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09 June 2016

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LOCAL

ASIA

Metro Manila

Metro Manila

June 9, 2016

Thursday

26 - 33°C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers
and/or thunderstorms

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

26 - 34°C

25 - 34°C

26 - 34°C

Sunrise

Sunset

Moonrise

Moonsset

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

High Tide

Low Tide

N/A

N/A

Manila South
Harbor

Manila South
Harbor

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Rody: 35 local execs in illegal drug trade

By ALEXIS ROMERO

DAVAO CITY – There are at least 35 local officials involved in illegal drugs, president-elect Rodrigo Duterte told lawmakers here on Tuesday.

Whether the 35 will be arrested or eliminated as part of Duterte's crackdown on drugs is unclear.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said Duterte talked about the "clear and present danger" of the country's drug problem during the meeting held at the Malacañang of the South in Barangay Panacan.

He said Duterte urged his allies in Congress to support his campaign against crime.

"(He said) top officials of the PNP (Philippine National Police) and 35 local executives (are involved in the illegal drug trade)," Suarez said yesterday.

"It's like he is giving them leeway to confess. Perhaps they will get a lighter sentence if they confess, but he is not saying clemency or pardon," Suarez added.

Suarez said Duterte did not name the local officials involved in drug deals. The incoming president, however, identified one police general allegedly involved in the sale of narcotics. Suarez declined to elaborate.

He said Duterte was visibly disgusted and frustrated by the fact that some local officials condoned and even supported the sale of illegal drugs instead of suppressing it.

"It's a double whammy. You are not stopping, you are even protecting (the drug trade)," Suarez said.

It remains unclear what Duterte would do if the 35 local officials refuse to admit their wrongdoing. He has said

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Rody From Page 1

he would not hesitate to kill to protect the country from the drug menace.

Earlier, Duterte asked three police generals with alleged ties to the illegal drug trade to quit from their posts or be humiliated.

"Corruption must stop. I will ask three generals there in (Camp) Crame to resign. Do not wait for me to name you in public because I will only humiliate you," Duterte said during his victory party at Crocodile Park last Saturday.

Duterte has also bared plans to review the cases against policemen that have been dismissed. He said some crooked police officers were able to avoid punishment because the prescription period of their cases has lapsed.

Suarez said Duterte is also planning to tap the military for his anti-drug campaign.

"He (Duterte) even mentioned that he might need the support of the Armed Forces in the cleansing method, eliminating those men in uniform who are involved in this drug issue," the

lawmaker said.

On the other hand, Chief Supt. Ronald dela Rosa, Duterte's choice as the next PNP chief, said he would personally talk to the three police officials linked by the incoming president to illegal drugs.

Dela Rosa refused to identify the three police generals, but said they are on the take in the operations of illegal drugs.

"We will exhaust all legal means. But I will personally ask them first to leave the organization," he said.

"Maybe they would listen. I would just ask them to resign instead of them being humiliated or being hurt."

Dela Rosa admitted he could not just terminate the three police officials when he assumes the top PNP post.

He said the three police generals are still entitled to due process before summary dismissal proceedings.

Another option, Dela Rosa said, is to conduct a lifestyle check on the three police officials to obtain evidence that could bolster the case against them.

PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez said he has sent out a team to dig into the alleged involvement of police generals in illegal drugs but there is no evidence so far to validate the accusations.

Use the rope

During the meeting, Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. proposed the allocation of budget for lethal injection rooms, according to Suarez.

The proposal was made after Duterte informed the lawmakers in the meeting that the restoration of death penalty is one of his priorities.

Andaya, a former budget secretary, is poised to become the next chairman of the powerful House appropriations committee.

"Congressman Andaya proposed that in the budget for the remaining (days of the year), they would amend the 2016 budget. They would allocate funds for the improvement of the lethal injection room," Suarez said.

But Duterte responded by citing the

need for an implementing law on capital punishment.

"We can put it (funding for lethal injection rooms) in the appropriations, that we are setting aside the implementing features. It seems that he (Duterte) does not like it. He wants to do it by hanging," Suarez said.

"He said the lethal injection is not frightening enough because you will just let the convict sleep. With hanging, you can see the convict wiggling," he added.

Suarez, an ally of Vice President Jejomar Binay, said he has no objections to the restoration of death penalty.

"If ever I'll get the minority (leadership), we might even approve it ahead of the majority," he said.

Suarez said he prefers a more "dramatic" method of executing criminals.

"If I would be asked, I'd rather go for firing squad. It's more dramatic. Imagine facing the musketry while blindfolded. It can be a serious deterrent to criminality," he said.

— With Cecille Suerte Felipe

09 June 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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Davao rich bankrolled Rody

But Poe was biggest spender: P510M

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PRESIDENT-ELECT Rodrigo Duterte spent over P371 million on his campaign for Malacañang, bankrolled largely by big businessmen and patrons from Davao City, according to his statement of contributions and expenditures (Soce) submitted yesterday to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

But Duterte was not the biggest campaign spender among the five candidates in the May 9 presidential election.

That honor goes to Sen. Grace Poe, who reported spending P510.84 million on her campaign, which saw her finishing the race in third place.

Yesterday was the deadline for the submission of campaign expenditure reports.

Administration presidential candidate Mar Roxas, who finished the race in second place, failed to meet the deadline.

DAVAO / A9

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Davao rich bankrolled Duterte's campaign

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The Comelec's Campaign Finance Office extended the 5 p.m. deadline to 6:30 p.m., but no report from Roxas arrived.

Under Comelec Resolution No. 9991, failure to submit the Soce for the first time is punishable by a fine of P10,000 to P30,000 depending on the position.

Second-time offenders will be fined P20,000 to P60,000 and they could be perpetually barred from running for public office.

