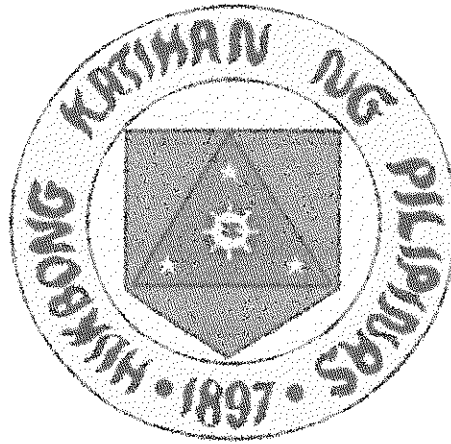


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

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

18 March 2016

Friday

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

18 MARCH 2016


PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A12
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	'P20-M cash loaded into manager's car'	Christina Mendez	Phil. Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	Civilian wounded	Mike Crismundo	Mla. Bulletin p.16
5	NPA leader captured in Davao del Sur	Alexander Lopez	Mla. Bulletin p.16
6	Another NPA leader captured in Davao del Sur	Mario J Mallari	Tribune p.3
AFP RELATED NEWS			
7	Anomalies hamper AFP modernization-Gringo	Ellson Quismorio	Mla. Bulletin p.17
8	MILF puzzled on AFP denial on ISIS threat to Mindanao	Mario J Mallari	Tribune p.2
9	Jihadist execute 'spy' in Sarangani	Al Jacinto	Mla. Times p.A7
10	More EU envoys MILF enclave	Edd K Usman	Mla. Bulletin p.16
11	PAF FA-50s to join Balikatan war games	Jaime Laude	Phil. Star p.4
12	PAF's new jets to join Balikatan	Julie M Aurelio	PDI p.A10
13	You may also call him Lt. Col. Sonny Belmonte	Victor Reyes	Malaya p. B2
14-15	Belmonte now a reserve Navy commander	Jaime Laude	Phil. Star p.8
16	In photo: Honoring Excellence		PDI p.A14
17	SM Foundation completes renovation of AFPMC Heroes, Orthopedic & Convalescence Wards		People's Tonight p.5
EDITORIAL/ COMMENTARY			
18	Don't sweep the DND chopper scam under the rug		Mla. Times p.A4
19-20	The PMA honor code		Malaya p.B4

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


18 March 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


Page: A/2



PANAHOON TV
www.panahon.tv

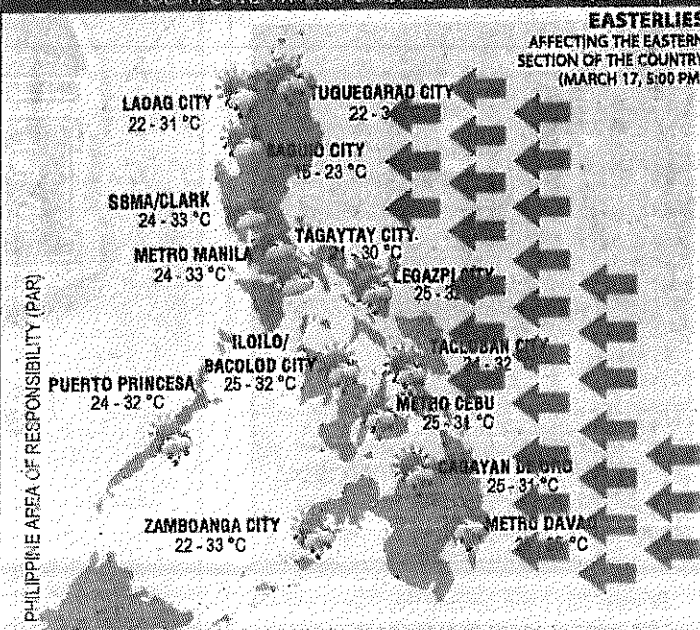


Facebook
Twitter



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 18, 2016 | FRIDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

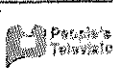


EASTERLIES
AFFECTING THE EASTERN
SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
(MARCH 17, 5:00 PM)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:02 AM	6:07 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:55 PM	2:05 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
MAR 18 1:02 AM	MAR 23 8:00 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 1:51 AM -0.08 Meter	5:55 PM 0.89 Meter

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

MAR 17		MAR 18		MAR 19		MAR 20		MAR 21		MAR 22	
METRO MANILA	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	22 - 30 °C	22 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C			
TUQUEGARAO	23 - 34 °C	23 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C			
LAOAG	23 - 32 °C	23 - 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C			
BAGUIO	15 - 24 °C	15 - 25 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	25 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	23 - 33 °C	23 - 34 °C			
SBMA/ CLARK	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C						

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



SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

18 March 2016



Page: 1

'P20-M cash loaded into manager's car'

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ
and MARVIN SY

It was Maia Santos-Deguito, manager of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) branch in Jupiter Street, Makati, who withdrew about P20 million from the unauthorized account of businessman William Go and loaded the cash in her car, a bank employee told the Senate yesterday.

Romualdo Agarrado, reserve officer of RCBC-Metro Manila regional office, testified before the Senate Blue Ribbon committee that he personally saw how messenger Jovie Morales loaded the P20 million into Deguito's car.

Deguito tags Kim Wong in 4 bogus accounts. See Page 12.

