



# **ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

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

**18 June 2016**

**Saturday**

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

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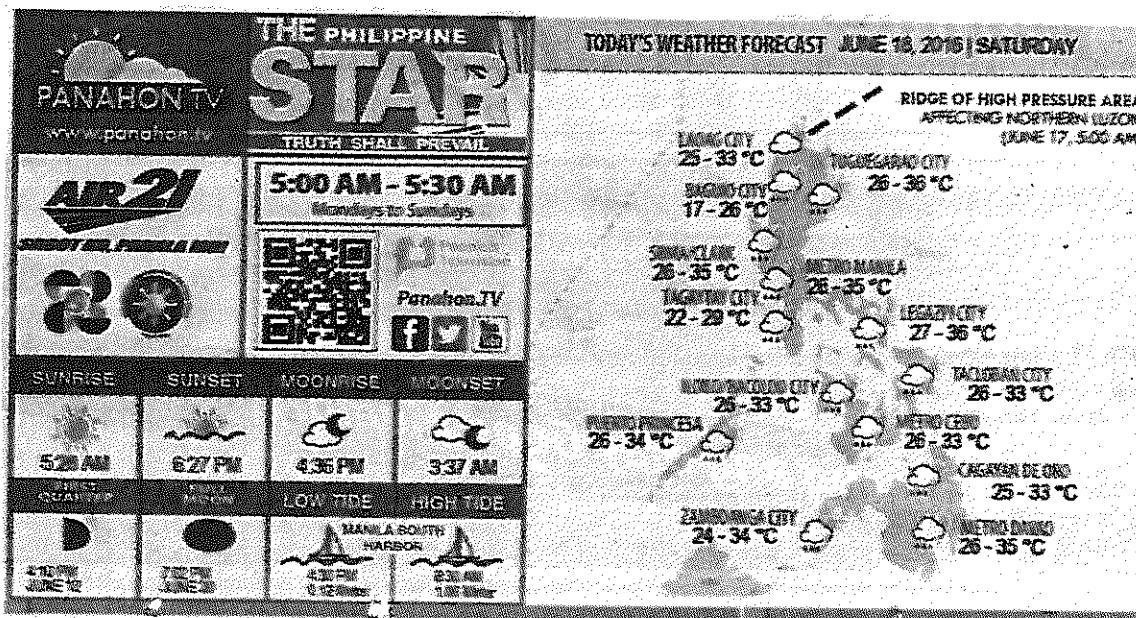
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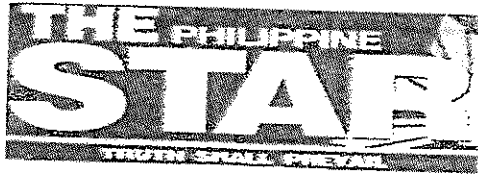


EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUNE 19 SUN	JUNE 20 MON	JUNE 21 TUE	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUNE 19 SUN	JUNE 20 MON	JUNE 21 TUE
METRO MANILA	25 °C 35 °C	28 °C 36 °C	28 °C 35 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 34 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 °C 35 °C	26 °C 36 °C	28 °C 37 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LAOAG	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	METRO CEBU	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 26 °C	17 °C 26 °C	17 °C 26 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	25 °C 36 °C	26 °C 36 °C	25 °C 35 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	23 °C 29 °C	22 °C 28 °C	22 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	26 °C 35 °C	26 °C 36 °C	26 °C 35 °C
LEGAZPI	26 °C 35 °C	27 °C 36 °C	26 °C 35 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C

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



18 June 2016



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# Rody's team steps in to save Abu hostages

By MARICHU VILLANUEVA

Less than 13 days before they assume office, members of the incoming Cabinet security cluster of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte are making last-ditch efforts to prevent another beheading by the Abu Sayyaf.

Incoming justice secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said they are trying to help save the remaining hostages from being executed by the Abu Sayyaf, citing in particular Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad.

While they have not been officially sworn into office yet, Aguirre told *The STAR* that Duterte has given them the go-signal to help resolve the Abu Sayyaf hostage situation at the soonest possible time.

"We are trying to get the local officials on the ground to help us save the Norwegian hostage," Aguirre said.

Aguirre disclosed Duterte and his incoming Cabinet members came to this decision after they discussed at length the hostage situation during their meeting at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City last Wednesday.

Aguirre, however, declined to give details but stressed their priority for now is to prevent another beheading.

Reports indicated Sekkingstad is being lined up for the chopping block by the Abu Sayyaf if the ransom demand is not met.

The bandits have beheaded two other hostages, Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall.

Ridsdel, a former mining executive, was beheaded in April while Hall was executed

Turn to Page 4

## Rody's From Page 1

last Monday.

The two Canadians, along with Sekkingstad and Hall's Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor, were snatched from Samal Island resort last September and taken to Jolo island.

Aguirre also refused to comment on proposals to declare a state of emergency for a limited period to effect a military solution to the Abu Sayyaf problem in Sulu in particular.

"There are even proposals to declare martial law to address the Metro Manila traffic problem," Aguirre quipped.

President Aquino and Duterte talked over the phone last Thursday while their respective transition teams met at Malacañang.

Details of their telephone conversation were not revealed, except that

the outgoing President congratulated and assured his successor of assistance, if asked to help.

It is public knowledge that Duterte has a lot of Muslim friends and supporters in Mindanao whom he could count on to help address the problem with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Aquino himself flew to Jolo on Wednesday to check on the military operations to rescue the remaining hostages.

"We are getting a clearer picture of what is happening here. We saw today how to refine our operations so we can successfully rescue the remaining hostages," Aquino told reporters traveling with him.

Aquino told a press briefing that he ordered "refinements" in the military operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

Aquino though refused to elaborate, citing operational security.

He said that he apologized to Ca-

nadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the murders of the two Canadians.

Aquino yesterday told reporters during a luncheon at a Chinese restaurant in Binondo, Manila that he was hoping there would be one viewpoint with regard to the Abu Sayyaf, that it is an "issue or a problem that impacts the country negatively."