Outgoing Vice President Jejomar Binay invested P463.45 million in his failed bid for the presidency, while Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago was the most frugal, spending only P74.6 million.

According to Poe's report, she received P511.95 million in cash donations from various sources. The report did not indicate donations in kind. It also showed that she did not spend her own money on her campaign for the presidency.

Duterte's financiers

Documents submitted to the Comelec also showed that former Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Florendo Jr., son of the late banana magnate Antonio Florendo Sr., made the biggest contribution to Duterte's campaign, P75 million, or 20 percent of the total contributions to the electoral war chest of the longtime mayor of Davao City.

The campaign expense report submitted by Duterte's representatives yesterday showed that Florendo donated P25 million in cash in March and P50 million in April.

In total, Duterte received P375,009,474.90 million, of which over P298 million was in cash and the rest in kind, such as tables and chairs, light and sound systems, campaign posters and vehicles for motorcades.

Duterte's expense report also showed he had P3.5 million left.

Duterte reported that he spent P200,000 of his own money on his campaign.

Among his other top contributors were Dennis Uy of Davao-based Phoenix Petroleum (P30 million); Samuel Uy of Davao farms and Davao Import Distributors Inc. (P30 million); Lorenzo Te of Honda Cars Davao (P30 million); Tomas Alcantara, chair and president of the Alsons Group (P12 million); brother Nicasio Alcantara (P16 million) and Felix Ang, president of CATS Motors Inc. (P10 million).

Binay's expense report showed that there was over P77,000 left of the total

P463,453,000 cash contributions to his presidential campaign.

Santiago's report stated that she had spent all of the P74,652,689.87, which was identified as in-kind contributions received from her political party, People's Reform Party.

Biggest VP spender

Among the six vice presidential candidates, Vice President-elect Leni Robredo had the biggest expenditure, amounting to over P418 million.

Robredo's report showed that she received a total of P423,163,737.34, of which over P406 million was cash received from various sources; more than P192,000 in kind from various sources, and P16 million in kind from the Liberal Party.

Her closest rival, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., reported that he spent only P140.54 million. Of this amount, P9.8 million was his own money. He received a total of P130.7 million in cash and in-kind donations from various sources.

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero received over P322 million in contributions. He spent P320.5 million. His report showed that he did not use personal funds for his vice presidential campaign.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Duterte's running mate, reported receiving P188.9 million in donations. He spent P189.12 million, of which P199,872.48 was his own money.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV received P61.16 million in donations. He shelled out P736,569 from his own pocket, spending a total of P61.89 million on his failed vice presidential bid.

Sen. Gringo Honasan spent the least among the vice presidential candidates, paying only P26.25 million for his campaign. He received P25.9 million in cash and in-kind donations from various sources and spent P296,449.20 of his own money.

Senatorial candidates

Among the senatorial candidates who submitted their expenditure reports yesterday, former Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino spent the biggest amount, P199.15 million, but failed to win a seat in the Senate.

Next were winning senatorial candidates Joel Villanueva (P163.78 million), Sherwin Gatchalian (P157.07 million) and Ralph Recto (P131.87 million).

Losing senatorial candidates Isko Moreno and Sen. Teofisto Guingona III spent over P120 million and P92.30 million, respectively.

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● **Army-media ties intensified**

HINABANGAN, Samar (PNA) – The Philippine Army is stepping up its partnership with media practitioners, citing the latter's role to reach out to people in rural communities. Col. Raylindo S. Aniñon, Deputy Brigade Commander of the Philippine Army (PA)'s 801st Infantry Brigade under the 8th Infantry Division, said that in previous years, the military has not coordinated with media practitioners due to "operational security issues" where they perceived some journalists as rebel allies of rebels. "But that was before. Now we understand the importance and value of media to society," Aniñon said during a gathering of media practitioners at a military camp in Hinabangan, Samar over the weekend. Over 50 members of the PA press corps in Northern Samar, Samar, and Leyte attended the boot camp, which included basic marksmanship and military obstacle course orientation and demonstration. "The military realizes that the battle does not only take place in the battlefield; it can also be won or lost in public opinion," Aniñon said.

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Sundalo binaril sa loob ng kampo

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Patay ang isang sundalo habang sugatan naman ang isang miyembro ng Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) nang barilin sila ng kanilang lasing na kasamahan sa loob ng mess hall ng 17th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army sa Barangay Sicalao, Lasam, Cagayan, nitong Martes. Kinilala ni Chief Inspector Ramil Alipio ang mga biktima na sina Technical Sergeant Melanio Zalun at Dexter Cristobal, isang CAFGU member, 28. Namatay noon din si Sgt. Zalun samantalang kasalukuyang ginagamot si Cristobal sa isang ospital dahil sa tinamong sugat sa katawan. Naglunsad ng manhunt operation ang pulisya laban sa suspek na si Pfc. Ryan Mark Rapat na nagtago matapos ang pamamaril. **(Freddie G. Lazaro)**

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Pahina. 3

4 Lumad minasaker ng rebelde

PATAY ang apat na Lumad matapos lusubin ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Lungsod ng Malaybalay, lalawigan ng Bukidnon.

Kinilala ang mga biktima na sina Ricky 'Mankolobi' Bocals, kapatid nito na si Jojo 'Manlumakad' Bocals, asawa at anak ni Jojo na sina Inay at Tsek-ap Bocals, pangwang residente ng Tagikan River, Barangay Iridalasa ng nasabing lungsod.

Ayon sa pulisya, nilusob ng armadong grupo ang lugar ng mga biktima na naging sanhi upang magkaroon ng ilang minutong palitan ng putok.

Lumalabas na lumaban ang magkapatid subalit hindi nila nakayanan ang pwersa ng rebeldeng grupo.

