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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

03 November 2016

Thursday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

03 NOVEMBER 2016



PANATAG FISHERS TOLD ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS
NEWS / A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DU30 EYES RUSSIA GUNS

BY PRESIDENT DUTERTE AND VICE PRESIDENT ALAN SARAGAN
 ■ Russia may have 'everything' for the country to address its needs for weapons, President says
 ■ Duterte, PDP chief Duterte, says Russia is 'the best' for the country's needs for weapons, President says

NGO ails concern about drug killings

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has expressed concern over the number of extra-judicial killings in the Philippines, saying the government is not doing enough to protect the rights of the accused.

Cops disperse rally vs coal plant

Police officers used tear gas and water cannons to disperse a group of protesters who were gathered in front of a coal power plant.

RADYOINQUIRER BANNER STORY

The Philippine Daily Inquirer has published a story about the use of radio in the Philippines, highlighting the role of radio in the country's history.

Cuba's win forces showdown today

The Cuban government has won a court case against the United States, forcing a showdown between the two countries over the issue of human rights.

INQUIRE WITHIN

HOW did the trainer of Yaspa Rescibe Pacquiao (DUTERTE) win the fight? WHAT is government's new poverty reduction goal (DUTERTE)? WHY can't women be priests according to the Pope? (DUTERTE)

BLAZE 100 EURO 5

UNLEASH THE BLAZE WITHIN.

The Manila Times

Infrastructure modernization, yes but why build artificial islands?
 A closer look at President Duterte's Duterte

DUTERTE SHRUGS OFF US THREAT TO STOP RIFLE SALE
PH to buy arms from China, Russia

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
 ■ Duterte eyes joint patrols with Malaysia
 ■ Govt to lift administrative caps on foreign investment by 2017

Clinton, Trump launch attacks as US race narrows
PH boats fishing outside Panatag, US think tank claims

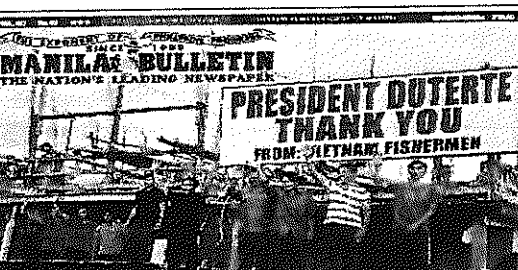
Clinton, Trump launch attacks as US race narrows
 Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have both launched attacks on each other as the US presidential race narrows.

PH boats fishing outside Panatag, US think tank claims
 A US think tank has claimed that Philippine boats have been fishing in the waters outside the Panatag shoal.

Clinton, Trump launch attacks as US race narrows
 The US presidential race has become a heated battle between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

PH boats fishing outside Panatag, US think tank claims
 The US think tank has also claimed that Philippine boats have been fishing in the waters outside the Panatag shoal.

Clinton, Trump launch attacks as US race narrows
 The US presidential race has become a heated battle between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.



Duterte rejects nuke power

"Tight safeguards" must be put in place to avoid meltdown

President Duterte has rejected the idea of nuclear power, saying that the country needs to focus on renewable energy sources. He also said that tight safeguards must be put in place to avoid a meltdown.

NBDA malines drug war strategy
 The National Bureau of Drug Abuse Control (NBDA) has announced its strategy for the drug war, focusing on the supply side.

Focus on drive against graft, Duterte orders NBI
 President Duterte has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to focus on the drive against graft.

President Duterte thanks FVR for his help, denies tension between them
 President Duterte has thanked the FVR for his help and denied any tension between them.

Napth tells West to stop 'looming' as Malaysia embraces China
 Napth has told the West to stop 'looming' as Malaysia embraces China.

NBDA malines drug war strategy
 The National Bureau of Drug Abuse Control (NBDA) has announced its strategy for the drug war, focusing on the supply side.



US funding cuts loom

Think tank believes PH claim China vessels left Panatag

Rody sets out for sea-crimes gab
 Rody Duterte has set out for the sea-crimes gab.

FVR told: Tirades to uphold PH dignity
 FVR has been told to uphold the dignity of the Philippines.

Clinton sets final week offensive
 Clinton has set a final week offensive.

Trump bent on last-gasp poaching
 Trump has been bent on last-gasp poaching.

