

*Army Vision: By 2038, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

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

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**07 May 2016**

**Saturday**

*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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## 24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

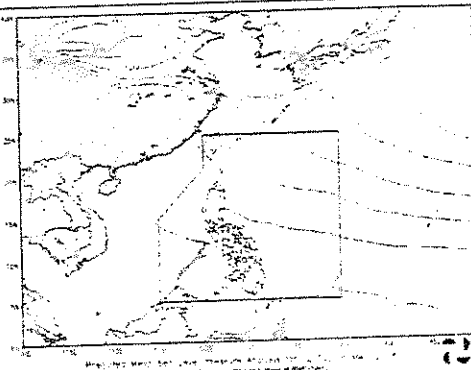
ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 06 MAY 2016

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

**SYNOPSIS:** RIDGE OF A HIGH PRESSURE AREA (HPA) EXTENDING OVER NORTHERN LUZON. **EASTERLIES** AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON, OF VISAYAS AND OF MINDANAO.

**FORECAST:** PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS MOSTLY IN THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING WILL PREVAIL OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

LIGHT TO MODERATE WINDS BLOWING FROM THE EAST TO SOUTHEAST WILL PREVAIL OVER NORTHERN LUZON AND FROM THE EAST FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THE COASTAL WATERS THROUGHOUT THE ARCHIPELAGO WILL BE SLIGHT TO MODERATE.



**PAGTAYA:** BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG LALO NA SA DAKONG HAPON O GABI ANG IIRAL SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NATITIRANG BAHAGI NG BANSA.

MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG HANGIN MULA SA SILANGAN HANGGANG TIMOG-SILANGAN ANG IIRAL SA HILAGANG LUZON AT MULA NAMAN SA SILANGAN SA NATITIRANG BAHAGI NG BANSA. ANG MGA BAYBAYING-DAGAT SA BUONG KAPULUAAN AY MAGIGING BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 4:00 PM TODAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

<b>MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 3:00 PM TODAY— 36.6°C	<b>MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 5:00 AM TODAY — 82 %	
<b>MINIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 5:00 AM TODAY— 26.4°C	<b>MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 1:50 PM TODAY — 42 %	
<b>TIDAL PREDICTIONS ALONG MANILA BAY</b> (Courtesy of NAMRIA)	<b>OVER METRO MANILA:</b>	
<b>HIGH TIDE TODAY:</b> 10:45 PM ..... 0.61 METER	<b>SUNRISE / SUNSET</b>	<b>MOONRISE / MOONSET AND ILLUMINATION</b>
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 3:17 AM ..... 0.32 METER	<b>SUNSET TODAY:</b> 6:14 PM	<b>MOONSET TODAY:</b> 5:46 PM
<b>HIGH TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 10:05 AM ..... 1.07 METER	<b>SUNRISE TOMORROW:</b> 5:31 AM	<b>MOONRISE TOMORROW:</b> 5:50 AM
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 5:21 PM ..... -0.10 METER	<b>SUNSET TOMORROW:</b> 6:14 PM	<b>ILLUMINATION TOMORROW:</b> 0 %

For more information and queries, please call at telephone numbers 927-1335 and 927-2877 or log on to [www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph](http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph).

PREPARED BY: SJII

CHECKED BY: CFP



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Department of Science and Technology  
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and  
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)  
Weather Division  
ISO 9001:2008 Certified

WFS-02  
Rev. 105-6-2016

**24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:**

ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 06 MAY 2016

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast <i>from 5PM today until 5PM tomorrow</i>			Extended Weather Outlook <i>Duration: 5PM until 5PM of the following day</i>					
			06 MAY	07 MAY	08 MAY	09 MAY	10 MAY		
Metro Manila		26°C 36°C	Light to Moderate East Manila Bay: Slight to Moderate		25°C 35°C		25°C 36°C		25°C 36°C
Tuguegarao City		25°C 35°C	Moderate East - Southeast		23°C 33°C		25°C 38°C		26°C 38°C
Laoag City		25°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East - Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		25°C 34°C		25°C 33°C		25°C 34°C
Baguio City		17°C 26°C	Light to Moderate East - Southeast		17°C 26°C		17°C 25°C		17°C 26°C
SBMA (Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)		27°C 36°C	Light to Moderate East Subic Bay: Slight to Moderate		26°C 36°C		27°C 35°C		26°C 36°C
Tagaytay City		23°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East		23°C 32°C		23°C 32°C		23°C 32°C
Lipa City		24°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East		24°C 35°C		24°C 35°C		25°C 35°C
Legazpi City		26°C 33°C	Moderate East Coastal Waters: Moderate		26°C 33°C		27°C 33°C		27°C 32°C
Puerto Princesa City		27°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		26°C 34°C		27°C 33°C		26°C 34°C
Iloilo City / Bacolod City		26°C 33°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		26°C 33°C		26°C 34°C		25°C 34°C
Metro Cebu		27°C 33°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		26°C 34°C		26°C 33°C		26°C 34°C
Tacloban City		26°C 32°C	Moderate East Coastal Waters: Moderate		26°C 33°C		26°C 32°C		26°C 33°C
Cagayan de Oro City		24°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		24°C 34°C		25°C 34°C		24°C 34°C
Valencia City		19°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East		19°C 32°C		20°C 31°C		20°C 31°C
Metro Davao		26°C 35°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		26°C 35°C		26°C 34°C		26°C 35°C
Zamboanga City		25°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		25°C 35°C		25°C 34°C		25°C 35°C

**LEGEND:**

	Clear skies		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rains		Rains with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy skies with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rains / Rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers		Light Rains				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: SJH

CHECKED BY: CFP

"Tracking the sky... helping the country"

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07 May 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: A1

# P-Noy asks Mar, Grace to join forces vs Digong

## Aquino: There's still hope, Duterte has only 30%

By Nikko Dizon

SAYING that democracy in the Philippines is under threat, President Aquino yesterday called on presidential candidates Mar Roxas and Grace Poe to unite and work together to prevent a victory in Monday's election of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte, who is showing signs of becoming a dictator.

"There are both known and unknown efforts [toward a coalition] these days when our democracy is threatened," President Aquino told INQUIRER editors and reporters in an interview in Malacañang.

Without giving details, the President said there were encouraging signs for a possible last-minute coalition among the

other presidential candidates trailing Duterte, who remains holding a huge lead in the polls despite accusations of corruption and hidden wealth.

"Compared to 48 hours ago, I think there are better signs now," Mr. Aquino said.

Asked if he was urging the supporters

P-NOY / A23



**From page A1**

of all other presidential candidates to initiate the call for unity, the President said: "Yes, yes... That all supporters talk to your principals and say we need to see a demonstration of country before self."

The only son of Ninoy and Cory Aquino, the country's democracy icons, the President is banking on the people's collective voice.

"What if more voices who have never spoken starts thinking now and say 'I really am part of the group that was quiet, and I need all of your commitment to unify us,'" Mr. Aquino said.

The President said Duterte's having 30 percent voter support in the polls meant there was a majority opposing his candidacy.

**For democracy's sake**

All it needs is for the others to unite for the sake of democracy, Mr. Aquino said.

In another media interview, the President said: "It behooves everybody to try and get together and ensure that instead of thinking about what shall we do if everything he says is exactly what he intends to do, why don't we remove that problem or that threat or that insecurity by uniting the

70 and defeating the 30?"

Aside from Roxas and Poe, Vice President Jejomar Binay and Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago are still in the presidential race, although trailing in the polls.

Mr. Aquino said that even if only Roxas and Poe would decide to unite, that would be 40 percent voter support and it would defeat Duterte's 30 percent.

"I'm trying to get all these different voices from so many sectors together and in that sense, perhaps help our candidates get together and have that united front," the President said.

Last night, hours after the INQUIRER interview, President Aquino said at a campaign rally in Parañaque City that he had spoken to Roxas over the phone and had exchanged text messages with Poe on the idea of joining forces against Duterte.

But nothing was "conclusive" yet, Mr. Aquino said.

**Binay rejection**

Earlier last night, Poe, who remains in second place in the latest Social Weather Stations poll but is statistically tied with Roxas, refused talks with Roxas, saying she was not giving up her presidential candidacy. (See story on Page A1.)

Binay's camp rejected Mr. Aquino's call for unity, citing how the President had been hitting Roxas' rivals on the campaign trail.

"With two days to go before the people choose their next President, Vice President Binay believes the President should just ensure that the election is free from cheating, violence and intimidation," Joey Salgado, spokesperson for Binay, said.

Salgado said whoever wins a clean election should be respected.

"As long as [the new leaders] were elected in clean elections, the people's verdict must be respected because that is the spirit of democracy," he said.

Duterte's vice presidential running mate, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, criticized Malacañang for its latest move to stave off Duterte's victory.

Cayetano said that after the people refused to believe the corruption and hidden wealth allegations against Duterte, the Palace was now trying to get either Roxas or Poe to quit the race. But since the two are statistically tied for second place, they could not decide which of them should withdraw, Cayetano said.

He said Duterte's impending victory, heralded in all the polls,

had caused unrest among the “ruling oligarchs.”

“It’s the fear of the unknown,” he said.

### Formal withdrawal

Asked if it was still possible for any presidential candidate to withdraw on the eve of the election, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Andres Bautista said the candidate would have to file a formal withdrawal in the Comelec.

But the votes of the withdrawing candidate will not be credited to another candidate, Bautista said.

“So if I am withdrawing from the race, I will have to tell my supporters, ‘Don’t vote for me anymore, vote for [another] candidate,’” he said.

Bautista said the withdrawing candidate’s name would remain on the ballot and his or her votes would still be counted because these had been programmed in the automated voting system.

“The votes would still be physically counted, but you cannot be proclaimed if you have withdrawn,” he said.

To the question whether he would exercise moral suasion over Roxas and Poe, President Aquino said: “I have been doing

that from the start, but (she) did not join us.”

Mr. Aquino met with Poe at least five times last year, with overtures for her to be Roxas’ running mate.

But Poe decided to seek the presidency, encouraged by her high poll ratings, which steadily declined during the election campaign until she was overtaken by Duterte.

Told about calls for a team-up between Poe and administration vice presidential candidate Leni Robredo, President Aquino said: “That would be more divisive.”

“It’s just making the situation more chaotic,” he said.

Duterte has gained support across all sectors of society midway into the campaign by portraying himself as an antiestablishment politician who can achieve quick fixes to deep-rooted problems, such as crime and poverty.

Despite the lack of concrete foreign affairs, economic and security policies, not to mention controversial statements, Duterte’s support base appears to be gaining more strength as the campaign moves into the homestretch.

### Wasted gains

President Aquino admitted that Duterte’s rise had worried

him in the past days because of the likelihood that the country would end up wasting its hard-fought freedom from two decades of martial rule under the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Mr. Aquino said that he himself could not understand how many people appeared to accept the statements of Duterte.

“The closest analysis [of his promises] is ‘I will give the moon and the stars and all of that. We know that cannot be done but it seems acceptable [to many people],’” Mr. Aquino said.

The President added that what’s worrisome was Duterte making good all the things he said he would do, referring to the mayor’s threat of putting up a revolutionary government, killing criminals outside the judicial system, and severing ties with Philippine allies like the United States and Australia.

“If he starts doing all of these, then really there is a threat to what we have established especially after [the] Edsa [People Power Revolution] and por la patria [to fight for one’s country],” he said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, chief, Inquirer Central Desk; Tarra Quismundo, Estrella Torres and AFP*



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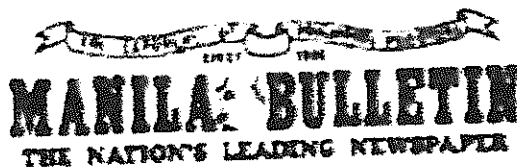
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**'OUR SON'S IN THE ARMY'** — A warm embrace from mom and dad after six months of rigorous training to be one of only 90 new privates in the Armed Forces of the Philippines completes this soldier's graduation ceremony last Wednesday at Camp Elias Angeles in Pili, Camarines Sur. (Ruel Saldico)

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## NPA rebels tagged in Samar harassment

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday bared that two separate reports were received on alleged intimidation involving members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Samar province in relation to next Monday's elections.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said the alleged election-related offenses committed by the NPA's took place on Wednesday.

