

*Army Vision: By 2029, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

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**29 March 2016**

**Tuesday**

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

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

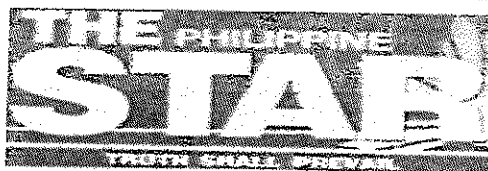
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Monday to Sunday

**SUNRISE** 5:54 AM  
**SUNSET** 6:08 PM  
**MOONRISE** 10:48 PM  
**MOONSET** 9:00 AM

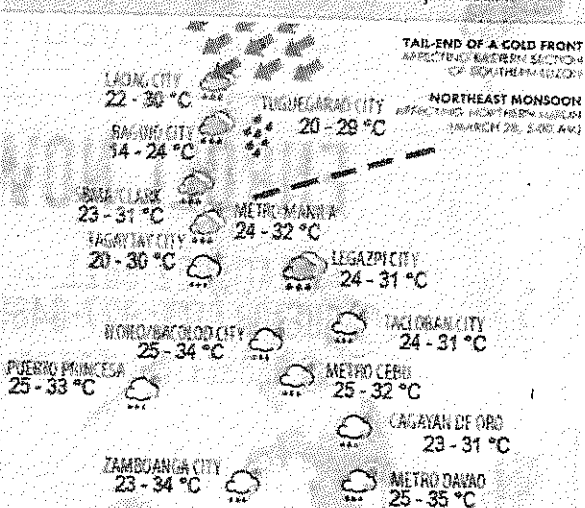
**LOW MOON** 9:01 PM MAR 29  
**LACT QUANTER** 11:17 PM MAR 31

**LOW TIDE** 9:41 PM 0.04 Meter  
**HIGH TIDE** 1:07 PM 0.75 Meter

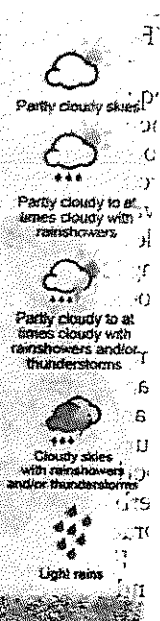
**MANILA SOUTH HARBOR**

**Panahon.TV**

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST MARCH 29, 2016 | TUESDAY**



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	MAR 30 WED	MAR 31 THU	APR 1 FRI	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	MAR 30 WED	MAR 31 THU	APR 1 FRI
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 35 °C	24 °C 35 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	22 °C 31 °C	22 °C 32 °C	23 °C 33 °C	<b>ILOILO/ BACOLOD</b>	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	15 °C 25 °C	15 °C 26 °C	16 °C 26 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
<b>SBMA/ CLARK</b>	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 33 °C	23 °C 33 °C
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	20 °C 31 °C	22 °C 32 °C	22 °C 32 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	25 °C 36 °C	26 °C 36 °C	26 °C 36 °C
<b>LEGASPI</b>	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 35 °C	24 °C 35 °C



29 March 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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# Kim Wong to name brains