"And as fellow patriots, let us assist each other in resolving successfully the current situation," he said.

Aquino, who is due to step down on June 30, said he had found it difficult to end the Abu Sayyaf threat during his six years in office.

Among the problems, he said, is the support the Abu Sayyaf is getting from the locals.

"They (the militants) have many resources. They can buy sympathy and we are in their place of origin. They have knowledge of the terrain. All of the advantages are theirs,"

Aquino said.

He also said the military and police were understaffed, not having increased in size since 1986.

### **Came up empty**

Meanwhile, security forces are checking on two possible areas where the headless body of Hall was believed dumped by the Abu Sayyaf.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said they validated two areas in Jolo where the body of Hall was reportedly left but declined to elaborate, citing operational considerations.

The troops, however, came back empty handed from one of the areas, he said.

"There was information, we validated, we went there and tried to retrieve but unfortunately it was no longer there. Probably they transferred it somewhere," Tan told reporters in a briefing at Westmincom yesterday.

The Abu Sayyaf executed Hall last Monday and dropped his head near the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in downtown Jolo.

The body, however, has not been found.

The military believed the Abu Sayyaf was intentionally hiding or changing the location of the remains to humiliate the government.

Tan said they were not also discounting the possibility the Abu Sayyaf deliberately hid the remains of the victim as a diversionary tactic to confuse government forces.

Tan said the police and the local government of Jolo have mobilized the village leaders to help them locate the body of Hall.

Aquino has vowed to devote all his energy to eliminating the Abu Sayyaf before he steps down from office.

Aquino had admitted planning to impose martial law in Sulu in the effort to contain the Abu Sayyaf.

However, he backed down from the plan, saying it might backfire and gain more sympathy for the bandit group.

The Abu Sayyaf network is deeply entrenched and efforts to flush out its fighters have proved to be a big challenge for the thousands of troops engaging them.

The lucrative business of kidnapping has allowed Abu Sayyaf to invest in high-powered boats, weapons and modern communications equipment. With poverty and joblessness rife, it is able to recruit with ease.

Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Totoh Tan II said he favors martial law to be

implemented in the province but only for a limited time.

His father, outgoing Vice Gov. Abdusakur Tan, said he supports the implementation of martial law or a state of emergency only if the government institutes programs to lessen the impact of military operations on the people and the community.

Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) branded as "un-Islamic" the beheading of Hall during the holy month of Ramadan.

"Islam is against the killing of innocent people and mutilation of cadavers. It is also against kidnap-for-ransom activities," ARMM regional vice governor Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman said.

Tribal leaders also condemned the execution of Hall.

The United Indigenous People of Mindanao led by Datu Mabayaw, Datu Sumidlak, Datu Sam Behing and Enrique Gavileno warned they would wage war against the Abu Sayyaf if it would spread its kidnapping activities to areas of the indigenous people in Mindanao.

The tribal leaders said some local officials and residents of Sulu are benefiting from the kidnapping activities of the Abu Sayyaf.

"Sadly some of the inhabitants in these islands of Jolo, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu are sympathetic to the Abu Sayyaf because sometimes (the bandits) are playing Robin Hood and you may wonder why until now local officials of said islands have not taken initiatives and (remained) silent," the group said.

The military had said some residents and relatives living in the islands are helping the bandits.

**With Aurea Calica, Roel Pareño, Ben Serrano**



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**PHILIPPINE DAILY  
INQUIRER**

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# Coco farmers want cash

## But solon urges placing P100B in trust fund

By Delfin T. Mallari  
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*  
and Leila B. Salaverria

LUCENA CITY—Militant farmers want the multibillion-peso coco levy fund to be returned directly to them, but Senator-elect Francis Pangilinan says giving them cash may not be the most effective way of helping them improve their lot.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has directed his legal team to begin moves for the release of the P100-billion coconut levy fund to the farmers.

Coco levy refers to the tax extracted from coconut farmers during the martial law years, ostensibly for the development of the coconut industry.

"The direct return of the multibillion-peso coconut levy fund to small coconut farmers is long overdue," Antonio Flores, secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP),

COCONUT/A10

From page A1

said in a statement on Friday.

He said Duterte's legal team should consider "direct cash distribution" to the farmers and use of the fund for genuine development of the coconut industry.

Flores said the small farmers had prepared a proposal for the distribution of the funds.

Arvin Borromeo, coordinator for Coco Levy Fund Ibalik sa Amin (Claim)-Quezon movement, also said direct cash aid would be a

just and legitimate solution to the small farmers' poverty.

Borromeo said the cash aid proposal was not new, adding that it was first put forward by Sen. Joker Arroyo in April 2012.

### Trust fund

But Pangilinan sees problems with direct cash distribution.

"There is a need to determine the mechanism to be put in place to release the coco levy fund to the real farmers as envisioned by the incoming administration."

Pangilinan said in a statement.

If the P72 billion in the national treasury would be distributed outright to 3 million coconut farmers, each farmer would get only around P20,000, he said.

"This is about the same amount a copra farmer earns in one year and will clearly not go very far in addressing the plight of the impoverished farmer," he said.

Pangilinan said he would refile a bill that would establish a perpetual trust fund for the P72 billion in the treasury with the

interest to be used in financing programs for the farmers.

He said the Supreme Court had ruled that the coco levy fund is a public fund, and should be used only for the benefit of the coconut farmers and the coconut industry.

Use of the fund should be in accordance with law, he said.

### Farmers' fund

KMP and Claim propose the establishment of a "Genuine Small Coconut Farmers' Fund" which

will not be part of the general funds and will be used only for the benefit of coconut farmers.

### Cojuangco's shares

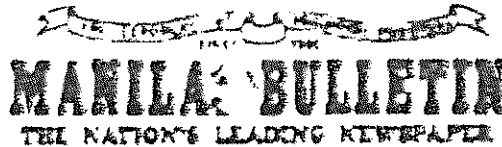
Under the proposal, the entire coco levy fund and its assets, including but not limited to United Coconut Planters Bank and the coconut oil mills that were acquired using the fund, will be administered and used for the benefit of small farmers and of the coconut industry in support of national industrialization.

