

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

20 May 2016

Friday

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

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



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

WFG-02
Rev. 1-05-06-2016

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

ISSUED AT: 5:00 AM 20 MAY 2016

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

CITIES	24-Hr Weather: Winds and Sea Condition Forecast <i>From 5AM today until 5AM tomorrow</i>		Extended Weather Outlook <i>(Available 5AM until 5AM of the following day)</i>			
	20 MAY		21 MAY	22 MAY	23 MAY	24 MAY
Metro Manila	25°C 33°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South Marine Sw: Slight to Moderate	26°C 34°C	26°C 34°C	26°C 32°C	26°C 35°C
Tuguegarao City	25°C 33°C	Moderate Southeast-South	24°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 35°C
Laoag City	25°C 33°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 34°C
Bagao City	25°C 33°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South	25°C 34°C	25°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	25°C 35°C
SBMA (Davao City) Clarin Zone (Angeles City)	25°C 33°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South Subic Bay: Slight to Moderate	25°C 32°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C
Tagaytay City	25°C 32°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C
Lipa City	25°C 33°C	Light to Moderate Southeast-South	25°C 34°C	24°C 34°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 34°C
Legaspi City	25°C 34°C	Moderate Southeast-South Coastal Waters: Moderate	25°C 32°C	27°C 33°C	26°C 33°C	27°C 35°C
Puerto Princesa City	25°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25°C 35°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C
Iloilo City / Bacolod City	25°C 35°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25°C 35°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 35°C	25°C 34°C
Metro Cebu	25°C 33°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25°C 34°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C
Tacolban City	25°C 32°C	Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	25°C 33°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
Cagayan de Oro City	25°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25°C 34°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
Marikina City	25°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast	25°C 32°C	25°C 31°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 31°C
Metro Davao	25°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 34°C
Zamboanga City	25°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East-Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	24°C 33°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	25°C 32°C

LEGEND

	Clear sky		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rain		Rain with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy skies with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rain / Rain		Storm
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers		Light Rain				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: SFD

CHECKED BY: JJJ

Tracking the sky... helping the country™

WFGC, HIR, Road Division, Quezon City

Tel/Fax: 8932915/16



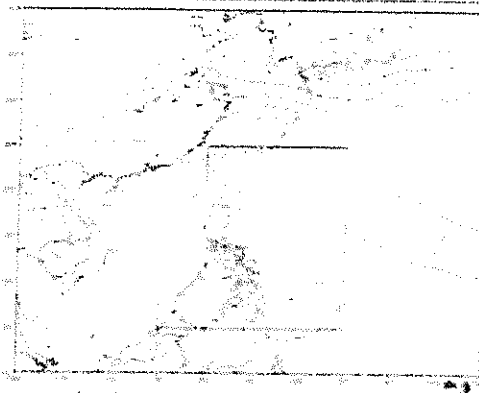
24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

ISSUED AT: 5:00 AM 20 MAY 2016

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

SYNOPSIS: TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON. INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE (ITCZ) AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO.

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON AND MINDANAO. 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 SOUTHEAST TO SOUTH WILL PREVAIL OVER LUZON AND COMING FROM THE EAST TO SOUTHEAST OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THE COASTAL WATERS THROUGHOUT THE ARCHIPELAGO WILL BE SLIGHT TO MODERATE.

PAGTAYA: MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN AT PULU-PULONG PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA HILAGA AT GITNANG LUZON AT MINDANAO. 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 NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA.

MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG HANGIN MULA TIMOG-SILANGAN HANGGANG SA TIMOG ANG IIRAL SA LUZON AT MULA NAMAN SA SILANGAN HANGGANG SA TIMOG-SILANGAN SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA. ANG MGA BAYBAYING DAGAT SA BUONG KAPULUAN AY MAGIGING BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN ANG PAG-ALON.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 8:00 PM YESTERDAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 12:00 PM YESTERDAY — 32.7°C		MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 6:00 AM YESTERDAY — 96%	
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 6:00 AM YESTERDAY — 25.0°C		MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 12:00 PM YESTERDAY — 55%	
TIDAL PREDICTIONS ALONG MANILA BAY (Courtesy of NAMRIA)		OVER METRO MANILA:	
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 9:12 AM 0.85 METER	SUNRISE / SUNSET		MOONRISE / MOONSET AND ILLUMINATION
LOW TIDE TODAY: 4:32 PM 0.12 METER	SUNRISE TODAY: 5:27 AM		MOONRISE TODAY: 5:03 PM
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 10:17 PM 0.46 METER	SUNSET TODAY: 6:15 PM		MOONSET TOMORROW: 4:57 AM
LOW TIDE TOMORROW: 2:11 AM 0.04 METER	ILLUMINATION TODAY: 97%		

For more information and queries, please call at telephone numbers 927-1335 and 927-2877 or log on to www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph

PREPARED BY: SFD

CHECKED BY: JJL

20 May 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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Comelec proclaims 12 winning senators

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Tina G. Santos

AFTER a grueling count of the votes, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday proclaimed the 12 winners in the senatorial race, including five newcomers who expressed openness to presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's plan for a shift to the federal form of government, but were divided on his proposal for the return of the death penalty.

The newcomers were Senators-elect Joel Villanueva, Manny Pacquiao, Risa Hontiveros, Sherwin Gatchalian and Leila de Lima.

After a nine-day count of the votes by the Comelec serving as the national board of canvassers, the five newbies were proclaimed winners together with old-timers Franklin Drilon, Vicente Sotto III, Panfilo Lacson, Richard Gordon, Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan and Miguel Zubiri.

All but Sotto and Lacson were present at the proclamation. Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal and former Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. accepted the certificates of proclamation on

COMELEC/A8

**Winners of 59 seats
in party-list race
announced / A12**

From page A1

behalf of Sotto and Lacson.

Macalintal said he had given the wrong date for the proclamation to Sotto, who was out of the country.

All the winners arrived at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) with members of their families and friends for their proclamation.

Some people were seemingly disappointed when Pangilinan and Recto showed up without their celebrity wives.

Pangilinan explained to inquiring reporters that his wife, singer-actress Sharon Cuneta, was on a taping. "Somebody has to earn while I am here," he said in jest.

There was no word from Recto as to the whereabouts of his wife, movie actress Vilma Santos, who won her run for the seat of the 6th district of Batangas province in the House of Representatives.

Senator Pacquiao

But the crowd at the PICC was buoyed when Pacquiao, the world boxing champion turned politician, arrived with his wife, Jinkee, and their two sons, Michael and Jimwell.

Before the proclamation ceremony, people asked for selfies with the new senator, while Comelec employees were content to get a few snapshots of him from afar.

De Lima was a celebrity on her own, drawing the loudest cheers from the crowd, next to Pacquiao, when she was officially named senator-elect.

The Comelec went ahead to proclaim De Lima despite a petition by the 13th placer in the senatorial race, former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino, to the Supreme Court to stop the poll body from

**VOTE
PH2016**

THING Vote
OFFICIAL FINAL TALLY
based on 166/166 CDCs

SENATORS-ELECT

1	DRILON	18,607,391
2	VILLANUEVA	18,459,222
3	SOTTO	17,200,371
4	LACSON	16,926,152
5	GORDON	16,719,322
6	ZUBIRI	16,119,165
7	PACQUIAO	16,050,546
8	PANGILINAN	15,955,949
9	HONTIVEROS	15,915,213
10	GATCHALIAN	14,953,768
11	RECTO	14,271,868
12	DE LIMA	14,144,070

proclaiming the last three winning senators, claiming irregularities in the vote count.

De Lima beat Tolentino by 1.33 million votes. Tolentino polled 12,811,098 votes.

In proclaiming De Lima, the Comelec said the remaining 1,211 uncanvassed votes would no longer materially affect the ranking of those in the Top 12 slots, including De Lima.

In the final official tally of the Comelec, Drilon garnered the highest votes, 18,607,391, followed closely by Villanueva, with 18,459,222 votes, and Sotto, with 17,200,371 votes.

Lacson captured the 4th spot with 16,926,152 votes; Gordon took the 5th place with 16,719,322 votes and Zubiri the 6th place with 16,119,165 votes.

