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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 May 2016

Monday

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Department of Science and Technology

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

Weather Division ISO 9001:2008 Certified

24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

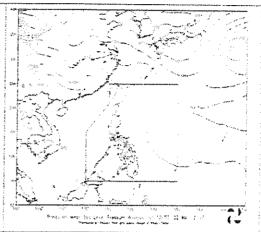
ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 22 MAY 2016

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

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

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER VISAYAS, MINDANAO AND THE REGIONS OF ILOCOS, CORDILLERA, CAGAYAN VALLEY AND CENTRAL LUZON. 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 LUZON.

LIGHT TO MODERATE WINDS BLOWING FROM THE SOUTH WILL PREVAIL OVER LUZON AND COMING FROM THE SOUTHEAST TO SOUTH OVER VISAYAS AND MINDANAO. 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 KABISAYAAN, SA MINDANAO AT SA MGA REHIYON NG ILOCOS, CORDILLERA, CAGAYAN VALLEY AT GITNANG LUZON. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA PAPAWIRIN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG LALO NA SA DAKONG HAPON O GABLANG IIRAL SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG LUZON.

MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG HANGIN MULA SA TIMOG ANG IIRAL SA LUZON AT MULA NAMAN SA TIMOG-SILANGAN HANGGANG SA TIMOG SA KABISAYAAN AT SA MINDANAO. 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 4:00 PM TODAY AND RECORDED AT

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 12:00 PM TODAY 33.7°C	MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 6:00 AM TODAY— 93 % MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 12:00 PM TODAY— 60 % OVER METRO MANILA:		
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 6:00 AM TODAY— 25.5°C			
TIDAL PREDICTIONS ALONG MANILA BAY (Courtesy of NAMRIA)			
LOW TIDE TODAY: 5:51 PM	SUNRISE / SUNSET	MOONRISE / MOONSET AND ILLUMINATION	
HIGH TIDE TOMORROW: 12:05 AM 0.41 METER	SUNSET TODAY: 6:19 PM	MOONRISE TODAY: 6:41 PM	
LOW TIDE TOMORROW: 2:37 AM 0.37 METER	SUNRISE TOMORROW: 5:26 AM	MOONSET TOMORROW: 6:26 AM	
	SUNSET TOMORROW: 6:19 PM	ILLUMINATION TODAY: 100 %	

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 JUL

CHECKED BY: SED

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Department of Science and Technology Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

Weather Division ISO 9001:2008 Certified

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

ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 22 MAY2016

VALID REGINNING SOO DM TODAY INTE SOO DM TOMODOW

CITIES	5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW 24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast from 5PM today until SPM temorrow		recast	Extended Weather Outlook Duration: 5PM unit 5PM of the following day:					
	22 MAY		23 M		MAY ;	25 MAY		MAY	
Metro Manila	3	5°C Light to Moderate. South 4°C Manila Bay: Slight to Moderate	200	25°C 34°C	24°C 33°C	25°C		24° 33°	
Tuguegarao City		3°C Moderate: South 6°C		24°C	24°C 36°C	24°C 37°C		25° 36°	
Laoag City		3°C Light to Moderate: South 3°C Coasta: Waters:Slight to Moder		24°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C		24° 32°	
Baguio City		6°C Light to Moderate: South 1°C		16°C 25°C	16°C 25°C 25°C	17°C 24°C	*	17° 25°	
SBMA (Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)		Subsc Bay: Slight to Moderate Subsc Bay: Slight to Moderate		26°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C		25° 33*	
Tagaytay City		S*C Light to Moderate: South		23°C 28°C	22°C 29°C 2	24°C 30°C	3	24° 30°	
Lipa City		*C Light to Moderate: South *C		4°C 3°C	24°C 7	24°C 32°C		22° 31°	
Legazpi City	400000	C Coas⊠i Waters: Moderate		77°C	2₹°C 33°C	26°C 233°C		27° 33°	
Puerto Princesa City	~ *********	*C Light to Moderate: South *C Coastal Waters Slight to Moder		6°C 200	28°C - 38°C - 38°C	26°C		25°	
iollo City / Bacolod City	26 34			6°C - 1/2	25°C 35°C	26°C 35°C		26°	
vletro Cebu	(A) 26 33	C Coasta Waters Slight to Modern	0.03	€°C 4°C - \$\$	25°C 35°C	26°C 35°C		26°0	
Facioban City	25° 32°	Coastal Waters, Moderate		200	26°C 32°C	26°C 32°C		25°0 32°0	
Cagayan de Oro City	A 23°	C Chastal Waters, Slight to Modera	D(N)		24°C 33°C	23°0 33°0		24°C	
/alencia City	32°				21°C 32°C	22°C 32°C	%	21°C	
letro Davao	\$\frac{24}{34}	C Coastal Waters: Slight toModera			25°C 34°C	25°C 33°C	*	25°C	
amboanga City	\$\frac{25}{35}\$				24°C 34°C	25°C 35°C	%	25°0 34°0	
GEND:		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms	1	Occasional Rain	ns 🍣	Rains with	n Gusty VV	inds	
Partly Cloudy Skit	474,	Cloudy skies with Rainshowers and/or Thunde	erstorms ///	Monsoon Rains Rains	K.F.	Stormy			
Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers		Light Rams							

PREPARED BY: JULY

CHECKED BY: SED

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23 May 2016

The Manila Times

Page: Al

COMMUNIST NDF TO DUTERTE:

Revoke EDCA

BY JOEL M. SY EGCO SENIOR REPORTER

HE National Democratic Front (NDF), the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has called on President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to abrogate the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

NDF chairman Jose Maria Sison is an ally of Duterte

The group said Duterte can undo President Benigno Aquino 3rd's "legacy of national humiliation for having served as a pawn in the US 'Asia pivot' strategy by allowing the US to restore its military bases and maintain permanent presence of its warships, jet fighters, drones and interventionist troops."

"Duterte's rhetoric has raised high the people's expectations for substantial and accelerated reforms. As an avowed opponent of US meddling, Duterte has the unique opportunity to end the 70 year chain of US puppet governments since

the 1946 [Manuel] Roxas regime." the NDF said through its international information office.

"To countervail Aquino's puppetry, he must withdraw his stand to let the EDCA stand. He must immediately notify the US government of his intent to abrogate the EDCA, which was signed as an executive agreement in April 2014. He must rescind the EDCA-sanctioned use of five AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] camps as US military bases and facilities," it said.

The group also urged Duterte to "immediately send home US Ambassador [Philip] Goldberg for

FDCAA2

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Revoke EDCA

interference in Philippine internal affairs."

Duterte, according to the NDF, can be the first Philippine President to pursue an independent foreign policy, one that is not beholden to and dependent on the US.

"Toward this, Duterte must condemn US war-mongering and US-China saber-rattling and oppose militarization of the territorial sea by the US and Chinese military forces. He must disallow the US military to use the Philippines as base for its interventionism. If he does, he is bound to be the Philippines' first world-class President who stood for Philippine sovereignty and prevented the military build-up in the region," it said.

"He must oppose the US demand to effect Charter change to remove the remaining restrictions against foreign ownership as requirement for Philippine integration into the Trans-Pacific Partnership, dubbed as the "dirtiest deal ever."

Top NDF officials have been in close contact with Duterte, an ally of the New People's Army especially in Davao.

The group said Duterte, to show his strong resolve to fight criminality, must go after the biggest criminals in the country, not just petty criminals.

"He can immediately carry out the arrest and swift prosecution of Benigno Aquino 3rd, [Budget Secretary| Florencio Abad and the biggest criminal perpetrators of the trillion-peso DAP [Disbursement Acceleration Program] swindle and prevent them from leaving the country. He must follow-through with the prosecution of Gloria Ma-OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF Capagal-Arroyo and ensure that she is held criminally responsible for the anomalous ZTE broadband deal and other corruption cases, including fraud in the 2004 elections," it added

No honeymoon

The NDF, however, noted that there will be no honeymoon with Duterte, who it said was a member of the "ruling political elite.'

"The revolutionary forces will continue to relentlessly advance the people's armed resistance and democratic mass struggles. While open to cooperation and alliance, they must relentlessly criticize and oppose any and all anti-people and pro-imperialist policy and measure. There will be no honeymoon with the Duterte regime," the group said.

It noted that the Davao City mayor has for the past four decades "served the system as a bureaucrat and implemented its laws and policies."