## He identifies them as 'Mr. D' and 'Mr. J.'

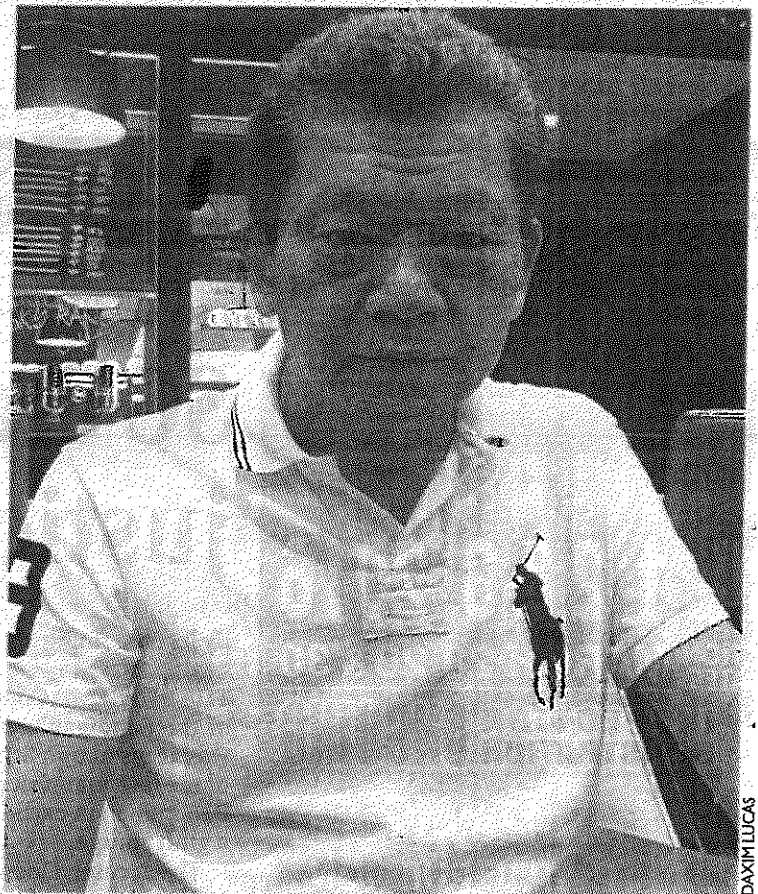
By Daxim L. Lucas  
Business

**KIM WONG**—the operator of the country's largest casino junket operation—has vowed to identify the person whom he believes is the mastermind behind the \$81-million money laundering controversy when he testifies before the Senate blue ribbon committee today.

At the same time, the 54-year-old Chinese businessman denied involvement in the audacious \$951-million electronic heist on the Bangladesh Bank's offshore bank accounts and the subsequent attempt to move the funds to third countries, some of which slipped through the antimoney laundering mechanisms of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC).

"I am not involved in money laundering," Wong said in an interview with the **INQUIRER** yes-

**KIM/A16**



**NO SECRETS** Chinese businessman Kim Wong is scheduled to "to tell all" today at the Senate blue ribbon committee's third hearing on the heist. Wong operates the Eastern Hawaii Leisure Corp. casino in Cagayan.



OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

# Kim Wong to name brains

From page A1

terday. "As far as I am concerned, the money from abroad that reaches us in the casino business has already cleared two levels of controls: the banks and the money changers."

The local casino industry rarely asks its clients about the provenance of their funds, said Wong, especially from so-called "high-rollers" who regularly bring in and gamble with "billions of pesos," and assumes in good faith that the money is clean once it clears stringent anti-money laundering safeguards of the banking system.

Speaking in Filipino and English, Wong declined to identify the person who he suspects had brought the alleged dirty money into the country. He said he did not want to preempt today's Senate hearing—but referred to an earlier INQUIRER report that pointed to one of his clients in the casino junket business as the person who may be behind the scheme.

"I will reveal the names at the Senate," he said, explaining that he had already adopted a habit of referring to the parties involved as "Mr. D" and "Mr. J."

The INQUIRER learned that the person Wong referred to Mr. J was a longtime business associate—a casino junket agent scouting for high-networth clients—who had been dealing with Wong for several years now. Mr. J's clients incurred large casino losses in late 2014, after which he ended up owing Wong P450 million. Mr. J later introduced Wong to Mr. D who promised to bring in funds to invest in the Philippines and, at the same time, help pay off the debts to the junket operator.

When asked whether he was

## *Deguito may be a no-show, says lawyer*

By Maila Ager  
Inquirer.net

CITING health problems, Maia Santos-Deguito has requested a weeklong respite from the Senate inquiry, which resumes today, into the alleged \$81-million money laundering scheme, her lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said yesterday.

aware that the funds were suspected to have come from the electronic heist on the Bangladesh central bank, Wong said he did not know where his clients got their funds.

"All I was told was that he was going to bring in investments, and that the debt to me would finally get paid," he said.

Wong said he had full documentation to support his claims—including copies of travel documents of everyone involved in the scheme and financial records of where the funds went. He added that he would cooperate fully and willingly with the government in its bid to get to the bottom of the controversy.

The INQUIRER had earlier reported that one of Wong's clients, a Macau-based casino player, was responsible for bringing the funds into the country.

"I want to help the government by telling them what I know, and to clear my name," he said, adding that all his personal and corporate bank accounts had been frozen by the Anti-Money Laundering Council which has filed a complaint against him in the Department of Justice for alleged money-laundering offenses.

"She has health problems in a situation full of stress and strain, since last Feb. 9, allegedly of having knowledge that the P4 billion had been moved from banks in New York—scene of the original sin—to the RCBC main office and finally her Jupiter Street branch, where it was remitted to parts of unknown," Saguis-

ag said in a statement to the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Saguisag said the former branch manager "begs on bended knees for a respite until after April 4, after which, she commits dutifully to participate in further proceedings, expecting to regain her health and balance by then.

During the hourlong interview, Wong confirmed the statement of RCBC president and CEO Lorenzo Tan that they knew each other "socially." Wong said he met Tan when Tan was still the head of the Philippine National Bank "many years ago."

He also confirmed knowing Chinese-Filipino businessman William So Go.

But like Tan and Go during the previous Senate hearings, Wong pointed to former RCBC Jupiter St. branch manager Maia Santos-Deguito as having facilitated the entry of the allegedly stolen funds into the country's financial system.

