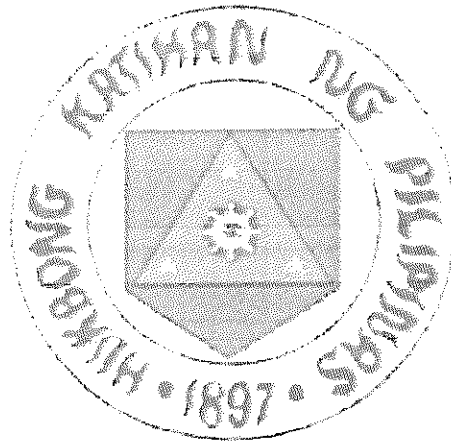


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 July 2016

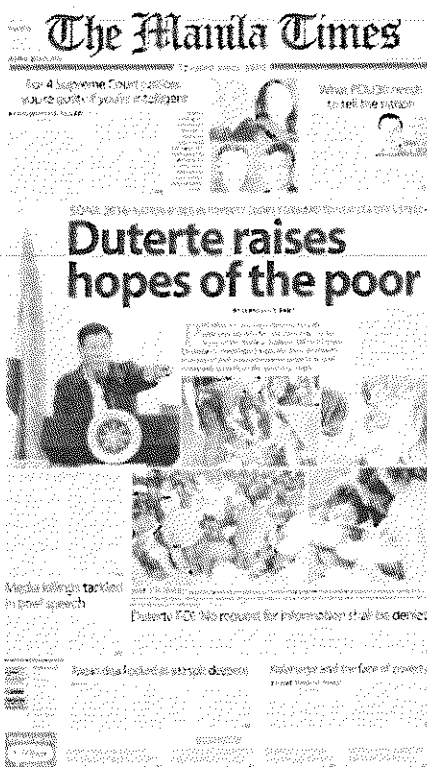
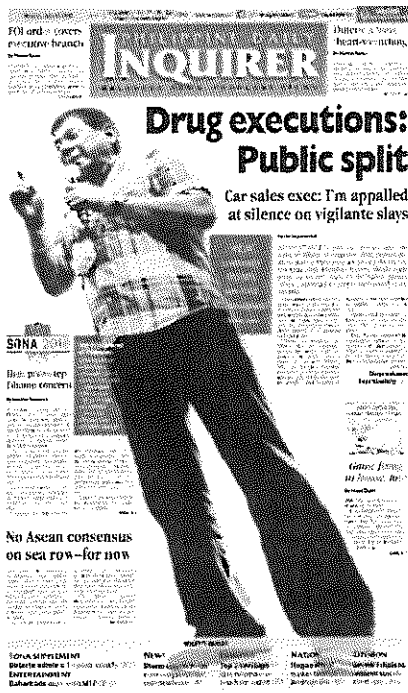
Monday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

25 JULY 2016



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

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 25, 2016 | MONDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
320 KM EAST OF BALER, AURORA
(July 24, 6:00 AM)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

WEATHER FORECAST (JULY 25, 2016)

Location	Forecast	Temp Range
LAOAG CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 32 °C
METRO MANILA	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 32 °C
LEGAZPI CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 33 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 34 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	26 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	26 - 34 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 34 °C
METRO DAVAO	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 34 °C

MOONRISE 6:38 AM **SUNRISE** 6:27 PM

MOONSET 10:39 PM **SUNSET** 10:17 AM

FULL MOON JULY 26 8:57 AM **LAST QUARTER** JULY 27 7:00 AM

LOW TIDE 8:40 PM **HIGH TIDE** 4:14 PM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
0.21 Meter 4:01 Meter

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

Cloudy, drier with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Location	JUL 26	JUL 27	Temp Range
METRO MANILA	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 33 °C, 24 - 34 °C
TUGUEGARAO	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 34 °C, 25 - 35 °C
LAOAG	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 32 °C, 24 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	16 - 23 °C, 16 - 24 °C
SBMA/CLARK	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 32 °C, 24 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	22 - 31 °C, 22 - 31 °C
LEGAZPI	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 34 °C, 25 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	26 - 34 °C, 25 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 33 °C, 26 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 33 °C, 24 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 34 °C, 24 - 33 °C
METRO DAVAO	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	25 - 34 °C, 26 - 34 °C
ZAMBOANGA	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	24 - 35 °C, 24 - 34 °C

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

People's Television

AIR 21

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

July 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

Drug executions: Public split

Car sales exec: I'm appalled at silence on vigilante slays

By the Inquirer staff

ACCOUNTABILITY and due process amid the wave of killings of suspected drug pushers and users, most of them poor, are among the hot-button issues that President Duterte should speak about in his first State of the Nation Address (Sona), according to people interviewed by the INQUIRER.

Other issues include the President's stand on the Paris pact on climate change, conditional cash transfer and poverty alleviation, the South China Sea dispute, the monster traffic jams in Metro Manila, K-12 program and corruption.

"While we condemn the killings that are happening around the world, I am appalled at the silence when it comes to vigilante killings. What are his plans regarding this and how will he guarantee that this will not further scare the people?" said Graziella B.

Almasco, a car sales executive in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Almasco said she wanted "to know why out of the 500 who were killed, a majority were poor?"

Dean Bocobo compared the extrajudicial killings of drug suspects to the Mamasapano incident in which 44 members of the DAP Special Action Force died in Maguindanao province

DRUG/A18

Clergy welcomes

Sona 'simplicity' /A13

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

From page A1

in 2015 when they ran into Moro rebels after they shot and killed an international terrorist.

"#EJK is already DU30's ten-fold Masasapano. Will he take Command Responsibility for the BLOODBATH or like PNoY, shirk it?" Boco tweeted.

Saul de Jesus has had enough of the killings. "#PresidentDuterte Please put a stop to extrajudicial killings."

Kim Quilinguing, a media production specialist at the University of the Philippines System Information Office, said the Sona should touch on human rights violations.

"He should express his views on his administration's commitment to the observance of due process and respect for civil liberties," he said.

Rommel Copuyoc, a mechanical engineer, wanted to know how the President could restore the people's trust in the police. "Before they engage in killings, the police should be credible first ... What will happen to the policemen who were proven to have killed innocent people?"

Mr. Duterte "has command responsibility for the alarming number of deaths of [alleged] pushers not even proven yet to be culpable," said Gino Leocadio Paje, a special investigator at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

But other Filipinos appeared not to be bothered at all by the killings.

"For sure President Duterte will talk about his campaign

against illegal drugs. That's one of the good things that he has started and I hope it will continue. It's all over the news and I believe he will give us an update on this issue," said Josephine Gongora, a fish vendor in Olongapo City.

Noemi Frondarina, a spa owner in Guiguinto, Bulacan province, expected the President to continue the crackdown on illegal drugs and push for the restoration of the death penalty. "I support these initiatives," she said.

