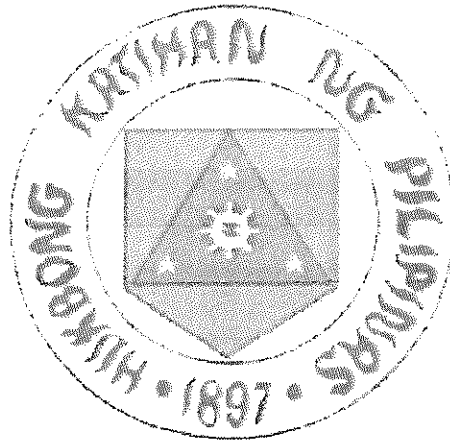


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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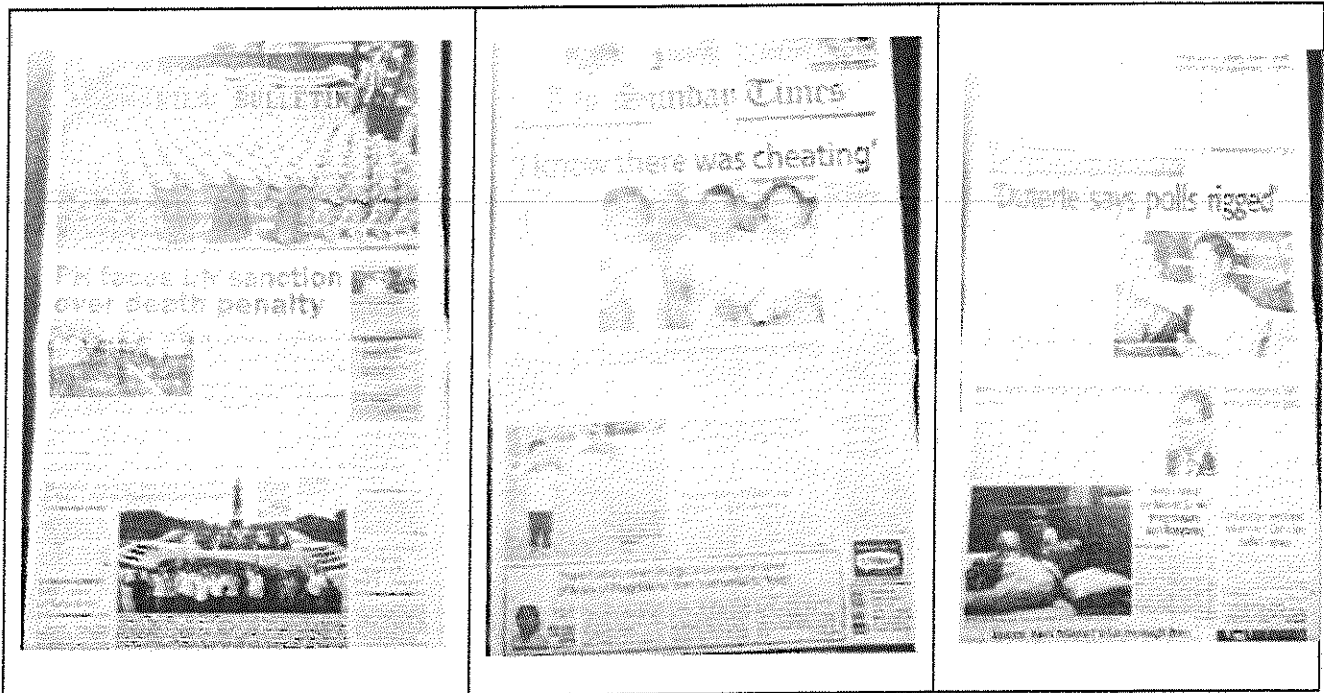
12 June 2016

Sunday

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

HEADLINE NEWS

12 JUNE 2016



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

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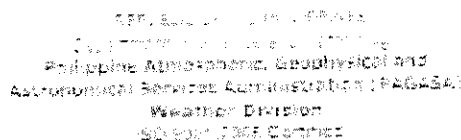
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	Mindanao Army Special Forces Chief to join Duterte's; 6 th ID reshuffles commanders		newsinfo.inquirer.net

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1. **Introduction:** The first paragraph introduces the topic of the research paper, which is the impact of social media on mental health. It states that the purpose of the study is to explore the relationship between social media use and mental health outcomes, specifically focusing on anxiety and depression.

2. **Background:** The second paragraph provides background information on the topic. It discusses the rapid growth of social media in recent years and the increasing concern about its potential negative effects on mental health. It mentions that while social media can provide a sense of community and support, it can also lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

3. **Methodology:** The third paragraph describes the methodology used in the study. It is a quantitative study involving a survey of 1,000 participants. The survey included questions about social media usage, mental health symptoms, and demographic information. The data was analyzed using statistical software to identify correlations between social media use and mental health outcomes.

4. **Results:** The fourth paragraph presents the results of the study. It shows that there is a significant positive correlation between social media use and mental health symptoms. Specifically, individuals who use social media more frequently report higher levels of anxiety and depression. The study also found that the impact of social media on mental health is more pronounced in younger age groups.

5. **Conclusion:** The fifth paragraph concludes the study. It states that the findings suggest that social media use can have a negative impact on mental health, particularly in terms of increasing anxiety and depression. The study recommends that individuals should be aware of their social media usage and take steps to manage their mental health, such as taking breaks from social media and seeking professional help if needed.

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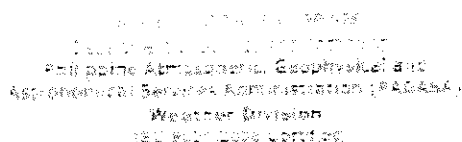
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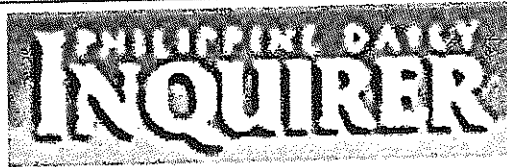
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REPORT

12 June 2016



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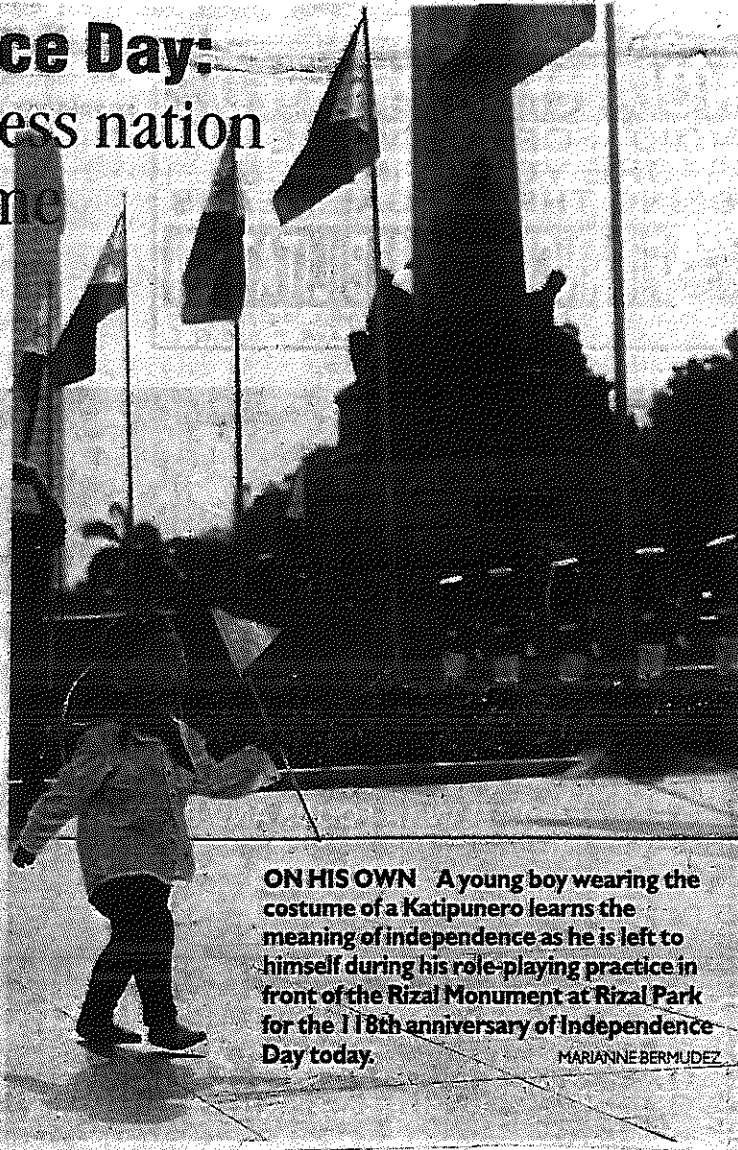
Independence Day: P-Noy to address nation for the last time

By Nikko Dizon

PRESIDENT Aquino will address the nation today as the country celebrates the 118th anniversary of its independence, more than a month since 16.6 million Filipinos ignored his warning about a looming threat to democracy and voted to replace him in Malacañang with Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte, the tough-talking mayor of Davao City, promised during the campaign to impose a curfew on the nation, kill tens of thousands of suspected criminals outside the justice system, and restore the death penalty, among other aspects of what seemed to be his plan for a mailed-fist rule.

