

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



ARMY

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oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 June 2016

Wednesday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

22 June 2016

Emergency powers for traffic mess gain broad support



Businessmen's wish list: Tax cuts, nat'l ID



Duterte to limit interaction with media

7 more drug suspects killed



WHO: Restrict e-cigarette sales

AQUINO LEGACY

US: 2 aircraft carriers deter China



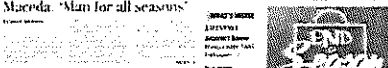
Gina spooks mining stocks

Environment activist Lopez accepts DENR job



'Don't try to corrupt us'

Macrada: 'Man for all seasons'



END Season SALE 70% OFF

The Manila Times

Manila, June 22, 2016

Manila, June 22, 2016

Duterte trains guns on mayors into drugs



Manila, June 22, 2016

Manila, June 22, 2016

Manila, June 22, 2016

Manila, June 22, 2016

The Standard

Manila, June 22, 2016

Manila, June 22, 2016

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Manila Bulletin

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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:28 AM	6:28 PM	7:58 PM	6:52 AM

FAALL MOON	LAST QUARTER	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
7:02 PM JUNE 20	2:15 AM JUNE 22	7:05 PM JUNE 20	10:01 AM JUNE 21

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JUNE 22, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING NARAYAN
JUNE 21, 5:00 AM

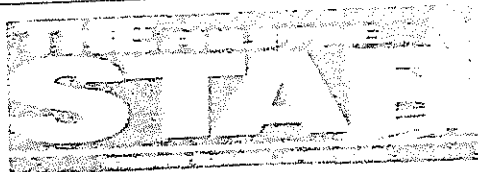
LAOAG CITY 25 - 33 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 35 °C
BAGUIO CITY 17 - 26 °C	
SBMA/CLARK 26 - 34 °C	METRO MANILA 25 - 34 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 22 - 32 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 33 °C
HONOLULU CITY 24 - 33 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 26 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 32 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C

ENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUNE 23 THU	JUNE 24 FRI	JUNE 25 SAT	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUNE 23 THU	JUNE 24 FRI	JUNE 25 SAT
METRO MANILA	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C
LAOAG	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	23 °C 32 °C	22 °C 32 °C	22 °C 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

22 June 2016



Page 1

Businessmen's wish list: Tax cuts, nat'l ID

By PRINZ MAGTULIS

DAVAO CITY – Lower income and corporate taxes. A national identification system. Automation of business permit processing, and faster broadband and phone services.

These are part of a 10-point wish list presented yesterday to president-elect Rodrigo Duterte by business leaders.

More than 400 corporate executives capped a two-day workshop here by giving their top 10 recommendations for economic policies of the Duterte administration before it takes over at noon of June 30.

After the presentation, Duterte said he would study the proposals, which he described as "doable."

"The discussions have been unique and productive. The entire group huddled in a workshop and they exchanged ideas extensively. They enriched each other's contribution," finance secretary-designate Carlos Dominguez III said.

George Barcelon, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the two-day workshop would provide building blocks for collective synergy and a competitive landscape supportive of growth.

Businessmen urged Duterte to adopt a comprehensive tax reform package that will reduce corporate and personal income taxes and capital gains levies. Tax rates could be made "a little lower" than regional peers.

They also called for the implementation of a national ID system for improved targeting

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Businessmen's From Page 1

of social services.

Barcelon said this would allow informal settlers to be "properly identified" for improved access to health and education.

They also proposed the automation and streamlining of business permits and licensing systems to eliminate windows of corruption. This includes automatic renewal of licenses "after a certain period of time"

of inaction, they said.

The business leaders also called for improvements of the Internet and telecommunications services to be at par with and competitive in the region. They called on the removal of congressional franchises, companies being granted international gateway licenses and investing in and renting out of cables.

They proposed a better deliv-

ery of support systems to farmers and fishermen such as financing, incentives, technology, farm-to-market roads, irrigation and post-harvest facilities;

Implementation of responsible mining that limits raw material exports to grow value-added processing locally;

Development and implementation of national strategy for industries where the country has greatest competitive advantage.

The "speedy" improvement of transport network system

for the country to improve connectivity. This includes using regional airports and seaports to decongest their Manila counterparts and fast-tracking the North-South Railway Project, C-6 Road Project, Cebu Bus Rapid Project and Mindanao Railway Project.

The businessmen also called for a review of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program.

They said the CCT is perceived as one that promotes dependency on government.

"Instead of CCT, the poor

should be provided cash-for-work, livelihood and supplemental support," they said.

They also called for reduction in the bottlenecks in the public-private partnership and other infrastructure projects and respect for sanctity of contracts.

This was the first time that a president-elect had conducted a consultation with the business community, which hailed the move.

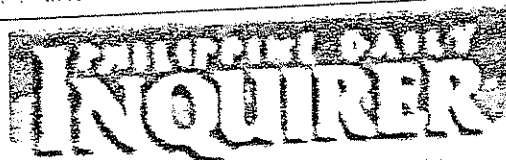
Among the business leaders who attended the two-day event here were Ayala Corp.

chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Cebu Pacific Air chief Lance Gokongwei, GMA Network Inc. chairman Felipe Gozon, BDO Unibank president and Bankers Association of the Philippines chief Nestor Tan and Philippine Airlines president Jaime Bautista.

Government officials as well as multilateral lenders International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank were also present.

- With Edith Regalado

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Gina spooks mining stocks

Environment activist Lopez accepts DENR job

By Jovic Yee, Doris Dumlao-Abadilla and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

STAUNCH antimining advocate Regina "Gina" Lopez has accepted the offer of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which oversees the country's mining industry.

"After much introspection, I decided to accept it. Let's see what happens," Lopez told reporters after talking to Duterte over the phone at the sidelines of the 4th Excellence in Educational Transformation Awards held at the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City.

A day after she was offered the post, Lopez told Duterte she was deeply honored since it's a controversial decision—that he has decided to trust her.

"I give you my firm commitment that I will do everything that I can and it's not only to

protect the environment [but also] to eradicate poverty," she told the incoming President.

News of Duterte's offer to Lopez sent share prices of mining and oil stocks plunging by 4.09 percent at the end of trading yesterday. While the key Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 1.33 percent and reached a new high for 2016, the mining and oil index slumped.

Among the top losers were Philex Mining, Philex Petroleum Corp., Lepanto Con-

GINA/A17

Gina spooks mining stocks

From page A1

solidated Mining, Apex Mining and Manila Mining Corp.

Analysts said investors dumped mining stocks yesterday on expectations that the regulatory environment for mining might become more challenging under the Duterte administration.

Lopez, who described herself as “not the usual choice” for environment secretary because of her antimining stance, said she was open to meeting promining advocates so she could make “suggestions” on how to address concerns in the industry.

Lopez also warned corrupt officials at the DENR that their days are numbered.

“We’ll clean the ranks of DENR. Those accepting bribes, your days are over. Stop it. No corruption is acceptable,” she said.

She blamed corruption within the department for the deterioration of the environment.

Lopez, 61, chair of ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, studied at Assumption College and Newton College of the Sacred Heart in Boston. She has a master’s degree in development management from the Asian Institute of Management and a doctorate degree in humanities from Ateneo de Naga University.

Environmental champions and activists hailed Duterte’s appointment of Lopez as the next environment secretary.

Sen. Loren Legarda, a known pro-environment advocate, welcomed Lopez’s appointment.

“Gina’s track record on various environmental causes cannot be questioned,” said former Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

“President Duterte picked the right person to fight for what is right as she has proven with La Mesa Dam, Pasig River and her antimining stance that is consistent with what the President wants to happen,” Hagedorn said.

Environmentalist Tony Oposa Jr. sent a message from Norway: “President-elect Duterte made the right choice. We will support her all the way!”

Sonia Mendoza, president of Mother Earth Foundation, welcomed the appointment of Lopez. “We thank the President for his choice as we promise to support His Excellency’s environmental programs,” she said.



GINA LOPEZ interviewed after announcing her acceptance last night of her appointment as environment secretary.

JOVIC YEE

Environmental activists also hailed the choice of Lopez as DENR chief.

“That’s a breakthrough in executive policy because in the past all executive departments have favored large-scale mining and had little support for small-scale mining,” Ban Toxics executive director Richard Gutierrez said.

EcoWaste Coalition president Noli Abinales said: “We know that Gina is a fighter in protecting the environment from destructive industries like mining.”

Clément Bautista, national coordinator of the militant Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, said Lopez had a “proven track record” against mining.

Greenpeace Philippines country director Amalie Obusan said they hoped Lopez would be consistent and reject all environmentally-destructive projects, including those pushed by her family.