"He has worked with foreign and local big capitalists, plantation owners and big landlords who expect returns under his regime. The masses of workers, peasants and farm workers in Davao City have long-suffered from the oppressive and exploitative conditions in the big plantations and export-oriented contract-growing businesses.

In his policy pronouncements. Duterte is yet to declare a clear deviation from the dominant neo-liberal economic thinking, which has brought about grave hardships to the Filipino people for more than three decades," the NDF said.

"Duterte's mettle is about to be tested. Will he walk his talk and take on the opportunity to stand up against US imperialism? Or will his bombast end) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295 up as empty rhetoric?" it added.

27 May 2016



Page:

Duterte names 5 more to Cabinet











ESPERON

BELLO

PERNIA

BAUTISTA

EVASCO

By JONATHAN A. SANTES and ARMIN AMIO

AVAO CITY — Presidentelect Rodrigo Duterte yesterday announced five new appointments to key Cabinet posts - former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr. as incoming National Security Adviser; former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III as Labor and Employment Secretary; Ernesto Pernia of the University of the Philippines School of Economics as National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General; former Joint Task Group-Basilan Chief Col. Rolando Bautista as head of the Presidential Security Group (PSG); and Maribojoc, Bohol Mayor Leoncio "Jun" Evasco Jr. as Secretary to the Cabinet.

Evasco was earlier reported to have been appointed by Duterte to head the Department of the Interior and Local Govern-

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Duterte names 5...

41

ment (DILG) but the former declined.

Duterte said he contemplated on Evasco heading the DILG, but he changed his mind as the Maribojoc mayor was a rebel priest.

He also debunked claims that the selection of his would-be Cabinet is marked by influence peddling, saying, "I decide for myself. I never consulted anybody."

"I have been in the government...
mayor for 22 years...congressman...
vice mayor in 1987. Hindi ako nabobola
(I do not allow myself to be flattered),"
he told reporters past midnight Sunday at his long-time favorite hangoutThe After Dark Bar here.

"Let me be very clear, my friendship with my friends ends when the interest of the country begins. I would as much as possible make you happy if you were my friend, but I will not allow anybody to color my decisions in government," Duterte said.

"From now on, it is always the interest of the people of the Republic of the Philippines that counts," he added.

Honored, ready to serve

Esperon, who was also commanding general of the Philippine Army in 2006, said he is "ready to put in his contribution towards a new kind of government."

The NSA serves as chief of staff and adviser for special concerns in national security to the president. Pressing concerns for the Philippines, said Esperon, are federalism and peace order.

When asked about the issue on the West Philippine Sea, Esperon said the incoming president emphasized that the government will "not abandon any existing agreement. The aim is to make the economic zone for the betterment of the Filipino people, especially to fishermen."

After retiring from military service, he was appointed as a member

of the Cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, initially as the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

The bemedaled soldier has 11 Distinguished Service Star awards, 4 Philippine Legion of Honor awards, 2 Outstanding Achievement Awards, 4 Gold Cross Medals, 5 Bronze Cross Medals and 3 command plaques to his name.

Esperon was conferred the Order of Lakandula Grand Cross by President Benigno Aquino III in 2010, the Presidential Award of the Yudha Dharma in 2009 by the Republic of Indonesia, and the King's Award of Malaysia in 2007.

Selection process

Duterte's spiritual adviser Pastor Apollo Quiboloy was reportedly disappointed that he was not consulted in the selection of the Cabinet.

Duterte's statement was in reaction to many reports that some of the people named to join the incoming administration are not acceptable like incoming Press Secretary Salvador Panelo and recently-proclaimed Las Piñas Representative Mark Villar.

Panelo was the legal counsel of the Ampatuans in the Maguindanao massacre to which some of the victims were members of the media.

Panelo, in earlier interview, said he already withdrew as legal counsel of the Ampatuans last year although even if he has not withdrawn "the fear (of not getting justice for the victims) has no basis because the law is clear. He said if evidence is sufficient to get the question of truth that is required for conviction, then the accused will be convicted; if he does not, then the accused will be acquitted.

On the other hand, the selection of Villar was strongly criticized citing conflict of interest considering that Villar's family is into the property development business. Villar is also criticized for accepting the offer considering that he is a newly-elected representative of Las Piñas City.

Reds in the Cabinet

Duterte's offer of government positions to the communists also drew mixed reactions.

Reiterating that he is not a communist, Duterte pointed out that neither is former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III. "I am not a communist - Bello is not but one of the left or center. I never said I am a communist - I said I'm a president who comes from the left - left center," he stressed.

Duterte has offered the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Labor and Employment to the communists to fill in with their recommendees. Those being eyed for the posts are Bayan Muna Party-list representative Karlos Zarate and Gabriela's Luz Ilagan. Zarate is a nominee for Bayan Muna which won two seats. Ilagan, if she agrees, can serve only after one year. Ilagan ran for councilor in Davao City's third district but did not win. (With PNA)

OFFILE OF THE ARMY CHIEF POBLIC AFFARES - This hand had a simple Degradation - Telling (62) 240 9865 born (22) 5.01

May 2016



Page: ___

4 COUNTY first before friendship'

Duterte blows off Quiboloy, hits 'hypocritical' Catholic Church

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – The interest of the people is paramount.

This was the response of incoming president Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday following statements by the camp of evangelist Apollo Quiboloy that he was being eased out of Duterte's inner circle.

"Let me be very clear: my friendship with my friends ends where the interest of the country begins. I would as much as possible make you happy if you are my friend, but I will not allow anybody to ful from voting for him. color my decisions in government. From now on, it is always the interest of the people of the Republic of the Philippines that counts, period," Duterte said in an interview at his favorite watering hole, the After Dark Bar in Davao City.

Duterte also lambasted the Catholic Church for attempthim before the May 9 elections.

He branded the Church as the "most hypocritical institu-tion" in releasing a pastoral letter a few days before the. elections to dissuade the faith-

A week before the elections, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines had urged the faithful to reject a "morally reprehensible" candidate who has shown "scant regard" for human rights and the teachings of the Church.

Duterte said there was nothing he could do for his friends ing to erode public support for and supporters who helped

him in the campaign leading to his victory in the May 9 elections. One of them is Quiboloy, leader of the religious group Kingdom of Jesus Christ the Name Above Every Name.

"I am sorry. My loyalty to my friend ends where my loyalty to my country begins,' Duterte told a press briefing yesterday.

The pastor is a long-time friend of the Davao City mayor. Quiboloy vigorously campaigned for Duterte and provided a private plane and helicopter during the campaign.

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COUNTY From Page 1

Quiboloy's camp said the religious leader is saddened that he was eased out of the transition and selection teams that Duterte formed to prepare for

his presidency.

Quiboloy used to have unlimited access to Duterte. But after Duterte won the presidency with a landslide victory, the religious leader has complained about being sidelined.

Mike Abe, Quiboloy's spokesman, claimed some, people close to Duterte are preventing the religious leader from communicating with the

incoming president.

Duterte, who has been mum on his reported rift with Quiboloy for the past days, said he was forced to speak vesterday to quash speculations about his friendships and the presidency

Efforts to patch things up between Duterte and Quiboloy

are ongoing.

Duterte clarified, however, that his statements are directed at Quiboloy's spokesman and not at the pastor himself. Duterte said he did not intend to snub anyone and he never allowed anyone to cordon him off or restrict his movements.

He stressed that decisions on the composition of his Cabinet would solely be his.

"I never consulted anybody, I decide on my own," he said.

Duterte also lashed out at critics questioning the qualifications and integrity of his appointees.

To all those who are complaining, I'll let them sit beside me and let them choose. But if it fails, they have to face the consequences," he said

Duterte said his Cabinet would be composed of "bright people."

"The interest of the country deserves only the best and the brightest," he said.

"I'm surrounded by valedictorians," Duterte added, referring to prospective members of his Cabinet-in-waiting: transportation secretary Arthur Tugade, finance secretary Carlos Dominguez, foreign affairs secretary Perfecto Yasay, and justice secretary Vitaliano Aguirre.

"Among our group, I was the only one who got a grade

of 75," he said.

Tugade is a classmate of Duterte at the San Beda College of Law while Dominguez is his former classmate, neighbor and childhood friend.

Aguirre was also a classmate of Duterte at the San Beda College of Law and a fellow member of Lex Talionis Fraternitas. Yasay, meanwhile, was a roommate of Duterte when they were taking up law.

> 'Hypocritical institution'

Duterte has harsh words for the Catholic Church.