Campaigning for his preferred successor, Mar Roxas, Mr. Aquino, the son of democracy icon President Corazon Aquino and the assassinated



ON HIS OWN A young boy wearing the costume of a Katipunero learns the meaning of independence as he is left to himself during his role-playing practice in front of the Rizal Monument at Rizal Park for the 118th anniversary of Independence Day today.

MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

INDEPENDENCE/A18

P-Noy to address nation today

From page A1

leader of the opposition to the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., warned Filipinos about the possible loss of the freedoms they regained with the restoration of democracy in 1986 if they voted for Duterte, who had surged to the top of the polls.

More than 27 million Filipinos listened to Mr. Aquino and rejected Duterte at the polls on May 9, but because of the absence of runoff elections in the Philippines, the Davao mayor captured the presidency by a plurality of the votes.

Global firestorm

Not yet in office, Duterte has already kicked up a global firestorm with his profanity-laced statements that tended to show his disregard for human rights, although his camp insists he has been misquoted by the press.

Although disappointed, Mr. Aquino has kept quiet, directing his officials to cooperate for a smooth transition of power from his administration to Duterte's.

Today, Mr. Aquino leads the nation in celebrating Independence Day for the last time as President.

He will lead the flag-raising ceremony and wreath-laying at the Rizal National Monument at Rizal Park in Manila at 8 a.m. and play host to the diplomatic corps in Malacañang.

Instead of addressing the diplomats led by their dean, Archbishop Giuseppe Pinto, the papal nuncio to the Philippines, Mr. Aquino will speak to the nation.

Malacañang gave no hints yesterday

as to what Mr. Aquino had to tell the people 19 days before the shift to Duterte.

The Palace said today's celebration would be simple but meaningful.

Contemplate freedoms

But Filipinos, Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said, should contemplate the freedoms they now enjoy.

Those freedoms, he said, are the fruits of the revolution waged by the nation's heroes against colonialists, as well as the struggle against martial law that culminated in the EDSA People Power Revolution in 1986.

"Hopefully, we use this celebration as an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of freedom and make this significant for our countrymen throughout the archipelago," Coloma said on state-run Radyo ng Bayan.

"[A]nother important aspect of this is for us to be able to reflect that the freedom we enjoy today is the result of the sacrifices and the fight waged by our forefathers," he said.

Coloma emphasized that along with the reflection on freedom comes the need for vigilance.

"We need to continually be perceptive and remain vigilant to fight whatever attempt to suppress our rights in a democracy that we highly value," Coloma said.

This year's Independence Day celebration carries the theme "Kalayaan 2016: Pagkakaisa, Pagaambagan, Pagsulong."

Commemorative rites will be held in Cavite, Malolos in Bulacan, Angeles in Pampanga, Davao City,

Cebu City and several parts of Metro Manila.

President Aquino will also attend the launching of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' coffee table book, "A Sense of Nation: The Birthright of Rizal, Bonifacio and Mabini."

Flag in Spratlys

The Philippine flag will also be raised at 7 a.m. at all nine Philippine-occupied territories in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, simultaneously with other military camps in the mainland.

Collectively called Kalayaan Island Group, the Philippine-occupied islands in the Spratlys are Pag-asa (Thitu Island), Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal), Likas (West York Island), Parola (Northeast Cay), Kota (Loita Island), Panata (Lankiam Cay), Lawak (Nanshan Island), Patag (Flat Island) and Rizal Reef (Commodore Reef).

The Philippines is locked in a territorial dispute with China, which claims almost the entire South China Sea, including waters within the Philippines' 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone called West Philippine Sea.

The Philippines, and the rest of the world, are waiting for the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to hand down its ruling on the petition filed by the Philippines to invalidate China's sweeping claim.

President Aquino will step down from office at noon on June 30.

Duterte, 71, will be sworn into office as the 16th President of the Philippines at noon on the same day.

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Clash brewing in Senate between top Rody allies?

By MARVIN SY
and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

A clash is brewing between president-elect Rodrigo Duterte's two major Senate allies as they make their respective push for the leadership of the chamber.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III said nothing stands now in the way of his being voted as next Senate president. But the other aspirant to the post, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, said Pimentel has attracted supporters in the chamber who do not share Duterte's reform agenda.

In an interview over *dwIZ* yesterday, Pimentel said his bagging the Senate presidency is certain and that all that is left is a formal announcement of the development at the opening of the 17th Congress on July 25 as well as the final number of senators backing his bid.

Pimentel said that he now has the signatures of 13 senators on a resolution backing him as the next Senate president. An aspirant to the post should be elected by at least 13 of his colleagues.

He did not name the 13 but based on a list disclosed to reporters by Sen. Vicente Sotto III, they were current Senate President Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Leila de Lima, Risa Hontiveros, Juan Edgardo Angara, Gregorio Honasan, Nancy Binay, Sherwin Gatchalian, Loren Legarda, Grace Poe and Panfilo Lacson.

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Clash From Page 1

Pimentel said two more senators would sign the document as soon as they return from their overseas trips. The PDP-Laban, headed by Pimentel and under which Duterte ran for president, confirmed the two were newly elected senators Joel Villanueva and Manny Pacquiao.

Instead of joining forces to field a single candidate for Senate president, Duterte allies Cayetano and Pimentel decided to make their own bids for the post.

Cayetano earlier claimed having the support of 15 senators.

He has on his side Senators Cynthia Villar, the first to sign the resolution backing Cay-

etano as Senate president, Juan Miguel Zubiri, and Joseph Victor Ejercito. The group reportedly has senator-elect Richard Gordon also on its side.

Villar earlier revealed that Duterte wanted Cayetano to become Senate president and that she committed to the incoming president to support his choice.

However, with the Liberal Party and its allied groups, together with the group of Sotto deciding to back Pimentel, the numbers were not in favor of Cayetano.

Senators Francis Escudero and Antonio Trillanes IV have both indicated their wish to be members of the minority bloc while Sen. Ralph Recto

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is still undecided on which group to join.

Friendly rivalry

Pimentel said he intends to have a face-to-face meeting with Cayetano on the issue.

"From the start this was a friendly competition. I expect that this won't affect our friendship," he said.

The PDP-Laban president said he is also open to talking to the members of Cayetano's group and that they are free to join him in what is expected to be a Senate supermajority bloc.

In return for their support for his bid for the Senate presidency, Pimentel said the 15 senators would be given the privilege to choose the committees they wish to head.

He stressed this has been a practice in the Senate each

time a new leadership takes over. "The early bird gets the first choice. That is the basic principle," Pimentel said.

He said it would be up to the 15 senators to decide if they want to give way to any of their colleagues who want the post of committee chair.

Speaking to reporters in Davao City last Friday, Cayetano said he cannot accept any committee chairmanship being offered by Pimentel's camp. Pimentel had said he was willing to give Cayetano the chairmanship of the Blue Ribbon committee.

"I don't need a position. I can help the President even without a (Senate) committee," he said, rejecting any committee offered to him by Pimentel's group.

"My offer to run for Senate

president was conditioned on the fact that we will have a majority that will be supportive of the mandate of the president," Cayetano said.

But instead of change, Cayetano said his colleagues have opted for status quo. He said such "majority" might eventually become "obstructionist."

He pointed out for instance how Lacson and De Lima seem to clash over various issues. De Lima has been vocal against death penalty and summary executions of criminals.

Meanwhile, Pimentel said he doesn't see any problem in the relationship between the Senate and Malacañang under the Duterte administration despite the latter's warning lawmakers not to get in his way.

"I don't see any problems because all of the senators I

spoke with want to support the president so that he would be successful in his programs in government. No one is against an all-out war against crime and corruption. We all want this to stop," Pimentel said.

"We are not like a court that could issue a TRO (temporary restraining order) on an executive action. It is not as if we will prevent them from acting because we have an ongoing investigation," Pimentel said in the *dwIZ* interview.

Pimentel said he understood the message of Duterte as a warning against protecting criminals or misusing the power of Congress to investigate.

"If the power is used responsibly then no good program would be affected just because Congress is conducting an investigation," Pimentel said.

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12 June 2016



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'Climate of timidity, fear'

Former CHR chair cites lessons of June 12, 1898

By DJ Yap

THE INCOMING administration led by President-elect Rodrigo Duterte is creating a "climate of timidity and fear," a human rights advocate said on Friday as the Philippines prepared to celebrate Independence Day.