"BM Maia left the branch bringing with her the P20-million cash withdrawal of Centurytex/William Go to be delivered somewhere. However, I know that there was never a Mr. William Go that went to the Jupiter BC to pick up his cash withdrawal that night," Agarrado said in an affidavit submitted to the Blue Ribbon committee, which is investigating the laundering in the Philippines of \$81 million owned by the Bank of Bangladesh and stolen by alleged Chinese hackers from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Agarrado, then customer service head of the Jupiter

il.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

P20-M cash From Page 1

branch managed by Deguito, recalled that at around 5:35 p.m. on Feb. 5, an armored car arrived at the branch to deliver the P20 million requested by senior customer relations officer Angela Torres.

The cash was brought to Deguito's car between 6:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Agarrado's statement negated Deguito's claims that she loaded the money to a Lexus car owned by Go.

Agarrado said he only came to realize that something was wrong when he saw in an Outstanding Exception Report for the Day (Feb. 5) the P20-million withdrawal. "This transaction was tagged as irregular since it was processed even though the withdrawal slip for his transaction does not have the signature of the account holder, Centurytex/William Go," he said.

He added he was shocked by Deguito's statements, justifying the transaction with a claim that she had to do it because of threats to her life and her family.

He added that Deguito told him about her concern while he and Torres were inside the branch manager's office.

"On Feb. 9, 2016, BM Maia called me and the SCRO Angela to her office, telling us that she had to proceed with the transactions, otherwise, she or her family will be killed," he said.

"I was already very nervous then and teary-eyed because of what I heard from her, and I had mixed emotions during that time. SCRO Angela was crying too," he said.

He also recalled that there was a dinner meeting on Feb. 12 in the house of another bank employee named Adrian Yujuico where he, Deguito, Torres and Morales were present.

It was during that meeting when Deguito tried to talk to him not to be afraid because she could provide him with lawyers who were knowledgeable with the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

He was also asked if he would accept P5 million in exchange for his silence on the issue. "Kasya na ba sayo ang five million pesos (Is P5 million enough for you)?" he recalled Deguito as telling him.

RCBC's chief legal officer Maria Cecillia Estavillo said they find Aggarado's statements credible.

Estavillo said RCBC is working on filing perjury charges against Torres over her claim that it was Go who

received the P20 million.

Torres' claims were negated further by entries on the logbook of the security team detailed at the branch.

"We have an affidavit, we considered it as a perjured affidavit. The guard log does not support it... we will file a case against Angela Torres," she said.

Estavillo said the bank does not tolerate irregularities as a matter of policy and that if anything unlawful was committed, the bank would promptly pursue charges.

"There have been so many lies and half-truths being peddled out there... We are cognizant of our (responsibility) under the bank secrecy law. We do not coddle criminals," she added.

Who is Jason Go?

At the start of the hearing, Blue Ribbon chairman Sen. Teofisto Guingona III also asked RCBC president and chief executive officer Lorenzo Tan if he knows of a certain Jason Go.

"Mr. Lorenzo Tan, do you know a certain Jason Go, a dealer of expensive cars?" Guingona asked Tan.

"Your honor, he is a friend," Tan said. "I have known him for a long time. People who lived in Makati (know him as someone who) - sells cars... a lot of CEOs of corporations would know him," Tan added.

On questioning by Sen. Ralph Recto, it was learned that it was Jason Go who recommended that Deguito be assigned as manager of the Jupiter branch.

Raul Victor Tan, treasurer of RCBC and formerly head of retail banking, recognized that Jason Go "brought a substantial amount" to the business but denied he enjoyed special treatment - like being allowed to recommend an individual to serve as manager of a certain branch.

Recto's questioning focused on the premise that Deguito was supposed to be assigned to another branch until Jason Go reportedly intervened and had her assigned instead at the Jupiter branch.

At the hearing last Tuesday, Deguito declined to answer most of the questions raised by the senators, citing her right against self-incrimination as charges have been filed against her by the Department of Justice. Yesterday, she spoke to the committee in an executive session and was later taken to the clinic when the public hearing resumed.

18 March 2016

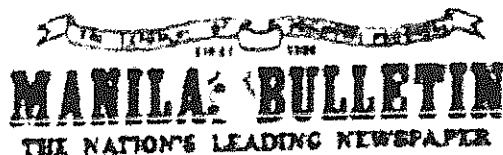
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

● **Civilian wounded**

BUTUAN CITY — A civilian was wounded when the New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked the Civilian Volunteers Organization (CVO) base in Barangay Berseba, Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur, spokesman of Army's 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade Capt. Jasper T. Gacayan yesterday said. The 401st Brigade spokesman, identified the wounded civilian as Alfredo N. Hulpa, 55, a team leader of CVO in Barangay Berseba of that same city. The victim was immediately brought to D.O. Plaza Memorial Hospital for medical attention. He was hit on his left abdomen by the shrapnel coming from the rifle grenade fired by the NPAs when they targeted the CVO base, but fell short of a populated area, Capt. Gacayan said. "The victim was herding his carabao into the field when suddenly the harassment started and a rifle grenade exploded close to him at 5 o'clock in the morning," he said. (Mike U. Crismundo)

18 March 2016



Page: 16

NPA leader captured in Davao del Sur

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

DAVAO CITY — Another high-ranking leader of the New People's Army (NPA) in Davao region, who is wanted for murder, robbery and kidnapping, was captured while his armed companion was killed in a brief shootout with security forces in Barangay Buri, Matanao, Davao del Sur, last Wednesday.

Captain Rhyen Batchar, 10th Infantry Division information officer, said combined troops of 39th Infantry Battalion and Matanao Municipal Police Station captured Joan Casamorin, alias Alvin, the vice commander of the NPA's Guerrilla 72 of the Far South Mindanao Regional Committee (FSM-

RC).