Padilla said more or less 20 NPA rebels allegedly hauled around 30 political leaders of a mayoral candidate in Brgy. De-it in Matuguinao, Samar.

He added that around 15 fully-armed NPA rebels were also seen in Brgy. Candoma-

col, Motiong, Samar, campaigning for a presidential candidate and an incumbent member of Congress who is a member of a known left leaning organization.

"The group of rebels threatened to execute the barangay officials if their endorsed candidates lose in their respective areas," Padilla said during a briefing Thursday afternoon.

"Further reports said that the residents in Barangays Calai, Bunga, and Malobago in Motiong, Samar, requested additional AFP presence due to the NPA members in the area," Padilla added.

Padilla assured that the AFP has already responded to the reports and to date continues to monitor threat groups including the NPA who have been terrorizing communities on the ground.

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## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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# Military on red alert; cops replace teachers in Lanao

By Julie M. Aurelio  
and Jaymee T. Gamil

FEARING for their safety, about 140 teachers in Lanao del Sur backed out from their election duties yesterday even as the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines went on red alert three days before the May 9 national and local elections.

The new crisis in Lanao emerged during a video conference among military commanders called by acting AFP chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda at the AFP election monitoring center yesterday.

### Policemen as BEIs

Commission on Elections chairperson Andres Bautista, who was present at the AFP monitoring center yesterday, announced that policemen would be replacing the teachers in their duties as the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs).

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said a company from the Philippine National Police would be sent to the province, as well as nearby Lanao del Norte, where some local candidates had

refused to sign a peace covenant for the elections.

"The AFP will be lending its C-130 planes to transport our policemen to Lanao del Sur for their duties as election inspectors ... The teachers backed out because they had fears for their safety and we cannot blame them," Bautista said.

### Ready to respond

In a press briefing yesterday, the military said the highest alert status that took effect at midnight on Friday means that all troops must be on stand-by in military camps and ready to respond to any situation.

Padilla said the military commanders would be regularly assembling troops for accounting purposes.

"Other forces that have been helping out and are deployed in an area have all been on alert since many weeks ago," said Padilla.

In a separate briefing yesterday, the Philippine National Police said its latest tally of election watchlist areas (EWAs) covered 176 towns and cities in nine provinces.

The PNP said it was watching Pan-

gasinan province in the Ilocos region, Abra in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Nueva Ecija in Central Luzon, Masbate in Bicol, Negros Oriental in the Negros Island Region, Samar in eastern Visayas, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Lanao del Norte in northern Mindanao.

The two ARMM provinces had the highest number of towns and cities in the election watchlist areas—Lanao del Sur had 40 areas while Lanao del Norte followed with 22.

Masbate and Pangasinan provinces each had 20 areas on the watchlist. Samar had 18 areas on the watchlist; Nueva Ecija had nine; Negros Oriental had eight, and Abra, five.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor reported that the police has tallied 26 validated election-related incidents so far since the election period began on January 10.

Mayor said the PNP was currently monitoring 82 active private armed groups—75 of them based in Mindanao.

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# PNP, AFP: Will of the people to prevail on May 9

By JAIME LAUDE

Security forces vowed to ensure the will of the people would be reflected in the elections on May 9.

This developed as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was placed on red alert status yesterday in the countdown to election day.

AFP chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda assured the public of the military's readiness in securing the electoral process.

For its part, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ricardo Marquez directed the 19,800 police and military personnel assigned to secure polling precincts on Monday to focus on maintaining its presence and operations.

Miranda assured the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that the military and the police are ready to meet any contingency on election day.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said soldiers, along with their police counterparts, are now conducting joint patrols under Comelec-supervised road checkpoints.

Comelec Chairman Andres Bautista visited the AFP headquarters yesterday to coordinate its efforts for the electoral exercise on Monday.

Even as the AFP assured Comelec that security measures are in place for Monday's elections, Bautista told the top brass of his main concerns.

"The two challenges that I am seeing is the new election feature of printing vote receipts and the prevailing hot weather," he said.

But Bautista said that as per directive of the Supreme Court last March 17, Comelec has done its best to oblige with the print-

ing of vote receipts despite having less than two months to prepare.

Bautista said he is worried how this new election feature would affect the actual voting process. He said some groups might take advantage and create confusion and trouble.

"My orders to all the Board of Elections Inspectors is for them to be very strict and to ensure that these vote receipts are dropped inside a box after the voter has read it. We also are calling on watchers of all the political parties and the civil society groups to be alert to prevent switching of receipts," Bautista said.

Bautista added the prevailing hot weather might discourage senior citizens and persons with disabilities to cast their votes in the event of a long queue at their polling precinct.

This is the reason why Comelec moved the time of voting to 6 a.m. until 5 p.m. to accommodate more voters.

"This May is hotter than the previous Mays. And we all know that when it is too hot and when the lines become too long, this might discourage the voters to cast their ballots, especially senior citizens and persons with disability," Bautista said.

Bautista said the poll body also wanted to have the voting completed early as "miracles do happen in the dark."

Bautista also said policemen could take over from the teachers serving as Board of Elections Inspectors if they back out from their poll duties on Monday.

He said the poll body has passed a resolution appointing PNP personnel to act as substitute for teachers who refuse to perform election duties. – With Sheila Crisostomo, Mike Frialde, Non Alquitran

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

Page: 1

## AFP on red alert; 140 teachers back out from election duties

By ELENA L. ABEN and INA HERNANDO MALIPOT

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) placed all its units nationwide on red alert effective midnight Friday in preparation for the May 9 national and local elections.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the red alert status will remain until further assessment of the higher command.

As this developed, the AFP said it

will provide a C-130 aircraft to transport policemen to be deployed in Lanao del Sur where 140 teachers were reported to have backed out as members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) for fear of their safety.

With this development, Education Secretary Armin Luistro appealed to politicians not to harass public school teachers who will perform their

►5

## AFP on red alert... ◀1

poll duties as BEI members.

During a round table interview with reporters, Luistro asked losing candidates and their supporters not to threaten teachers who are manning the polling precincts.

"Our teachers have been trained so they will know what to do," Luistro said, assuring the readiness of public school teachers on May 9 elections.

The military said policemen were already being trained to take the place of the teachers as BEI.

Aside from this, one company of policemen was also set to be deployed in Lanao Del Sur.

In Lanao Del Norte, which is considered as election "hotspot," more than 200 policemen were also being readied for deployment to serve as BEI in some parts of the province.

Supt. Surki Sereñas, Northern Mindanao regional police spokesman, said 149 policemen were sent to serve as BEIs in Pantar and Nunungan towns, while 59 others stand as "reserve BEIs."

Sereñas noted that the municipality of Pantar is now under the control of the Comelec after being assessed as having all characteristics of Category 1, 2, and 3 of election watchlist areas (EWAs).

He said policemen were also deployed as BEIs in Nunungan town after teachers who were supposed to serve as election officers there "backed out."

Sereñas further said that 20 of Lanao del Norte's 22 towns are considered as election watch list areas, though under different categories.

Despite the concerns in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, authorities said that the number of election related violence this year is so far much lower compared to 2010.

Meanwhile, the AFP reported that there were no untoward incidents in the delivery of vote-counting machines, canvassing machines, transmission equipment, and batteries and almost all of the provinces in Mindanao have received their voting equipment with the exception of the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, and Bukidnon.

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## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: A1

# China sees bilateral deal with new PH President

By Estrella Torres

CHINA is looking forward to a bilateral settlement of the dispute in the South China Sea with the new Philippine President, its envoy said on Thursday.

Ambassador Zhao Jinhua ex-

pressed the hope that the new Philippine leader would be willing to sit down for bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping to address conflicting claims to the 3.5-million-square-kilometer sea.

"That is our hope," he said

CHINA/A18

# China sees bilateral deal with new PH President

From page A1

when asked if the next Philippine President should push for bilateral talks with China, "because China has always been open for bilateral negotiations with the Philippines."

"Bilateral negotiations [on South China Sea] should focus on areas that can benefit the two countries. We're open for a peaceful, binding and durable bilateral agreement," he told reporters on the sidelines of the European Union National Day at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City on Thursday night.

Zhao, the Chinese ambassador to the Philippines, noted that China has been successful in negotiating disputes with Vietnam and Russia on bilateral levels even though this took 40 years.

The Philippines is electing a new leader on Monday.

Three island groups are at the center of dispute between China and the Philippines, including the Spratlys, a chain of up to 190 islands, reefs, coral outcrops and banks believed to be sitting atop large deposits of oil and natural gas.

China claims almost all of the energy-rich waters of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of maritime trade passes each year. The Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims.

China's increasingly assertive moves in the waters, including building artificial islands and airports, have rattled nerves around the world.

Zhao said the Chinese government has been monitoring policy statements by presidential candidates on the issue of addressing the territorial dispute. He stressed that China does not interfere in the domestic affairs of the Philippines.

"But whoever wins (in the presidential elections) we hope that he or she can improve or work toward better relations ... We want to have a new chapter in the bilateral relations between China and the Philippines," he said.

Zhao said the new chapter of bilateral relations should focus "on common interests" such as economic, financial and trade coop-



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eration, promotion of tourism and people to people cooperation.

President Aquino held talks with Xi at the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Summit in 2014 in Beijing.

Zhao said there was no "conflict" between the two countries. He said Beijing had always been open to bilateral and multilateral settlement of disputes with claimant-countries.

Mr. Aquino has always underlined the Philippines' multilateral approach to the row during Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summits.

Zhao said China was involved in the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) signed by China and the Asean.

"China is also seriously discussing the fundamentals of a binding code of conduct with Asean countries," the ambassador said.

Asean has been pushing for a code of conduct that would replace the DOC, a 2002 non-aggression pact that has failed to stop clashes in the international waterway China has argued that the time wasn't ripe yet for this.

Foreign Undersecretary Linglingay Lancelale, in a speech at the EU National Day, highlighted the strong partnership between the Philippines and EU, particularly on Manila's arbitration case against China's territorial claim to the sea.

"The dynamism (of Philippines-EU relations) is reflected in our shared commitment to pursue peaceful and durable solutions to pressing concerns such as EU's principled position for a rules-based and peaceful settlement of disputes in the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea, its deep engagement with the Philippines and Asean," she said.

China has been stepping up its rhetoric ahead of a ruling expected in a few weeks by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on a case the Philippines has brought against China's claims in the South China Sea.

The ruling is widely expected to favor the Philippines and risks significantly raising regional tensions because China rejects the court's authority to hear the case, even though it is a signatory of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea under which it is being heard. *With a report from Reuters*

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07 May 2016

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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# Zambales fishermen favor strong President to end China's blockade

MASINLOC, Zambales—A 30-foot trawler named "Marvin" lies beached on a grass bank overlooking the South China Sea, idle since China's Coast Guard began driving away Philippine fishermen after a fierce standoff four years ago.

Its 10-man crew once made their living off the abundant fish stocks of the disputed Scarborough Shoal, some 124 nautical miles away. But since Beijing's patrol boats moved in, the fishermen of the west coast town of Masinloc said they had been forced to do odd jobs ashore, or become motorcycle or taxi drivers.

The crews yearn to get back into their boats and hope that the election on May 9 will bring a new President bold enough to stand up to China's assertiveness in the disputed waters of the South China Sea. (See related story in *Across the Nation*, Page A8.)