As head of the DENR, Lopez will also oversee the operations of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which regulates the country’s mining industry.

“Mining counters fell on market concerns that Duterte’s potential appointee to the DENR post would pursue policies that are pro-environment and that may cap the extraction of natural resources in the

country by mining companies,” said Michaelangelo Oyson, president of BPI Securities.

“Given the high dependence of the mining industry on future production, the market has apparently reacted negatively to the invitation of the Duterte administration to Ms Gina Lopez as DENR secretary due to possible increased regulations and restrictions that could affect future earnings should she accept the position,” said Marvin Fausto, a fund expert at COL Financial and president of IFE Management Advisers Inc.

Philex Mining, controlled by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, fell by 12.17 percent while its oil exploration arm Philex Petroleum likewise slumped by 10.94 percent.

Lepanto Mining slid by 7.78 percent and affiliate Manila Mining by 6.7 percent.

The only mining stock that was unscathed yesterday was Semirara Mining, which gained by a modest 0.23 percent.

Market participants were reminded yesterday of a heated exchange between First Pacific’s Pangilinan and Lopez during a mining forum in 2012.

Lopez had supported Duterte’s presidential run because the Davao City mayor had banned mining in his city.

At a business forum in Davao City yesterday, Duterte again warned the country’s mining companies to do it right or get out of mining, saying he would not allow the destruction of the environment.

“There will be a comprehensive review of the mining claims and concessions given. And you must endeavor, if you are into it, be sure that you have enough resources,” Duterte told businessmen.

He advised mining companies to go to Australia and Canada, learn from their best practices in mining precious metals and do it here.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), however, assured that large-scale miners would continue to advocate responsible mining to benefit not just host communities but the entire country.

COMP executive vice president Nelia Halcion said that its members were prepared to fulfill the mining industry’s crucial role of helping sustain a strong economic growth and spreading this to the countryside. *With reports from Riza Olchondra, Leila Salaverria and Ronnel Domingo*

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Troops find 2 ASG camps in Sulu

GOVERNMENT forces discovered two camps of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) during clearing operation on Monday in Bgy. Sinumaan, Talipao, Sulu.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)-Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesman Major Filemon Tan said troops from the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion discovered the camps, which can accommodate 150 persons and have running trenches with potable water within the perimeter.

The troops also found hammocks, water containers and personal belongings of the ASG members inside the camps.

Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

THE TIME IS NOW
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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12 June 2016

Gov't troops overrun 2 ASG camps

By ELENA L. ABEN

Government forces overran two Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) camps in Sulu as intensified operations against the militant group continue to rescue the remaining hostages of the militant group, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said the camps, both in Barangay Sinumaan, Talipao, Sulu, can accommodate approximately 150 people and have running trenches with potable water within the perimeter.

"Also found in the area were hammocks, water container and other personal belongings of the Abu Sayyaf members," Tan said.

Operating troops continue to scour and conduct blockades in the area.

"(The) AFP continues to intensify the conduct of focused military operations in Sulu to pin down the Abu Sayyaf Group and rescue the remaining hostages," said the Wesmincom spokesman.

Up to 11 military battalions have been deployed to Sulu to conduct operations against the ASG, which still holds two foreign and five local hostages.

Among those still being held by the bandit group are Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina, Marites Flor, two of the four people seized by the ASG from a posh island resort in Samal, Davao del Norte in September last year. Their two other companions, Canadians

John Ridsdel and Robert Hall were beheaded in April and June, respectively, after the deadline for ransom had passed.

Incoming AFP Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, currently head of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), last week said that placing Sulu and

Basilan under martial law is an option being considered by the incoming Duterte administration to address the Abu Sayyaf problem in the island provinces in Mindanao.

"Perhaps that is an option that can be undertaken to rees-

establish order in Sulu and Basilan. Perhaps martial law can be an answer to prevent the Abu Sayyaf from continuing their kidnapping activities," Visaya said. (Elena L. Aben)

AFPMBAI Day Care Center at H2ID is now fully furnished

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

The two (2) door, one (1) storey Day Care Center at Matikas Park, Headquarters, 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division sponsored by the Armed Forces and Police Mutual Benefit Association Incorporated (AFPMBAI) is now fully furnished and is ready to cater children who will undergo Kindergarten.

According to Mrs. Edith S Mato MAEd, Principal, Camp Mateo Capinpin Elementary School (CMCES), a total of 38 pupils have already enrolled for Kindergarten which will open on June 13, 2016 with Mrs. Sheril P Cedeño as their teacher.

Meanwhile, in partnership with the AFPMBAI, the 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division spearheaded the Inauguration, Blessing and Turn-Over of AFPMBAI Day Care Center on June 20, 2016 with MGen R Demosthenes C Santillan AFP, Vice Commander, Philippine Army and RAdm Primitivo P Gopo AFP (Ret), Head, Audit Group, AFPMBAI.

As part of the said ceremonies, MGen Santillan and RAdm Gopo handed-over the Symbolic Key to MGen Romeo G Gan AFP, Commander, 2ID and Mrs. Mato which was followed by the giving of bags and school supplies to the CMCES pupils courtesy of the AFPMBAI.

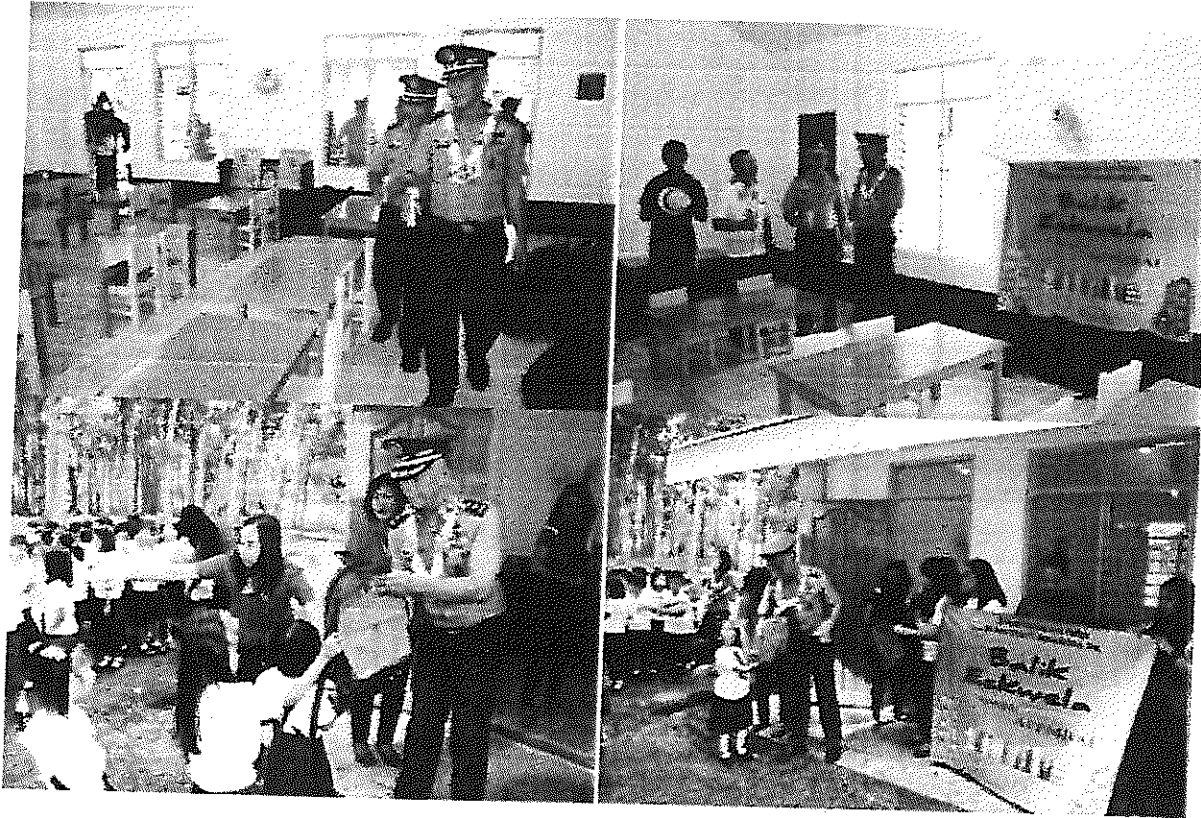
According to MGen Romeo G Gan AFP, Commander, 2ID, said undertaking is just one among the plans and programs of 2ID to further improve its amenities and facilities all intended to provide avenue for the kids to learn and enjoy inside Camp Capinpin.

On the other hand, it can be remembered that only last February 12, 2016, a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the said facility was conducted with Lt Gen Eduardo M Año AFP, Commanding General, Philippine Army.