Aside from direct cash distribution, the farmers' groups also want the incoming Duterte administration to recover the shares representing 20 percent of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) held by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

"Cojuangco must also be held accountable for the plunder of the fund," Flores said.

Cojuangco's shares were part of the 47-percent SMC share block sequestered by the government after the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution.

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## 2 NPA rebels killed in South Cotabato clash

GENERAL SANTOS CITY (PNA) — Two suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed in an encounter with government troops in a remote village in Lake Sebu town in South Cotabato on Friday morning.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, commanding officer of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion, said government troops were patrolling a portion of Sitio Lampinik in Barangay Ned at around 7:50 a.m. when

they clashed with the rebels.

He said the scout platoon launched combat patrols in the area after receiving a tip from concerned residents about presence of the NPA rebels.

"We have long been monitoring the movements of the rebels there in coordination with local residents and village officials," he said in a radio interview.

Leander said their troops mainly engaged with nine heavily armed rebels,

who were believed to be members of the NPA's Guerilla Front 73.

Two of the rebels were killed during the encounter while no one was hurt on their side, he said.

Recovered from the slain rebels, who have yet to be identified, were M14 and AK-47 rifles.

He said their remains have been brought to the center of Barangay Ned for proper identification and disposition.

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Pahina 6

## **2 NPA patay sa engkuwentro**

**NORTH COTABATO** - Patay ang dalawang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos ang pakikipag-engkuwentro sa tropa ng militar sa Sitio Lampitok, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato kahapon ng umaga. Batay sa ulat, alas-7:50 ng umaga habang nagpapatrolya ang tropa ng Scout Platoon ng 27th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army sa pangunguna ni 2Lt. Glen Gautane sa naturang lugar nang makasagupa nila ang 9 na rebelde na pinaniniwalaang kasapi ng Platoon Samsung ng Guerilla Front 73 sanhi upang masawi ang dalawang rebelde na di pa nakuha ang pagkakakilanlan.

Narekober sa pinangyarihan ng sagupaan ang isang M14 rifle at isang AK47. Inihayag ni Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, commanding officer ng 27th Infantry Brigade na nagsasagawa ng combat operation ang kanyang mga tauhan sa lugar makaraang makatanggap ng ulat hinggil sa presensya ng mga armadong rebelde. **Rhoderick Benez**

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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CAMP BANGASI, Butuan City — A total of 225 young individuals mostly from Caraga region and Northern Mindanao took their oath on Thursday afternoon at Camp Edilberto Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City as the new set of trainees for the Philippine Army Candidate Soldier Course. The ceremony was formally graced by Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr. commanding general of the Northeastern (Region 13 Caraga) and Northern (Region 10) Mindanao regions of the AFP's Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID). After the ceremony, the 225 new candidate soldiers (CS) were immediately sent to the 4th Division Training School in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon for their six-month military training. After a thorough screening from among thousands of applicants, only 225 passed the qualifications. Those who passed were made to go through initial validation of the supporting documents, trade test, screening interview, initial physical fitness test, initial deliberation board interview, medical examinations, final physical fitness test, and final deliberation. (Mike U. Crismundo)

## Jungle Fighters conduct 2nd Bloodletting

<http://www.junglefighterdivision.com/>

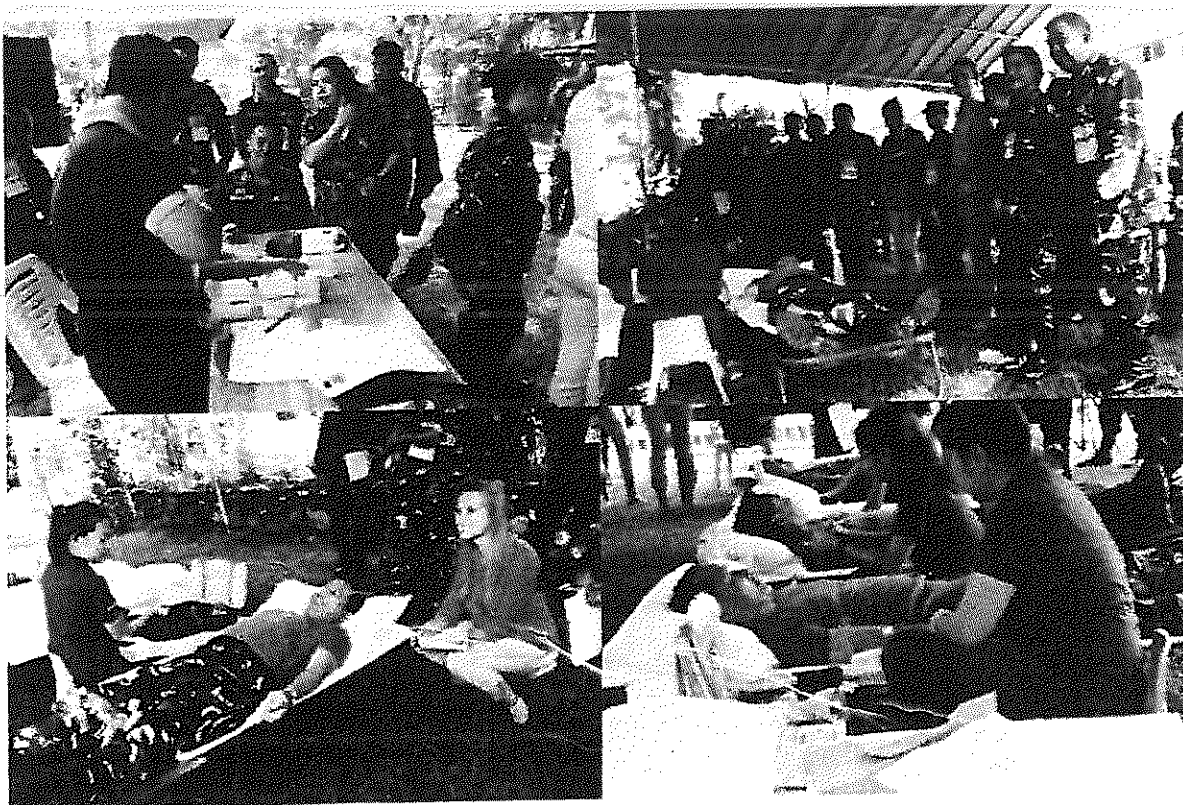
In partnership with the Philippine Blood Center (PBC), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division conducted a second Command – initiated Bloodletting activity for this year at 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Station Hospital (2ASH) on June 16, 2016. Said activity dubbed as “2<sup>nd</sup> Dugo ng Sundalo, Karugtong ng Buhay mo” was participated by 2ID Personnel and dependents that are all willing to give their share in helping their fellow countrymen.