Guerrilla 72, Batchar said, operates in the hinterlands of the provinces of South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

"The troops responded on information regarding the presence of armed men that resulted to a fire fight. Casamorin was also wounded during the encounter and was immediately rushed to a hospital for treatment," he said.

During the encounter, Casamorin's companion — an alias "Jebjeb" — was killed.

"His (Casamorin's) companion's body was brought to Angel Funeral Homes, Bansalan, Davao del Sur for proper disposition," Batchar said.

Recovered from their possession

was one .45 Caliber pistol, ammunition, subversive documents and three improvised explosive devices or IEDs.

It was learned that Casamorin is facing criminal charges for robbery, kidnapping and serious illegal detention; four counts of murder; and robbery with homicide.

Col. Ronald Villanueva, commander of 1002nd Infantry Brigade, lauded the continued support of the people that led to the capture of one of the high ranking rebels in the area.

"This is a great loss to the NPAs not only in Davao del Sur but also in the whole of Davao region," Villanueva said, pointing out that recently, authorities also apprehended a political instructor of the NPAs in Compostela Valley.

March 2016



Page: 3

Another NPA leader captured in Davao Sur

By Mario J. Mallari

A ranking New People's Army (NPA) was captured while one of his men was killed during a clash with government forces in Davao del Sur province on Wednesday, the military said yesterday.

Captured was Joan Casamorin, alias Alvin, vice commander of the NPA's Guerrilla Front-72, Far South Mindanao Regional Committee. He was wounded during the firefight and was immediately given medical attention by elements of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion (IB).

Casamorin is wanted for robbery, kidnapping and serious illegal detention and four counts of murder and robbery with homicide before various courts.

The slain NPA rebel was identified only as alias Jebheb.

Col. Ronald Villanueva, commander of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, said that elements of the 39th IB were deployed in Barangay

Buri in Matanao town Wednesday morning to check on the reported presence of armed group in the area.

Upon arriving in the said area, Villanueva said that the troops were fired upon by the group of Casamorin, sparking an intense firefight.

During clearing operation, the Army troops recovered one caliber .45 pistol, various ammunition, three improvised explosive devices and the body of Jebheb.

Meanwhile, coinciding with the 79th Araw ng Dabaw on Wednesday, authorities declared Davao City as peaceful and ready for further development.

Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, commander of the Army's 1003rd Brigade, cited the significant reduction in the strength of the NPA operating in Davao City, the clearing of barangays from the influence of the communist and the close coordination between the local government and the military in delivering government service to the people.

18 March 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 17

Anomalies hamper AFP modernization – Gringo

By **ELLSON A. QUISMORIO**

Vice President Jejomar Binay's running mate, Senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan II on Thursday rued the alleged anomalies that have hampered the modernization programs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"It's a shame that our kababayans both here and abroad constantly hear reports of irregularities in police and military deals in relation to efforts to upgrade our defense force and police capability to enhance the protection of the welfare of the people and the interest of our nation," the former rightist rebel and Army colonel said.

The United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) candidate made the statement amid the alleged anomalies in connection with the P1.2 billion helicopter deal between local defense and military officials and the United States-based Rice Aircraft Services Inc. (Rasi) and Eagle Copters Ltd.

Honasan, who has been in public service for 42 years, noted that funds for the modernization of the AFP have always been included in the annual appropriations of the agency in a bid to upgrade its capabilities.

However, he lamented that the AFP modernization program has been plagued with anomalies similar to the alleged overpriced helicopter procurement deal.

Long term impact

An employee of the Bureau of the Internal Revenue (BIR) has filed charges against 30 defense and military officials, including Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, for malversation of public funds, violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Government Procurement Act, and the Republic Act Establishing the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program in connection with the anomalous overpriced agreement.

"We need to pursue the modernization of the military not only in terms of technical or material aspects, but mod-

ernization also of our way of thinking with regards to external and internal demands," Honasan said.

The charismatic Honasan was among the leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) that played a key role in the first EDSA People Power Revolution in 1986 that became the model for the world. Established in the early 80s, RAM was primarily formed to push reforms in the military. It was spearheaded by junior military officers who opposed political patronage and corruption in the AFP.

Honasan stressed the modernization programs have been envisioned to create long term impacts on the government's policy directions, and not to generate illegal income for top officials or to fool taxpayers.

Anti-crime czar

Honasan was also behind several coup attempts against the Cory Aquino administration.

UNA standard-bearer Binay vowed to tap Honasan as his anti-crime czar if he is elected president.

The senator said he would solicit the help of communities in an effort to beef up the police and military's intelligence gathering. Doing so would cut the authorities' response time.

"It is high time that we recognize the role of the communities in ensuring peace and order in our country. Oo, naririyang awtoridad ngunit ang seguridad hindi lang naman ipinaubaya lang sa sundalo at pulis (Yes, the police and military are there but the matter of security shouldn't be left to them). We can all contribute to making our country safe," he said.

Tips coming from people on the ground can serve as an "unlimited database" of information that authorities can use to go after crooks, like a drug pusher or a person that discharged a fireman on New Year's Eve.

"That unlimited database must be organized and then forwarded to a receptacle so that the law enforcers can react faster instead of relying on CCTVs after the fact," Honasan noted.

18 March 2016



Page: 2

MILF puzzled on AFP denial on ISIS threat to Mindanao

By Mario J. Mallari

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is wondering why the military continued to be on denial on the threat being posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), warning such approach may provide room for the Muslim radicals in Mindanao to expand.

The MILF said that the frustration of the Moro youth to the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) may be taken advantage by radicals to recruit and strengthen their ranks.