It is something they say incumbent Benigno Aquino was hesitant to do, while the front-runner to succeed him, the hard-talking mayor of Davao city, Rodrigo Duterte, has indicated he may take a tougher line with Beijing.

"We want a tougher President who would make China leave the Philippine Sea," said the Marvin's shirtless captain, Biany Mula, referring to the waters by their Philippine name.

"That area is not their property"

The sentiment is shared by fishermen from Vietnam and Malaysia, as China's fishing fleet and accompanying Coast Guard armada have expanded within a nine-dash line that denotes Beijing's claims to nine-tenths of the world's most contested waterway.

With a relatively small and under-equipped military, the Philippines wants no confrontation with

China, but it has been vocal in asserting its claims to the Spratly islands and its rights to exploit its coastal waters.

It has also angered China by indirectly challenging its claims at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. China has refused to recognize the court's authority or abide by the ruling, which is expected soon.

Some Filipino fishermen are optimistic a new leader can find a solution.

"I'll vote because somebody will resolve the issue in the Scarborough Shoal," said Alexander Manzano, fixing a boat moored on a makeshift dock.

"I believe someone will be able to do it. That's why I'll vote."

### Tough talk, mixed messages

That someone could be Duterte, who is roaring ahead in opinion polls with talk of employing deadly methods to eradicate crime and corruption.

His position on the South China Sea is vague, however, in what has largely been a single-issue campaign.

When the topic came up in debates, Duterte promised not to put the Philippine Navy in harm's way, but said he would personally challenge China by riding a jet-ski to the Spratlys to plant a Philippine flag.

For key ally the United States, a Duterte presidency brings much uncertainty. A Washington-based official closely following the election said Duterte's stance on the South China Sea appeared "contradictory," mixing both bellicose and conciliatory messages about dealing with Beijing.

Murray Hiebert, a Southeast Asia specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said

Duterte's comments did not seem well thought out, including pledging to negotiate with China but only after it agrees the Spratlys belong to the Philippines.

"That's not an opening position that will entice China to the negotiating table," Hiebert said.

Like Washington, Beijing has given no indication who it would prefer as Philippine President.

Its foreign ministry spokesperson, Hong Lei, said ties between the two countries were "extremely difficult," but China hoped the next leadership "takes actual steps to improve relations."

The Philippine military is prohibited from discussing the election, but some senior officers privately say they are warming to the idea of Duterte as their Commander in Chief.

His talk of crushing Islamist insurgents behind a lucrative piracy and kidnap business has appeal, they say, as does his promise to take better care of troops and make national security a priority.

Others hope Duterte will pursue a more independent foreign policy through broader diplomatic alliances and new sources of defense hardware to avoid being overdependent on Washington.

"We're no longer in the Cold War period. We could build our own capability with the help of many allies, not only the US," said one officer.

For Joy Topaz, a fish vendor in a Masinloc shanty town, the most pressing issue is to negotiate a deal to get Filipino fishermen back to the Scarborough Shoal.

"There has been talk here about war, but we are afraid of fighting," she said.

"Let us just fish. Let everyone be allowed to fish."

Reuters

07 May 2016

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## Betting the future: What if?

BY THIS time, you may already have decided on your presidential candidate. Business schools recommend asking one final question to confirm or counter a decision: What if I am wrong?

Indeed, what if recent revelations about your candidate are true? What are the risks of electing this candidate?

Following his charges of unreported income and misdeclared statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, Sen. Antonio Trillanes has filed a plunder case against Mayor Rodrigo Duterte for ghost employees, thus advancing the narrative that Duterte may be both a human rights violator and corrupt. Unusually, Sen. Alan Cayetano, who has pursued Vice President Jejomar Binay for corruption, is silent, finding himself now paired with the patriarch of "the Binays of Davao."

The last presidential debate, held in Dagupan, added little information on Duterte's plans for realizing his extravagant promises. Adversaries spared him further grilling on his "Dapat ang mayor ang mauna" comment on the rape of an Australian missionary, which did say something about his views on the perks of public office.

But it exposed personality and character traits consistent with the diagnosis of Dr. Natividad Dayan, former president of the International Council of Psychologists, and with Duterte's way of dismissing accusations leveled at him. He applies laws selectively because his ends justify his means. Rejecting laws against extrajudicial executions, Duterte now invokes laws that protect the privacy of his bank accounts.

The medical assessment, reported by Aaron Lozada of ABS-CBN News, came from documents presented for the civil annulment of Duterte's marriage with his first wife. It concluded that he suffered from "antisocial narcissistic personality disorder," a condition characterized by "gross indifference, insensitivity and self-centeredness, 'grandiose sense of self-entitlement and manipulative behaviors' and 'pervasive tendency to demean, humiliate others and violate their rights and feelings.'" (<http://k2.abs-cbnnews.com/halalan2016/fo->

### BUSINESS MATTERS

*Edilberto C. de Jesus*



[cus/04/19/16/understanding-duterte-what-a-psych-report-says](http://www.inquirer.net/ph/04/19/16/understanding-duterte-what-a-psych-report-says))

The biggest damage Duterte suffered in Dagupan was inflicted by his statements giving credence to the psychological diagnosis. He said he would copy ideas from his opponents; he was used to "copying" (i.e., cheating) since he was in Grade One. The retort to Mar Roxas' offer of data on PhilHealth did sound like something from a grade school playground: Without providing any data of his own, Duterte roughly responded with "I don't believe you." And then there was his plan to invite martyrdom by jetskiing to the nearest Chinese reclamation area in the West Philippine Sea to plant the Philippine flag, because he wanted to do something heroic.

The debate raised serious issues that Duterte himself had emphasized. First was security, but beyond protection from criminal elements, on which he has focused. It also includes economic security, and workers' need for better-paying, more secure jobs that will enable them to support their families.

Pangasinan fishermen, appealing for assistance against Chinese ships barring them from traditional fishing grounds in the West Philippine Sea, underlined the link between national and economic security. Climate change, felt by the Kidapawan farmers suffering from the drought triggered by El Niño, has elevated security to the planetary level. On both issues, we need the diplomatic support of allies, whom Duterte has disrespected.

Force cannot be the main response to all aspects of security, nor to the electorate's concern for inclusive economic development. We have made progress in expanding economic opportunities, improving the

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delivery of social services, and controlling corruption. Much remains to be done; the gains have left the lives of many people untouched. But compare the record of the last six years with the preceding 12 years of the Estrada-Arroyo administrations.

History shows no shortcut to secure, inclusive prosperity. Its achievement depends on enduring commitment to the rule of law and democratic values and on leaders who can be trusted not to reverse the policies that have made a measure of success possible, so that we can build on what has been achieved.

"*Daang matuwid*" has helped enable the country's economic performance. Granting that many more deserve prosecution, when have we seen so many "big fish" brought before the courts? What if, on the pretext of promoting unity, Duterte's intent is to bury with Ferdinand Marcos' body in the Libingan ng mga Bayani the cases against the Napoles plunderers, the recovery of the wealth plundered during martial law, the assorted scams during the Arroyo administration, and the prosecution of those responsible for the Ampatuan massacre?

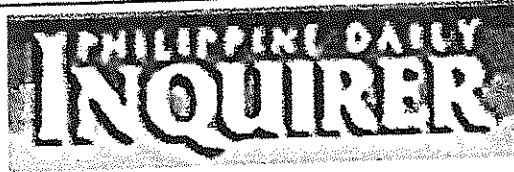
Will a Duterte presidency unite the nation? Consider his take-no-prisoner orientation and his Lone Ranger approach to contentious national issues, including negotiations with the National Democratic Front and with China. What if, now armed with the powers of the presidency, he continues this management style and policy thrust? What if, as Sen. Miriam Santiago declared, he is the New People's Army's candidate? The Skype consultations with the NDF demonstrated Duterte giving greater respect to Joma Sison than he showed to Pope Francis.

The results of this election will maintain or diminish the momentum for progress. Voters must consider what risks they are taking with their candidate. Can they risk the future on this decision?

Edilberto C. de Jesus ([edcdejesus@gmail.com](mailto:edcdejesus@gmail.com)) is professor emeritus at the Asian Institute of Management. Prof. Rofel Brion's Tagalog translation of this column and others earlier published, together with other commentaries, are in <http://secondthoughts.ph>.

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07 May 2016



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## Unity needed to address China problem

THE BRUTAL act of China in releasing chemicals to destroy the corals and marine species around Pag-asa island does not just destroy the immediate vicinity of that island. It will affect the different bodies of water connected to it. China is consistently doing something against us. Any move our country is making to prevent the Chinese government's inhumanity? What else can China do against us? When shall we act to condemn its government?

The Philippine government does not pay much attention to this due to the busy election campaign. It's possible for us to wake up one day with Chinese soldiers already on our shorelines, until then unnoticed because everybody was focused on winning the elections in 2016. Right now, no one cares about

the West Philippine Sea. I just hope that China will not take advantage of this opportunity to stage an atrocity against the Philippines.

All Filipinos should join hands to put an end to the insurgency and separatist rebellion so our country can focus on addressing its dispute with China over the West Philippine Sea. We need a collective, solid effort to protect our country. Let there be no New People's Army, Communist Party of the Philippines, National Democratic Front, Abu Sayyaf, Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Instead, let there be only one group, the "Filipinos" fighting to protect the Philippines. Let us unite now for our children and grandchildren, and the generations of Filipinos to come after them.

—RECTO M. KALISKIS,  
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07 May 2016

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

# Getting AFP units aligned with the AFP TR

By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO

**W**ITHIN a military organization, given its command structure, it should be "easy" to get all units aligned with the strategic priorities included in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Transformation Roadmap (TR). Commanders are used to giving commands, and for all subordinates to fall in line and follow orders.

Such "ease" should apply to the AFP TR. The Chief-of-staff (CS) AFP has taken responsibility for the AFP Performance Scorecard, and he has given orders for every AFP unit to align their strategies, plans, and programs with the requirements of the CS AFP Performance Scorecard.

On matters associated with a governance and transformation program, however, such obvious ease for cascading and obtaining alignment would be more apparent than substantive. Units would follow orders: but would their supporting (or subsidiary performance scorecards in the end contribute to the eventual attainment of all the targets in the AFP Performance Scorecard? Units may easily comply in form; but would their compliance be based on full understanding, deep buy-in, and firm commitment to deliver the performance that would be required of them under the CS AFP Performance Scorecard?

It is with this question in mind that AFP General Headquarters was not satisfied with merely giving orders from the top. A few activities were considered a "must" and these, therefore, had to be undertaken.

- Trainers' Training. This had been designed and offered to all the

Governance Strategy Management Officers (GSMO) and designated action officers in every major AFP unit. These specially designated officers were given training on the AFP TR and given all the background and relevant information so they can conduct the necessary training for all offices within their respective units. In this regard, the establishment and proper staffing of the Center for Naval Leadership and Excellence (CNLE) in the Philippine Navy and the Army Governance Strategy Management Office (AGSMO) in the Philippine Army proved most helpful, since the officers assigned to these offices already had practical training in the execution of a transformation roadmap: they could speak from actual experience.

- Launching of the "I-Connect," which goes being a forum for "best practice sharing." The participants in this program include governance advocates and practitioners from other national government agencies and local government units that have been active participants in ISA's governance boot camps and Public Governance Forum. While the initial coverage of this program included only those from the uniformed services, thus including governance advocates and practitioners also from the Philippine National Police, the coverage was soon extended to include other government offices.