"I want to hear President Duterte name mayors and other politicians who are involved in illegal drugs," said Elizar Lauro, a college student and part-time mall clerk in Tagum City.

Netizen @decentlydoped favored a national ID system. "#SONADu30 national ID system and SIM card registration. No more prank calls. Criminals can easily be traced."

Lottie Salarda, a stringer of TV5 in Tacloban City, expressed concern about media killings. "I hope that during his Sona, President Duterte will talk about killings involving media practitioners in the country and solve them and at the same time, give an assurance that our constitutional rights, like freedom of expression, will be protected," Salarda said.

Paje of the DENR was not in favor of Mr. Duterte's repudiating the Paris Agreement that sought to reduce greenhouse gas emissions aimed at curbing climate change. "I want him to ensure that his statements of aban-

doning our commitments to international agreements or carbon cuts will be thoroughly reconsidered," he said.

Jake Siblat, a volunteer with Sirib Ilocano Kabataan Association in Ilocos Norte province, wished the President would mention disaster risk reduction and management as one of his priority programs.

A househelp wondered whether the Duterte administration would scuttle the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program.

"I hope he (the President) does not because many people like myself rely on it," said Dahlia Parajas of Calasiao town in Pangasinan province.

Imelda Nilo, a store owner in Olongapo City, would like "to know if our lives will improve under his administration."

Jocelyn Tañon, a househelp in Lucena City, said there should be a government agency that could provide livelihood and financial, legal and moral support to single mothers like her.

Benedict G. Nisperos, a Chevening scholar in London, also asked about the administration's antipoverty program. "How will he address poverty now with the planned removal of bottom-up budgeting and reformatting of the CCT program?"

Wilfredo Bernardo, a farmer in Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija province hoped Mr. Duterte would discuss "his concern for us rice farmers who ... work hard to supply rice ... [but] remain

very poor. I hope, too, that as he talks about the prospect of a better economy in the country, the gains will also trickle

down to us and to our respective families."

Coconut farmers expect to hear a clear statement about the coco levy fund from the President in his Sona.

"I want to know what President Duterte's course of action is on workers, who are still receiving salaries below the minimum wage," said Jemuel Sisa, a waiter in Cagayan de Oro City.

Copuyoc, the mechanical engineer, asked: "What's his strategy for creating jobs?"

Robert Badrina, a weather specialist at the weather bureau, said he was looking forward to the passage of a bill that would increase the pay of state employees.

Christie S. Sales (@christiesales06) called for the lowering of income taxes for low income earners.

K-12

Jennifer Quinto, 20, a student in the City of Malolos, said she was "interested to find out what [Mr. Duterte] would say about the K-12 education reform program and explain what social media is saying about replacing algebra and calculus with business math."

"I hope President Duterte would tackle and bring more emphasis on the implementation of the ongoing K-12 [basic education] curriculum even though this was implemented under former President Benigno Aquino III's term," said Mar-



QUILINGUING



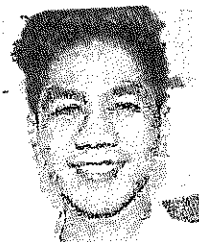
COPUYOC



PAJE



GONGORA



SIBAT



PARAJAS



NILO



ALMASCO

teena Kyla Panopio, a Grade 11 student at Bicol University in Legazpi City.

Traffic jams

"I want to hear his plans to curb the uncontrolled growth of our urban areas that commonly translate to gridlock, traffic, pollution, squatting problems, increased crimes, overpopulation and unemployment," said Joey Manalad, an architect in Pasig City.

Ray Casile, a doctor at St. Luke's Medical Center, said: "I like to hear something aside from killing addicts. What's his plan for the health service in the far-flung corners of the Philippines? Things that help make life longer, not shorter."

Copuyoc wanted to know whether the campaign against corrupt officials would continue after the Supreme Court ruled that there was weak evidence in the plun-

der charge against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, leading to her release from hospital arrest.

"Will there be follow-up cases against GMA? Or the issue will die down already," he asked.

Nisperos also wanted to know "the next strategy" in the South China Sea dispute after the UN-backed arbitral court ruling that re-

CASILE

jected China's nine-dash line. Reports from Jodee Agoncillo,

Aie Balagtas See, Maricar Brizuela, Erika Sauler and Jaymee Gamil in Metro Mani-

la; Yolanda Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Ma. April Mier, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carla Gomez and Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas; and Frin-

FRONDARINA

ston Lim and Jigger Jerusalem, Inquirer Mindanao

5 July 2016



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Duterte signs FOI order

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Making good on his promise of transparency, President Duterte signed the other night a landmark order on freedom of information or FOI that would require all government offices under the executive branch to disclose details of their transactions.

The order was signed after several congresses failed to pass an FOI law which advocates say is a requirement for good governance.

A list of information exempted from FOI is being drawn up, in accordance with laws and the Constitution.

Disclosure of the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) merits special mention in the yet unnumbered executive order.

Under Section 5, all public officials are reminded of their obligation to file and make available for scrutiny their SALNs in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and the spirit and letter of the order.

Except for the judiciary, the SALNs of executive officials and legislators are made available after filing every year.

Turn to Page 16

Aside from lifestyle checks, SALNs, among other documents, are used to guard against graft and corruption among officials in government.

Under Section 6, "there shall be a legal presumption in favor of access to information, public records and official records. No request for information shall be denied unless it clearly falls under any of the exceptions listed in the inventory or updated inventory of exceptions."

The list of exceptions is not yet final but it so far includes national security matters and personal information of executive officials to protect privacy.

The Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General were directed to prepare an inventory of exceptions and submit this to the Office of the President within 30 days from effectivity of the order titled "Operationalizing in the Executive Branch the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies of Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service."

The EO will cover all government offices under the executive branch including departments, bureaus and instrumentalities. It will also be implemented in state-run firms, universities and colleges.

The order will not cover Congress and the judiciary because of the doctrine of the separation of powers.

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar said it would be up to the legislature to decide whether to enact an FOI law that would cover all government branches.

"The President believes in the independence of each branch of government," Andanar said when asked if Duterte would ask Congress to pass an FOI law. "We do not have timeframe for Congress."

Local government units are encouraged to observe and be guided by the order.

The order defined "information" as "records, documents, papers, reports, letters, contracts, minutes and transcripts of official meetings, maps, books, photographs, data, research materials, sound and video recording, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data, computer stored data or other like or similar data or materials, recorded stored archived or whatever format."

"Every Filipino shall have access to information, official records public records and documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions and decision as well as government research data

used as basis for public development," the order read.

Officials who refuse to release information that do not fall within the exceptions may face administrative charges, he added.

Based on the EO, government officials receiving the request are required to provide free "reasonable assistance" to all requesting parties and shall respond to all requests that complied with all requirements within 15 working days.

The response refers to the decision of the office to grant or deny access to the information requested.

However, the period to respond may be extended depending on various circumstances.