"*Dinamay lang siya dito* (He was just linked to this)," Wong said, when asked if he believed that the RCBC president-on-leave had countenanced the scheme as Deguito had alleged in her Senate testimony.

Wong—who flew to Hong Kong for a trip with his family and Singapore for a medical checkup early this month before he was summoned by the Senate—said he is a Chinese national, having been born in Hong Kong and moving to the Philippines as a young boy.

He grew up in the Philippines and was first involved in the garments industry, and eventually opened a chain of seafood restaurants, including the popular "Pantalan," near Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

He started in the casino and junket operations business in 2005, and opened Eastern Hawaii Leisure Corp. in the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority in Santa Ana, Cagayan, in 2006. As his business of flying in foreign casino players grew, Wong rented space at Midas Hotel along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, where his high-rollers from overseas could play. He said he also brought clients to Solaire when they asked for it.

"My businesses have been affected, and all my clients have withdrawn their funds," he said, adding that the average monthly turnover of up to P13 billion for his junket operation business—the biggest registered with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.—has all but dried up since the controversy broke. "This is a legitimate business. I've been losing a lot of money."

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29 March 2016

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

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# Rebel killed, scores of other NPAs wounded in Agusan battle with AFP

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

**B**UTUAN CITY – A New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed while an undetermined number of his comrades were believed wounded after they engaged government troops who were hunting them down Sunday in the hinterland area of Barangay Bangonay, in Jabonga town, Agusan del Norte, Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, regional spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) yesterday said.

The body of a still unidentified insurgent was recovered after the 15-minute encounter and has been turned over to local officials and the Philippine National Police (PNP) for identification and proper burial.

He said the gun battle started at 3:30 p.m. with the government troops recovering a fully loaded AK47 rifle.

Martinez said the operating troops of the 29th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Ariel Orio were tracking down

the same NPA group they encountered a few days ago in the outskirts of Jabonga and Kitcharao towns of Agusan del Norte.

The rebels were members of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee, he said.

According to him, the insurgents fled to nearby Mount Ilong-Ilong after the skirmish.

No one was reported hurt on the government side during the gun battle.

Martinez said there have already been 20 armed engagements with the rebels since last month that resulted in the killing of three insurgents, and the recovery of an M14 and six AK47 rifles, four landmines, four handheld radios, 17 rounds of 60mm and five rounds of 81mm mortars, and subversive documents with high intelligence value.

Maj. General Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., commanding general of the AFP's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th ID yesterday lauded the troops who

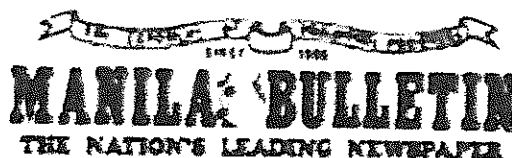
have been very successful in tracking down the NPA remnants' location.

"I congratulate our gallant soldiers who fought bravely and are fully motivated in accomplishing their mission, he said adding "I also thank the concerned civilians who are giving timely and relevant information about the NPA's location and activities."

"However, we are saddened about the death of these three Filipinos. They could have been alive by now, living peacefully with their family, if only George Madlos and Myrna Sularte (NPA leaders in Caraga region) and their cohorts did not deceive them to join this non-sense armed struggle," he said.

"We urge the remaining NPA in this area to finally come to a decision to reflect, think for the future of their family, and go back to mainstream society. This is the only way we could start building everyone's dream that is to have a peaceful community that is conducive for development," Madrigal added.

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## Insurgents engaged in illegal mining

**BUTUAN CITY** – The New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), is now also engaged in illegal mining activities, a regional Army spokesman claimed yesterday.

In a statement sent to Manila Bulletin, Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4thID), claimed that elements of the 29th Infantry Battalion (29th IB), which recently overran an NPA camp in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, "discovered deep excavations with mining paraphernalia."

He, however, could not elaborate why the insurgents have resorted to engaging in mining activities.

The 4th ID spokesperson said the NPAs were also engaged in illegal manufacture of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other bomb materials.

"This armed lawless group (ALG) are really involved in illegal activities," Martinez alleged.

The newly discovered NPA encampment belonged to the regional headquarters of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC), which could accom-

modate close to 400 persons.

The seized NPA camp, which located in a thickly forested area some 45 kilometers from Jabonga town proper, had 50 outposts, 20 bunkers, function hall, 20 make-shift kitchens, 20 make-shift comfort rooms, one generator set, complete radio communication set and training facilities including running trenches and foxholes. Communist-National Democratic Front-NPA's documents were also found in the camp. Martinez said.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., commanding general of the Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th ID also criticized the NPA on their grave abuse of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) ancestral domain.