- Launching of the "I-inspire," which seeks to win the hearts and minds of all officers, non-commissioned personnel as well as civilian employees of the AFP for the AFP TR, by connecting the priorities included in the transformation roadmap of the AFP with the national

agenda items of "inclusive economic growth" and the promotion and development of a "more peaceful, progressive, economically competitive and investment-attractive Philippines." All AFP personnel were to be persuaded through this program to look at their tasks and duties as closely connected with the bigger picture, which is all about the enhancement of the country and the advancement of the Filipino people.

All these activities were launched and undertaken with a very clear objective: to get all the AFP units, from General Headquarters down to the last support and separate units, to come up with a supporting or subsidiary performance scorecard of their own. In these scorecards, they are expected to make formal commitments of initiatives they will undertake, of measures they will use, and of targets they will meet at the end of each year--up to 2016--so they effectively contribute to the attainment of targets in the AFP Performance Scorecard.

To ensure that the activities above are undertaken and the supporting or subsidiary performance scorecards are formulated as formal commitments to deliver performance in support of the AFP TR, an office for strategy management had to be set up, with reporting responsibility direct to the CS AFP. The establishment of such an office led to the expansion of the former Office for Strategic Studies; that office, with an expanded role and added duties, became the Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management (OSSSM). This has turned out to be critical for the AFP moving forward and fast along the governance and transformation pathway.



OFFICIAL



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## ONLINE NEWS

07 MAY 2016

### Palparan on Duterte: 'It's fake bravery'

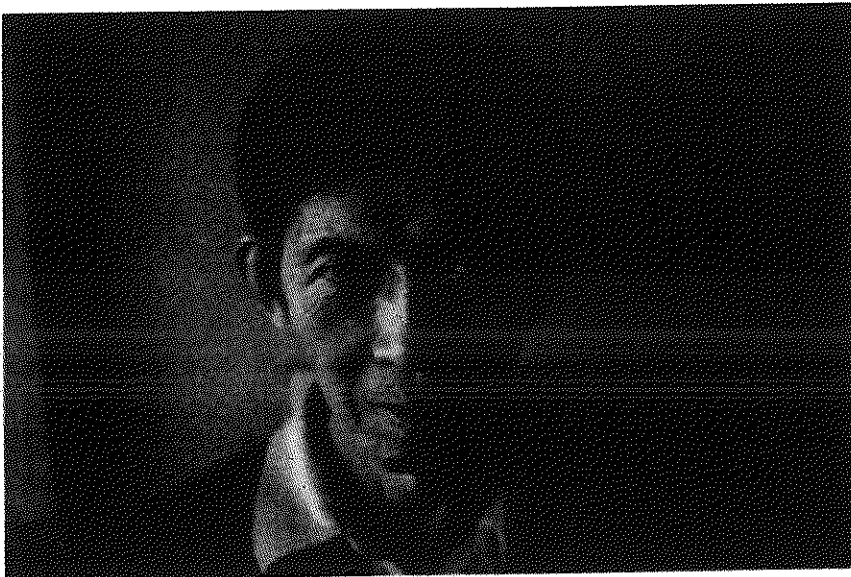
In what may perhaps be one of the greatest ironies in an already surreal election season, the man called the Butcher of Southern Luzon is now castigating Mindanao's Punisher

Patricia Evangelista

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Published 10:13 PM, May 05, 2016

Updated 3:02 PM, May 06, 2016



DETAINED: Senatorial candidate and retired Major General Jovito Palparan. Photo by Carlo Gabuco / Rappler

MANILA, Philippines – In what may perhaps be one of the greatest ironies in an already surreal election season, the man called the Butcher of Southern Luzon is now castigating Mindanao's Punisher.

"I am retired Major General Jovito S. Palparan Jr, 65 years old, going 66 in September. I am a retired army officer, and jobless as of now."

Palparan is being held without bail for the kidnapping of University of the Philippines' students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño. He denies the charges, and is running for a senate seat.

The former soldier has collected a number of monikers under his belt. Butcher, hangman and godfather are only a few. Under his command, in every area where he led his battalions, the list of murdered activists and alleged communists rose in number. He has been accused by progressive groups of ordering rape, murder and various forms of torture that include waterboarding, beatings, and mutilation.

Palparan went into hiding before he could be arrested. He was caught after a manhunt that lasted almost three years. (READ: People of the Philippines versus Jovito Palparan)

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His single-minded crusade against communists has been compared to Duterte's war on crime. Duterte has long been linked to the Davao Death Squad, a vigilante group that allegedly targets criminals in the city.

The comparison has been rejected by both candidates, both of whom hail from Mindanao.

Duterte calls Palparan "the pathetic former army general who sees things red because of his bloodshot eyes."

Palparan calls Duterte a coward and an egomaniac who "likes to be adored."

"He stands for nothing," Palparan said. "He does not have principles"

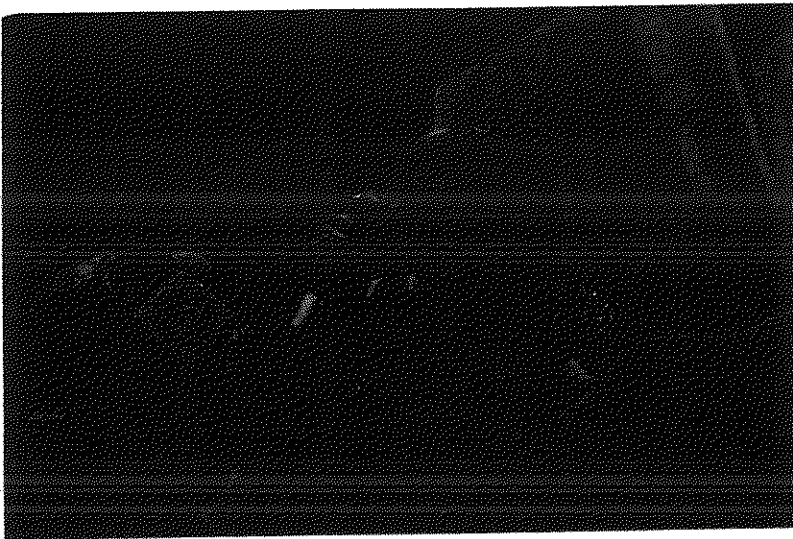
In a three-hour interview with Rappler on Thursday, May 5, at a military detention center in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, the former major general was contemptuous of Duterte's strongman image.

"I knew it, he's just trying to be cool," Palparan said. "What Duterte wants, that he's going to kill the criminals, he's just trying to be cool."

### **The Butcher**

For over a decade, Palparan's face has been printed on the posters carried at protest rallies and pelted with dripping tomatoes.

"I'm not saying I'm a blameless guy, because I've made mistakes," he said.



PAYMENT IN BLOOD. Linda Cadapan, mother of disappeared UP activist Sherilyn Cadapan, speaks at a rally before the NBI where Jovito Palparan is being held. Photo by Patricia Evangelista/Rappler

Reports from the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and the government-appointed Melo Commission show that "not blameless" may be an understatement. (READ: The Most Wanted Man in the Country)

Jovito Palparan is the same man lauded by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for his crusade against "our enemies."

"In the provinces under the control of the Armed Forces' Seventh Division Jovito Palparan continues to battle our enemies," Arroyo said during her 2005 State of the Nation Address. "He will not back down until the communities he serves are released from the darkness of fear, able to rebuild their lives in the dawn of justice and freedom."

Palparan is not permitted to leave detention to campaign. He has accepted he will not win. It does not matter, because his candidacy can now be a platform for sending a message to presidential front runner Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

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"I wasn't going to speak. I wasn't going to ask. The problem is I don't want to be silent anymore. I know this – I'm also a law enforcer just like him, so nobody can say I don't know the truth."

The people who choose Rodrigo Duterte, says Palparan, "do not know Duterte."

"He's just being advertised as someone who is just macho. He created his own image, his own persona. He's a coward. He befriends people who have power."

#### **Life in jail**

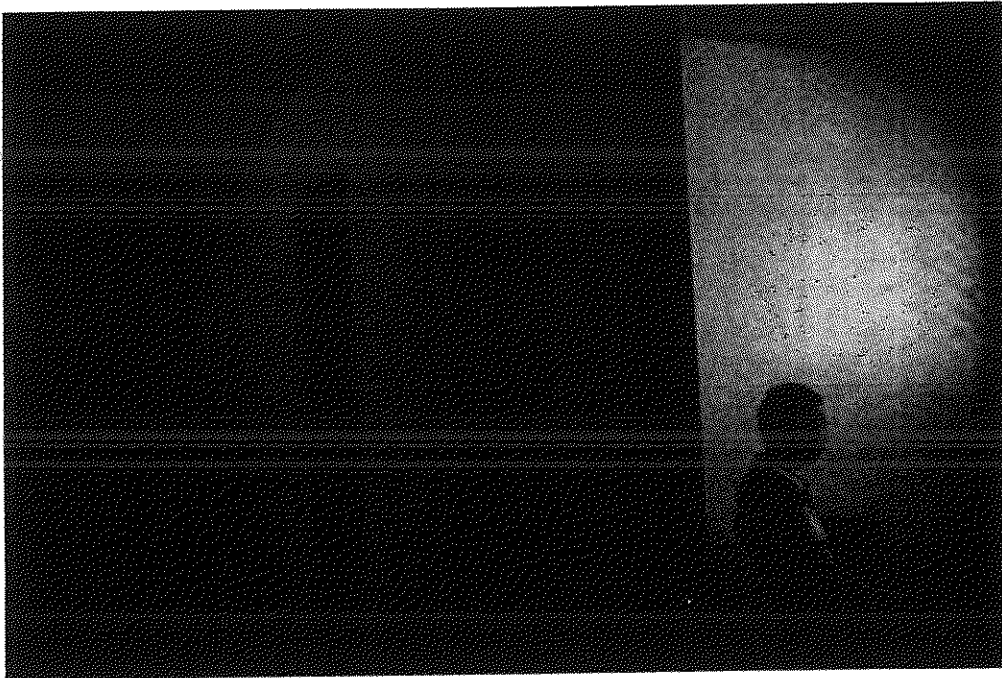
Today, Jovito Palparan sits inside a room at a detention center. The room is small. There is a table and a few plastic chairs. One window opens to the distant towers of McKinley Road.

He is wistful as he looks out the window. He says he misses the freedom to eat where he can. McKinley has good restaurants.

He wakes up late every morning for breakfast and exercise, then sits waiting for lunch. There is television in the afternoon, and conversation with the other detainees. Sometimes he cooks, whenever there are supplies from friends and family. Then dinner, the primetime news shows, then bed. It is the same every day, unless there are scheduled hearings and he wakes up early in the morning for the two-hour trip to the Regional Trial Court Branch 15 in Malolos, Bulacan.

He had hoped to campaign before the elections, but the denial of his bail put paid to his plans. His son took a video of him one day reciting his campaign platform, but his lawyer advised against its release.

"He said it may have been libelous. I said, I'm already in detention, what's a libel case to me?"



**DETAINED.** Jovito Palparan in detention at Fort Bonifacio. Photo by Carlo Gabuco/Rappler  
**Criminals versus communists**

The divide between Duterte and Palparan is largely on the issue of the communist agenda.

"Duterte makes friends with the NPA [New People's Army]," said Palparan. "He makes friends with the Ampatuans. The NPAs are terrorists, but he doesn't make use of them, instead he befriends the terrorists and he befriends the army also."

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"Yes, I coddle the Reds," Duterte said in an earlier statement. "They are Filipinos after all. I also coddle the other Filipinos who have been categorized to belong to the 3 other major colors representing the national flag – blue, yellow and white." (READ: [Duterte to Palparan: I embrace Filipinos of all colors](#))

Duterte has gone so far as announce he has managed to convince the Communist Party of the Philippines, through its exiled chairman Jose Maria Sison, to declare a ceasefire once he becomes president.