"In no case shall the extension go beyond 20 working days unless exceptional circumstances warrant a longer period," the order read, adding that failure to notify the requesting party of the action taken within the 15-day period would be viewed as a denial of the request.

The head of the government office, which has custody or control of the information being sought, or his duly designated official will determine whether the exceptions are applicable to the request.

Heads of offices or their duly designated representatives were ordered to "exercise reasonable diligence" to ensure that the exceptions or denials of requests

would not be used to cover up a crime or any wrongdoing like graft or corruption.

While officials were directed to provide public access to information, they were also instructed to observe and protect the right of privacy of individuals.

Government offices in the executive branch were also ordered to ensure that personal information would only be released if they were relevant to the request and if such disclosure was allowed by the EO or by laws and regulations.

They were also tasked to make "reasonable security arrangements" against leaks or premature disclosure of personal information that might subject an executive official to harassment, vilification and other wrongful acts.

People's government

The EO signed by Duterte on Saturday night in his hometown Davao City was a milestone, according to Andanar, and was expected to strengthen public participation in governance aside from promoting greater transparency in government.

Andanar said the speed by which the EO was issued was also "record-breaking" since the Duterte administration assumed office just three weeks ago.

Andanar said there was no conflict between the EO on FOI and Duterte's continuous refusal to grant media interviews.

"The President has over 30 Cabinet members working (under the) executive department and he has alter egos to answer questions the media has for the President," Andanar said.

"The most important fact here is the freedom of information is not only limited to the media but is inclusive to the rest of hundred million Filipinos who would want to extract and know vital information in running the government," Andanar added.

Andanar likewise claimed the timing of the signing of the EO had nothing to do with Duterte's first State of the Nation Address today because from day one, "we already pushed for an executive order on the freedom of information."

"There was substantive pushing and pulling and additions to this executive order for a more transparent executive branch," Andanar said in a press conference in Davao City yesterday.

"It just so happened that the executive order was finalized Saturday night," he added.

The order was promised to be signed as early as two weeks ago but officials claimed it was "overtaken by events" like the issuance of the ruling on the South China Sea row by a Hague-based arbitral tribunal. The court ruled in favor of the Philippines and declared that China's expansive territo-

rial claim had no legal basis.

Andanar said there had been moves to push for an FOI law in Congress in the last 29 years but they were unsuccessful. Laws seeking to implement the FOI in all government branches have been filed since the 12th Congress but they were bypassed due to concerns by some lawmakers that they might be used for black propaganda.

Andanar said copies of the "historic" EO with a number and the presidential seal would be available today. The order was drafted by the offices of the presidential communications chief, the executive secretary and the chief presidential legal counsel after a series of consultations with transparency advocates.

The government will also prepare a People's FOI Manual that will include the location and contact details of offices where the public can submit requests and the schedule of applicable fees.

The 1987 Constitution states that Filipinos have the right to information on matters of public concern. It also called for a policy of full public disclosure of all state transactions involving public interest. The absence of an FOI law, however, has prevented the public from fully enjoying these constitutional guarantees. – With Edith Regalado, Giovanni Nilles

25 July 2016



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PDEA: Arrested ex-mayor is 'Marimar'

By GERRY LEE GORIT

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has confirmed that a former mayor recently arrested for drugs was the "Marimar" that President Duterte mentioned when he bared the list of major drug suppliers in Mindanao.

PDEA Director General Isidro Lapeña said Johaira Macabuat, former mayor of Maguing in Lanao del Sur, was on Duterte's list of high-value targets.

Aside from "Marimar," the PDEA said Macabuat's other nickname is "Mayora."

The PDEA-Region 10 tagged Macabuat, known as Johaira Abinal, as "Mindanao Drug Queen."

Macabuat was arrested, along with several others, during a search operation conducted by PDEA agents and members of the Cagayan de Oro City police at her residence in Barangay Kauswagan on Saturday.

Aside from her the raiding team nabbed Kate Abinal, Noraisa Sarip, Mark Gerald Sindac, Moamar Taher, Manot Dutoan and Hazem Tambidan.

Seized from the suspects were at least 200 grams of suspected shabu with an estimated street value of P400,000, two .45 caliber pistols and drug paraphernalia.

Macabuat has denied involvement in illegal drugs and insisted her name was not on the list of suspected drug personalities that Duterte released to the media.

– With Ben Serrano

25 July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

Army to probe officer's arrest for illegal drugs

BY FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Army (PA) said Sunday it will investigate one of its own officers who was reportedly engaged in illegal drugs operation when he was caught with his wife inside their house during a search by police and anti-illegal drug authorities in Cagayan de Oro City on Saturday.

Reports said Maj. Suharto Tambidan Macabuat, 40, was arrested inside his house together with his wife, by Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) operatives after short firearms and a large amount of illegal drugs were found in their possession during a search.

"We are now initiating an investigation on the matter," said Col. Benjamin L. Hao, the Army spokesman.

"The Army will not tolerate any of its personnel involved in illegal drugs operation," he assured.

Hao said the Philippine Army will also cooperate with all government investigating agencies regarding this case.

"If there is evidence that will show Macabuat was indeed linked with illegal drug operation, he will be referred to either the military court martial or the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board (ESB)," said Hao.

"This is without prejudice to the possible criminal cases that will be filed against him."

Based on Army records, Macabuat is married to Haj Johairah Bagumbung Macabuat, a businesswoman. They have one child.

Macabuat was commissioned as Second Lieutenant and was called to active duty in 2001.

Macabuat, together with his wife who is tagged by authorities as "Drug Queen of the South" and former mayor of Maguing, Lanao del Sur, were arrested following a drug raid by anti-narcotics agents of PDEA and local police in a compound located in Brgy. Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City.

25 July 2016

The Manila Times

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Army major faces court martial for drugs

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN
Reporter

A MILITARY officer arrested over the weekend for his alleged involvement in illegal drug operations faces court martial and dismissal from the service, the Philippine Army said on Sunday.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said Maj. Suharto Tambidan-Macabuat, 40, is being investigated. Macabuat and his wife were arrested during an anti-illegal drug operation by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Cagayan de Oro City on Saturday.

"We are now initiating an investigation on the matter. The Army will not tolerate any of its personnel involved in illegal drugs operation," Hao said.

"If there is evidence that will show Macabuat is indeed linked with illegal drug operations, he

will be referred to either the military court martial or the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board. This is without prejudice to the possible filing of criminal cases against him," Hao added.

Based on Army records, Macabuat is married to Haj Johairah Bagumbung Macabuat, a businesswoman.

As part of the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs, military officers and reservists were tested for drugs.

The results showed that 1,000 reservists tested negative.

Col. Noel Buan, acting Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs, joined AFP Reserve Command Chief Brig. Gen.

Leoncio A. Cirunay, Jr., who led the drug testing at the AFP Reserve Command Headquarters.

