

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 May 2016

Tuesday

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

10 MAY 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast		The Phil Star p.A23
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Duterte heads for landslide	Niña Calleja	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	Top NPA leader in Southern Mindanao falls	Alexander Lopez	Manila Bulletin p.13
5	1 dead in Maguindanao blast	John Uson	PhilStar p.A-23
6	NPA leader in Davao region falls	Jaime Laude	The Phil Star p.A23
7-8	Violence, confusion mar polls in Mindanao	Ali Macabalang	Manila Bulletin p.13
9-10	7 killed in Cavite election day massacre	Maricar Cinco	PDI p.A6
11-12	Blood spills on election day: at least 14 killed	Anthony Giron	Manila Bulletin p.1
13	Top NPA commander captured in Davao City	Mario Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.3
14	2 polling centers in Lanao del Sur	PNA	The Daily Tribune p.3
15-16	NPA Samar attack on escorts for VCM courier		www.interaksyon.com/national
17	2 Army men clearing way for election personnel hurt in bomb blast	Alvin Santiago	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
18	Troops in election Duty attacked by NPAs with IED in Compostella Valley	-	www.pna.gov
19	PHOTO: Glimpse of voting in the province		PDI p.A18
AFP RELATED NEWS			
20	13 dead but generally peaceful	Alexis Romero	PDI p.A1
21	Joma to "President Duterte: Let's talk peace"	Delfin Mallari	PDI p.A10
22	13 killed as violence erupts on election day	Francisco Tuyay	The Standard p.A2
23	Military operation vs ASG continues	Anthony Vargas	The Manila Times p.A3

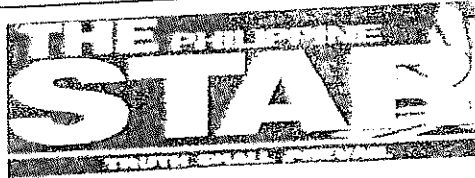
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

24	Duterte: US military must follow guidelines prescribed by AFP under EDCA	Artemio Dumlao	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
COMMENTARY			
25	Salamat teachers, PNP, AFP at PPRCV	Marlon Purificacion	Peoples tonight p.4
ONLINE NEWS			
26-27	CPP denies endorsing Duterte's presidential		www.philstar.com
28	NPA attacks mayor's property in Isabela; guard hurt		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
29	1 killed, 1 hurt in Basilan house shooting <u>2 hurt in Maguindanao blasts</u>		www.inquirer.net www.pna.gov.ph
30-31	Nascent peace deal at risk amid Philippines' political uncertainty		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
32	Duterte to appoint military men: 'I want military men'		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

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

May 2016



Page: 123

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ANG KINAKALAKALAN

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Mondays to Sundays

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:30 AM	6:15 PM	8:42 AM	9:51 PM
3:30 AM MAY 7	1:02 AM MAY 14	8:11 PM -0.00 Meter	11:46 AM 1.23 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST MAY 10, 2016 | TUESDAY

LARAG CITY 25 - 35 °C	TIAGUEMAN CITY 25 - 39 °C
BAHAG CITY 18 - 26 °C	
SMALL CARK 26 - 36 °C	MAITIMAN CITY 26 - 35 °C
TAAGTAY CITY 23 - 33 °C	
MINO O BACLO CITY 26 - 33 °C	TAAGTAY CITY 26 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 27 - 34 °C	MAITIMAN CITY 26 - 32 °C
	MAITIMAN CITY 27 - 33 °C
	MAITIMAN CITY 24 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 25 - 34 °C	MAITIMAN CITY 26 - 35 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	MAY 11 WED	MAY 12 THU	MAY 13 FRI	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	MAY 11 WED	MAY 12 THU	MAY 13 FRI
MAITIMAN CITY	25 °C 37 °C	26 °C 36 °C	25 °C 36 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	27 °C 35 °C	26 °C 34 °C	27 °C 34 °C
BAHAG CITY	25 °C 39 °C	25 °C 38 °C	25 °C 39 °C	MAITIMAN CITY	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 33 °C
MAITIMAN CITY	25 °C 35 °C	26 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	MAITIMAN CITY	26 °C 33 °C	27 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C
BAHAG CITY	16 °C 26 °C	17 °C 26 °C	17 °C 26 °C	MAITIMAN CITY	26 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C
MAITIMAN CITY	26 °C 36 °C	26 °C 35 °C	26 °C 36 °C	MAITIMAN CITY	24 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C
MAITIMAN CITY	22 °C 34 °C	22 °C 34 °C	23 °C 33 °C	MAITIMAN CITY	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C
MAITIMAN CITY	27 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	MAITIMAN CITY	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 35 °C	24 °C 34 °C

Partly cloudy skies

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

1

May 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: 41

Duterte heads for landslide

Marcos enjoys big lead over Robredo in VP contest

By Niña P. Calleja, Tarra Quismundo and Leila B. Salaverria

DAVAO CITY—Even before the polls closed on Monday afternoon, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte offered “reconciliation and healing” to his rivals in the race for Malacañang, which he appeared to have won.

“Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and the administration’s Leni Robredo, who were about 680,000 votes apart.

In the early count, Marcos received 6,536,505 votes and Robredo, 5,850,998 votes.

“I would like to reach my hand to my opponents. Let us

begin the healing of the land,” Duterte said in a talk with reporters immediately after he voted at Daniel Aguinaldo High School in Matina District here.

He said his offer of healing

Duterte was leading his rivals Sen. Grace Poe, Mar Roxas, Vice President Jejomar Binay and Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago by a wide margin in the early count of the presidential vote.

The vice presidential race was seen as a head-to-head contest between Sen. Ferdinand

covered “everyone,” including his main tormentor, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a vice presidential candidate who accused him of concealing millions of pesos

DUTERTE/A10

page A1

undisclosed bank accounts
sued him in the Office of the
ombudsman, alleging that he
argued for 11,000 nonexistent
employees of the Davao munic-
ipal government as the campaign
new to a close last week.

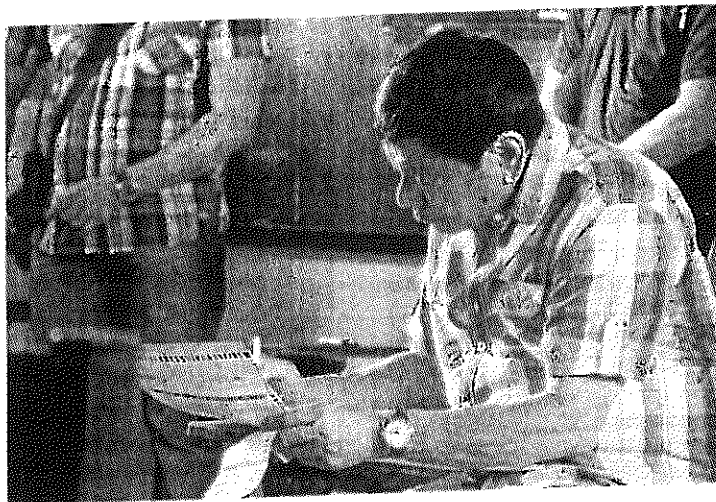
Duterte described the attacks
during the campaign as "viru-
lent," causing the candidates
in, especially those who were
with what he called "black
propaganda."

"If you don't accept the good-
will, that is fine," Duterte said,
appearing back to the thuggish pose
that he used to portray him-
self as a trash-talking, antiestab-
lishment politician to capture the
admiration of millions of ordi-
nary voters, who abandoned the
leading candidates and put him
at the head of the race in the last
few days of the campaign.

ivals alarmed

His promises to kill tens of
thousands of suspected crimi-
nals outside the justice system,
abolish Congress and declare a
revolutionary government if
lawmakers refuse to back his
policies or move for his im-
peachment if found guilty of
mass murder have alarmed ri-
vivals, who warned that he was a
dictator in the making.

