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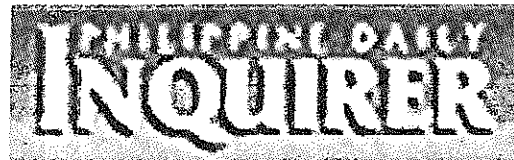
## **OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**24 July 2016**

**Sunday**

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

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 24, 2016 | SUNDAY**

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA  
EXTENDING OVER NORTHERN LUZON  
(July 23, 5:00 AM)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:37 AM	6:28 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
8:08 PM	8:26 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b>	<b>LAST QUARTER</b>
JULY 20 8:27 AM	JULY 27 7:00 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH 7:46 PM	MANILA NORTH 11:48 AM
0.07 Meter	1.24 Meter

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

City	10P-7P	7P-4P	4P-2P	2P-12N	12N-5A	5A-8A
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	26-32°C	25-32°C	22-29°C	22-30°C	24-33°C	24-32°C
<b>TUQUEGARAO</b>	23-34°C	25-34°C	25-34°C	25-34°C	25-33°C	24-32°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	24-32°C	24-32°C	26-34°C	26-33°C	24-33°C	24-33°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17-23°C	17-23°C	26-34°C	25-33°C	24-33°C	23-32°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24-33°C	24-32°C	25-32°C	25-33°C		
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>						
<b>LEGAZPI</b>						
<b>TACLOBAN</b>						
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>						
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>						
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>						
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>						
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>						
<b>METRO CEBU</b>						

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

**SABOT KO, PADALA MO!**

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# Church: Thou shall not kill

## Message to Duterte to coincide with Sona

By Julie M. Aurelio

THOU shall not kill.

The Sixth Commandment is the message for President Duterte that will emanate from a Mass which the Archdiocese of Manila will hold tomorrow afternoon as he delivers his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) to Congress.

The Mass will mark the launching of the "Huwag Kang Papatay" (Thou Shall Not Kill) campaign, which aims to bring together the families of the victims of extrajudicial killings that have come with the

Duterte administration's war on illegal drugs.

Those people—drug users, pushers and dealers—can no longer change their ways because they are already dead, according to an official of the



Archdiocese of Manila.

"We believe, especially in the Year of Mercy, that we have a chance of showing our love of God. But because of this (the extrajudicial killings), there's no more love because there's no more life who will ask for forgiveness and mercy," Fr. Ati-

lano Fajardo said over Radio Veritas yesterday.

Fajardo is the director of the Manila archdiocese's Public Affairs Ministry, which will hold the Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church on San Marcelino Street in Ermita district.

The Mass, which will start at 5 p.m., includes prayers for the victims of the extrajudicial killings and police operations and their families.

Churchgoers have been asked to wear black and bring candles for a program that will start at 4:30 p.m., by which

CHURCH/A4

# Church: Thou shall not kill

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time President Duterte will have begun to address Congress.

Since Mr. Duterte took office on June 30, more than 300 suspected drug users, pushers and dealers have been killed by police or vigilantes across the Philippines.

More than 10,000 drug dependents have turned themselves in to police out of fear for their lives.

During the campaign for the May 9 presidential election, Mr. Duterte promised to stamp out illegal drugs and wipe out crime within the first six months of his presidency.

Mr. Duterte, who has been linked to vigilante killings in Davao City, where he served as mayor for 23 years, gave the police the go-signal for a merciless campaign against drugs even before he took office.

Catholic Church officials have slammed the "lack of moral outcry" among the public over the killing of drug suspects.

## Robbed of their rights

Fajardo said the killings were equivalent to robbing the suspects of their right to due process and a chance to change their lives.

"We will pray for the souls of

our slain brothers. We invite the families of those slain to attend," Fajardo said.

He said he would make a personal appeal to Mr. Duterte concerning the extrajudicial killings.

Masses will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church every last Monday of the month as part of the campaign against extrajudicial killings, Fajardo said.

Campaigners will wear black shirts marked "*Huwag kang Patay*" and posters will be put up in schools, churches and public vehicles to drum up support for the campaign.

"There will be talks and forums on the Sixth Commandment and how [extrajudicial killings are] becoming the new normal. We are consolidating all [opponents] of extrajudicial killings," Fajardo said.

"We denounce the extrajudicial killings happening in the country, done by men in uniform, by vigilantes and other groups... under the baton of the maestro. We uphold due process of law and the dignity of human life," he said.

The latest to fall in the government's narcotics campaign was a suspected drug lord, Chinese national Meco Tan, who was killed by police in Valen-

zuela City early on Friday.

Mr. Duterte has said some local officials, including governors and mayors, are among the protectors of drug syndicates, although he has not named them.

Yesterday, Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad urged Mr. Duterte to name those local officials in his address to Congress tomorrow.

"I want to hear in the [State of the Nation Address] the names of those governors and mayors allegedly coddling illegal drug syndicates," Jumoad said in a statement.

Mr. Duterte has named five high-ranking police officials allegedly protecting drug syndicates.

The five officials—Chief Supt. Bernardo Diaz, retired Deputy Director General Marcelo Garbo, retired Chief Supt. Vicente Loot, Chief Supt. Joel Pagdilao and Chief Supt. Edgardo Tinio—have denied the President's accusations.

Romblon Bishop Arturo Bastes also issued a statement, saying Mr. Duterte should respect the rule of law in his campaign against drugs.

"I hope he will respect human rights by not introducing the death penalty and by following the rule of law in punishing drug offenders," Bastes said.

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## Emergency? Dial 911 starting August

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has formally assigned code "911" as the national emergency hotline number beginning next month in compliance with a directive from President Duterte.

In Memorandum Circular (MC) 06-07-2016 dated July 21, the

NTC said code "911" shall be made available for the use of the Philippine government, while Memorandum Order 07-07-2016 dated July 20 stipulates the use of code 911 as emergency hotline number nationwide.

"From Aug. 1, 2016, all public telecommunications entities shall

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## Emergency?

From Page 1

route '911' calls to the existing PATROL 117 Command Center until the new 911 Command Center is established and made operational. Thereafter, all '911' calls shall be routed to the 911 Command Center," NTC Com-

missioner Gamaliel Cordoba said.

Earlier this month, PLDT and Globe Telecom signed an agreement with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Information and Communications Technology and NTC for a transition to the new 911 system from the existing Patrol 117.