"Frankly, it does not pay to underestimate the toxic effects of frustration or the threat of these radicals, say the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), taken lightly or dismissed outright," the MILF warned.

"The Philippine military is still

in a state of denial. We do not know whether this is the right approach, or this would give space to the radicals to grow, simply because the public is not given the wake-up call," it added.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has repeatedly denied the existence of ISIS in Mindanao or anywhere in the Philippines but admitted there are groups that identify themselves with ISIS.

The AFP stressed there is no validated existence of ISIS in the country.

This despite the Abu Sayyaf band of Isnilon Hapilon has pledged allegiance to ISIS.

The MILF said that aside from the Abu Sayyaf, there are Muslim youths who are inspired by ISIS and the existence of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM)

and its armed group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

"It is a bonus to the military that both the BIFF/BIFM and ISIS-inspired youths in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, and Butig, Lanao del Sur had openly announced their existence in video or in you-tube which they freely distributed to the public and the media," the MILF said.

The MILF warned that the existence of such groups could lead to a prolonged conflict in Mindanao as they have proven their "staying ability."

The AFP launched a massive assault against armed group in Palembang a few weeks ago – targeting the group of Omar Maute which has links to Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). The military claimed that Maute was killed, along with more than 30 others including

Indonesian Mohamad Muktar.

"Right now, the government forces are fighting on many fronts in Mindanao against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan, ISIS-inspired youths in Lanao del Sur, and BIFF/BIFM in Maguindanao," the MILF said.

"Although labelled either as terrorists or radicals, they have proved their staying ability, especially the first two, and they are bloodying the government with their highly mobile tactics. Obviously, they have discovered that the best way to fight a conventional army is through guerrilla warfare tactics," it added.

Amid this, the MILF stressed its commitment to pursue peace negotiations with the government as it expressed optimism that the next administration would push for the passage of BBL.

18 March 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 17

Jihadists execute 'spy' in Sarangani

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Jihadists allied with the Islamic State militant group beheaded a man they accused as a police spy in the province of Sarangani, reports said on Thursday.

It said members of the Ansarul Khilafah (Supporters of the Caliphate) captured the 43-year-old man on Tuesday and was immediately beheaded.

A video of the gruesome killing was also uploaded on IS channel with accompanying statement, saying: "This jāsūs (spy) was roaming and sniffing around the area of the Ansaru'l Khilafah Philippines in Sarangani Province."

The man was said to be a resident of General Santos City.

The clip could not be independently confirmed and police and military authorities have not issued any statement about the brutal execution.

No other details or information about the man was released by the jihadist group which, along with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), the Khilafah Islamiyah Movement (KIM) and radical militants in Indonesia and Malaysia, including the Southeast Asian terror group—Jema'ah Islamiyah—pledged allegiance to IS last year.

The jihadists also released a video of the IS's Alhayat Media Center late last year which shows the Philippines as among the countries in Southeast Asia where they were planning to expand its caliphate.

Most of the Ansarul Khilafah members are based in Sultan Kudarat province and operate in nearby areas of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte where the BIFF and KIM are active. They now use the black IS (Daesh) flag like the Abu Sayyaf in the provinces of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu—all in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to which Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur belong.

Basilan has also become the bastion of power of the

Abu Sayyaf after its leaders pledged IS allegiance. In its propaganda video released and picked up by international media, more than two dozen gunmen—including child warriors—led by rebel leader Isnilon Hapilon were seen hiking in the hinterlands of Basilan while chanting: "Dawlah Islamiyah (Islamic State)" after which they recited an Arabic script of *bayah* or pledge of allegiance.

Hapilon, alias Abu Abdullah, was named as the new leader of the "Harakatul Islamiyah" (Islamic Movement) the name given to the Abu Sayyaf by its founder Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani who was slain in a police shootout in Basilan in December 1998.

The Abu Sayyaf evolved to a notorious group known for having carried out kidnappings, bombings and other criminal activities in southern Philippines. The US government has offered a \$5 million bounty for Hapilon's head—dead or alive.

In the video, Hapilon was shown with Abu Harith Al-Filibbi, who is reported to be deputy commander of the al-Ansar Infantry Division of the IS, and Mohd Najib Husen (Hussein) alias Abu Annas Al-Muhajir, a division head of the Ansar al-Sharia of the IS.

The rebels explained in the video that they had previously done the bayah, but did it again in front of their new leaders. It was unknown when the video was recorded, but it was released just after Philippine authorities claimed that Husen was killed during offensive operations against the Abu Sayyaf in December.

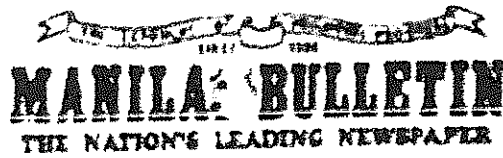
Husen was with other Malaysian jihadists—Mahmud Ahmad, Muhammad Joramee Awang Raimee, Amin Baco and Jeknal Adil—who fled to southern Philippines reportedly to recruit militants and send them to "Dar al-Harb (place of war)," referring to Syria and Iraq.

AL JACINTO AND
MOH SAADUDDIN

C AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

18 March 2016



Page: 16

More EU envoys visit MILF enclave

By EDD K. USMAN

Three ambassadors and seven other high-ranking diplomats from the European Union (EU) have called on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to continue the Mindanao peace process.

