat Q-112.

During the war, he and his men engaged nine Japanese Zeros and destroyed three of them in battle on January 17, 1942, earning him a Silver Star in the process. Earlier, he had also successfully sunk 15 ships in the Pasig River to prevent the Japanese from using them.

Paua was the only full-blooded Chinese who fought as a general on the side of the Filipino revolutionaries in their struggle against the Spanish and later the Americans. We didn't mention that aside from being a noted blacksmith and untiring fund-seeker for his compatriots, Paua was also a badass martial artist who used his skills in actual combat."

I was indeed consoled Rosemary, daughter of a military general with this post.

★

ONLINE NEWS 09 JULY 2016

www.bomboradyo.com

13 sundalong nagpositibo sa droga, bibigyan ng 'due process'

By: Analyn Soberano

Trinayak ng pamunuan ng AFP na bibigyan ng "due process" ang 13 sundalo ng Philippine Army na nagpositibo sa droga sa isinagawang mandatory drug test na isinagawa sa Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City nitoong July 5.

Ayon kay Philippine Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao na kapag napatunayang positibo sa "confirmatory test" ang mga sundalo ay sapat na itong ebidensya para tanggalin sila sa serbisyo.

Pero, singuro ni Col. Hao na isasailalim naman ang mga ito sa "due process" base sa umiiral na batas laban sa illegal drugs.

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

Sa ngayon nasa custody na ng Philippine Army ang 13 sundalo at isinailalim na sila sa masusing imbestigasyon.

Ayon kay Col. Hao, noong 2013, may 131 sundalo na sangkot sa illegal drugs ang na-dismiss sa serbisyo. At naman noong 2014, 30 noong 2015 at limang sundalo ngayong taon.

"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," dagdag pa ni Hao.

www.dwdd.com.ph

WINNING THE PEACE | 69 NPA Members Surrender



Camp Aquino, Tarlac City (DWDD) - Sixty Nine (69) members of New People's Army (NPA's) Milliano Eavan (ME) for Carangays Western Unit, Under Unit and Lower Unit (Subsector Kalang) voluntarily surrendered to Metro Compsaw.

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

General Military Operations Battalion (GMOB) of 1st Infantry Division of the Philippine Army on 11 Oct and yesterday (10 Oct) 2016.

The surrender was initiated by Former Rebels themselves through the efforts of 5th CMOBn of the Philippine Army. The following firearms which the 1st MPAs voluntarily surrendered to the authorities were the following: one (1) Carbine, one (1) Carbine M2 (HK4), one (1) Shotgun (PDA), two (2) Springfield Rifles, one (1) .45 Pistol, five (5) .38 Revolvers and one (1) .22 Magnum Revolver with assorted ammunition.

The good working relationship between the division and the AFP in the area resulted in a successful and peaceful surrender of the said armed supporters. This effort is in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's recent campaign statement "enslaving effect rebels to come down from the mountains, come home and talk".

The accomplishment of having a huge number of surrenderees in a single batch is a rare feat which can only be done by espousing genuine relations and trust in the true spirit of Pacification. P/O NOLCOM / MCAG

10/10/2016 10:00 AM

Abu Sayyaf member caught in Basilan

By Roel Pareño

ISABELA CITY, Philippines - Government troops captured a member of the Abu Sayyaf group Friday while trying to evade military offensive operation against the group in Al-Barka town in Basilan, according to official.

Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) confirmed the arrest of the suspect in a checkpoint set up by the military forces in Barangay Magcawa Al-Barka.

"The suspect came inside the operational ground in Al-Barka and tried to pass a checkpoint," Hataman said.

According to the governor, the suspect was not immediately identified since he was not able to present any document. He only claimed to be coming from Zamboanga Sibugay.

Hataman said the arrest confirmed his reports that Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf militants are reinforced by residents outside the province.

He said the military reported that they are fighting about 200 Abu Sayyaf bandits and are trying to establish their caliphate in Tipo-Tipo, Ungkaya Pukan and Al-Barka.

Based on the information received from local officials, about 30 of the militants came from Sitio Marangan, Barangay Mutri in an east coast village of Zamboanga City while others came from Zamboanga Sibugay.

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

AFP chief Gen. Visaya is now a four-star general

By Frances Mangosing



Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya received his fourth star on Friday, exactly a week after he assumed the top military post.

Defense Secretary Dellin Lorenzana presided the donning of ranks at Camp Aguinaldo. Visaya was accompanied by his wife Mildred, said AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, Visaya is the 48th chief of staff of the AFP. Prior to his appointment, he was the commander of the Southern Luzon Command based in Quezon.

A four-star rank is the highest military position and is exclusive to the AFP chief.

Visaya was accorded with full military honors at the General Headquarters, attended by the joint staff, top generals, enlisted personnel and civilian employees at Camp Aguinaldo.

Later on the same day, Visaya visited the Philippine Air Force headquarters in Pasay. He was awarded the PAF Aviator's Gold Wings as the top leader of the AFP.

Padilla said that Visaya told the troops to hone its state of readiness for disaster response amid the monsoon rains brought by Typhoon Bitchov (Nepartak). *CDG*

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

www.interaksyon.com

'Strengthen ranks, launch offensives' while working in alliance with Duterte - CPP
By InterAksyon.com

MANILA, Philippines -- The New People's Army has been ordered to strengthen its ranks and continue launching tactical offensives against "enemy units that have committed fascist crimes against the people" amid efforts to forge an alliance with the Duterte administration.