In a message to the *INQUIRER*, Loretta Ann Rosales, former chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), said the incoming Duterte administration ought to be reminded of the lessons of June 12, 1898, and to refrain from policies and pronouncements antithetical to democracy.

Duterte, the foul-mouthed mayor of Davao City who takes office as the 16th President of the Philippines on June 30, has announced an explosive anti-crime campaign that includes the summary killing of criminal suspects, especially drug dealers, and warned the incoming Congress "not to make the mistake" of investigating

CLIMATE/ A18

'Climate of timidity, fear'

From page A1

his administration's law-enforcement actions.

The brash former prosecutor has also vowed to restore the death penalty, with hanging as the preferred method of execution.

Rule of fear

"It is an old adage that has been said over and over again: A government that rules in a climate of fear does not make the place safer for its citizens. It only makes the citizens weaker before the government," she said.

Rosales, a survivor of human rights abuses during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, lamented what she called creeping climate of self-censorship, noting that so few political leaders seemed willing to challenge Duterte on his views on human rights and free speech.

"We experienced this in 14 years of dictatorial rule under Marcos where citizens were cowed into timidity and fear. We learned to liberate ourselves from fear and timidity when we gradually understood the meaning of our basic rights and responsibilities the way our forefathers did," she said.

"We were able to overcome the dictatorship. Let us learn our lessons from the past that we may not be cowed into timidity and self-censorship before it is too late," she said.

Intolerance for rule of law

Rosales said Duterte's promise to eradicate crime was welcome, but his lack of tolerance for reminders about the observance of human rights was alarming.

"While the entire nation fully supports a relentless drive against crime, illegal drugs and corruption, the incoming Duterte administration expresses little tolerance or none at all for those who remind him that the rule of law, including the human rights law, must govern policies in the pursuit of criminals while due process must prevail in dealing with those arrested," she said.

"The daily news of buy-bust operations, arresting suspected drug pushers and drug lords by an energized Philippine National Police is an encouraging sign that there is much resolve in the drive to eradicate crime. But to keep silent in the face of summary killings without benefit of investigation is to abdicate responsibility as law enforcers, making a mockery of the rule of law and civilized governance," she said.

Standing up to Duterte

Rosales said this was the reason why it was so important to make the human rights issue visible to the public and to air the side of the CHR against the "current attitude of arrogance and condescension drawn from the might of the popular vote."

She was alluding to the statements of her successor, CHR chair Jose Luis Martin Gacutan.

In May, in response to a CHR report finding him liable for violations of the Magna Carta for Women for his outrageous remark about the gang-rape and murder of an Australian missionary during a prison riot in Davao City in 1989, Duterte told Gascon to shut up and called the CHR chief an idiot.

At a CHR event on Wednesday, Gascon spoke about the promises and threats made by the incoming Duterte administration, vowing to respond only to events and facts instead of speculations and rumor.

"If the events and facts suggest there's repression rather than promotion of human rights, the CHR is prepared to stand firm in the defense of or promotion and fulfillment of human rights for all people," Gascon said.

The CHR chief said his role was only that of a "referee."

"As referee, our job is to call out if the line has been crossed. Let's not take offense. This is not personal," he said.

"If there are abuses in word or deed, we will say this goes against the Constitution," he said.

"All leaders of the nation, from the President to the barangay *tanod*, has the responsibility to act according to the Constitution," he said.

Human dignity

Rosales said Independence Day could be a reminder to Duterte and his people about their moral obligation to respect human dignity.

"Today, we commemorate the greatness of our forefathers as martyrs and heroes who did not hesitate to offer their lives that their sons and daughters and the generations thereafter would enjoy the freedom to be alive and live freely, to be respected and enjoy one's human dignity, to pursue their development and self-worth through the full enjoyment of their human rights," she said.

These treasured principles, she said, are now enshrined in eight of nine international human rights treaties the Philippines has ratified and that oblige the country to comply with international human rights standards and norms.

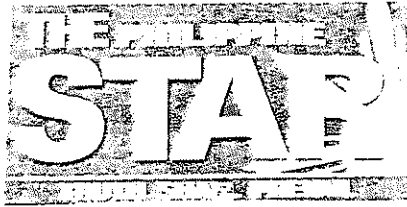
Duterte has said that human rights is a Western concept that does not apply to the Philippines.

He has been linked to so-called death squads that have killed more than 1,000 criminal suspects in Davao City.

He has denied any role in the killings and no charges have been brought against him.

But during the campaign, Duterte vowed to kill tens of thousands of criminals and dump their bodies in Manila Bay, where the fish would grow fat from feeding on the corpses.

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Additional troops deployed for operations vs Abu Sayyaf

By JAIME LAUDE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has deployed another Army battalion to Sulu as the deadline set by the Abu Sayyaf for the families of the foreigners they seized on Samal Island to pay ransom nears.

The 45th Infantry Battalion based in Central Mindanao had been sent to Sulu to help

in the operations to rescue the hostages.

Eight Army battalions as well as Scout Rangers, Special Forces and the United States-trained Light Reaction Co. are presently operating against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan.

Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, AFP acting chief, has been go-

ing to the Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City in the past weeks to oversee the ground operations.

The kidnappers had demanded P300 million each for Canadian Robert Hall and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad.

They threatened to execute another captive if their de-

mand is not met by tomorrow.

On April 25, Canadian John Ridsdel was executed after the deadline set by the kidnappers lapsed.

Filipina Maritess Flor, who was also taken on Samal Island, Dutch birdwatcher Elwold Horn and five other Filipinos remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

12 June 2016

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

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PNP, AFP step up hunt for NPAs with arrest warrants

BUTUAN CITY— The regional command of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO-13) and Northeastern and Northern Mindanao's Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) have stepped up their legal offensive against New People's Army (NPA) rebels who have outstanding warrants of arrest from various courts in the two regions of Mindanao.

"We have adopted this new approach to combat the NPAs by serving the warrant of arrest to known Maoist rebels with pending cases in court," said PRO-13 Regional Public Information Office (RPIO) head Supt. Michael B. Lozada, yesterday.

He said the higher command of PRO-13 and 4th ID are now closely coordinating in reviewing and validating all NPAs who have standing warrant of arrest.

Lozada said many NPA rebels have already been charged since the police and military stepped up its legal offensive against the insurgents, who were facing various criminal offenses

in the region.

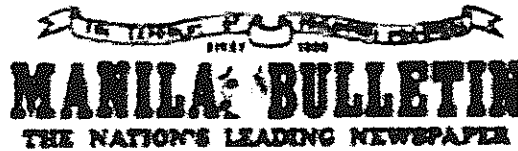
He said that the witnesses have also started to come out as authorities encouraged the victims to testify against the rebel-suspects.

PRO-13 Regional Director Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix has already directed all the regional, provincial and city mobile force commanders, provincial and city directors, as well as the municipal chiefs of police, to closely coordinate with their respective counterparts in the AFP for the thorough implementation of warrants of arrest against suspected NPAs with outstanding warrants of arrest, he said.

Since PRO-13 started its legal offensive against NPAs early this month, four high-profile NPA commanders have already been arrested in Butuan City and Surigao del Norte, Lozada said.

Two of the arrested NPA leaders, who are wanted for murder, have ₱6.9-million bounty for their capture, the PRO-13-RPIO officer added. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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PH faces UN sanction over death penalty

By JEFFREY S. DAMICOG

The United Nations (UN) may sanction the Philippines if it re-imposes the death penalty, Justice Secretary Emmanuel Caparas said.

The incumbent Justice secretary issued the warning in the wake of incoming President Rodrigo R. Duterte's pronouncements that he will push for

the revival of the death penalty as part of his campaign promise to end illegal drugs, criminality, and corruption within six month of his term.

Caparas advised Duterte to conduct a thorough study of the matter.

"We do have international obligations, we do have commitments. And these obligations and commitments have to be reviewed as well because that will have an impact on us." ►8

PH faces UN sanction... ◀1

he told reporters in a recent press conference.

Just recently, human rights lawyer and Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) chairman Jose Manuel Diono reminded the incoming administration that the Philippines is bound by the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was signed by the government on September 20, 2006 and ratified on November 20, 2007.

Under Article 1 of the Protocol, "No one within the jurisdiction of a State Party to the present Protocol shall be executed." It also states that,

"Each State Party shall take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty within its jurisdiction."

Caparas warned that if the country fails to uphold its end in the agreement, sanctions from the international community "could be in the form of aid, this could be in the form of international cooperation and others."

"This is not a simple matter, it has to be studied," Caparas stressed.

"There are experts around who will be able to weigh in on that and provide appropriate advice to the (incoming) president and his Cabinet," he added.