Duterte's expletive-laden
speeches, including a talk with
reporters in which he called the
people a "son of a bitch," and in-
sensitive talk, such as joking at a
campaign rally that he had want-
ed to have been the first to rape
an Australian missionary who
was gang-raped and murdered in



DAVAO City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte votes to sure victory on Monday.

BARRY OHAYLAN/CONTRIBUTOR

a jailhouse riot in Davao in 1989,
did not dent his popularity but
instead seemed to have made
him more popular to voters.

As the vote came on Monday,
it was clear that he was the man
to beat in the race for the presi-
dency and in the early count of
the vote, he appeared to be
headed toward a landslide.

As of 7 p.m., Duterte, the stan-
dard-bearer of PDP-Laban (Partido
Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng
Bayan) had received 7,034,664
million votes, leading Sen. Grace
Poe by nearly 3 million votes.

His votes so far were from the
Luzon provinces of Abra, La
Union, Pampanga, Quezon and
Laguna, and Cebu, Leyte, Bili-
ran and Bohol in the Visayas.

Roxas is third

As expected, Duterte was
dominating the election in Min-
danao, including his bailiwick
Davao del Norte and Davao del
Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao

del Sur, the Lanao provinces,
Maguindanao, Sarangani,
South Cotabato and Sulu.

Poe, an independent candi-
date who led the early polls, so
far had 4,012,417 votes, while
the administration candidate
Mar Roxas was not far behind
with 3,847,989.

Vice President Jejomar Binay,
who had been banking on a come-
from-behind victory, had received
roughly just a third of Duterte's
votes, with 2,373,262 votes.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santia-
go placed last, still far from 1
million with just 744,707 votes.
It was her second attempt at the
presidency.

The INQUIRER's partial and un-
official tally is based on data
transmitted to the Commission
on Elections' transparency serv-
er at the Pope Pius XII Catholic
Center in Manila.

The INQUIRER is among a hand-
ful of news organizations given
access to real-time results.

The figures accounted for
18,823,706 votes, or 33.77 per-
cent of the total, covering
37,758 precincts.

In the vice presidential race,
Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano,
Duterte's running mate, was a far
third with 2,460,587, while inde-
pendent candidate Sen. Francis
"Chiz" Escudero, Poe's running
mate, had 2,081,343 votes.

Senators Antonio Trillanes IV
and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan
II, both bottom-dwellers in the
polls, remained below the half-
a-million-vote level: Trillanes
had 346,953, while Honasan
had 301,384.

PPCRV count

In the unofficial count of the
Parish Pastoral Council for Re-
sponsible Voting (PPCRV) as of
7 p.m., Duterte was leading his
rivals in the presidential race
and Marcos was ahead with a
slight margin in the vice presi-
dential contest.

With votes from 40.82 per-
cent of clustered precincts
counted, Duterte led the race
with 7,034,644 votes.

In second place was Poe with
4,012,417, followed by Roxas
with 3,847,989.

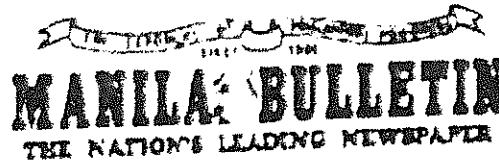
Binay was fourth with
2,373,262, followed by Santia-
go with 744,707 and the late
Roy Seneres with 9,933.

Marcos led the contest for the
vice presidency with 6,536,505
votes, followed by Robredo
with 5,850,998.

In third place was Cayetano
with 2,460,587, and Escudero
was fourth with 2,081,343.

Trillanes got 346,953 and
Honasan 301,384.

May 2016



Page: 13

Top NPA leader in Southern Mindanao falls

By **ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ**

DAVAO CITY – Elements of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), the 10th Infantry Division, Police Regional Office in Davao region (PRO-11), Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Davao City Police Office (DCPO) arrested on Sunday a top leader of the New People's Army (NPA) in Southern Mindanao, reports said.

Capt. Rhyen Batchar, chief information officer of the 10th ID identified the NPA leader as Arnulfo Laborada Mantes, 45, alias Mike, and believed to be the current Secretary of the Sub-Regional Committee 5 (SRC-5) of the NPA.

Batchar added that Mantes also served as the head of the Regional Political Military

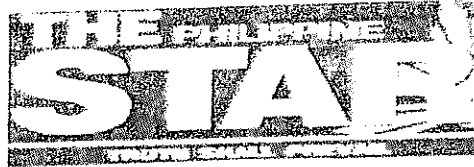
Academy (RPMA) of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC) of the NPA.

Mantes was arrested on Sunday in Barangay 76-A here.

Batchar said Mantes was arrested on the strength of warrants of arrest for charges of murder, and robbery filed in the courts of Malaybalay City and Kidapawan City, respectively.

"Mantes had been known for leading and planning the numerous NPA atrocities such as the burning of heavy equipment, murder of army personnel and ambush of Peace and Development Teams in several areas of Bukidnon and Davao del Norte. He is also involved in extorting monies from wealthy individuals, companies and even politicians," Batchar emphasized.

10 May 2016



Page: 423

1 dead in Maguindanao blast

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – A farmer died in an explosion in Datu Unsay town on Sunday night.

Police said Habiri Katapukan's shanty was hit by a 40-millimeter shoulder-fire projectile.

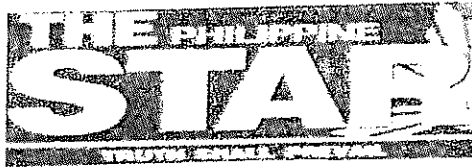
Unidentified men also fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a school in Pagalungan yesterday, but no one was reported hurt.

The explosion reportedly occurred when Mayor Pagalungan Salik Mamasabulod, who is seeking reelection, was voting.

Meanwhile, three supporters of a candidate for mayor in Mamasapano were hurt in a gun attack while another was attacked with wooden clubs on his way to a polling precinct.

Col. Romeo Brawner, commander of Task Force Clean, Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said soldiers immediately responded to the incidents, preventing the escalation of hostilities.

10 May 2016



Page: 423

NPA leader in Davao region falls

By JAIME LAUDE

A New People's Army (NPA) leader in the Davao region was arrested in Davao City on Sunday night.

Arnulfo Mantes, alias Ka Mike, is head of a regional academy of the Southern Mindanao committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines- NPA.

Mantes was arrested

while visiting his family in Barangay 76-A at 7:30 p.m., said Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, commander of the 10th Infantry Division.

Valencia said Mantes' arrest was based on the warrants issued by the regional trial courts of Malaybalay, Bukidnon and Kidapawan, North

Cotabato for murder and robbery.

Valencia said Mantes was also behind recent attacks on government troops and civilian targets in Bukidnon and Davao del Norte.

"He was also involved in extortion activities targeting wealthy individuals, companies and even politicians," he said.

16 May 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

Violence, confusion mar polls in Mindanao

COTABATO CITY - Several violent incidents in Maguindanao, reports of glitches in the Vote Counting Machines (VCMs), fake ballots and incidents of vote-buying marred the elections in Mindanao, even as voters remained in high spirits that Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte will complete a storied climb to become the first president to be elected from Southern Philippines.

At least five persons were killed, while 10 others were wounded in election-related violence in Maguindanao that happened in the 72 hours leading to the elections, according to the Army's Sixth Infantry Division. (See story on Page 1)

But this hardly put a dent on the frenzied election fever that swept through Mindanao that was also tainted by malfunctioning VCMs, the reported existence of fake ballots, and the buying of votes for amounts ranging from ₱300 to ₱5,000.