According to MGen Romeo G Gan AFP, Commander, 2ID, said undertaking is a manifestation of the 2ID’s strong resolve in extending help to our fellow countrymen not just in insuring peace and development, but also in donating blood that could save the lives of our fellow.

On the same way, in a formal ceremony that started at around 9:00 in the morning, LTC Mateo C Modina MC GSC (PA), CO, 2ASH thanked all the members of the PBC headed by its Team Leader, Dr. Antonette Turaray, and all the 2ID Personnel and dependents who actively participated on the said activity.

A total of 100 bags of blood with 450 cc each were collected from the qualified donors.

Also present during the activity were Col Marceliano V Teofilo GSC (INF) PA, Chief of Staff, 2ID; Col Dante R Barotilla GSC (INF) PA, Division Inspector General, 2ID; and members of General, Special, Technical and Personal Staff of 2ID along with the two (2) interns at 2ASH from the University of Utah, Ms. Julie Watkins and Ms. Kayla Quinn.



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



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**POLICE FILES**

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## **5,000 sundalo, ipantatapat sa Abu Sayyaf**

NASA limanlibong tropa ng militar o sampung brigada ang ipinalat na sa lalawigan ng Sulu na layong tugisin ang grupo ng Abu Sayyaf na pumugot sa ulo ng dalawang Canadian sa kamakailan.

Ayon kay Major Filemon Tan Jr., tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command, lahat ng resources ng militar ang ay nakahandang gamitin para sa operasyon kontra sa bandidong grupo.

May mga speksipikong mga lugar aniyang tatargetin ang kanilang operasyon at tututukan din ang mga personalidad na nagbibigay-suporta sa grupo.

Sa kabila ng dami ng bilang ng mga sundalo at resources na gagamitin panlaban sa ASG, iginiit ni Tan na hindi pa rin ito maituturing na isang 'wide-scale operation'.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Abu Raami, tagapagsalita ng ASG na pahihirapan nila sa paghahanap ang militar.

Giit pa ni Raami, mas pamilyar ang kanilang hanay sa terrain kaya't mas magiging madali sa kanila ang makaiwas sa mga sundalo.

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## Place Sulu under martial law

TEN BATTALIONS or 5,000 soldiers have been deployed in Sulu province to go after the Abu Sayyaf bandits who beheaded two Canadian hostages after their ransom demand was not met.

Even if the government puts 100 battalions in Sulu, the Abu Sayyaf bandits will not be captured.

Why? Because the bandits have the support and sympathy of the local folk who are their relatives or fellow Muslims.

The solution is to put Sulu under martial law and place a total embargo on the island so that goods and people can't enter or leave the province.

Navy ships and numerous "kumpit"—very fast Moro boats that carry barter-trade goods—can surround the island province to intercept people who try to leave.

Boats leaving or entering the province should be sunk after ample warning has been issued for them to stop.

The military can engage in hamletting, a strategy of isolating barrio people from contact with members of an armed group.

Hamletting was used by the British during the anti-insurgency campaign in Malaya in the 1950s and was highly successful.

The Malayan insurgents, deprived of their source of food and moral support, surrendered if they were not yet killed during battles with government troops.

The government can also offer hefty cash reward for people who pinpoint Abu Sayyaf bandits or their relatives in villages under the influence of the bandit group.

The relatives of Abu Sayyaf

bandits might be held as pawns for the freedom of their hostages.

The financial reward will come from the military intelligence fund.

Of course, the strategic hamlet program should be scrapped after all the Abu Sayyaf bandits are either killed or captured.

\*\*\*

From incoming presidential spokesperson, lawyer Salvador Panelo has been moved to chief presidential legal adviser, a designation he will hold after Davao City Mayor Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte takes his oath as president.

Panelo is an unskilled mouthpiece of Mano Digong.

Instead of softening Mano Digong's cuss-laden quarrel with the media, Panelo exacerbated it by adding his own two cents' worth.

Good riddance!

\*\*\*

Ernesto Abella, a former clergyman, has replaced Panelo while Martin Andanar, a famous broadcast journalist, is the incoming chief of the Presidential Communications Office.

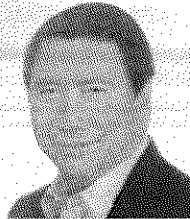
I don't know much about Abella, except that Mayor Digong once saved him from his kidnappers, but I know Andanar will be able to reconcile the President-elect with the media because he's one of them.

Digong's quarrel with the Manila media—he's friendly with reporters in Davao City—stems from a misunderstanding or miscommunication.

When the Manila media get to know Mano Digong better they'll find him very amiable and a man with a terrific sense of humor.

I should know; I used to dislike the guy.

### ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

18 June 2016

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## ASG member arrested in Zamboanga market

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

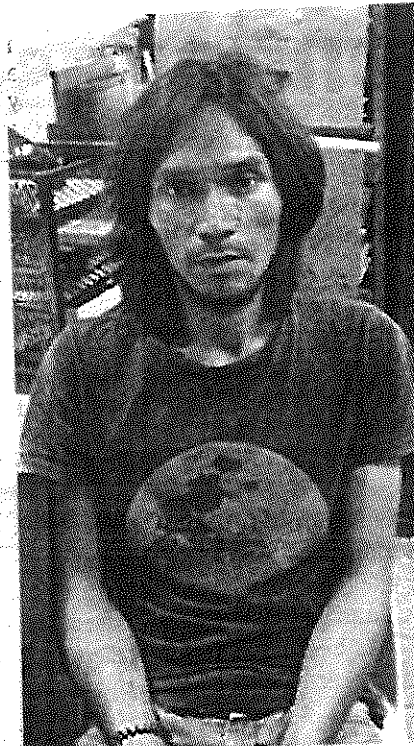
**ZAMBOANGA CITY** — Police and military authorities in this city arrested Wednesday a suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) who was allegedly involved in a series of kidnapping incidents in Basilan province.