According to Col Marceliano V Teofilo GSC (INF) PA, Chief of Staff, 2ID, the said facility was quickly realized due to the concerted efforts of the Jungle Fighters on the facilitation and construction of the said building.

Said facility is also equipped with a television set, wall fans, tables and chairs, and other school paraphernalia.





22 June 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Duterte vows to crush Abu Sayyaf

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT Rodrigo Duterte yesterday vowed to crush the Abu Sayyaf group but asked for some time to do so.

Duterte issued the statement hours after the PNP Crime Laboratory confirmed that the head dumped beside a cathedral in Jolo, Sulu last week belonged to Canadian Robert Hall, one of four persons taken by the Abu Sayyaf from Davao del Norte in September last year.

The confirmation was made after comparing tissue samples taken from the head with Hall's DNA profile that was sent by the Canadian Embassy.

Hall was beheaded on June 13. Last April, the Abu Sayyaf beheaded Hall's companion, Canadian John Ridsdel, whose head was also dumped in front of the Jolo town hall.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding seven more kidnap victims in

Sulu, including Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor, who were taken with Hall and Ridsdel.

Duterte, speaking before business leaders at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City, said it would not take long before the Abu Sayyaf bandits will be stopped from their criminal acts.

"This Abu Sayyaf, just give me the luxury of time. I cannot do it just immediately. There are things which I need, which we do not

have now. There will be a time, there will be a reckoning and if it comes, I will just say 'Surrender unconditionally, release all prisoners, hostages or we fight,'" Duterte said.

He did not elaborate on the "things" he needs to end the Abu Sayyaf problem.

Duterte said completely stopping the Abu Sayyaf would need the full support of all "Moros,"

See DUTERTE > Page B6

DUTERTE

cluding the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Military reports said government security forces are having hard time invading Abu Sayyaf camps as the bandits were being warned by locals who sympathize with them. Also, MILF and MNLF members reportedly have relatives who are members or moonlighting as Abu Sayyaf members.

Duterte said he wants a "firm commitment from all brother Moros" that they will somehow stop abetting the bandit group.

"Basta, I get that guarantee na ilalagang peaceful ang intentions

ninyo and you are not protecting terrorists, then if I have it in my hands, I'll be ready to confront... we confront them. Tapusin na talaga natin," he added.

He said once the Abu Sayyaf is destroyed, the country will have true peace.

"My dream is really that one day all Filipinos will just say Filipinos, and we do not at all mention 'left' or 'right,' he is a Moro rebel or a Moro terrorist, and we can live in peace," he said.

President Aquino, after the beheading of Ridsdel, vowed to use the full force of government to end the Abu Sayyaf problem.

Aquino steps down on June 30.

The Abu Sayyaf has long been kidnapping Filipinos and foreigners, mainly for ransom. It came to prominence in 2001 after it kidnapped 20 persons, mostly foreigners, from a high-end resort in Palawan.

The Armed Forces has been saying the Abu Sayyaf has only around 300 to 400 men but the number has not significantly changed in the past years despite military pronouncements about killing its key leaders and members. Yesterday, government forces seized two Abu Sayyaf camps in Talipao town, Sulu where the group reportedly beheaded Hall.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman

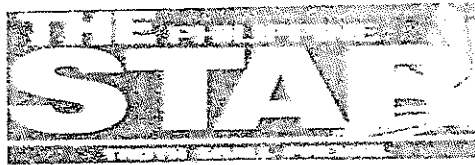
of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the bandits abandoned the camps before the troops from the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion arrived.

He said the bandits may have been alerted by their supporters as the camps were "freshly-abandoned."

In Patikul town, troops from the Army's 35th Infantry Battalion clashed with an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf members in barangay Pansul.

Tan said the firefight was ongoing as of 4:30 p.m. yesterday "with no casualty reported on the government side and undetermined on the enemy side." - *With Victor Reyes*

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Abus told: Free captives, surrender

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – President-elect Rodrigo Duterte yesterday warned Abu Sayyaf kidnappers to surrender and release all hostages or face the consequences of their actions.

"To the Abu Sayyaf, there will be a day of reckoning. Surrender unconditionally and release all prisoners, hostages or we fight," Duterte said during a gathering of business leaders at the SMX Convention Center here.

Duterte's warning came in the wake of the Abu Sayyaf's threat to behead the two remaining hostages, Norwegian

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Abus From Page 1

Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Maritess Flor, who were seized from a resort on Samal Island in September last year.

The bandits earlier executed Canadian hostages John Ridsel and Robert Hall who were seized along with Sekkingstad and Flor.

Duterte said he has yet to secure the commitment of the Muslim groups, particularly the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front, for the resumption of the peace process.

"I have to secure the commitment from our Muslim brothers on the continuity of the talks, *hayaan na muna yan*," he said.

Duterte recently met with MILF and MNLF leaders here.

He said that once he gets the assurance that the Muslim groups are not protecting the terrorists, he would be ready to wage war against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said there will be no letup in the fight against the bandits.

"And we confront them, we confront them, *tapusin na talaga natin para wala na* (we'll really end this)," he said.

Duterte said he has six years to work on the problem of terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf.

"I have six years to do it. God made me president, then

I pray God will help me." He said he dreams for Filipinos to be known as one.

"I dream one day that all Filipinos will just say Filipinos and no one will say that he belongs to the left or right, a Muslim rebel or a Moro terrorist so we can live in peace," he said.

It's Hall

Forensic experts of the Philippine National Police (PNP) confirmed yesterday that the decapitated head found recently in Sulu belonged to Hall.

The PNP Crime Laboratory said samples of DNA lifted from the head matched with Hall's DNA record, which was provided by the Canadian embassy.

Hall was the second among the four hostages to be executed by the bandits after no ransom was paid for their release.

Ridsdel was executed on April 25 and Hall on June 13.

Chief Supt. Emmanuel Aranas of the PNP Crime Laboratory said the National Forensics Laboratory Service in Ottawa had kept a profile of Hall's DNA and turned it over to the Canadian embassy.

The PNP Crime Laboratory released the results of the DNA test last Wednesday.

The military said they were doing everything to rescue the remaining hostages.

Clash

Meanwhile, fighting erupted yesterday afternoon be-

tween the Abu Sayyaf and military troops out to rescue the hostages in the mountains of Patikul, Sulu.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said there was no immediate report of casualties as the firefight raged as of press time.

He said the troops from the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion (IB) encountered the bandits at past 2 p.m. in Barangay Pansul.

He said military forces nearby have been alerted to reinforce the troops.

On Monday, government security forces overran two camps in Talipao town, where the hostages were believed to have been held by the Abu Sayyaf.

Tan said troopers from the Army's 45th IB were able to track down the location of the terrorists as they were conducting clearing operations in Barangay Sinumaan, Talipao.

Tan said the bandits retreated as soon as they sensed the arrival of soldiers. No clash occurred between the two forces.

"The troops found signs and indicators that the hostages and bandits had been at the camps," Tan said.

He said the soldiers recovered ammunition, improvised explosive devices, hammocks, water containers and other personal belongings from the camps that could accommodate about 150 persons.

– With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Roel Pareño

22 June 2016



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Sulu vice gov nixes martial law vs Abus

By Mario J. Mallari
and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

Sulu Vice Gov. Abdusakur Tan rejected calls for the imposition of martial law in his province to defeat the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group, stressing that government support and service to the people is the answer to the ASG menace.

At the same time, Tan called for the relief of Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) regional police director Chief Supt. Ronald Estilles and Sulu provincial police head Senior Supt. Wilfredo Cayat.

"Who are calling for the imposition of martial law here? Do they know really the situation here?" asked Tan during a broadcast interview.

"Why don't they impose martial in Manila where there are drug lords? Are they (drug lords) not considered bandits?" he added.

Tan stressed that the Abu Sayyaf problem is a police matter.

"They (government authorities) should bring in good police and military officials who are familiar with the area and not those who have no grasp of the real situation," he added.

"Police can call the Armed Forces for support," Tan said.

Currently, there are about 11 battalions of military troops operating against the Abu Sayyaf.

Tan cited previous move by the government in the early 2000 – pouring in thousands of troops in Sulu to address the Abu Sayyaf menace following strings of kidnapping incidents, including the raid at a Sipadan dive site where more than 20 foreign tourists were snatched.

He said there was even a naval blockade imposed during the time but the ASG menace remains up to this time.

"What is needed is delivery of government support and service to our people," Tan said.

"There are funds allocated to ARMM but they don't go down to ordinary folks," he added.

On the alleged collusion of local government and military officials with the Abu Sayyaf group, Tan said

there should be an investigation to determine whether the information is true.