Ambassador Franz Jessen, head of European Community (EC) Delegation to the Philippines, led the group in their visit on March 14 to Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

With him are German Ambassador Thomas Ossowski, Netherlands Ambassador Marion Derckx, United Kingdom Embassy Charge d'Affaires Nigel Boud, Romanian Embassy Charge d'Affaires Mihai Sihon, Italian Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Fabio Schina, Belgian Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Xavier Leblanc, Spanish Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Maria Elena del Carmen Barcia-Bustelo, and French Embassy Deputy head of Mission Laurent Legodec.

In a report on Luwaran.com, MILF Chairman Al-Haji Murad Ebrahim was highly impressed with the power-packed delegation, describing Jessen's delegation to the Moro Front's bastion as the "strongest delegation" in recent times. Camp Darapanan, an hour or so by car from Cotabato City, is the MILF's Administrative Base.

Jessen was quoted as saying they asked the MILF leadership to "secure the continuation of peace process in the next Philippine government."

The EC envoy was apparently referring to the forthcoming conclusion of the six-year term of President Aquino on June 30 as the Philippines will conduct a presidential, national and local elections on May 9.

Germany's top diplomat in the Philippines, assured that they "stand behind continuation of the peace talks."

On the other hand, the Netherlands' Derckx voiced "full support and reaffirmation of the continuity of the peace process."

On March 10, Swiss Ambassador Andrea Reichlin visited Camp Darapanan and discussed with Murad the stalled peace process.

What about the 'presidentiables'?

As he acknowledged the diplomats' concerns, Murad pointed out the five aspirants running for President on May 9 to succeed President Aquino still have no clear stand on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

The Moro leader relayed to the diplomats five concerns of the MILF Central Committee, his group's policy-making body.

Murad said they are 1. the uncertainty with the policy of the next administration; 2. the pending case in the Supreme Court lodged against the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro; 3. the unpredictability of the situation on the ground; 4. the Philippine government's structural arrangement; and, 5. the diverging peace paradigms between the parties.

18 March 2016



Page: 4

PAF FA-50s to join Balikatan war games

By JAIME LAUDE

The Philippine Air Force will put its supersonic capability to a test by deploying two newly acquired FA-50

"Fighting Eagles" to fly with US counterparts in this year's US-Phil Balikatan exercises

PAF spokesman Col. Enrico Canaya said this year's joint air military drills would focus on air intercept, interdiction and close-air support.

The Philippines has procured a squadron of FA-50s from South Korea as it tries to regain its lost supersonic capabilities.

Among the American fighter planes scheduled to join Balikatan are the A-10 Thunderbolt ground attack aircraft with the leased Hawker Hunter jet fighters acting as aggressor aircraft. The sub-sonic Marchetti S-211 jet trainers will also be taking part in the air exercises phase.

Balikatan is a yearly Philippine-US military bilateral training exercise being car-

ried out under the auspices of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the two allied states.

Its joint war games had a soft opening in Panay and Palawan islands the other day but will only be officially launched on April 4. All war training games will last until April 16.

As a precaution, Canaya said participating Filipino and American pilots would undergo the required classroom training before the actual air exercises in undisclosed locations.

"Having the FA-50PH participate in the Balikatan air drill is a good opportunity as it will enhance the capability of Filipino fighter pilots. This will increase our training experience and is a good development on our side," Canaya added.

18 March 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A/D

PAF's new jets to join Balikatan

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force's brand-new supersonic fighters will be taking part in this year's "Balikatan" military training exercise with the United States.

PAF spokesperson Col. Enrico Canaya said the two recently acquired FA-50 lead-in fighter jets from South Korea would be put through aerial maneuvers during the bilateral exercise in April.

"This is definitely a good opportunity for us to enhance our training, especially with our American counterparts. This is a good development," Canaya said Thursday.

The jets will be put through varied maneuvers, ranging from air intercepts to air combat maneuvers and the pilots will be taught interdiction and close-air support by the Americans.

This is the first time the FA-50 jets will be taking part in a military exercise with the US military since their acquisition in November 2015.

In years past, the PAF flew its subsonic SIAI-Marchetti S-211 jet trainers, Rockwell OV-10 Bronco attack aircraft, UH-1H

"Huey" combat utility helicopters and its MG-520 attack helicopters in exercises with the United States.

The 2016 Balikatan starts on April 4 and will end on April 15. The Philippine military units taking part are the Western Command, Northern Luzon Command and Southern Luzon Command.

Training will be held at various military camps such as Crow Valley, Fort Magsaysay, Clark Field, Subic Bay, Palawan and Panay.

Canaya said the United States will deploy its Hawker Hunter jets, A-10 Thunderbolt II fighters and other aircraft, while the PAF will also deploy its S-211 jet trainers.

The training will begin with classroom instruction in the first few days before the actual exercises in northern Luzon.

"They will also do the theoretical aspect and practical exercises... they will exchange experiences," Canaya said.

Balikatan is an annual training between Philippine and US military forces focused officially on humanitarian assistance, maritime law enforcement and environmental protection.

18 March 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 62

You may also call him Lt. Col. Sonny Belmonte

BY VICTOR REYES

SPEAKER Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte Jr. was conferred yesterday the rank of commander in the Philippine Navy reserve force (equivalent to lieutenant colonel in the Army), adding to the growing list of politicians who are commissioned as military reservists.

The 79-year-old Belmonte was given the rank during rites presided by Armed Forces chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry at the Hall of Flags of the AFP general headquarters building in Camp Aguinaldo.