Napag-alaman na nagawang makuha ng mga NPA ang baril ng dalawa na isang kalibre .45 at Kg-9 submachine gun. Ang magkapatid na Bocals ay miyembro ng Talaandig-Banwaon Tribe at kasalu-

kuyang nangunguna sa Maggahat-Alamara Group sa nasabing lugar. Ang Maggahat-Alamara group ay binuo ng 8th

Infantry Battalion at 403rd Brigade ng Philippine Army para ipantapat sa mga rebelde simula noong 2013. JAN S

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The Standard

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REDS NOW SEEK COALITION GOVT

CPP will push for release of Tiamzons, 521 others

By Joyce Pangco Pañares and John Paolo Bencito

THE Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front is open to entering into a coalition government with the administration of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte as they push for the release of 523 political prisoners, including CPP chairman Benito Tiamzon and his wife, Wilma Austria, who is the group's secretary-general and finance officer.

CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison said discussions on the possible coalition government will form part of formal negotiations on political and constitutional reforms in Oslo.

"We are open to a coalition government. Why not, especially if the composition and program of the coalition government is satisfactory to the Filipino people?" Sison told **The Standard** in an interview from Utrecht.

"The program must be truly one for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, democratic empowerment of the working people, social justice, economic development through national industrialization and genuine land reform, a patriotic and progressive culture with expanded free public education and international solidarity with all peoples and progressive forces," he added. Sison said he cannot name yet

the NDF officials who may join the Duterte administration since the peace negotiations have not yet resumed.

"However, I would like to point out that we have a lot of highly qualified people in the NDF," he said.

Sison said the NDF is seeking the release of more than 500 political prisoners, including the Tiamzon couple who were arrested in Carcar, Cebu in March 2014.

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Reds...

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"Duterte himself has said that he will pave the release of Benito and Wilma so they can participate in the peace process. The NDF is hopeful that once the formal peace talks begin, Benito and Wilma are already with us," he said.

NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni earlier insisted that Benito, who has a P5.6-million bounty on his head, and Wilma, are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig).

"Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria are NDF consultants who have fulfilled and are fulfilling highly significant tasks in the peace negotiations between the government and the NDF. Wilma Austria is holder of NDF Document of Identification ND978226 under her real name. Benito Tiamzon is likewise the holder of NDF Document of Identification ND 978227 under the assumed name Crising Banaag," Jalandoni said.

Incumbent government chief negotiator Alexander Padilla, however, insisted that the two do not enjoy protection under the Jasig.

"The CPP-NPA is well aware of the effects of the failed verifi-

cation. But they only have themselves to blame for rendering the Jasig inoperative for most of their alleged consultants. If indeed Benito was listed under an alias, he is no longer covered by the Jasig. Wilma Austria, on the other hand, jumped bail when she escaped from detention on Dec. 26, 1989, when there were no peace talks, and six years before the Jasig came into effect. This makes her ineligible for Jasig protection, even assuming she was identified in the Jasig list by her real name," Padilla added.

Formal peace talks between the Aquino administration and the CPP-NDF-New People's Army bogged down in February 2011 because the communist group has been insisting on the reactivation of the Jasig, a move rejected by the government after the original list, stored in an old floppy disk, got corrupted and could no longer be retrieved.

But incoming government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said the Jasig can be reconstituted under a Duterte administration.

Bello, together with incoming peace adviser Jesus Dureza and incoming government peace panel member Hernani Braganza, will join Sison, Jalandoni and Fidel Agcaoili in Oslo next week for a two-day exploratory

meeting.

Sison said he expects to conclude three agreements—on the release of the political prisoners, an interim ceasefire and a plan to accelerate the peace negotiations—during the discussion from June 15 to 16.

"The interim ceasefire will take effect with the release of all political prisoners through a general amnesty until the successful conclusion of the peace negotiations. The formal peace talks will include a comprehensive and detailed agreement on the permanent end of hostilities," Sison added.

Duterte has expressed his desire to end the nearly five-decade-long insurgency through a comprehensive peace agreement with the CPP-NDF-NPA.

Known to be close to the left, Duterte even announced his choice of progressives to join his Cabinet, including Judy Taguinaldo to head the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Rafael Mariano to head the Department of Agrarian Reform.

On Wednesday, Agcaoili said the NDF would no longer make junking the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States a condition for the resumption of peace talks.

"I have to criticize myself because in a press conference, someone asked me what is your non-negotiable demand—I said well it's the presence of US forces. Now thinking about it, I think I was too forward. I don't think I should have said that in first place," Agcaoili said.

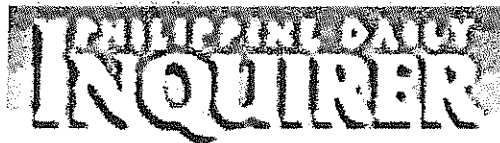
"If you go back to the statement of President-elect Duterte, he said he was against VFA and Edca. There is no need for a non-negotiable demand when there is already an imposition. No need to make demand when there is no need to make a demand," he added.

He added that since the Edca was not a treaty, the chief executive could simply rescind it.

In the same press briefing, Agcaoili confirmed that preliminary talks will start next week in Oslo.

"We in the NDFP have been elated by the pledge of President Duterte to release all the political prisoners by general amnesty even before the start of formal talks if the preliminary talks prove to be successful. And we have expressed the willingness to achieve peace immediately in the form of a mutual interim ceasefire. We are ready to maintain the ceasefire and the peace while we carry out the plan to accelerate the peace negotiations," he said.

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Joma says Oslo talks to tackle ceasefire details

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison said on Wednesday he hoped clashes between the insurgents and government forces would temporarily halt as both sides prepare for the expected resumption of peace talks in Oslo, Norway in July.