"I talked with Sison last night on Skype," Duterte said on April 27, less than two weeks before the elections. "The military in the other room did not know I was talking to Sison. Since 1970 I'd been listening to Sison because I was among the first members of the Kabataang Makabayan. Now, I am 70 years old, still there is war. He was my teacher, so I told him, sir, please come home, let's talk. We are always at war, what will happen? So he promised to me if I win the presidency, he will come home and I will bring him here, let's have a program."

Duterte's platform includes an end to crime within 3 to 6 months. He says he will do whatever it takes, and has gone so far as to promise the deaths of at least 50,000 criminals by the end of his term. He is careful to differentiate criminals – described as rapists, drug lords, and murderers – from members of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the CPP.



DIGONG. Philippine presidential front-runner candidate Rodrigo Duterte (C) states his political platform in front of his supporters during a campaign in Manila on April 23, 2016. Photo by Noel Celis / AFP

"One is for pocket," he said, "and the other one is ideology."

It is a delineation that Palparan denounces.

He agreed communists are different from criminals, but it is because he believes criminals are less dangerous.

"They want something, so this can be addressed by some programs in the government. So that's why criminals go off and on, different people in one time, so it takes a short period of time and other syndicates will come out. It's not a sustained effort of the same group of criminals, unlike the NPA."

The NPA, says Palparan, is a highly organized group of terrorists. He calls their programs "deceiving," misleading innocents into joining their efforts. Although he says he has always been willing to negotiate "if they are sincere," he says they are armed and "will kill when people don't follow them."

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"It's a lot more dangerous than criminals," he said. "Criminals want money, and after they get money, they enjoy, and sometimes that's it."

Duterte, in an earlier statement, called Palparan's stance against him "a perfect example of the bigotry which has afflicted our country like a scourge."

#### **Davao: 'Not a paradise'**

Palparan also rejects Duterte's claim of competence, and his presentation of Davao as "exhibit A."  
(READ: [The Imagined President: The Punisher](#))

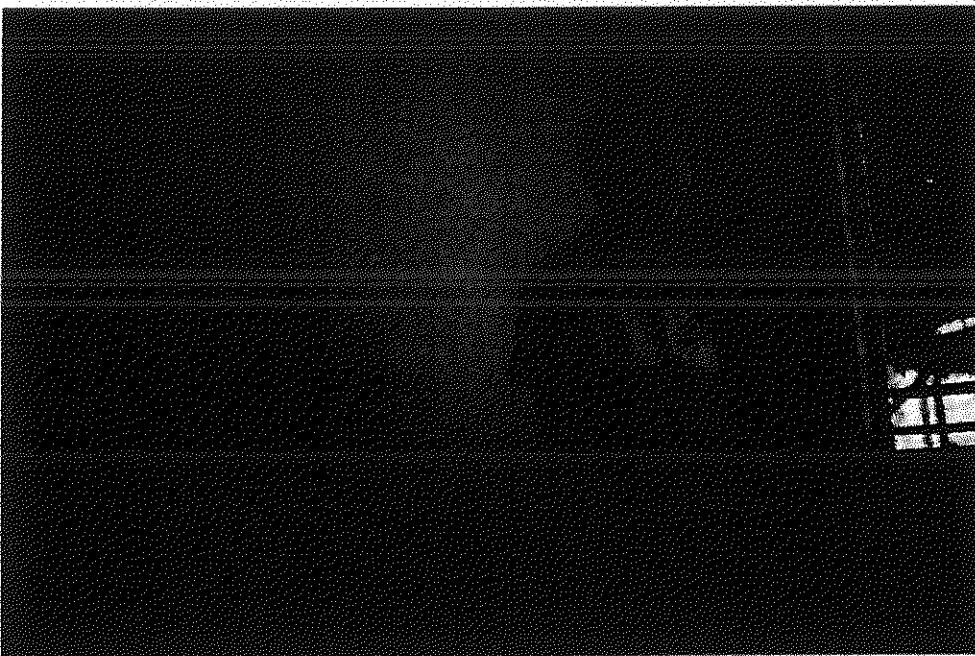
"There are always incidents in Davao," he said. "It's not true that Davao is a model for anti-crime or anti-drugs. It's not a model, it's just a story, it's just propaganda, it's just promoting ego of the mayor but people don't know that."

"Davao is not a paradise. There are drugs. There are criminals. There's killing of whoever's enemy, and there's the NPA. Police have been kidnapped there, how can you call it a paradise if your own police are being kidnapped by your NPA friends?"

Five Davao police officers, including a precinct commander, were abducted by members of the NPA less than a month before the elections. (READ: [NPA rebels abduct 5 Davao police officers](#))

Palparan said the reason that Duterte has not been charged is because his targets don't have the ability to stand against him. "He always has an excuse whenever he backs down."

"When his ego is threatened, people will die, but those are the kind of people who can't fight back, can't accuse him because they don't have the capability," Palparan said. "Davao is not a paradise, that's why there's a military task force there, because there's a threat there. The MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] parade around his city and he lets them because he's afraid. He's afraid of the Ampatuan clan. The media asks him, 'Mayor, why are the Ampatuans displaying their guns and wandering around?' He said, 'President Arroyo couldn't disarm them, how could I?'"



THE CANDIDATE. Palparan in detention. Photo by Carlo Gabuco  
**'Follow the law'**

Palparan denies there are similarities between himself and the mayor of Davao.

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"They call me The Butcher because the militants say I kidnapped, or when they say I kill. I don't kill. I perform clean-up strategies and people die because they fight back... Duterte's killing isn't for order. He does it for himself for the applause, for the fear, so it's ego. It's for his own purpose because he doesn't really have to kill."

Duterte has said in speeches that he would issue pardons to policemen and soldiers who kill criminals, as they are on his "personal order."

"He says he'll kill all the criminals," Palparan said. "So people say, okay, they're just criminals. It's like he decided on all the criminals already, but really he can't do that. He knows he can't. There are laws and many will be angry because you are a president, not a king – you have to follow the law. You cannot decide all by yourself."

The man who became the face of extrajudicial killings during the Arroyo regime is calling out the danger of extrajudicial killings under a Duterte administration.

"When you are the president, your boss will be the people, and there is a law you have to follow. So if you say 'I'll kill all of them,' you'll disregard the law and the sentiment of the people."

Palparan has choice words for the mayor, although he does not believe Duterte deserved the post – "he supported the communists in Davao City, so nobody else could campaign in their territories" – much less the presidency.

"Mayor, if you become president, my hope is that you will stand by your claim of fearlessness, because that claim of fearlessness is fake. That's fake bravery. It's not bravery when you don't go after people in the lowest elements – whether they're Ampatuans or MILF or NPA. You should have done that before, but now you're going to be president because you're successful in promoting yourself."

Palparan was generous with his advice should the mayor become president. Address corruption. Limit campaign spending. Reform the Commission on Audit. Make high quality the standard for public bidding instead of lowest offer. Uphold the rule of law.

"Hopefully, you will get people to your side who believes in our Constitution, and who will defend our Constitution – and you should also defend the Constitution."

#### **Inspiring their constituents**

At the height of Palparan's popularity, the former commander of the 7th Division of the Philippine Army insisted that communism "has got to vanish."

He called it "a monstrous and bad idea" that "should not exist." A communist, he once said, could be distinguished by body language – and that all moderates become communists in the end.

"I encourage people victimized by communist rebels to get even," he told media before his arrest. "The killings are being attributed to me, but I did not kill them, I just inspire the triggermen."

The same sort of ideological commitment is present in the Duterte campaign.

No criminal can be rehabilitated, Duterte told Esquire. In his city, every criminal is "a legitimate target for assassination."

"You know, guilt is personal," he said in 2005. "Guilt is personal. There is no guilt by association just because I'm the mayor talking here nonsense. Each time I threaten them, there's always a qualification: 'You terrorists, fuck you, I'm going to kill you!' As you see, they end up dead."

If anything, there is a fundamental quality to both strongmen. Both are charismatic men who have the capacity to inspire their constituents.

The retired general said he is not against helping Duterte should the mayor he called a coward win the presidency.

"Even if you're not desirable as a president, I hope you become desirable for the sake of good governance. I would say if you need me, I will be there, but if you don't I won't volunteer. I'm just saying

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this. I won't volunteer, but if you ask for me, and there's sincerity – though you may just call me and then put me in danger – I'll think about it."

Palparan said he would have volunteered to join Duterte's new government for the sake of the people, "but it might be too ironic." – Rappler.com

### **Troops arrest organized crime group leader**

From the Sun Star-Zamboanga (May 6):

GOVERNMENT security forces arrested the leader of an organized crime group (OCG) involved in the killing of a Swiss national over a year ago in Palawan, a military official announced Friday.

Major Filemon Tan, Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson, identified the arrested OCG leader as Manuel Raquel alias Abdusallam.

Tan said Raquel was arrested in a law enforcement operation around 5 a.m. Friday in the village of Salawagan, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.

The major said the operatives have seized a caliber .45 pistol with ammunition and a grenade from Raquel's possession.

He said Raquel was involved in the killing of Cyril End, a Swiss national, on December 14, 2014 in Busuanga, Palawan.

He said Raquel is an associate of Milquiadaes Abrera alias Mikhail and Abdullah Ilao alias Abu Nur, both members of a known OCG in Luzon.

"Manuel Raquel's name was found in the list of names and location of organized crime groups, a ledger seized in possession of a ranking crime group leader in Luzon," he added.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph>

### **Lanao del Sur security forces ready for May 9 polls**

From GMA News (May 6):

The Philippine National Police (PNP) in Lanao del Sur will deploy more than 1,000 personnel to stand guard in all voting centers in the province, the Philippine Information Agency reported.

Police Senior Supt., Rustom C Duran, PNP provincial director, delivered the report during the Provincial Coordinating Conference of the PNP, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Education, and Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Duran added that the PNP has 14 quick reaction forces (QRF) that would respond to security-related concerns, augment security forces in other areas and even act as Special Board of Election Inspectors, in case the assigned BEIs fail to report for duty.

Meanwhile, 103rd Infantry Brigade commanding officer Col. Roseller Murillo said three battalions will be deployed in the province.

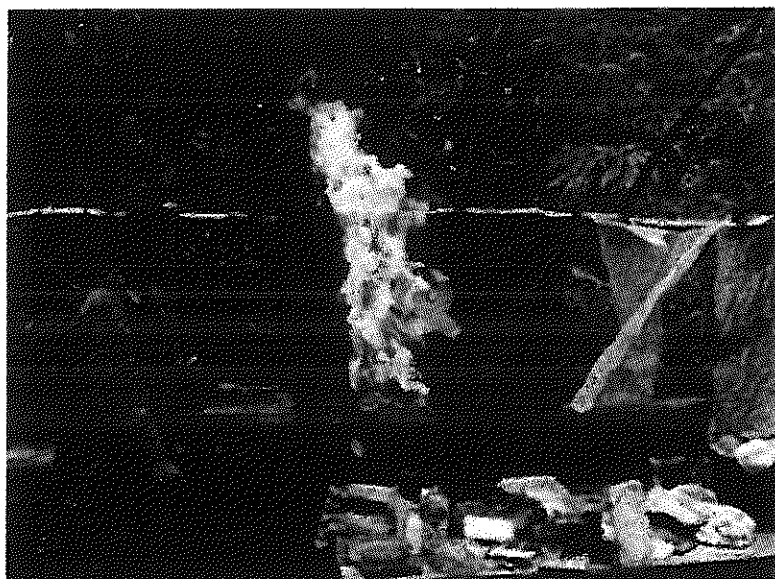
<http://www.gmanetwork.com>

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## **AFP probes NPA campaigning for presidential bet**

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (May 6):



INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

The military is checking reports that communist rebels campaigning for national candidates in Samar have threatened to execute local officials if their bets lose in their areas.