"Brigadier General Cirunay and I would like to set an example to our reservists," Buan said.

Buan was awarded the Medal of Valor for his acts of conspicuous courage, gallantry and intrepidity when he was a lieutenant colonel. He fought an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf bandits for more than an hour in Barangay Makiri in Lantawan, Basilan Province on April 8, 2004.

The AFP Reserve Command joins the military's Procurement Service, Command and General Staff College and the Headquarters Service Command as drug-free units.

July 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 12

Army major under probe for drug possession

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMY chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday ordered an Army major investigated after he was caught by anti-narcotics operatives in Cagayan de Oro City last Saturday for possession of illegal drugs, together with his wife and seven other persons.

Agents of the PDEA-Northern Mindanao arrested Maj. Suharto Tambidan Macabuat and the others during a raid on his house in Barangay Kausawagan.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao said Macabuat is currently assigned to the Bureau of Corrections. He was com-

missioned as a second lieutenant in 2001 after graduating from the Army's Officer Candidate School. Macabuat and his wife have one child.

PDEA-Northern Mindanao identified Macabuat's wife as Johaira Abinal, a former mayor of Manguing town in Lanao del Sur. She ran again for mayor in the May elections but lost.

Hao said that based on Army records Macabuat is married to a Johairah Bagumbung Macabuat.

The PDEA-Northern Mindanao described Abinal as head of the Abinal drug ring which is reportedly supplying illegal drugs

in Southern Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, Central Mindanao, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Seized during the raid were packets of shabu weighing 200 grams, cash, and a cal. 45 pistol with live ammunition.

Hao said if there is evidence that will show Macabuat is involved in the drug trade, "he will be referred to either the military court martial or the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board."

He said the investigation being conducted by the Army against Macabuat "is without prejudice to the possible criminal cases that will be filed against him."

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Arrested Army officer being probe over links to drugs

By Mario J. Mallari

An Army major is now in hot water after he yielded guns and methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu during a search at his house by anti-illegal drugs operatives over the weekend.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said that Maj. Suharto Tambidan Macabuat, 40, is now being investigated by Army leadership over his possible involvement into illegal drugs operation.

Hao said Macabuat may face court martial proceedings if evidence warrants.

"If there is an evidence that will show Macabuat is indeed linked with illegal drug operation, he will be referred to either the military court martial or the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board (ESB)," Hao said.

"This is without prejudice to the possible criminal cases that will be filed against him," he added.

Macabuat was arrested on Saturday by combined teams of policemen and members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) after his house yielded several firearms and "large quantity" of shabu.

Operatives backed by a search warrant swooped down on Macabuat's house in Cagayan de Oro wherein they seized firearms and drugs. As a result, he and his wife were held by the raiding team.

"We are now initiating an investigation on the matter," Hao said.

"The Army will not tolerate any of its personnel involved in illegal

drugs operation," he also added.

Only recently, Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano ordered a surprise drug testing of soldiers assigned at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in parallel to the efforts of the Philippine National Police in ridding its ranks of drug users.

Hao said the Army will cooperate with authorities in the case of the Army junior officer.

Based on Army records, Macabuat is married to Haj Johairah Bagumbung Macabuat, a businesswoman. They have one child.

Macabuat was commissioned as second lieutenant and was called to active duty in 2001.

Relatedly, Col. Noel Buan and some 1,000 reservists voluntarily submitted to a drug testing at the Headquarters AFP Reserve Command on Saturday.

Buan, the acting AFP deputy chief of staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs, joined AFP Reserve Command chief Brig. Gen. Leoncio Cirunay Jr. in the drug testing.

"Brigadier General Cirunay and I would like to set an example to our reservists," said Buan, who is among the few living awardees of the Medal For Valor.

Buan was awarded the Medal for Valor for his acts of conspicuous courage, gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty during a one hour and half-encounter against undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf terrorists under Commander Hamsiraji Sali at Barangay Makiri in Lantawan, Basilan on April 8, 2004.

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PA to probe Army man held for drug pushing

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Army (PA) will investigate the alleged involvement of an Army man who was caught together with his wife inside their house during a recent drug raid in Cagayan De Oro City.

Maj. Suharto Tambidan Macabuat, 40, a member of the Philippine Army, was arrested along with his wife after the raiding team, armed with a search warrant issued by the Office of the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Misamis Oriental, seized an estimated 200 grams of shabu and a .45 caliber Remington pistol in their residence.

Macabuat's wife identified as Johaira Abinal alias "Mayora Marimar," is said to be a former mayor of Maguing, Lanao del Sur and has been tagged as "Drug Queen of the South".

"If there is evidence that will show Macabuat is indeed linked

with illegal drug operation, he will be referred to either the military court martial or the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board (ESB)," said Army spokesman Benjamin L. Hao.

Hao adds criminal liability on Macabuat is still possible even if the beleaguered Army man undergoes military trial.

Army records reveal that Macabuat was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant and was called to active duty in 2001.

Also arrested was Macabuat's nephew identified as Sanny Santican.

PDEA 10 Regional Director Adrian G. Alvarino said Abinal heads the dreaded Abinal Group which is reportedly supplying illegal drugs in Regions 10, 11, 12, Caraga, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and even in Metro Manila.

Recently, president Duterte revealed that they have identified



MACABUAT

mayors who are involved in illegal drugs and even mentioned that one of them is a woman.

Alvarino hinted that the lady mayor Duterte may be alluding to could be Abinal.

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Ex-soldier with 'Uzi' kills cop, is shot dead

By NINO N. LUCES

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — A policeman patrolling Masbate City and a former army soldier roaming the area with an Uzi machine gun both died when their paths crossed last Saturday night.

Inspector Malu Calubaquib, Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5) spokeswoman, identified the fatalities as police Inspector Benjie Calixto, 23, assigned to the Masbate City Police Station (CPS) and Cesar Punsalan Jr., 36, a former member of the Philippine Army and resident of Barangay Pinamarbuan, Mobo town, Masbate province.

Citing the initial investigation,

Calubaquib said Calixto was making the rounds of Villa Concepcion Subdivision, Barangay Ibingay, Masbate City with operatives of the CPS around 10:30 p.m. Saturday when he chanced upon Punsalan, who was carrying an Uzi machine gun.

As a heated argument ensued, Punsalan suddenly opened fire at Calixto.

Calixto returned fire, but it was his companion, Police Officer 1 Roy Balonzo who gunned down the ex-soldier.

Recovered from the crime scene were Calixto's caliber 9mm service firearm, Punsalan's submachine gun (Ingram), a magazine loaded with ammunition, and bullet casings.