"As opposed to NPA claim that they protect the environment, the discovered NPA camps especially their main camp in Caraga region located at the outskirts of Jabonga town (Agusan del Norte) is a clear evidence that their true motive is controlling the resources in the IP's ancestral domain as indicated by the small-scale mining activities in the camp," he said. (Mike U Crismundo)

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## ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### 11 nabbed in Camarines Norte raids

Eleven persons were arrested in a series of police operations in nine towns in Camarines Norte last week, an official said yesterday.

Senior Superintendent Rudolph Dimas, Camarines Norte police director, said the raids were conducted in Basud, Mercedes, Labo, Paracale, Talisay, Daet, Jose Panganiban, San Lorenzo and Capalonga on March 20 and 21.

Dimas said the arrests were made in coordination with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, 49th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, Camarines Norte Provincial Public Safety Company and the Regional Intelligence Division in the Bicol region.

Among those arrested were Edfinlan Espirito, 36; Liberty Agno, 29; Nilo Francisco, 34; Ruel Cabezudo, 45; Mark Angelo Habalo Samante, Gloria Sarza, 35; Pastor Valencia, 39; Zaldy Macale, 42, and Uldarico Icaranom.

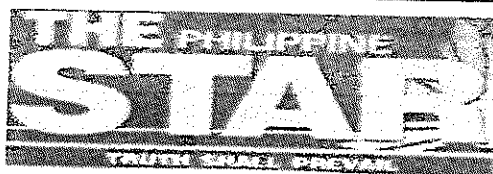
Fifty grams of suspected shabu with an estimated street value of P100,000, a 9mm pistol and two improvised shotguns were seized from the suspects.

Dimas said the suspects have been charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act and illegal possession of firearms.

– Mike Frialde



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# Troops overrun Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY –

Government troops seized an Abu Sayyaf camp in Al-Barka, Basilan on Sunday, an official said yesterday.

Maj. Felimon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said members of the 18th Infantry

Battalion and barangay peacekeeping action team (BPAT) joined forces with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in assaulting the camp in Sitio Bohe Buug in Barangay Macalang around 6:20 p.m. on Saturday.

By ROEL PAREÑO

"The firefight continued until Sunday as government troops, BPAT and MILF members flushed the Abu Sayyaf from their stronghold," he said.

Tan said the troops found the body of a bandit and

eight improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at the scene.

He said two BPAT members were hurt when an IED exploded during the clearing operations. The victims were airlifted to a military hospital here for treatment.

29 March 2016

The Manila Times

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## Malaysian militant slain in Basilan clash with Abu Sayyaf

**BY AL JACINTO SENIOR CORRESPONDENT  
AND FERNAN MARASIGAN REPORTER**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** Government troops killed a Malaysian militant and captured the camp of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Basilan in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) during weekend assaults.

Maj. Filemon Tan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said hundreds of army troops and pro-government militias launched the weekend assault against

the ASG in Sitio Buhe Buug, village of Macalang in Al-Barka town, a known stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) where they captured the ASG camp.

► **SlainA7**

### ■ SLAIN FROM A1

## Malaysian militant

A small team of MILF members led by Pulon Kulalul also joined the army in fighting the Abu Sayyaf. Two militias – Al-lahero Ujajin and Sarip Alista – were injured in the encounter after they tripped on an Abu Sayyaf landmine.

Troops recovered the body of the slain militant, but his name was not immediately made available by the military except saying that he was a Malaysian national fighting alongside the Abu Sayyaf.

At least six improvised explosive devices were also recovered from the encampment in Sitio Buhe Buug.

Tan said the weekend operation was carried out by Charlie Company of Army's 18th Infantry Battalion, the MILF and some 200 members of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) of the towns of Al-Barka, Sumisip, Tuburan and Akbar.

It was the second time that security forces killed a Malaysian militant in the province. In December last year, military forces also killed a Malaysian bomb

expert – Mohammad Hussein – during clashes with the Abu Sayyaf also in Macalang village.

On March 25, government troops also killed Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Eric Ajibun and one of his followers in fierce clashes that left five soldiers and two militias wounded in Al-Barka town.

Ajibun is said to be an expert in making improvised explosive device (IED) and has been responsible in the series of bombings against government forces and business establishments in Basilan.

Troops launched an operation dubbed "Oplan Urgent Fury 2" against the Abu Sayyaf following deadly clashes between the MILF and the jihadist group on March 23 that killed Haipa Isnilon, son of a key Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

The restive province of Basilan has become the bastion of power by the Abu Sayyaf after it pledged allegiance anew to the caliph of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and named new leaders aligned with the international Islamic extremist group.

a. Securing the land.

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The  
**Standard**  
OF PHILIPPINE NEWS

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## MILF helps military in anti-Abu operation

By Francisco Tuyay

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front and some civilian volunteers helped the military seize two temporary encampments of the Abu Sayyaf Group in separate operations at the outskirts of Albarka town in Basilan province.