"They campaigned against me Everybody was saying 'Do not vote for Duterte.' Fine. I said, let this election be a referendum between the Catholic Church and me. So who was right? Look, were you able to stop me? How many of you bishops were able to stop me?" Duterte told reporters here.

Duterte said Catholic Church leaders should not hold themselves morally superior because their "hypocritical institution" has a long history of wrongdoings.

He also challenged the bishops to a debate so that he can expose, before assuming office on June 30, these alleged sins of the church.

"You have been castigating me or criticizing me — you want a debate before I become president? Okay! All of you bishops stand up. I will tell you the sins of the Catholic Church beginning from the time the institution of the papacy was established," Duterte said.

"I will lecture until June 29 the sins of the Catholic Church, and whether or not you are still relevant. The most hypocriti-

cal institution is the Catholic Church," he added

Duterte also said he can name bishops who allegedly took mistresses.

"If I start to name the bishops who got married or about the women in their lives, the Catholic Church would fall down," he said.

"Do not think you are the moralizing agents of society. As long as you are a human being, you are bound to fall down... You're all pageantry."

Duterte also accused some members of the clergy of asking favors from the administration of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, especially luxury vehicles allegedly for charity work.

This amounts to graft and corruption, and also violated the principle of separation of Church and State, he said.

Duterte, who has been Davao City mayor for over 20 years, said Catholic leaders have also approached him for various requests.

"You ask so many favors even from me. I can show you the letters," he said.

Duterte maintained, how-

ever, that he has deep belief in God but does not need a religion to show his faith.

"I have this deep, abiding faith in God but that does not mean that you have to have a religion, you have to follow somebody, that you have to get a message from this and that," he said.

"Why do I have to go to a human being to whisper my sins and ask for forgiveness from him? Who are you to listen to my sins and give me absolution? You are not God."

Duterte also said he would support family planning to address population growth.

"I am a Christian but I am a realist and we have to do something about overpopulation," he said.

Duterte said he is ready to defy Catholic doctrines on family planning and reproductive health, adding that he believes the teachings of the Bible are outdated.

"The ideas there were written 2,000 years ago. (They) do not relate or find relevance in our society," he said. – With Alexis Romero, ABS-CBN News

27 May 2016

Ständard

FEEE A7

Ex-UN peacekeeper in Haiti now battalion commander

By Ferdie G. Domingo

CAMP BITONG, Aurora—A former member of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti has been named the new commander of the 56th Infantry (Tatag) Battalion based in this town.

Army Lt. Col. Louie DS Villanueva, previously the battalion commander of the 84th Infantry (Victorious) Battalion, replaced Lt. Col. Joey A. Escanillas during the change of command ceremonies at the 56th IB's general headquarters in Barangay Calabuanan in Baler Friday presided by 7th Infantry Division (7th ID) commander, Maj. Gen. Angelito de Leon.

During the turnover rites, Villanueva vowed to continue the Army Transformation Roadmap (ATR) implemented in the 56th IB's jurisdiction by Escanillas who was reassigned as chief of staff at the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City.

Under Escanillas' stewardship, the 56th IB—with its best practices and novel concepts emerged as best battalion for 2015 among the nine infantry battalions of the 7th ID based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, the country's largest military camp.

Villanueva, who was 84th IB chief since last August, was a member of the elite UN peacekeeping force in Haiti from November 2011 to October 2012.

He started his military career in 1994 and was assigned in Eastern Samar until 2001. From 2001 to 2004, Villanueva was at the Army's general headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

He was then transferred to Davao City from 2004 to 2008 and returned to Fort Bonifacio where he stayed up to 2010.

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23 May 2016



Troops overrun NPA camp in Quezon

By ED AMOROSO and JAIME LAUDE

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna – Government security forces have overrun a camp of the New People's Army (NPA) following a firefight in Lopez, Quezon, officials said yesterday.

Troopers of the Army's 741st Infantry Battalion were conducting a routine combat operation when they encountered at least 20 rebels near the Baliswang Complex at around 6:20 a.m. on Friday, according to Quezon police director Senior Superintendent Eugenio Paguirigan.

The firefight lasted 30 minutes, forcing the NPA rebels to flee toward Mulanay town.

Paguirigan said the camp could accommodate 20 to 30 persons

"No one among the soldiers was wounded in the firefight," Paguirigan said, adding pursuing troopers found bloodstains along the rebels' escape routes.

Police and military set up checkpoints in adjacent areas and alerted their units to check hospitals for rebels who were wounded in the firefight.

Security forces recovered from the camp an improvised explosive device, ammunition, food and materials used in making IEDs.

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NPA camp nakubkob ng militar

LOPEZ, Quezon — Nakubkob ng militar ang isang kampo ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos ang 30 minutong sagupaan sa Sitio Balswang Complex, Barangay Cawayanin, ng bayang ito nitong Sabado ng umaga. Ayon sa report, bandang 9:15 a.m. nang maka-engkwentro ng Squad B ng 74th Infantry Battalion na pinamunuan ni Sgt. Bicaran ang humigit kumulang na 20 rebelde. Napilitang iwanan ng mga rebelde ang kanilang kampo matapos ang kalahating oras na pakikipagpalitan ng putok sa tropa ng gobyerno. Walang nasugatan sa panig ng gobyerno, habang marami sa mga rebelde ang pinaniniwalaang tinamaan ng bala dahil sa nakitang mga patak ng dugo sa kanilang dinaanan papatakas. Na-recover sa lugar ng labanan ang isang improvised explosive device (IED), long magazine para sa M16 rifle, mga bala, electrical wires at mga pagkain. (Danny J. Estacio)

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NPA rebels kill 2 farmers

Communist rebels yesterday killed two farmers in Negros despite peace overtures from incoming president Rodrigo Duterte, the military said.

About 20 guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) raided a bunkhouse used by farmers in Negros and killed two of them before fleeing, said military spokeswoman Second Lieutenant Revekka Roperos.

"They sowed terror as part of their extortion strategy against the farmers," she said "Because they did not want to pay, to frighten them they did this inhuman act."

Duterte, winner of the May 9 presidential election, has made moves to restart talks with the communists and end one of Asia's longest insurgencies.

In Davao City, where he is preparing to assume office on June 30 he again reiterated his plan for peace with the communists.

"We share the same vision," he told reporters yesterday.

Asked if he would grant amnesty to the guerrillas, Duterte said: "It will be depending on the result of the talks, if we can agree together to make this a peaceful

Last week Duterte met a communist negotiator about reopening the talks three years after outgoing President Aquino

The insurgency has claimed 30,000 lives over almost half a century, according to military estimates,

Aquino revived talks soon after taking office in 2010 but shelved them in 2013 accusing the rebels of insincerity. - AFP

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NPA rebels kill farmers

COMMUNIST rebels on Sunday killed two farmers in central Philippines despite peace overtures from incoming President Rodrigo Duterte, the military said.

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AFP

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Gov't wants peace with CPP, says incoming security adviser

BY VICTOR REYES

INCOMING National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said the priority of the incoming Duterte administration is "not to decimate" the New People's Army but to reach a peace agreement with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"You already heard President Rody. While he is a Leftist, he is not a communist. He is a socialist so he doesn't want armed struggle which is the means of the CPP-NPA," Esperon, Armed Forces chief during the Arroyo administration, said in a phone interview.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, while campaigning as presidential candidate, said there is nothing wrong with being Left and declared he is a socialist. He also said he was going to the Netherlands to talk to self-exiled CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison if he wins the presidency.

Esperon, asked what the Duterte government will do in the event the communists refuse to talk peace, said, "That's why you have the Armed Forces. Those are state powers that are available to you. But why keep on fighting? We have been fighting for a long time already. Why keep on fighting when you can talk and tackle and settle a lot of things," he said.

Peace talks between the gov-

ernment and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines remain stalled over the Aquino government's refusal to release NDFP consultants who have been arrested for various crimes.

"The idea is not to decimate (the communist movement) but to come into an agreement or a settlement where grievances can be (addressed). Reach an agreement, not decimate," Esperon said.

"But as we said, we do not want armed struggle. Nobody must be bearing arms, except the (forces of) Philippine government," he added.

The Armed Forces is aiming to end insurgency before the end of the year, under its Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan. The outgoing government's originals target was to end the communist insurgency on or before President Aquino steps down next month. Latest military estimates place the NPA's strength at 3,000 to 4,000 men.

On the Philippine dispute with China over the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea, Esperon said the Duterte administration is not considering China an enemy but will push for "national interest" when it comes to the territorial dispute.