The police identified the arrested ASG member as Adam Mahamdom alias Junior Halil. Authorities arrested Mahamdom at about 9:40 a.m., Wednesday at the vicinity of the Zamboanga City Public Market.

Halil was arrested on the strength of a warrant of arrest for the crime of kidnapping and serious illegal detention issued by Regional Trial Court-9 in Isabela City, Basilan Province.

The police said Mahamdom was involved in the Lamitan Siege and Tairan kidnapping incident in 2001.

He is now detained at the Zamboanga city Central Police Station.



**ADAM MAHAMDOM**

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## AFP supportive of Duterte gov't peace initiatives

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday expressed its support for the resumption of peace talks between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the

incoming Duterte administration.

"The AFP's track record on government peace efforts is very clear. We supported peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), and now the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Any effort that can bring about sustainable

peace in our country is a worthy endeavor that deserves the nation's support," said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Representatives of Duterte and the negotiating team of the NDFP, after two days of exploratory talks in Oslo, Norway, agreed to resume formal peace talks in the third week of July.

PNA

June 2016

The Manila Times

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## Kidnapping of Malaysians mere 'rumor'

BY MOH SAADUDDIN  
CORRESPONDENT

**KIDAPAWAN CITY:** Authorities have been scrambling since Thursday to verify a report alleging that four more Malaysians were abducted from the coast of Sabah in East Malaysia and taken to Sulu province in southern Mindanao.

Local police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Army's Western Mindanao Command have not issued official statements about their recent finds.

A Malaysian daily on Friday reported, however, that a claim on the supposed kidnapping was a mere handiwork of "rumor-mongers" and that there have been no new abductions recorded in Sabah.

► 'Rumor' A2

## ■ 'RUMOR' FROM A1 Kidnapping

*Daily Express*, an independent national newspaper in East Malaysia, quoted Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar as saying that "on checking with the relevant authorities, police learned that the claim was false as no such abduction had occurred."

It said Malaysian police, who were in the dark about the claim, had scrambled to verify the news report in the Philippines.

Local media on Thursday quoted Tawi-Tawi police director Senior Supt. Joselito Salido as saying that four more Malaysians were kidnapped in Sabah and brought to Sulu a week after the safe release of four Malaysian sailors who were abducted by the notorious Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

The news broke out three days after the ASG beheaded their second hostage, Canadian Robert Hall.



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Pahina. 2

## AFP handa na sa Martial Law vs ASG

HANDANG-HANDA na ang pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police na gampanan ang magiging papel kung sakaling isailalim sa Martial Law ang ilang bahagi ng Mindanao.

Ito'y sa kagustuhan ng gobyerno na mabura o mapulbos nang tuluyan ang Abu Sayyaf Group na sangkot sa mga kasong kidnapping at bombing sa ilang bahagi ng bansa.

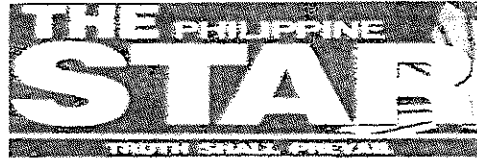
Ginawa ni AFP spokesperson Brig/Gen. Restituto Padilla ang pahayag kaugnay sa muntik nang Martial Law declaration ni Pangulong Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino upang puksatin ang mga bandido na punugot sa ulo ng mga bihag na dalawang Canadian nationals.

Ani Padilla, hindi problema sa kanila ang posibleng Martial Law dahil nakasentro lamang sa ilang lugar na pinagtataguan ng mga bandido.

Nililaw ng opisyal na nakahanda silang sumunod kung anuman ang iutos sa kanilang hanay na naglalayon na mapangalagaan ang seguridad ng sambayanan.

Kabilang lang ang militar at ang pulisya sa regional o municipal peace and order council sa isang lugar kaya hinintayin nila ang legal orders mula sa pamahalaan. MARY ANNE SAPICO

18 June 2016



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## PAF welcomes training with 4 US attack aircraft

By JAIME LAUDE

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) welcomed yesterday the deployment of four US electronic attack aircraft along with over a hundred servicemen at Clark Field in Pampanga, purportedly to train their Filipino counterparts.

The stationing of four EA-18G Growlers or the two-seater F/A-18 Super Hornets and 120 support personnel came at a time when the US and China are engaged in heated exchanges over maritime security issues in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

"We welcome training opportunities that would further improve the skills of our air crew in tactical air and fighter operations," PAF spokesman Col. Araus Robert Musico said.

He added that while their American counterparts brought up possible training

with them, this has yet to be discussed or arranged.

Musico said any training with their US counterparts would focus on interoperability and familiarization between the US and the Filipino aircrew as well as aircraft maintenance technicians and equipment.

The US embassy said that the four Growlers would be in the country to train with PAF's FA50 lead-in fighter jets.

The government has procured a squadron of FA50s from South Korea, two units of which have been delivered and are being used to train Filipino pilots to handle supersonic fighter jets.

The US electronic attack aircraft and its personnel will also be supporting routine operation missions to support the PAF's territorial defense operations.

June 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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# Nene bucks Duterte plan to bury Marcos in Libingan

By Jovic Yee

PARTIDO Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) chair emeritus and former senate president Aquilino “Nene” Pimentel said on Friday the remains of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos should stay in his northern hometown of Batangas amid the raging debate over suggestions to transfer him to the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

“I have been suggesting for a long time that Marcos should be buried in a place where he is honored by the people. And that’s in his hometown (Batangas),” Pimentel told reporters when sought for comment on incoming President Rodrigo Duterte’s plan to transfer Marcos at the Libingan, which has been the dictator’s family’s request over the past two decades.