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LIZARD RAPPELLING — Reservists from Baguio City under Col. Aniceto Vicente demonstrate the lizard rappelling technique used in rescuing people trapped in tall buildings during their training camp last Saturday at Camp Lt. Tito Abat, Manaoag. (Liezle Basa Inigo)

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EVERYDAY HEROES — Gallant members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines eagerly respond to appeals for more blood donors and trooped to the Quezon City Hall grounds where a bloodletting activity was held Sunday morning. Donated blood is always in high demand among critically ill and trauma patients in public and private healthcare institutions. (John Jerome Ganzon)

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Visaya thanks Duterte for vow to strengthen AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya thanked President

Rodrigo Duterte for committing to fund the enlistment and training of 10,000 more military personnel by yearend.

"With this manifest support of the President, it be- ►14

hooves 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.

Duterte made the assurance to military officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employee during his talk at the headquarters of 6th Infantry Division in Camp Siongco, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

Visaya also welcomed the President's assurance that the modernization of the armed forces will continue under his term.

There were concerns in military

circles that the modernization program will not be a priority during the Duterte's term.

"There will even be no refocusing of modernization thrust, we will only adjust our priorities," the President said.

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

He said the procurements "will be more of force protection equipment for our soldiers like helmets and vests,

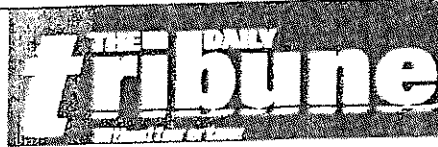
more night-fighting systems capability, additional fast crafts for our Navy, additional helicopters capable of night flight for the Navy and Air Force, and more communications equipment."

With Visaya in Camp Siongco were the three major service commanders: Lt. General Eduardo Ano of the Army, Lt. General Edgar R. Fallorina of the Air Force, and Vice Admiral Caesar C. Taccad of the Navy.

Also present was the commander of the 6th Infantry Division, Major General Edmundo R. Pangilinan.

Visaya said the fast watercraft and helicopters will bolster the military's efforts to foil kidnapping attempts by the Abu Sayyaf and other acts of terrorism and criminality.

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AFP modernization Duterte assures troopers to continue

By Mario J. Mallari

Amid fears the new administration may refocus or even abandon the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), President Duterte has assured the military the multibillion-peso capability upgrade program will continue under his leadership.

In a statement, the AFP said the President made the assurance during a visit to the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Magulindanao over the weekend.

"The AFP modernization will definitely continue," the military quoted the President as saying in a released statement.

Duterte, during "Talk to the Men" in his visit to 6th ID troops, doused concerns the AFP modernization program will be scrapped as he assured them it will not only be pursued, there would not also be any alterations in the identified acquisitions and focus.

"There will even be no refocusing of modernization thrust, we will only adjust our priorities," the military quoted the President as saying.

The adjustment would lean more toward the acquisition of force protection equipment for the soldiers to better fight off enemies of the state, like the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group.

"For the time being, we will be



DUTERTE

attending to the more pressing needs of our soldiers now engaged in focused military operation in Basilan, Sulu, Central Mindanao and other areas in southern Philippines," he 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.

There have been fears that the efforts to equip the Armed Forces with the much-needed assets and

equipment will stop as the military has been ordered to refocus its operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group.

The thinking was also bolstered by the earlier stand of the Commander in Chief wherein he prodded the soldiers to prepare for talks with China over the issue of the West Philippine Sea.

However, while the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration has already ruled in favor of the Philippines, and despite efforts by the government to talk with China over the dispute within the ambit of the decision, Beijing wants to negotiate with the country outside the ruling.

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

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AFP unit officers, personnel successfully hurdle surprise drug test

From updates: Pn Jul 24 AFP unit officers, personnel successfully hurdle surprise drug test

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. Edgar 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.

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 (Tasi 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.

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

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AFP to recruit 10,000 troops, procure FPEs, fast crafts, choppers

From: undale, Phil, Jul 24 / AFP to recruit 10,000 troops, procure FPEs, fast crafts, choppers

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has given his commitment for the funding needed to recruit and train 10,000 more soldiers for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

This was announced by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya in a statement Saturday.

"The AFP is grateful to President Duterte for his commitment to allocate an amount for the enlistment and training of 10,000 more additional personnel to beef up the number of the AFP personnel by yearend," he added.

Visaya was the one who made the recommendation for the additional 10,000 troops.

"This is certainly going to be a big boost in our fight towards ensuring that the AFP is able to perform its mandate," he added.

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

In the same vein, Duterte also declared that the 'AFP modernization will definitely continue.' The President made this unequivocal assurance to the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees during his first visit to 6th Infantry Division headquarters in Camp Siongco, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Magulindanao last week.

Also present was Visaya, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgar R. Fallerona, Navy flag-officer-in-command Vice Admiral Caesar T. Taccad and Army commander Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano. Duterte assuaged the fears of many that the AFP Modernisation will be placed in the back burner anew during his term.

"There will even be no refocusing of modernization thrust, we will only adjust our priorities," the President 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 operation in Basilan, Sulu, Central Mindanao and other areas in southern Philippines," he added.

"The procurements will be more of force protection equipment (FPE) 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," the President said.

With this development, Visaya said the entire AFP is very grateful this manifestation of the President's genuine concern for our troops in the field who face peril in their lives and limbs on a daily basis. "The fast crafts and helicopters, meanwhile, will be of immense help in foiling kidnapping attempts by the members of the Abu Sayyaf, among others acts of terrorism and criminality by unscrupulous individuals and groups, these may prevent or curb," he added.

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

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ASG leader Hapilon eludes military dragnet in Basilan

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Basilan province, together with his loyal followers, were able to elude a military dragnet, and has reportedly sought refuge in an area controlled by another ASG cluster in Sumisip town, in the same province.

Former Tipo-Tipo, Basilan Mayor Joel Maturan said Isnilon Hapilon and an undetermined number of his followers were able to escape the ongoing “focused military operations” against the ASG in the province.

Maturan also confirmed that another ASG leader Furuji Indama was in serious condition after he was hit by a shrapnel during airstrikes undertaken by the Philippine Air Force last week. The shrapnel reportedly pierced his chest before exiting in the back.

The military offensive against the ASG has been concentrated in the towns of Al-Barka, Ungkaya Pukan and Tipo-Tipo, which is notorious for being the lair of the ASG in Basilan province.

Maturan said the ASG continued to control and hold camps at the forested hills of Punu Likungan, Punu Kawilan and Punu Baguindan, all located in Tipo-Tipo town, and Punu Sikadir located in Al-Barka.

“The ASG continued to hold camps in these four hills. Hapilon is holding camps in Punu Kawilan and Sikadir, Furuji Indama is holding camps at Punu Baguindan and Radznil Janatul at Punu Likungan,” the former town official said.

Each of the ASG-controlled hills were reportedly being protected by .50-caliber machine guns, 57mm and 90mm recoilless rifles, he continued.

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Beijing builds massive seaplane amid tensions over S. China Sea

BEIJING — China has completed production of the world's largest amphibious aircraft, state media has said, the latest effort in the country's program to wean itself off dependence on foreign aviation firms.