"What is immediately possible is an interim ceasefire, which effectively stops the fighting while peace negotiations are going

on," Sison told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said that he was hopeful that the ceasefire "will be felt immediately" as representatives from Manila and the communist's political wing, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), prepared to meet for preliminary talks in Oslo on June 14 to 16.

Ceasefire liaison officers and third party monitors would be named to ensure compliance of the deal, he said.

Once the ceasefire is in effect,

government forces and communist rebels would be restricted inside their camps and guerrilla zones, respectively.

"They are prohibited from firing their weapons and are required to avoid provocations. They cannot just move freely into the territory of the enemy," Sison said.

He noted, however, that both sides were entitled to their "right of self defense."

The New People's Army is the armed wing of the CPP and while its membership has dwindled significantly during the 1980s, it

remains capable of mounting deadly guerrilla attacks.

Peace talks between the rebels and the government have repeatedly bogged down in the past, largely due to the insurgents' insistence for government to free jailed comrades.

But President-elect Rodrigo Duterte is perceived to have close ties with the leftist movement, allowing for the quick resumption of negotiations.

Sison, on Wednesday, also warned the government not to reiterate its demand for rebels

to lay down their arms during the peace negotiations.

"If the revolutionaries agree to have... their guns sealed while negotiations on reforms are ongoing, then they would be accused of surrendering [and] betraying the just cause of the revolution," said Sison, the chief political consultant of NDFP.

He said preliminary talks between peace negotiators designated by President-elect Duterte and by the NDFP is scheduled to be held in Oslo next week, ahead of the formal

resumption of peace talks.

But the negotiators were not expected to sign any agreement during the exploratory meeting in Oslo this month, with Duterte yet to officially assume the presidency.

The government panel will be represented by Silvestre Bello III and Jesus Dureza while the NDFP representatives include Sison and Luis Jalandoni, the NDFP's chief peace negotiator.

The NDFP has been engaged in on-and-off negotiations with the government in the past 27 years.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Peace group tells US: Remove Reds' terror tag

DAVAO CITY—The United States should remove its terror tag on the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) which a group advocating for a peaceful settlement of the nearly 50-year communist insurgency in the Philippines said could make it dangerous for CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison to come home to conclude peace talks with the incoming Duterte administration.

"If the United States cares, even an iota, for the peace of our nation and people, they will remove their 'terrorist' tagging," said the group Pilgrims for Peace in a statement.

"Such can impede travel and make it dangerous for professor Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the CPP, to attend any activity related to the talks in the Philippines," the group said.

Reiteration

Sison, in an online chat with INQUIRER, accused the US government of sabotaging talks between the incoming Duterte administration and communist rebels by reiterating the terror tag on CPP and other Leftist organizations.

In the Country Reports on Terrorism 2015 released by the US State Department on June 2, the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, were identified as "US-designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations" along with the local terror group Abu Sayyaf Group and its regional affiliate Jemaah Islamiyah.

The same report labeled the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) as a militant group. BIFF is a group of breakaway Moro guerrillas blamed for a series of attacks on civilian communities in the

wake of disagreements with Moro Islamic Liberation Front over peace talks with the Aquino administration.

'Sustained pressure'

The US State Department report said the only reason that these groups "were unable to conduct major attacks on civilian targets in metropolitan areas" is "sustained pressure" from Philippine law enforcers.

The report listed a series of attacks mostly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, but mentioned nothing to support its tag on CPP.

Sison said it was ironic for the US government to label groups as terrorists when it is the "biggest terror force" in the world.

He said during American colonization of the Philippines, US military campaigns killed at least 1.5 million Filipinos from 1899 to 1913.

Since World War II, Sison said, the United States has caused the deaths of 35 million people worldwide as a result of its "wars of aggression."

The United States, said Sison, is behind "state terrorism in the Philippines."

Sison said the timing of the release of the US State Department report is suspicious because it came just as communist rebel leaders and the incoming Duterte administration prepared to resume formal negotiations for a peace pact.

He said there can be no other reason behind the terror tagging but to derail the talks.

Pilgrims for Peace, a group with ties to Protestant churches, said it protests the labeling of CPP and NPA as terrorist organizations. *Karlos Manlupig, Inquirer Mindanao*

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Abu Sayyaf frees 4 Malaysian seamen after 2 months

By ELENA L. ABEN

Four Malaysian seamen were released yesterday after two months of captivity by the Abu Sayyaf.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of

the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said the victims – Wong Teck Chii, Johnny Lau Jung Hien, Wong Teck Kang, and Wong Hung Sing – were released around 12:30 a.m. ►11

Abu Sayyaf frees 4...

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He said the four were brought by their captors to the shoreline of Barangay Lagasan Higat in Parang, Sulu, and they immediately boarded a speedboat for Sandakan, Sabah.

"Information received from ground units disclosed that the freed victims arrived in Sandakan at about 6 a.m. today," said Tan in a text message.

The Wesmincom spokesman could not confirm if ransom was paid for the release of the kidnap victims. "We have yet to confirm whether ransom money was paid in exchange for the safe release of the victims," he said.

Earlier reports said the Abu Sayyaf demanded RM 18 million (approximately P200 million) in exchange for the

freedom of the four foreigners.

A military official said a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) helped facilitate the release of the four Malaysians. "They were freed by their abductors and were allegedly fetched by former MNLF member Hadji Mandi Sangkula," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

The victims were aboard the tugboat Massive 6 when they were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf believed led by sub-leader Madjan Sahidjuan alias Apuh Mike, in the high seas of Sempornah, Sabah, on April 1.