The last half of the winning circle were composed of Pac-

5285, 5295

quiao with 16,050,546 votes; Pangilinan, 15,955,949; Hontiveros, 15,915,213; Gatchalian, 14,953,768; Recto, 14,271,868 and De Lima, 14,144,070.

'Vindication'

Zubiri, who came with his wife, Audrey, and their three children, said his victory was a vindication of sorts for his "rough and tumble" political career.

"It's a vindication of sorts for the work I've done and not really because of anything to do with the past—with 2007 and 2013. It's a vindication that people have seen the work I've done when I was there for four years in the Senate," Zubiri said in an interview with the *INQUIRER*.

Zubiri was proclaimed winner in the senatorial election in 2007 but he resigned in 2011 when it became clear that he benefited from fraud. He ran again for the Senate in 2013, but lost.

Zubiri said he was open to discussion on Duterte's federalism proposal, which he believed would promote competency and efficiency in the country, but might change his mind about his original stand for the reinstatement of capital punishment.

"I am open to the possibility of not allowing it if, and only if, we can come up with a national penitentiary where there is full isolation of prisoners," he said.

Hontiveros, who vowed to push for better healthcare for barangay health workers, said the eventual shift to a federal government was welcome, but she would fight against the reimposition of the death penalty.

"What the people can expect from me as I work in the Senate is to help make it stronger and independent, especially when there is a need for a check and balance in any overreach

whether on the part of the executive or any branch of the government," she said.

Death penalty

Pacquiao was reluctant to make known his position on federalism, but he minced no words in voicing his assent to the reinstatement of the death penalty.

"I support death penalty as long as our laws are in order because death penalty is biblical. Read Romans 13," he said, referring to Paul's epistle on submission to the authorities.

Villanueva, the son of evangelist Eddie Villanueva, also said he supported the reimposition of the death penalty.

"I am for the death penalty, believe it or not as long as our justice system works, which is very crucial," he said.

Villanueva, who turned in a strong showing in the senatorial race, described his victory as a vindication after being hounded for years by allegations linking him to the pork barrel scam.

De Lima said her stand against the return of capital punishment would not change.

"His proposed shoot-to-kill orders, I will definitely oppose that," De Lima said, referring to Duterte's plan for a law-and-order crackdown. "That's illegal. That's unconstitutional."

But like Recto and Gordon, De Lima said that she was open to Duterte's proposal for federalism.

"I'm open to it, but I cannot really give my commitment until I see the whole proposal," she said.

Recto and Gordon said they might support the restoration of capital punishment, but only for heinous crimes.

"I think it's important that we help the new administration, the new President. Let's be cooperative as much as possible, as much as we can," Recto said.

20 May 2016

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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PH growth highest in Asia

Economy expands 6.9% in first quarter

By Ben O. de Vera

THE PHILIPPINES is a star in a weak global economy: Its economy grew 6.9 percent in the first quarter, making it one of Asia's best performers, even outpacing China for the first time in 27 years.

In the same period last year, the economy expanded 5.2 percent.

The growth, however, did not help the Aquino administration in the May 9 elections, as its presidential candidate lost by a wide margin, an indication that growth was not trickling down to the poor, among other reasons.

The Philippines outpaced the growth posted by major Asian economies, such as China's 6.7 percent, Vietnam's 5.5 percent, Indonesia's 4.9 percent and Malaysia's 4.2 percent, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Sustained robust domestic demand coupled with ramped up government spending for public goods and services ahead

From page A1

of the elections pushed economic growth to its fastest pace in over a year.

Services grew 7.9 percent and industry recorded its highest growth in five consecutive quarters at 8.7 percent. Investments also boosted the economy, with fixed capital posting 25.5 percent growth.

Agriculture contracts

The growth came despite a relatively weak exports and a farm sector ravaged by the worst El Niño in 28 years. Agriculture contracted 4.4 percent, the fourth consecutive quarter of decline.

With election spending expected to boost second-quarter growth to over 7 percent, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Emmanuel E Esguerra on Thursday said the economy was "on track" to reach at least the lower end of this year's gross domestic product (GDP) growth target of 6.8 to 7.8 percent.

It puts the economic expansion during outgoing President Aquino's six-year term at 6.2 percent, the highest since 1978.

"We are pleased to be turning over a strong and stable economy to the next administration," he said at a news conference, referring to presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte, who takes office on June 30.

Philippine Statistics Authority data showed that the first-

PHECONOMY/AB

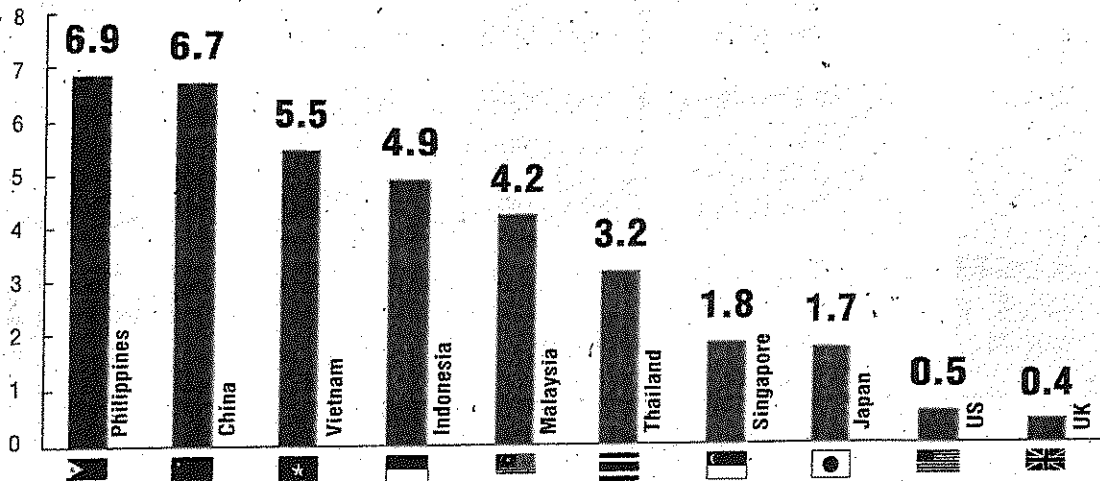
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GDP First quarter 2016 (Selected countries, year-on-year, in percent)



quarter growth figure matched the 6.9 percent posted in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Impact of poll spending

Neda has yet to determine the actual impact of poll-related spending on the first-quarter economic output, but Esguerra said previous elections showed a 0.3 to 0.4-percentage point contribution to the GDP during the election season.

Other economic managers welcomed the news of the strong economic expansion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the first-quarter GDP growth confirmed that policy settings were appropriate right now.

"We will, however, continue

to be mindful, among others, of weather-related developments. While El Niño seems to be winding down, it could still have residual effects on the crop cycle. In addition, we may see the onset of La Niña by midyear," Tetangco said in a text message to reporters:

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said he remained optimistic that the economy will continue to expand this year.

"The country has made unprecedented growth in the past five years and we primarily owe this to the principles of good governance—upholding transparency, accountability and openness, especially in the management of public funds," he said.

Finance Secretary Cesar V.

Purisima, for his part, said the next administration would inherit a rapidly growing, vibrant Philippines cushioned by robust foundations built over six years.

Much better place

Purisima said the Aquino administration was leaving the Philippines in a much better place than when it first found it.

"No longer the sick man of Asia, the Philippines emerges more confident and more optimistic than ever, demanding to be governed by even higher standards of governance than before," he said.

Esguerra said that while strong economic growth and investment inflows could be sustained despite a change in administration by midyear, re-

20 May 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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AFP-NPA clash in Davao kills 4

By Florante S. Solmerin

THREE rebels and a soldier were the latest casualties in the government's anti-insurgency campaign against the government even as peace talks preparations have already underway between the camp of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front in Davao City.

According to Captain Rhyen Batchar, public affairs chief of the 10th Infantry Division, the casualties were from a series of encounters Wednesday between soldiers of the 60th Infantry Battalion NPA rebels in Sitio Booy, Barangay Pinamuno, San Isidro, Davao del Norte and in Sitio Tugpahan, Barangay Imelda, Laak, Compostela Valley.