The state-owned Aviation Industry Corp. of China (AVIC) unveiled the first of the new planes, dubbed the AG600, on Saturday in the southern port city of Zhuhai, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The Chinese plane, which is targeted at the domestic market, will be "very useful in developing and exploiting marine resources," the article said, adding it could be used for "environmental monitoring, resource detection

and transportation."

Beijing is currently locked in disputes with several of its neighbors, including Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines, over the rights to develop economic resources in waters off its shores.

The aircraft, which has a maximum range of 4,500 kilometers, is intended for fighting forest fires and performing marine rescues, it said.

At around the size of a Boeing 737, it is far larger than any other plane built for marine take off and landing, Xinhua quoted AVIC's deputy general manager Geng Ruguang as saying.

But its wingspan is considerably smaller than

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that of the H-4 Hercules, known as the Spruce Goose, which was designed in the 1940s to carry Allied troops into battle. It is regarded as by far the largest seaplane ever built although it only ever made one flight, in 1947.

The AG600 could potentially extend the Asian giant's ability to conduct a variety of operations in the South China Sea, where it has built a series of artificial islands featuring air strips, among other infrastructure with the potential for either civilian or military use.

Xinhua said AVIC has received 17 orders for the plane so far.

FVR is RP's special envoy to China

Meanwhile, former President Fidel Ramos has accepted the offer of President Rodrigo Duterte to be special envoy to China.

Ramos said he met Duterte on Saturday evening in Davao City to clarify what his specific role would be.

Last week, Duterte revealed his plan to send Ramos to Beijing to spearhead the negotiations with the Chinese government.

Malacañang, in a text message to reporters yesterday, confirmed Ramos' designation.

"FVR (Ramos' initials) has indicated that he has received a clean bill of health and has accepted the President's offer to engage China in conversations germane to our common interests," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

Ramos, however, did not disclose his manner of talking with Beijing just yet as he is still expecting Duterte to outline the Philippine government's official stand on the issues.

"Do not jump the gun. There should be a National Security Council first so that the Philippine position will be defined by the group of Philippine leaders led by the President himself," the former leader told reporters in a chance interview.

Ramos maintained that he's fine with talking to China without necessarily carrying with him the Permanent Court of Arbitration decision.

The former president said he first told Duterte that he's physically fit for the job.

"First of all I reported to him and he must be the first one to know this that I am cleared medically by my doctors at the Makati Medical Center," Ramos said.

"I requested for a courtesy call and he was so gracious to give it to me for two hours here in Davao. I was very happy to make the flight," he added.

Meanwhile, foreign relations experts welcomed Ramos' designation.

International law expert and Kabayan Partylist Rep. Harry Roque described the participation of Ramos in the talks as a "highly positive step."

"This is what we call diplomacy and is indeed a highly positive step. Former President Ramos is someone trusted by the Chinese government and given his experience as a former President he surely knows how to deal with China," Roque told The Tribune in a phone interview yesterday.

"Ramos is right in pointing out that President Duterte should make well-calculated measures before they send him out. We should deal with them amicably and not aggressively without, of course, jeopardizing our national interests," he added.

Roque reiterated that Ramos is right in suggesting that the PCA ruling could be discarded.

"The arbitration ruling is unnecessary and immaterial. We could talk to China with or without it," the lawmaker said.

In a separate phone interview, expert on RP-China relations Chito Sta. Romana also lauded Ramos who, he surmises, is a friend to the Chinese government.

"FVR is a good friend of Beijing. In turn, he knows how to deal politically, economically and culturally with China which is something that's really an open development," Sta. Romana said.

"It's a good start as FVR has the stature and experience to expertly deal with friends, not enemies," he added.

AFP and Ted Tuvera

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SE Asia deadlocked as South China Sea split deepens

VIENTIANE – Southeast Asian nations yesterday were deadlocked over how to confront saber-rattling in the South China Sea as pressure from Beijing again drove a wedge between countries on the region's most contentious security issue.

The gathering in Vientiane is the first time regional players – including China and the United States – have met en masse since a UN-backed tribunal delivered a hammer blow to Beijing's claim to vast swathes of the strategic sea.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) boasts four countries who have competing claims with Beijing over

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parts of the strategic sea and is fiercely divided on the issue.

Rival claimants have accused China of deftly forging alliances with smaller countries like Laos, this year's host, and Cambodia through aid and loans to divide the once consensus-driven bloc.

Chinese pressure was blamed last month for a startling show of Asean discord when countries swiftly disowned a joint statement released by Malaysia after an Asean-China meeting.

That statement had expressed alarm over Beijing's activities in the South China Sea. Cambodia and Laos were later fingered as being

behind moves to block the joint statement.

Those divisions were on stark display once more in the Laos capital with insiders accusing Cambodia of scuppering moves to include a response to the tribunal ruling in a joint communique, expected at the end of Sunday's meeting.

"We need to put our house in order," one diplomat involved in discussions yesterday told Agence France Presse. "But we still have not agreed on anything."

Another Asean diplomat added: "We remain deadlocked. We're back to the negotiating table."

A working draft of the current joint communique obtained by AFP on Saturday showed the section

titled "South China Sea" as blank.

The impasse in Vientiane has led to fears of a repeat of a 2012 summit in Cambodia where the bloc failed to issue a joint statement for the first time in its history because of disagreements over the South China Sea.

Competing influence

A failure by Asean to respond to the tribunal will do little to counter criticism that the bloc risks veering into obscurity as a talking shop with little real diplomatic clout.

The UN tribunal ruling earlier this month infuriated Beijing but was a victory for the Philippines, which brought the case, and fellow Asean members Vietnam, Brunei and

Malaysia who also claim parts of the South China Sea.

The bloc's paralysis on how to respond comes as China ratchets up its rhetoric and military maneuvers in the sea whilst hitting out at the US which has backed rival claimants and argued for free passage through what it considers international waters.

US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives in Laos on Monday morning. It is not yet clear whether he will meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi who is also attending.

A State Department official over the weekend said the US would push for Asean to ease tensions over the South China Sea and find common ground.

AFP

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CamSur solon seeks free legal assistance for PNP, AFP members

By **SARAH C. IMPERIAL**

NAGA CITY, Camarines Sur — Camarines Sur 4th District Representative Noli Fuentebella has refilled a bill for free legal assistance to members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

House Bill 1587 was designed to garner support and appreciation, and boost the morale of PNP and AFP frontliners who bear the brunt of harassment by criminal syndicates caught in the mire of police operations.

The bill, authored by former CamSur 4th District Representative Felix William B. Fuentebella, and now refilled by his father, Congressman Noli P. Fuentebella, seeks to address peace and order, and the fair and equitable administration of justice to the country's men

in uniform, who, in many instances, appear before the NAPOLCOM without a counsel.