They were later brought to Sulu where the kidnappers haggled for ransom for their release.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

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Abus free 4 Malaysians

By Florante S. Solmerin

THE four Malaysians abducted by the Abu Sayyaf Group last April 1 were released Tuesday in Sulu and immediately ferried to Sandakan, Malaysia even as the military said it is investigating reports that ransom was paid for their release.

"We have yet to confirm whether ransom money was paid in exchange for the safe release of the victims," Major Filemon Tan, spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command [Westmincom], said in a statement.

The freed victims were Wong Teck Kang, 31, and Wong Teck Chii, 29, their cousin, Johnny Lau Jung Hien, 21, and Wong Hung Sing, 34.

Tan said the Malaysians were freed early in the morning at the

shoreline of Barangay Lagasan Higat in Parang and were immediately boarded onto a speedboat that soon left for Sandakan.

"The four victims who were aboard Tugboat Massive 6 were abducted by the ASG believed to be led by ASG sub-leader Madjan Sahidjuan, alias Apuh Mike, off the high seas of Sempornah, Sabah last April 01," Tan said.

"Information received from ground units disclosed that the freed victims arrived in Sandakan

at about 6 a.m. today," he added.

Multiple reports said the release of the victims was negotiated by the help of some Filipino-Malaysians.

Formed in the early 1990s, the Abu Sayyaf is a radical offshoot of a Muslim separatist insurgency in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines.

The militants regularly abduct foreigners and locals to extort money for their release.

In May, the Abu Sayyaf released 14 Indonesian sailors who had been kidnapped in two high-seas raids similar to the abduction of the Malaysians.

The kidnappings prompted Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to launch joint patrols in their waters and set up a security hotline.

In April, the Abu Sayyaf be-

headed Canadian hostage John Ridsdel after a deadline for paying a ransom of \$6.4 million passed, and in November last year killed a Malaysian man.

Ridsdel was kidnapped along with a Canadian friend, a Norwegian man and a Filipina from aboard yachts at a marina in the southern Philippines in September last year.

The Abu Sayyaf has warned it will kill either the Canadian or the Norwegian if a multi-million-dollar ransom is not paid by Monday.

The Abu Sayyaf is also holding a Dutch birdwatcher kidnapped in 2012.

The Abu Sayyaf's leaders have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, but analysts say it is more focused on kidnappings for ransom than setting up a caliphate.

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The National Newspaper

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Four Malaysians freed by Abu Sayyaf captors

BY VICTOR REYES

ABU Sayyaf terrorists yesterday released in Sulu the four Malaysian tugboat crew members they abducted off the waters of Tawi-tawi over two months ago.

The victims – Wong Teck Chii, Johnny Lau Jung Hien, Wong Teck Kang, and Wong Hung Sing – are now back to Sabah, according to Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military's Western Mindanao Command.

Tan said the four were released around 12:30 a.m. at the shoreline of Barangay Lagasan Higat in Parang town "and immediately boarded a speedboat en route to Sandakan, Sabah."

"Information received from ground units disclosed that the freed victims arrived in Sandakan (in Sabah) at about 6 a.m. today," said Tan, citing intelligence information gathered from military units.

Malaysian media reported that the Abu Sayyaf demanded RM 18 million (about P200 million) for the four victims.

"We have yet to confirm whether ransom money was

paid," said Tan.

The four crew members of Tugboat Massive 6 were abducted by the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Madjan Sahidjuan, alias Apuh Mike, last April 1.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the victims were released to Hadji Mandi Sangkula, a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front. The MNLF is known to have ties with the Abu Sayyaf.

"They were released to a former MNLF member. Allegedly, he was the one who coordinated with the Abu Sayyaf...They (victims) later boarded a black banca that took them to Sabah," the source said.

Another military source said the military received sketchy information that ransom was paid for the freedom of the four victims. He said the release was a product of a negotiation through the MNLF.

"We have no way of verifying but there was a report. No (ransom) amount was mentioned but reportedly ransom was paid...The negotiations were pursued through the MNLF," the source said.

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Top NPA commander in Surigao arrested

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

SURIGAO CITY – A top commander of the New People's Army (NPA) was arrested Monday at his rented house in Purok 7, Barangay Ladgaran, Claver, Surigao del Norte, a ranking police official in the region said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, regional director of PRO 13, identified the captured rebel leader as Jonathan Cadaan Peñaflor, also known as Jojo Peñaflor, Lurkan and Albert.

Peñaflor was the commanding officer of the Sangay sa Partido Platoon 21-C, guerilla-Front Committee 21 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC), claimed the region's top police official.

He was arrested by a team from 13th Regional Investigation Division Tracker Team and 13th Regional Public Safety Battalion at 2 p.m. Monday.

The arresting team also recovered

a Combat Commander Colt and Para-Ordnance .45 caliber pistols and live ammunitions from the suspect's house, Chief Supt. Felix said.

The suspect was arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by Surigao City Regional Trial Court Judge Emmanuel E. Escatron on December 27, 2013 for murder, the region's police chief said.

"The suspect had been under surveillance for a year and information received only a week ago said that the suspect was in Claver," Chief Supt. Felix said.

The raiding team said the suspect who had been allegedly linked to several atrocities committed by the NPAs in the region, did not resist arrest when completely surprised at his rented house, he added.

Chief Supt. Felix ordered all field units spread all over the Northeastern Mindanao region to step up without let up in their respective areas of responsibility (AORs) in the arrest of suspected NPAs who have outstanding warrants

of arrest.

Last Friday, a combined police and military forces already arrested three heavily armed high-profile NPA commanders and members at mountainside barangay of Tungao, Butuan City, PRO 13 report also said.

Meanwhile, Major General Valencia, commanding general of the Southern Mindanao 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10thID), said more troops have already been deployed by the higher command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Southern (Davao) and North-eastern (Caraga) Mindanao regions to address the remaining armed component of the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Valencia added that a total of 300 former rebels already returned to the folds of the law between 2014 and 2015, and 207 of whom availed of the government's Comprehensive Local Integration Program.