VCM breakdown

There, too, was an unconfirmed report that votes for Duterte in Lanao del Norte were being junked, after entries in the vote receipts of voters did not show the name of the Davao City mayor when,

in fact, they voted for him.

Incumbent Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Governor Mujiv Hataman cast his vote in his hometown in Basilan province while his rival candidate, Sulu Vice Governor Sakur Tan voted in Jolo.

Reelectionist Maguindanao Gov. Esmail "Toto" Mangudadatu cast his vote about 9 a.m. at the Lominog Mangelen Elementary School in Buluan town.

In Compostela Valley, voting could not start at Barangay Manurigao in New Bataan because Comelec officials have yet to fly into the far-flung village the two VCMs, and Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs).

Private armed groups

In a brief interview by accompanying journalists, Mangudadatu expressed concern about the refusal of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to approve a recommendation made by the provincial peace and order council (PPOC) to place six towns in Maguindanao under the poll agency's control because of the existence of private armed groups (PAGs).

Reports came from Tawi-Tawi that PAGs were sighted in South Ubian and Tandubas towns, but the Comelec said

their presence did not disrupt the conduct of the polls.

Mangudadatu's rival gubernatorial candidate Hadji Ali Midtimbang of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) cast vote in his hometown of Talayan where he was a former mayor.

Fake ballots

In Arakan, North Cotabato, where most of the farmers who participated in the infamous Kidapawan protest that resulted in the death of three persons, municipal police chief Sr. Insp. Argie Celeste admitted receiving a report about some teachers refusing to accept ballots because of suspicion of being fake in Barangay Malabatuan.

Abner Francisco, the anchorperson of the public affairs program of DXCA Charm Radio in Kidapawan City, corroborated Celeste's report and said he personally experienced the discrepancy.

"I went home to Arakan to vote. I am a registered voter in Clustered Precinct No. 32 in Malibatuan, Arakan. The VCM just rejected our ballots with a remark 'the paper you inserted is not original'. This means that the ballots that we used were all fakes," Francisco said.

He added that all of the registered voters who cast their votes in the barangay's clustered precincts had the same experience as ballots were also rejected.

Vote buying

In Marawi City and parts of Lanao del Sur, voters admitted receiving cash token from some political quarters, ranging from P300 to as much as P5,000 for each voter.

Some voters even posted photos of money stapled with campaign materials for a president candidate.

They said bigger cash dole-outs came from candidates for local positions, especially in Maguing and Lumbabaya-bao towns where mayoral bets reported doled out as much as P5,000 cash for each voter.

More than Maranao 100 residents in various parts of North Cotabato admitted going home to Lanao to cast vote due to money.

Replacement machines

In Butuan City, Comelec 13 Regional Director Renato A. Magbutay said there were 102 contingency (replacement) machines that were made available for

immediate deployment in polling centers in Caraga region where VCMs would bog down, including the jamming of the printed receipts.

The Comelec official explained that the cause of the paper jam might be due to wet hands of the voters, ballots that were not properly inserted into the VCMs.

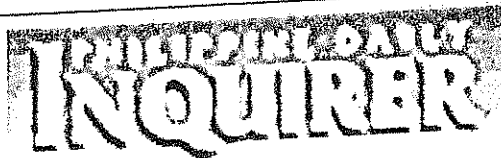
Such problems were experienced at polling precincts at Ampayon Central School, Doongan, Villa Kanangga, Banza, Baan and Bading, all in Butuan City and other polling centers in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur.

Heavy downpour

In Tawi-Tawi, not even intermittent rains could keep the 61,853 registered voters in Bongao and Panglima Sugala from casting their votes.

According to acting Comelec Provincial Supervisor Nasib B. Yasin, heavy rains were experienced yesterday, but these did not put a damper on the enthusiasm of local residents from casting their votes in 279 precincts in Bongao, and 99 in Panglima Sugala. (Reports from Ali G. Macabalang, Alexander D. Lopez, Mike U. Crismundo, Nonoy E. Lacson, and PNA)

May 2016



Page: 46

7 killed in Cavite election day massacre

by Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

OSARIO, Cavite—Barely six hours before polling precincts opened yesterday, seven supporters of Mayor Jose Ricafrente were stopped on a dimly lit road by an armed group and shot dead at close range, execution style, the police said.

Ricafrente was certain the attack on his supporters was election-related. The police, however, would not label it as such, pending an investigation.

Ricafrente said the victims, mostly traders who had relocated here from Mindanao since the

1990s, were on a convoy of a Mitsubishi Adventure and two motorcycles when they were attacked by armed men along a dimly lit village road in Wawa III at 12 a.m. He said the victims died from bullet wounds in their heads.

Senior Supt. Eliseo Cruz, Cavite police director, said initial investigation showed that the victims could have been forced to alight from their vehicles.

"Based on our investigation, a shot could have been fired first, prompting [the victims' convoy] to stop. They were then forced to get off their vehicles and were shot on the road," Cruz said.

Police identified the victims as

Amron Sharief, Fabil Magandia and Ramon Tuazon, and Omair, Ebrahim, Farhan and Rakiin, all surnamed Iman. Their companion, Fatar Mampon, was wounded.

Cruz said no one witnessed the attack, leaving Mampon as the only person who could provide details of the attack.

"Policemen, when they arrived at the crime scene, even thought Mampon was dead, only to realize later that he was still breathing," he added.

Ricafrente said the victims, at the time of the attack, were "doing the rounds to preempt vote-buying." He, however, did not elaborate.

Ricafrente, who is on his third and final term as mayor, is running for vice mayor while his son, Voltaire, is running for mayor.

The Ricafrentes are members of the Liberal Party and are up against Renato Abutan and Jose Rozel Hernandez of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA).

He said the victims belonged to a family of traders, who owned jewelry stalls in Metro Manila, but were registered voters in this town.

Masbate

In Masbate province, a supporter of a mayoral candidate in Dimasalang town was shot and wounded by four men on Sun-

day night, police said.

The military has intensified its security monitoring in the town after the victim, Winifredo Apalla, 50, a fisherman and resident of Barangay Balocawe, was identified as a supporter of mayoral candidate Edgar de Lara, said Lt. Col. Angelo Guzman, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command.

Residents have also reported the presence of armed men roaming in the town since Sunday night.

Also in Masbate, police in Cawayan town belied a report about a bomb explosion that supposedly killed a candidate there on Monday.

In a text message, Insp. Jerry Garces, Cawayan deputy police chief, said no such incident happened in Barangay Divisoria, as reports on social media had claimed.

He said Divisoria village chair Ferdinand Ygote certified that no explosion happened in his community.

Chief Insp. Arthur Gomez, spokesperson of the Special Task Force Masbate, said the report might have been confused with the four blasts that happened in Barangay Divisoria in Cataingan town, also in Masbate, on May 4.

With a report from Shiena Barrameda, Inquirer Southern Luzon

May 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: _____

Blood spills on election day; at least 14 killed

By **ANTHONY GIRON**
and **MAR T. SUPNAD**

riding on were sprayed with bullets by still unknown suspects shortly after midnight Sunday.

The fatalities who were mostly vendors were identified as Arniel Shiek-lokus Sharief of Barangay Wawa II, Rosario; Farhan Datu Grande Imam of Barangay Tejeros Convention, Rosario; Ramon Darantino Tuazon 33, municipal employee of Burgos St. Brgy Sapa II, Rosario; Naim Shiekadatu Hadjiomar of Barangay Tejeros Convention, Rosario; Omair Saro Imam, 40 of C. Abueg St. Barangay Poblacion, Rosario; Ibrahim Macarambon Imam, 19 of Barangay Tejero, Gen. Trias City, Cavite; and Pabil Mangandia Sultan, 40, of Barangay Tejero, Rosario.