Calls for the imposition of martial law in Sulu and Basilan mounted following the beheading of Canadian Robert Hall, whose head was found near the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in the capital Jolo hours after the June 13 3p.m. deadline for the payment of P600 million ransom lapsed.

Hall's body is yet to be recovered.

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed yesterday that a coordinated force has been agreed upon the three neighboring countries Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia in flight of the alarming existence of Abu Sayyaf group and outlaws in the region.

According to DFA spokesman Charles Jose, Foreign Affairs Secretary Rene Almendras has attended the said meeting that discusses the issues about terrorism and piracy to represent the country along with chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"There's a meeting in Indonesia among the three countries, and the foreign ministers and chiefs of the countries' armed forces all attended, it was Secretary Almendras who went there," he said.

Jose noted that the agreement of "coordinated forces" between the three countries only involve the maritime areas surrounding each of their own lands, "we agree with the common actions among these three countries," he said.

"Coordinated patrols for example from this area to this area it will be Indonesia who will be patrolling and from (a certain) area it will be the Philippines, it is not joint but coordinated patrol. So each country will be patrolling part of the waters," he explained.

At a meeting last Monday, Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin stated that the coordinated forces would be "including sea and air patrols to stop an alarming wave of cross-border kidnappings and boat attacks by Abu Sayyaf extremists and other outlaws."

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INQUIRER

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Military chases after Abu; Canadian victim's ID confirmed

By Julie M. Aurelio

SOLDIERS discovered two abandoned Abu Sayyaf camps in clearing operations in Jolo, but so far failed to locate the two hostages who had been held along with Canadian Robert Hall who was beheaded last week.

The camps could accommodate about 150 people and had trenches that supplied running potable water, the military Western Command said. Also found were hammocks, water containers and other belongings believed to be the rebels'.

They were found Monday in Baragay Sinuman, Talipao town.

"We continue to scour and conduct blockades as we intensify military operations in Sulu to pin down the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the remaining hostages," said local Philippine Army spokesperson Maj. Felimon Tan.

In Manila, the Philippine National Police confirmed Tuesday the decapitated head it recovered in Jolo last week was Hall's.

Chief Supt. Emmanuel Aranas, PNP Crime Laboratory director, said this was based on a comparison of the victim's DNA with the samples from the recovered head.

The Canadian government through its National Forensic Laboratory Services gave the PNP Hall's DNA profile.

"We have confirmed the identification of the decapitated head—it was the kidnap victim Robert Hall. The DNA experts compared the DNA profile and it matched 100 percent," Aranas told a press briefing, adding that the head had been turned over to Canadian authorities.

2nd executed hostage

Hall's body has yet to be found. He was one of four hostages snatched from Samal Island in September by the Abu Sayyaf, and the second foreign hostage executed after fellow Canadian John Ridsdel was beheaded on April 25.

Hall was killed on June 13 after the Abu Sayyaf's deadline for payment of the P600-million ransom for himself and the two other hostages lapsed. His head was found near the Jolo Cathedral later that day.

Norwegian national Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipino woman Maritess Flor are still believed to be alive and held by the Abu Sayyaf.

The Philippines does not have a DNA bank although Aranas said the PNP had the capacity to extract

DNA profiles and compile them into a database. He said the PNP was planning to establish DNA testing

facilities in the Visayas and Mindanao as well as fingerprint and DNA banks.

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DEFENDING THE NEWS

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Peace pact with Reds seen in 12 months

By John Paolo Bencito

DAVAO CITY—The incoming Duterte administration will pursue simultaneous talks along several tracks to quickly bring to an end the 40-year communist insurgency with a final peace agreement in nine to 12 months after formal talks resume in July.

Speaking before reporters at the

Royal Mandaya Hotel on Tuesday morning, incoming Labor secretary and the government's chief negotiator with the communists, Silvestre Bello III, also raised the possibility of a unilateral ceasefire with the rebels as soon as peace talks resume on the third Monday of July, a week before President-elect Rodrigo Duterte delivers his first State of the Nation Ad-

dress on July 25.

"To be able to fast-track the process, we will continue with a new track that is simultaneous [with] talks on the three remaining issues... Caser [Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms], the PCR [political and constitutional reforms] and end of hostilities and disposition of forces," Bello said.

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Peace...

From A1

In informal talks, both sides agreed to a release of political prisoners, an interim ceasefire and a plan to accelerate peace negotiations.

Bello said he and the incoming presidential adviser on the peace process, Jesus Dureza, are targeting a final agreement within nine to 12 months to catch up with Duterte's promise to curb criminality in three to six months.

To achieve this, Bello said, they will increase the number of government negotiators from four to seven, who will hold simultaneous talks with the National Democratic Front panel.

Bello said that the incoming administration will use the Arroyo administration draft of the Caser, which includes issues of genuine land reform and national industrialization.

Among those being eyed for the government panel are former Pangasinan congressman Hernani Braganza, former Comelec commissioner Rene Sarmiento, and indigenous peoples' representative Noel Pellongco from Cebu. Women will also be represented in the talks, Bello said.

The government and the communist rebels have been pursuing the talks sequentially—first finishing the substantive agenda on human rights and international humanitarian law.

"The position of the [government] panel is we honor all commitments that we signed. To show good faith, we have to stand by our agreements," Bello said.

Bello added that "to tackle these three remaining issues, the panel created three reciprocal working committees."

Bello said that the government is considering declaring a ceasefire with the communist rebels as soon as talks resume, citing the willingness of the communist NDF to discuss it.

"This is the first time that the NDF agreed to just discussing it. Before, if we discussed a ceasefire, it was the NDF [that rejected it]," Bello said.

The government of the late former President Corazon Aquino and the communist rebels had previously agreed to a 60-day ceasefire, but it did not prosper after monitoring efforts failed in the 1980s.

To prevent this from happening again, Bello said, the government will form regional joint monitoring committees after ceasefire talks are declared.

"A ceasefire with the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] will be nationwide. Per region, there will be ceasefire monitoring committees from both NDF and government," Bello said.

"We will also invite third party negotiators [to join the monitoring committee]," Bello said.

Bello also raised the possibility of the immediate release of up to 10 political prisoners to join the negotiating table, and having the next round of negotiations somewhere in Asia.

"But so far as the [government] panel is concerned, maybe it can be done in the Philippines," he said.

Exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, meanwhile, might remain in The Netherlands while the talks are ongoing because the US has retained its terrorist tag on his organization.

"If Joma [Sison] really is a terrorist, why would he join in a peace negotiation. It's high time that US rethink its position against Joma [Sison]. Where have you seen a terrorist joining peace talks?" he said.

"Political prisoners can be released, there are names who are supposed to be part of the negotiations, they can be released on the basis of Jasig [joint agreement on safety and immunity guarantees]," he added.

Among the key agreements the government and NDF have signed in the course of the often-stalled peace talks are The Hague Joint Declaration, which lays down the framework and agenda for the negotiations, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and the Jasig.

Formal peace talks with the Aquino administration bogged down in February 2011 because the communists insisted on the reactivation of the Jasig, a move rejected by the government after the original list, stored in an old floppy disk, got corrupted and could no longer be retrieved.

Sison had earlier asserted that the goal of the peace talks was to form a "coalition government" of the CPP and Duterte administration. This coalition would need to carry out "democratic reforms that would lead to national industrialization and genuine land reform."

Duterte's incoming Defense chief, Delfin Lorenzana, said he plans to replicate on a national scale the counter-insurgency efforts that he and Duterte applied during his first term as mayor of Davao City.

In his first TV interview, Lorenzana said he believed that their success in purging Davao of criminals and insurgents can be repeated across the country.

"It's a holistic approach: talking with and convincing the barangays and the people to cooperate and work with us and report to us the activities of the insurgents. This is actually cooperation between the military, police and the local government," Lorenzana told ABS-CBN in Washington.

In 1987, as head of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion stationed in Davao City, he supported newly elected Mayor Duterte in clearing the city of insurgents, Sparrow units, and criminal syndicates. This close relationship has persisted through the years even when Lorenzana was no longer operating in Davao.

Lorenzana said that he only confirmed that he will again work for Duterte as the Defense secretary on Monday.

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THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

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Gov't, Reds eye cease-fire, first in 30 years

GOVERNMENT and the communist group are planning to each declare cease-fires after formal peace talks resume next month in Norway, government and rebels negotiators said yesterday.

The cease-fire will be the first in 30 years.

"After we resume talks formally, we declare a unilateral cease-fire," Silvestre Bello, the incoming labor secretary and a peace negotiator, told reporters in Davao City, days after returning from informal talks with exiled rebel leaders in Oslo.