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POLICE FILES

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2 SUNDALO TODAS SA AMBUSH NG NPA

DAVAO CITY - Patay ang dalawang sundalo matapos tambangan ng hinihinalang mga miyembro ng New

People's Army sa Barangay Calapagan, Lupon, Davao Oriental kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala, ang commanding officer ng 28th Infantry Battalion hindi muna pina-ngalanan ang mga namatay na sundalo na may rang-gong corporal at private first class dahil hindi pa naipaalam sa pamilya ang nangyari.

Pahayag ni Zagala, sakay umano ang nasabing mga sundalo sa motorsiklo papunta

sa nasabing lugar nang tambangan ng mga rebelde.

Dagdag pa ng opisyal, bahagi ng peace and development outreach program ang mga biktima na nakasibilyan lamang nang mang-yari ang krimen.

Patuloy ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon ng Lupon Municipal Police Station at operasyon ng militar para habulin ang mga salarin.

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Pahina. 2

2 SUNDALO UTAS SA AMBUSH

Napaslang ang dalawang sundalong miyembro ng Peace and Development team matapos na paulanan ng bala ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa naganap na pananambang sa isang liblib na lugar sa bayan ng Lupon, Davao Oriental nitong Biyernes.

Ayon kay Army's 28th Infantry Battalion (IB) Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala, naganap ang pananambang ng mga rebelde sa

kaniyang mga tauhan sa nasabing barangay bandang alas-6:45 ng umaga.

Gayunman, pansamantalang munang hindi tinukoy ng opisyal ang mga pangalan ng dalawang nasawing sundalo na may mga ranggong Corporal at Private First Class dahil kailangan pang impormasyon ang pamilya ng mga ito.

Sa imbestigasyon, kasalukuyang lulan ng motorsiklo ang dalawang sundalo patungo sa Brgy. Calapagan, Lu-

NI JOY CANTOS

pon nang pagbabarilin ng mga armadong rebelde na nakaposisyon sa lugar.

Ang dalawa ay kapwa napuruhan ng mga tama ng bala sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng katawan na

siyang agarang kumitil sa buhay ng mga ito.

Ayon kay Zagala, wala sa combat mission ang dalawa niyang tauhan at ang mga ito ay miyembro ng Peace and Development Outreach Program Teams.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi

ng opisyal na sasampahan nila ng kasong kriminal ang grupo ng mga rebelde na sangkot sa pananambang. Inalerto na rin ng opisyal ang kaniyang hukbo laban sa posible pang pag-atake ng communist rebels.

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Colonel found guilty of sexual harassment

An Army colonel has been found guilty by the Sandiganbayan of sexually harassing an 18-year-old friend of his daughter whom he hired as his part-time secretary in 2011.

In a 17-page decision, the Sandiganbayan Second Division found Col. Noel Miano guilty beyond reasonable doubt of violating Republic Act 7870 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995).

The anti-graft court sentenced Miano to six months in prison and pay a ₱20,000 fine.

"As an officer and a gentleman, the accused was expected to accord courtesy and respect to everyone, even to a person young in years as the complainant who, to aggravate the situation, was even his daughter's classmate," the Sandiganbayan said in a decision penned by Chairperson Teresita Diaz-Baldos and concurred in by Associate Justices Napoleon Inoturan and Michael Frederick Musngi.

"He, however, failed to observe such basic norms and gave in to

his worldly yearnings," the anti-graft court lamented.

The Sandiganbayan pointed out that "the positive statements given by the complainant far outweigh the denial made by the accused."

"The consistency, straightforwardness, and credibility of the complainant's statements are highlighted more when juxtaposed to the defense of denial of the accused," it said.

Court records showed that Miano, who was then the commanding officer of the Munition Control Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, approached the complainant to work as his part-time secretary and even picked her up at the gates of the camp on the way to his office.

On March 18, 2011, the complainant accompanied Miano to Lucena City for a conference at the Southern Luzon Command in Camp Nakar.

While in Lucena, they went to

the Pacific Mall and, while aboard his car at the parking lot, Miano kissed the complainant's nape and caressed and touched her legs and breast.

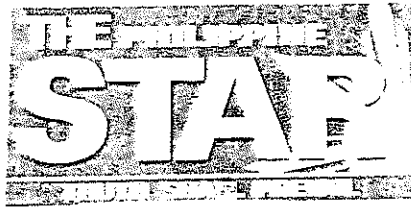
Miano continued to harass the complainant when they went inside the mall to register for a fun run and when they returned to the car.

When they went to SM Mall Lucena, the complainant volunteered to pick up his daughter who was hanging around the mall but never went back to the car.

"There is no gain saying that the offensive behavior exhibited by the accused towards the complainant has resulted in an intimidating and hostile environment for her that compelled her to escape from his control at the first opportunity to do so, no longer being concerned about losing her work, but merely ensuring that she was safely beyond his reach," the Sandiganbayan said.

(Jeffrey G. Damicog)

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Palace: Fight for freedom, democracy continues

By AUREA CALICA

As the country celebrates its 118th Independence Day today, Malacañang reminded Filipinos that the fight for freedom and democracy continues.

Presidential Communications

Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. yesterday said over radio *dzRB* that it was important to remember history and reflect on the need to stay vigilant and

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Palace From Page 1

maintain a high level of awareness in fighting suppression of rights in a democracy.

Coloma said Filipinos had been nurturing the freedom that their forefathers bequeathed to them.

"And maybe we can include in our reflection not just the distant past where we resisted the foreign colonizers who suppressed or stopped our freedoms (but) the EDSA People Power Revolution of 1986 that is not yet far from memory," he said.

Coloma said the 1986 revolution toppled the Marcos dictatorship that began in 1972 or when martial law was declared.

Coloma added it was important to take the opportunity to ponder on the true meaning

of freedom and the realization that the kind of democracy the people were enjoying now was due to the sacrifices and battles fought by past generations.

President Aquino will lead today's Independence Day celebrations with the theme "Kalayaan 2016: Pagkakaisa, Pag-aambagan, Pagsulong."

Aquino will first attend the flag-raising and wreath-laying rites at the Rizal Monument in Rizal Park, Manila at 8 a.m. before the traditional *vin d'honneur* for the diplomatic corps in Malacañang.

AFP air exercises

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will showcase its power during the celebration of the Philippine Independence Day in Rizal

Park.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the AFP, said Air Force helicopters, trainer planes and two FA-50 fighter jets would be flying in formation over Rizal Park.

"Weather permitting, the Air Force will be conducting a flyby during the celebration," Padilla said.

Air Force members have been conducting air exercises over Metro Manila for the Independence Day celebration.

The military acquired the fighter jets from South Korea for P18.9 billion last year under the AFP modernization program implemented by the Aquino administration.

Interior Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento urged governors, city and municipal mayors to participate in Independence Day activities

"I enjoin local government units to coordinate with the national government agencies, private sector and non-government organizations for the conduct of simultaneous flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies," said Sarmiento.

Simultaneous flag-raising rites be held at the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite; Barasoain Church in Malolos City, Bulacan; Pina-glaban Shrine in San Juan City; Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion at the Manila North Cemetery; Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City; Angeles City, Cebu City, Davao City and Quezon City.

Sarmiento said ambulances and fire trucks would be stationed in Rizal Park during the event. — Jaime Laude, Cecille Suerte, Felipe, Evelyn Macairan

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1904 1906
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit: Beacon of Philippine Independence revisited

BY ANTHONY GIRON

KAWIT, Cavite – With today's observance of the 118th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence, the province of Cavite will again be in focus, particularly the 171-year-old Aguinaldo Shrine, a treasure trove of memorabilia which shows ►10

Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit: Beacon... ◀1

the patriotism and bravery of General Emilio F. Aguinaldo and his comrades in their struggles to gain the country's independence.

The old structure was transformed into a sprawling museum visited by thousands of Filipinos and foreigners, to see the historic, sentimental belongings, artifacts, photographs, and other memoirs left by Aguinaldo, the revolutionary leader and the country's first president.

Independence Balcony

It was at the iconic "Independence Balcony," which used to be a window, where the Philippine flag was waved as Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence of the Philippines, ending more than 300 years of Spanish colonization.

Cavite Provincial Tourism Officer Liberty C. Herrera said that the

Aguinaldo Shrine was the most popular educational tour destination in the Calabarzon region.

The historic house

The house along Calle Camino Real (now Tirona Highway) in Barangay Kaingen was built in 1845 from wood and thatch by Carlos Jamir Aguinaldo and Trinidad Valerio Famy, the General's parents.

It was in the same house where Aguinaldo, fondly called "Miong," born on March 22, 1869, had grown up.

It was also in the area, now a Shrine, where Aguinaldo was laid in a tombstone after his death on February 6, 1964.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) reported that the edifice of the house was expanded with the use of concrete, limestone in 1849.