PO3 Eleazar Tagalog and PO2-Rogelio Raquin Jr. said the victims were on board a car and two motorcycles when unidentified men armed with long and short firearms on board another vehicle blocked their path and ordered them to alight. When the victims refused, the suspects sprayed them with bullets.

Supt. Nestotio Dino said recovered from the crime scene were bullet shells from an M-16 rifle, .45 cal. pistol, .9mm pistol, five deformed slugs and a magazine loaded with bullets for .45 cal. pistol.

Vollaire is running for mayor while the incumbent mayor is sliding down to vice mayor.

Wounded was Fatak Macabago Mampon, 39, Salaam municipal policeman, of Barangay Tejeros Convention, Rosario.

Supporter v supporter

In Samar, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson said a soldier who was securing the transport of vote counting machines was killed in a shooting incident. He did not identify the fatality.

In San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, an altercation between the supporters of former mayor Ellan Nagano and Amang Nagano resulted in a shooting incident killing a supporter.

Meanwhile, the peace covenant that kept Abra bloodless for two past elections wasn't able to prevent blood from spilling this time. Yesterday, the supporters of two mayoral candidates shot it out before horrified voters, killing a barangay tanod and injured two others in Barangay Pang-ot, Lagayan town, Abra.

Sr. Supt. Antonio Bartolome, Abra police director, identified the victim as Zacarias Manuel Sr., a barangay tanod of Pang-ot.

At least 14 persons died while scores were injured in election-related incidents as voters trooped to the polls yesterday to choose new leaders that would steer the country in the next six years.

In Rosario, Cavite, seven supporters of incumbent Mayor Jose "Nonong" Ricafrente Jr. and his son Vice Mayor Voltaire Ricafrente of the Liberal Party (LP) died when the vehicle they were

►6

BLOODY END - With the victims still sprawled on the pavement in a pool of blood, police investigators examine the crime scene at 12:45 a.m. Monday after an ambush in Barangay Wawa 3, Rosario, Cavite, left eight people dead and another person wounded. According to Supt. Rommel Javier, the victims were all Muslims and were said to be supporters of a mayoralty candidate in the town of Rosario. (Jun Ryan Arañas)

Wounded were Joel Donato, alleged supporter of mayoral candidate Jodel Crisologo and Randy Vilorio, son of a village chief in the area.

The incident stopped the voting and the VCMs and other paraphernalia were transferred to Poblacion under heavy escort from police and army soldiers.

In Maguindanao, four persons were wounded when an M79 grenade projectile landed near the Manungkaling Elementary School in Mamasapano, Maguindanao shortly before noon yesterday.

The Manungkaling school is one of ten public schools being used as polling place. Those injured were identified as Johaira Mohammad, 23; Saela, 17; Paetra, 42; and Ibrahim, 23 -- all surnamed Usop.

Reports said the Usops live near the public school. Voting resumed after Army and police augmentation forces arrived in the area.

Heat or powder

In Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao, a resident was killed when a rifle grenade was fired at the public market minutes after the polling precincts opened Monday.

According to 6th ID spokesperson Capt. Jo-anne Petinglay, another person died after two explosions also rocked a public market in Datu Unsay town where four others were wounded.

At 2 a.m. yesterday, Petinglay disclosed that bonnet-wearing armed men gunned down a local resident, Bayan Buisan near a voting precinct in Talitay town.

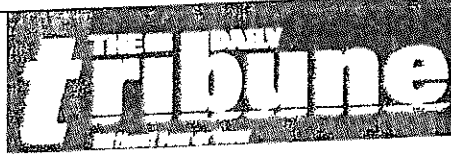
Petinglay said the Talitay incident was followed by another shooting incident in nearby Guindulungan town when a voter, Unsay Usop, was caught in the rumble between members of two political factions Monday.

Usop was reportedly accompanying a friend in casting his vote when the melee broke out, and was hit by a stray bullet that caused his death.

The wave of election-related deaths started Saturday night when a nine-year-old girl was slain in a mortar attack in Barangay Damalibi in Shariff Aguak, according to Petinglay.

In Marawi City, a person was killed and three others were wounded when unidentified armed men opened fire at a convoy transporting voting materials to Cambingan Elementary School. (With reports from Sheen Crisologo, Joseph Jubelag, Zaldy Comanda, Freddie G. Lazaro, and Elena L. Aben)

10 May 2016



Page: 3

Top NPA commander captured in Davao City

By Mario J. Mallari

A top commander of the New People's Army (NPA) was captured during an Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-led (Isafp) operation in Davao City Sunday, the military announced yesterday.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, public affairs officer of the Army's 10th Infantry Division (ID), said that Arnulfo Laborada-Mantes, alias Mike, 45, was collared by combined elements of the Isafp, 10th ID, Police Regional Office-II and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Mantes was cornered in Barangay 76-A, Davao City.

"(He) is the Secretary of Sub-Regional Committee 5 (SRC5) and the concurrent head of the Regional Political Military Academy (RPMA) of the SMRC," Batchar said.

According to Batchar, Mantes' arrest was made by virtue of two arrest warrants issued against the NPA commander for murder and robbery with intimidation charges filed against him in separate courts in Bukidnon and Kidnapawan.

"Mantes is known to have led and planned numerous NPA atrocities such as the burning of heavy equipment, murder of Army personnel and ambush of Peace and Development Teams in several areas of Bukidnon and Davao del Norte," Batchar said.

"He is also involved in extorting monies from wealthy individuals, companies and even politicians," he added.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, commander of the 10th ID, vowed military's relentless operations against NPA rebels in Davao and Soccsargen areas.

"As we have said before, the long arm of the law will ultimately catch up and bring before the bar of justice all those who have brought so much miseries to the Filipino people through their so called armed struggle," Valencia said.

May 2016



Page: 3

2 polling centers in Lanao Sur burned down

ISABELA CITY, Basilan — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday transferred one of the polling centers to the town hall of Poona Bayabao, Lanao del Sur to ensure orderly conduct polls in that area.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesman, this came after unidentified persons burned down the elementary school in Barangay Ragayan, Poona Bayabao town.

Tan said the incident occurred around 3:50 a.m., which is barely more than two hours before voting started Monday.

Tan said an eight-classroom school building, which was designated as polling center, was razed prompting the Comelec to transfer the voting center to the town hall.

He said investigation is under way in a bid to unmask the suspects' identities.

Meanwhile, the elections have pushed through though under tight security in another school designated as polling center that was set ablaze also in the province of Lanao del Sur.

Tan said that unidentified people have set ablaze around 1 a.m. Monday the primary school in Barangay Dilausan, Tamparan, Lanao del Sur.

He said the school was partially damaged during the incident.

He said troops from the Army's 65th Infantry Battalion and policemen from Marawi City were tasked to provide security to Monday's polls in Dilausan, Tamparan town.

PNA

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www.interaksyon.com

NPA Samar attack on escorts for VCM delivery courier

From InterAksyon (May 8): NPA Samar attack on escorts for VCM delivery courier

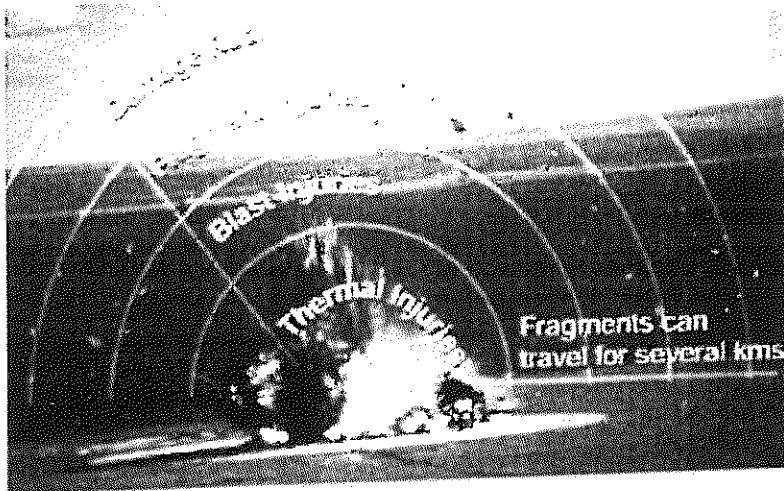


Illustration by the Philippine Army shows the impact of an NPA landmine. The military denounced the rebels for planting landmines on the route of an Army-PNP convoy that escorted a courier's vehicle carrying vote counting machines in Northern Samar. Three civilians were hit by the IED, which exploded as soldiers traded fire with some 30 rebels.