Bello said he expected the truce to be in place before President-elect Rodrigo Duterte attends a joint session of Congress for his first State of the Nation address on July 25.

The Philippines has been talking on and off since 1986 with the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, to end nearly 50 years of conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people.

The process was stalled four years ago, when Manila declined to free political prisoners.

Both sides agreed to resume

GOV'T

talks in Norway after the incoming Duterte government offered to free about 20 jailed rebel negotiators and some ailing political prisoners. Hopes are high that Duterte's cordial relations with the rebels could bolster any peace deal.

Incoming peace adviser Jesus Dureza said a negotiated bilateral cease-fire would be possible after the formal talks resume, but "let's see if a unilateral cease-fire is possible."

"We will tackle interim cease-fire and timelines when we start formal talks, third week of July as we agreed in the Oslo joint statement," he also said,

"It is possible we will have a separate but coordinated and simultaneous cease-fire with the government," Luis Jalandoni, a rebel negotiator, told Reuters by telephone from his base in Utrecht, Netherlands.

"We will still discuss the mode and timeframe of the truce, but we can easily agree to a simultaneous cease-fire."

Dureza, Bello, and incoming peace panel member Hernani Braganza flew to Oslo last

week for an informal meeting with communist officials led by CPP founding chairman and NDF consultant Jose Maria Sison, NDF panel chairman Luis Jalandoni, and member Fidel Agcaoili.

The two sides agreed to resume negotiations on the third week of July and discuss, among others, the affirmation of signed agreements, the reconstitution of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASG) list, the amnesty proclamation of the release of detained political detainees and mode of interim cease-fire.

Government and the NDF agreed to a cease-fire in 1986 but it ended two months later when police opened fire at protesting farmers near the presidential palace, killing 13 people.

Bello said a third party, a foreign country, may be asked to monitor the cease-fire implementation.

He said the government expected peace talks to run for nine to 12 months and reach agreement on key economic, social, political and electoral reforms, including land reform and nationalization of some industries. - *Reuters and Jocelyn Montemayor*



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AFF Medical Center gears up for modernization

BRIGADIER General Joseph Acosta, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Medical Center (AFPMC), said yesterday the military premiere hospital is gearing up for modernization brought about by reforms implemented over a year since he took leadership.

Acosta, one of the Ten Outstanding Philippine Soldiers in 2004 given by The Metrobank Foundation, was recently confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA) to the rank of one-star general.

"The organization through the years is saddled with problems due mainly to culture of corruption, indifference of personnel involved in direct patient care, inadequate or improper execution of procurement procedures, weak fiscal control, exorbitant prices of drugs and medicines, medical supplies and food-stuffs; limited number of suppliers participating in the procurement process, inefficient programming

of operational activities, inadequate number of personnel performing logistics/procurement activities and delay of procurement of drugs and medicines and medical supplies due to lack of its own Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC)," Acosta said.

These problems consequently hinder the operational effectiveness of the organization that ultimately affected the welfare of its patients.

AFPMC is a tertiary level hospital where all sick or wounded Officers and enlisted personnel (EP) and their immediate dependents plus authorized civilians seek and avail of medical treatment, is one controversial major unit of the AFP.

After he assumed in April 2015, Acosta said he started to implement programs to reform the management and procurement system of the hospital, most importantly, to weed out corruption. This resulted to enhancement of logistics operations, providing more efficient medical services to pa-

tients, involving stakeholders in the planning and budgeting process in order to promote transparency in all procurement transactions.

"We've been trying hard to effect reforms by enhancing our logistics management system. AFPMC was able to improve the prices of goods and services which enabled the Center to generate a P235 million savings in CY 2015 as compared to CY 2013 wherein the AFPMC incurred huge amount of obligations and was given a supplemental budget of P300 million by the Department of Budget and Management to pay the suppliers. In CY 2014, the Center has unpaid accounts amounting to P65 million, P41 million of which is still unpaid as of this time. For the first five months of CY 2016, the residuals for the same accounts also derived from public bidding was a staggering P120.4 million," Acosta said.

He said the significant amount of savings tells that the budget of

AFPMC is more than enough to support the operational requirements of the Center, the bulk of which is intended for patient care.

"And this is the first time in the history of AFPMC that the organization generated huge savings and doesn't have accounts payable to suppliers and service providers," he said.

Consequently, Acosta said, the Daily Medicines Requirements (DMR) of patients that are not available from the pharmacy was lowered significantly. From an annual average of P168 million from 2012-2014, the total DMR for CY 2015 was reduced to P62.4 million while as of May 2016, total DMR is only P15 million.

If the trend continues, Acosta said the DMR for the year is projected to be around P30 million only or even less. Additionally, the efficiency in the procurement system also improved the provision of referral services. Diagnostic and surgical procedures that are not available in AFPMC and referred to other medical and diagnostic facilities are now being programmed efficiently.

Acosta said that from an average of P12 million annual program for referrals, AFPMC has programmed P35 million in CY 2016 and the projected program in 2017 is P50 million.

"This was also due to the dialogues conducted to the different directors of referral hospitals which resulted to the lowering of professional fees that they are charging AFPMC patients. Moreover, as another example, we were able to allocate P30 million (Phase 1) for the retrofitting of the old VLGH building for CY 2016 and is set to program P50 million for the same project (Phase 2) in CY 2017. The Phase 3 of the retrofitting activity will amount to P70 million which will be programmed for CY 2018 for a total of P150 million for the whole project from the savings

generated," Acosta said.

As a management tool to evaluate the performance of personnel with regards to handling patients, Acosta said they started the conduct of Patient's Satisfaction Rating Survey. The survey form is given to patients as soon as they are admitted and/or as they are discharged. The areas assessed are: a) the doctors b) nurses c) medicines d) food e) cleanliness of toilets. This feedback mechanism enabled the leadership assess the areas where the performance of personnel needs to be improved and allocate resources if necessary.

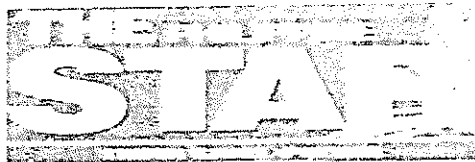
"From a failing grade, AFPMC improved to as high as 91% patient satisfaction rating. This PSR Survey also helped the leadership to acknowledge personnel who excelled in the performance of their duties," he said.

Moreover, in line with the AFP's Modernization Program and the AFP's thrust to develop the capabilities of all units, Acosta said AFPMC has designated a Project Management Team (PMT) to conceptualize a Camp Master Development Plan.

"The main tasks and functions of the PMT involve the study and subsequent crafting of a comprehensive Master Development Plan (MDP). This is in order to improve the services of AFPMC through the clustering of facilities in line with the general development and zoning program in the area or locality where the Medical Center is located. At this stage, the PMT has crafted a Terms of Reference (TOR), which is the first stage of Master Development Planning," he said.

"These reform initiatives are indications that AFPMC is undergoing major transformation from an organization mired with controversies, graft and corruption and inefficiencies to an institution that is pro-patient and dedicated in providing the best medical care," he added.

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DOJ clears Marcelino of drug, gun raps

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has cleared Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino and his Chinese companion in drug and gun charges stemming from their arrest in a house in Marula where P256 million worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu was seized.

In a 15-page resolution released yesterday, the DOJ cited insufficiency of evidence in dismissing the charges of conspiracy in the manufacture and possession of illegal drugs under Republic Act 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) filed by the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (PNP-AIDG) and PDEA (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) against Marcelino and Yan Yi Shuo.

"Evidence must be presented to show that Marcelino and Yan had prior knowledge of what was to be found inside and what the two decided to do with the contents of the house after opening the house. There should be prior overt acts of exercising control, administration, possession to show dominion over the premises and to whatever is found therein," read the resolution by Senior Deputy State Prosecutor Theodore Villanueva, who conducted preliminary investigation on the case.

He said that the complainants' mere state-

By EDU PUNAY

ments that Marcelino was sitting on a couch on the first floor while the drugs were found on the second floor "cannot sustain a conviction that requires the proof of guilt beyond reasonable doubt."

Villanueva also pointed out that the assumption of PNP and PDEA that Marcelino and Yan were very familiar with the house "could be a speculation." Yan was allegedly an informant of the PDEA, where Marcelino once headed a unit.

He said the two were not seen at the premises during the surveillance operations of the PDEA and PNP, which targeted a certain Lo Chi alias "Tanda," Atong Lee alias "Atong" and a certain Chu.

He added that his duty as a prosecutor is to weigh the evidence presented by both parties before deciding on whether to file or dismiss a case.