"In our country, the law is often construed as favoring the rich over the poor. The common man, like those officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP and PNP cannot afford to engage the services of a lawyer due to the prohibitive cost of legal service to defend himself from charges related to the performance of his official duties," Fuentebella said. "Where is justice in this case?" he added.

The proposed measure stipulates that the Secretary of Justice (DOJ), the AFP Chief of Staff, the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) Chairperson, or the PNP Chief shall authorize lawyers of their respective agencies to provide free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the AFP and PNP for the purpose.

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NPA's torch P1-M mining equipment in Ilocos Sur

By **FREDDIE C. LAZARO**

CAMP PRESIDENT QUIRINO, Ilocos Sur - A group of fully armed men, who introduced themselves as members of the New People's Army (NPA) to mining workers, has torched an estimated P1 million worth of equipment in Mount Nakaakawa Barangay Patacan, Quirino, Ilocos Sur last Saturday.

Chief Inspector Greg Guerrero, the spokesperson of the Ilocos Sur Police Provincial Office (IPPO), confirmed the arson incident that happened about 4:30 a.m.

A total of 10 rebels with high-powered long firearms swooped down on the mining processing firm owned by Laneza Belgen and held its workers at gunpoint.

Guerrero said the gunman had told the workers that all their equipment would be burned because they had failed to heed earlier warnings to cease operations.

It was learned that the mining processing plant lacked the necessary permits to operate, police said.

Guerrero said yesterday that hot pursuit operations against the armed men were ongoing.

25 June 2016

Batista

Page. _____

ANG NANGUNANG PANGKALANG TAGALOG NA BAYAN ₱8.00

ASG chief nakalusot

NI NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Nagawang makatakas ng pinakamataas na opisyal ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), kasama ang ilan niyang tauhan, sa dragnet operation ng militar at agad na nagtago sa isa pang teritoryo ng grupong bandido sa Sumisip, Basilan.

Kinumpirma ni dating Tipo-Tipo, Basilan Mayor Joel Maturan na nakatakas si Isnilon Hapilon sa tuluy-tuloy na opensiba ng militar laban sa Abu Sayyaf, na tinaguriang "focused military operations."

Kasabay nito, kinumpirma rin ni

Maturan na kritikal ngayon ang lagay ni Furuji Indama, ang ikalawang pinakamataas na opisyal ng ASG, makaraang masapol ng shrapnel sa kanang dibdib na tumagos sa likod sa airstrike ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) sa kampo nito kamakailan.

Nakatutok ang opensiba ng militar sa ilang sitio at barangay sa mga bayan ng Al-Barka, Ungkaya Pukan, at Tipo-Tipo, na sinasabing teritoryo ng ASG sa Basilan.

Ayon pa kay Maturan, nagkakampo si Hapilon sa kabundukan ng Punu Kawilan at Sikadir sa Al-Barka, habang

kontrolado naman ni Indama ang Punu Baguindan.

Dagdag pa ng dating alkalde, mistulang tumalima ang Abu Sayyaf sa panawagan ni Pangulong Duterte sa magkabilang panig na tigilan na ang paglalaban at simulan na ang paglalam ng galit sa kani-kanilang puso.

"The muzzle of guns are now silenced and firing from both the military and the ASG has stop since President Digong issued a call asking the ASG and the military to stop fighting and stop adding the loss of precious lives," ani Maturan.

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Corvettes scuttle Amy's Spikers; Generika wins

Games Tonight: (De La Salle Lipa Sentrum)

3 p.m. - Amy's vs Cignal

5 p.m. - Polon vs RC Cole-Army

7 p.m. - F2 Logistics vs Petron

Standard Insurance-Navy pounced on Amy's miscues and fashioned out a 25-17, 25-9, 25-14 romp yesterday in the Philippine Superliga (PSL) All-Filipino Conference women's volleyball tournament at the San Juan Arena.

Pau Soriano blasted in 11 kills and a pair of aces to finish with a game-high 13 points while Florence Madulid and Lilet Mabbayad backed her up with nine and seven points, respectively, for Standard Insurance-Navy, which scored its first win in the single-round classification battle for fifth to eighth places.

"Everybody was motivated and played their best," said Standard Insurance-Navy coach Nene Chavez. "We're

eyeing the best possible finish which is ninth place and this will be a good achievement because this is our first time to join (the PSL)."

The Corvettes did play with determination throughout the match that lasted 72 minutes.

After easily claiming the first set, Standard Insurance-Navy's blocking finally worked while Madulid and Soriano were sharp from the service box, finishing with five of the squad's eight total aces.

Meanwhile, Generika fought back from a set down and thwarted Cignal, 20-25, 25-23, 25-23, 25-22, in the other classification contest.

Shava Adorador and Wensh Tiu provided the spark while Angelica Macabalitao and Gen Casugod took care of defense as Generika survived the tough-fighting Cignal side.

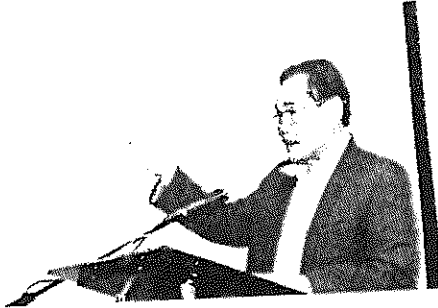
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ONLINE NEWS 25 JULY 2016

www.luwaran.com

MILF: MILF will always be guided by protocols and mechanisms: Chairman Iqbal

Chairman Iqbal, MILF, speaking at the launch of the book titled 'Mindanao: The Long Journey to Peace and Prosperity' in Makati last Tuesday (July 19).



"As may be clear already to all, the MILF will always be guided by protocols and mechanisms established by signed agreements," Monagoo Iqbal, MILF peace negotiating panel chair said during the launching of the book titled "Mindanao: The Long Journey to Peace and Prosperity" in Makati last Tuesday (July 19).

Iqbal emphasized "The continuity of the peace process will, in great respect, proceed along lines already mutually agreed upon, most essentially those stipulated in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB)."

Iqbal said Duterte administration has yet to engage formally with the MILF in the continuation of the peace process.

"The MILF Peace Panel remains constituted as to its authority and membership," he said and added, "We are waiting for our counterparts in the GPH side."

He cited that the book "Mindanao: The Long Journey to Peace and Prosperity," a collection of essays edited by Australian National University (ANU) Prof. Paul D. Hutchcroft, is quite similar with the book "The Long Road to Peace: Inside the GRP-MILF Peace Process" by Salah Jubair.

"Journey, Road. Undoubtedly these two words are most fitting descriptions to our aspiration and endeavor we call peace, and the process we undertake to achieve that," Iqbal pointed out.

"For those who have journeyed this road for more than 40 years, like myself and countless others, we have come to mark the milestones by the advent and exit of Philippine presidents – from Marcos, Aquino the mother, Ramos, Estrada, Arroyo, Aquino II and the new President Rodrigo Duterte," he said.