Army Major Felimon Tan, spokesman of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, said the two camps seized were situated in Sitio Bohe Buug, Barangay Macalang and Akbar, both in

Albarka, Basilan, a known ASG-infested area.

Tan said the two ASG camps were being used by the bandits as temporary shelters preceding their terrorist activities.

Prior to the seizure of ASG camp, Army troops of the Charlie Company of the Army's 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry battalion and a barangay security team from Sumisip, Basilan, clashed with about 20 bandits last Saturday.

On Sunday, security forces from 18<sup>th</sup> IB and some 200 mili-

tiamen from Sumisip, Tuburan, Akbar and Albarka also assaulted an ASG concentration leading to the seizure of another camp.

As the assault team were clearing the two encampments, an improvised explosive device went off, wounding two militiamen. They were rushed to Zamboanga City hospital for treatment.

After the assault, the contingent recovered a cadaver of a suspected bandit following the clash.

At least twenty MILF members have joined the military-led

anti-terrorist operations in Albarka, Basilan, even as the MILF vowed to pledge support to security forces against the ASG.

Last Thursday, two ASG bandits were killed in a massive military operations in Albarka, Basilan.

Tan said the MILF decided to join the military in its operations against the ASG aimed at driving away the bandits from securing sanctuary in their camps especially in the aftermath of fierce encounter with Army troops.

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**Standard**  
DEFINING THE NEWS

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## Honasan warns of IS presence in Mindanao

By Vito Barcelo

VICE Presidential bet Senator Gregorio “Gringo” Honasan of the United Nationalist Alliance on Monday urged the military and police to investigate claims on the alleged presence of Islamic State fighters in Mindanao and prevent similar terror attacks in Belgium and Pakistan from happening in the Philippines.

Honasan made the call following the death of at least 65 people, mostly women and children, who were killed in the Easter Sunday bombing in Lahore Park in Islamabad, Pakistan. Two separate bombing incidents have also rocked Brussels and Maelbeek in Belgium.

He said there is the need to safeguard the country's borders and intensify security measures in light of the recent spate of terrorist attacks in Belgium and Pakistan.

Honasan, a former military official, said: “I have said this in the past, that such attacks are rude awakenings that no free country and people are safe from terrorism.”

“This is an unfortunate reminder to nations like the Philippines, that anyone can fall victims to terrorism. This should serve as a wake-up call to the national government and the law enforcement agencies,” Honasan said.

Honasan explained it is necessary and important that the military and the police authorities go through strict validation and evaluation processes to ensure the safety of the Filipino people.

“All efforts should be exhausted to determine whether or not the ISIS has crossed the Philippine borders. And if ever, do we have concrete plans or steps to counter the Islamic State forces?” Honasan asked.



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## Phl Navy gets 3 more landing ships from Australia

By JAIME LAUDE

The Australian government has completed delivery of the last three Landing Craft Heavy (LCH), the same type of sea vessel it had earlier promised to provide to boost the Philippine Navy's sealift capabilities.

Navy spokesman Capt. Lued Lincuna said the three LCHs were delivered and offloaded by a huge cargo vessel of NTG Shipping in Liloan, Cebu City last March 26.

Prior to the delivery, two of the LCHs were picked up in Darwin and another in Cairns, Australia.

The three are sister ships of BRP *Ivatan* (formerly HMAS *Tarakan*) and BRP *Batak* (ex-HMAS *Brunei*) that were commissioned into the Navy service last Aug. 10.

Lincuna said the transport ships would be moved from Cebu to the shipyard in Sangley Point, Cavite in May in time for the Navy's 118th founding anniversary.

By this time, the Navy will have the five former Australian logistic ships in its floating assets inventory.

The Australian government donated

the first two LCHs in November last year. The three newly arrived vessels were sold to the Philippines for P270 million at a friendship price.

"With their capability of moving large amounts of cargo, personnel and equipment, these vessels will bolster the PN's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations. They will also be useful in transporting troops from one operational area to another, especially during amphibious operations," Lincuna said.

The Navy, aside from the newly Philippine-built cargo and logistic ship BRP *Tagbanua*, has been relying mainly on World War II-era logistic ships in its troop, logistic and humanitarian transports operations for decades.

Lincuna said a platoon of sailors would be assigned to each of the newly delivered cargo ships which will be fitted with .50 caliber heavy machine guns as their defensive weapons.

Meanwhile, officials announced this year's Phl-US Balikatan exercises will showcase a rapid response force in a combined military drill in Antique next month.

Capt. Celeste Frank Sayson, Balikatan 2016 spokesman for the Philippine side, said Antique was chosen as site for the joint rapid response force drill because of its strategic location.