The agreement includes a recommendation for Duterte to issue an executive order transferring the authority of the current Patrol 117 Commission to a new legal entity to handle the 911 system.

In Davao City where the President had served as mayor for decades, code 911 has been in use for a long time for quick emergency response.



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## Narcs arrest ex-mayor tagged as Mindanao drug queen

**By Jigger J. Jerusalem**  
*Inquirer Mindanao*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Authorities arrested a former Lanao del Sur mayor who allegedly heads a drug syndicate that operates in five of Mindanao's six regions, her soldier-husband and several other suspects during a raid here on Saturday.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Northern Mindanao considered the arrest of former Maguing town mayor Johaira Abinal as one of its major accomplishments in the antidrug campaign of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Armed with a search warrant issued by a local judge, operatives of the PDEA and the Cagayan de Oro City police office stormed the compound owned by Abinal and her husband, Army Maj. Suharto Macabuat in Grand Ballon in Barangay Kauswagan here around 11 a.m.

Major Macabuat is assigned to the Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Seized inside the couple's two-story house, where other individuals also reside, were packets of suspected shabu weighing 200 grams, cash and a .45 caliber pistol with live ammunition.

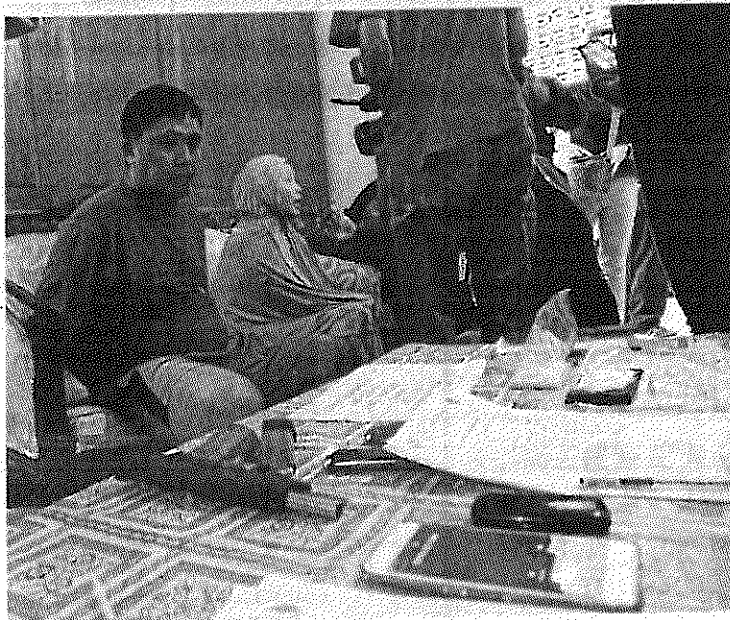
Also arrested during the operation was Sonny Santican, also an alleged member of the drug ring, and six other individuals.

Adrian Alvaro, PDEA Northern Mindanao chief, told reporters that the former mayor heads the Abinal drug ring, described as the biggest supplier of shabu in the regions of Southern Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"They (Abinal drug group) are dealing drugs in bulk," Alvaro said.

"If the orders are huge, [the payment is done] through bank to bank transactions, and on consignment basis," Alvaro said.

Alvaro said the group obtains its supply from Chinese drug lords in Manila and has been in the illegal drug trade for the



JIGGER/JERUSALEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

**JOHAIRA Abinal, allegedly the biggest supplier of drugs in five regions in Mindanao, talks to reporters following her arrest by narcotics agents in Cagayan de Oro City. Beside her is husband Maj. Suharto Macabuat.**

past 15 years.

"This is the first time group members had been arrested," he said.

Abinal denied involvement in drug trafficking.

In Glan, Sarangani, Mayor Victor James Van warned, the

1,693 confessed drug users and pushers, who surrendered there on Wednesday, against returning to their illegal activities.

"If they abide by the terms and conditions of their surrender, the local government will do whatever it takes to help them

start a new life. If not, sorry, but their family will be spared the funeral expenses," he said.

Aside from providing free cemetery lots, free coffins and free funeral services for slain drug suspects, Yap said the municipal government would also shoulder other funeral expenses, including for foods and drinks served during the wake.

"Their family will be spared the funeral expenses," he said.

Yap said those who would permanently stop their vices and get out of the drug trade after their surrender would be given free rehabilitation and technical training programs.

He also offered interest-free loans from his own pocket for "retired" drug pushers, so they could start new businesses. Those wanting to look for jobs in other areas or abroad would also be provided financial cash assistance to defray their expenses in applying for jobs.

"I say to you now and I won't say it again: reform or rest forever in peace," Yap said. *With a report from Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao*

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Army pushes outreach program to neutralize NPA's presence

**BUTUAN CITY** — The Municipal Peace and Order Council (MPOC) in Malimono town, Surigao del Norte has intensified the implementation of the Army's peace and development outreach program (PDOP) in an effort to end conflict and pursue peace in its locality.

Officials of MPOC have mobilized all department heads of the municipal government of Malimono as well as all barangay officials to extend support for all activities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through the PDOP "Bayanihan" initiatives.

A declassified military intelligence source said some of the barangays of Malimono town are already penetrated by the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Because of this development, the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB) deployed PDOP quick reaction teams (QRTs) to intensify their "Bayanihan" approach to neutralize the NPA, said First Lieutenant Ryan Layug, 30th IB Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer, yesterday.

"It's time to put an end to the presence of NPAs in Malimono town," said Mayor Wallace Sinaca during a recent MPOC meeting.

"Investors already denied us and we must not allow the next generations to face difficulty in finding jobs just because they came from an NPA-influenced town.

We will implement and support PDOP," he added.

"Some barangay chairpersons are now being manipulated by the NPAs. I will commit one company of soldiers here in Malimono to remove your fear and maintain security," said Lt. Col. Rico Amaro, 30th IB commander.

According to reports from concerned residents, the NPA is desperate to maintain its hold in Malimono because of the small-scale illegal mining operations where they reportedly get a share. Farmers, fisherfolks, store owners, jeepney operators, government employees and other businesses in Malimono are being collected with revolutionary tax.

"This NPA activity must be stopped," Col. Amaro added.