Through the years, the house underwent alterations and more edifices and rooms were added.

Filipino pride

Aguinaldo himself remodeled the house in 1920 with symbols reflecting national pride.

The NHCP said that the intent of Aguinaldo then was to create a monument out of the 1,324 square-meter house dedicated to the Philippine revolution.

The Aguinaldo residence was declared a National Heritage Shrine after the death of the General in 1964.

The flag symbols, old photographs, other belongings and dioramas at the mansion conveyed the Aguinaldo's nationalism and love for the country.

House tour

The Shrine's second floor – which houses the living room or sala, is a

showcase of hardwood furniture and polished wood work adorned with carved symbols, which convey Aguinaldo's patriotic fervor.

Near the sala is the dining room decorated with two wooden Doric columns, occupied by a large round table with Venetian cane chairs and a big aparador de vajilla (dish closet).

At the side area is the ceiling with multi-color bas-relief map of the Philippines with Cavite, the revolution focal point, painted red.

The central part of the ceiling is decorated with a giant sun image with eight rays representing the eight provinces that first uprising against the Spaniards at the turn of the 20th century namely Cavite, Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Laguna, and Batangas.

There are partitions in the house that included family bedrooms, rooms where Aguinaldo, his

comrades and journalists met and areas with secret doors of rooms and folding seats where Aguinaldo kept documents and other war materials and an underground tunnel reportedly leading to the distant municipality's parish church.

The Shrine also has several carabao head images, particularly at the terraces.

It is said that Aguinaldo believed it symbolized the Filipino character – calm, patient, hardworking and strong and fierce, when provoked.

Gallery of heroes

Likewise an attraction is the alley at the back door with two rows of frames of 24 revolutionaries, including Pio del Pilar, Jose Ignacio Paura, Antonio Luna, Artemio Ricarte, Mariano Trias, Edilberto Evangelista, Crispulo and Baldomero Aguinaldo, Pantaleon Garcia and and Licerio Töpacio.

At the center upper mid-aisle are those of Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio.

Aguinaldo's tomb, made of marble, is behind the house, resting on an elevated portion of the grounds.

Independence Day rites

Shrine in-charge Gina Geronimo Ayran said that Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales will lead the historical event in the area.

Morales, the guest of honor and speaker, will lead the traditional flag-hoisting at the Shrine "balcony" and the wreath-laying at Aguinaldo's tomb at 8 a.m.

The Independence Day celebration traditionally starts on May 28, the National Flag Day and the commemoration of the "Battle of Alapan" in Imus where the new Philippine flag was first raised and waved by the revolutionaries.

The Shrine is open to the public free from Tuesday to Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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DEFINING THE NEWS

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AQUINO TO LEAD FREEDOM DAY RITES

FOR the last time before he steps down from office, President Benigno Aquino III will lead the nation today in celebrating the 118th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence.

Presidential Communication Secretary Herminio Coloma said that Aquino will lead the flag-raising and wreath-laying rites at the Rizal Monument in the Rizal Park, Manila at 8 a.m.

The traditional morning reception or Vin d'Honneur for the diplomatic corps in the presidential palace will follow.

"We enjoin our nation to participate in these commemorative activities and celebrate the freedom that our forefathers have fought hard for," Coloma said.

Simultaneous commemorative rites will be held in different places and provinces nationwide including Kawit, Cavite; Malolos, Bulacan; Angeles, Pampanga; Davao City; Cebu City; and other parts of Metro Manila.

In a radio interview, Coloma also called on all Filipinos to "reflect on the freedom that our forefathers have fought for and we are currently enjoying."

The Palace official also urged the Filipinos to be vigilant in protecting our freedom and democracy.

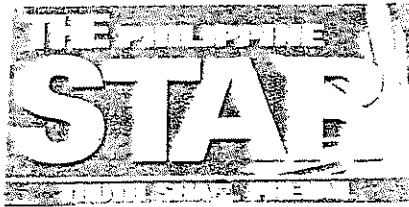
This year's theme is "*Kalayaan 2016: Pagkakaisa, Pag-aambagan, Pagsulong*." Cultural performances will be held at the Paco Park and Rizal Park.

There will also be medical missions for the poor people, free transportation and ferry rides, simultaneous job fairs nationwide, trade fairs, and public exhibits.

Coloma said the Department of Labor and Employment will offer 15,000 foreign and 7,000 local job opportunities during the simultaneous job fair on Sunday.

Commuters will also get to experience free rides on the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) on June 12 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., while the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will offer free Pasig River ferry rides from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Sara Fabunan**

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US support ship in Palawan

A US supply ship used to support its submarine operations in the Asia-Pacific region dropped anchor in Puerto Princesa City yesterday.

The US embassy said the *USS Frank Cable* is on a scheduled port visit to Palawan, which will allow the ship's sailors and military sealift command mariners to enjoy some rest and relaxation.

The presence of the submarine

By JAIME LAUDE

tender ship coincided with the visit of a US-based defense and security think-tank to Western Command (Wescom) in Palawan to observe and see the actual implementation of the Philippines-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Frank Cable is on scheduled deployment in the US 7th Fleet area of operations to conduct main-

tenance and support deployed US naval force submarines and surface vessels in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The EDCA allows the increased presence of US servicemen and their equipment on rotation basis in five key military areas in the country, including Wescom in Palawan, a key Philippine military unit directly facing the South China Sea.

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'Libingan burial to bring closure'

By EDITH REGALADO and ALEXIS ROMERO

DAVAO CITY – With the prospect of his late father getting buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani now brighter, outgo-

ing Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said yesterday he sees closure to an issue that has divided the country for decades.

The possible Libingan ng mga Bayani

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Libingan From Page 1

burial in September for the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and the appointment of his senator-son and namesake to the Cabinet of the incoming administration were among the topics discussed between the younger Marcos and president-elect Rodrigo Duterte Friday night.

While Duterte would not talk about the meeting, Marcos revealed getting fresh assurance of a Libingan burial for his father.

"I quite disagree with it," he told reporters when asked if there is a possibility a Libingan burial for his father would create discord.

"It will bring closure not only to my family but the country somehow," he said. He pointed out interring his father at the Libingan would "put to rest" what he called "continuing partisan exchange."

The younger Marcos also voiced his readiness to serve in the Duterte administration – even as a consultant. Losing candidates are barred from taking government positions within a year after an election.

The meeting – which reportedly took more than four hours and lasted until the wee hours – was held at the After Dark Piano Bar, a favorite hangout of Duterte.

"I thanked him (Duterte) for saying that he is ready to allow the burial of my father at the Libingan ng mga Bayani," Marcos said.

The senator said it is possible that his father would be interred in September this year. The elder Marcos was born on Sept. 11, 1917. "There are discussions that it can be done in September, but of course, these are very informal," he said.

The late dictator was ousted during the 1986 People Power Revolution, which catapulted Corazon Aquino to power and restored democracy in the country.

Marcos died of kidney, heart and lung ailments on Sept. 28, 1989 while in exile in Honolulu, Hawaii. The late strongman's body was brought back to the Philippines in 1993. It is supposedly his remains that are inside a glass coffin on display in a family mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime are opposed to giving Marcos a hero's burial, saying this would

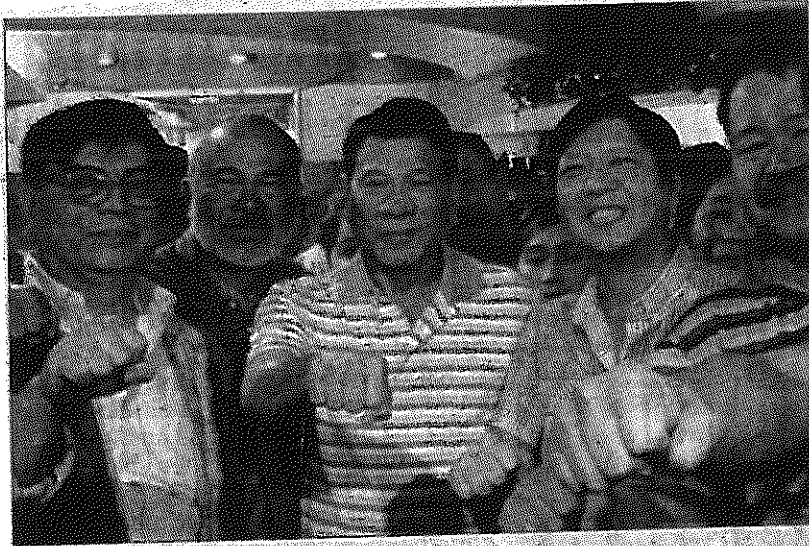


Photo posted by Sen. Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. on his Twitter account shows him with president-elect Rodrigo Duterte after a meeting at the After Dark Piano Bar in Davao City early yesterday.