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The Manila Times

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Surigao del Norte NPA leader arrested

A TOP leader of the communist rebel movement in Surigao del Norte and two others were captured by government security forces on Monday afternoon during a pursuit operation in a remote village in Claver town in the said province, a police official said on Wednesday.

Supt. Michael Lozada, the spokesman for the Caraga police, in a report sent to Camp Crame in Quezon City (Metro Manila) identified the arrested New People's Army leader in Surigao del Norte as Jonathan Cadaan Peñaflor alias "Jojo Peñaflor," of legal age and a resident of Purok-7 in Barangay (village) Ladgaran in Claver town.

The police official said Peñaflor was captured by a joint team of the Regional Intelligence Division Tracker Team and the Regional Public Safety Battalion based in Caraga during a manhunt operation in Claver town.

Lozada said in the report that Peñaflor, along with two others, identified as Lurkan and Albert, were captured at around 2 p.m. on Monday after government forces swooped down on Peñaflor's rented home in Claver town.

The police official said Peñaflor was said to be the commanding officer of the Sangay sa Partido Platoon 21C, Guerrilla Front Committee 21 of the North Eastern Mindanao Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA.

Lozada said Peñaflor was arrested by government forces based on a warrant issued by Judge Emmanuel Escatron of the Regional Trial Court Branch 30 of the 10th Judicial Region of Surigao City on December 27, 2013 for murder.

The police official said in the report the arresting government security forces recovered from Peñaflor's house a Combat Commander Colt and Para-Ordnance .45 caliber pistols and ammunition.

Lozada said the suspect had been under surveillance for a year, and they received information a week ago that Peñaflor was in Claver town before he was arrested.

The police official said the raiding team reported that Peñaflor, who had been linked to several atrocities committed by the rebels in the region, did not resist arrest when he was captured.

Peñaflor's arrest came a few days after government forces captured two high profile leaders of the NPA during an operation by police and military forces in a suburban village in Butuan City in Agusan del Sur.

Arrested by police and military forces in Sitio Lamusig in Barangay Tungao in Butuan City were Rodolfo Bungolto alias Itom/Loloy, Danilo Acania, Jek-jek Borja and Tata Borja, alias Anatalio Pison. They were arrested by joint operatives of the police and military at about 5 a.m. on Friday last week.

Bungolto is the commanding officer of the Militia ng Bayan and team leader of Guerrilla Front Committee 4A Sparu unit, while Acania is the former deputy secretary of GFC 4A and commanding officer of the Policard NPA platoon.

The two others, Jek-jek Borja and Tata Borja, were Militia ng Bayan members and were arrested based on a warrant of arrest for frustrated murder and multiple murder, Lozada previously said.

ANTHONY VARGAS

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Pahina. 3

PMA cadet patay sa heat stroke

Nawalan ng malay habang pabalik sa kanilang training camp ang isang 19-anyos na Philippine Military Academy 4th Class Cadet, sa Gregorio Lim Marine Base sa Ternate Cavite at tuluyang binawian ng buhay sanhi dinumano ng heat stroke.

Sa naantalang ulat, nabatid na galing sa road run ang grupo ng kadeteng si John Benedict Margin, tubong Binangonan, Rizal, noong May 30, nang bigla umanong natumba ang kadete at isinugod sa Medical Dispensary ng nasabing Ma-

rine Base, ngunit binawian din ng buhay dakong alas-sais ng hapon sa kaparehong araw.

Dehydration na nagresulta sa heat stroke ang pangunahing dahilan sa pagkasawi ng kadeteng miyembro rin ng Cadet. (Rossel Calderon)

09 June 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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China wants PH to drop UN suit

By Estrella Torres

FACED with a setback in a United Nations arbitral court, China on Wednesday urged the Philippines to drop its legal tack and return to bilateral negotiation to settle their territorial dispute in the South China Sea.

China did not say, however,

whether it would stop building artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago or whether it would withdraw from Panatag Shoal, which it seized from the Philippines in 2012 after a two-month standoff with the Philippine Navy, to encourage negotiations.

It was China's seizure of

Panatag Shoal, internationally known as Scarborough Shoal, that forced the Philippines to challenge China's claim to almost all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China

CHINA/A6

From page A1

Sea in the UN arbitration court in 2013.

The Philippines asked the court to invalidate China's sweeping claims and declare its right to exploit resources in waters within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) be honored.

Ruling coming soon

China has refused to take part in the proceedings, but the court has heard the case and is expected to hand down a ruling in the coming weeks.

Expecting the ruling to go against it, China on Wednesday accused the Philippines of ignoring requests for dialogue about their dispute.

"China urges the Philippines to immediately cease its wrongful conduct of pushing forward the arbitral proceedings, and return to the right path of settling the relevant disputes in the South China Sea through bilateral negotiation with China," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a statement posted on his ministry's website.

The statement, released in both Chinese and English, said the two countries agreed in 1995 to settle disputes in the

South China Sea "in a peaceful and friendly manner through consultations on the basis of equity and mutual respect."

China and the Philippines have held many rounds of talks on the proper management of maritime disputes, though they have had no negotiations designed to settle the actual disputes in the South China Sea, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

"China has on a number of occasions proposed with the Philippines the establishment of a China-Philippines regular consultation mechanism on maritime issues; however, to date, there has never been any response from the Philippine side," it said.

The ministry did not specify how such consultations would be different from the numerous exchanges the countries have had on the dispute.

Reef grabbing

It blamed the Philippines for the dramatic worsening in the two countries' relations and in peace and stability in the South China Sea, but did not mention its actions that forced Manila to go to the United Nations for a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) declined to comment.