He said the national interest is to uphold the territory and sovereignty of the state and protect the Filipino people.

Esperon said the Duterte

administration will continue to pursue the case lodged by the Aquino administration against China's nine-dash line claim in the South China Sea or West Philippine Sea before a United Nations arbitration tribunal.

Also, he said the new administration will also sustain the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States, which the Aquino government signed with the US in 2014.

"We have already in place EDCA. We have already the arbitration that is ongoing. So those are acts of government that cannot be abandoned or changed. Unlike the outgoing administration, it scrapped or changed the programs it inherited from the previous government," said Esperon.

"Here (in the Duterte administration), we recognize that there are things that we can hold on from the previous government but it doesn't mean that we will still follow their slogan of 'Daang Matuwid' na hindi naman matuwid," he said.

Esperon said defending the country's territory means betterment of the lives of Filipinos.

On whether the Duterte administration considers the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal as part of the Philippines, Esperon just said: "Whatever comes within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone must be protected and must go (to us)," he said.

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Esperon, as next NSA, says China not an enemy, but nat'l interest comes first

By ELENA L. ABEN

The administration of incoming President Rodrigo Duterte does not consider China an enemy, but has vowed to push national interest in the issue of the country's territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea, the next National Security Adviser (NSA) said yesterday.

Former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, retired Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr. whom Duterte announced yesterday to be his NSA, said that arbitration will be pursued although that does not mean other channels will not be explored.

"Why should you look at China as an enemy?" said Esperon. "You should remember that we have our national interest. So kung ano ang national interest natin yun ang i-pursue at ipupush natin (we shall pursue what is of national interest)," said Esperon.

Esperon, as next...

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Asked to elaborate on the national interest, Esperon replied: "Well territory, sovereignty, welfare of our people... yung lahat ng territory na yan ay makakadagdag sa betterment of the lives of the citizen, so we will pursue it."

He added: "Kung i-dedeny sa atin yan. there is an UNCLOS decision on that, the convention of law of the seas is signed by member states of the United Nations so we will pursue that and make it work for the good of the Filipino."

"Whatever comes within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone should be protected," Esperon further said.

According to the former AFP chief, in the Duterte administration's foreign policy, those that are already in place such as the enhanced defense cooperation agreement (EDCA) with the US and the arbitration on the WPS issue will be pursued.

"We will still pursue the arbitration but ... we will not foreclose other channels whether they be multilateral or bilateral."

Duterte had earlier said that resolving the territorial conflict in the WPS will not mean going to war and that he will not waste resources and the lives of the soldiers.

He, however, stressed that does not mean that the Philippines under his administration will give up the disputed territory.

Duterte said the Chinese ambassador is well aware of his position on the issue.

Friendlier fishing in Scarborough Shoal

Meanwhile, for the first time in recent years, Filipino fishermen in Zambales have been fishing freely and are not facing harassment from Chinese coast guards in the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

In an exclusive interview, elected Masinloc Mayor Arsenia Lim (LP) said around 100 fishermen in her town have expressed surprise and elation at the latest gesture of the Chinese Navy for not harassing local fisher folks fishing in the areas surrounding Scarborough Shoal, which is about 20 nautical miles from Masinloc town.

"Mag-iisang linggo na ring naglalayag ang ating mangingisda ng walang balakid o humaharang na Chino sa kanila. Malaking tulong ito sa mga kababayan natin na ang pangunahing kita ay mula sa pangingisda," said Lim.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Asis Perez also confirmed in a radio interview that Zambales fishermen are now freely fishing in the disputed island in South China sea previously occupied by the Chinese Navy.

"Wala po tayong naririnig (na reklamo) ngayon (sa mga manging-isda sa Zambales), which could be an indication na wala pong nangyayaring adverse o hindi magandang nangyayari sa mga fishermen (We haven't been receiving any complaints, which could be an indication that no adverse incidents have affected our fishermen)." said Asis.

A DZBB report quoted Prof. Rommel Banlaoi, chair and executive director of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism, Research, as saying, "Ngayon ang sitwasyon sa Scarborough Shoal ay nagkakaroon ng pagbabago. Ang mga mangingisda natin ay hindi na nakakaranas ng matinding harassment sa Chinese coast guard (The situation in Scarborough Shoal has seen a difference. Our fishermen have not been harassed by the Chinese coast guard)."

This development, Banlaoi said, comes as presumptive president of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte is set to hold talks with China to cultivate friendly relations and address damaged bilateral ties as a result of the territorial row. (With a report from Franco G. Regala)

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Nationinbriefs

ESPERON READY TO SERVE AS DUTERTE'S NSA

FORMER Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said on Sunday that his military expertise and his experience in the Cabinet would be put to good use as National Security Adviser of the incoming administration of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte. Describing it as a very challenging job, Esperon, a member of the Philippine Military Class of 1974, said he is honored to be appointed by Duterte as his NSA. "I'm honored to become part of his Cabinet especially so that he [Duterte] is pushing for several reforms in the government. So we will be focusing on national security," said Esperon. He explained that the position of NSA is very broad because among its concerns are national sovereignty and the strengthening of institutions. "So I hope that with my experience, bureaucracy from military as well as the Cabinet, I could be put to [good] use as we go about national building, he pointed out. After his stint in the AFP, Esperon was appointed as the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process and later on as Cabinet Secretary, Presidential Management Staff (PMS) during the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a representative of the FERNAN MARASIGAN second district of Pampanga.

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May 2016



Gov't-Red 'interim peace pact' bared

By Tony S. Bergonia

COMMUNIST rebels led by Jose Ma. Sison and representatives of the Aquino administration have signed what was described as an "interim peace agreement" that ic Front of the Philippines may serve as a stepping stone to a permanent pact with the incoming Duterte administration.

Members of a government delegation, sent by President Aquino in 2014 to The Netherlands to hold back-channel talks with leaders of the communist-led National Democrat-(NDFP), gave the Inquirer a copy of the document, titled

INTERIM/A12

From page Al

"Joint Agreement on the Resumption of the Formal Talks on the Peace Negotiations between the GPH (Government of the Philippines) and the NDFP."

The document bore the signatures of Sison and top NDFP negotiators Fidel Agcaoili, Vicente Ladlad and Danilo Borja, and members of the "secret" government delegation—Hernani Braganza, Jaime Aristotle Alip, Efren Framework Moncupa and Francisco Lara Jr.

A member of the government delegation said many officials involved in the talks were surprised that Sison signed the document, adding that the acknowledged founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has not signed any document resembling an agreement with the Philippine government following the collapse of peace talks under then President Corazon Aquino.

The delegations said the document, signed on Dec. 8, 2014, was a strong indication that the NDFP was not only willing to enter into a peace agreement but was also ready to embrace a New People's Army (NPA). life of peace for communist rebels, both armed and un-

According to the document, the parties agreed to:

 Reaffirm the 1992 agreement, called The Hague Joint Declaration, between the government and the NDFP, which became the framework for the start of formal peace talks, and specified that no conditions must be imposed on either party to start the talks.

 Accelerate the pace of formal peace talks by forming smaller "reciprocal working groups" that would hammer out political and constitutional reforms, end to armed hostilities and what to do with members of the CPP armed wing, the

 Draft and sign an agreement on "truce and cooperation" that would immediately lead to a cessation of fighting and would last depending on a timetable to be determined by the government and NDFP negotiators.

 Give priority, during the duration of the truce, to negotiations on a Comprehensive Agreement on Socioeconomic Reforms, which would list down the measures needed to achieve social justice, like a new land reform program and programs to

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bring about industrialization.

• Immediately convene working committees on social, economic, political and constitutional reforms that would give flesh to general agreements on social justice, economic equality and human rights. According to the document, the NDFP and back-channel negotiators set January 2016 as the target completion date for agreements on these issues.

Virtual pact

Copies of the document have been furnished President Aquino and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. The latest recipient of a copy of the document is Rep. Silvestre Bello III, who has been named by presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte as head of the peace panel that would negotiate with the NDFP.

According to a delegation member in the 2014 talks, the document is virtually a peace pact which needed only official imprimatur.

"This is it," said the member, who requested anonymity for lack of authority to disclose details of the 2014 talks.

Another delegation member, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said what set the 2014 interim agreement apart from

previous agreements is that NDFP "made a lot of concessions."

"They were not even calling for the release of all (rebel suspects), only those involved in the peace process," said the member, who had taken part in talks with the NDFP under previous administrations.