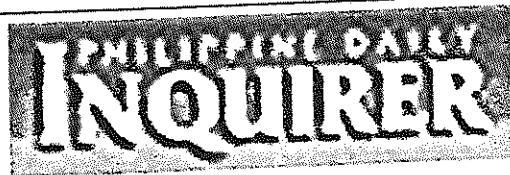
insult the real heroes who died fighting the dictatorship.

Duterte, however, insisted interring Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani would put closure to an issue that he said has long divided Filipinos.

"I will allow the burial of President

Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani not because he is a hero. He was a Filipino soldier, period. That can be arranged immediately," he said.

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'Duterte a supporter of lumad'

WILL a thousand "lumad" children languishing in evacuation centers in Mindanao soon be able to return to their homes and to their schools?

With a new school year, and the incoming administration of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte, hopes are high the answer will be in the affirmative.

In a press briefing last week at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City, lumad advocacy group Save our Schools (SOS) Network revealed the continuing plight of around 1,000 lumad (indigenous people) students who, since last year, had remained "evacuated" at the Haran compound in Davao del Sur and Tandag Sports Complex in Surigao del Sur, and have been constrained to hold makeshift classes there.

The students were among around 4,000 lumad who were forced to flee their communities due to military operations nearby.

"Indeed change should come for our distressed indigenous peoples. We are urging President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to order the pullout of all Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel from communities and schools and facilitate the safe return of all displaced lumad," SOS spokesperson Reina Requioma said.

Requioma recalled one of the worst attacks on a lumad community that happened on Sept. 1 last year in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. An alleged paramilitary group killed two tribal leaders and the executive director of local school Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (Alcadev) and the school was burned down.

"We are hopeful of the coming presidency of Duterte...there had been previous instances when he took concrete action in support of the lumad," said Kharlo Manano of Salinlahi, one of the groups in the SOS Network.

Manano said that in 2014, Duterte, as chair of the southern Mindanao peace and order council, signed an agreement with the military, which barred them from holding camp in a lumad community in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

"He has made a lot of interventions on the matter of ensuring the safety of evacuated lumad. This is the record we will look for once he assumes his seat as president..." Manano said.

UP Diliman Chancellor Michael Tan also expressed support for the SOS Network's campaign, and optimism for Duterte.

"It is encouraging that President-elect Duterte has expressed concern that mining is destroying Mindanao. We hope he can continue with the position to regulate, if not stop, mining because this has been the cause of problems in the [lumad] communities," Tan said.

Jaymee T. Gamil

12 June 2016

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MANILA BULLETIN

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Is it the same as Duterte's?

NDF's idea of federalism

By SONNY MENDOZA

DAVAO CITY – A ranking National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) official said the incoming Duterte administration needs to define the kind of federalism they espouse before the communist group decides to ►8

NDF's idea of federalism

◀1

throw its support behind it.

"Kailangan i-define kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng federalism. Madaming forms ang federalism. Kailangan for the team of [incoming] President Duterte to define it (Federalism needs to be defined first. There are many forms of federalism. The team of [incoming President Rodrigo] Duterte has to define it," Fidel Agcaoili, NDFP spokesman, said during a visit here this week.

He hinted that the NDFP leadership may consider Duterte's call to adopt the federal form of government if it means "giving the national minority the right [to] self-determination, to rule their own land, have control of taxes and natural resources within their territory."

The proposed federal government, Agcaoili explained, must also have clearly defined geographic areas, citing as examples the Bangsamoro and Cordillera regions.

"Basta may specific area okay 'yun. Pero kung darating sa Federal Republic of Ilocos, of Bicol, parang we will just be strengthening political dynasties 'pag nangyari yun. So they have to define it (If there are specific areas, that's okay. But if it comes to a point [of creating] a Federal Republic of Ilocos, of Bicol], we will just be strengthening political dynasties if this happens. So we have to define it (federalism)," he explained.

Peace agreement first

In the meantime, the NDFP spokesman stressed that there should first be a peace agreement forged between the communist

organization and the incoming administration before the former decides to go mainstream and finally join government.

"Only after all the agreements have been signed will there be a government of national unity peace and development. Use that as a guide when we talk about coalition government," he said.

When asked which of the Duterte administration's 8-point economic agenda are in line with the NDFP's socio-economic proposals, Agcaoili said only two items need to be added to the agenda.

"Actually, eight dagdagan mo lang ng dalawa (you only need to add two more [items to the economic agenda] – carry out agrarian reform and carry out national industrialization," the NDFP spokesman cited.

"Perhaps we can work through it. Meron din kaming gustong i-push like social policies, like higher wages, free healthcare, free education, free housing for the benefit of the people," he added.

Agcaoili, who arrived in Davao last Tuesday, met with Duterte to discuss the possibility of resuming the long-stalled negotiations between the government and the NDFP.

Their meetings have been very fruitful, as they were able to identify issues to be tackled by the GPH-NDFP negotiating teams during their exploratory talks in Oslo, Norway next week.

The key issues include the granting of general amnesty to political prisoners, the possibility of having an interim GPH-NDFP mutual ceasefire, and the proposal of accelerating the pace of the peace negotiations between the national government and the rebel group.

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OFFICE OF THE

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, securing the land.

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Breakthrough

By ELFREN S. CRUZ



Vestiges of the Philippine-American War

The Philippine-American War was an armed conflict between an independent Philippine republic and the United States of America that lasted for almost a decade. It is also one of the least written about period in our history and its heroes, like Malvar and Sakay, among the least appreciated.

Vestiges of War: The Philippine American War and the Aftermath of an Imperial Dream (1899-1999), edited by Angel Velasco Shaw and Luis Francia is a collection of 45 literary, artistic and historical works that the publishers say "...will force readers to reshape their views on what has been a deliberately obscure but significant phase in the histories of both countries, one which continue to haunt the present."

The essays are very relevant today because it reveals the origins of many characteristic of present Filipino society. The essay *An American Colonial State: Authority and Structure in Southern Mindanao*, relates how the American colonizers established a Moro Province in Southern Mindanao instead of trying to integrate the Moro and Christian provinces into one society.

The essay *The Hills are Still There* by Resil Mojares includes a portion that talks about the Cebu elite on the eve of the war. The names are still familiar in present-day Cebu. *English is Your Mother Tongue* by Eric Gamalinda reflects about the historical evolution that resulted in English replacing Spanish and the Filipino languages as the mother language of the Filipino.

An American colonial state: Authority and structure in Southern Mindanao

"[American] Army administrators, sincerely or otherwise imagined themselves not only as guardians and guides of non-Christian groups but more importantly as their protectors from potential and actual exploitation by lowland Christian Filipinos."

On June 1, 1903, a Moro Province was established consisting of four districts – Davao, Cotabato, Lanao and Zamboanga, each one with a governor and district board. There were 14 municipalities with Christian majorities, governed like the rest of the nation; and, 51 tribal wards with Muslim majorities that had tribal courts under Army control.

The Moro Province had a population of 40,000 Christians and 275,000 Muslims. Large portions were empty and unsurveyed. "It was run with an administration that would open up this unknown territory, thus creating conditions that eventually allowed people to come in and exploit its resources." In time, this caused the influx of Christian settlers but it also left a legacy among the Muslim that became "specifically anti-Manila and anti-Christian... the reverberations of which would continue well into this post-colonial period."

The hills are still there

"On the eve of the (Philippine-American) War, the Cebuano elite was no longer a homogenous group. *Principalia* status came from a mix of factors; wealth, public landowners, shopkeepers, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, as well as artisans. Tanners, carpenters, bakers and seamstresses.

The most powerful Cebu families were almost wholly of mestizo stock (Spanish or Chinese), or foreigners who resided in the city (or headquartered in it), controlled sizeable landholdings,

capital and a network of clients in the hinterland. They had direct links with the foreign merchant houses, e.g. Smith Bell & Company, Russell & Sturgis, for which they usually served as agents or *compradores*.

In the 1890s, these included the Velosos, Llorentes, Climacos, Osmenas, and Mejias. These families built up their wealth throughout the 19th century, profiting from a symbiotic relationship with both the Spanish administration and the foreign merchant houses. They were almost wholly mestizo in ethnic character – Spanish and Chinese – easily straddling local and global wealth.

On the other hand there were elements of the elite, more particularly of the lower orders who participated only indirectly in the new prosperity, transcended class based interests and were moved by racial pride and ideas of *iberte*. The most active members of resistance came from this group: socially displaced political agents (Pantaleon del Rosario, Mario Luga), young students (Andres Jayme, Tomas Alonso) municipal landowners (Jacinto Pacana, Arcadia Maxilom) and urban bourgeoisie (Alejo Minoza, Enrique Lorega). They fought a war that in a sense was doomed from the very beginning – not only because of the superior martial powers of the United States but because given the society, the Filipinos could not have acted as one."