The first encounter in Booy at around 11:45 a.m. lasted for two hours. Two rebels and a soldier were killed while two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 200-meter detonating cord, blasting caps, subversive documents, a cellphone, and some personal belongings were recovered.

The second clash in Tugpahan at around 2:50 p.m. led to the recovery of three M16 rifles and another IED.

The third encounter at around 5:50 p.m. happened during clearing operations in Booy. It led to the death of another rebel and recovery of an AK-47 rifle.

0 Nov 2016

The Manila Times

A7

3 Reds, soldier killed in clashes

THREE suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels and a soldier were killed during a series of encounters in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley province on Wednesday.

Captain Rhyon Batchar, Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division (ID) Public Affairs Office chief, said the first encounter occurred in Sitio Booy, Barangay Pinamuno in San Isidro, Davao del Norte.

He said elements of the Army's 60th Infantry Battalion (60IB) were conducting security patrol in the area when they engaged the guerrillas in a firefight that lasted for about two hours where the rebels retreated leaving two of their fallen comrades.

Security forces recovered two

unexploded Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), detonating cord, blasting caps, subversive documents, and a cellular phone.

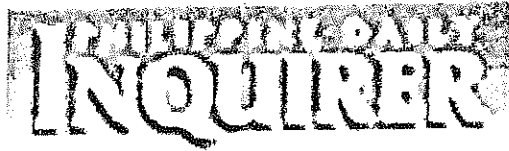
A soldier, whose identity was withheld pending notification of next of kin, died during the encounter.

Later, another encounter occurred in Sitio Tugpahan, Barangay Imelda, in Laak town, Compostela Valley where the rebels left three M-16 rifles and another IED.

At about 5:50 p.m., Batchar said that while government forces were scouring the encounter site, another firefight ensued resulting in the death of another rebel. An AK-47 rifle was found during clearing operations.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

20 May 2016



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■ MISAMIS ORIENTAL

NPA owns up cult head's slay

GINGOOG CITY—Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas on Wednesday owned up the killing of a retired policeman-turned-religious group founder in Gingoog City.

Allan Juanito, spokesperson of the NPA's north central Mindanao command, said Francisco Baguiz was executed for "crimes against the people."

The rebels said Baguiz had been involved in land grabbing and the killings of several people, including Marc Anthony Bagaipo, former councilor.

Baguiz, the NPA said, was also found to have posed as a communist guerrilla in robbery and extortion campaigns. The victim is also behind attacks on the NPA through the cult "Gintong Araw," the NPA statement said.

The statement was referring to Baguiz's religious group Apocalypse International Ministry Inc., also known as Gintong Araw, based in Sitio Sioan in Barangay Malinao in Gingoog City.

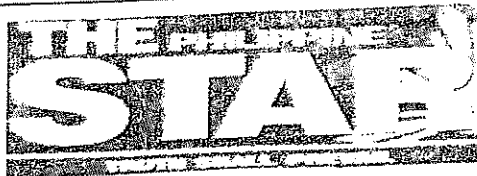
The statement said rebels tried to execute Baguiz on Dec. 18, 2005 but he survived the attack.

The rebels said they would return to Baguiz's family his personal belongings and cash.

SPO4 Teddy Macarayo, of the Gingoog police, said Baguiz was handcuffed and brought by the armed men to a secluded area, where he was stabbed four times. He did not reach the hospital alive.

Jigger Jerusalem, Inquirer Mindanao

10 May 2016



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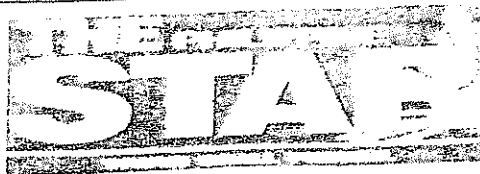
Soldier, 3 rebels slain in clashes

DAVAO CITY – Three New People's Army rebels and a soldier were killed in separate encounters in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley on Wednesday.

The identity of the soldier was withheld pending notification of his family members.

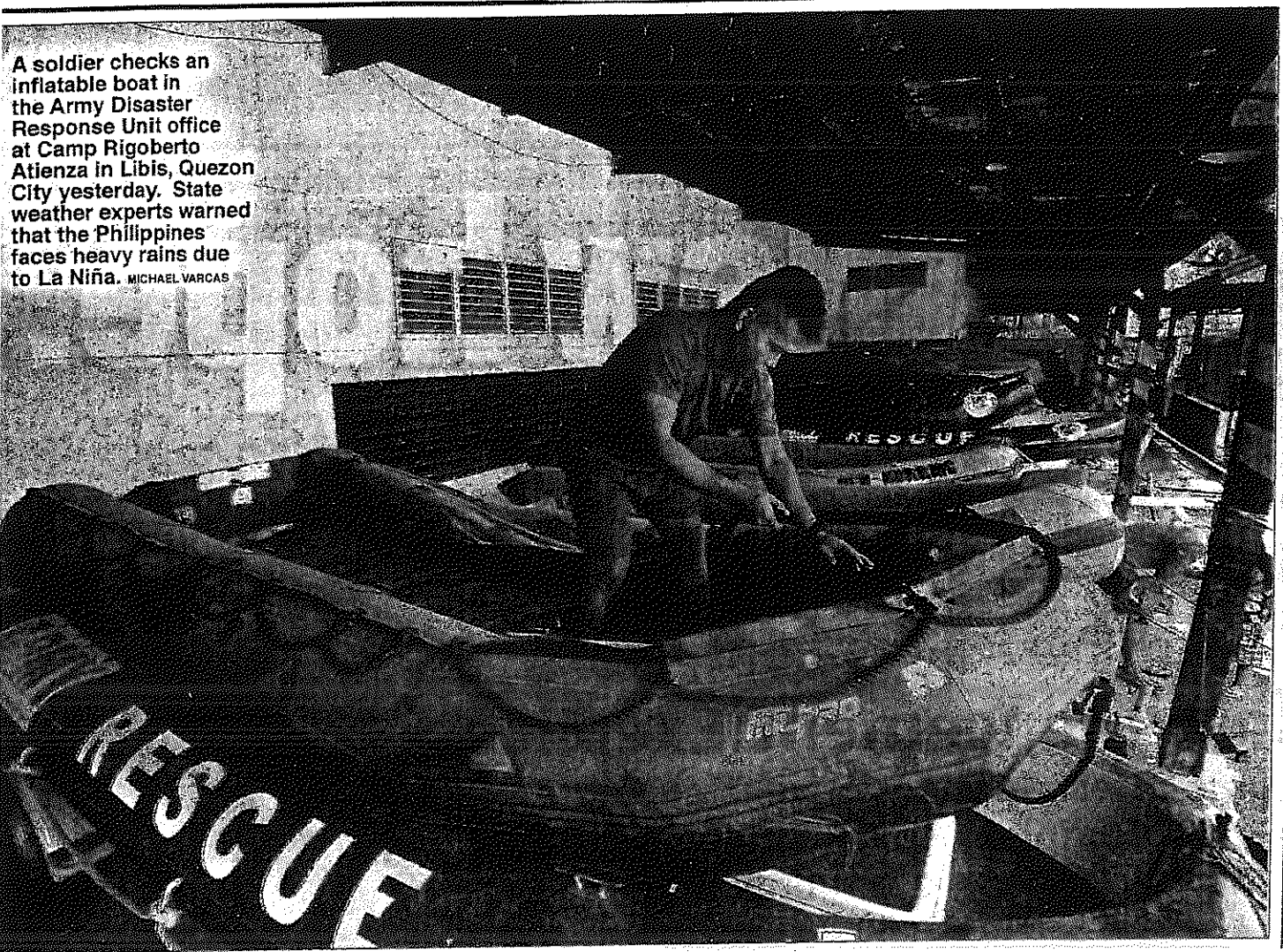
The soldier and two rebels died in a clash in Sitio Booy,

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A soldier checks an inflatable boat in the Army Disaster Response Unit office at Camp Rigoberto Atienza in Libis, Quezon City yesterday. State weather experts warned that the Philippines faces heavy rains due to La Niña. MICHAEL VARGAS



20 May 2016

INQUIRER

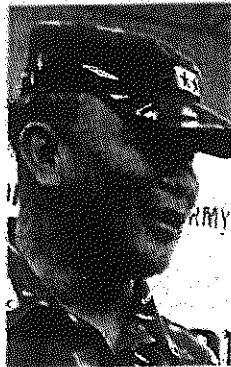
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■ TARLAC

Luisita farmers hit AFP pick

A FEDERATION of farm workers on Wednesday asked presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to drop his plan to appoint Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines due to his alleged role in the so-called Hacienda Luisita massacre in 2004.

The Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) said Visaya should instead be prosecuted for the death of seven striking workers who were shot dead during a confrontation with policemen and soldiers at the gates of Hacienda Luisita on Nov. 16, 2004. President Aquino, a member of the Cojuangco family that owns Hacienda Luisita, was a congressman of Tarlac at the time.



VISAYA

The Office of the Ombudsman had dismissed two murder cases filed against Mr. Aquino and Gen. Gregorio Catapang for the violence that attended the riot at Luisita. Catapang was appointed AFP chief of staff by Mr. Aquino 10 years after the bloodshed.

Reacting to the UMA claim, Visaya said he was not investigated or ordered to submit a counteraffidavit in connection with the deaths in Luisita.

At the time, Visaya was commanding the 69th Infantry Battalion, which was not at the riot site because it was providing area security away from Luisita. Visaya is the current Southern Luzon Command chief.

Danilo Ramos, UMA secretary general, described Visaya as a "right hand man and protégé" of detained retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan.

Palparan is standing trial for the kidnapping of two University of the Philippines students in Bulacan province.

Visaya said "leftists always try to discredit me."

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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INQUIRER

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Sulu bet says video shows brazen cheating

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A candidate for Sulu governor has filed an electoral sabotage case against the winner of the gubernatorial race claiming that video footage and other pieces of evidence show the brazenness with which fraud was committed during the May 9 elections in the province.

Temojen "Cocoy" Tulawie, who lost to Abdusakur "Totoh" Tan II, son of Sulu patriarch Abdusakur Tan, said massive cheating and vote-buying were documented in Timpook and Taong in Talipao; Taglibi in Patikul and Alat in Jolo town.

But the elder Tan said Tulawie's accusation was just a form of "sour graping."

"I guess it is the same for other losers," said the elder Tan. "They readily say they were cheated."

"The problem with Cocoy is he talks too much because he wants public attention," the elder Tan said.

"Let him bring his case to court and we will face him there," he said.

Tulawie said his camp filed the electoral sabotage case at the Commission on Elections on May 12.

He said his supporters were able to obtain video footage that showed Tan's daughter, Shiela Tan Hayudini, and her husband, Ging Hayudini, storming several precincts and ordering voters to leave the room.

"They then started shading the ballots," said Tulawie, describing the content of the video.

The Hayudini couple, Tulawie said, gained access to polling precincts with police

and military escorts.

Another footage, Tulawie said, showed a suspected Tan supporter walking to and from a voter's chair to the vote-counting machine without the board of election inspectors (BEI) doing anything.

Tulawie said volunteers who helped in his campaign got money from Tan's camp. They kept the money and handed it over to the police as evidence. He said the volunteers collected about P100,000 in cash from the Tan camp.

Tulawie also alleged majority of teachers, who served as members of the BEI, were in collusion with the Tans.

These BEI members, he said, demanded P20,000 from every candidate "and I was informed that Tan paid."

Tulawie said Udtog Tago, Sulu election supervisor, should also be made to explain why the younger Tan was proclaimed governor when the number of votes canvassed had not yet reached 90 percent.

He said failure of elections in some areas in the province also helped the younger Tan win.

Giocelito Jayma, a lawyer for Tulawie, said he contested the proclamation of the younger Tan by filing a petition on May 13. A case seeking to disqualify the younger Tan for electoral sabotage has also been filed.

Tago said he was ready to answer the accusations in court.

"We will answer his allegations. His accusations against political candidates will be answered by those involved," said Tago. *Julie Alipala and Dennis Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*



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Chinese jets intercept US spy plane, says Pentagon

WASHINGTON—Two Chinese fighter jets carried out an “unsafe” intercept of a US military reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, a further escalation of tensions in and around the contested waterway.

The incident took place in international airspace on Tuesday, with the two Chinese jets coming within 15 meters of the US maritime patrol aircraft as it carried out “a routine US patrol,” a Pentagon statement said.

CHINESE/A10

From page A1

The incident came a week after China scrambled fighter jets as a US Navy ship sailed close to a disputed reef in the South China Sea.

Another Chinese intercept took place in 2014 when a Chinese fighter pilot flew acrobatic maneuvers around a US spy plane.

The intercept also comes days before US President Barack Obama travels to parts of Asia from May 21 to 28, which will include a Group of Seven (G-7) summit in Japan and his first trip to Vietnam.

Militarization

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

Washington has accused Beijing of militarizing the South China Sea after creating artificial islands while Beijing, in turn, has criticized increased US naval patrols and exercises in Asia.

Washington, which has embarked on a foreign policy “pivot” toward Asia, fears Beijing is seeking to impose military controls over the entire South China Sea.

Much to Beijing’s annoyance, the US military has conducted several “freedom of navigation” operations, in which planes or ships pass within a 22-kilometer buffer around the Chinese artificial islands.

Last month, US Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter visited an American aircraft carrier in the South China Sea with his Filipino counterpart, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, as part of an effort to reassure the Philippines that the United

ates would use its military power to protect it. That move angered China, which accused the United States of using "Cold War" tactics to try to contain them. Two weeks later, China denied to allow the aircraft carrier Carter visited, the USS John Stennis, to make a scheduled port call in Hong Kong.

Coercive tactics

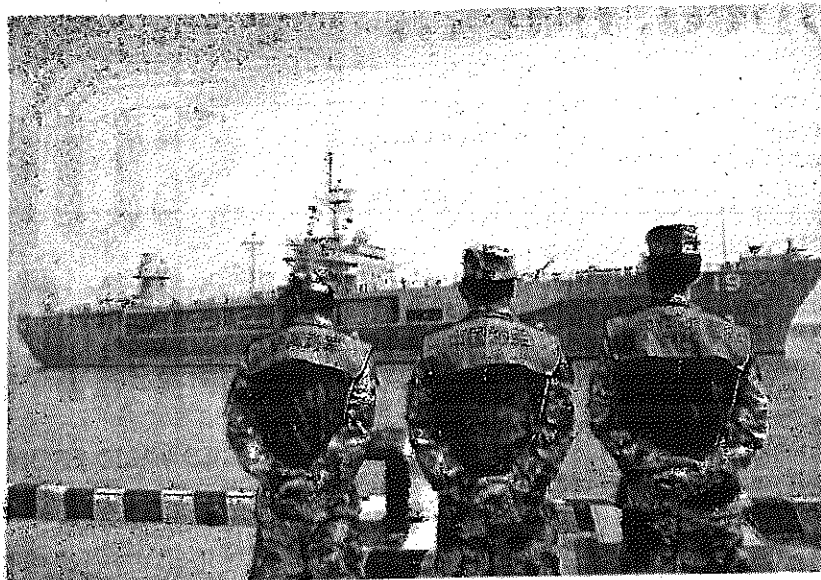
In an annual report to Congress, the Pentagon said last week Beijing had been using coercive tactics "to assert its claims in the South China Sea. The latest intercept came after the Pentagon and China had worked to reduce the risk of mishaps "by improved dialogue at multiple levels."

"The Department of Defense is reviewing a May 17 intercept of a maritime patrol reconnaissance aircraft by two tactical aircraft from the People's Republic of China," a Pentagon spokesman, Maj. Jamie Davis, said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Initial reports characterized the incident as unsafe," he added, without giving additional details.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But the Chinese defense ministry said in a statement faxed to France-Presse (AFP) on Thursday that they "noted" reports of the latest incident and



MARITIME POWERS

In this May 6, 2016, photo, soldiers from the Chinese Navy watch as the USS Blue Ridge arrives at a port in Shanghai. Seeking to calm escalating tensions in the South China Sea, top generals from China and the United States spoke by phone last week, saying they were ready to work out an effective mechanism to prevent confrontation and maintain stability in the region.