He said that while there was mention about the US government's classification of the NDFP CPP and NPA as terrorist organizations during the back-channel talks, this was not even discussed in the drafting of the interim agreement.

"They (NDFP leaders) did not demand it (to be removed from the US terror list)," said the delegation member.

Another breakthrough in the 2014 negotiations, he said, is an agreement to hold marathon discussions to fast-track the peace process. "Like a conclave," he said, referring to the process of electing a Pope.

He said there would have been a "national, indefinite ceasefire" had the interim agreement been followed quickly by a formal signing.

There was also an agreement to hold discussions by the smaller working groups simultaneously to fast-track the process. "Everything would be tackled in one fell swoop," he said. The interim agreement has been shown to military officials, according to the source. "They were OK with it," he said. "They did not revise anything."

The 2014 talks were described as a success compared to previous government attempts to restart formal discussions with the communist leaders.

The delegation led by Braganza laid the groundwork for its trip to The Netherlands by talking first with communist leaders in the Philippines, among them NPA leaders based in Mindanao.

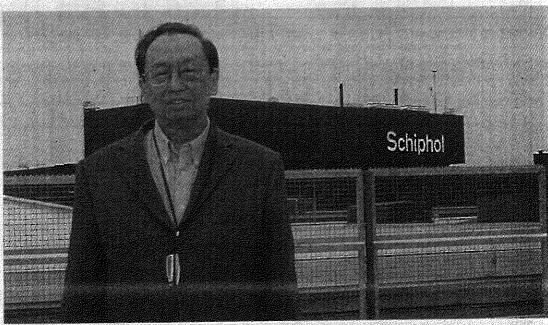
Five trips

It took five trips to The Netherlands before the interim peace document was signed, according to the sources.

The back-channel talks took so much time that "so many Marlboros (cigarettes) had been puffed," said one delegation member referring to how the negotiators spent break times.

While the document signed by Sison and other NDFP leaders may be still a step away from a formal pact, it should be used by the incoming government negotiators as a take-off point. "This is already a good deal," said one of the delegation members.

"All that is needed is to make this formal." he said.



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JOSE Ma. Sison at Schiphol airport in The Netherlands: Ready for peace talks and a life of peace for other communist rebels.

ARLYN DE LA CRUZ/CONTRIBUTOR

23 May 2016

The Manila Times

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NDF sees accelerated peace talks with Duterte

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE
REPORTER

HE National Democratic Front (NDF) sees accelerated peace negotiations with the incoming government of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte because of his accommodating stance on the revolutionary movement.

"After 15 years of stalled NDF-GRP [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] peace negotiations, the Filipino people are highly desirous of progress in efforts to attain a negotiated political settlement of the long-running civil war," the group said in a statement.

"Certain progressive aspects in Duterte's discourse, his recognition of both the political legitimacy and armed political strength of the revolutionary movement and his history of cooperation with the revolutionary forces in Mindanao make possible the acceleration of peace negotiations," it explained.

Duterte, who served as mayor of Davao City for over 20 years, has built friendly ties with the New People's Army (NPA) in Davao and other parts of Mindanao, often acting as go-between in the release of police, soldiers, and other captives seized by the rebels during guerrilla operations.

The NDF is the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA, which has been waging a decadeslong armed struggle against the government.

According to the NDF, the CPP and other revolutionary forces welcomed Duterte's plan to seriously pursue the peace negotiations as well as his plan to visit its senior political consultant, lose Ma. Sison and the Netherlands-based NDF peace panel.

"The CPP fully supports the

NDI proposal put forward by Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, to pursue NDI-GRP peace negotiations under the Duterte government with the aim of forging an agreement to establish a government of national unity, peace and development," the group said.

"Duterte and Prof. Sison can forge a plan for accelerated peace negotiations with the aim of forging comprehensive agreements addressing the substantive issues in a matter of a few months," it added.

The NDF said the CPP and NPA may consider proposals for a mutual ceasefire during the definite period of peace negotiations.

"The revolutionary forces expect Duterte to recognize and uphold all standing agreements signed by the NDF and the GRP over the past 20 years," it said.

These agreements include The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 which has served as framework and anchor of the negotiations, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of 1998.

To boost peace negotiations, the communist group said that the Duterte government should first consider the release of all detained NDF consultants. "They (NDF consultants) were treacherously arrested in violation of earlier agreements and made to suffer unjust prolonged imprisonment," the NDF said.

According to human rights group Karapatan, there are 18 NDF peace consultants out of the 543 documented political prisoners in the country. Also, 88 political prisoners need proper medical treatment.

The formal peace talks with the communist movement was stalled in 2004 after the NDF withdrew from the negotiating table because of the inclusion of Sison and the CPP-NPA in the US terrorist list.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) said that the government conducted several rounds of informal talks with the help of the Norwegian government which acted as Third Party Facilitator for the talks since 2001. The OPAPP said the informal talks were stymied by prejudicial questions, impediments and preconditions raised at the negotiating table.

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May 2016



Appeals court upholds arrest warrants vs 8 Navy men implicated in Pestaño murder

By Benjamin B. Pulta

The Court of Appeals (CA) has upheld the arrest warrants handed down by the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) against eight Philippine Navy personnel implicated in the 1995 murder of Ensign-Philip Pestaño.

In a seven-page decision by Associate Justice Nina Antonio-Valenzuela, the Special Sixth Division held there was no grave abuse of discretion on the part of Manila RTC Judge Josefina

Siscar when she found probable cause to order their arrest

"In this case, the public respondent judge issued the warrants of agrest against the peritioners after finding that probable cause existed by personally examining the records



PESTAÑO

of the case," the CA explained

"After reviewing the records of the case, the public respondent

judge was satisfied that a crime had been committed and the accused were probably guilty of murder," it added.

The appellate court did not give credence to the claim of the accused that there was no probable cause for the issuance of the warrants of arrest against them because the evidence of the case showed the petitioners were not guilty of murder.

The CA pointed out at the stage of determining probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest, a judge is not yet tasked to review in detail the evidence submitted during the preliminary investigation.

"He merely determines the probability, not the certainty, of the guilt of the accused. He simply personally reviews prosecution's initial determination

finding probable cause, to see if it is supported by substantial evidence," the decision read.

Among the Navy personnel issued with arrest warrants were retired Navy Capt. Ricardo Ordoñez, Cmdr. Reynaldo Lopez, Lt. Cmdr. Luidegar Casis, Lt. Cmdr. Alfrederick Alba, Lt. Cmdr. Joselito Colico, Hospital Man 2 Welmenio Aquino, Machinery Repairman 1st class Sandy Miranda, retired PO1 Carlito Amoroso, PO2 Leonor Igcasan and retired Lt. Cmdr. Ruben Roque.

Roque and Amoroso were not among those was filed the appeal before the CA

The CA earlie had affirmed its decision allowing the Manila RTC to proceed with the trial of the murder case filed against the Navy OFFICE OF THE ARM officers. The CA also directed the

transfer of the accused Navy officers from the military custody to the Manila City Jail.

The CA said it found no merit to the claim of the Navy officers that the Manila RTC committed grave abuse of discretion and violated their constitutional right to due process and liberty when it denied their motion to quash the murder information filed against them by the Office of the Ombudsman and directed their transfer to the city jail.

The CA also pointed out the transfer of the accused to the Manila City Jail is in compliance with Republic Act 7055, a law that strengthens civilian supremacy over the military by transferring to the civil courts the jurisdiction over certain offenses committed by members of the Armed Forces of

the Philippines (AFP).

The BRP Bacolod City, a Philippine Navy cargo ship, left Tawi-Tawi on Sept. 20, 1995.

After seven days, the ship made. a last stopover in Sangley Point and departed the same day for its final... destination, the Navy headquarters in Manila.

Before the ship reached Manila, Pestano was found dead inside his. cabin, lying on the bed with a single gunshot wound on his right temple , with a purported suicide note to his family.

The official inquiry by the Senate and the AFP ruled out that. Pestano committed suicide.

It was also discovered that Pestano had knowledge of illegal activities in BRP Bacolod City which posed as a possible motive behind his death.

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With P50M, Navy shops for rockets

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE PHILIPPINE Navy is allocating P50 million to acquire high-powered rockets and grenades for its attack missions.

One of the contracts is a P25.2-million deal to provide 2.75-inch rockets with high explosive warheads.

The winning bidder is required to deliver 180 units of these rockets within 240 days upon the contract's effectivity.