In an editorial in its official publication, *Ang Bayan*, the Communist Party of the Philippines also urged its armed wing to "disarm and arrest the biggest criminals involved in peddling illegal drugs" and to "launch actions to protect the environment against destructive mining, logging and plantation operations."

The editorial, written in Filipino, acknowledged that "great potential" of building a "progressive and pro-people alliance between Duterte and the national democratic forces" even as it stressed that its forces are aware of "the limitations of this alliance" and the "dangers of being tied down, sucked up and drowned by this work."

It recognized that Duterte himself "is working on and pushing this alliance" even as it pointed out that he is also the head of a "reactionary state" that remains dominated by elite and foreign interests.

Nevertheless, it said the current situation "opens a huge political opportunity for the national democratic forces," with the "people's agenda" at the center of "national ... discourse and debate," to win the support and cooperation of sectors, organizations, institutions and "even officials of the reactionary government" through a nationwide educational campaign, both in the urban areas and countryside.

It also said the imminent resumption of formal peace negotiations between the Duterte government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines would help "strengthen the progressive aspect of Duterte and the prospects for forging a solid alliance through formal agreements that will serve as the general program of action of such an alliance."

www.pna.gov.ph

Eastmincom head orders drug-testing among military personnel

MANILA, July 8 (PNA) -- The military's Eastern Mindanao Command head Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has ordered all his commanders to intensify drug-testing efforts in the EMC.

He said this is part of the effort to cleanse the organization of scalawags, and to enhance security measures being implemented especially in Davao Region, he added.

Guerrero also ordered his subordinate commanders to strengthen their operations against illegal drugs and terror groups and work closely with their Philippine National Police counterparts on the matter.

He cited, as basis for such actions, the provisions of the Joint Action Plan recently signed between the EMC and Directorate for Integrated Police Operations-Eastern Mindanao. (PNA)

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

Intel report on alleged ISIS threats on Davao City not from AFP, PN

MANILA, July 8 (PNA) -- Intelligence reports claiming that Davao City is under terror threat from the Islamic State (ISIS) did not come from the military or police, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"Per verification...the info (regarding alleged ISIS threat against Davao City) did not come from the AFP or the Philippine National Police. It could come from another source that we are not aware of," Padilla told PNA.

Acting Davao City Mayor Paolo Duterte earlier said that ISIS militants are threatening to attack the southern city.

The local military and police have been alerted to avert the plot, Duterte said. He did not elaborate on the threat which he said is still being validated by authorities.

Earlier, AFP chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya said there are no ISIS groups or cells in the Philippines.

"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 said.

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

He asked the public to be vigilant and report individuals who are acting suspiciously. (PNA)

www.dwdd.com.ph

FOURTH STAR | CSAFP Gen Ricardo R Visaya

By: Alvin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUIÑAL DO, Quezon City (DWDD) – General Ricardo R. Visaya AFP was honored his Fourth Star in a special ceremony at the Ceremonial Area of the Department of National Defense Secretary of National Defense Hon. Delfin Lorenzana led the ceremony.

The award was witnessed by Mrs. Milind Visaya and her members of the general staff AES / RMACS

www.dwdd.com.ph

BGen Padilla: Intel report on the alleged Daesh threat in Davao City not from AFP, PNP.

By: Marycel Necio Batara

MANILA – Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Reginato Padilla said intelligence reports claiming that Davao City is under terror threat from the Islamic State (ISIS) did not come from the military or police.

But verification...the info (regarding alleged ISIS threat against Davao City) did not come from the AFP or the Philippine National Police. It could come from another source that we are not aware of," Padilla told PDA.

Armed Davao City Mayor Paolo Duterte earlier said that ISIS militants are threatening to attack the southern city.

The local military and police have been alerted to avoid the plot, Duterte said. He did not elaborate on the threat which he said is still being evaluated by authorities.

Earlier, AFP chief of staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya said there are no ISIS groups or cells in the Philippines.

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

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

28

"I would not expect any similar report will be always ignored threats are part of our intelligence units monitoring efforts," Misaya said.

He asked the public to be vigilant and report individuals who are acting suspiciously.

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP deploys another peacekeeping contingent in Haiti

MANILA, July 8 (PNA) -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has deployed Friday a 135-strong peacekeeping contingent to quake devastated Haiti.

The send-off ceremonies at Villamor Air Base, Pasay City was headed by AFP chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya, Army commander Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgardo Fallorina, AFP chief-of-operations Major Gen. Carlito Galvez and AFP Peacekeeping Operations Center head Col. Eugenio Hernandez.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the 135-strong Filipino contingent will serve in Haiti for one year.

The contingent is the Philippines' contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Operations worldwide.

To date, this is the country's largest deployment after the Philippines pulled out its contingent in Liberia and Golan Heights.

The 20th contingent is led by Col Rosalio Pompa of the Philippine Army and is supported by a complement of 15 officers and 119 enlisted personnel, 14 of whom are women.

They will replace the former contingent which will arrive in the country on July 11. (PNA)