A separate resolution by Assistant State Prosecutor Michael John Humarang has also dismissed the separate charges for violations of the Omnibus Election Code and the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulations Act against Marcelino.

Prosecutor General Claro Arellano approved both DOJ resolutions.

Records showed that Marcelino and Yan stated that they only entered the house two minutes before the anti-narcotics operatives arrived.

During his inquest, Marcelino claimed he was working on a mission order for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, whose officials said the mission order lapsed in 2014 and Marcelino returned to the Navy.

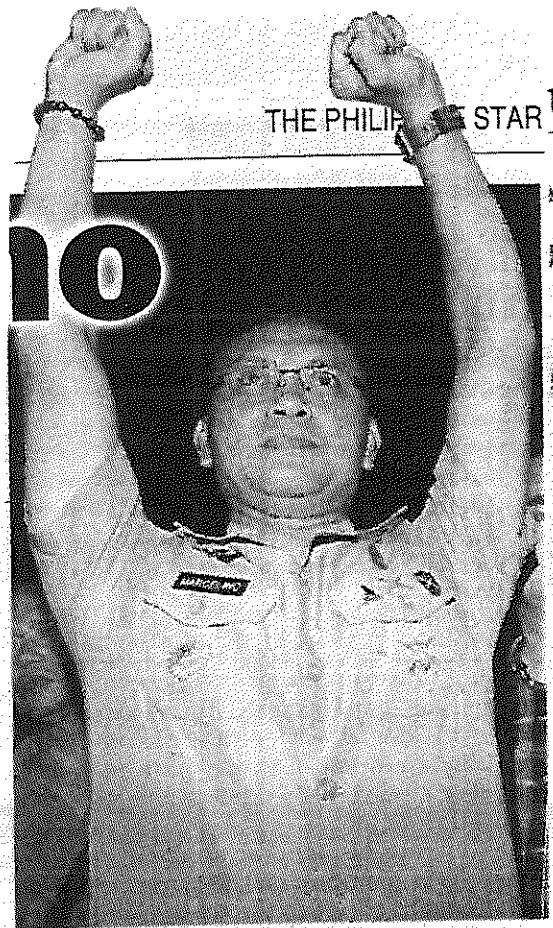
Malacañang also denied Marcelino's claim that he was detailed with the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission.

The Army's Intelligence Service Group has issued a certification signed by Col. Mario Guilo that Marcelino had been sharing intelligence information with the unit from November to December 2015 on the alleged involvement of Army personnel in the illegal drug trade.

During the preliminary investigation hearing, the two explained that their presence in the illegal drug facility in Manila where 64 kilos of suspected shabu were seized last January was part of a covert intelligence operation.

Even before Marcelino was cleared by the DOJ, he was released from detention earlier this month after the Quezon City regional trial court (RTC) granted his petition for bail.

RTC Judge Lyn Eborá Cacha said there was not



Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino raises his hands after being released on bail from the Philippine National Police Custodial Center at Camp Crame in this June 3 file photo.

MICHAEL VARCAS

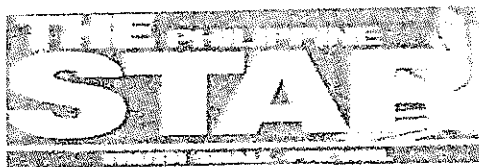
enough evidence to deny his request for bail.

"His mere presence at the house does not by itself makes petitioner Marcelino liable as such is merely circumstantial (and) yet to be connected to the crime," the court held.

PDEA public information officer-in-charge Glenn Malapad said it is studying what moves to take following the DOJ ruling.

– With Romina Cabrera

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Duterte to lead Air Force anniversary rites

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte is expected to lead the 69th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) at Clark Field in Pampanga on July 5.

Col. Robert Araus Musico, PAF spokesman, said a fly-by of the PAF's air assets to form

the number 69 would be the highlight of the celebration.

"As our commander-in-chief, president Duterte has been invited to grace the event," Musico said.

The PAF anniversary rites will be the second military event Duterte will attend after

his inauguration. He will also install Southern Luzon chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya as the new chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"It will be the first time that the president would be seeing the Armed Forces through the Air Force," Musico said.

The PAF has four C-130 cargo planes and three brand-new C-295 medium lift aircraft. It acquired new attack helicopters and refurbished HU-1Hs utility as well as combat helicopters. It is also waiting for the delivery of 10 FA 50s from South Korea. – Jaime Laude

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The Manila Times

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DUTERTE GUEST AT PAF'S 69TH ANNIVERSARY

THE Philippine Air Force will be showing its pilots' flight proficiency before President-elect Rodrigo Duterte when he makes his first appearance in a military function as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on July 5, a military official disclosed on Tuesday.

Col. Robert Araus Musico, Air Force spokesman, said Duterte will be given the usual parade and review as he graces the Air Force's celebration of its 69th anniversary at the Haribon Hangar inside Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

This year's anniversary theme is: "PAF @ 69: Breaking barriers, realizing aspirations towards a Jointly Engaged Transforming Force for greater peace and security."

"It will be the first time the President would be seeing the Armed

Forces underneath the microscope of the Air Force, in short the Air Force would be the microcosm of AFP if he will look at it since this will be the first time that he will attend a military function as President," Musico said.

During the event, the Air Force will recognize the Air Force units and individuals who made significant accomplishments in the past year.

Prior to the actual anniversary program, an air show will be performed by the Air Force Aerobatic Demonstration Team from Air Education and Training Command, featuring a high-speed opener pass of two FA-50PH, a figure "69" formation of eleven T-41 and eleven SF-260FH/M, a flyby of 69 various PAF aircraft conducted simultaneously with pass and review, a drop

from two C-130 aircraft of 69 PAF parachutists for the mass jump exhibition and final pass of two S-211 aircraft.

Musico said besides the traditional fly-by, the Air Force would be showing to Duterte its new aircraft acquisition.

The "show," according to Musico is not necessarily a capability demonstration but a flight proficiency performance of Air Force pilots, particularly on formation flights.

The actual date of the anniversary is on July 1, but Air Force officials have decided to give Duterte ample time to adjust his schedule after his inauguration on June 30.

Musico said Duterte, through his executive assistant Christopher Go, confirmed that he will be attending the Air Force anniversary.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

22 June 2016

Malaya
The Malaya Newspaper

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PAF expects Duterte to attend foundation rites

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Air Force is expecting President-elect Duterte to attend the celebration of its 69th foundation anniversary on July 5, which will feature two FA-50 fighter jets which Duterte belittled during the campaign period.

Air Force spokesman Col. Robert Araus Musico said they have invited Duterte to attend the event which will be held at the Clark Air Base in Pampanga, home to the Air Force's 1st Air Division.

Musico said the Air Force anniversary is actually on July 1 but the Air Force moved the celebration to July 5 "to give him (Duterte) a little time" to attend

the event.

Duterte will be sworn into office on June 30.

If Duterte attends the Air Force anniversary, it will be the second major military event he would have attended by that time. On July 1, Duterte will preside over the assumption of Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, chief of the AFP Southern Luzon command, as Armed Forces chief, in Camp Aguinaldo.

Duterte also stands to witness the FA-50 fighter jets providing a high-speed opener pass. Delivered last year, the two aircraft are part of the 12 FA-50s being acquired from the Korea Aerospace Industries for P18.9 billion under the AFP modernization program.

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Editorial

Truce with NPA

GREAT news. President-elect Duterte's chief negotiator Silvestre Bello 3rd said yesterday in Davao City the new administration was going to declare a ceasefire in the war with the New People's Army. This would follow the resumption of peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF). He said the resumption of the talks and the ceasefire would likely happen before the new president delivers his first State of the Nation Address on July 25.

The government will declare the ceasefire first, then the Communist side will declare their ceasefire. Then the peace negotiators get to work.

Sent to Oslo last week by President-elect Duterte, Mr. Bello, with incoming presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza and former Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, met with the CPP-NDF leaders to have preliminary and preparatory peace talks.

They said the Oslo meetings were positive. They government side succeeded in convincing the Communists to resume peace negotiations from which they walked out.

During the talks, Bello said they agreed to finalize the talks within the first year of the Duterte administration. This timeline seems to be more feasible than the promise made by President-elect Duterte during the campaign for the May 9 election to end crime within three to six months of assuming the presidency. We in The Times think Mr. Duterte had street crime in his mind when he made that promise and not the "crime of the NPA's rebellion."