The 2.75-inch rocket is used for ground attack missions to be carried out by two of the Navy's

AgustaWestland AW-109 "Power" attack helicopters acquired last year.

The Navy is also in the market for 40mm high-velocity linked rounds used in mounted and crew-served weapons or grenade launchers. The contract is for P 24,645,824 for 6,496 rounds.

The winning bidder is also required to deliver the said ammunition within 240 days.

The pre-bid conferences for both contracts will be held on May 25, at the Philippine Navy Hall of Justice, Naval Station Jose Francisco in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

The Philippine Navy also is offering two contracts worth of P70.556 million for the acquisition of 81mm and 155mm high explosive mortar ammunition to be used by its naval infantry force.

One contract is for 3,430 rounds of 81mm high explosive mortar munition with a budget of P31.5 million. The other contract is for the purchase of 600 rounds of 155mm high explosive mortar munition under a P39-million budget.

The 81mm mortar and the figured as gunships.

155mm towed howitzers are among the fire support weapons being used by the Philippine Marines in its counterinsurgency and antiterrorist operations.

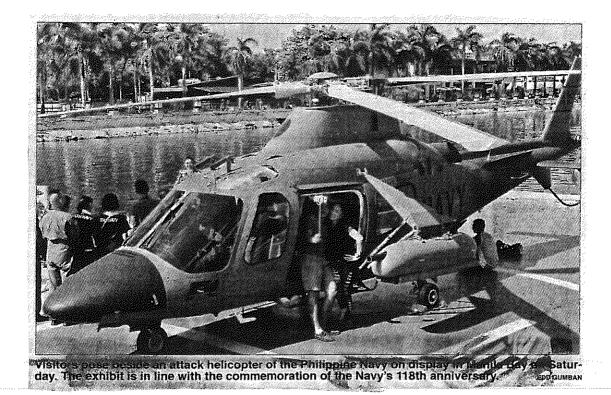
Also last week, the Philippine Air Force said it had earmarked P16 million to purchase spare parts needed for the repair and maintenance of its Sikorsky S-76 medium utility helicopters.

The Air Force has 10 active Sikorsky S-76 utility helicopters mostly configured for air ambulance use while a few are configured as supships

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Duterte told: Peace

pact first before appointing Reds

Incoming president Rodrigo Duterte should first forge a final peace agreement with communist rebels before appointing By PAOLO ROMERO

some of them to key government posts, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon, who chairs the House committee on national defense and security, was commenting on Duterte's offer to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) the top posts in the departments of labor and employment, social welfare and development, environment and natural resources and agrarian reform.

"I've no problem with leftists but it must be clear how far left the (appointees) are. But with regard to the CPP, it's clear that they've control of the armed rebellion of the NPA," Biazon told dzBB.

"I believe in the reforms being sought

by those rebelling against the government whoever they are, but the difference is that we believe in the rule of law — theirs is through arms, which is not acceptable," he said.

"Is this an offer to the CPP-NPA that if we have peace as a result of a final peace agreement, we're giving these positions or we'll give these to them and then let's see if there will be peace?" he added.

He also urged the incoming Duterte administration to be careful in granting the demand of the CPP-NPA-NDF to release some 527 inmates described as political prisoners by the rebels before any talks could start.

He said apparently many of the detainees have been charged with heinous or non-bailable crimes.

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Moro detainees ask: What about us?

Digong urged to also release wrongfully detained terrorism suspects

DAVAO CITY—Moro human rights groups are urging presumptive President-elect Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte to extend the amnesty he is offering to political prisoners belonging to the Left also to Moro inmates who had been falsely accused of belonging to the local terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

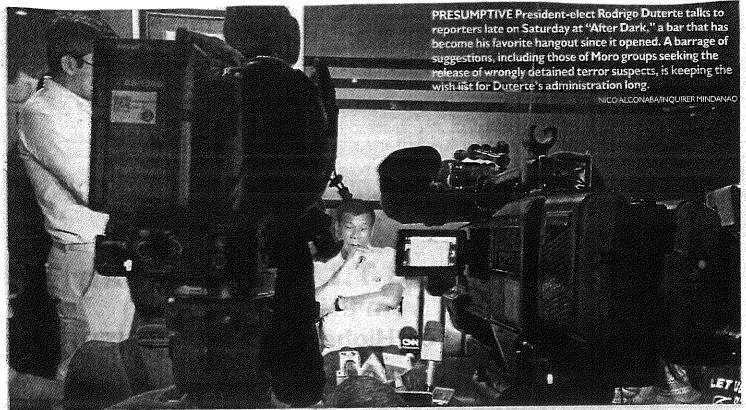
The Moro rights groups Suara Bangsamoro and Kawagib said hundreds of Moros have been picked up and jailed since 2001 when the government started a crackdown on the Abu Sayyaf and falsely accused Moro civilians of involvement in terrorism.

Amirah Ali Lidasan, national president of the Suara Bangsamoro, said in a statement that the crackdown has led to the arrest of more than 200 Moro men from Basilan, Sulu and Zamboanga City.

"We urge the new President to include Moro prisoners falsely accused as local terrorists in his plan to grant general, unconditional and omnibus amnesty to political prisoners," said the statement signed by Jerome Succor Aba, Suara Bangsamoro spokesperson and Bai Ali Indayla, secretary general of Kawagib.

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Of the 94 Moro prisoners languishing in jail in the last 15 years while awaiting trial, 32 had been documented and reported as "tortured and forced to sign documents admitting they were members of the Abu Sayyaf Group," said Lidasan.

The group pointed to the 103rd Brigade of the Army as the culprit, a unit then headed by General Hermogenes Esperon, who has just been named the next national security adviser.

The group also asked Duterte to

review the anti-terror policy of the government, citing studies pointing out its faults, among them the arrest of innocent men and the mad dash for bounty offered by the US government for the capture or killing of terrorist leaders.

"For 15 years, more than 94 Moro prisoners have been awaiting the final decision of the local courts whether to charge them with kidnapping along with the real Abu Sayyaf men or to release them due to lack of evidence," Lidasan said.

The Moro groups prodded the Department of Justice to review the terrorism case which was filed at the Pasig Regional Trial Court in February 2013. Senior State Prosecutor Peter Ong started a series of consultations in May to November 2013 as part of the review, where six witnesses, two of them state witnesses and a confirmed member of the Abu Sayyaf involved in kidnapping cases, were presented.

Of the cases of 94 prisoners being reviewed, state witness, Us-

tadz Mohammad Umog identified only 12 actual Abu Sayyaf members. Another state witness, Absar Ismael, confirmed only five.

The review conducted by Ong concluded that among 12 men tagged as members of the Abu Sayyaf, six are innocent.

Ong had promised the victims' families he would recommend the innocent men's release by December 2013 or early 2014, but when Leila de Lima resigned as justice secretary to run for senator, "no release was made," said Lidasan.

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She added that De Lima left the DOJ without resolving the case of Muhammadiya Hamja, a farmer arrested during the crackdown in 2001, released in 2003 after proven innocent and arrested again in 2006 for the same case.

"As long as the DOJ memorandum and the reward system remain, more innocent Moros, most of whom are poor, will be arrested and paraded as terrorists," Lidasan said, referring to the DOJ memorandum that also classified as terrorists persons who aid terror groups. The enforcement of the memorandum, said Lidasan, has been indiscriminate and targeted innocent civilians, too.

She also cited recent arrests involving jeepney dispatcher Aldimar Sangkula Jumurana in Zamboanga on April 2 this year and mango vendor Radjan Sahiddan, who was arrested in November last year.

Tagged by an intelligence agent as the unidentified suspects in a case against Abu Sayyaf members, both were arrested and shipped to Metro Manila and are now being detained at Camp Bagong Diwa where many Abu Sayyaf suspects are being held.

The group is also seeking the review of the case of 266 Moro men and women who were accused of being members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) involved in the 2013 Zamboanga siege and are now detained also in Camp Bagong Diwa. Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

23 May 2016

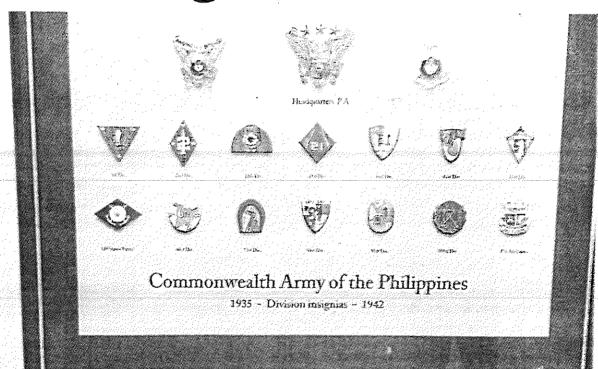
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Mandatory military training: Is it time?