AP

said it "is very likely linked to the extremely close surveillance of China by US military aircraft."

Signal of displeasure?

In 2015, the United States and China announced agreements on a military hotline and rules of behavior to govern air-to-air encounters called the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES).

"This is exactly the type of irresponsible and dangerous intercepts that the air-to-air annex to CUES is supposed to prevent," said Greg Poling, director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

Poling said either some part of China's Air Force "hadn't gotten

the message," or it was meant as a signal of displeasure with recent US freedom of navigation actions in the South China Sea.

"If the latter, it would be very disappointing to find China sacrificing the CUES annex for political gamesmanship," he said.

The Pentagon last month called on China to reaffirm it has no plans to deploy military aircraft in the Spratly Islands after China used a military plane to evacuate sick workers from Kaitiangan Reef (international name: Fiery Cross Reef), where it has built a 3,000-meter runway.

2001 encounter

In April 2001, an intercept of a US EP-3 spy plane by a Chinese fighter jet resulted in a collision that killed the Chinese pi-

lot and forced the American plane to make an emergency landing at a base on China's Hainan island.

The 24 US air crew members were held for 11 days until Washington apologized for the incident.

That encounter soured US-Chinese relations in the early days of President George W. Bush's first administration.

Both countries have traded accusations and warnings over such surveillance flights in subsequent years.

Last month, the Pentagon said that Russia had intercepted a US Air Force aircraft over the Baltic Sea in an "unsafe and unprofessional" way. *Reports from Reuters, AFP and New York Times News Service*

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PH-Russia deal vs terror eyed

DAVAO CITY—"Presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has agreed to explore the idea of a military cooperation with Russia with the growing threat of terrorism," Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Igor Anatolyevich Khovaev said.

Khovaev met Duterte here on Wednesday evening.

The Russian ambassador said that he and Duterte also agreed that there has to be combined efforts against terrorism. He added that the Abu Sayyaf was one terror group mentioned during the meeting.

"The struggle against terror and threats continues," he told reporters after emerging from the meeting with Duterte.

"All of us should combine all our efforts," he added.

Khovaev said aside from "possible sharing of experiences as well as information," he and Duterte also talked about the possible purchase by the Philippines of Russian military hardware.

But he admitted it was not discussed in details.

Last year, Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev had been wanting to work closely with the Philippine government for military and defense cooperation similar to their existing agreements with adjacent states.

The Philippines also has an existing agreement with Russia on the war against illegal drugs.

Coloma said Russia also wants to intensify bilateral ties at diplomatic, business and entrepreneurial fronts. *Karlos Manlupig, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Duterte can't just scrap BBL, says MILF

By Nikko Dizon

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday said the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) cannot be unilaterally set aside by the government as the incoming Duterte administration pushes for a federal system of government.

"It will not happen," MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal told the INQUIRER by phone, referring to the statement of newly elected Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez that the peace process with the Moro rebels would go back to square one.

"We will continue to insist on the implementation of the peace process," Iqbal said.

Iqbal said it was important to clarify if Alvarez made a "personal point of view" when he claimed that the peace talks with the Moro rebels would be back to square one under presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte or if this was really the incoming administration's policy.

Alvarez is poised to be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"My first question is, is this an official

policy of the Duterte administration or his personal point of view because if it's his personal opinion, it won't hold any significance," Iqbal said.

He said the Philippine government and the MILF signed in 2010 the Declaration of Continuity for Peace Negotiation, which cannot be abrogated.

Ironically, a day before Alvarez made the announcement, the MILF published on its website an appeal to the incoming administration to honor the declaration.

In a statement on their official website, luwaran.com, the MILF said the essence of the declaration is that "where the parties stopped, as consequence of major obstacles like all-out war or shortness of time of the administration in power like that of President Fidel V. Ramos, they will continue and start from they stopped or forced to discontinue."

"Government cannot just set this aside. It is an obligation by both parties because it was an agreement we both signed," Iqbal said.

Iqbal reminded the incoming administration that negotiations between the MILF and the government have been completed and both parties have already signed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB).

The CAB is the essentially the peace agreement between the government and the MILF.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has also completed its tripartite review of its peace accord with the government.

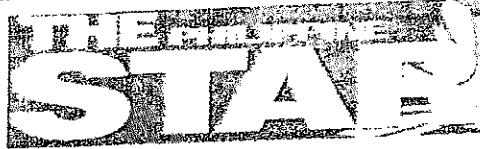
"There are no more negotiations to speak of but the peace process is ongoing," Iqbal said.

The 15th Congress was unable to pass the proposed BBL, which would have created a new Bangsamoro autonomous region as a compromise to the full independence the MILF has fought for decades.

The Mamasapano debacle in January last year threw a monkey wrench on the otherwise smooth sailing peace process between the MILF and the Aquino administration, with members of both houses of Congress casting doubt on the sincerity of the Moro rebels.

One of the leading dissenting voices to the proposed BBL is Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, running mate of Duterte. Cayetano has been promised a Cabinet position in the Duterte administration following a yearlong ban for losing candidates to be appointed in government posts.

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Abu Sayyaf frees Tsinoy trader

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - A Filipino-Chinese businessman kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf gunmen in March has been freed.

Ryan Nuñez Tan, 21, was released a few meters away from Camp Cawa-Cawa around 6 p.m. on Tuesday. He was reunited with his family in Lapuyan, Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday night.

Word about Tan's release came out only yesterday as his family requested for privacy, citing the safety of his 70-year-old grandfather. Antonio Tan was separated from his grandson while in captivity.

The Tans were seized in Purok San Francisco, Barangay Maruing in Lapuyan, Zamboanga del Sur.

They were among six Filipinos held by Abu Sayyaf bandits in the jungles of Sulu along with Canadian Robert Hall and Norwegian Kjar-tan Sekkingstad, who were taken from a resort on Samal Island, a Dutch birdwatcher and four Malaysians.

Canadian John Ridsdel—who was seized along with Hall, Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor—was beheaded on April 27 after the deadline set for the payment of a P300-million ransom lapsed.

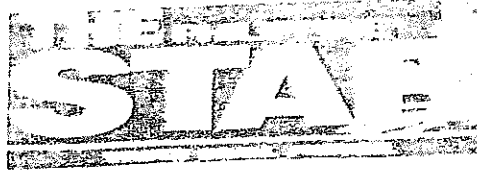
The kidnappers threatened to behead another Samal hostage if their ransom demand is not met.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- With Jaime Laude

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Enrile to Rody: Think twice before dealing with CPP

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Outgoing Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile advised yesterday incoming president Rodrigo Duterte to think twice before striking a deal with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

"They have to act with caution," the 92-year-old Enrile said when asked to comment on Duterte's dealing with exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison after the party was offered four Cabinet posts under the incoming administration.

The defense minister during martial law cited grave security implications in case Duterte pursues his plans to allow communist leaders to occupy key government posts without going through the legal process.

"Well, they better study it very well," he said.

"There are security implications there. I am sure the incoming president is aware of the problem of a coalition with the Left. There are many examples of this like what happened in Russia, the coalition between the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks."

Enrile said it is up to the Duterte administration to draft a peace agreement or to give amnesty to members and officers of the CPP and the New People's Army.

"It depends upon the policy," he said. "That is part of his political decision. I am not in a position to advise him. He has good advisers at this point. All I can say is, the government must act with caution."

Enrile reserved his comment on the composition of the upcoming administration, expressing belief that Duterte knows what he is doing.

He took note of the impending appointment of lawyer Vitaliano Aguirre to the justice portfolio. He said that Aguirre is a good lawyer.

As for incoming House speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Enrile said he also knows him, but then, they were on opposite sides in the past administrations.

Enrile said Duterte should be given the chance to prove himself to the Filipino people on his plan to have curfews for minors and a liquor ban nationwide.

"I am not familiar with the law," he said. "But they should do something to legalize that power."

On Duterte's call to stop crimes, among other policies, Enrile warned: "When you curtail liberties, you have to be careful."