A department official familiar with the arbitration case said Manila was expecting the tribunal to hand down a ruling this month and it would rather remain quiet until then.

In 1995, despite its proposal for talks, China seized Panganiban Reef (Mischief Reef), a reef 250 km west of Palawan province, and developed it into a shelter purportedly for fishermen.

The Philippines protested China's actions and when Beijing went on developing Mischief Reef, Manila grounded a rusting hospital ship on Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) to mark Philippine territory in the Spratly archipelago.

A small Marine garrison is stationed on the vessel, the BRP Sierra Madre, which is restocked regularly using private supply ships protected by US warplanes.

Competing claims

Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan have competing claims in the South China Sea, and they could benefit from the ruling of the UN arbitral court.

China, however, has been building artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago to bolster its claim to the strategic

waterway, which is crisscrossed by vital sea-lanes through which about \$5 trillion in global shipborne trade passes every year and where islets, reefs and atolls are believed to be sitting atop vast energy reserves.

Although saying it is not taking sides in the disputes, the United States has challenged China's claims, sending warships and spy planes near the artificial islands in so-called freedom of navigation operations.

At the end of security talks in Beijing on Tuesday, China told the United States it should play a constructive role in safeguarding peace in the South China Sea, as US Secretary of State John Kerry called for talks and a peaceful resolution.

Comments both by Kerry and his Chinese counterpart, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, suggested that their governments remained far apart on the South China Sea disputes.

"I reiterated America's fundamental support for negotiations, and a peaceful resolution based on the rule of law, as well as, obviously, our concern about any unilateral steps by anyone, whichever country,

to alter the status quo," Kerry said during a joint appearance with Chinese officials in the Great Hall of the People.

Yang, who steers Chinese foreign policy and is senior to the foreign minister, said China remained adamantly opposed to an arbitration case brought by the Philippines to assert its claims in the South China Sea.

"This has not changed and will not change," Yang said, repeating China's position that it is willing to negotiate over the disputes, but only with each individual country holding a rival claim, rather than collectively.

No enforcement powers

Also on Tuesday, Australian security policy expert Christopher Roberts said the UN court's ruling was expected to be in favor of the Philippines, but Manila needed its allies and friends to help enforce the ruling.

The UN arbitral court has no powers to enforce its rulings, which have been ignored not a few times.

Roberts, speaking at the South China Sea forum at the DFA, said a bilateral approach might not work to temper the "very disconcerting and assertive behavior of China" in the

settlement of disputes.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has said he is open to bilateral negotiations with China to solve the dispute, but is waiting for the UN tribunal's ruling.

"China is the elephant in the room. Taking a multilayered approach at diplomatic level could bring a collection of willing states to signal to China that there are the options available and it should decide on both economic and political gains and losses," Roberts said in an interview after the forum.

Wang, in the foreign ministry statement, said China "never accepts any recourse to third-party settlement, or any means of dispute settlement that is imposed on it."

He insisted that territorial sovereignty issues were not subject to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"It is not only the Chinese government's consistent policy, but also a clear agreement reached between China and the Philippines, to settle their relevant disputes in the South China Sea through negotiation," Wang said. *With reports from Reuters, AFP and New York Times News Service*

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POLICE FILES

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69th Philippine Air Force Run, ikinasa! publiko hinimok na tumakbo!

MASUGID na inaanyaya-han ang publiko na makilahok at tumakbo sa naiibang Fun Run na ikinasa ng pamunuan ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) kasunod ng pagdiriwang ng kanilang ika-69 taong anibersaryo sa darating na buwan ng Hunyo.

Sa ikatlong pagkakataon ay ilulunsad ng PAF sa pakikipagpagulungan ng Streetwise Events Management and Public Relations (Streetwise), na tumatayong co-organizer, ang **"Takbo ng Hukbong Himpapawid para sa Kalusugan at Kapakanan ng mga Lingkod Bayan"** sa darating na June 19, 2016, 4:00 am, Linggo sa Liwasang Ula, CCP Complex, Lung-sod ng Pasay.

Ayon kay Kenneth Montegrande, Managing Director ng Streetwise ang nasabing aktibidad ay isa sa mga pangunahing aktibidad sa pre-an-niversary celebration ng ahensya kung saan layon nitong bigyang pugay at parangal ang mga magiging na miyembro ng Philippine Air Force, at paigtingin ang kanilang kampanya para sa kalusugan.

Masusubok ang liksi at lakas ng mga runners sa mga race categories na maaari nilang salihan tulad ng 3 Kilometer Category – na nagkakahalaga lamang ng P 350; 5K Category – P 550; 10K-P 650; at 21K Half Marathon Category – na nagkakahalaga naman ng P 850.

Kasama sa race kits na

matatanggap ng mga kalahok na runners ay ang Limited Edition Singlets/Sando; Race Bibs, Timing Chip, at iba pang mga freebies.

Inaasahang aabot sa higit kumulang na 4,000 katao ang dadalo sa nasabing Fun Run na kinabibilangan ng mga opisyal at miyembro ng PAF, mga kasapi ng iba ibang running clubs, mga avid running enthusiasts, at iba pa.

Tumatagting na P 50,000 naman ang kabuuang halaga ng mga papremyong ipagkakaloob ng pamunuan ng PAF sa mga magwawaging runners mula sa iba ibang race categories maliban pa sa makukuha nilang Trophies, Finisher Medals, freebies, loot bags mula sa mga sponsors, at iba pang mga sorpresa.

Naniniwala naman si Montegrande na sa pamamagitan ng mga ganitong aktibidad ay mas mabibigyang pansin at importansya ng publiko ang kabayanihan at natatanging tungkulin ng kanilang mga kawani upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan sa buong bansa.