This is one of the most controversial, relatively untold story of the Philippine-American War – that the Philippine elite, largely mestizo, actually collaborated with the American invaders.

English is your mother tongue

According to Gamalinda, the American government had to justify the

invasion of an independent Philippine Republic by convincing the American public and the Filipino elite that the Filipinos were inept at self-government. The United States had to create an image that it was a redeemer and the Filipinos a people in need of redemption. The redemption came in the form of public education and education was to be conducted in English.

The imposition of English involved a "calculated program to discredit Spanish and the existing native languages, to convince the Filipinos of their inferiority, and therefore their need for upliftment and to glorify the material and intellectual progress the English language promised."

One alleged proof was that the Filipinos had no national literature. This was not true since many epics had already been written in native languages and translated into Spanish. Among these were the Ilokano epic *Lam-ang*, the Bikolano epic *Ibalon*, the Bagobo *Tuwaang*, the Panay epic *Hinilawad* and many more.

English became a mark of social standing. The more proficient one was in it, the more education one was presumed to have had. This perception was important in controlling the islands. But even today, the issue of language and national identity continues to be debated in the Philippines.

Independence Day

Today, as we celebrate Independence Day, it is important to look back at the many stories and historical events that have shaped our identity as a people.

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12 June 2016



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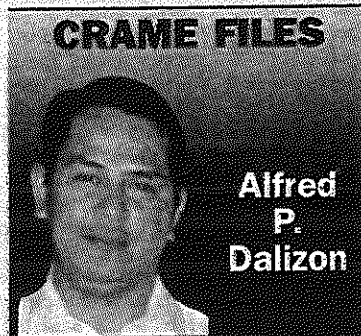
PMA 'Sandiwa' Class of 1985

THEY are expected to occupy key positions in the Philippine National Police under the Rody Duterte presidency and one of them now looms as the Davao City mayor's 2nd Chief, PNP after the tough, sharpshooting Chief Superintendent Ronald 'Bato' de la Rosa of PMA 'Sinagtala' Class of 1986 retires on January 21, 2018.

I'm referring to members of PMA 'Sandiwa' Class of 1985 led by Chief Supt. Ramon Apolinario, one of the three police officials identified by Duterte as his most trusted officers in the police force, the others being De la Rosa and Senior Supt. Rene Aspera, a member of PMA Class 1987 who will retire on May 2018.

At present, there are 38 members of PMA Class 1985 who are still in the active police service led by Apolinario, currently the Police Regional Office 4-B director in Mimaropa region. Apolinario will retire on August 31, 2018 giving him at least seven months to lead the police force after De la Rosa's retirement.

Of the 38, five will be retiring this year namely Chief Supt. Conrad Capa, the RD of the PRO18 in Negros Island Region (August 29); Chief Supt. Wilson Caubal, the PNP Deputy Director for Police-Community Relations (September 30); Chief Supt. Pedro Obaldo, the Deputy Director of the PNP Directorate for Police Integrated Operations-Southern Luzon (November 14); Director Alex Roldan, the PNP Inspector General (December 9); and Chief Supt. Pete Cabatigan, the Regional Internal Affairs



Service director in Region 11 (December 18)

Retiring in 2017 are the following: Chief Supt. Boyet Balagtas of the PNP Aviation Security Group (December 1); newly-installed PRO3 director in Central Luzon, Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino (September 6); Chief Supt. Edwin Nemenzo of the PNP Information Technology Management Service (August 25); Senior Supt. Lito Santos, the Regional Chief Directorial Staff of the PRO12 in Central Mindanao (July 25); Chief Supt. Ric Zapata, the deputy director of the PNP Directorate for Information Communications and Technology Management (July 2).

Chief Supt. JV Javier, the PNP Deputy Director for Personnel and Records Management (June 23); Chief Supt. Rene Gumban, the Deputy Regional Director for Administration of the PRO4-B in Mimaropa Region (May 21); Chief Supt. Vert Chavez, the PNP Deputy Director for Operations (March 28); and Chief Supt. Elmer Beltejar, the PNP Finance Service

director (August 30).

Members of the same Class who are retiring in 2018 are the following: my basketball teammate Chief Supt. Sonny Philipps of the PNP Headquarters Support Service (December 29); Senior Supt. Jonathan Ablang, the deputy director for administration of the Quezon City Police District (October 29); Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, the new Officer-in-Charge of the PRO9 in Western Mindanao (October 9); PNP spokesman, Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor (September 24); Chief Supt. Bob Quenery, the DRDA of the Cordilla Police Regional Office (September 12); Apolinario (August 31); Chief Supt. Manny Gaerlan, the RD of PRO11 in Southern Mindanao (August 18); Chief Supt. Frank Mabanag, the DRDA of PRO2 in Cagayan Valley (July 2); and my fellow Riders Chief Supt. Sheldon Jacaban, the DRDA of PRO7 in Central Visayas (January 30); and Chief Supt. Ed Tinio, the QCPD director (January 24).

Retiring in 2019 are Chief Supt. Ed Garado (January 22); Chief Supt. Arnold Gunnacao of the Highway Patrol Group (February 10); Chief Supt. Rolly Nana of the Manila Police District (March 15); Chief Supt. Marlo Chan, the DRDA of the PRO1 in Ilocos-Pangasinan Region (March 20); Chief Supt. Benjie Hulipas, the DRDA of PRO3 (April 15); Chief Supt. Greg Pimentel, the DRDA of PRO13 in Caraga region (May 9).

Chief Supt. Erik Velasquez, the RD of PRO1 (September 7); Chief

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Supt. Eric Reyes, the Northern Police District director (September 13); the Class 'favorite' Chief Supt. Dennis Siervo of the Human Rights Affairs Office (October 7); Chief Supt. Bax Felix, the RD of PRO13 (November 13); Senior Supt. Danny Macatlang Jr., the Executive Officer of the DIPO-Western Mindanao (December 22); and Chief Supt. Bart Tobias, the DILG Senior Police Assistant (December 26).

The two youngest members of the Class are another basketball teammate, Chief Supt. Bernie Lusad, a former PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force commander who is now the PNP Deputy Director for Intelligence (January 1, 2020), and long-time friend, Chief Supt. Regie Catis, a former PNP Finance Service director who will be the last member of 'Sandiwa' to retire from the police force, January 5, 2020 to be exact.

Pimentel, a veteran police intelligence officer who helped Duterte fight criminality when he was assigned with the PNP Highway Patrol Group and Macatlang are set to get their star-rank under the incoming Duterte administration. I learned that Santos, the no. 4 man of the PRO12 may not get his star-rank since time is running out on him as he is set to retire on July 25 next year. Under the PNP law, no officer, except the Chief PNP, may be promoted to the next higher rank if he has less than a year remaining in the service.

Apolinario or 'Apol' to many used to be with the National Capital Region Police Office before he was designated as PRO4-B director before the May 9 presidential elections. I was told that during his younger days, Apolinario was designated as Davao Oriental police director but his appointment was rejected by the governor. He went on to become a Davao City police director and just like De la Rosa, partnered with Mayor Duterte in crushing criminality in the city.

A son of another Peemayer who became a Navy official, 'Apol' is also a brother to Senior Supt. Tomas Apolinario of PMA Class 1987. After graduation from Fort del Pilar, he joined the Regional Special Action Force assigned in Central Luzon and became a chief of police of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija. 'Apol' is also no stranger to the PNP comptroller's family, he having occupied some key positions in the PNP Directorate for Comptrollership.

'Apol,' I was informed belongs to the famous 'Charlie Company' of the PMA, the company that produced officers like Gunnacao, Chavez, Philipps, Jacoban and Chief Supt. Oca Albayalde of PMA Class 1986 as well as PNP chief, Gen. Ric Marquez of PMA Class 1982 and newly-retired Director Boy Vafio of PMA Class 1983. To the uninformed, two members of the Class are former Army officers-Aquino and Balagtas who formed part of Cory Aquino's Presidential Security Group in 1986 before they joined the PNP in 1991.

The 'Sandiwa' has produced top

intelligence officers like Philipps as well as 'warriors' in the field like Gunnacao, Pimentel, Mabanag, Tinio, Mayor, Beltran and Lusad. Shortly after their graduation from Fort del Pilar, I learned that 10 members of PMA Class 1985 namely Gunnacao, Mabanag, Gaerlan, Beltran, Velasquez, Felix, Catis, Capa and now retired officers Dennis Cacanandin and Alfred Siwa joined the elite Special Action Force of the defunct Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police. Gunnacao spent seven years with the SAF while Bax Felix was there for five years.