Some history of the talks

In December 1986, the Cory Aquino administration and the CPP-NPA agreed on a ceasefire and engaged in peace negotiations. But by January 1987, according to the government military's version of what happened, the members of the CPP-NPA—wishing to trigger police and military brutality that would justify the Communist decision to jettison the peace negotiations—"infiltrated a group of peasants demonstrating outside Malacañang for genuine agrarian reform and turned the march into a possible threat to the President. Government forces shot at the protesters, killing thirteen. This scuttled the peace talks as, President Aquino declared total war on the CPP-NPA, which in turn carried out attacks."

In 1995, when our president was Fidel V. Ramos, negotiations between the Filipino Communists and the government resulted in the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). The JASIG paved the way for future peace talks by guaranteeing free and safe movement—without fear of search, surveillance, or arrest—throughout the country for those involved in negotiations, whether Philippine government officials, CPP-NPA members, or other NDF members. The two sides reached another important agreement in 1998, the Comprehensive Agreement to Respect Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), which was an attempt to protect civilians from the violence of government and CPP-NPA shooting encounters. However, talks broke down soon after CARHRIHL, and armed conflict resumed in the presidency of Joseph Estrada.

Under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who replaced Estrada in 2001, peace talks resumed. But these negotiations got halted after the United States government listed the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization in 2002. Thereafter the Philippine armed forces increased their anti-NPA operations and by 2010 was claiming to have drastically diminished the Communist army's ranks.

When B. S. Aquino became president in 2010, the government again attempted to hold talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF. But again these talks faltered and the ceasefire went up in gunfire smoke.

We hope the friendship between President-elect Duterte and Communist leader Jose Maria Sison, who is formally known as senior consultant, will lead to the end of the CPP-NPA rebellion once and for all.

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The Manila Times

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Malaysians fund Abu Sayyaf

BY RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO
COLUMNIST

YES, that's what they have done in effect by paying 12 million Malaysian ringgit (P138 million) to the terrorist group for the release on June 8 of four of its citizens kidnapped off Sabah on April 1, and hidden in Sulu.

This isn't rumor. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister (and Home Minister) Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi confirmed such payment in Malaysian newspapers. So did the uncle of one of the kidnap victims, Datuk Lau Cheng Kiong, who even gave details — which I find incredible — on how the huge

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■ TIGLAO FROM A1

Malaysians fund Abu Sayyaf

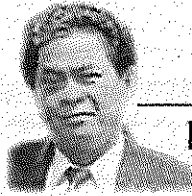
ransom money was paid. (I suspect the money was raised by the Malaysian government itself, and not by contributions made through the internet as Lau claimed.)

The Malaysian government, though, thinks Filipinos are fools. Its deputy prime minister claimed: "I can confirm that the RM12 million that was handed over to the Special Branch was given as a form of contribution to certain organizations in the Philippines. It was channeled not as ransom, but to a body in the Philippines, which assists in an Islamic struggle. The body has no links to terrorists or criminals." (The Special Branch is Malaysia's intelligence service, the equivalent of the Americans' CIA and FBI, but combined.)

The Abu Sayyaf recently beheaded two Canadians after the hostages' government and families failed to pay the ransom demanded by the militant group. The terrorists, however, freed the four Malaysians, with the Malaysian government confirming that RM 12 million was "sent over" for their release.

Yet, the deputy prime minister claims it wasn't ransom, and that it was given not even to the kidnappers but to "a body in the Philippines, which assists in an Islamic struggle."

Does he think we, Filipinos, are so stupid?



**RIGOBERTO
TIGLAO**

The ransom payment has triggered a political firestorm in Malaysia because of the contradictory statements issued by government officials. Home Minister Hamidi disclosed that the funds were turned over to the Special Branch, which presumably turned them over to the Abu Sayyaf. Lau, who represented the families of the four hostages, even narrated that two Special Branch officers, with an approval letter from Bank Negara, withdrew the sum and carried them in 12 metal cases to the police station.

However, Malaysia's Police Inspector-General Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar denied that the Special Branch handled any money, and that ransom was paid. He made the preposterous claim that the Abu Sayyaf was pressured to release its hostages because of the Malaysian government's move to ban barter trade between Malaysia and Mindanao.

Malaysian quarters have also raised fears that the ransom payment would make them the favorite targets of kid-

nappers. Indeed, the Home Minister, less than a month ago, claimed: "If we were to pay (ransom), the fear is that it could be seen as us condoning such acts of violence. We can see a trend from this latest abduction whereby out of the 10 people onboard, the Myanmar nationals and Indonesians were released. "Only the Malaysians were taken," he said.

Ransom money shared

The controversy has made our country look like a place where terrorist kidnappers can operate freely to get huge ransoms, helped by local officials and even officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who collaborate with the Abu Sayyaf so they can get a share of the ransom money.

As was the scoop of The Manila Times the other day, the Abu Sayyaf was reported to have received only P100 million of the ransom, with the rest going to the pockets of Malaysian and Philippine government officials. "They claimed it was a legitimate service fee," a source in the military, grinning, told me.

This isn't so shocking really based on past reports. The mayor of Jolo, Sulu, Hussin Amin, recently alleged that some military officers in Sulu are in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf group

and have been getting a share of the ransom paid to the terrorist group from past kidnapping cases. He cited one case, which a congressional committee had investigated, in which the Army colonel helping the kidnappers was identified.

Indeed, when I was in government in the early 2000s during the Dos Palmas kidnapping of more than a dozen tourists, military intelligence had explained that one difficulty in going after kidnappers in Basilan and Sulu was that kidnapping was treated as some kind of a cottage industry in those areas.

The hostages would be turned over by the kidnappers to the local clans, who would move them from one family to another to hide them. The armed gang that actually undertook the kidnapping would simply store away their arms and blend into the civilian population, until it was tasked to collect the ransom and release the hostages. There were even cases when one clan would "buy" the hostages from the original kidnappers and would undertake negotiations for the payment of the ransom.

These clans often have relatives in the police, or even the Army, who would tip them off of any plans by the authorities to search a community for the hostages. The clans, of course, would get a portion

of the ransom, when it is paid. This is the reason why the Abu Sayyaf has been able to elude government forces no matter how many troops are mobilized against them.

Ransom payments serve to strengthen the Abu Sayyaf and make their kidnappings easier to undertake. What other armed groups could get as much as P100 million in one operation? With funds available, the Abu Sayyaf finds it easier to recruit additional fighters and to bribe a community - in advance - to hide their hostages.

Even as the ransom payment has become an issue in Malaysia, our government hasn't even protested the Malaysians' payment of the ransom undertaken through its intelligence service, operating in our territory. Why shouldn't we protest, when the Abu Sayyaf now has over P100 million to fund their acquisition of more powerful weapons, to recruit more terrorists and bribe local officials to provide sanctuary for their future hostages?

Now busy packing, or perhaps shredding documents that could be used in graft cases against him, President Aquino is clueless over the controversy, and hasn't done anything to protest against payment of the ransom, or even just the public confirmation made by the Malaysian deputy prime minister of such payment. His de facto spokesman, Herminio Coloma - the official one, Edwin Lacierda, appears to have vanished a

few months ago - told Manila Times reporters that they had no knowledge of the ransom payment, and appeared nonchalant about it.

Coloma's ignorance of the ransom payment by the Malaysians, which has made our nation look like a powerless wimp in the region, is disgraceful. Because of the incompetence of this Yellow Regime, we have become the only country in Asia where a known terrorist group kidnaps foreigners and gets huge ransom money.

That is so reflective of the stupid, incompetent government that we have. Shouldn't it undertake an intensive investigation into how the Malaysians could operate so freely in the country, violating our anti-ransom policies and consequently boosting the strength of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf with more funds?

Shouldn't the government find out which local channels were used by the Malaysians to make the ransom payment? Malaysia is mocking our sovereignty by operating in our territory to pay ransom to terrorists plaguing our land, and Aquino doesn't seem to mind it. Or has this government become close buddies with the Malaysians, who had promised Aquino they would handle the MILF to agree to a peace pact?

What kind of a country have we become that even our neighbors trample on our sovereignty?