CATARMAN, Northern Samar, Philippines - One soldier was killed and another one wounded in an ambush Saturday afternoon by suspected members of the New People's Army of an Army convoy on its way back to barracks after escorting a private courier's vehicle that delivered Vote Counting Machines (VCM) to be used for Monday's elections.

Three civilians were hit and wounded after an improvised explosive device (IEDs) exploded at So. Mamhot, Barangay Manaybanay, Mapanas near the boundary of Mapanas and Gamay towns.

Capt. Eero Caesar Mazo, civil military operations officer of the 603rd Infantry division, Philippine Army based in Camp Sumoroy, Catarmán, Northern Samar, said the military truck and PNP patrol car were traveling back to the headquarters of the Army's 20th IB based in Gamay town from Mapanas after escorting a vehicle that delivered VCMs, when they came under attack from rebels.

The firefight lasted more than 30 minutes.

In the course of the attack, an IED exploded, hitting three civilians who were riding a motorcycle, but only two were identified: Marlon Balitos and Bryan Obra. The three were brought to Gamay District Hospital.

Mazo said the NPA planted five IEDs along the Palapac-Mapanas-Gamay-Lapinig road with approximately 50-meter intervals.

Lt Col Hilarion Palma, battalion commander of the 20th IB, denounced what he called an apparent campaign by the rebels to sow terror to disrupt the May 9 elections.

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Col. Maric Lacurom, 803rd brigade commander, said the use of IEDs, inflicting harm on civilians, is a clear violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law where the NPA-CPP is a signatory.

Lacurom said the NPA also violated the United Nations Convention against the use of Landmines

Eastern Visayas police director Chief Superintendent Jose Erwin Villacorte said troops from the 20th Infantry Battalion and personnel of the Mapanas police station were partly hit by the landmines planted on the right shoulder of the highway.

The landmine explosion was immediately followed by the gunfire from some 30 NPA members, which resulted in the death of one soldier identified as Private LouiedenQuebec, 20, and a resident of Barangay Lokilokon, Paranas, Samar.

Also wounded during the attack was Private First Class Michael P. Cagata, 27, a resident of Lucena City.

Insp. Lope Cebreros III, the town police chief, said the VCMs are secure. "The rebels withdrew carrying undetermined casualties," Cebreros said.

Second ambush

At about 4:25 p.m., reinforcements from the 20th IB led by First Lieutenant Alge Oronon, who is on mission to extract the dead and wounded soldiers, were also ambushed by the NPA blocking force in the vicinity of Barangay Maragand, in Palapag town.

The second ambush resulted in another firefight - lasting about three minutes, with no casualties - between the army and the rebels.

Recovered from the first ambush site was a plastic container, four white gallons covered by a black cloth, a hundred meter blasting wires and a banner with markings "Justice for Emil Go."

Police said Go is a Makabayan activist and SE secretary of Palapag town slain by gunman last April 28 in front of his residence in Palapag.

Fr. Santiago, Siles, spokesman of the National Democratic Front in Eastern Visayas, condemned the killing of Go and tagged the military and an influential political dynasty in northern Samar as behind the killing.

<http://interaus.von.com/article/167461-soldier-killing-4-people-wounded-in-npa-samar-attack-on-escorts-for-vcm-delivery-continue>

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

2 Army men clearing way for election personnel hurt in bomb blast

From Update PH May 9: 2 Army men clearing way for election personnel hurt in bomb blast

Two Army officers were wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded on Monday, hitting the military truck they were riding along the road in Barangay Pandi, Matnog town in Sorsogon, an official of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) said.

Hit by shrapnel during the explosion were 2nd Lt. Ariel Cayton and Army Sgt. Joventico Cerafica, Army Lieutenant Col. Angelo Guzman, Solcom spokesperson, said.

In a phone interview, Guzman said the landmine that was planted by members of the New People Army (NPA) was intended for the Army Quick Reaction Force who were clearing the road for the safe passage of transport vehicles of various Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) that would bring the election paraphernalia and vote counting machines once the elections end at 5 p.m. Monday to the Matnog town hall.

The explosion, which occurred at about 3:45 p.m. Monday at sitio Colonia, Barangay Pandi, in Matnog, was followed by a four-minute firefight between the Army soldiers and the NPA rebels who later fled towards the mountainous area of the village.

The two Army officers, who sustained shrapnel wounds, were rushed to the Sorsogon Doctors Hospital in Sorsogon City for treatment, Guzman said.

Reinforcing soldiers were sent in for pursuit operation at off-peak time.

also: www.update.ph/2016/05/09/2-army-men-clearing-way-for-election-personnel-hurt-in-bomb-blast-5313

Posted by Retired Analyst at 10:16 AM No comments

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17

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Troops in election duty attacked by NPAs with IED in Compostela Valley

From the Philippine News Agency (May 9): Troops in election duty attacked by NPAs with IED in Compostela Valley

Troopers of the 66th Infantry Battalion securing the elections in Compostela Valley were attacked by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels with an improvised explosive device (IED) Monday afternoon

The incident took place 7 p.m., said 10th Infantry Division public affairs office chief Capt. Rhyar Batcher

This took place at Sitio Ambawan, Brgy. Osmeña, Compostela Municipality, Compostela Valley.

No soldier was killed nor hurt in the IED explosion.

The NPAs quickly fled leaving behind a 50-meter electrical wire and eight dry cell batteries

Pursuit operations are now ongoing as of this posting.

http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=389796

May 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: 48

Glimpses of voting in the provinces

ABRA
With Abra under
comelec control,
policemen put up
baricades around
provincial capitol
in Bangue



MAGUINDANAO A soldier secures voters
in Shariff Aguak. JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

4 May 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 41

13 dead but polls 'generally peaceful'

By Inquirer Bureaus and Staff

AUTHORITIES described yesterday's elections as generally peaceful, but 22 scattered incidents of gun battles, ambushes and bombings left at least 13 people dead and a score wounded across the country.

Spokespersons of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police said in a joint news briefing the incidents were "isolated" and had no impact on the conduct of the elections.

The worst incident was reported in Rosario, Cavite province, where seven supporters of Mayor Jose Ricafrente Jr. were killed in an ambush by unidentified men on a Mitsubishi Adventure van and two motorcycles at midnight. (See story on Page A6.)

Ricafrente said his political rivals were responsible, but police said an investigation was being conducted and the attack-

13 DEAD / A6

From page A1

ers were unknown.

In Lagayan, Abra province, forces of rival politicians exchanged gunfire, leaving a barangay watchman dead and three others wounded.

A bystander was also killed when a grenade was launched at a market in Cotabato City. The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) pulled out volunteers in the area, but its chair, Tita De Villa, stressed its workers remained on the job nationwide.

In Guindulungan, Maguin-

danao province, a 20-year-old voter was shot dead inside a polling station following a stoning incident at Tambunan Central Elementary School.

In Datu Unsay, also in Maguindanao, Habiri Katapukan, 20, was killed when a rifle grenade was fired in the public market.