Except for the incumbent president, he noted that each of the past presidents since Marcos has made indelible marks on the peace process.

The Duterte administration is embarking towards shifting the form of government to federalism where a state for the Bangsamoro people shall be established.

Iqbal however said they prefer that the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) be passed first and "make it a template for federalism in the country."

The BBL is a legal measure that will lay down the foundation for the establishment of autonomous Bangsamoro political entity with more fiscal and political powers. It will replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Transform military capable of ensuring PH security, territorial integrity – DND chief

From: [JODAS: PH: 1/24: Transform military capable of ensuring PH security, territorial integrity – DND chief](#)

Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is committed into transforming the agency into a credible organization capable of ensuring Philippine security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. This was one of the official command guidance issued by Lorenzana, said DND public affairs service head Arsenio Andolong.

Also included was ongoing efforts to transform the DND into reliable partner in national development, and a strategic player in the Asia Pacific region.

"In terms of territorial defense, the SND's (Secretary of National Defense) guidance is for the improvement of DND's capabilities to perform its mandated tasks and fully support other government agencies to address the challenges posed by the complex and dynamic security environment," Andolong said.

In addition, defense cooperation with ASEAN and other key allies was identified as critical to stability and progress in the region and protection of a rules-based international order.

On internal security and peace operations, Lorenzana has ordered the DND to relentlessly focus military operations against terrorist groups and intensify its support to law enforcement agencies.

At the same time, it shall remain supportive of the peace process, especially in the implementation of signed and future peace agreements.

"The AFP shall also continue to uphold and adhere to the principle of human rights, international humanitarian law and rule of law in the performance of its assigned tasks," Andolong said.

"The AFP's Internal Peace and Security Plan 'Eayanihan' which is coming to a close this 2016 will be assessed in relation to the AFP transformation Roadmap with the goal of strengthening the professional character of the military institution," he added.

Lorenzana also ordered that the AFP Modernization Program will continue with the DND expediting acquisition activities on the pipeline and prioritize acquisition projects intended to enhance internal security operations capability.

"In line with the decision of President Duterte to convert the BRP Ang Pangulo into a hospital and the utilization of air assets of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, the AFP has been directed to submit proposals and prepare other requirements," the DND chief disclosed.

The DND will also continue to improve capabilities of selected AFP units for their roles as first responders and improve coordination with other agencies and non-government organizations in line with their humanitarian assistance disaster relief missions.

"Secretary Lorenzana also provided for the enhancement of support services for soldiers and veterans with the planned creation of an office that shall cater to the welfare of deceased soldiers in order to fast track the release of benefits to their dependents," Andolong pointed.

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He added that the DND chief also emphasized good governance, the importance of the comprehensive Philippine Defense Transformation Roadmap that institutionalizes the proper stewardship of public funds as well as reform programs that eliminate opportunities for graft and corruption

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Medal of Valor awardee AFP reservists take drug test

From Rappler July 24: Medal of Valor awardee AFP reservists take drug test

None of the reservists tested positive for illegal drugs



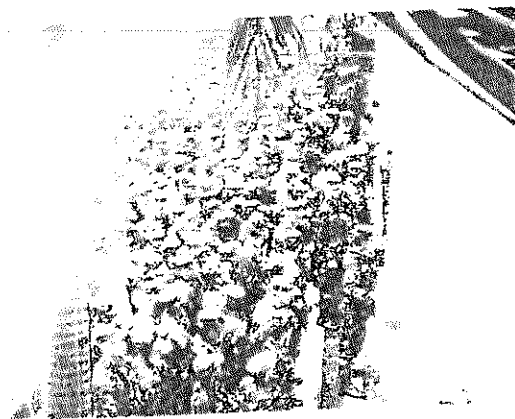
DRUG TESTING: AFP Reserve Command Chief Brigadier General Leopoldo A. Cirunay Jr and Colonel Noel S. Buan during the July 23 drug testing at Headquarters AFP Reserve Command. Photo courtesy of the AFP.

A Medal of Valor awardee on Saturday, July 23, led some 1,000 military reservists in undergoing a voluntary drug test inside the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Reserve Command headquarters.

Colonel Noel S. Buan, the acting AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs, joined Reserve Command Chief Brigadier General Leopoldo A. Cirunay Jr in the drug test.

Cirunay and Buan, according to a release from the AFP, wanted to 'set an example' for reservists.

None of the reservists tested positive for illegal drugs, noted the AFP.



DRUG TESTING: AFP reservists undergo voluntary drug testing at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo. Photo courtesy of the AFP

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The voluntary drug test on Saturday is only the latest taken under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. Other branches of military service, the civilian police force, and even different government agencies have taken tests at different times.

Duterte's main promises in the 2016 campaign include a strong campaign against illegal drugs, crime, and corruption. The AFP's Procurement Service Command and General Staff College, and the Headquarters Service Command, all underwent drug tests recently. All units are "drug-free," according to the AFP.

Buan was awarded the Medal of Valor – the highest military honor – for risking his life during a one hour and a half encounter against Abu Sayyaf members in Lantawan, Basilan on April 8, 2004.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/140748-afp-reservists-drug-test-medal-of-valor>

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www.interaksyon.com

Abu Sayyaf man to stand trial for Sipadan, sect members' abductions

<http://www.interaksyon.com/2013/07/24/Abu-Sayyaf-man-to-stand-trial-for-Sipadan-sect-members-abductions>

A member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) arrested earlier for two high-profile kidnapping cases - of six Jehovah's Witnesses in 2002 and the 2000 Sipadan case - was brought to Metro Manila to stand trial before a Pasig court.

Authorities arrested Bads Adjam alias Pa Malod/Abu Jihad last July 21 in Zamboanga City. There was a P600,000 government reward for his capture, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said Sunday.

Acting CIDG director Chief Superintendent Rodel Obusan said Adjam is now locked up at the detention facility of the CIDG-National Capital Region.

Captured by a joint operating team of the police and Army in Barangay Sta. Maria in Zamboanga City, Adjam was escorted to Metro Manila by a police team led by Chief Inspector Nino Lope Briones/

Adjam is covered by a warrant of arrest for six counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom issued by the RTC 9th Judicial Region, Branch 4, in Parang Sulu.

CIDG-NCR chief Senior Supt. Billy Tamayo said Malod Adjam was involved in the kidnapping of six members of Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu in 2002.

He (Adjam/Malod) was also included in the Criminal Case Nos. 122473H-122486H for Kidnapping and Serious Illegal Detention (21 counts) issued by RTC - NCR Branch 262 Pasig City for kidnapping of 10 Malaysians, nine Europeans and two Filipino resort workers in Sipadan Island, Malaysia in the year 2000, he said.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/130690-abu-sayyaf-man-to-stand-trial-for-sipadan-sect-members-abductions>

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