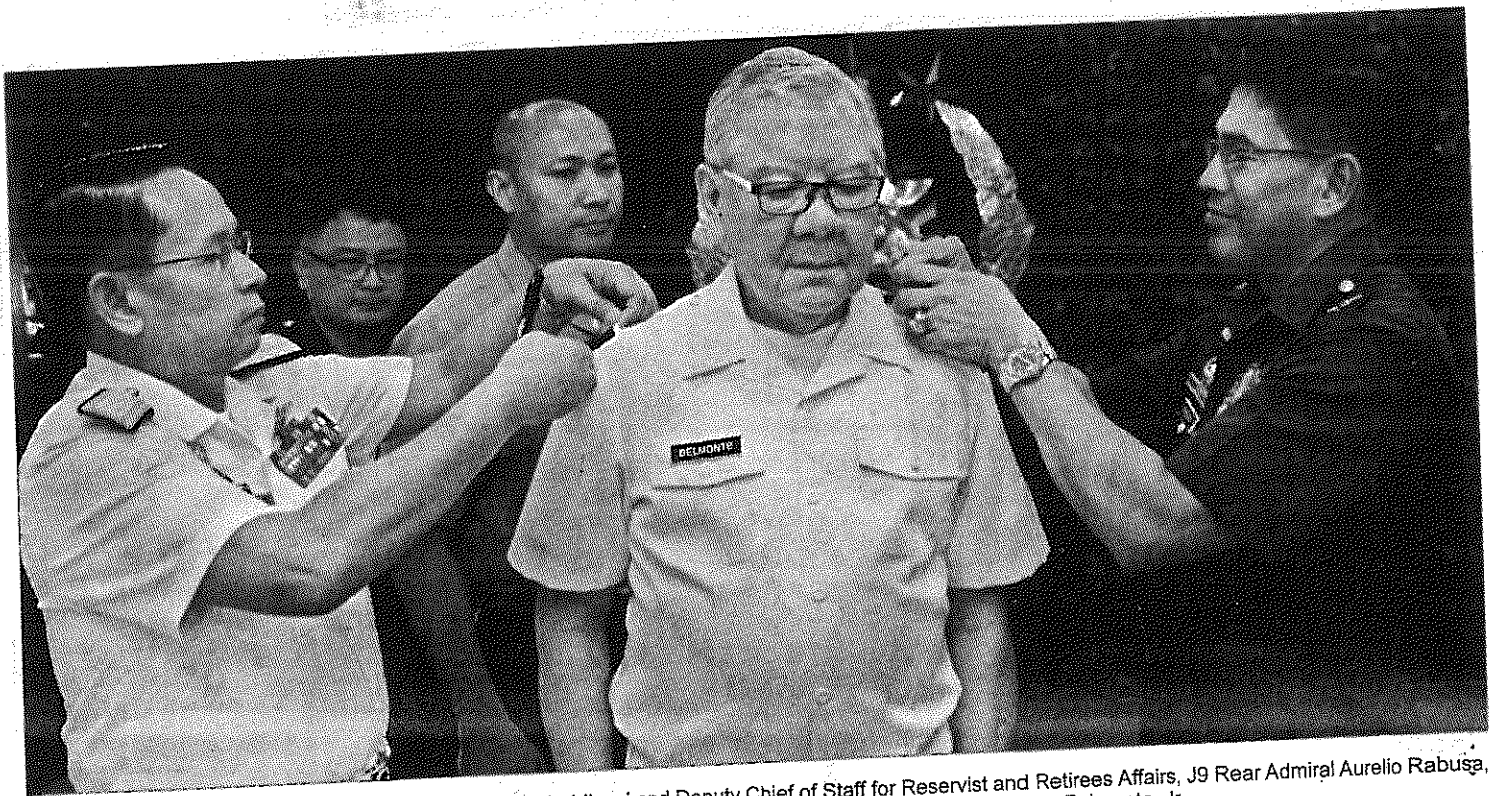
Col. Noel Detoyato, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said Belmonte applied to become a Navy

reserve officer and his application was approved by the office of Rear Adm. Aurelio Rabusa, AFP deputy chief of staff for reservist and retirees affairs.

Elected officials and presidential appointees may be commissioned into the reserve force, subject to the military’s rules, says Republic Act 7077 or the AFP Reservist Act.

A number of politicians and presidential appointees have been commissioned into the military reserve force, including Vice President Jejomar Binay (Marines).

Among other prominent personalities in the reserve force are Senators Vicente Sotto III (Army) and Loren Legarda (Air Force), and Rep. Manny Pacquiao (Army).



New reserve officer. Armed Forces chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry and Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retirees Affairs, J9 Rear Admiral Aurelio Rabusa, Jr. attach the symbols of the rank of Navy commander (lieutenant colonel) on the shoulder of Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.

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

16 March 2016



Page: 2

Belmonte now a reserve Navy commander

By JAIME LAUDE

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. was given yesterday the rank of commander in the Philippine Navy reserve force in a ceremony at the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo. AFP chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry and AFP deputy chief for

reservists and retirees Rear Admiral Aurelio Rabusa Jr. presided over the donning of rank for Belmonte, who was wearing a white Navy uniform.

Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP public affairs chief, said Belmonte

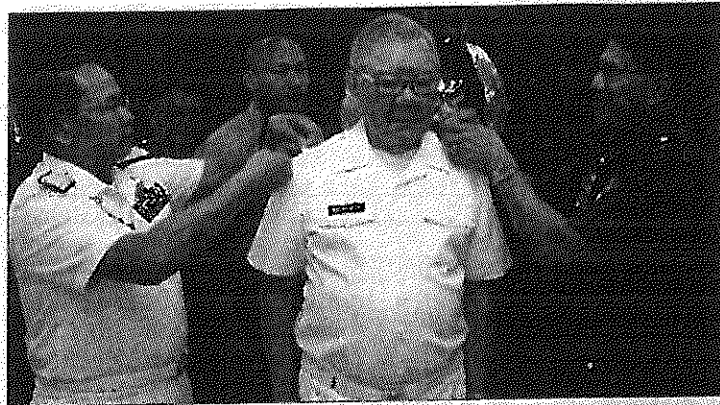
has joined the more than 90,000 Navy reservists in the country. A Navy commander is equivalent to a lieutenant colonel in the Army and the Air Force.