In Iloilo province, supporters of mayoral candidate Melina Requinto of Estancia were killed in a gun battle with a group identified with reelectionist Mayor Rene Cordero. Killed were Ronaldo Estandarte, 56, and Roberto Magarso, 44.

Still, Elections Commissioner Rowena Guanzon said the violence would not impact the result, noting they had taken place in known "hot spots" where extra security forces were in place.

The AFP has so far recorded 22 cases of election violence yesterday.

The Western Mindanao Command had the highest number of incidents at 15, while Metro Manila, Western Command and the Eastern Mindanao Command had zero reports.

"We have three area commands which had zero incidents

for today... Overall, the conduct of the elections was generally peaceful and orderly," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

The PNP spokesperson, Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor, shared the same assessment, noting that with the more than 92,000 polling precincts all over the Philippines, there were a few incidents in some areas.

"The elections were generally peaceful despite some incidents, the PNP and the AFP are both monitoring all activities on the ground," he said.

Padilla urged the public "not

to highlight the negative" as the affected precincts were less than a percent of the 92,000 polling precincts.

He noted that the bailiwicks of the presidential candidates were generally peaceful and without much incidents, and that most of the election-related violence were reported in the election hot spots.

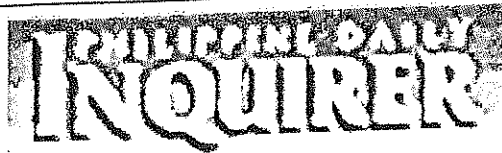
Both officials noted that the most crucial part of the electoral exercise was during the canvassing of votes, or after the voting period.

Padilla said both the AFP and the PNP would do their best to

safeguard their ballots and ensure the credibility of the elections.

"We have been planning for this with a worst-case scenario in mind," he said. With reports from Julie M. Aurelio, Jaymee T. Gamil and Estrella Torres in Manila; Joey A. Gabieta, Jhunnex Napallacan, Apple Mae Ta-as, Nester P. Burgos Jr., Jennifer Allegado and Rachel Anaiz, Inquirer Visayas; Jeffrey Maitem, Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez, Williamor Magbanua, Richel Umel, Ryan Rosauero and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

10 May 2016



Page: AK

oma to 'President Duterte': Let's talk peace

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

DAVAO CITY—Barely an hour after polling precincts closed on Monday, exiled Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leader Jose Maria Sison addressed Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as "President" and invited him to talk peace. "I now look forward to further conversations with President Duterte to arrange an immediate ceasefire, release of all

the political prisoners, my return home and acceleration of the peace negotiations. Let us have as goal a government of national unity, peace and development," Sison, who is based in The Netherlands, said in an online interview on Monday night.

"I hope the trend in favor of Duterte can no longer be reversed by cheating. So, I convey to him my warmest congratulations," Sison said.

He said Duterte's victory

should be credited to how the tough-talking Davao mayor handled his campaign.

"[Duterte] adopted the winning campaign line against the Aquino [administration], corruption and criminality and for his common tao, street level campaign style," Sison said.

He said Duterte did not need his endorsement or the endorsement of the CPP, the New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines

(NDFP) to win the presidency because the rebel forces "opposed election as tool of the ruling system."

"But the revolutionary forces and I have always welcomed and applauded Duterte's offer to have a just and lasting peace by addressing the roots of the armed conflict," Sison said.

Duterte had vowed to order an immediate ceasefire with communist rebels to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks.

10 May 2016

The
Standard
DEFENDING THE NATION

Page: 46

13 killed as violence erupts on election day

By Francisco Tuyay and Florante S. Solmerin

THIRTEEN people were killed and three others were wounded in election-related violence Monday.

The worst incident occurred in Cavite province, where seven volunteer poll watchers in a convoy were shot dead by still unidentified suspects in Rosario town past 12 noon Monday.

The victims were on board several vehicles traversing Rosario town when they were fired upon by the assailants on a jeep and two motorcycles. An eighth poll watcher survived the attack but was wounded.

Cavite provincial police director Senior Supt. Eliseo Cruz said the convoy was on its way to check on a report of vote buying when it was ambushed.

In Guindulungan in Maguindanao, a voter was shot dead inside a polling station, police said.

A bystander was also killed when a grenade was launched at a market in Cotabato as people were casting their votes, police said.

In the nearby town of Sultan Kudarat, a stronghold of the nation's biggest Muslim rebel group, 20 men forced their way into a voting center and carted away voting machines, police chief Senior Insp. Esmael Madin said.

In the northern province of Abra, armed supporters of rival mayoral candidates shot at each other, leaving one person dead and two wounded, provincial police spokeswoman Marcy Grace Marron said.

Police arrested two men and two women with guns after the fighting in

the mountainous town of Lagayan, Marron added.

In Marawi City, two political supporters of the mayoralty candidate of the Liberal Party were shot dead by still unidentified assailants. Lanao del Sur provincial director Senior Supt. Rustom Duran said the victims joined the team of Board of Elections Inspectors transporting ballot boxes when the gunmen opened fire.

In Lanao del Norte, a group of armed men torched an elementary school building in Salvador town.

Three grenade explosions rocked the town hall of Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao, but voting was not interrupted, police said. Police said the rifle grenade attacks came in succession at past 1 p.m. Nobody was hurt in the attack. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Still, Comelec Commissioner Rowena Guanzon

said the violence would not affect the result, noting they had taken place in known "hot spots" where extra security forces were in place.

Military spokesman Col. Noel Detoyato also played down the violence.

"There are isolated incidents. [They] had minimal effect on the conduct of the elections," he said.

Fifteen people had been confirmed killed in pre-election violence since the start of the year, according to the national police poll monitoring task force.

Political violence is a longstanding problem, fueled by lax gun laws, corrupt security forces and political dynasties that often have their security forces.

Rodrigo Duterte, the tough-talking mayor of Davao City, is the favorite to win the presidential elections after campaigning on a platform of killing thousands of criminals that critics say will incite more violence. **With AFP, PNA**

10 May 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 13

Military operation vs ASG continues

COMBAT operation against members of the al-Qaeda linked Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) will not be affected by the military's security preparations for the May 9 elections, according to a military spokesman.

"We will not give them [ASG terrorists] any reason or chance to score points or escape, our troops will not stop in running after them," the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman on Monday said during a joint police and military news briefing at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla ex-

plained that they have a separate unit that is in charge in pursuing the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"We have enough forces that are in charge of manning security during the electoral process," Padilla said.

The AFP spokesman added that military personnel have been tapped to serve in the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) in conflict-torn areas, such as Basilan and Sulu provinces, known havens of the ASG terrorists.

PNP personnel, according to Padilla, are "mostly tapped for support role" to the BEIs.

ANTHONY VARGAS

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Duterte: US military must follow guidelines prescribed by AFP under EDCA

From: Update.PH (May 9): Duterte: US military must follow guidelines prescribed by AFP under EDCA

The United States should follow the Philippines's lead when it comes to the implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), this was the statement of presidential election front-runner, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte according to reports from ABS-CBN news.

"EDCA must follow the guidelines prescribed by our Armed Forces," Duterte told reporters. "They (US military) could not use any other place without the knowledge or until there is advice from the Armed Forces."

As of 9:46 pm today, partial and unofficial results show that Duterte has 55,735,419 votes out of 91,605,551 votes from 64,072 (67.96%) of 94,276 Election Returns. Expected total votes to be shared by all presidential candidates is 55,735,757.

EDCA is a ten-year accord signed April 28, 2014 by Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg in Manila.

The Agreement is a 10-year deal that will allow increased US military rotation and storing of US military equipment in agreed locations in the Philippines.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines declared EDCA constitutional January 2016

Agreed locations, as of April 2015, includes Antonio Bautista Air Base in Palawan, Basa Air Base in Pampanga, Fort Maguaysay in Buena Vista, Lumbia Airport in Capayan de Oro, Benik Eden Air Base in Cebu. The US forces can construct facilities in agreed locations, however, the Philippines retains ownership.