INSIGNIAS of Philippine Army Divisions during the Philippine Commonwealth era, 1935 to 1942 FE V. ELEFARTE

BY FIL V. ELEFANTE y @elefantefil

First of three parts

As the time ripe to restore mandatory military training for college students? This was one of the potential policy issues Davao City Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte raised last year, as he was mulling over whether to run for the presidency in the 2016 elections.

He eventually put his hat in the

10 years old

The age of children mandated by the 1935 Constitution to undergo preparatory military training in school

ring and waged a colorful campaign. After the votes were tallied, his rivals to the presidency have con-

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ceded. All that's left now is for his victory to be declared official.

With his presidency looming, will he follow through with his pronouncement that there is a need to revive mandatory military training for college students?

According to reports last year, Duterte believed that restoring mandatory military training for college students under the

CONTINUED ON A2



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Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program will help the country develop a . Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285. 5295 credible defense force, especially in relation to the maritime dispute between Beijing and Manila.

While we expect the United States to come to our aid if attacked by a foreign force, the country must also be self-reliant," Duterte was quoted as saying. "And to build up a credible self-defense force, the country must restore the ROTC that was once part of the college curriculum."

"Our young men are presently too preoccupied with texting, Facebook and other social-media diversions that they don't even know to handle a rifle like we used to during our time," the mayor said.

He pointed out that military training can help prepare young Filipinos in case the country's maritime row with China escalates.

Though Duterte did state he wanted the country to have a more credible defense force, he also pointed out his belief that there was still room for the Philippines to negotiate with the Chinese government.

We have enough peace-and-order problems in Mindanao and we don't need to add an external security threat by saber-rattling against China," Duterte was quoted as saying in last year's news reports.

Going back to roots

THE presumptive president's statement is an apparent acknowledgment of the reason the country used to require college students to undergo basic military training as a prerequisite to graduation.

The idea here is to form a citizen army, which the government can mobilize if needed in times of dire emergency. This emergency could either be the outbreak of war or a massive national disaster. In both instances, the point here is to protect Filipinos

This is clearly stated under Article 2, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution: "The prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people. The government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfilment thereof, all citizens may be required under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service."

 $This section was lifted and {\tt expanded} from$ the 1935 Constitution's Article 2, Section 2: "The defense of the State is a prime duty of government, and in the fulfillment of this duty all citizens may be required by law to OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AF render personal military or civil service."

And to understand how this came to be, one must take a look at what transpired in ı – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

uring the land.

Army (1930s.

The road to independence

MANY of the survivors of the Philippine-American War were still alive in the 1930s.

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Some of them were able to hold on to a position of leadership under the Philippine Commonwealth established under American rule.

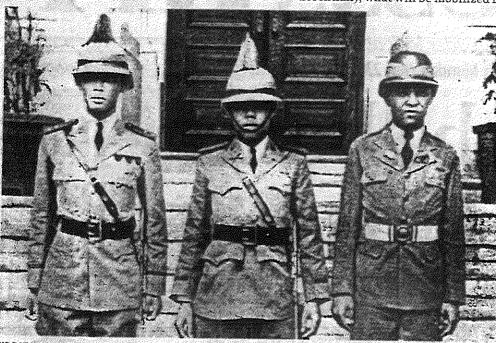
In February 1930 an Independence Congress was held. Among the committees in that informal congress was a National Defense and Communications Section.

According to the book *The Philippine Army 1935 to 1942* by Ricardo Trota Jose, Gen. Jose Alejandrino, a veteran of Revolutionary Army, favored compulsory military training in schools for Filipinos to form the basis of a citizen army that can be mobilized in times of need.

the obligation of every citizen. The security of the Philippines and the freedom, independence and perpetual neutrality of the Philippine Republic shall be guaranteed by the employment of all citizens, without distinction of age or sex, and all resources."

Article II, Section 3 of the National Defense Act is even more specific. It states that "military service shall be obligatory for all citizens of the Philippines."

And since military service is obligatory service, citizens had to undergo preparatory military training in case of mobilization. Essentially, what will be mobilized is



UP ROTC officers from 1926

Unfortunately, this recommendation was not adopted because there was a prevailing American fear that any attempt to institute such moves could form the basis for a new army that could be used to overthrow US rule.

This sentimen and ally changed when the US government agreed to grant the Philippines independence. Thus, the Philippine Commonwealth was formed and with it, the need to form a nucleus for the soon to be independent Philippine military.

That was the idea. And to turn the idea to reality, the Commonwealth's first official move was to pass the National Defense Act, otherwise known as Commonwealth Act 1.

The National Defense Act

THE National Defense Act formalized a social contract of sorts between the citizen and the government. Under the 1935 Constitution, the government was obligated to defend and protect the State in which the citizen lived. And, in order to fulfil that obligation, the citizen must be involved.

This can be clearly seen in Section 2 of the National Defense Act, which states in part: "The preservation of the State is a citizen army.

The citizen army is the reserve force that will shore up the ranks of the peacetime regular force, which will form the cadre for the expansion. The Act authorizes the president to call for either a full or partial to a light the street army is subject to the approve of the commander in chief, but the Act was designed to allow the representatives of the citizen army to check whether the call to mobilize was legitimate.

The law also provided for the creation of the Philippine Military Academy, an institution that will provide the officers for the small regular force. The rest of the officers needed for the expansion of the regular force during mobilization will come from trained reserve officers.

Preparatory training

SINCE the original concept for the country's defense was based on citizen army that can be mobilized, there was need to for citizens to undergo formal military training.

And that was not gained by enlisting in the military.

Instead, Article VII of the National De-

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fense Act provides for preparatory military training for all citizens outside the regular military establishment.

Article VII, Section 81 of the National Defense Act states: "Preparatory military training shall begin with the youth in elementary grade school at the age of ten years and shall extend through the remainder of his schooling into college or the university as set forth hereinbefore. In case the youth ceases to attend school, or for any reason shall have no schooling, he shall become liable for service in the Junior Reserve on reaching the age of eighteen years."

Children, as young as 10 years-old, underwent preparatory military training, while they were in school.

Parents who did not want their children to undergo such training were penalized.

Section 88 of the Act states: "Parents and employers shall be required to compel attendance at preparatory military training. Upon conviction of deliberate failure to discharge this obligation, the responsible parent or employer, or both, shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed P100."

That fine is equivalent to the tenmonths' worth of base pay of an enlisted man

This was all designed to prepare the ordinary citizens to become soldiers if necessary. However, whether trained, these citizens will only be a mob of armed men and women without officers: Thus, the ROTC was established

The rise of ROTC

THERE was already training for officers even before Commonwealth Act 1 was established

According to Jose, in his book The Philippine Army 1935 to 1942, the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University had offered military training for their students since 1912. Unfortuiten i de grad all archese military sources had more trade career to inizatiter graduarion 🖚 🚚

... The same observation was made by the late Brig. Gen. Benjamin Vallejo (UP ROTC *1952): Vallejo wrote in his essay "The ROTC Story", "The training during this period has many limitations. Mostly wooden guns were used, there was no definite program of instruction and very little equipment was available for military training. The greatest difficulty was the fact that there was no promise of a military career for those who underwent this training due to the absence of an organized reserve corps."

In 1922 a former US Army chief of staff became governor general of the Philippines after his retirement. He was Leonard Wood.

His arrival in the Philippines as governor general was the extra push needed to formally establish the ROTC program in the country.

'In November 1921 UP President Guy Porter Benton recommended to the Board

of Regents the formal establishment of a systematic course in military science in the University," Vallejo wrote. "The Board of Regents favorably acted on this. On November 9, 1921, the Board of Regents requested the United States War Department, through the governor general, the services of a US Army professor of military science and tactics."

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Wood learned of the request and endorsed it.

"He, in turn, asked the United States War Department to detail a US Army officer as commandant and professor of military science and tactics," Vallejo wrote. "The request was approved. On March 17, 1922, Captain Chester Arthur Davies, US Army, reported to the Board of Regents, which, in turn, authorized the establishment of the Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST), and approved the plans and programs of instruction. In the same year, the Philippine Department, US Army, supplied the DMST with armaments and equipment. The UP DMST then became officially one of the curricular departments of the University of the Philippines. The course of instruction opened on July 3, 1922, and the term military drill was superceded by the term military science and tactics.