"Panay Island is located at the center of our archipelagic country. Up north is Luzon and down south is Mindanao. From Panay, we as soldiers can quickly

perform our mandated tasks from the island as our launching point in times of man-made or natural calamities, may it be in Luzon or Mindanao," Sayson said.

This year's joint Balikatan will be held from April 4 to 16. The scheduled rapid response force drill from April 11 to 14 will not only involve troops but also various types of war-fighting and disaster response equipment.

29 March 2016

**NGAYON**

Pahina. 4



## Private armies, di-kaya ng AFP at PNP

NAGKULANG ba ang Philippine National Police sa patuloy na patayan sa kalye? Ito ang katanungan ng ating mga kababayan tuwing magkaroon ng patraidor na pagpaslang. Kung pagbabasehan ang report ng PNP umaabot na sa 2,371 na ang nasamsam nila mula ng magkaroon ng Comelec gun ban na kinabibilangan ng 2, 287 civilians, 19 PNP, 13 AFP, 1 BFP, 16 government elected officials, 30 security guard, 2 CAA (CAFGU), 1 threat groups, 3 PAGS at 5 other LEA na may kabuuang 1, 805 sari-saring baril ang nasamsam. Ngunit kung anong higpit ang ginagawa ng PNP at AFP sa mga checkpoint sa ilalim ng super-

bisyon ng Comelec patuloy pa rin ang patayan sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa. Kasi nga hindi kayang subaybayan ng PNP at AFP ang private armies ng mga tusong pulitiko sa mga lalawigan at Metro Manila. Kaya tuloy nagtatanong ang aking mga nakausap kung saan napupunta ang intelligence fund ng PNP at AFP para tiktikan ang mga armed group sa bansa. Sa bulsa kaya ng mga opisyal ng PNP at AFP nalulusaw ang naturang pondo?

Marahil ang kasagutan nito ay nasa kamay na rin ng mga PNP at AFP officials. Sa panahon ngayon na mainit na ang kampanyahan ng local officials tiyak na dadanak na rito ang dugo mula sa mga kampo ni Satanas na gustong mahalo sa darating na eleksiyon. At sa bawat patayan tiyak na ang sisihin dito ay ang PNP at AFP at puro imbestigasyon na lamang ang kanilang magagawa. Katulad na lamang noong Linggo ng hapon na kung saan tinambangan si Calauan, Laguna mayor George Berris habang nangangampanya na ikinamatay ng kanyang mga kasama na sina Leonado Taningco at itong tumatakbong councilor na si Emmanuel Pena. Kritikal ang kalagayan ngayon ni Berris sa isang ospital sa Laguna habang nagkukumahog ang

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

## BANAT NI BATUIGAS... Mula pahina 4

Laguna Police sa pagkalap ng mga impormasyon para matukoy ang mga salarin. Kasi nga ayon sa impormasyon mula sa Regional Tactical Operation Center, abala umano si Berris sa pagkaway sa mga botante sa Bgy. Imok nang pagbabarilin. Nasaan ang mga pulis nang tambangan si Mayor? Puro imbestigasyon na lang ba ang kanilang gagawin?

Mainit na mainit ngayon

ang pagdinig sa Terminal Appointment and Advanced Booking System (TABS) na isinampa ng mga business group, brokers at truckers laban kay DFA secretary Rene Almendras at pamunuan ng Philippine Ports Authority, Asian Terminal Inc at International Container Terminal Services Inc. sa Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 14. Kasi nga dapat na mabigyang linaw ang bayarin sa TABS dahil kung ang tatanungin dito ang

mga business group, brokers at truckers ay raket lamang umano ito dahil kasama na ito sa kanilang binabayaran. Hindi rin umano ito nakakatulong upang maresolba ang port congestion dahil ang pangunahing problema umano sa paglabas at pagpasok ng kar-

gamento sa pier ay oras ng mga empleyado ng terminal at ang sobrang trapik sa mga lansangan. Ito rin umano ang dahilan kung bakit nangunguluntoy ang mga negosyante at lumulobo ang presyo ng mga inaangkat na bilihin. Ito ang ating aabangan mga suki!

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## ONLINE news

### 29 MARCH 2016

#### 8th ID to conduct 3 series of AFPSAT in Eastern Visayas

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 28): 8th ID to conduct 3 series of AFPSAT in Eastern Visayas

In line with its efforts to hire quality people to fill its ranks, the Catbalogan-based 8th Infantry Division announced that it will be conducting three batches of AFP Service Aptitude Test (AFPSAT) Examinations from Tuesday to Friday in the Eastern Visayas.