<http://www.update.ph/2015/05/duterte-us-military-must-follow-guidelines-prescribed-by-afp-under-edca-533/>

May 2016

Page 4

Salamat teachers, PNP, AFP at PPCRV!

'UNCOVERED'



**NI MARLON
PURIFICACION**
@marlonpuri

KAHIT papa'no'y naging mapayapa ang halalan kahapon.

Maliban sa ilang insidente ng patayan, pananambang sa ilang probinsiya at mangilang kapalpakan sa Vote Counting Machine (VCM), masasabi nating nairaos ito nang maayos sa pangkalahatan.

May tinambangan pangang kandidato sa Tacloban City at may sumabog sa Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, gayundin sa Basilan, pero masasabi

nating hindi pa rin dabilan ito para ipatigil ang halalang pambansa.

Nagsusulat ako kahapon ng taghal ay nagpapatalay ang botohan na inaasahang daragsain ng may 54 milyong botanteng Pinoy.

Sa pagkakataong ito, nais nating bigyang pu-
gay ang 227,000 public school teachers at sina Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ricardo Marquez, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda at ang Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV).

Ang 160,000 buong puwersa ng PNP na pinakilos kahapon, kasama ng AFP ay malaking bagay para mapanatili ang kawayusan at kapayapaan sa bansa.

Alam kong hindi sapat ang P3,000 bayad sa ating mga guro na talaga namang madaling-araw pa lang ay gising na at tiyak na napagod hanggang kagabi para sa eleksiyon.

Naglaan ang Depart-

ment of Education ng P30 million para sa anumang election-related deaths o injuries na kahit papaano ay pakunsumwelo sa ating mga guro.

Maliban sa kanila sinasaluduhan din natin ang PPCRV sa pangunguna ni Amb. Henrieta 'Tita' De Villa, gayundin ang tagapagsalitang si Ana De Villa-Singson.

Sa pagboto natin sa Parañaque City kahapon, personal nating nasaksihan ang hirap ng mga miyembro ng PPCRV.

Hahanga ka sa dedikasyon ng mga ito para lamang magampanan nang husto ang kanilang mga trabaho.

May ilang guro ang nasisimangutan at napagalitan ng ilang botante dahil sa mangilang-angilang kapalpakan, pero para sa mga teacher na tunay na bayani ng halalan ay balewala lamang ito basta mairaos lamang nang maayos ang eleksiyon.

Sa P. Burgos Elementary School sa Maynila kahapon ay may ilang botante rin ang nawala sa listahan.

Katulad na lang ng ka-brood kong si Arnulfo 'Arnold' Marquez ng Bgy. 584, Zone 57. Hindi ito nakaboto dahil nawala sa voters lists ang kanyang pangalan.

Chef sa barko si Marquez at noong 2013 lamang siya hindi nakaboto. Nang paliwanagan ng mga taga-PPCRV na posibleng hindi ito nakapag-biometrics ay maayos itong tinanggap ni Marquez.

Anu't anuman ang kakahantungan ng halalan, sana hudyat na ito ng tunay na pagbabago.

Para sa pamunuan ng Commission on Elections (Comelec), magsilbing aral sana sa kanila ang mga nagdaang pagkakamali at kapalpakan.

Paulit-ulit na lamang kasi tuwing halalan na magkaroon ng ganitong uri ng problema na para bang hindi na natututo sa mga nakalipas na pagkakamali.

Sana rin, iyong mga nagtatangkang mandaya ay hindi manalo dahil matandang kasabihan na 'ang mandaraya ay hindi nagwawagi!'

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

ONLINE NEWS

10 MAY 2016

www.philstar.com

CPP denies endorsing Duterte's presidential

From the Philippine Star (May 9): CPP denies endorsing Duterte's presidential bid



The Communist Party of the Philippines yesterday said it is not endorsing Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's presidential bid. KRIS JOHN ROSALES, file

Breaking its silence on the issue, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday said it is not endorsing Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's presidential bid.

Neither would it be "participating in the elections, more so in endorsing or supporting any of the presidential candidates," the CPP said.

A labor federation also expressed doubts on whether Duterte would fight labor contractualization, also known as end of contract or "endoc."

Nagkaisa said only Vice President Jejomar Binay, Sen. Grace Poe, and administration standard-bearer Manuel Roxas II signed the covenant "calling for the repeal of the notorious and rampant contractual work scheme in the country."

Earlier this week, Sen. Minori Defensor-Santiago claimed that Duterte is the "official candidate" of the New People's Army (NPA).

But "contrary to Senator Santiago's claims, Mayor Duterte is not being endorsed nor supported by the Party or the NPA," said the CPP, the NPA's political arm.

Likewise, the CPP dismissed reports by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that NPA members in Samar are campaigning for Duterte. "These are pure lies."

24

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The CPP observed that "Duterte has espoused certain advocacies that strike a chord among the Filipino people and their national democratic forces, including calling for peace negotiations to address the roots of the armed conflict."

However, the CPP added that "Duterte has mostly styled himself as an anti-crime crusader, a socialist and a radical in an effort to win over the people who long have been disillusioned with the rotten ruling system."

The party said he has also advocated such counter-progressive neoliberal economic policies as expanding the public-private partnership program, banning unions and strikes, providing big bourgeois compradors with state-guaranteed profits, liberalizing trade and giving even more incentives to foreign investors.

The CPP said it also notes with keen interest Duterte's promise to immediately declare a ceasefire to pave the way for peace negotiations if ever he wins. "Duterte's promise, indeed, strikes a chord with the Filipino people who have long aspired for substantial progress in the NDFP-GRP peace negotiations after more than 15 years of being stalled."

A Duterte presidency, the CPP said, "can push forward peace negotiations by upholding all previous agreements from the foundational The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 to the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) of 1998 and complying with the GRP obligations under the JASIG by ordering the release of all NDFP consultants and political detainees."

Before NFA guerrillas in Davao last week, Duterte reportedly declared he would be the first "Left president" of the Philippines.

But the CPP believes Duterte's rhetoric is done "in the hope of boosting his chances of gaining popular support," thus the "radical sound bites. Talk is cheap especially during the electoral campaign."

The CPP further explained that despite Duterte's "radicalism," he has yet to espouse "any fundamental shift from the general run of neoliberal economic policy of the past 30 or so years."

Further, it added, "he has promised to expand privatization and deregulation and declared plans to provide state funds to Lucio Tan and his ilk of big bourgeois compradors, and liberalization of trade by allowing the dumping of surplus steel from China."

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/05/09/1581392/cpp-danies-endorsing-dutertes-presidential-bid>

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

NPA attacks mayor's property in Isabela; guard hurt

From the Sun Star-Bacolod (May 8) NPA attacks mayor's property in Isabela; guard hurt

A SECURITY guard was injured in a gunfire after suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) raided the property of Mayor Enrique Montilla III of Isabela, Negros Occidental Saturday morning.

Inspector Joseph Partidas, deputy town police chief, identified the victim as Melvin Tovis, 49, of Barangay Libas, who is employed by Diamond Star Security Agency.

About 15 rebels took over a guard post, manned by three security guards, at the property owned by Montilla at around 10 a.m., Partidas said.

The rebels then disarmed the guards and took their .38 caliber revolver and shotgun.

Unknown to the rebels, one of the guards was able to send a radio message to their colleagues and asked for assistance.

The rebels, who were armed with AK-47 and M16 rifles, were heard shouting, "Mabuhay ang NPA!"

When the rebels were about to leave, Tovis and his companion arrived to rescue the other guards.