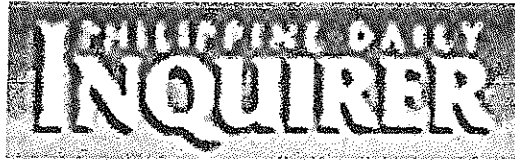
In another development, a total of 204 barangays of Surigao del Sur province had been cleared of rebel influence by the AFP.

Col. Isidro L. Purisima, commanding officer of the Army's 402nd Infantry Brigade said that this was through the collaborative efforts of "Bayanihan" which was conducted in the different communities, and government services which had been brought closer to the people.

"With the conduct of the series of youth leadership summits to the young adults, we empowered them and created awareness on their role in nation-building," he said. (Mike U. Crismundo)



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# Left encounters no cop, soldier in trek to Sona

UP TO 5,000 members of leftist groups now on their way to Quezon City to hold a rally near the Legislative Building during the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Duterte tomorrow have been given a clear path to their destination.

Pastor Dan Balucio, secretary general of the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Bicol, said in an interview during the groups' stopover in Naga City that 191 buses carried delegates from different leftist groups from areas in Mindanao and Bicol region and were not blocked by soldiers or policemen on the road.

Leftist groups headed for past Sona under the Arroyo and Aquino administrations had been blocked from proceeding to the Batasang Pambansa, which the House of Representatives occupies, by security forces.

Marches and rallies by leftist groups during Sona have been marked by antigovernment slogans and placards and streamers that condemn government

shortcomings.

This time, however, leftist groups have taken on a different appearance.

The rallies that leftist groups from Mindanao plan for tomorrow's Sona would be in support of Mr. Duterte, who had described himself as a socialist though not "dyed in the wool."

On June 19, Min-

danao-based leftist groups started a five-day travel to Quezon City hoping to present a 15-point "Mindanao People's Agenda" to Mr. Duterte tomorrow.

Bai Ali Indayla, of Gabriela and secretary general of the Moro human rights group Kagawib, said the leftists who would rally during the Sona are in support of Mr. Duterte's propeople and progressive policies.

The march, dubbed Manilakbayan, is being led by Gabriela and other leftist groups, like Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Bayan, and human rights advocates in Mindanao.

Indayla said up to 5,000 people are taking part in Manilakbayan.

Members of leftist groups from the Davao regions, Central Mindanao and north and western Mindanao assembled at the Surigao barge terminal in Liloan, Surigao del Norte and travelled together to Que-

zon City by land.

Indayla said the groups would present to Mr. Duterte several pressing issues that people from Mindanao confront, including the heavy presence of government soldiers in indigenous people's (IP) communities.

Other issues that the leftist Mindanao groups are to present to Mr. Duterte are genuine agrarian reform, national industrialization and promotion of workers' rights.

Carlo Olalo, of KMU, said the groups are also demanding an end to contractualization and a P750 minimum wage.

The Mindanao groups stopped over Naga City on Friday.

In an interview in Naga City, Indayla said the groups are also supporting peace talks with communist rebels which Mr. Duterte has given priority to.

The talks, said Indayla, is the "venue to address the roots of armed conflict."

In Southern Mindanao alone, Indayla said the heavy presence of government soldiers has led to

the killings of 67 lumad under the Aquino administration.

The lumad, said Indayla, had fallen victims to the Aquino administration's "Oplan Bayanihan", a counterinsurgency campaign. Members of IP communities, she said, are being tagged as communist rebels or sympathizers.

She said leftist groups are also wary of US intervention in the talks, which has been indicated by the US State Department's listing of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, New People's Army, as terror groups.

**Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao and Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon**

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Business Mirror

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## Militant legislators seek RP-US Edca abrogation

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

@joveemarie

**M**EMBERS of the Makabayan Bloc in the House of Representatives are pushing for a resolution calling for the abrogation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines (RP).

In House Resolution 31, Party-list Reps. Ariel Casilao of Anakpawis, Carlos Zarate of Bayan Muna and Emmi de Jesus of Gabriela said Edca violates the Philippines's sovereignty, imperils the geopolitical situation in the West Philippine Sea and endangers the livelihood of farmers, fishermen and tribal communities.

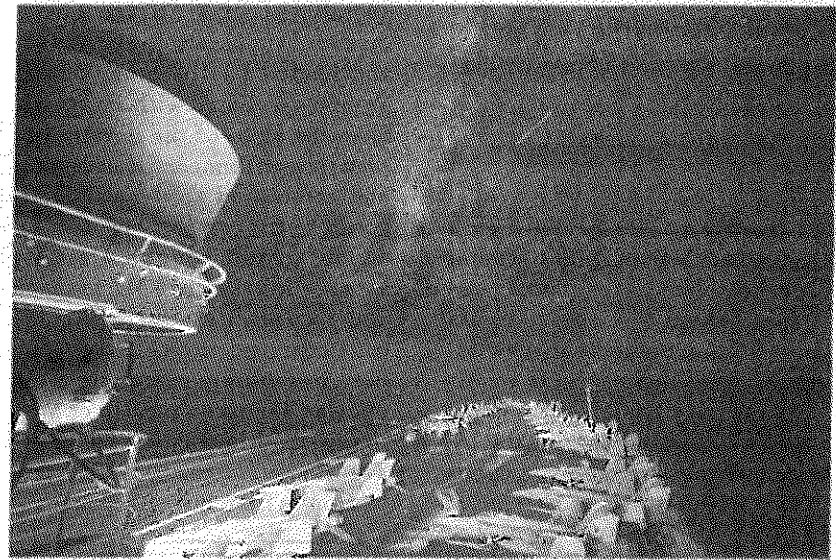
Edca was signed by former Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin and US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg in Manila on April 28, 2014, just before the arrival of US President Barack Obama.

The lawmakers said the growing US military presence in the Philippines has negatively affected the country's international relations with other countries, such as China.

"Chinese aggression in the region correspondingly heightens as already shown in the latter's incursive moves in the West Philippine Sea, its banning of Filipino fisherfolk in the Panatag Shoal, and its construction of man-made airstrips in the Fiery Cross Reef, Spratly Islands," they added.

They said the continued US military presence in the country through Edca complicates and even jeopardizes the country's claim to the West Philippine Sea.