The examination will be facilitated by representatives from the Philippine Army Mobile and Testing Team of the Army Personnel Management Center stationed at Headquarters Philippine Army, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The first examination will be on Tuesday at Headquarters 803rd Infantry (Peace Maker) Brigade, Camp Sumoroy, Catarman, Northern Samar, the second will be on Wednesday and Thursday at Samar State University, Mercedes Campus, Catbalogan City and the third on Friday at Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City.

The following are the qualifications:

1) For Officer Candidate Course (OCC):

- a. Holder of baccalaureate degree.
- b. Natural born Filipino.
- c. 21 to 29 years of age upon admission (no age waiver).
- d. Single and never been married; never borne or sired a child.
- e. Height of not less than 5'0 ft (152 cm) for both male and female but not more than 6'4" (193.04 cm).
- f. Of good moral character.
- g. Physically, mentally, and psychologically fit for active military service (P-1 profile).

2) For Officer Preparatory Course (OPC):

- a. Holder of baccalaureate degree.
- b. Inactive Commissioned Reserve Officer who were commissioned in the PA under Circular 4 Groups I and II.
- c. Must not be over 31 years old on the date of Called to Active Duty (CAD).
- d. Physically, mentally and psychologically fit for active military service (P1 profile).
- e. Height of not less than 5'0 ft (152 cm) for both male and female but not more than 6'4" (193.04 cm).
- f. Of good moral character.

3) For Candidate Soldier Course (CSC):

- a. Natural born Filipino citizen.

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- b. At least 18 to 26 years old and must not be 27 years old or older on or before the date of appointment as candidate soldier. (no age waiver)
- c. At least High School Graduate, but possessing technical/vocational skills needed by the AFP.
- d. Single and never been married; never borne or sired a child.
- e. At least 5'0" ft or 60 inches in height. (No height waiver).
- f. Of good moral character.
- g. Physically, mentally, and psychologically fit for military training.

Examinees must bring along with them the following original documents during the examination: NSO Live Birth Certificate; Transcript of Records or College Diploma; ballpen; pencil # 2. Examinees should wear white T- shirt, pants, and rubber shoes.

## Regional security heightens as NPA celebrates 47th anniversary

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 28): **Regional security heightens as NPA celebrates 47th anniversary**

CAMP ALAGAR, Cagayan De Oro City – **The regional police command has beef its security forces as the communist New People's Army (NPA) observed its 47th founding anniversary Monday.**

**The regional police is closely watching Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental and Misamis Occidental provinces where the strong NPA presence has been observed, Pol. Supt. Surki Sereñas said.**

Sereñas, the police regional spokesperson, said that the police has established a round-the-clock checkpoint and beefed the village intelligence network in the region.

**The police in Northern Mindanao have been on full alert status since the start of the election period, but with the NPA's founding anniversary, the police are sharing the information on the ground with the military for assessment.**

**He said that while the police have not yet received any report of any possible attacks by the Maoist insurgents, there is no substitute to be vigilant.**

Sereñas also warned the public to be wary of passing around text messages from unknown sources about bomb threats that might induce fear or panic.

**Founded by Bernabe Buscayno on March 29, 1969, the NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).**

**In the past few months, the NPA has carried out attacks against government soldiers and armed paramilitary groups in various parts of Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions, and even admitted responsibility for the burning of properties owned by private corporations in Bukidnon.**

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## AFP: NPA rebel's strength dwindles in Zamboanga

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 28): **AFP: NPA rebel's strength dwindles in Zamboanga**

**The military is winning the war against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CNN) in this province and in the two nearby Zamboanga provinces.**

**This was announced by Col. Jesus Manangquil Jr., Army's 101st Infantry Brigade commander, citing the CNN has already lost mass based supports in this province and in the nearby provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.**

**The NPA rebels operating in the three Zamboanga provinces are under the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee (WMRPC), which is headed by a certain Ka Bamban.**

**Manangquil said the strength of the WMRPC has declined to less than 100 armed members this year unlike in previous years they have more than 1,000 followers.**

**Manangquil said the Bayanihan Outreach Program of the province government is also of big help to the campaign against the NPA rebels aside from the continued military offensive.**

**"Malaking effect sa kanila (NPAs) dahil nawala ang mass-based support ng mga tao. Marami na sa kanila ang sumuko," he said, citing the NPA rebels are always on the run evading the military troops.**