[tiglaio.manilatimes@gmail.com](mailto:tiglao.manilatimes@gmail.com)

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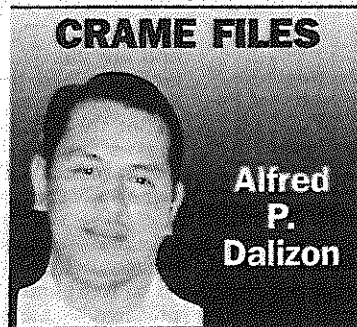
Duterte and PMA 'Maharlika' Class of 1984 members

I'M referring to officers and gentlemen-members of Philippine Military Academy 'Maharlika' Class of 1984 who were associated with former DILG chief Mar Roxas, the Liberal Party standard bearer who suffered a terrible beating from Davao City Mayor Rody Duterte in the last May 9 presidential elections. ***

My sources said that many members of PMA Class 1984 who are holding key positions in the Philippine National Police are expected to be replaced on Day 1 of the Duterte presidency since they are known to have fully sided with Roxas during the past election as evidenced by their controversial meeting in Novotel weeks before the polls. ***

Many have been telling me that the blame should go to outgoing President Aquino who openly campaigned for Roxas all over the country. "A PNP Regional Director has no recourse but to provide all support to the Liberal Party and Roxas once the President starts campaigning in his territory since failure to do so would mean his relief," a senior PNP official told me over a cup of coffee. ***

Some members of the Class told me however that it is not correct to say that all of them supported Roxas. "It's a fact that although some of our classmates and their wives openly campaigned for Mar, others didn't. ***



It's the reason why they failed to get key positions in the PNP for the past few years when the PNP was under Sec. Roxas," my friend said. ***

The official who is known for his links with the Duterte camp identified some PMA Class 1984 members in the PNP who are expected to get positions they deserved under the incoming administration. One of them, I was told, is my basketball teammate, Chief Superintendent Nestor Quinsay who is reportedly set to become the new PNP Director for Intelligence. Quinsay, a close friend of Duterte is currently the Police-Community Relations Group director. ***

Others could be Director Nap Taas of the Directorate for Information Communications and Technology Management; Chief Supt. Federico

Dulay Jr., the Deputy Regional Director for Administration of the Police Regional Office 11 in Southern Mindanao; Chief Supt. Noel Constantino, the director of the Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies; Chief Supt. Gilbert Sosa, the Executive Officer of the DICTM; and Chief Supt. Jose Gentiles, a former police attache in Washington DC who became the PRO10 director in Northern Mindanao for only 29 days. ***

Quinsay will retire on August 10, 2018. Incoming PNP chief Ronald de la Rosa had told me that Sosa and a member of PMA Class 1983, now retired Senior Supt. Jeff Manere were the ones who gave him the name 'Bato' when they first saw him reporting for duty in Camp Catitipan in Davao City in 1986. ***

At present, members of the Class who are occupying key PNP positions as well as their retirement date are the following: Director Gene Cerbo of the Directorate for Intelligence (February 12, 2018); Director Jonjon Miano of the Directorate for Operations (January 30, 2019); Director Danny Pelisco of the Directorate for

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Duterte...

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Comptrollership (October 22, 2017);

Director Gani Nerez of the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations-Eastern Mindanao (October 2 this year); Chief Supt. Artie Sindac of the Logistics Support Service (October 23, 2017); Director Joel Pagdilao of the National Capital Region Police Office (September 8, 2018); Chief Supt. Ranier Idio of the Police Regional Office 2 in Cagayan Valley (October 16, 2018);

Chief Supt. Bernie Diaz of the PRO6 in Western Visayas (March 17, 2017); Chief Supt. Yul Abellera of the Cordillera Police Regional Office (July 20, 2017); Director Moro Lazo of the PNP Special Action Force (November 27, 2017); Chief Supt. Ronald Estilles of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Police Regional Office (October 28 this year); and Chief Supt. Noel Armilla of the PRO12

in Central Mindanao (November 20 this year).

As a senior police general had told me before, the May 9 presidential election was like a game where many placed their bets on a particular bet and ended up winning or losing. "It's a game where there should always be a winner and a loser. Sa labang ito, hindi puwedeng 'pag tumaya ka at natalo, sasabihin mo sa kalaban mo ay tabla na lang," the general told me without batting an eyelash.

Another police general told me that during their recent talk with outgoing PNP chief, General Ric Marquez, they asked the PNP chief to air some of their concerns in his talk with incoming PNP chief De la Rosa. One of their requests is for De la Rosa to look into the performance of his officials and not to disregard seniority. He particularly referred to members of PMA Class 1984.

"Relieving PMA Class 1984 mem-

bers from their posts just because of their affiliation to Mar Roxas would be unfair because all of us also have our affiliation and silently supported different candidates. I believe that the relief should be based on the performance of the commander," the general told me.

I was told that Abellera will be going on optional retirement, more than a year before his retirement date on July 20 next year. The youngest member of PMA Class 1984 is Miano, the PNP Director for Operations who will retire on January 30, 2019, making him a year younger than de la Rosa.

Other officials said they also follow a tradition of seniority based on merit and competence. Thus, the performance of PMA Class 1984 members should be assessed since not all of them should be discarded. "However, it's up to President Duterte and Gen. De la Rosa if they would tap the talents of these guys," another general told me.

ONLINE NEWS

22 June 2016

SHOW OF FORCE | US Aircraft Carrier Strike Group Conducts Exercise in the WPS

Alvin Santiago June 21, 2016 0 Comment breaking Headlines

MANILA (DWDD) – The United States Navy has deployed two aircraft carrier strike group in the West Philippine Sea for the conduct of various naval exercises.

The movement is a show of force and an assurance to allies in the Asia-Pacific region against threats posed by Chinese encroachment and militarization in the region.

The US Pacific Command (USPACOM) has sent the USS John C. Stennis and USS Ronald Reagan, considered as the biggest and most modern aircraft carrier of the United States, with over 12,000 sailors, 140 aircrafts and six support vessels

Rear Admiral John D. Alexander, Commander of the Carrier Strike Group 5 said, the exercise is an opportunity for them to train their war-fighting techniques in a high-end scenario in order to prevail in modern naval operations.

The carrier strike group, as part of its “pivot” in Asia, have conducted air defense and surveillance drills in the West Philippine Sea and part of the South China Sea near the contested territories. This is nothing new for both ships since they have conducted dual carrier strike group operations in the Western Pacific for the past several years.

The strengthening of U.S. security alliances with its Southeast Asian allies is aimed at maintaining security and prosperity, peaceful resolution of disputes, freedom of navigation and overflight, and unimpeded lawful commerce.

China has initially labelled the move by the U.S. as part of its alleged "China containment policy."

The combined carrier exercise has sent a clear message to China that it is committed to fulfil its strategic commitment in the Asia-Pacific region, plus the fact that America and its allies have been conducting military deployments and exercises, and the US and Vietnam has normalized its ties.

America recently, deployed additional "Growler" electronic warfare jet fighters to Clark Air Base in Pampanga, and last April, has stationed A-10C "Warthog" Attack Planes that flew through international airspace within the disputed Scarborough Shoal, 230 kilometers West of the Philippines.

According to Euan Graham, Director, International Security Program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, the current activity of the US is intended to also serve as deterrent or to preempt whatever opportunism China is intending to do.

The US Navy is even attempting more complex "big unit" maneuvers, like integrating its 3rd and 7th fleet, for strategic reasons, and the Philippine Sea is where it will likely operate under real crisis or wartime conditions, safely out of reach of China's ballistic missiles and other coastal-based armaments.

America's operation in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region came at a time the world is awaiting the decision of the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, Netherlands on a

case filed by the Philippines against China which is imposing their "nine-dash line theory" that claim almost 90% of the energy-rich water of the South China Sea, clearly encroaching on territorial claims of other nations where more than \$5-Trillion in trade passes each year.

The court is expected to announce its ruling on the last week of June or on the first week of July, with experts believing the decision would favour Manila. Although, China has repeatedly refused to take part in the proceedings after the court ruled that it has authority to hear the case. China then vowed to disregard the decision once it is released.

The Scarborough Shoal is a potential flashpoint if Beijing would insist further land reclamation, in the case of an unfavourable decision by the tribunal. **AES/ MCAG**

Suspected Abu Sayyaf member escapes in Zamboanga City

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated June 21, 2016 - 2:37pm

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines - A man believed to be a member of the Abu Sayyaf escaped his police escort Tuesday while on the way for commitment to the city jail here, according to the police.

Police Senior Inspector Helen Galvez, spokesperson of Zamboanga City Police Office (ZCPO), identified the fugitive as Alhnur Bacalso Usup, 28, also known by the aliases Arab-Arab and Arab Puti.

Galvez said investigation found that Usup, along with another detainee, were being transported to the City Jail after inquest proceedings at a local court when he escaped.

The police said Usup managed to break free from his handcuffs and jumped out of the Mitsubishi L300 that was transporting them. He escaped at about 11 a.m. on Magay Street, a few meters away from the prison facility and near the old public market in Barangay Zone 1.

The suspect eluded police pursuit as he disappeared into the crowd in the downtown's business district.

Police personnel in the area were alerted immediately and launched tracking operations to recapture Usup.

Usup was arrested in Zamboanga City on June 2 after he was tagged by a Jolo court as being involved in the 2014 massacre incident in Talipao town, Sulu.