Moreover, prior to the signing,



AIRCRAFT, shooting stars and planets, are visible from the flight deck of the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as it transits the Luzon Strait. Ronald Reagan is the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5 and is on patrol in the US Seventh Fleet area of responsibility supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. US NAVY PHOTO

the lawmakers said the details of the agreement were not made public and the preparatory meetings conducted by the departments of Foreign Affairs and National Defense, and Office of the President regarding the drafting of the Framework Agreement for the Increased Rotational Presence, which started way back in 2011, were kept secret.

They said the joint RP-US Balikatan Exercise through the years have affected the communities of farmers and Aeta tribesmen around Camp O' Donnell and Crow Valley mountain range in Capas, Tarlac; around Clark Air Base in Pampanga; the Fort Ramon Magsaysay military reservation in Nueva Ecija; and other areas in the country.

"These military exercises also affect the fishermen's communities in Subic and San Antonio,

Zambales, around Sangley Point in Cavite, Mactan Air Base in Cebu, San Jose, Antique, Puerto Princesa City and Oyster Bay in Palawan and other military bases and reservations in the country," the party-list legislators added.

They said the country was transformed into a virtual US military base in the Asia-Pacific region, where US armed forces units have practically been given free rein in conducting operations of whatever nature in strategic points inside Philippine territory.

In fact, the lawmakers said, American soldiers are allowed to use the Antonio Bautista Air Base in Palawan; Basa Air Base in Pampanga; Fort Ramon Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; Lumbia Air Base in Cagayan de Oro; and Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu.

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## DND chief to meet with Indonesian, Malaysian counterparts

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana is set to meet with his Malaysian and Indonesian counterparts in Indonesia in the first week of August, 2016.

The Trilateral Meeting scheduled for August follows up on the first meeting among the three countries which was held in Manila last June.

The defense chiefs of the three countries, it was recalled, discussed cooperative means to address the growing security challenges that undermine peace, security and prosperity in the region.

Among the problems they expect to immediately address range from kidnapping, robbery against ships, transnational crimes, and terrorism.

Authorities from the three countries particularly expressed concern over the series of kidnappings of Indonesian and Malaysian sailors, which is believed to have been carried out by members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

In the past month, at least 14 Indonesian sailors and four Malaysian seafarers were kidnapped along the Sulu archipelago. A number of kidnap victims has since been freed by their captors.

Also this week, five Malaysian nationals were also reportedly kidnapped by armed men suspected to be members of the Abu Sayyaf along the border of Sabah, Malaysia and Tawi-Tawi.

The Philippines, it was recalled, has a border patrol agreement with Indonesia since 1975 called RPRI Border Patrol Agreement.

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## South China Sea ruling fueling regional tensions

It's a ruling that China cannot accept, and one that the Philippines must.

An international arbitration panel's decision on the contested waters of the South China Sea so far is fueling regional tensions rather than tamping them down.

In the ensuing 11 days, China has responded to the sweeping victory for the Philippines by flexing its mili-

tary might. The Philippines faces pressure both at home and abroad not to cede an inch to China after the July 12 decision by a tribunal at The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration.

The South China Sea is dotted with reefs and rocky outcroppings that several governments claim, including China and the Philippines. The arbitration panel

didn't take a position on who owns the disputed territories. It did conclude that many of them are legally rocks, even if they've been built into islands, and therefore do not include the rights to develop the surrounding waters. That and other findings invalidated much of what China has called its historic claims to the resource-rich sea.

In order to ease tensions, China, the Philippines and possibly other claimants must define what the ruling means for fishing, offshore oil and gas exploration, and military and other activities in the vast body of water that lies between the southern Chinese coast and the Philippine archipelago.

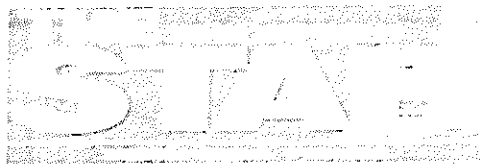
A major diplomatic test starts today in Laos at a

three-day meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers that will include sessions with their Chinese and US counterparts. Past ASEAN meetings have broken down over disagreements between those taking China's side and those opposing it. The US, whose Navy patrols the waters, has called on China to abide by the ruling while also urging calm.

Longer-term, there are compelling reasons for China and the Philippines to talk, but also significant obstacles to that happening. Unless the two sides can find a way around their impasse, the ruling may simply prolong the South China Sea's long-running territorial disputes, which also involve Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei in a mesh of overlapping claims. - AP



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## Breakthrough

By **ELFREN S. CRUZ**



### Red line in Scarborough

Is China drawing the "red line" in the Spratlys? Is the United States ready to draw a "red line" in the Scarborough Shoal? Where is the Philippine "red line" in the South China Sea after the Arbitration Tribunal rulings favoring the Philippine claims against China?

The phrase "to cross the red line" is used worldwide to mean a figurative point of no return or line in the sand or a limit past which safety can no longer be guaranteed. The phrase has been used in geopolitical terms. For example, in 1975 Israel said that the United States "has managed to draw a red line which all Arab countries know they must not cross – that America is not going to sacrifice Israel for the sake of Arab support."

A week ago, it sounded like China – or at least its Armed Forces – seemed to be drawing a red line. The American Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson visited the Chinese North Sea Fleet headquarters in Qingdao. During the visit, Admiral Wu, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Navy, immediately lectured Admiral Richardson on the Tribunal's ruling against China's claims saying: "The Chinese navy is prepared to react to any infringement of rights or aggression...efforts to force us to succumb to pressure will only be counterproductive. We will never stop our construction on the Nansha (Spratly) Islands...The Nansha (Spratly) Islands are China's inherent territory, and our necessary construction on the islands is reasonable, justified and lawful...Any attempt to force China to give in through flexing military muscles will only have the opposite effect."

Admiral Richardson immediately countered and said: "The US Navy will continue to conduct routine and lawful operations around the world, including the South China Sea in order to protect the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of sea and airspace guaranteed to all."

There are two potential sources of conflicts in this disputed region. The first is Scarborough Shoal; and, the second is the declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the South China Sea.

China's occupation of Scarborough Shoal has always been a big issue for the Philippines because Filipino fishermen have been forcibly deprived of fishing rights by Chinese maritime vessels. At the same time, Chinese fishermen have been fishing in the area and destroying the marine environment.

Scarborough Shoal has also been a serious concern for the United States because there are reports that China is planning to turn Scarborough into another artificial island and possibly build an airbase similar to the seven artificial islands built in the Spratlys. This Shoal is not only ideal fishing grounds but is also ideally located to control the northeast exit route of the South China Sea.