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III also shared the view that Duterte should be given the prerogative to choose the members of his Cabinet.

"I have no problem with that," he said. "But of course, it depends on the individual and (the appointees) will have to undergo (scrutiny) of the Commission on Appointments. So I leave it to the wisdom of the CA." Osmeña spoke on the sidelines of the Senate inquiry into the \$81-million cyber heist from the Bangladesh Central Bank.

Former president and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said New People's Army (NPA) members should renounce their allegiance to communism before joining the government.

"There is no problem with that," he said. "For as long as they will renounce their affiliation with the communists, why not?"

- With Jose Rodel Clapano

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SECRET

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US welcomes Duterte plan to talk with China

The United States has welcomed incoming president Rodrigo Duterte's readiness to hold bilateral talks with China to resolve disputes.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel said the US encouraged and welcomed dialogue among claimants in disputed waters.

"So in that respect, the

statement of the presumptive president-elect of the Philippines is consistent with the important prospect for diplomatic engagement and the peaceful resolution of differences among the countries in Southeast Asia through dialogue," Russel told a press briefing on Wednesday in Washington on US President Barack Obama's upcoming

trip to Vietnam and Japan.

"But it in no way contradicts or undermines the legitimacy of any country availing themselves of appropriate legal mechanisms as well, a right that all 10 ASEAN countries have repeatedly reaffirmed," he stressed.

The United Nations arbitral tribunal in The Hague is expected to rule soon on the case

filed by Manila for the definition of its maritime entitlements in the West Philippine Sea under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Duterte has said he would settle maritime rows through multilateral talks that would include allies like the United States, Japan and Australia as well as other claimant nations. But if efforts stall, he told

Obama in a phone conversation that he was willing to engage China bilaterally.

Obama had called Duterte to congratulate the incoming president on his victory and the Philippines for the successful conduct of the elections.

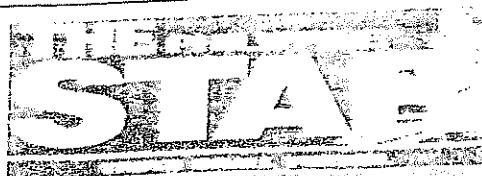
Daniel Kritenbrink, senior director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council, said Obama's visit to Japan and Vietnam rein-

forces the latter's commitment to the rebalance to Asia.

The trip will be Obama's 10th to the region as president. Washington said the trip builds upon an already extensive record this year of engagement with the region, including the historic Sun-nylands summit with ASEAN leaders in February.

- Pia Lee-Bravo

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Chinese jets intercept US military plane over disputed sea

HONG KONG / WASHINGTON - Two Chinese fighter jets carried out an "unsafe" intercept of a US military reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, a further escalation of tensions in and around the contested waterway.

The incident took place in international airspace on Tuesday as the US maritime patrol aircraft carried out "a routine US patrol," a Pentagon statement said.

The incident comes a week after China scrambled fighter jets as a US Navy ship sailed close to a disputed reef in the South China Sea.

Another Chinese intercept took place in 2014 when a Chinese fighter pilot flew acrobatic maneuvers around a US spy plane.

The intercept is also days

before US President Barack Obama travels to parts of Asia from May 21-28, which will include a Group of Seven summit in Japan and his first trip to Vietnam.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

Washington has accused Beijing of militarizing the South China Sea after creating artificial islands while Beijing, in turn, has criticized increased US naval patrols and exercises in Asia.

The Pentagon statement said the Department of Defense was addressing the issue through military and diplomatic channels.

Chinese authorities have yet to comment in detail but a

report in the *Global Times* said the Defense Ministry was looking into reports.

The paper, an influential tabloid published by the Communist Party's official *People's Daily* newspaper, said reports showed it was likely that a US plane was operating near China.

The Pentagon has yet to release the precise location of the encounter.

Signal of displeasure?

In 2015, the United States and China announced agreements on a military hotline and rules of behavior to govern air-to-air encounters called the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES).

"This is exactly the type of irresponsible and dangerous intercepts that the air-to-air annex to CUES is supposed to prevent," said Greg Poling,

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PNP, AFP step up drive vs NPAs, other lawless groups

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**
and **ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ**

BUTUAN CITY—The Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday directed all field unit commanders to step up operations against armed lawless group (ALG) in their respective areas of responsibility.

The command group of the North-eastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) and its military counterpart, the Northeastern and Northern Mindanao Army's Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) also directed its field unit commanders to sustain patrols and avert any terroristic activities carried out by the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

"Our main task in protecting the people did not stop even after election and we are duty-bound to thwart any terror group plans," said a police officer who requested anonymity as he is not authorized to issue any statement to media.

Davao Norte, ComVal clashes

The directive came in the wake of a series of skirmishes between government forces and New People's Army (NPA) rebels last Wednesday which resulted in the killing of four persons,

the 10th Infantry (Agila) Division of the Philippine Army reported.

Captain Rhyen Batchar, chief information officer of 10th ID said three rebels and an Army trooper belonging to 60th Infantry Battalion were killed during a series of armed encounters in Sitio Booy, Barangay Pinamuno, San Isidro town in Davao del Norte and in Sitio Tugpahan, Barangay Imelda, Laak, Compostela Valley province.

Peace talks backed

Meanwhile, majority of the field unit commanders of the AFP, when reached by phone by the Manila Bulletin yesterday said they are in favor of the resumption of stalled peace talks between the government and CPP-NPA, but insisted that the NPAs must first lay down their firearms.

In a related development, a certain 'Ka Alan Juanito', who claimed to be the spokesperson of the NPA's Julito Tiro Command claimed responsibility for the execution of a former police officer in Gingoog City last Monday.

The supposed NPA spokesperson said former Senior Police Officer 4 Francisco R. Baguiz was executed for his alleged involvement in the killings of some tribal leaders and other alleged criminal and 'anti-revolutionary' activities in the highland communities in Gingoog City.

Duterte meets top communist leader

pressed willingness to free ailing guerrillas from prison.

Netherlands-based Agcaoili said he was hopeful about Duterte's commitment.

"He has political will," he said of the president-elect. "Duterte is not like (President Aquino) who was fond of delays."

He said Duterte told him that government emissaries will travel to the Netherlands to meet with the group and prepare documents needed for the formal negotiations and that he pledged to grant amnesty to political prisoners.

But Duterte's designated negotiator, Silvestre Bello, said such a move would require congressional approval.

"He said he is considering studying the possibility of recommending to Congress the passage of the general amnesty law," Bello said.

"I am very confident peace negotiations will resume."

The communists' armed wing, the New People's Army, is believed to have fewer than 4,000 soldiers, down from a peak of 26,000 in the 1980s, according to the military, however it retains support among the deeply poor in the rural Philippines. **AFP**

it retains support among the deep-poor in the rural Philippines. **AFP**

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TRILLANES DAILY INQUIRER

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Joma warns Duterte of coup, slay plots

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte should watch out for coup d'etat and assassination plots by disgruntled military officers supposedly supported by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, according to Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison.

"The Trillanes gang has declared war on Duterte. Upon assumption of office as President and Commander in Chief, [Duterte] has to deliver decisive blows on this tiny gang," Sison said in an online interview on Thursday.

On the eve of the national elections, a 13-minute video was uploaded on YouTube by a group called the Network of Officers to Defend the Republic. Trillanes, a former Navy officer, earlier confirmed it was produced by military officers and soldiers who did not approve of Duterte's alliance with communist rebels.

"Only stupid political prostitutes and

pathological anticommunists like Trillanes cannot understand Duterte as a smart representative of his government," Sison said.

Duterte has said he would consider a general amnesty for political prisoners, which Sison described as a "high-minded, generous and excellent initiative."

Sison said Duterte's statement meant the incoming Philippine leader was willing to inspire the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

Duterte's proposed general amnesty was based on "sound precedents" of the amnesty proclamations by former Presidents Corazon Aquino in 1986 and Fidel Ramos in 1992, Sison said.

He said the Filipino people and the majority of government officials, businessmen and military and police officers were interested in the resumption of peace talks between the Duterte administration and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Sison said the NDFP would consult with

the special envoy of the Norwegian government for advice and assistance on ceasefire monitoring and the formation of reciprocal ceasefire committees and liaison officers.