At least 10 armed New People's Army members were seen campaigning for a certain presidential candidate and a congressional candidate in Barangay Candomacol, Motiong in Samar.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said the rebels threatened to execute barangay officials if their endorsed candidates lost in their respective areas.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Padilla, however, did not name the candidates being lobbied for by the rebels, to avoid being dragged into political partisan conflict.

"I believe there was no gunfire, no violence that ensued. We are following up on these reports and the necessary activities to secure these areas so that people can freely choose who they want to vote for without being intimidated by these armed groups," he said.

He added that the residents of barangays Calapi, Bunga, and Malobago in Motiong, Samar, requested the military for additional troops due to the presence of the NPA.

"The AFP has responded to these reports and continues to monitor threat groups like the NPA who are terrorizing our communities," Padilla said.

Two days ago, around 20 NPA rebels gathered 30 residents of Barangay De-It in Malugumao, Samar, who were political leaders of a mayoralty candidate that they were trying to influence.

Padilla assured the public that ground units have been providing convoy escort, patrols, clearing and security operations, and joint checkpoint operations in cooperation with the Philippine National Police.

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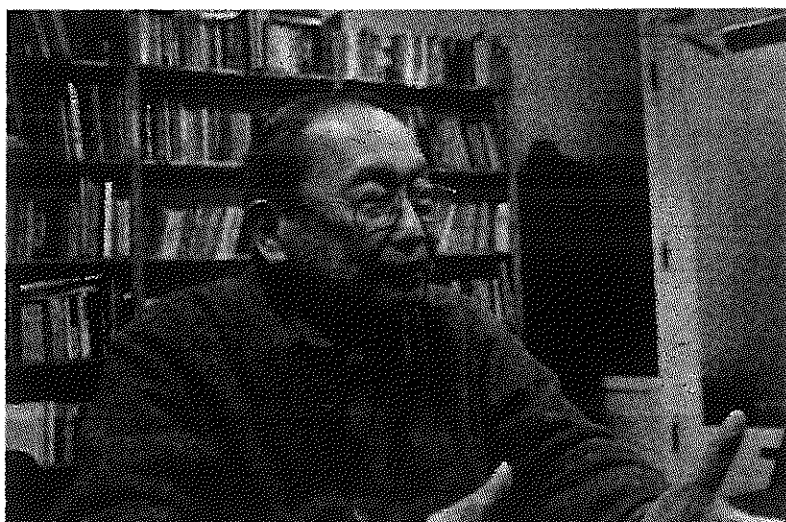
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In the towns of San Francisco, Puro, Tudela, and Pilar in Cebu, personnel from the 47th Infantry Battalion delivered hundreds of vote counting machines, ballot box with body and top covers, and battery kits.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

### **Joma Sison hits Trillanes for maliciously edited video**

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (May 5):



*National Democratic Front (NDF) chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison talks to Philippine media at the NDF office in Utrecht in December 2015. Photo by Kristine Angeli Sabillo/INQUIRER.net*

An “anticommunist rant”—that was how Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria “Joma” Sison described an edited video posted by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV on Facebook claiming a “Duterte-Joma Sison alliance.”

The video, which runs for two minutes and 45 seconds, shows presidential candidate Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte talking to Sison through a video conference app.

Sison could be heard talking about a coalition and telling Duterte that his camp was the only one that had shown understanding of the National Democratic Front’s (NDF) program.

They talked about the prospects of the upcoming national elections and the possibility of cheating, which Sison said their groups should unite against.

Trillanes posted the video on May 3, claiming that it confirmed a “Duterte-Joma Sison alliance.” It now has almost one million views on Facebook.

But Sison, who went into exile in the Netherlands in the 1980s, said Trillanes was just being desperate.

He said the senator, who is running for vice president, wanted to “spin” the video for “rabid anticommunist purposes.”

The reference to the CPP was taken out of context, he said, adding that Trillanes was looking for other ways to hit Duterte after BPI, the Anti-Money Laundering Council and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas denied releasing the documents purportedly showing that the mayor had P200 million in his bank account.

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The NDF's chief political consultant said the video was just an excerpt of an eight-minute video released by the Exodus for Justice and Peace (EJP), a third-party facilitator on the release of prisoners of war.

A copy of the original video posted on Youtube showed Sison thanking Duterte for facilitating the release of the police officers held by the New People's Army (NPA).

Duterte, on the other hand, talked about the economic crisis and the widespread poverty in the country.

Asked what he meant by a coalition, Sison told INQUIRER.net that he was looking at a possible alliance of the revolutionary movement—the CPP-NPA-NDF—with Duterte against electoral fraud.

"Kung makaupo naman siya bilang presidente, posible rin ang alliance bilang bunga ng GPH-NDFP peace negotiations," Sison said.

(If he becomes president, there is a possible alliance resulting from the Government of the Philippines-NDF of the Philippines peace negotiations.)

In the full video, Sison tells Duterte that he hoped there would be "national unity, peace and development" during the next administration. He goes on to discuss the need for national industrialization and land reform.

Duterte, on the other hand, tells the CPP founder that he follows the path of socialism.

"I am a socialist though I am not a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines. And I belong to the left," the mayor says.

Sison does not comment on this and instead says it is important for a candidate to include programs on poverty in his electoral platform.

"Syempre pag kayo ang nasa posisyon na, mas marami kayong magagawa. Mas mapapatupad ang inyong misyon at vision para sa kabutihan ng sambayanang Pilipino," he says.

Sison reiterated that as a revolutionary organization, the CPP was not part of the electoral process and would not endorse any candidate.

In a previous interview with INQUIRER.net, he weighed in on the five presidential candidates.

#### **READ: Joma Sison talks about former student Duterte, other candidates**

Although he said he could not call Duterte "the best President the Philippines can have since Marcos," he recognized that the mayor had "strength of character," especially after opposing a US proposal to make Davao City a base for its drone operations.

Duterte has long been criticized by some groups for having close ties with the left.

Sison, however, earlier pointed out that the mayor had flip-flopped on his statements on the NPA.

During the last interview, Sison said the documents presented by Trillanes seemed fake.

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"Nakuryente si Trillantes ng mga mismong kasamahan niya. Halata ito sa paglista ng supposed properties ni Duterte. Isinali pati properties ng ka-epelyido niya," he said.

**READ: Trillanes wants to see Duterte's 'bank transaction history'**

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

### **100-strong Quick Reaction Force augments security in Mindoro**

From Update.Ph (May 6):

A Quick Reaction Force (QRF) from the headquarters of 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay, Rizal arrived in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro morning of today, the Southern Luzon Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said.

The QRF will augment security forces and help ensure a secured and fair elections (SAFE) in the island province of Mindoro.

The 100-strong QRF will be under the operational control of the 203rd Infantry Brigade which covers Oriental and Occidental Mindoro Provinces and Romblon.

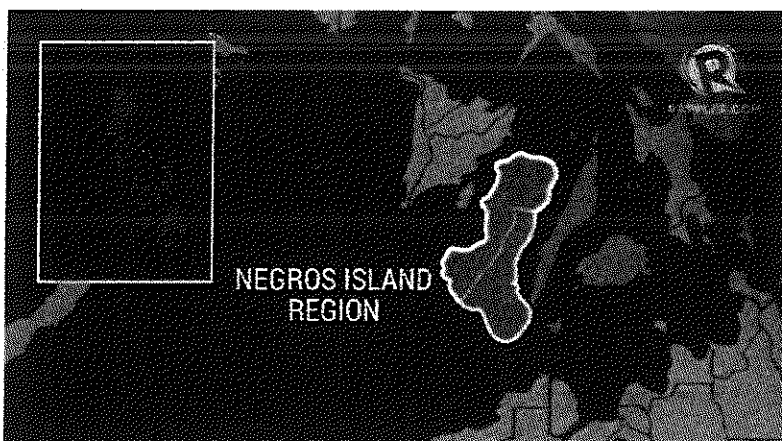
"We welcome the deployment of the QRF. They will help address exigencies on a worst case scenario that is NPA armed intervention during the elections," said 203rd Infantry Brigade commander Colonel Gevin D. Edjawan.

<http://www.update.ph>

### **8 election hot spots, 4 'areas of concern' tagged in Negros Island**

From Rappler (May 6):

*Localities are placed on a watch list if they have current incidents or have a history of election-related violence, intense political rivalry, presence of armed groups, and hotly-contested political positions*



Eight election hot spots and 4 areas of concern were identified in Negros Island, a newly created region in the Visayas where presidential candidates Manuel Roxas II and Grace Poe are currently leading in terms of voter preferences.

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It has about 2.5 million voters.

Additional forces have been sent to Negros Oriental for the security requirements of the cities of Guihulngan, Canlaon, and Bais and the towns of La Libertad, Siaton, Tanjay, Pamplona and Sta. Catalina, said police Senior Superintendent Harris Fama, acting director of Negros Oriental Police Provincial Office.

Fama gave assurances that contingency plans for the elections on Monday, May 9, are already in place.

As of this writing, a total of 1,442 police personnel have been deployed to augment local forces to maintain police visibility and secure polling centers in the province's 3 districts. Additional checkpoints were also installed.

Negros Oriental is among the election watchlist areas (EWAs) of the Philippine police, joining Pangasinan, Masbate, Western Samar, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Abra, Nueva Ecija, and Lanao del Norte.

Localities are placed under the EWA list if they have current incidents or have a history of election-related violence, intense political rivalry, presence of armed groups, and hotly-contested political positions.

Guihulngan City was placed under Category 3, meaning there is intense political rivalry and presence of armed groups. The rest of the cities and towns were placed under Category 2 because of the reported presence of armed groups.

Meanwhile, 4 localities in neighboring province Negros Occidental are considered "areas of concern". Regional police Chief Superintendent Conrado Capa said they are the towns of Isabel, Escalante City, Moises Padilla, and Toboso, where a series of shooting incidents and violence were reported since the start of the election period.

Capa said there are more than 4,000 police forces in the entire region. Up to 15% of the local police strength will remain in police stations, consisting of quick reaction teams and the personnel designated to monitor municipal elections, Capa said.

The military said they are also ready to support the local police. Colonel Francisco Delfin, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, said 3 battalions are ready to be deployed.

Delfin said Army troops will be deployed in different areas, while police forces will be assigned to the polling precincts. Navy boats and Air Force choppers are on stand-by, he said.

The April 27-May 1 Standard poll conducted by Laylo Research Strategies shows that most of the voters in the region prefer Roxas (40%) or Poe (33%) to succeed President Benigno Aquino III.

National survey leader Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was chosen by only 18% of voters in the region. The error margin for the region is 10 percentage points.

<http://www.rappler.com>

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### **DND assists cloud seeding operations**

From the Philippine Information Agency (May 5):

The Department of Agriculture has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of National Defense (DND), ensuring the use of aircraft from the Armed Forces in the agriculture department's cloud seeding operations.

The MOA took effect immediately, after Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin signed it last May 2.

The DA has also tapped into a quick response fund worth P370.08 million, which has been allocated to the affected regions.

Prior to the agreement between the DA and the DND, the DA's Bureau of Soils and Water Management has deployed contracted aircraft to seed clouds for rain in identified vulnerable agricultural areas and watersheds to minimize the impact of El Niño to crop production.

To date, 252 sorties (352 flying hours) were conducted in various locations in the Provinces of North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Maguindanao, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao City, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Sur, Isabela, Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, and parts of Ifugao and Kalinga, with a success rate of 68 percent.

Missions were also undertaken in areas of wide magnitude, where the development of crops such as rice and corn are critical due to inadequate soil moisture.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph>

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### **Eastmincom ready for May 9**

From the Philippine Information Agency (May 6):

The Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) is all set for the conduct of the May 9 local and national elections.