Scarborough is only 150 nautical miles west of Subic Bay. If this is turned into a base with an airfield, radar and other modern surveillance equipment, China will have full time radar coverage over most of Luzon and the capability to declare an ADIZ over the Exclusive Economic Zone claimed by the Philippines and recognized by the Arbitration Tribunal.

Recent US actions suggest that the United States see Scarborough as a very different issue from the Spratlys and Paracel Islands. Unlike those two areas, Scarborough is not being claimed by any other country aside from the Philippines and China. Also, for more than 50 years, Scarborough was treated as though it was under US jurisdiction. The American case is that the United States was "the legal proxy for the Philippine people until full independence in 1946." In this case, the US-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty could be interpreted to cover Scarborough.

In a recent testimony before the US Senate Armed Services committee, US Defense Secretary Carter was quoted as saying "...Scarborough is a piece of disputed territory that like other disputes in the region, has the potential to lead to military conflict...That's particularly concerning to us, given its proximity to the Philippines."

According to a report by some American newspapers, President Obama mentioned Scarborough Shoal to President Xi Jinping during their meeting last March 31 at the Nuclear Security Summit. The *New York Times* reported:

"The stakes are so high that Mr. Obama warned the Chinese leader Xi Jinping, during the recent meeting in Washington not to move on the Scarborough Shoal or invoke an air defense zone, said an American official who was briefed on the details of the encounter and spoke anonymously because of the diplomatic sensitivities."

China has also been threatening to declare an ADIZ over the entire South China Sea. An Air Defense Identification zone (ADIZ) is airspace over land and water in which the identification, location and control of civil aircraft is performed ostensibly in the interest of national security. The ADIZ may extend beyond a country's territory to give the country more time to respond to a potential hostile aircraft. However, such zones is supposed to cover only undisputed territory and do not apply to foreign aircraft not intending to enter territorial airspace.

The building of new airbases and upgrading of air defense capabilities indicate that China has a long term strategy by which it would establish effective control over the sea and airspace throughout the South China Sea. There is no indication that China now has the capability to impose an ADIZ over the South China Sea as long as the United States is prepared to cross this "red line."

Someday, a country will draw a red line somewhere in the South China Sea. And another country will cross that red line. If no one retreats, we will see a conflict nobody wants. That is how wars begin.

#### Creative writing classes

a.) Young Writers' Hangout for Kids and Teens on Aug. 6 and Aug. 20 (1:30-3pm)

b.) Feature Writing Class for Adults with Jo-Ann Maglipon on Aug. 13 (1:30-5:30pm)

Classes at Fully Booked Bonifacio High Street. For registration and fee details text 0917-6240196 or email [writethingsph@gmail.com](mailto:writethingsph@gmail.com).

Email: [elfrencruz@gmail.com](mailto:elfrencruz@gmail.com)



## ONLINE NEWS

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### Ex-mayor at Army major arestado sa drug raid sa Cdo

By Bombo CdeO Posted in Latest News Sunday, 24 July 2016 1:11

CAGAYAN DE ROO CITY - Arestado ang mag-asawa na kinabibilangan ng dating town mayor at aktibong army official sa inilunsad na court search warrant sa Barangay Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City.

Kinumpirma ni PDEA agent Ben Calibre ang pag-aresto sa suspek na si dating Maguing Mayor Johayra Bagumbung Macabuat alias Marimar na tinaguriang bigtime drug lord sa Mindanao.

Arestado rin ang asawa ni Marimar na si Maj. Suharto Macabuat na naka-destino sa Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

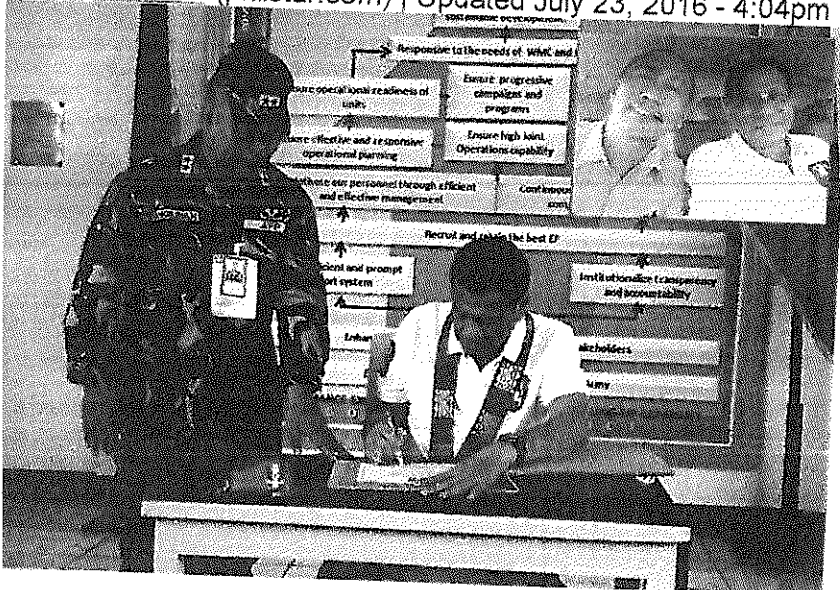
Hinuli rin ng mga otoridad ang anim na tauhan ng mag-asawa habang nakumpiska ang mahigit P500,000 halaga ng shabu, mga baril at mga sasakyan.

Samantala, mariing itinanggi ng mag-asawa na sila'y drug lords na kumikilos sa Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao na kinabibilangan ng Regions 9, 10, 11 at 12.

[www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

### Duterte meets with military, Mangudadatu on peace-building, dev't programs

By John Unson (philstar.com) | Updated July 23, 2016 - 4:04pm



Major Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan watch President Rodrigo Duterte register on a log book for visitors in Camp Siongco in Sulu, which he toured on Friday for dialogues with soldiers and Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu (inset), who escorted him to Zamboanga City after his sortie in the province. [Philstar.com/JohnUnson](http://Philstar.com/JohnUnson)

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MAGUINDANAO, Philippines - The tour in Maguindanao on Friday of President Rodrigo Duterte was markedly more of an emotion-filled "family reunion" with soldiers and the ruling Mangudadatu clan in the province than a traditional presidential sortie.