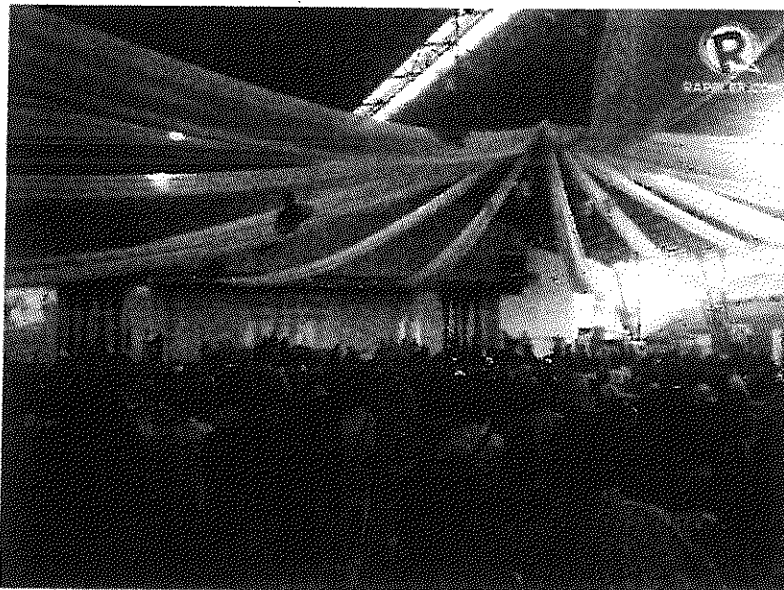
**He said this is also the reason why the NPA rebels could not even launch tactical attacks despite orders from the higher echelon of the CNN.**

Manangquil's headquarters is located in Barangay del Pilar in the nearby town of Piñan, this province.

## Next president: No choice but to pursue peace with MILF

From Rappler (Mar 28): **Next president: No choice but to pursue peace with MILF**

*Despite obstacles, peace panels from the Philippine government and the MILF say there's reason to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the signing of the peace deal with the MILF*



**CELEBRATING PEACE.** Various groups attend the 2nd anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro in Cotabato City. Photo by Jodesz Gavilan/Rappler

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The next administration has no choice but to pursue the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the government's chief peace negotiator said Monday, March 28, as various sectors celebrated the 2nd anniversary of the historic signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). The Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) that was supposed to implement key provisions of the CAB has not been passed and the chances of it getting approved before the current administration ends its term in June is remote.

*"Walang choice ang next administration kundi ipagpatuloy ito,"* said government peace negotiator Miriam Coronel-Ferrer on the sidelines of the anniversary celebration at the Notre Dame University here. *"Sa dami ng problema ng bansa, bakit pa hahayaan na magkagulo ulit?"*

(The next administration has no choice but to continue this. With all the problems the country is currently facing, why would anyone still want violence?)

"We've been through a lot of changes in administration," Ferrer pointed out. "But what matters is that the commitment is there."

Ferrer added that the peace panel will continue with their timeline despite the significant delay in the approval of the proposed law.

*"Hindi binubura ng isang kabiguan ang ilang dekada nang paguusap,"* she emphasized. *"Hindi naman dapat na ating talikuran ang lahat na naitayo, naigawa, at natulungan."* (One mistake doesn't erase decades of negotiations. It is not right that we abandon all that we've built, done, and helped.)

#### Challenge to candidates

Noting that they will "surely inherit this political problem," MILF chief peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal challenged the 5 presidential candidates to make a clear stand on the peace agreement and the BBL.

"We still look forward that the next president will continue what we've so far accomplished and eventually pass the BBL," Iqbal told reporters. "We urge all of you to clarify to us the policy that your administration will pursue vis-a-vis the CAN and the BBL."

All presidential candidates – Jejomar Binay, Rodrigo Duterte, Grace Poe, Manuel Roxas II and Miriam Defensor-Santiago – have declared they're for keeping the peace in Mindanao.

But they vary in approaches to it. Binay said the proposed BBL needs to be tweaked, while Duterte said the more sustainable path to peace is to expand the bill and change the form of government to federalism. Poe stressed she wanted "transparent, inclusive and sustainable" peace talks, while Roxas promised to ensure the passage of BBL. Santiago voted against the BBL in the Senate, saying it's unconstitutional.

The CAB is the basis of the proposed BBL which also outlines mechanisms and interventions needed to ensure sustainable peace in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The law's approval hit a snag after the Mamasapano clash between government forces and Moro rebels last year, which killed at least 65 people.

Iqbal said "vested interest groups" in Congress caused the "defeat" of the BBL.

"They all ganged up together and worked their way triumphantly," he said. "Who are they? They are those who are insatiable with wealth and power and those still enslaved by religious bigotry."

The mood was festive as different stakeholders from various sectors not just in Mindanao but from other parts of the country gathered to commemorate the anniversary.

But Iqbal acknowledged the frustration on the ground, adding, "we can't really blame them."

"Without the BBL, CAB can never become the solution to the Bangsamoro problem," he said. "But it is the summation of our aspirations and emotions. Now that our legitimate grievances and aspirations have already been recognized by not just the Philippine government but also by nations of the world, do we have to stop in our struggle just because the moment is not favorable to us? No."

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