"Several universities took advantage of his offer to make available US Army officers to supervise such training, Jose wrote. "But the failure of the US Congress to enact relevant legislation resulted in the ROTC programs being mere showpieces." There was still a view among certain Americans that these could be used as potential leaders of an army that would overthrow US rule.

Despite this drawback, the ROTC program persisted. Foremost among these units was the UP ROTC

'By 1929, a Field Artillery amit was es tablished in UP on October 26, 1929, with the issuance of 75 mm field guns. Valle o wrote. RAPC units were no longer, just "showpieces."

By March 30, 1936, graduates of the ROTC program found a home. They were inducted as reserve officers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army by President Manuel L. Quezon.

When World War II came to the Philippines, the relevance of the establishing a field artillery unit in UP became apparent. Many of these field artillery men formed the backbone of the Philippine Coastal Artillery Units (PCAU) that manned the guns in Bataan and Corregidor.

So numerous were these UP field artillery cal: 5285, 5295 reserve officers within the PCAU that decades later, the insignia they wore on their collars would sometimes be misidentified as the insignia of the PCAU. In reality, they wore the UP seal on their collars to signify that they were once an ROTC field artillery unit.

To be continued

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29 May 2016



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Gilberto Teodoro as defense chief

IN HIS most recent column, "More than just English usage" (Opinion, 5/20/16), historian Ambeth R. Ocampo noted that the term "presumptive president" being used by media when referring to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, is "painful to the eye and ear." He added that he didn't remember the term being used on Benigno Aquino, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Joseph Estrada or Fidel Ramos while they waited in limbo before assuming the presidency.

I fully agree with his observations. For one thing, "presumptive" is too close for comfort to the word "presumptuous," which indicates a certain degree of arrogance or inso-



lence. There is nothing arrogant or insolent about 17 million Filipinos choosing Duterte for their next president.

Until the Davao mayor is officially declared by Congress as the winning candidate for the presidency, I shall refer to him as the "incoming president" and thereafter until June 30, as the "president-elect." As Ambeth pointed out, the choice of these terms reveals one's bias.

The incoming president has started to flesh out his Cabinet with a number of positions being offered to old friends, classmates, colleagues and political supporters. As someone put it, the "usual suspects." There is nothing wrong with this formula. All presidents use it; who else would the fellow turn to? A president works best with men he can trust and with whom he feels comfortable. His choices usually reflect close relationships developed in the past. We only ask that if these choices prove incompetent or crooked, they should be replaced. Of course, oftentimes that is the sticky part.

President Aquino found it excruciatingly difficult to let go of PNP chief Alan Purisima so much so that even after Purisima was suspended by the Ombudsman, he kept him at his side Purisima continued giving advice and even orders that eventually led to the Mamasapano tragedy

Somehow I am reminded of a story concerning appointments being made by newly-elected President John F Kennedy. The name of a Massachusetts supporter kept appearing in the list of recommendees for government positions but had been crossed out by JFK. When the name reappeared one more time, he told his brother Bobby that the fellow was an SOB, and should be dropped. Bobby retorted that he may be an SOB but he is our SOB.

For now this seems to be the tentative Cabinet lineup. I say tentative since there may still be changes until the appointments are officially announced by the President himself or the nominees finally take their oath of office. Executive secretary, Salvador Medialdea; finance secretary, Carlos Dominguez; transportation secretary, Art Tugade; justice secretary, Vitaliano Aguirre; public works secretary, Mark Villar, acting foreign secretary, Perfecto Yasay; education secretary, Peter Laurel; energy secretary, Alfonso Cusi; solicitor general, Jose Calida; presidential spokesperson, Salvador Panelo; presidential peace adviser, Jesus Dureza; agriculture secretary, Emmanuel Piñol.

Still vacant are the following Cabinet positions: Department of National Defense, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Agrarian Reform, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The last four are reportedly being reserved for the possible participation of Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front personalities.

Notes on some of the nominees.

 Vitaliano Aguirre—During the Corona impeachment trial, he was cited for contempt for clasping both ears with his palms during remarks being delivered by Lady Miriam. This was interpreted as a sign of disrespect. It is not clear if this was his intent or he was merely resting his tired head between his hands.

Mark Villar—There appears to be some conflict of interest in this appointment since the family is involved in real estate development projects. The DPWH has a major say on where highways and bridges would be constructed.

• Perfecto Yasay Jr.—Some quarters are concerned about possible overseas residency status. It would be awkward for our foreign secretary to be a permanent resident abroad. Impeccable sources tell me that Jun Yasay gave up his green card many years ago, I remember Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Yasay standing up to the bullying of then President Joseph Estrada during the height of the BW Resources scandal in 1999. We need someone who stands up to bullies whether in business or in the South China Sea.

 Salvador Panelo—There are objections from relatives of Maguindanao massacre victims since Panelo served as the lawyer of the Ampatuans.

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It was reported that the DND portfolio was offered to Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro. So far there has been no feedback on this matter. Allow me to share with you a few thoughts on Gibo.

In 2007, members of Philippine Air Force Flying School Class of 1957 marked their golden anniversary with a simple gathering of classmates and flight instructors at the Milky Way restaurant in Makati. I was asked to introduce the guest of honor, then Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro.

My remarks: "Seven years after our graduation, a boy was born to Gilberto Teodoro Sr. and Mercedes Cojuangco. The boy would finish at De La Salle University with a commerce degree, majoring in financial institutions. This was followed by law studies at the UP College of Law where he would be awarded the Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence. After graduation he would top the Philippine Bar exams. Teodoro would move on to Harvard for his masters in law and admission to the bar of the State of New York. His political career would take him to three terms in Congress, serving as head of the Nationalist People's Coalition in the House of Representatives.

"Aside from being a licensed commercial pilot, Teodoro finished the Command and Staff Course at the Philippine Air Force and later attended the Joint Command and Staff College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He is perhaps one of the very few legislators to have undergone both courses, an education which has clearly prepared him for his current responsibilities.

"At age 43, he is the youngest person to serve as defense secretary. It would be difficult to avoid the thought that we have in our midst a future president of the republic, much like a former defense secretary who in his time restored the faith of our people in the Armed Forces and gave us hope and confidence in the future of our country."

Gibo Teodoro failed to make it when he ran for the presidency in 2010. But initial failure is oftentimes just a stepping stone on the road to eventual success.

May 2016



Pahina.

RC Cola-Army, Petron XCS sa semis na Nasiguro ng RC Cola- leyball competition na gina- 4T sa bisa ng 21-14, 21-12. time Nestea Beach Volley

sa semifinals matapos

Army A at Petron XCS and nap sa SM By the Bay sa

"Hindi ko naman inii- champion. unang dalawang puwesto. Mall of Asia sa Pasay City. sip masyado yung unde-Tuloy ang ratsada nina feated. Masarap lang ta-pat na lakas ang ibinuhos mabilis na dispatsahin ang Jovelyn Gonzaga at Neris-lagang manalo, maganda nina Bang Pineda at Aiza kani-kanilang karibal sa sa Bautista ng Lady Troo- ang inilaro namin pareho Maizo-Pontilias para dalhin quarterfinals kahapon sa pers nang patumbahin nito pero hindi pa kami pwede ang Petron XCS sa 21-17, 2016 Philippine Superliga sina Ces Molina at Maica mag-relax dahil semis na," 21-16 panalo laban kina

Sa kabilang banda, sa-Challenge Cup beach vol- Morada ng Petron Sprint wika ni Gonzaga na three- Danika Gendrauli at Aby Maraño ng F2 Logistics.

Tinarget talaga namin si Aby dahil bago lang siya sa beach volleyball. Sa kanya namin dinadala yung bola," ani Pineda na sanay na rin sa beach volleyball matapos turnapos volley noong 2012

sa susunod na linggo.

aagawan ng Standard Army B. (Chris Co)

bilangrunner-upsa Nestea Insurance Navy-A nina Beach Volley noong na- Maria Paulina Soriano at karaangtaon attanghaling Norie Jane Diaz at Far kampeon sa UAAP beach. Eastern University-Petron nina Bernadeth Pons at Maghaharapang Lady Kyla Atienza ang iba pang Troopers at Tri-Activ Spi-semis spot gayundin sina kers sa semis na lalaruin. Cherry Ann Rondina at Patty Orendain ng Foton, Habang sinusulat at Gennie Sabas at Jennie ang balitang ito, pinag- Delos Reyes ng RC Cola-

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