He said the Speaker is entitled to hold the rank of commander because of his contributions to the country's political system as a mayor and congressional representative of Quezon City, a lawyer and journalist.

"During that time, he was selected as the Most Outstanding Mayor of the Philippines by the Local Government Leadership Awards," Detoyato said.

Belmonte first became congressman in 1992 and represented the city's 4th District for three consecutive terms. He became Speaker in 2001 and held several committee chairmanships.

He urged all presidential candidates yesterday to "demonstrate their sense of transparency" by disclosing their health



AFP chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry (right) and AFP deputy chief for reservists and retirees affairs R/Adm. Aurelio Rabusa Jr. pin the rank insignia of a Navy commander on Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. at Camp Crame yesterday.

and financial records to the public.

"The President stands for each and all of us and represents us even internationally. We want him healthy, untainted by corruption allegations and ideally free from vices or doubts in terms of his personal integrity. It puts mudslinging to rest and takes this campaign to a higher ground," Belmonte said.

He added that a disclosure of health records would show if a presidential candidate is physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically fit to become president, while a disclosure of financial records would show actual assets, net worth, business interests and "ease any public suspicion of illegal wealth."

The Speaker said evading issues on health and financial condition only makes the public doubtful about the integrity of a candidate.

"Hence, accepting the transparency challenge means that a candidate has nothing to hide nor fear because he or she is healthy and that his or her wealth is unquestionable," Belmonte said.

He added that Filipinos "should be wary of a candidate or candidates with illegal wealth because the drive to acquire more of this could continue if the presidency is won." – With Paolo Romero

18 March 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 14



HONORING EXCELLENCE

Metrobank Group of Companies (MGC) and Metrobank Foundation founder and chair Dr. George S.K. Ty (center) poses with MGC senior officers as well as The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) and Search for Country's Outstanding Police Officers in Service (COPS) to congratulate and celebrate their milestone achievements and their contributions to the community and society as key leaders in their organizations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

18 March 2016

18 MARCH 2016
Tonight

Page. 5

SM Foundation completes renovation of AFPMC Heroes, Orthopedic & Convalescence Wards

THE AFP Medical Center in Quezon City provides health care and services to men in uniform. It is also the place where the rehabilitation program for soldiers incapacitated by wars that still ravage our country is implemented.

The 50-bed Heroes Ward houses patients with serious wounds and bone injuries, some waiting to be fitted with artificial limbs before being sent to the Convalescence Ward or to station hospitals for therapy. The Orthopedic Ward houses patients with serious bone, neuromuscular and musculoskeletal injuries.

The latest renovation undertaken by the Foundation is the Convalescence Ward which implements the rehabilitation program for soldiers harmed during service. The renovated ward was officially turned over on March 3, 2016 by SM Foundation, Inc. Executive Director Debbie P. Sy & Connie Angeles, Executive Director for Health & Medical Program of SMFI to RADM Allan Rosal, AFP & BGen Joseph M. Acosta of the AFP Medical Center (AFPMC). The guest of honor at the inaugural ceremonies was former First Lady, Mrs. Amelita "Ming" Ramos.

Apart from the renovation, the ward is replete with an Assistive Device Station for a choice of wheelchairs, canes, crutches and other medical devices for the disabled, a livelihood training and activity area where patients gather and huddle around an instructor either for group dynamics or for lectures geared towards the acquisition of coping skills.

There are Counselling and Vo-

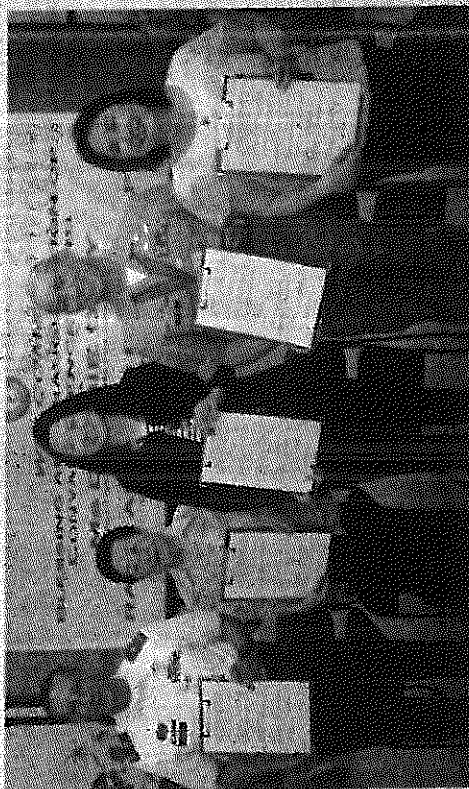
B/Gen Joseph Acosta, Mrs. Amelita Ramos, SMFI's Ms. Debbie Sy, RADM Allan Rosal & SMFI's Ms. Connie Angeles.

national Evaluation rooms for computer learning and other vocational courses that the patients can undertake to prepare them when they revert to civilian status.