An exchange of fire followed, and Tovis was hit in his right leg. He was rushed to a hospital.

Partidas said the rebels fled towards a mountainous area.

He added that have yet to establish if the attack was politically-motivated as they are still conducting an investigation.

Police and the army are conducting pursuit operations.

Partidas said that after the attack, troops from the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police and the 11th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army were deployed to the town.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/bacolod/local-news/2016/05/08/npa-attacks-mayors-property-isabela-guard-hurt-472386>

www.inquirer.net

1 killed, 1 hurt in Basilan house shooting

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (May 9): 1 killed, 1 hurt in Basilan house shooting

A man was killed while another one was injured when armed men sprayed a house with bullets in Maluso, Basilan on Monday, the military said.

Colonel Andrew Bacala, commander of the 4th Special Forces Battalion, did not give details and only said the incident took place in Barangay (village) Tubigan in Maluso.

"We found the old man dead. (His grandson) said armed men fired at their house," Bacala said. He said the military did not consider this election-related "because the victims' family was not partisan."

www.pna.gov.ph

2 hurt in Maguindanao blasts

From the Philippine News Agency (May 9): 2 hurt in Maguindanao blasts

Military units are now securing the town of Datu Unsay, Maguindanao after three explosions rocked the area wounding two civilians Sunday night.

The incident took place 8:55 p.m., said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Noel Detoyato.

Initial investigations indicated the explosions which rocked a public market in the town came from rifle grenades.

Wounded were Arnel Samad Sangkapan, 24 and Ali Zainal Sandai, 16.

All two were wounded by shrapnel blasts, Detoyato said.

Troopers from the 34th Infantry Battalion are now securing the area.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=883540>

19

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Nascent peace deal at risk amid Philippines' political uncertainty

From The Guardian (May 9): Nascent peace deal at risk amid Philippines' political uncertainty

An accord with moderates to end a Muslim insurgency that has claimed 150,000 lives may not survive in looming power vacuum



Residents walk past a tank outside a polling station in the town of Panter in Mindanao on 9 May as people vote in the Philippines' presidential election. Photograph: Eriq Linel AFP/Getty Images

Political uncertainty in the Philippines – which is likely to continue through the summer months whoever wins Monday's controversial national elections – risks wrecking efforts to end one of the world's longest-running Muslim insurgencies that has claimed 150,000 lives, regional analysts warn.

Benigno Aquino, the outgoing president, started his reputation on a comprehensive peace accord signed in 2014 with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The deal envisaged an autonomous entity, known as the Bangsamoro, in the predominantly Muslim Mindanao region in the southern Philippines.

But opposition from nationalist, conservative and Catholic factions in the Philippines congress, which intensified after a shootout in MILF territory in January last year in which 44 policemen died, has delayed ratification of key legislation known as the Bangsamoro Basic Law. With Aquino soon to be replaced and a new congress yet to convene, work to keep the peace deal alive is on hold until at least July.

Even then, it is unclear whether the next president or a majority in congress will support it. If Rodrigo Duterte, the current left-wing incumbent who led in pre-election polls, wins, nobody truly knows what may happen. Nor do the other presidential candidates share Aquino's passionate commitment to the peace process, modelled in part on Northern Ireland's Good Friday accord.

The looming power vacuum in Manila has led security analysts to predict that the MILF's moderate leaders, who forswore their bid for independence in 2003 and have opted for negotiations over continued armed struggle, could be supplanted by a younger generation of Mindanao militants impatient for change.

Last month's killing in a remote south-western archipelago of a Canadian hostage, John Ridsdale, was seen as a possible portent of worse to come. The Islamist group responsible for the murder Abu Sayyaf, meaning 'bearer of the

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brother" split from the MILF in 1991 and swore allegiance to a Caliph. More recently, it has been linked to Islamic State.

While Abu Sayyaf is currently considered a marginal, largely criminal outfit, more immediately worrying is the emergence of another militant MILF offshoot, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). According to the army, this group of several hundred young men appears to enjoy significant clandestine support in impoverished municipalities in southern Mindanao province.

"There's one village where I'd say 95% of the men are BIFF," Jimmy Amolay, a captain in the Philippine army, told Irin news agency. "In the daytime they're in plainclothes, but at night they turn into BIFF."

The group's aims resemble those of their predecessors: freedom from military and official abuses, self-determination and an end to endemic poverty in mineral and resource-rich Mindanao. The difference is that they espouse armed force to achieve their objectives.

"In the near term, the failure to pass the basic law will heighten the risk of violence as various groups recalibrate advantage amid the uncertainty," a Stratfor analysis warned. "The delay will halt efforts to disarm MILF fighters – an already tenuous process."

MILF leaders warn that if they cannot demonstrate the tangible benefits of the peace process, they will lose the ability to prevent disaffected younger generations from taking up arms."

There are also concerns that international terrorist groups such as Isis could move in to exploit the vacuum. The BIFF has already pledged allegiance to Isis. "We consider them brothers, but we are not part of them," said Abu Misri Mama, a BIFF spokesman.

Another worry, analysts say, is that a resumed insurgency will distract the Philippines' armed forces from growing external threats posed by Chinese military expansionism in the South China Sea (known in Manila as the West Philippine Sea) and maritime piracy across south-east Asia. Indonesia called a regional summit and imposed a temporary ban on unreported shipping to the Philippines last month after a spate of kidnappings of seamen by Abu Sayyaf.

Teresita Quintos Deles, a senior presidential adviser, argues that sustaining the Bangsamoro peace process is a matter of crucial symbolic importance for the Philippines and for the international community as a whole.

"Success can help us arrest the spread of extremism around the globe by showing clearly that an Islamic movement can address its grievances and pursue its interests through a legitimate mode of democratic political engagement while still remaining within the country's territorial and constitutional framework, and without losing their culture and identity," she said.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/march/05/philippines-peace-deal-at-risk-bangsamoro-philippines-political-uncertainty>

51

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Duterte to appoint military men: 'I want military men'

From Update PH (May 9): Duterte to appoint military men: 'I want military men'

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte who is leading in the presidential election said he wants the transmission of election returns would be finished in coming days so he could start deciding on who to appoint in major government positions specially the finance, transportation, and foreign affairs needs.

"I hope the elections will be over in about two or three days. Kung mahanap ko na parakt na ako, then I will think about maybe [deciding on] the Cabinet members," Duterte said in an interview on GMA Network's evening news program 14 Oras.

In a report from the internet, Duterte said he will appoint military men. "Do not be surprised if others are military people," he said. "I want military men. Most of them will occupy lower echelons."

He also mentioned Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser of former presidents Gloria Arroyo and Fidel Ramos. Another personality he mentioned was Carlos Dominguez, owner of Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City and former Cabinet Secretary of Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. Dominguez was also a former president of Philippine Airlines and Manila Hotel.

As of 9:46 pm today, partial and unofficial results show that Duterte has 11,735,419 votes out of 31,695,551 votes from 64,072 (67.98%) of 94,276 Election Returns. Expected total votes to be shared by all presidential candidates is 55,735,757.

He was followed by Grace Poe with 6,653,150, Mar Roxas with 6,611,821, Jojo Binay with 3,974,246, and Manny Santiago with 1,191,503.

However, proclamation of winning president and vice-president could be at the last week of May or early June. The Senate and House of Representatives are expected to convene as National Board of Canvassers (NBC) a day or two after the session resumes on May 13. The NBC Congress is the body mandated to canvass and declare winners in presidential and vice-presidential elections.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is now sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) that convened today and will reconvene Tuesday, May 10 to canvass votes in the senatorial and party-list elections. NBC (Comelec) eyes to declare winners within one week.

<http://www.update.ph/2016/05/duterte-to-appoint-military-men-i-want-military-men/55325>

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