The rest of the Class joined the Regional SAF like Mayor who honed his combat skills first in Quezon and Rizal provinces. Mayor was later transferred to Mindoro province where he and now retiring PNP Deputy Chief for Operations, Deputy Director General Danny Constantino, a classmate at PMA Class 1982 of Gen. Marquez, fought insurgents and ruthless criminals and escaped near-death from the hands of the enemies.

Come July 1, De la Rosa is set to appoint a new PNP spokesman and chief of the PNP Public Information Office. De la Rosa said it is time to give Mayor a chance to occupy another position of major responsibility after serving well in his post. A fine reward for an officer and a gentleman whose thankless job placed him under the daily scrutiny of the foreign and local media. Fortunately, he passed those tests with flying colors in the eyes of the PNP leadership and his peers in particular and in general, the public, the media included.

ONLINE NEWS

12 JUNE 2016

3rd ID hails past and present Filipino soldiers as PHL celebrates 118th Independence Day

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 11):

With the Philippines slated to celebrate its 118th Independence Day Sunday, the Capiz-based 3rd Infantry Division took time to hail the heroism of all Filipino soldiers, both the living and those who have gone ahead.

Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, 3rd Infantry Division public affairs office chief, said this was in-line with this year's theme, "Kalayaan 2016: Pagkakaisa, Pag-aambagan, Pagsulong," as the unit intensified collaboration and cooperation with the stakeholders in securing and advancing peace and development in Central and Western Visayas, and pursued reform initiatives in the organization through the Army Transformation Roadmap.

"In the face of any challenge and adversity, your Army here in Central and Western Visayas remains committed to exercise its sworn duties to serve the Visayan people and secure the land. We are likewise fully optimistic that by working together in the spirit of 'Bayanihan', we will be triumphant in attaining just and lasting peace in the region," 3rd Infantry Division commander Brig. Gen. Harold Cabreros said.

"The independence attained by our forefathers will remain in every soldier's heart as we continue to emulate their courage and perseverance in the performance of our mission," he added.

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

US terror tag spoiling Joma Sison's homecoming plan

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Jun 11):

The United States' tag on Philippine communist rebels as terrorists has jeopardized plans by communist party founder Jose Ma. Sison to come home for peace talks with the incoming Duterte administration, according to a member of the rebels' peace negotiating panel.

Fidel Agcaoili, also spokesperson of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), said Sison, who has been in exile in The Netherlands for 30 years now, might be unable to return to the Philippines for the talks as a result of a recent US State Department report that classified the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and CPP's armed wing, New People's Army (NPA), as terrorist organizations.

"Joma (Sison) coming home is now a ticklish issue," said Agcaoili. The terror classification of CPP and NPA by the US government, he said, "poses a problem."

No direct flight

Agcaoili said there was no direct flight between The Netherlands and Manila so it was possible that the United States could have Sison arrested as a terrorist in airports where connecting flights between The Netherlands and Manila landed.

Should Sison take a KLM (The Netherlands' flag carrier) flight, Agcaoili said the communist leader "has to pass by Taipei (capital of Taiwan)."

"If the US intercedes through the Interpol (International Police), then they might present a warrant of arrest against him (Sison) in Taipei," said Agcaoili. "So everything goes kaput."



Jose Ma. Sison

Sison's homecoming, said Agcaoili, was "an issue that should be discussed seriously."

"What if he's (Sison) taken in Taipei and brought straight to Guantanamo (a US camp in Cuba used as jail for terrorists)?" Agcaoili said.

Agcaoili said there had to be a guarantee from the Dutch government, the Norwegian government and the US government to respect Sison's right to travel.

"But I don't know if the US will agree to that," said Agcaoili. "It has always been a bully."

At the height of the presidential campaign, President-elect Rodrigo Duterte invited Sison to come home for peace talks.

Duterte was Sison's student at the Lyceum and the incoming President admitted becoming a member of the leftist underground youth group Kabataang Makabayan during martial law.

Revolutionary taxes

During his interview with reporters after meeting with Duterte, Agcaoili also defended the NPA practice of collecting so-called revolutionary taxes.

Taxation, he said, was a component of the revolutionary movement.

"You have to understand that the revolutionary movement has its revolutionary organs," he said.
"Any state has the right to enforce tax," he added.

Taxes collected by rebels, said Agcaoili, went directly to communities.

"It does not go to the pockets of a few people, like in government," he said. "It is used in establishing schools, cooperatives and (bringing) medical services."
<http://globalnation.inquirer.net>

Asean mulling joint statement on South China Sea

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Jun 10):

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is likely to issue a joint statement on the South China Sea in response to an upcoming verdict on the Philippines' arbitration case against China on the disputed territories, an official said on Thursday.

"As the leading organization in the region, with interests in the South China Sea, it would be strange if Asean didn't have a viewpoint," Indonesia Foreign Ministry's Asean dialogue partner and inter-regional cooperation director, Derry Aman, told journalists on Thursday.

However, the regional organization's mechanism requires that all 10 member countries reach consensus before declaring a unified stance on the issue, he added.

Several Asean countries are involved in territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Indonesia is not a claimant to the surrounding waters of the resource-rich Natuna Islands.

READ: China reclamation violates Asean code, says DND

The regional organization will conduct a special ministerial meeting with China between June 13 to 14, ahead of the upcoming verdict on the Philippines' South China Sea case against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague.

When asked if the joint statement would be raised with China next week, Derry said that as consensus had not yet been reached, talks would remain between Asean member nations at this point.

"The process to reach a common understanding on a possible statement is still ongoing," he said.
China, for its part has already said it would ignore the PCA ruling.

READ: Carpio: 3 possible scenarios in South China Sea arbitration ruling

As a non-claimant country, Indonesia has continued to stress the importance of restraint from all parties involved in order to maintain peace and security. Any drastic reaction could raise suspicions and pressure others to also take action in response Deryy said.

"Dispute settlement must be conducted peacefully, without show of force and in full respect of diplomatic and legal processes," he added.

Indonesia has continued to push for the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which includes an ongoing draft code of conduct that Indonesia was prioritizing, he further said.<http://globalnation.inquirer.net>

2 soldiers killed in Sorsogon attack

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Jun 11):

Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels shot to death two Philippine Army soldiers at a remote village in Pilar town in Sorsogon province on Saturday afternoon, a report reaching the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Bicol said.

Slain victims were identified as Staff Sgt. Epifanio Millaes and Sgt. Zaldy Cristobal, both members of the Philippine Army operating in Sorsogon, the report from Pilar police said.

Police Senior Z' Insp. Maria Luisa Calubaquib, quoting the report, said the attack took place at about 2 p.m. at Barangay (village) Cabiguan.

She said investigators were yet to determine whether the incident was an ambush or an encounter staged by suspected communist rebels.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

Mindanao Army Special Forces chief to join Duterte's PSG; 6th ID reshuffles commanders

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 11):

An Army Special Forces Battalion stationed here will form part of a special security group that will secure incoming President Rodrigo Duterte, military officials said.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said Colonel Ranulfo Sevilla, 5th Army Special Forces Battalion commander, has been replaced by Lt. Colonel Nazzer Lidasan, currently assigned with the Civil Military Operation of the 6th ID.

Petinglay said the 6th ID was honored to have someone under its administrative and operational control joining the elite Presidential Security Group that will secure the country's most powerful man.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Noel Clement, 602nd brigade commander based in Carmen, North Cotabato has been replaced by Colonel Manolo Samarita. Clement was named Philippine Military Academy (PMA) commandant.

Lt. Colonel Orlando Edralin, 7th Infantry Battalion commander, has bade farewell to his unit which has been facing North Cotabato's lawless elements and outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, 6th ID chief, administered Saturday's turn over of command from Edralin to Lt. Colonel Ciriaco Lomas-e.

After almost two years commanding the 7th Infantry "Tapat" Battalion, Edralin declared that he was leaving a battalion composed of well equipped, well disciplined, well trained, combat ready and human rights defenders.

The turnover rites were held at the battalion headquarters in Barangay Lower Paatan, Kabacan, North Cotabato.

Pangilinan lauded the outgoing commander for successfully steering the "Tapat Battalion" to greatness after it accomplished operations which have contributed immensely for 6ID to be adjudged as the "Best Division" of the Philippine Army last year (2015).

"Col Edralin have finished the race because he has kept the fate." Pangilinan said.

"It is my challenge to the new commander, Lt. Colonel Lomas-e to make sure that if he cannot perform at par with Col Edralin, then he has to surpass his predecessor's accomplishments." he added, addressing the newly installed battalion commander.

The Kampilan Division Commander also expressed his gratitude to all local chief executives who had continuously supported the battalion in its quest for peace within their area.

He urged them to continue extending their assistance to the new commander.

"Tapat Battalion" is one of the organic units of the division whose battalion headquarters was formerly stationed at Poblacion Pikit, North Cotabato prior to its transfer to Kabacan, also in North Cotabato.

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