In its statement the Eastmincom said they are ready to help ensure the conduct of safe and secure elections. In close partnership with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and in close coordination with the Commission of Elections (Comelec) the Eastmincom will be overseeing the Regions of 11, 12 and 13.

Inter-agency meetings were conducted between the Armed Forces of the Philippines, PNP and the COMELEC to fine tune election security plans and preparations that will create an environment allowing the people in the mentioned regions to cast their votes.

Aside from the synchronized troop deployment between the Eastmincom and PNP, the readiness requirement includes the activation of Election Monitoring Action Centers and Quick Reaction Teams at all levels.

Facilities and equipment were also readied for utilization by the Comelec when needed.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph>

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## **10 municipalities in Region 12 declared 'areas of concern'**

From MindaNews (May 6):

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Region 12 has declared 10 municipalities in the region as areas of concern or election watch list areas in connection with the May 9 general elections.

Lawyer Francisco Pobe, Comelec Region 12 director, said Friday such move **was** based on the results of the joint assessment conducted by police and military regarding the security situation in parts of the region.

He said the identified areas of concern comprise eight municipalities in Sultan Kudarat and two in Sarangani Province.

These are President Quirino, Bagumbayan, Isulan, Senator Ninoy Aquino, Columbio, Lebak, Kalamansig and Palimbang in Sultan Kudarat, and Glan and Kiamba in Sarangani.

"This is mainly for precautionary purposes because of the confirmed presence of armed groups and the intense political rivalries in these areas," he told MindaNews.

In Sultan Kudarat, Pobe said they are specifically concerned with the monitored movements of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, "rogue" former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and several private armed groups.

He said they are closely watching Sarangani Province in the wake of the killing last month of a barangay chair in Glan town and the death threats received by re-electionist Mayor Raul Martinez of Kiamba town.

Police earlier recovered a decapitated head at a portion of Poblacion in Kiamba that was accompanied by a threatening note against Mayor Martinez.

Pobe said he directed police and Army units operating in these areas to intensify their security operations and maximize their presence or deployment in strategic places.

Citing their monitoring, he said the Police Regional Office (PRO) 12 has already implemented its deployment plan for the elections.

PRO-12 deployed starting on Friday two police personnel in each of the region's polling precincts.

It also directed local police units to establish police assistance bases or centers in all polling centers.

Pobe reiterated that they have not declared any "hotspot" or area that should be placed under Comelec control for Monday's polls.

"The entire region has been relatively peaceful these past months and we expect the same situation on election day," he added.

<http://www.mindanews.com>

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### **Montevista now a conflict-manageable, development-ready area**

From the Philippine Information Agency (May 6):

NABUNTURAN, Compostela Valley - - The municipality of Montevista in this province is declared earlier today as conflict-manageable and development-ready area (CMDRA) at town's plaza.

Montevista is the third CMDRA municipality in Compostela Valley following Nabunturan and Monkayo.

10th Infantry Division Assistant Commander Col Casiano Monilla emphasized that with the declaration, the military renewed its commitment to continue what they started and to enhance the cooperation with the local government and the community.

Col Monilla stressed that being a CMDRA, the local chief executive will take the lead in the peace and development efforts in the barangays.

"Pero hindi magrereduce ang efforts ng kasundaluhan (But the efforts of the soldiers will not be reduced). We will follow the lead of the Mayor to create a synergy in our actions," he said.

During the program, Montevista Mayor Eutropio Jayectin, Col. Monilla, Compostela Valley and Provincial Police Director PSSupt Alberto Ignatius Ferro, among others, signed in the Memorandum of Understanding for the declaration.

The officials also released doves and white balloons to cap the declaration event.

According to reports, the municipality of Mawab in the province will be declared as CMDRA on June 2016.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph>

### **SOLCOM quick reaction force now in Oriental Mindoro**

From the Philippine News Agency (May 6):

The Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) has deployed a 100-strong quick reaction force (QRF) in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro Friday as an augmentation to secure the May 9 national and local elections in the area.

Lt. Col. Angelo Guzman, SOLCOM spokesperson, said the QRF came from the 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal.

The unit will augment security forces in Mindoro Oriental.

Guzman said the QRF will be under the operational control of the 203rd Infantry Brigade which covers Oriental and Occidental Mindoro and Romblon.

"We welcome the deployment of the QRF. They will help address exigencies on a worst case scenario that is NPA armed intervention during the elections," 203rd Infantry Brigade commander Col. Gevin D. Edjawan.

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

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## South China Sea: Who Claims What in the Spratlys?

From The Diplomat (May 6):

(By Alexander L. Vuving)

*A closer look at a basic yet poorly understood question.*

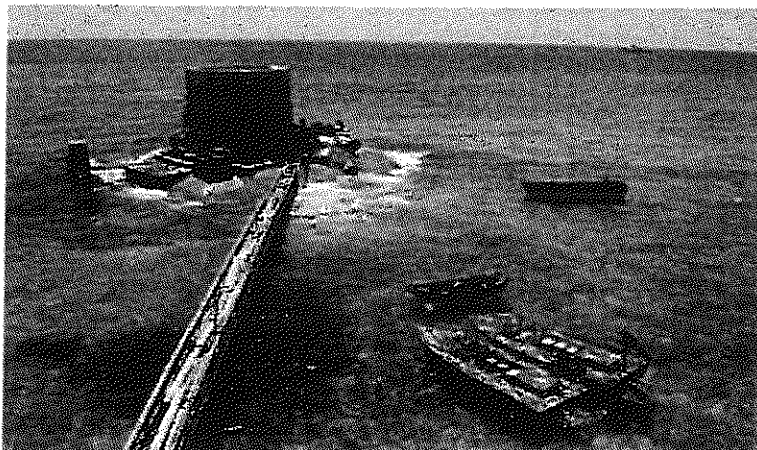


Image Credit: REUTERS/Stringer

The discourse on the South China Sea disputes is understandably laden with emotion. That is arguably a reason why debate on the subject should be based on facts. And yet, as Bill Hayton has noted, “Unreliable evidence is clouding the international discourse on the South China Sea disputes.” Indeed, it sometimes feels like a thick veil is hiding the truth about the South China Sea.

Consider, for instance, the argument that China, far from being the aggressor in the South China Sea, is in fact merely reacting to unilateral provocations by others such as Vietnam. That conclusion is based on some rather questionable evidence, including the suggestion that Vietnam has “doubled its holdings” in the South China Sea in the past 20 years. Even if one assumes that Vietnam occupied 24 features in 1996 (the actual data from which the map often drawn for this line of argument actually specifies 22), the idea that there has been some sort of doubling is misleading. The source for this claim – a 2015 congressional testimony by a senior U.S. defense official – in fact specified 48 *outposts* amongst the features occupied by Vietnam in the Spratly Islands, rather than 48 *features*. Using a 20-year timeline is also equally misleading because it leaves out China’s seizure of Mischief Reef 21 years ago.

But more broadly, the issue is that there is still no real clarity about who owns what in the Spratly Islands. It is not uncommon to find articles – and sometimes even publicly available documents, maps and data – that contain inaccurate, conflicting and sometimes unreliable information. This piece attempts to address that issue by looking at who actually occupies what in the Spratlys. In investigating these questions, I have consulted multiple sources, many of which are primary, and interviewed several people knowledgeable about the subject matters. The information obtained has also been carefully checked.

### **Vietnam**

Vietnam currently occupies 21 features in the Spratly Islands, with the latest taken a few days after a bloody clash on March 14, 1988 with China at Johnson South Reef. A full list of these features with their names and coordinates was publicized in the April 22, 1988 issue of *Nhan Dan*, the Vietnamese government’s mouthpiece. They are:

1. Southwest Cay (Vietnamese: *Song Tu Tay*),

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2. South Reef (*Da Nam*),
3. Petley Reef (*Nui Thi* or *Da Thi*),
4. Sand Cay (*Son Ca*),
5. Namyt Island (*Nam Yet*),
6. Discovery Great Reef (*Da Lon*),
7. Sin Cowe Island (*Sinh Ton*),
8. Collins Reef (*Co Lin*),
9. Lansdowne Reef (*Len Dao*),
10. Sin Cowe East Island (*Sinh Ton Dong*),
11. Ladd Reef (*Da Lat*),
12. Spratly Island (*Truong Sa* or *Truong Sa Lon*),
13. West Reef (*Da Tay*),
14. Central Reef (*Truong Sa Dong*),
15. East Reef (*Da Dong*),
16. Pearson Reef (*Phan Vinh*),
17. Allison Reef (*Toc Tan*),
18. Cornwallis South Reef (*Nui Le*),
19. Pigeon or Tennent Reef (*Tien Nu*),
20. Barque Canada Reef (*Thuyen Chai*),
21. Amboyne Cay (*An Bang*).

In a map (hereafter: APMSS map) attached to its 2015 Asia-Pacific Maritime Security Strategy, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) identified 34 outposts on these 21 features. An “outpost” may be as large as an island and as small as a watchtower. East Reef, for example, is counted three times because the feature has not been developed into a single artificial island but remains marked at three locations by four octagonal pillboxes, each of which covers a few hundred square meters.

Vietnam also has a similar counting system, but it identifies only 33 outposts (*diem dong quan* or *diem dao* in Vietnamese). Why the discrepancy? The extra outpost counted by DoD is a lighthouse on Tennent Reef. Vietnam does not view it as an outpost because no troops are stationed there – it is operated by a civilian company that belongs to the Transportation Ministry. It is unclear when this lighthouse was built, but all the other 33 Vietnamese outposts were established prior to 1989.

The APMSS map also indicates that Vietnam has 14 more outposts in the Spratly Islands. Comparing the map with what exists on the ground – or, if you prefer, the water – we can see that they are the 14 lookout structures (*nha gian* in Vietnamese) that Vietnam is operating on six underwater banks located southwest of the Spratly Islands. Vietnam started to set up permanent structures on Vanguard Bank (Vietnamese: *Bai Tu Chinh*), Rifleman Bank (*Bai Vung May*), and Prince of Wales Bank (*Bai Phuc Tan*) in 1989, on Prince Consort Bank (*Bai Phuc Nguyen*) in 1990, and on Grainger Bank (*Bai Que Duong*) and Alexandra Bank (*Bai Huyen Tran*) in 1991. These platforms measure between 100 and 250 square meters each, and stand on shallow elevations lying between seven and 25 meters below the sea surface.

Whether these shoals form part of the Spratly Islands is a matter of debate. China’s maps group them together with the Spratlys proper while treating them as if they were landforms above water. As a result, the Chinese numbers of the Vietnamese-occupied features in the Spratly Islands range typically between 27 and 30. Vietnam argues that as the shoals lie deep under water and within 200 nautical miles (nm) from the Vietnamese baselines, they belong to Vietnam’s continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as stipulated in Article 76 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). According to UNCLOS, submarine features cannot be appropriated by occupation or otherwise.

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Eleven of the Vietnamese-held features in the Spratly Islands have natural portions showing more than 100 meters long above high tide. These are Southwest Cay, South Reef, Sand Cay, Namyt Island, Sin Cowe Island, Sin Cowe East Island, Lansdowne Reef, Spratly Island, Central Reef, Pearson Reef, and Amboyna Cay. Seven other features – Petley Reef, Discovery Great Reef, Collins Reef, West Reef, East Reef, Tennent Reef, and Barque Canada Reef – reportedly have portions that are naturally above water at high tide. These features may qualify as “islands” or “rocks” and may generate territorial waters in keeping with UNCLOS. Three features – Ladd Reef, Allison Reef, and Cornwallis South Reef – may be above water only at low tide. In the language of UNCLOS, they may be called “low-tide elevations,” which are not entitled to a territorial sea, EEZ, or continental shelf.