Maaaring magparehistro ang mga runners sa mga designated registration areas sa mga sangay ng Toby's sa Trinoma Quezon City, SM Aura Taguig City, Glorietta 2 Makati City, at sa RUNNR sa Alabang Town Center.

Samantala, nagpapasalamat naman ang PAF sa pa-

munuan ng Streetwise na kanilang naging co-organizer at sa mga sponsors na naging kaagapay nito upang mabuo ang nasabing event katulad ng Anta Philippines, Pocari Sweat, Toby's Sports, RUNNR, TimesStudio, Anta Philippines, Pure Blue Purified Drinking Water at sa mga media partners na Business Mirror, Health and Fitness, at Philippines Graphic Magazine.

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ONLINE NEWS

09 June 2016

WESMINCOM confirms release of 4 Malaysian crewmen by ASG bandits

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 8): **WESMINCOM confirms release of 4 Malaysian crewmen by ASG bandits**

The Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) confirmed that the four Malaysian tugboat crewmen, kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits last April, were released by their captors early Wednesday morning.

"Malaysian kidnap victims Wong Teck Chii, Johnny Lau Jung Hien, Wong Teck Kang, and Wong Hung Sing were reportedly released by the ASG early this morning in Sulu," WESMINCOM spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said in a statement to the PNA.

He added the four Malaysian seafarers were freed in the shoreline of Barangay Lagasan Higat in Parang, Sulu at 12:30 a.m. and quickly boarded a speedboat en route to Sandakan, Sabah where they arrived safe and sound at 6:00 a.m.

"We have yet to confirm whether ransom money was paid in exchange for the safe release of the victims," Tan said.

The four were aboard T/B Massive 6 when it was boarded by bandits headed by ASG sub-leader Madjan Sahidjuan alias Apuh Mike last April 1.

The vessel was passing off Sempornah, Sabah when attacked.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=893040>

Difficulty in facilitating Sison's return seen

By Antonio L. Colina IV On June 8 2016 11:08 pm

DAVAO CITY (MindaNews / 8 June) – There might be some difficulties in facilitating the return of Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria Sison in the country to talk peace with the incoming Duterte administration after the United States government placed the CPP-New Peoples' Army in the terrorist list.

In a press conference during the "When Blue Meets Red: A Conversation on GPH-NDFP Peace Process" at the Ateneo de Davao University on Wednesday, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) negotiating panel spokesperson Fidel Agcaoili said that Sison's return to the country remains to be "a very ticklish issue" and needs an assurance from the Dutch, Norwegian, and even US government they will not interfere in a way that will result to the derailment of the peace negotiations.

"There should be a guarantee from the Dutch government, Norwegian government, and the US government to respect the sovereignty of the Filipino people in their desire to pursue a just and lasting peace by allowing Sison to come home without interference," he said.

Agcaoili said that including the CPP-NPA in the terrorist watch list of the US government poses a "real problem" because Sison could be arrested at a foreign airport where he would take the flight to the Philippines, which might "adversely affect the peace negotiations" between the two parties.

"Maapektuhan kung tayo nag-uusap para sa kalayaan bigla mong kukunin ang aking kaibigan, bakit hindi maapektuhan ang ating pakikipag-usap? Pwede ba yun? Papayagan kita na kunin mo yung kaibigan ko habang nag-uusap tayo? Hindi naman pwede yan," Agcaoili said.

There's no direct flight from Holland in The Netherlands to the Philippines, Agcaoili noted, adding that Sison will have to fly to the country via an international airport in Taipei.

"The travel from Holland to Manila, no direct flight. And Professor Sison will have to pass by Taipei. Kung mag-spoiler ang US, through its Interpol, they might present a warrant against sa kanya sa Taipei," he said.

Incoming Presidential Adviser on Peace Process chair Jesus Dureza told reporters Wednesday that he has no knowledge about the US government's inclusion of the CPP-NPA in its terrorist watchlist but he vowed to deal with it when both parties return on the peace table.

"I will not speculate. Unya na if naa na sa among table. (We will take it up later when we return to the peace table.) We will deal with it. It has not come to my personal knowledge officially or unofficially. I was not able to listen to Fidel," he said.

Agcaoili said he had three meetings with President-elect Rodrigo R. Duterte where they discussed, among others, the possibility of Duterte sending his emissary to meet with Sison, release of political prisoners through general amnesty, and discussion about the NDFP's recommendations to his cabinet.

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

"The first one was about the possibility of him and Sison meeting abroad because he said that he will see the Pope and on his way back, he would like to pass by The Netherlands to meet Professor Sison. But he said that would not be possible because he is not yet proclaimed," he said.

Agcaoili claimed the current Aquino administration failed to attain peace with the CPP-NPA-NDFP and continue to launch attacks against them through the Oplan Bayanihan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"Hindi ba pwedeng sabihin kay Aquino na hintuin nya muna ang Oplan Bayanihan. I-withdraw nya muna ang mga troops kaso this current administration tuloy tuloy eh, so tuluy tuloy lang din ang laban," he said.

In a press briefer, the NDFP said: "The CPP, and its armed wing NPA, and the NDFP have waged an armed struggle against the GPH for the 47 years. The armed struggle intensified during the harsh years of martial law (1972 to 1986), a period that saw the expansion of the CPP-NPA-NDF Forces from Luzon to the entire country."

"In December 2010, under the PNoy administration, new initiatives for the peace talks resulted in an agreement to resume negotiations in February 2011. Several meetings were conducted; however, the negotiations came to halt when the NDFP demanded the release of its consultants who were allegedly illegally arrested by the government, in violation of their agreement about immunity guarantees," it said.

Read more <http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/06/08/difficulty-in-facilitating-sisons-return-seen/>

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