The Norwegian government is brokering the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the NDFP.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Experts say land reform key to industrialization

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Senior Editor, Southern Luzon

MANILA CITY—A rarely heard of underground group of farmers sought to add its voice to a proposal, in the words of pre-

sumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte, to “concede” the agrarian reform program to the Left.

This early, however, the group Pam-bansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM), one of the organizations under the

umbrella of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF), said the Left’s demand for genuine agrarian reform could be met only through the success of peace negotiations between the incoming administration of Duterte and the leftist rebel movement.

In a statement, Andres Agtalon, spokesperson of PKM, said while the group supported the resumption of peace talks under a Duterte administration, the Left already had a model for agrarian reform—its own.

The NDF, said Agtalon, was already carrying out a “revolutionary agrarian program” in guerrilla bases and territory.

The program, he said, went on while the government’s “failed agrarian reform program” led to “widespread land grabbing and displacement of farmers.”

A genuine agrarian reform program, said Agtalon, had two key characteristics—breaking up “land monopolies” and “free distribution of land.”

The NDF, the PKM spokesperson said, had already outlined an agrarian reform program that would lead to rural development and was supported by “adequate and affordable irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, more farm technicians, post-harvest facilities, marketing agencies and research and development.”

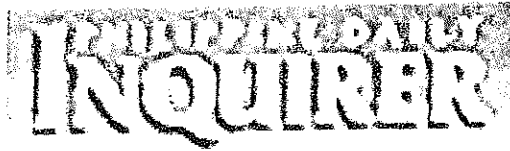
The NDF idea of agrarian reform, he said, would lead to rural industries spurred by agricultural modernization and food processing.

The objective, said Agtalon, was for rural development to be a key ingredient of “national industrialization and progress.”

For a start, according to a left-wing militant group of farmers, Duterte should certify as urgent the pending Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill in Congress.

Antonio Flores, secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the Department of Agrarian Reform, which Duterte offered to concede to the Left, would no longer have a mandate to carry out agrarian reform because the law that allowed it to do so, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Reforms, had expired on June 30, 2014, except for its provision on land distribution.

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Reds drawing up list of Cabinet nominees

By Jeffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY— The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is preparing a list of its nominees for major posts in the incoming administration of presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte announced on Monday that he was offering communist leaders positions in the

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

"We have accepted the offer," said Luis Jalandoni, peace negotiator for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), in a radio interview on Wednesday.

Jalandoni said the CPP and the NDFP were very happy about Duterte's statements.

"It shows his trust and confidence in the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front," Jalandoni added.

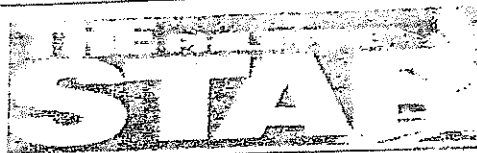
He said that after hearing about Duterte's statements, the CPP and the NDFP immediately started preparing a list of nomi-

nees to the positions.

"So we are starting to prepare the list of qualified, competent, dedicated personnel in the legal democratic movement who could fill these important posts that are being offered by Duterte," Jalandoni said.

Jalandoni said Duterte's gesture was important and would help in achieving peace and national unity.

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'NDF peace talks should resume without pre-conditions'

DAVAO CITY – Incoming government negotiator with communist rebels Silvestre Bello believes that peace talks with the National Democratic Front should resume without pre-conditions.

In an interview yesterday, Bello said peace talks should resume and then the issue of ceasefire or the release of some rebel consultants could be the product of negotiations.

Setting pre-conditions would violate The Hague Joint Declaration, an existing agreement between the government and the NDF, Bello said.

NDF negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said rebels serving as peace consultants should be freed because it is a government obligation under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees signed in 1995.

"It seems that president Duterte does not have any problem with the release of political prisoners, a majority of whom were detained under (President) Aquino," he said.

Bello said he has relayed to Agcaoili his position that the release of prisoners should be an offshoot of negotiations.

"I am very confident that the peace negotiation will resume," he said. "I made it very clear to him that if we resume, it should be without precondition."

Negotiations between the government and the NDF hit a snag after the two sides failed to reach a consensus on jailed rebel leaders.

The NDF had demanded the release of rebels charged with criminal cases. They are working as peace consultants and should therefore be immune from arrest, they claimed.

However, the government panel rejected the demand as their identities could not be validated, especially those using aliases.

Communist rebels have been waging an armed struggle against the government since the late 1960s.

The insurgency, the longest-running in the region, has claimed more than 40,000 lives.

Meanwhile, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general Antonio Flores expects more than 300 "peasant political prisoners" to be released under the incoming Duterte

administration.

"The resumption of peace talks will pave the way for the release of all political prisoners, now reaching more than 500, detained at various jails in the country," he said.

Flores is optimistic of the intention of incoming president Rodrigo Duterte to seriously continue the peace process by taking significant steps that include the release of all political prisoners.

"Many political prisoners who are detained since the Arroyo administration are peace consultants, activ-

ists, farmers and leaders and members of mass organizations," he said.

"Peace talks between the National Democratic Front and the government of the Republic of the Philippines were stalled in 2011 when the Aquino government deliberately refused to free political prisoners and implement previous agreements, including The Hague Declaration and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law." – Alexis Romero, Ding Cervantes

20 May 2016

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Populism

THE COMING presidency of Rodrigo Duterte is taking more twists and turns than many expected, setting off roller-coaster emotions among both supporters and critics.

Human rights defenders protested when Duterte said he would restore the death penalty, with a graphic description of how hanging would be used. But the double-dead threats have come with promises to release all political prisoners, which elates many human rights groups.

Conversely, the promise to release political detainees and offers of Cabinet positions to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP),

have dismayed more conservative Duterte supporters who expected a tough law-and-order stance, with activists, the National Democratic Front (NDF), and the CPP included as targets.

Amid all this, a book review in the British newspaper The Guardian caught my eye and sent me into Amazon, only to find that the book won't be available until June 1 (at a hefty \$61). Nevertheless, the review provided enough information for me to think harder about Duterte, and populism in the Philippines.

The book is Benjamin Moffitt's "The Global Rise of Populism," which is the result of his doctoral research at the University of Sydney. Moffitt's interest in populism came out of his native Australia, where he grew up during the era of populist politician Pauline Hanson, whose racist views he found "abhorrent." But, precisely because such "abhorrent" ideas seemed to have a wide following, he was intrigued enough to go into a global review of populism.

The book will probably be a best-seller considering how, in recent years, populist politicians have gained power worldwide. Moffitt is probably following the news now about Duterte and, halfway across the world, Donald Trump, the presumptive (why does it sound like "presumptuous" to me?) Republican nominee in the current US electoral circus.

Flexibility

Moffitt's book is anchored on an important characteristic of populist politicians: They are not bound by a consistent ideology. It is flexibility that becomes a populist's greatest asset. We're certainly seeing that in Duterte who, while declaring himself a socialist, is not with any political party. Certainly not with the CPP, despite some of the almost funny speculation in social media. (In one online fire fight, someone said Duterte was "UP Diliman KM," drawing reactions from others who clarified, correctly, that he is from Lyceum, where he once had CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison as a teacher.)

Populist leaders, Moffitt suggests, are performers. One could argue that all politics is grand theater, and that politicians are actors (and in the Philippines, actors are politicians). But for Moffitt, populist leaders are far more intentionally performative, and, from excerpts of his book, I'd suggest populist leaders even set up their own stage, scenes and props.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Instead of abstract ideological issues, populists latch on to and amplify people's main anxieties, making people feel, Moffitt says, that "we're on the precipice of failure at all times." In Duterte's case, this was zeroing in on street and neighborhood crime. Everyone could relate to that: the upper class feeling besieged by "squatters" all around and putting up walls that would shame Jericho, complete with barbed wire charged with electricity; the middle class in mortal fear of being robbed in broad daylight while in a jeep, taxi or bus; the urban poor who know that their neighbor sells *shabu* or, worse, operates a drug den for users.