## Philippines

Philippine media typically reports either nine or ten Philippine-held features in the Spratly Islands. The tenth feature is Irving Reef (Filipino: *Balagtas*), which lies between Loaita Bank and West York Island. There are no structures on this reef, but unverified sources report that Philippine Navy ships take turns to guard the feature. If this is true, the status of Irving is similar to that of several other features that are watched by Chinese and Vietnamese vessels but remain unoccupied.

Given this, the nine features held by the Philippines in the Spratly Islands are:

1. Northeast Cay (Filipino: *Parola*),
2. Thitu Island (*Pag-asa*),
3. Loaita Cay (*Panata*),
4. Loaita Island (*Kota*),
5. West York Island (*Likas*),
6. Flat Island (*Patag*),
7. Nanshan Island (*Lawak*),
8. Second Thomas Shoal (*Ayungin*),
9. Commodore Reef (*Rizal*).

This roster disagrees with the more popular lists of the Philippine-occupied features on the location of *Panata*. Most of the Philippine sources render the English name of *Panata* as Lankiam Cay, a tiny sand dune located 8 nm east-northeast of Loaita Island. Most of the international literature also lists Lankiam Cay and Loaita Island as the two features occupied by the Philippines in Loaita Bank. But the APMSS map shows no outpost at Lankiam Cay. Instead, it locates the second Philippine outpost in Loaita Bank at an unidentified reef northwest of Loaita Island. Some Chinese and Vietnamese sources identify this Philippine-occupied feature as Loaita Nan. However, the coordinates commonly associated with Loaita Nan (10° 42.5' N, 114° 19.5' E) refer to the reef that forms the western edge of Loaita Bank, where no structures are visible from satellite images available in Google Maps. At the same time, small structures are visible on Loaita Cay (10° 44' N, 114° 21' E), which might be thought of as part of Loaita Nan but actually lies east across a seven-meter deep channel. Loaita Cay is 6.5 nm northwest of Loaita Island.

Between 1970 and 1978, the Philippine moved in to occupy seven features in the Spratlys, with troops stationed on five islands. Flat Island, which lies about 6 nm north of Nanshan Island, appeared to be controlled by a garrison based at Nanshan until 2011, when some starshell-like structures were built on Flat to house a more permanent presence. A documentary produced by a local TV network in 2004 reported that only four soldiers were guarding both features from their shelters on Nanshan. A similar method appeared to be applied to the features in Loaita Bank, with Loaita Island serving as the base for the garrison until additional facility was erected on Loaita Cay. Some sources report that Lankiam Cay had a beach of more than five hectares in the past, but strong waves brought by a typhoon washed out the sandy surface of the island, leaving behind the calcarenite foundation that can be seen at low tide.

The start date of the Philippine occupation of Commodore Reef remains uncertain. Philippine troops

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landed on the reef in August 1980 and removed a marker that Malaysia installed there a few months before, but it is unknown whether they stayed or left after the operation. One report states that they deserted it since 1986, but it is currently occupied by a military detachment.

In 1999, the Philippines occupied Second Thomas Shoal by running the tank landing ship BRP *Sierra Madre* aground and using it as a shelter for a small garrison. Of note, the Pentagon does not count the Philippine station on Second Thomas Shoal as an outpost, although the contrary view is prevalent in the Philippines. This shoal is also the only low-tide elevation among the features occupied by the Philippines. All the other eight are visible above water at high tide.

## Taiwan

Itu Aba Island (Chinese: 太平島) is the only feature occupied by Taiwan in the Spratlys. It is also the largest natural land feature in the archipelago. Taiwan sometimes is said to hold two features there. This is likely to be inferred from reports of Taiwan erecting structures (in 1995 and 2004) and its officials landing (in 2003 and 2012) on Ban Than Reef. However, the best description of Ban Than's current status is "unoccupied." Ban Than has a beach less than 100 meters long, which lies about 2.5 nm from Itu Aba and about 4 nm from the Vietnamese-occupied Sand Cay. The Pentagon identifies no outpost on Ban Than, and no structures are visible in recent satellite images as well as photos of the reef. Sources with local knowledge told me that both Taiwanese and Vietnamese troops have occasionally planted materials on Ban Than and used them as targets for their live-fire exercises.

## China

In the Spratly Islands, China has occupied six features since 1988 and Mischief Reef since 1995. The seven features occupied by China in the Spratly Islands are:

1. Subi Reef (Chinese: 渚碧礁 Zhubi Jiao),
2. Gaven Reef (南薰礁 Nanxun Jiao),
3. Hughes Reef (东门礁 Dongmen Jiao),
4. Johnson South Reef (赤瓜礁 Chigua Jiao),
5. Fiery Cross Reef (永暑礁 Yongshu Jiao),
6. Cuarteron Reef (华阳礁 Huayang Jiao),
7. Mischief Reef (美济礁 Meiji Jiao).

When the Pentagon in May 2015 said there were eight Chinese outposts in the Spratly Islands, some thought that the eighth was Eldad Reef. But the APMSS map released three months later shows two outposts on Mischief alone, and none on Eldad. This is a fact that has often been missed.

In addition, some accounts have mistakenly identified some features such as Eldad Reef, Whitsun Reef, Ladd Reef, and McKennan Reef as being occupied by China. For instance, two popular maps produced in 2015 by Reuters and AFP still reflected the incorrect information about Eldad Reef and Lankiam Cay. The mistaken status of Eldad, Whitsun, and Ladd Reefs is likely to have been inferred from reports about Vietnam protesting against Chinese troops landing on Eldad Reef in 1990, *Da Ba Dau* in March 1992 and *Da Lac* in July 1992. *Da Ba Dau* was identified as the Vietnamese name for Whitsun Reef, but *Da Lac* was mistakenly thought to be Ladd Reef (*Da Lat* in Vietnamese), which actually was occupied by Vietnam. In fact, *Da Lac* is the Vietnamese name for Gaven South Reef, a low-tide elevation 2 nm from Gaven Reef.

The APMSS map shows no Chinese outposts on any other reefs except the seven listed above. Some reports citing Philippine intelligence sources in June 2015 alleged that China had reclaimed land on

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Eldad Reef. However, separate sources with local knowledge later confirmed that Eldad as well as Whitsun, McKennan, and Gaven South Reefs remained unoccupied.

Still, the unoccupied status of these features is fragile. Both Eldad Reef and Whitsun Reef have strategic value. They form the eastern edge of two major groups in the Spratlys – Tizard Bank and Union Bank. They have also gradually “become” islands. Sailing directions prior to the mid-1990s suggest that they were low-tide elevations. But today each reef bears a 100-meter long sand dune that has reportedly grown in area and height. A smaller sand dune has also emerged on McKennan Reef, which is often confused with Hughes Reef but actually lies 1 nm west. Several stories in the Vietnamese social media suggest that Eldad, Whitsun, and McKennan are frequently sites of quiet cat-and-mouse games between China and Vietnam, one attempting to get a foothold on these ‘new islands’ while the other tries to frustrate these efforts.

A similar situation has been going on at South Luconia Shoal (Malay: *Beting Patinggi Ali*) 84 nm off the coast of Malaysia’s Sarawak. Both Chinese and Malaysian officials have confirmed that China’s vessels have been continually present at the shoal since 2013. Intriguingly, one of the features in the shoal, Luconia Breakers (Malay: *Beting HEMPASAN BANTIN*), appears to have changed status from a low-tide elevation to a “small island,” to use the words of Malaysia’s Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Shahidan Kassim. Satellite images and aerial photos show a sand dune of about 70 meters in length on this feature. They also show Chinese Coast Guard vessels, shadowed by Malaysian Navy ships, anchoring near the ‘new island.’

Some scholars argue that Luconia Breakers was reclaimed into an artificial island by Malaysia sometime prior to 2009. But this argument makes little sense. As the coastal state with an EEZ over the shoal, Malaysia has a strong interest in keeping the feature submerged. A 2012 judgment by the International Court of Justice stated that “low-tide elevations cannot be appropriated.” Following from this, Luconia Breakers might be legally protected from China’s sovereignty claim if it remains a low-tide elevation.

Some have questioned whether such a rapid elevation could indeed have occurred naturally in a short period of time. But this is hardly an uncommon occurrence. The emergence of small sand dunes has been registered during the last few decades at several reefs in the Spratly Islands, with Eldad, Whitsun, McKennan, and Ban Than being some prominent examples. With the help of waves and wind, coral sediment can either form growing sand dunes or be washed away – as might be the case with Lankiam Cay – without any movements of the reef foundation.

Hydrographic evidence presented by the Philippines at the Permanent Court of Arbitration suggests that three of the seven Chinese-held features, including Fiery Cross, Cuarteron and Johnson South, have portions above water during high tide, but the other four, including Subi, Gaven, Hughes, and Mischief Reefs are low-tide elevations in their original nature before the massive land reclamation program since 2013 that turned all the seven into artificial islands.

## Malaysia

As with the case of the Philippines, the number of Malaysian-held features in the Spratlys varies depending on how one defines occupation. Most accounts typically speak of either five or eight features. Malaysia has troops and facilities stationed on five features:

1. Swallow Reef (Malay: *Layang-Layang*), since 1983,
2. Ardasier Reef (*Ubi*), since 1986,
3. Mariveles Reef (*Mantanani*), since 1986,
4. Erica Reef (*Siput*), since 1999,

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5. Investigator Shoal (*Peninjau*), since 1999.

Several sources also list three more features, including Dallas Reef (*Laya*), Royal Charlotte Reef (*Semarang Barat Besar*), and Louisa Reef (*Semarang Barat Kecil*), as occupied by Malaysia. However, more recent, reliable, and knowledgeable sources from Malaysia, Brunei, and the United States confirm that there are in fact no troops stationed on these three features.

Malaysia appears to “occupy” Dallas Reef in a similar way to how the Philippines did with Flat Island. Troops from nearby Ardasier Reef, which lies about 3 nm from Dallas Reef, may watch and visit the latter on a regular basis. Royal Charlotte and Louisa Reefs, on the other hand, can hardly be classified as “occupied.” While there is a beacon on Royal Charlotte, visitors report that it was inactive and there were no other structures on the reef. Visitors have also found Louisa deserted with no other structures than an obelisk-shaped beacon, which was also not working. Among these eight features, Swallow, Mariveles, Erica, Royal Charlotte, and Louisa Reefs reportedly have some natural portions protruding above high tide, while Ardasier, Dallas, and Investigator are likely low-tide elevations. The beacons on Royal Charlotte and Louisa might have been built by Malaysia in the 1980s as a means to assert sovereignty over the two reefs.

## Brunei

The only feature in the Spratly Islands that is claimed by Brunei is Louisa Reef. According to official statements by Malaysia and Brunei, an Exchange of Letters signed in 2009 has “established the final delimitation of territorial sea, continental shelf, and exclusive economic zone” between the two countries. The agreement unequivocally states that Brunei has sovereignty over two oil blocks within which Louisa Reef is located.

Although Malaysia has not officially dropped its territorial claims over this feature, the agreement with Brunei substantially weakens Malaysia’s claims. As both Malaysia and Brunei have grounded their sovereignty claims over Louisa on the basis of coastal state rights, Malaysia’s acknowledgement of Brunei’s territorial sea, continental shelf, and EEZ is tantamount to effectively conceding Louisa Reef to Brunei. However, this appears to be a tacit understanding rather than an official agreement of any kind. The Exchange of Letters has yet to be publicized, and even if it would be made public, there would likely be no mentioning of Louisa. This is certainly the case with Limbang District, the other territorial dispute between Brunei and Malaysia.

For all the attention that has been focused on the South China Sea disputes, there is still little clarity on some basic realities such as who owns what. As Bill Hayton has demonstrated, much of the literature relies on historical accounts that “use unreliable bases from which to write reliable histories.” It is hoped that this article is a step in the right direction towards lifting the thick veil that often conceals the truth about these disputes.

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