Officers and enlisted personnel of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID) gave the president a rousing applause when he praised them for their peace-building programs, complementing the government's peace overture with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, during a traditional "talk to the men" session in Camp Siongco in Datu Odin town.

The camp is Central Mindanao's largest military Army installation, where 6th ID's command base is located and from where its commander, Major Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, supervises the operations of more than a dozen Army field units scattered in the provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and in several towns in Lanao del Sur.

Duterte assured members of 6th ID of Malacañang's protection as he called on them to help him fight the drug problem besetting the country.

"As long as you are on the right direction, you need not worry because I will protect you," Duterte told them during the dialogue that lasted for about two hours.

Visayan soldiers present in the dialogue cheered and applauded Duterte each time he quipped and spoke Cebuano in encouraging them to perform their duties efficiently and support the peace process.

Lt. Col. Markton Abo, an ethnic Maguindanaon officer, said Moro soldiers also became emotional when he mentioned his concern for Mindanao's underdeveloped Muslim communities and his desire for the peace process to succeed.

"It was a very different experience. We've hosted the visits of past presidents, but this is something new and so different. He seemed more of a relative to all of us, a blood relative, because of his Maranaw ancestry," Abo said.

Visayan soldiers broke through the security cordon laid by members of the Presidential Security Group around Duterte to take "selfie" photos with him using their mobile phones, something they have never done before with past presidents.

His presence in the camp boosted our morale. He is a Mindanaon president who is so friendly to people despite his being known for being so hard on criminals," a Visayan soldier, Sgt. Dante Dalagan, said in heavy Cebuano accent.

Dalagan said what touched them most was Duterte's promise to protect them as long as they perform their bounden duty to protect the local communities from hostile aggressions and from criminalities as well.

Dalagan's companions, Cpl. Janice Saavedra and Private 1st Class Donna Jane Balladares, were both asated.

Saavedra, also a Visayan, said Duterte's commitment to put an end to the Mindanao secessionist conflict were touching," expressed in Cebuano and in English, tacitly indicating that he will fail without public support.

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Duterte was accompanied to Maguindanao by his newly-appointed defense secretary, Delfin Lorenzana, and top officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

While in Maguindanao's provincial capital, Buluan town, Duterte expressed gratitude to Gov. Esmarel Mangudadatu, his politician-siblings and all local executives for his having won overwhelmingly in the province during the May 9 presidential race.

He hinted that he would not politically persecute local executives in areas where he lost to rivals in the final tally of votes for president during the elections.

Duterte was in Buluan on Friday after his engagement at Camp Siongco to launch the 4.5-megawatt biomass power plant established jointly by the Mangudadatu clan and a private developer, the Green Earth Enersource Corp.

Duterte, in a message after the symbolic launching of the power plant, to operate using only wastes from oil palm trees, directed impromptu his agriculture secretary, Emmanuel Piñol, to allocate P300 million to sustain the propagation of oil palm trees by peasants in Maguindanao.

The Mangudadatus had helped developed more than 2,000-hectares of contiguous oil palm plantations in the province in the past five years through the provincial government's continuing seed dispersal program benefiting the local agricultural communities.

Piñol, who accompanied the president to Buluan, said he can immediately facilitate the release of the P300 million allocation once documentary requisites have all been complied with.

Mangudadatu said the assistance will complement his eight-point development agenda, centered on agricultural productivity, normalization in conflict-stricken areas and empowerment of farmers by providing them with free agricultural inputs that are for them so expensive.

"There is no reason now for the Mindanao peace process to fail because we have someone in Malacañang who is a native of Mindanao, who understands the root causes of the Moro issue," Mangudadatu said.

The Mangudadatus are long-time friends of Duterte, a friendship started by their patriarch, the late Datu Powa, and the president while he was still a neophyte mayor in Davao City.

In fact, the governor and his siblings, Khadafeh, a member of the Regional Assembly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and Freddie, who is mayor of Mangudadatu town, talk to the president in fluent Cebuano, which they learned when they studied in schools in Davao City.

Duterte's top campaigner in Maguindanao during the recent campaign period was Mangudadatu's younger brother, Ibrahim, most known in the province as "Datu Jong," a wealthy businessman engaged in agricultural ventures and tilapia propagation projects in the vast Lake Buluan.

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## Duterte vows to continue AFP modernization

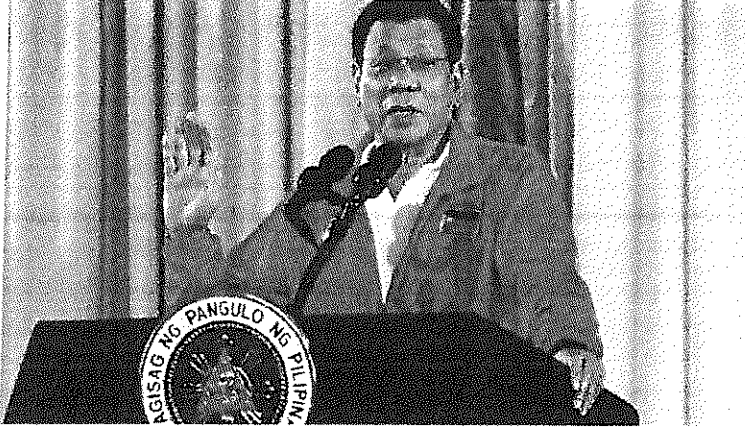
**MINDANAO MILITARY OPS TO BE PRIORITIZED**

By: Jaymee T. Gamil

@inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer

06:29 PM July 23rd, 2016



**President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO/JOAN BONDOC**

President Rodrigo Duterte has assured the troops that he will continue the previous administration's efforts to modernize the military.

A press statement from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office quoted Duterte as saying as much, when the new Commander in Chief visited for the first time the Sixth Infantry Division headquarters at Camp Siongco in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, on Saturday.

"There will even be no refocusing of the modernization thrust. We will only adjust our priorities," Duterte was quoted as saying.

"For the time being, we will be attending to the more pressing needs of our soldiers now engaged in focused military operations in Basilan, Sulu, central Mindanao, and other areas in southern Philippines," Duterte added.

"The procurements will be more of force protection equipment for our soldiers like helmets and vests, more night-fighting systems capability, additional fast crafts for our Navy, additional helicopters capable of night flight for the Navy and Air Force, and more communications equipment," Duterte said to the gathered troops, personnel officers, among which was AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya, Army chief Lt. Gen.