Enter the populist politician with promises of, and here I'm quoting a passage that resonates for all of us: "strong, swift simplistic action that sweeps aside the cautious deliberations and negotiations that normally characterize liberal democracy."

Political incorrectness

Moffitt says that "bad manners," including political incorrectness, are also important for populists. In both the United States and the Philippines, these "bad manners" were predicted, over and over again, as possibly leading to the downfall of the populist politician. But Moffitt says that on the contrary, bad manners are essential to the populist style, especially when coming from a less privileged class (Duterte's parents were middle-class) and up against politicians from the elite (in our case, Mar Roxas especially, and the ruling Liberal Party).

Moffitt observes that the bad manners will include sexual bragging, and cites Ecuadorian President Abdala Bucaram boasting of his "big balls" and Trump of the size of his hands. Duterte is mild compared to those two when it comes to bragging about personal assets, but he exceeded them with his joke about the Australian missionary raped and killed in prison.

Because politics and media are now so intertwined, Moffitt writes, populism becomes more tempting for even mainstream politicians. Again we see that in the Philippines, with social media in particular becoming so important in shaping a politician's image. Gone are the days of rhetorical promises; now politicians have to brand themselves, and where they used to fear controversies, they now know scandals can add to their popularity.

Staying in power

After I put down the book review, I thought: Winning an election is always the easy part with populist politicians, but staying in power and being able to effectively govern are far more difficult.

Staying in power will require even more of that populism, but now in the face of realpolitik. Duterte will have to play according to the rules of the game, including a coalition government to win over the elite, and restrain to some extent the restlessness of the masses. He will need the cooperation of the military and the police, as well as of the CPP/NDF which does have a large organized following among workers, peasants and students.

I see parallels with the Cory Aquino presidency, which started out as a rainbow coalition that included the Left. The response came swiftly: military coup attempts and assassinations of Left (and I mean here CPP/NDF-affiliated) leaders. The Left is wiser now, and warier.

I do think that populist leaders have more than political power in mind. They tend to be people who believe they can bring about radical change, with popular support.

The bottom line, too, beyond the theatrical performances, is that the Duterte victory came largely because of the people's disillusionment with elite politics. This time around, it was being fed up with not just empty promises but with outright incompetence that has led to daily trials and tribulations for Filipinos across classes. Besides the feeling of a state of siege from criminality, there are the drought-stricken farmers met with bullets when they rallied for help; indigenous peoples' homes and schools burned down so that they have to leave their ancestral lands; and urbanites packed like cattle in deteriorating LRT and MRT trains. Even members of the upper class had their complaint, such as not getting their car plates or driver's licenses on time. Also, most of the time government inefficiency was wrongly interpreted as corruption, eroding the claims of *daang matuwid* (straight path).

I want to believe that Duterte and his advisers do care about these issues. They have to, for the sake of the nation, and for their own.

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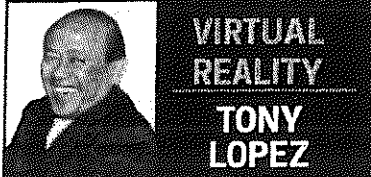
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The Standard

DEFENDING THE NEWS

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DUTERTE, THE AMERICANS, THE CHINESE, AND THE COMMUNISTS

VIRTUAL
REALITYTONY
LOPEZ

PRESIDENT Duterte has three main priorities: one, kill drug lords and those guilty of heinous crimes like rape and murder; two, extricate something practical and profitable from the Philippine territorial claim in the West Philippine Sea; and three, share power with the communist rebels to bring to an end the longest communist insurgency in the world. Relatedly, for the Muslim separatist rebels, President Duterte offers nothing short of federalism—a concept grand as a vision but mind-boggling in its execution.

Priority No. 1—drugs, is a no brainer. The facts are stark and disturbing: Consider the following:

- 1.7-million Filipinos are drug addicts.
- 20 percent of the country's 43,000 barangays are hit by drug-related crimes
- Drug lords live like kings at the National Penitentiary.
- Low-level drug cases clog court dockets and delay justice.
- Higher purity methamphetamine from Mexico supplanting less pure Chinese-sourced methamphetamine.
- Bulk shipments still come from China, largely controlled by Chinese organized criminal groups.
- Drug couriers use flights to the Philippines both to smuggle drugs into the country and to trans-ship

drugs to other countries.

- More West African drug syndicates use airports to smuggle methamphetamine into the Philippines for onward distribution throughout Southeast Asia.
- Latin American drug trafficking groups now operate locally.
- Casinos should be included in money-laundering controls.

"Philippine authorities are faced with multiple challenges, including the expansion of Mexican-based trafficking organizations, ongoing domestic methamphetamine production, and confronting drug trafficking in rural areas where little state presence exists," says a recent US State Department report on narcotics in the Philippines.

The West Philippine Sea claim brings into sharp relief two of the biggest and most strategic partnerships of the Philippines—the United States and China. The Philippines is often perceived as a lackey of America. But America has little money to give away. China, on the other hand, has plenty of money. However, of late, it has been on a territory-grabbing spree.

US-Philippine relations are based on strong historical and cultural links and a shared commitment to democracy and human rights. The Philippines is a major non-Nato ally of the US which means that if the former's

territory is invaded, America will come to its defense.

The Manila Declaration signed in 2011 reaffirmed the 1951 US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty as the foundation for a robust, balanced, and responsive security partnership. Some four million US citizens—including Grace Poe—are of Philippine ancestry.

More than 220,000 Americans live in the Philippines. Nearly all Philippine presidents, with the possible exception of Ferdinand Marcos and the incoming Rodrigo Duterte, were pro-Americans. Marcos was ousted by the Americans in 1986. The US still has to warm up to Duterte and is concerned with his previous human rights record.

The US is the Philippines' second largest investor, after Japan. Bilateral trade is more than \$25 billion. US is the Philippines' third largest trading partner.

Meanwhile, using its so-called nine-dash line map, China has occupied seven reefs claimed by the Philippines as part of its 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone. EEZ does not grant sovereignty but ownership and exclusive economic use of the fishes, minerals and other resources under the waters covered by the EEZ. The seven reefs are: Subi, Gaven, Fiery Cross, Cuarteron, Johnson, Hugues and MisChief.

China's nine-dash line map grabs 80 percent of the Philippine EEZ. Manila has sued Beijing for these territorial grabs. The International Arbitral Tribunal on the Law of the Sea is expected to issue a ruling anytime now. The ruling could be favorable to the Philippines but China has said it won't honor the decision.

Duterte is particularly pissed with China's occupation of Scarborough Shoal. Scarborough is clearly Philippines territory, having been ceded to Manila by the US in the 1990 Treaty of Washington. According to Justice Antonio Carpio, Scarborough Shoal, being a regular island, is entitled to a 12-mile territorial sea around it. This amounts to 155,165 hectares of maritime space—more than twice the land area of Metro Manila which is 63,600 hectares.

Duterte wants an explanation, particularly from Senator Antonio Trillanes whom he blames for the loss of Scarborough, after the latter made 16 visits to China. Duterte says he can take all kinds of garbage and insult but not the loss of territorial land or waters.

President Obama, on the evening of May 17, called Duterte to congratulate him and stressed the two countries' shared commitments to democracy, human rights, rule of law and inclusive

economic growth.

For his part, Duterte told Obama in effect he will initially joint the western alliance in opposing China's South China Sea territorial claims. But if nothing moves, he might be forced to talk turkey with China, on a bilateral basis, "if there is no wind to move the sail" in still waters.

As for the power-sharing with the Reds, well in Economics 101, there are three factors of production—land, labor, and capital.

With the CPP taking over four departments—Agrarian Reform, Natural Resources and the Environment, Labor, and Social Welfare and Development, the communists have, in effect, taken over land and labor, or 60 percent of what makes the economy moving and productive.

Included in the takeover are the bureaus, agencies and financial institutions, like the Land Bank, Cocobank, and even the Development Bank of the Philippines. Also, the four departments have more positions than the total NPA regulars and communist cadres. DENR alone has 19,500 people; DAR 12,600, and DoLE and DSWD 2,500 each.

So overnight, our communist friends have become employers, bankers and capitalists. Change, indeed, is coming.

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