He noted that at least in Ilocos Norte, Marcos would be able to “get all the honors that he wants.”

“He is obviously still loved there by some people. Let them give the honors to him,” said Pimentel, who as an opposition figure bitterly fought the repressive Marcos regime.

But should the Marcos family insist that the remains be transferred, Pimentel said the cemetery should be renamed “Libingan ng mga Sundalo.”



PIMENTEL

### **Not out to convince Duterte**

He clarified, however, that he was only exercising his right to "speak out my mind as a free citizen" and was not out to convince Duterte to reconsider his stance. Duterte has said he was a close friend of the Marcos family.

Pimentel said the country did not need to bestow Marcos a huge honor given that "thousands of our citizens were tortured and killed during [the] martial law [era]."

Thousands of activists were jailed, killed or went missing during Marcos' repressive regime, which was ended by a "people power" revolt in 1986 that sent the dictator and his family into exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later. Imelda Marcos and her children were however later allowed to return home, and his cadaver was subsequently kept in a refrigerated crypt.

On Independence Day, hundreds of individuals, led by the Facebook group "Never Again to Marcos Family and their Cronies," gathered at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani to protest the transfer.

But Pimentel's son and PDP-Laban president Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III had said he would not oppose Duterte's plan.

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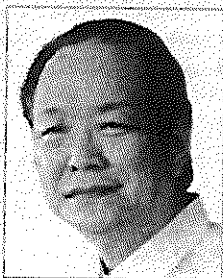
## Search For Truth

By ERNESTO M. MACEDA

### P-Noy's failures

President Benigno Simeon Aquino Jr. failed in so many respects:

1. failure to achieve rice self-sufficiency, together with low one percent agricultural growth;
2. failure to eradicate drug problems – three million drug users;
3. failure to solve the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and New People's Army (NPA) insurgency.
4. lack of classrooms, especially what is needed for Grade 11 enrollees;
5. 25 percent poverty rate, together with 6.1 percent unemployment rate – three million unemployed.
6. low foreign investments, the lowest in Asean.
7. smuggling of oil, rice, luxury cars, steel products, sugar, frozen meat, onions and garlic;
8. failure to solve the drug manufacturing activities at National Bilibid Prison (NBP);
9. failure to solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila;
10. failure to relocate Metro Manila informal settlers;
11. failure to solve housing shortage and build four million homes;
12. failure to pass the Basic Bangsamoro Law (BBL);
13. failure to pass Freedom of Information bill (FOI);
14. failure to eradicate corruption in the bureaucracy, especially Bureau of Customs (BoC); Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Land Transportation Office (LTO) and Bureau of Immigration (BI);
15. failure to build the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) connector;
16. failure to solve the Metro Rail Transit/Light Rail Transit (MRT/LRT) problems;
17. failure to solve the problem of LTO;
18. failure to resolve the conflict with China on the West Philippine Sea.



#### Panelo replaced

Atty. Salvador Panelo, the appointed presidential spokesman, has been relieved and shifted to the position of Presidential Legal Counsel.

Panelo's appointment was controversial from the beginning as he served as legal counsel of the Ampatuan family.

He was also called down for issuing statements without clearance from President-elect Rodrigo Duterte.

He was also criticized for violating a no parking zone in Greenhills.

Expect more changes to be made in the Duterte Cabinet.

#### Separate inauguration

Vice President-elect Leni Robredo has been told she cannot have her oath taking in Malacañang. The reason, the Rizal Ceremonial Hall can accommodate only 500 guests. Incoming Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) head Martin Andanar said they could only reserve 30 slots for Robredo. Why not at least 50 for Robredo?

Duterte will take his oath before Supreme Court (SC) Justice Buenvenido Reyes, a graduate of San Beda Law School, and a fraternity brother.

It has not been announced where Robredo will have her oath taking – most probably at the Boracay Mansion. She is expected to take her oath before Barangay Chairman Ronaldo Coner of the smallest and farthest barangay in Camarines Sur.

#### 10 battalions in Sulu

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced that it has deployed 10 battalions in Sulu, consisting of 5,000 men from the different branches of the AFP.

There were fresh reports of another abduction of four Malaysians in Sabah and brought to Sulu.

The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) has an estimated 300 rebels in Sulu and 200 in Basilan.

ASG spokesperson Abu Raami said his group would make it hard for the government troops to locate them, saying they know the terrain. He added that every time a military craft would hover over them they run for cover, put off all communications and hide.

President Aquino visited Jolo, Sulu to check on the operations of the military against the ASG. But Vice Gov. Abdusakur said he chose to snub President Benigno Simeon Aquino Jr. because he is responsible why all these problems are besetting their place. Tan said the President did not consider his earlier recommendation to involve the communities in the campaign against the ASG, instead Aquino poured more troops and changed the police officers and replaced officers who were not functioning.

With just two weeks to go before the end of his term, President Aquino is unlikely to succeed in defeating the ASG.

#### More killings

Two construction workers, Jerome Mila, 35 and Edward Narvarte, 38, were shot dead in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Money changer Larry Oliva Haya Sr., 65, was shot dead during a robbery holdup incident by two unidentified men in Bakakeng Norte, Baguio City.

In South Cotabato, Dalton pawnshop was held up inside a well-secured Gaisano Grand Mall by four men, who were suspected to belong to an organized gang preying on pawnshops in South Cotabato and General City.

Barangay chairman Ariel Mauricio, 53, was shot dead in Paniqui, Tarlac.

P02 Rodolfo Tayong Jr. was wounded in an ambush by the New People's Army (NPA) in Pio V. Corpus town in Masbate.

#### Winning Manila Councilors

First District: 1. Dionix Dionisio, 2. Bobby Lim, 3. Marjun Isidro, 4. Jesus Fajardo, 5. Niño Dela Cruz, 6. Peter Ong.

Second District: 1. Roland Valeriano, 2. Ruben Buenaventura, 3. Ramon Robles, 4. Ninong Lacsamana, 5. Edward Tan, 6. Macky Lacson.