Eduardo Ano, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgar R. Fallorina, Navy chief Vice Adm. Caesar C. Taccad, and Sixth Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Edmundo R. Pangilinan.

"The AFP appreciates this manifestation of our Commander in Chief Rodrigo Duterte's genuine concern for our troops in the field who face peril to life and limb on a daily basis," Visaya said.

"The fast crafts and helicopters will be of immense help in foiling kidnapping attempts by the members of the Abu Sayyaf [Group], among others acts of terrorism and criminality by unscrupulous individuals and groups, these may prevent or curb," Visaya added.

Visaya also thanked Duterte for committing to allocate budget for the enlistment and training of 10,000 more personnel to beef up the AFP by yearend.

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"With this manifest support of the President, it behooves the AFP to accomplish its mission of protecting the people and the state, securing its sovereignty and the integrity of the national territory," Visaya said.

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## AFP hospital gagawin kong moderno - Duterte

By Bombo Analay SoberanoPosted in [Latest News](#) Saturday, 11 Aug 2018 2:43

Ipinangako ngayon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na gagawin niyang moderno at maaasahang pagamutan ang V. Luna Hospital para sa mga sundalo.

Sinabi ng Pangulong Duterte, gaya ng kanyang pangako, uunahin niya ang kapakanan ng mga sundalo lalo ang may kinalaman sa kanilang kalusugan.

Ayon sa Pangulong Duterte, magdadagdag siya ng mga gusali sa V. Luna para sa mga nasusugatang mga sundalo sa gitna ng pakikipaglaban sa mga kalaban ng pamahalaan.

Inihayag ng Pangulo na sa pamamagitan ng mapagbebentahan sa barkong BRP Pagasa, koompletuhin niya ang mga medical equipment gaya ng mga ginagamit sa mga mamahaling hospital.

"If somebody's willing to sell it. 'Pag ang kita niyan, maaasahan ninyo, diretso... I will rebuild the V. Luna. I will complete it. I will add another building, maybe a new one, and you will have the operative best medical treatment. It will have everything: CT scan, ano yung mga imaging... I will spend money," ani Duterte.

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## 162 AFPPS military, civilian personnel successfully hurdle surprise drug test

MANILA, July 23 (PNA) --- All 162 officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of the AFP Procurement Service have passed the surprise random drug testing conducted last July 21, according to AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard in a statement Saturday.

Arevalo said the random drug test was ordered by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya as part of the efforts to keep the military service drugs free.

He said the testing took place on July 21, which was in time for the AFPPS' two-day semi-annual Command Conference held in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"All the 162 officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees underwent the test and everyone passed," he added.

The AFPPS, which is commanded by Brig. Gen. Alvin Francis A Javier, was the third AFP unit based in Camp Aguinaldo to conduct service-wide drug testing.

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The first was the AFP Command General Staff College and the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command and both were declared 100 percent drug free.

Members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Task Force "Moses" conducted the random drug testing while the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency supervised the process to ensure that proper procedures were observed.

"This is in line with our Commander-in-Chief President Rodrigo Duterte's all-out campaign against illegal drugs that is being vigorously implemented in various AFP units at the headquarters and the units below by the AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya," Javier said.

For his part, Visaya reiterates that, "The AFP will continue to fulfill its mandate to protect the people and the State and secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory."

"And I intend to do that through an illegal-drugs free Armed Forces of the Philippines to ensure that the AFP will be the example of an institution that supports the vision of our President and Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Duterte," he added. (PNA)

RMA/PFN

[www.thestandard.com.ph](http://www.thestandard.com.ph)

## **Soldiers take 3 into custody in anti-Abu ops in Tawi-Tawi**

posted July 23, 2016 at 12:01 am by Florante S. Solmerin

Three individuals who could not present identification documents were taken into custody by the military Thursday morning during an operation targeting supporters of the Abu Sayyaf Group, a report reaching Camp Aguinaldo said on Friday.

The report said the operation was launched by the Amphibious Ready Group of the Joint Task Group Tawi-Tawi led by navy Captain Fernando Gomez in Panguan Island in Sitangkay town.

The operation "resulted in the seizure of three jungkong-type water crafts, custody of three persons with no pertinent identification documents and the confiscation of one shotgun with 10 live ammunition rounds," the report said.

"Authorities are currently determining if the seized boats and persons are connected with the recent spate of cross-border kidnapping incidents," it added.

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Accordingly, the amphibious group has used the BRP Tarlac, the first ever command and control ship of the Navy.

Build by PT Pal (Persero) of Indonesia, the ship has an embarked helicopter which has a marine special operations component and a Navy SEAL detachment on board.

In the past few weeks, the ASG has been staging kidnappings of Malaysian and Indonesian crews of transiting vessels in the area. The bandits usually behead their victims once ransom is not delivered to them in exchange for the safe release of their captives.

This worsening security situation in the south, which include Basilan and Sulu, the lairs of the ASG, has prompted Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta to craft a joint border patrol operation which is already in the works to prevent the criminal activity of the bandits.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has also intensified its operations to eliminate the ASG problem in southern Mindanao even as President Rodrigo Duterte has given the ASG the option to either talk or fight with the government.

[www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

## **Rulings from the Hague: A mere piece of trash paper?**

By Renato Cruz De Castro (philstar.com) | Updated July 23, 2016 - 6:47pm



In this July 14, 2016 file photo, Marcopolo Tam, a member of a pro-China business group in Hong Kong, points to what is now known as the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on a Japanese World War II era map purporting to support China's claims to vast parts of the South China Sea, in Hong Kong. Amid China's outrage over an international tribunal that rejected its territorial claims in the South China Sea, the country is using new language that some experts say shows Beijing wants to be more flexible. But it is too late? AP/Kin Cheung, File

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MANILA, Philippines - After a three-year wait, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) rendered its ruling on the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China on July 12, 2016. The five-judge tribunal unanimously ruled in favor of the Philippines on almost all of the claims in made against China.