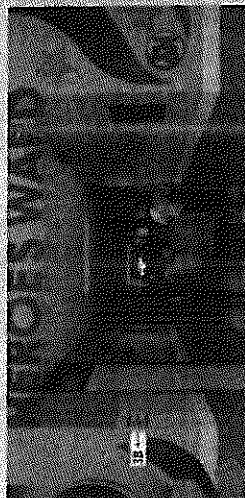
"Because healing is one part physical process and two parts mindset, the idea is to change the setting into a therapeutic ambience," said Angeles.

"For several years now, SMFI has been renovating and refurbishing military facilities to make the atmosphere conducive to the recuperation of men in uniform," said Angeles.

"These men who fight for the country are sometimes forgotten," she added



SMFI's Debbie Sy receives a plaque of appreciation from B/Gen. Joseph Acosta.



SMFI renovated Heroes Ward.



The Soldiers' Ward has a reception area to encourage family visits.



Patients gather at the training room.



Soldiers at the Orthopedic Ward.

March 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 12

Editorial

Don't sweep the DND chopper scam under the rug

ON Wednesday, Rhodora Alvarez, a former official of the Department of National Defense who first became known to the Filipino public through a *Manila Times* exclusive report as the whistleblower "Joey," filed graft charges at the Ombudsman against Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and 38 others over a P1.25-billion anomalous procurement deal for 21 utility helicopters.

Early last year, Alvarez told *The Manila Times* that DND and Philippine Air Force (PAF) officials violated bid and procurement rules in late 2013 to award a P1.25-billion contract for the supply of 21 refurbished Bell UH-1H "Huey" helicopters to a joint venture of an American company, Rice Aircraft Services, and a Canadian firm, Eagle Copter Ltd.

Alvarez claimed that Rice Aircraft, being primarily an aircraft broker, had no capacity to furnish the specified helicopters, which was confirmed later when several helicopters of the less-advanced UH-1D model were delivered and found to be riddled with flaws: one even crashed in Sarangani Province. Alvarez further claimed that Gazmin was to have received a 7 percent "commission" from the deal, with other officials in DND and PAF receiving smaller amounts.

As a result of *The Manila Times*' report, a Congressional

“As a result of *The Manila Times*' report, a Congressional inquiry was launched and Gazmin was compelled to cancel the contract and blacklist its erstwhile suppliers”

inquiry was launched and Gazmin was compelled to cancel the contract and blacklist its erstwhile suppliers.

We applaud Ms. Alvarez' perseverance in elevating the case to the Ombudsman. Her doing so is the mark of a true public servant. A crime has been committed – by whom, exactly, and in what degree, will still have to be determined – which wasted public funds and, more critically, imposed an unacceptable and entirely unnecessary risk to our servicemen and -women. The issue cannot simply be forgotten with the cancellation of the fraudulent contract.

Nor can it be brushed aside by the Ombudsman's office, now that a formal complaint has been lodged. That is a grave concern that none of us should have, but unfortunately, the culture of cronyism and selective justice encouraged by President BS Aquino 3rd over the past six years has made it reasonable to fear that laws will not be enforced and justice will not be done when it involves certain personalities. This is not only a constant, but also a consistently justifiable, fear. As a matter of fact, we would be surprised, shocked even, if Aquino did not in some way try to intercede to prevent his Defense Secretary and other VIPs named in the case from being held accountable.

Of course, his living up to our expectations is not something we will tolerate or allow to go unchallenged, and we urge the Filipino people not to do so, either. Playing with the lives of those who defend this nation in order to skim a contract for personal financial gain is corruption of the worst sort, a signal to foreign powers and others who may seek to harm the country that we are weak and careless in our own defense. That's a message that we doubt even the flexible morals of BS Aquino could tolerate sending to the world.

18 March 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B4

The PMA honor code

THE recent graduation at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in Baguio City produced one of the slimmest numbers of graduates from that esteemed institution.

The 2016 batch called “Gabay Laya” had only 63 graduates, led by valedictorian Cadet First Class Kristian Daeve Abiqui, and a lady salutatorian, Cadet First Class Christine Mae Calima.

They will start their military careers with unsullied reputation, pure and fresh advocacies along the lines of courage, integrity and honesty which had been instilled in them in the four years of rigid academy life.

One aspect that makes the PMA better than most institutions of higher learning is the honor system. Many other universities, academic and professional organizations have their own codes of ethics, but these are hon-

EDITORIAL

‘They will start their military careers with unsullied reputation, pure and fresh advocacies along the lines of courage, integrity and honesty.’

ored more in the breach than in the observance. But not in the PMA.

The PMA honor code requires the cadets to follow traditional and time-honored sets of conduct. The cadets have sworn against lying and cheating and tolerating those who commit these infractions. If there are complaints, the cadets undergo trial by a committee of their peers to address violations of the code.

For years, the code has assisted in producing upright cadets for the military establishment, and even later, for the various positions of leadership the graduates may have in government or the private sector.

The honor system was once put to test, in 2014, in the case of Cadet Jeff Aldrin Cudia who had denounced the honor committee for an adverse decision that resulted in his inability to graduate.

As a result of the issues aired by Cudia, the

PMA now has instituted an appeals mechanism that could review decisions of the honor committee, something that did not exist before 2014.

PMA Superintendent Maj. Gen. Donato San Juan II said they are now allowing a review of the decisions of the honor committee. Grievances may be coursed thru the PMA tactics group, as well as the office of the commandant of cadets.

The PMA's own tracking system for honor code violations has shown a 50-percent decrease in violations, which goes to show that the cadets are well-behaved and satisfied with life inside the camp.

The Philippine Military Academy should be cited for upholding the honor system, to produce real leaders in the military and in society, considering that many PMA graduates later try their luck in politics and governance.