Third District: 1. Re Fugoso, 2. Bernie Ang, 3. Letlet Zarcal, 4. Maile Atienza, 5. Grace Chua, 6. Terrence Alibarbar.

Fourth District: 1. Doc Louie Chua, 2. Krys Bacani, 3. Anton Capistrano, 4. Bimbo Eduardo 5. Quintos XVI, Eduardo Quintos XIV, 6. JTV Villanueva.

Fifth District: 1. Irwin Tieng, 2. Robert Ortega, 3. Laris Borromeo, 4. Joey Hizon III, 5. Boy Ysip, 6: Ting Yupangco.

Sixth District: 1. Christian Joey Uy, 2. Princess Abante, 3. Beth Rivera, 4. Cassy Sison, 5. Carlos Castañeda, 6. Joel Par.





18 June 2016



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## EDITORIAL

# ISA PA ANG PINUGUTAN SA PAGPAPATULOY NG MISERABLENG KUWENTO NG PAGBIHAG

**N**AGPAPATULOY ang masalimuot at mala-bangungot na kuwento ng pagdukot sa apat na tao mula sa Samal island resort noong 2015 – sa dalawang Canadian, isang Norwegian, at isang Pilipina – at walang nakakaalam kung paano ito magwawakas.

Dinukot ang mga Canadian na sina John Ridsdel at Robert Hall, ang Norwegian na si Khartan Sekkingstad, at ang Pilipinang si Marites Flor noong Setyembre 2015, at humingi ang Abu Sayyaf ng ransom para sa pagpapalaya sa kanila. Nagpalabas ang gobyerno ng karaniwan nitong tugon: na tinutugis ng mga tropa ng gobyerno ang Abu Sayyaf at hindi kailanman magbabayad ng ransom sa mga bandido dahil labag ito sa opisyal na polisiya ng gobyerno.

"Kung sa tingin ninyo ay mas mahalaga pa ang inyong polisiya kaysa buhay ng mga bihag na ito, sinusiguro naming may gagawin kamung masama laban sa kanila," sinabi ng lalaking nakasuot ng maskara habang kasama ang apat na bihag sa isang video noong Marso. Gaya ng banta ng grupo, pinugutan ang una sa apat na dinukot, si Ridsdel, noong Abril. Kung patuloy na babalewala ang kanilang hiling na ransom, sinabi ng Abu Sayyaf na pupugutan nilang muli ang isa pa sa kanilang mga bihag. At nitong Lunes, Hunyo 13, pinugutan ng grupo ang isa pang Canadian, si Hall.

Sinabi ni incoming Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo na ang papatapos na administrasyong Aquino pa rin ang responsable sa nangyari, dahil hindi pa pormal na naluluklok sa puwesto si President-elect Duterte. Nauna rito, tinawagan ni Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau si Duterte para batiin ito sa pagkakapanalo sa halalan, habang humingi naman ng paumanhin si Duterte sa pagkakapaslang kay Ridsdel. "We will try to see that nothing like this will happen again," sinabi ni Duterte kay Trudeau. Pero nangyari uli, ngunit gaya ng iginuit ni Panelo, si Pangulong Aquino pa ang nasa kapangyarihan.

Nagpapatuloy ang miserableng kuwento dahil may dalawa pang binihag mula sa Samal ang nasa kamay ng Abu Sayyaf. Naisakatuparan ng grupo ang sinabi nitong gagawin sa mga bihag, kung paano at kailan papatayin. Samantala, ang tangi at paulit-ulit na inihahayag ng gobyerno ay ang pagtugis ng puwersa ng militar sa mga bandido.

Makalipas ang 12 araw, ang kabuuan ng desperadong sitwasyong ito, kabilang na ang lahat ng pandaigdigang implikasyon nito, ay ipapasa na kay Pangulong Duterte. Umaasa tayo – kaisa ang mga pamilya ng natitirang mga bihag – na mas maaaksiyunan niya ang problema kumpara sa kanyang hinalinhan.

## ONLINE NEWS

18 JUNE 2016

# POLITICAL DECISION| Declaration of martial law to neutralize ASG should be studied first

Verjoe News Eastern June 17, 2016 | Comment PH-TRCOP- AFP -ASG Manila 1.



MANILA — The decision to impose martial law to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) threat in Sulu and Basilan is a political decision and is not a prerogative of the military. This was stressed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Thursday when queried on this matter.

"It is a political decision and not one that will be made by the military. It is best (perhaps) to ask the National Security Council," he added.

Earlier, President Benigno S. Aquino III said he considered placing the entire province of Sulu in a bid to rescue the remaining Samal Island hostages being held by the ASG.

The President added that he considered this option when the ASG gave June 13 deadline where they threatened to behead Canadian hostage Robert Hall if ransom will not be paid for latter's release.

Hall was beheaded last June 13 while fellow Canadian John Ridsel was killed on April 25.

However, President Aquino said he did not push through with his plan for fear that it might draw sympathizers for the ASG in the area.

Incoming Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff and incumbent Southern Luzon Command head Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya earlier said he is open to the proposal to declare martial law in Sulu and Basilan as part of the efforts to eliminate the ASG threat.

"Declaration of martial law is always an option to restore order (in Sulu and Basilan) but it should be studied first," he added.

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

# 10 battalions hunt Abus in Sulu

By: Julie S. Alipala

@inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao

12:25 AM June 17th, 2016

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military has deployed 10 battalions to “selected target areas” in Sulu province to go after the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers who beheaded two Canadian hostages in the last two months after failing to get their ransom demand.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command, said all resources from land, sea and air had been made available for the mission, which could involve some 5,000 troops belonging to the Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy, including their Special Forces.

“We have about 10 battalions, including Marines. Ten battalions of two brigades. All service commands are involved,” Tan said.

But he clarified that the operations would not be on a “wide scale,” but would focus on areas known to be supportive of the Abu Sayyaf.

“We will go to the communities known to provide refuge to bandits,” he said. “There are selected target areas. These bandits have relatives and they hide in the populace.”