The PCA rendered China's claim to historic rights through its nine-dash line in the South China Sea as contrary to international law. It determined that none of the Spratlys are legally islands because they cannot sustain a stable human community or independent economic life. Finally, the PCA found China of guilty damaging the marine environment by building artificial islands of illegally preventing Filipinos from fishing and conducting oil explorations in the Philippines's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

Despite their overwhelming legal victory and the fact that the July 12, 2016 PCA ruling was the most anticipated decision of any international court or tribunal on the law of the sea, officials of the Duterte administration met the decision with sober, cautious, and even muted reaction. Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. called for restraint and sobriety among the Filipinos who were euphoric about their country's decisive legal victory against an expansionist power in East Asia, China.

*Officials of the Duterte administration met the decision with sober, cautious, and even muted reaction.*

The Philippine government's cautious reaction to the PCA awards might be due to the Duterte administration's fear that flaunting its legal victory against China might force the later to react adversely against the country's fishermen and the Armed Forces of the Philippines's (AFP) units stationed on some of island occupied by the Philippines in the South China Sea.

This may also because of the government's realization that it cannot sly implement the PCA's rewards because of the weakness of the Philippine Navy (PN) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) compared with the large and well-equipped Chinese naval and civilian presence in the South China Sea.

### **Discovering the Philippine maritime domain**

In December 2012, six months after the tense Scarborough Shoal stand-off between Philippine and Chinese civilian vessels—then President Benigno Aquino III signed into law Republic Act (RA) 10349 extending the AFP modernization program of 1995. The implementation period of the original AFP modernization law Republic Act 7898 expired in December 2011 without any significant arms acquisition for the Philippine military. RA 10349 extends the military modernization program up to 2027, to give the PN and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) ample time to develop and acquire of new weapon systems needed for maritime security.

*The implementation period of the original AFP modernization law Republic Act 7898 expired in December 2011 without any significant arms acquisition for the Philippine military.*

The March 2015 *Defense Planning Guidance for 2016 to 2022* emphasized the importance of defending "the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, specifically in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea)" which accordingly "poses the foremost security challenge" to the Philippines and the AFP. Thus it stressed the need to maximize all available resources at the government's disposal to achieve a credible defense posture in territorial defense and maritime security.

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Such defense posture requires enhancing the AFP's capabilities, prioritizing its needs, and gradually restructuring its forces for territorial defense. The long-term goal, according to the earlier 2011 *AFP's Strategic Intent*, is to develop the force structure and capabilities enabling the Philippine military to maintain a "credible deterrent posture against foreign intrusion or external aggression, and other illegal activities while allowing free navigation to prosper." Specifically, the AFP plans to develop the following limited capabilities: a) enhancing maritime domain awareness; and b) joint operations between the PAF and PN for limited naval interdiction capabilities.

The above mentioned targets can be translated into two mundane yet enabling tasks for the Navy. One, the PN can monitor the Philippines's vast maritime territory. It should build the necessary surface and air capability to survey and monitor Philippine controlled islands in the South China Sea and prevent unoccupied island/reefs from being occupied other claimant states.

Another is the PN can develop the necessary capabilities to deter external threats and protect the country's maritime interests. It must develop an effective force presence in the maritime domain that exhibits competence to defend the territory, if necessary.

In building up the capabilities of the PN, the Aquino administration sinks its teeth into challenging China's expansive claims in the South China Sea as the latter directly encroaches into the country's EEZ. The Philippines's territorial defense goal is very modest—to develop a credible posture for territorial defense and maritime security through building a competent force capable of defending the country's interests and the land features it occupies in the South China Sea.

Unfortunately, the PN's goal of developing a credible defense capability is hampered by a still tedious procurement process and more importantly, limited defense budget. So far, the Philippine government acquired two second-hand U.S. Coast Guard Cutters (*The BRP Gregorio Del Pilar and the BRP Alcaraz*), a Landing Craft Utility (*BRP Tagbanua*) and three Augusta Westland AW 109 helicopters. Though the PN has acquired six Multi-Purpose Attack Crafts (MPAC), the DND has postponed the purchase of missile-armed MPAC until after the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) finally releases the funds.

*The Philippine Navy's goal of developing a credible defense capability is hampered by a still tedious procurement and more importantly, limited defense budget.*

### **The challenge to the Duterte administration**

A crucial challenge facing the AFP's shift from internal security to territorial/maritime defense is whether President Rodrigo Duterte will continue or discontinue Aquino's policy of challenging China's expansive claim in the South China Sea. Before his inauguration on June 30, 2016, Duterte declared that he wanted a closer relation with China and that he won't continue the modernization program started by his predecessor.

His early statements indicated that he would not pursue the modernization of the AFP with as much vigor as former President Aquino. Observers thought that Duterte will follow former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's national security policy of gravitating close to China while ignoring territorial defense and focusing on neutralizing domestic security challenges such as terrorism and insurgencies. A few days after Duterte's

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inauguration, however, Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana assured the AFP and the Filipino nation that the Duterte administration would pursue the modernization of the Philippine military.

*Observers thought that Duterte will follow former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's national security policy of gravitating close to China while ignoring territorial defense and focusing on neutralizing domestic security challenges such as terrorism and insurgencies.*

Lorenzana emphasized that territorial defense is one of the priorities of the Duterte administration because "it is very important as we need to protect our territories against encroachment by other parties." He then added that the 15-year AFP modernization program will continue as scheduled.

Lorenzana, however, clarified that there will be some "redirection" as the Duterte administration is determined to decisively deal with criminality, especially the Abu Sayyaf bandits, as it gives the Philippines a bad name due to its series of kidnappings of Malaysians and Indonesian sailor off the Sulu Sea.

Unfortunately, the July 12, 2016 PCA ruling has generated pressures on the Duterte administration to develop the PN and the PCG. First, the PCA ruling has triggered unexpected tensions with China. Secondly, the Philippines must enforce the awards it received from the tribunal.

*The July 12, 2016 PCA ruling has generated pressures on the Duterte administration to develop the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard.*

The awards are final and binding. However, they cannot be implemented and it is simply difficult to imagine China carrying out its activities in accordance with the PCA's awards. The Philippine government will have to implement these awards with a modern naval force.

The government will have to send coast guard vessels to escort Filipino fisherman and survey ships in the South China Sea. The PN will have to deploy its ships to show the flag in certain cases and to join allied navies in conducting free of navigation operations in the disputed waters.

Failure to modernize the country's maritime capabilities in the aftermath of the July 12 PCA awards to the Philippines will make tribunal's land mark decisions nothing more than a "piece of trash paper."

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