On Monday, Abu Sayyaf bandits beheaded Canadian Robert Hall after the P600-million ransom money they had demanded was not delivered. Another Canadian, John Ridsdel, suffered the same fate on April 25.

The group is still holding hostage Filipino Maritess Flor and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad.

All were kidnapped in an exclusive marina in Island Garden City of Samal in Davao del Norte province on Sept. 21 last year.

Police were checking “an intelligence advisory from the higher office” that four Malaysians were abducted by armed men in Sabah, Malaysia, on Wednesday night.

“So far, no confirmation,” Senior Supt. Joselito Salido, police director of Tawi-Tawi province, told the Inquirer by phone.

Tan refused to give the exact number of soldiers or the units deployed in Sulu, and where the operations would be.

“Just imagine our operation maps are filled with pins,” he said. Pins indicate deployment of troops on the ground.

Abu Raami, spokesperson for the Abu Sayyaf, said his group would make it hard for the government troops to locate them.

“We know the terrain,” he said in a phone interview on Thursday morning.

Raami said that every time a military aircraft would hover over them, “we run for cover, we put off all communications and we hide.”

On Wednesday, President Aquino visited Jolo, Sulu, to check on the operations of the military against the Abu Sayyaf.

Sulu Vice Gov. Abdusakur Tan said he chose to snub the President “because he is responsible why all these problems are besetting our place.”

Tan said Mr. Aquino did not consider his earlier recommendation to involve the communities in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. “Instead ... he poured more troops and changed the police officers and replaced officers who were not functioning.”

On Mr. Aquino’s visit, Tan said: “Who do you think will listen to him? Coming down here when he has only 15 days left (as President).”

“That is what we call ‘too late to play a hero.’ Lives have been wasted, resources reportedly poured but we never saw it, never felt it,” said the vice governor.

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

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

In Manila, Sen. Bam Aquino said yesterday that it was time for the government to do all it could to crush the Abu Sayyaf in the wake of threats that it might behead another hostage if its ransom demand was not met.

Senator Aquino lamented that the Abu Sayyaf already wrought extensive damage on the country's image, economy, tourism industry, and the way of the life in several areas in Mindanao.

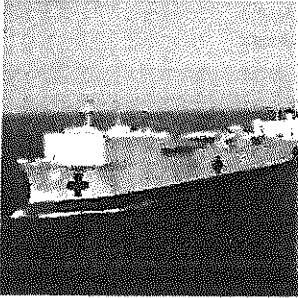
"It is time to take the appropriate action to pulverize the bandit group at the earliest possible time," he said.

"We support any action of the present government and the incoming administration of President-elect Duterte as long as it conforms with the law." ***With a report from Leila B. Salaverria***

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

# USLS MERCY | US Navy Hospital Ship to visit Legazpi City

Manila, Philippines: June 17, 2016. (DWDD) - A United States Navy hospital ship



**CAMP SIMEON OLA, Legazpi City (DWDD)** – A United States Navy hospital ship is set to arrive in Legazpi City on June 27.

According to the Philippine Navy, the USLS Marcy, a state-of-the-art US Navy ship equipped with advanced medical facility and equipment will arrive here for a joint humanitarian program of the US Navy and the Philippine Naval Forces in Southern Luzon from June 27 to July 11.

The US Navy hospital personnel has set for treatment 4,000 local patients for the scheduled medical mission, which will be done aboard the ship.

Navy officials also clarified that this is a humanitarian program, under the Pacific Partnership program, and is very much different from the Baliktaran Exercises which is a joint military exercise," Alejandro said.

They added that the humanitarian program, would consist of a medical mission, civil-relation activity, training and subject matter exchange between the two naval forces, which is part of the Philippine-U.S. Mutual Defense Agreement.

The USLS Marcy hospital ship last visited the Philippines in 2013 where they extend humanitarian assistance to thousands of victims affected by super typhoon Yolanda. **AJQD / MCAG**

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

## BILATERAL TRAINING | VAQ-138 Growler Detachment Arrives at Clark Air Base

Clark Air Base | June 17, 2016 | Command and Control | Growler Detachment

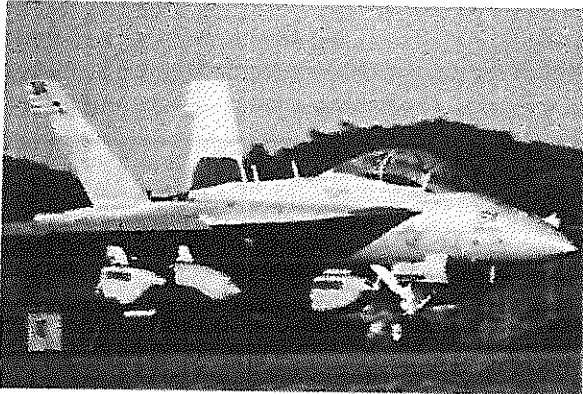


Photo from US Embassy

**Clark Air Base** —At the direction of the U.S. Pacific Commander, and with the approval of the Government of the Philippines, the United States stood up an Air Contingent in April 2016 to promote interoperability and U.S.-Philippines security cooperation.

As part of this contingent, the U.S. Navy sent a detachment of EA-18G Growler airborne electronic attack aircraft to Clark Air Base on June 15, where it will train with Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) FA 50 aircraft pilots.

In addition to these bilateral training missions, Growler aircraft will support routine operational missions that enhance regional maritime domain awareness. The detachment is composed of four aircraft and approximately 120 personnel assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines offered to host the U.S. Air Contingent at Clark Air Base for the duration of their mission for the purposes of training the AFP's FA 50 pilots and its support units for TDO, specifically on Maritime Security Operations. Clark Air Base is the home of the FA 50 and its pilots in training. Placing the U.S. Air Contingent at this base gives the AFP an opportunity to train with U.S. servicemen on Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR).

The U.S. Air Contingent training with the AFP is part of the Mutual Defense Board Activities agreed upon by the Philippine and U.S. governments as part of Maritime Domain Awareness and the promotion of interoperability between both nations' armed forces.

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