Curses! Rody breaks own vow not to say expletives
 Rody Duterte has broken his own vow not to say expletives.

for every sword, preso takes a beating
 For every sword, a preso takes a beating.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 NOVEMBER 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. 12
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
2	Rody OKs mobile checkpoints	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p.A23
3	Rody cites gains of state of emergency declaration	Christina Mendez	Phil Star p.9
4	Joint PH-Malaysia drive vs Abus eyed	Cynthia Balana	PDI p.A4
AFP RELATED NEWS			
5-7	'We still have air guns, fists'	Alexis Romero	Phil Star p.1
8	4 vie for next Philippine Navy chief	Florante Solmerin	Standard p.A6
EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY			
9	Digong: the rainmaker	Martin Andanar	PDI p.A11
11-12	How Japan can become our leading ally	Ricardo Saludo	Mla Times p.A1
13-15	If the Americans leave, will Filipino be truly independent?	Preciosa Soliven	Phil Star p.15
ONLINE NEWS			
16-17	HEROES PRRD Visits Wounded-in-Action (WIA) Soldiers from Sulu 8 sundalo sa Region 2, kabilang sa sugatan sa engkuwentro vs ASG ALL SOULS DAY Remembering our Brave Soldiers	Alvin Santiago Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph www.bomboradyo.com www.dwdd.com.ph
18-21	ROYAL HIGHNESS Malaysian Crown Prince visits AFP Duterte eyes joint operations with Malaysia vs Abu Sayyaf Recto, Lacson: After US snub, PH should produce own weapons	Julio Davalos Jim Gomez Camille Elemia	www.dwdd.com.ph www.philstar.com www.rappler.com

03 November 2016



Page: 112

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 3, 2016 | THURSDAY

INTER-TROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
 (As of 5:00 PM - November 2, 2016)

LAOAG CITY 24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 24 - 31 °C
BAGUIO CITY 15 - 23 °C
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 33 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 23 - 30 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 30 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 30 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 29 °C
METRO CEBU 24 - 30 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 25 - 30 °C
METRO DAVAO 24 - 33 °C

SUNRISE 5:52 AM
SUNSET 5:27 PM
MOONRISE 8:29 AM
MOONSET 8:12 PM
NEW MOON NOV 3 1:38 AM
FIRST QUARTER NOV 8 5:51 AM
LOW TIDE 7:01 AM
HIGH TIDE 11:37 PM
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
 0.01 Meter 1.04 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
 Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
 Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
 Light rains

	NOV 3	NOV 4	NOV 5	NOV 6	NOV 7	NOV 8
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	23 - 28 °C	22 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 24 °C	16 - 24 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C		
TAGAYTAY						
LEGAZPI						
PUERTO PRINCESA						
ILOILO/ BACOLOD						
METRO CEBU						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
METRO DAVAO						
ZAMBOANGA						

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People's Television

AIR 21

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

03 November 2016



Page: 423

Rody OKs mobile checkpoints

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte is amenable to random or mobile police checkpoints in place of fixed checkpoints.

"I want mobile or surprise checkpoints, especially if police have information that this guy is coming this way or passing through. They should put up a checkpoint to stop that criminal," the President said.

Duterte earlier ordered the dismantling of police checkpoints across the country, saying they had been causing inconvenience to travelers.

He clarified that he was referring to permanent checkpoints, which he said are being used for mulcting by some policemen.

Duterte said his directive to dismantle checkpoints does not cover those put up by Task Force Davao. "The TFD is Army. It is not police, I said police, not Army," he said.

The President said the military should be tapped to maintain law and order in view of the state of lawlessness which he declared following the night market bombing in Davao City on Sept. 2. Fifteen persons were killed and 71 others wounded in the attack.

Meanwhile, Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said he sees no problem with the directive of the President.

"I agree with him with regard mobile checkpoints," Dela Rosa said.

– Edith Regalado

03 November 2016



Page: 9

Rody cites gains of state of emergency declaration

President Duterte yesterday cited the gains of the declaration of state of emergency in the country, saying it has contributed to the stability of peace and order in Manila and several provinces.

The President declared a state of national emergency due to lawless violence last September shortly after the bombing of a night market in Davao City.

"I have called on the military to help after I declared the state of lawlessness. Now, Manila is OK, other provinces are also OK, especially in Davao where (there) is zero (crime)," Duterte said in

Pangasinan where he led the send-off ceremony for 17 Vietnamese fishermen arrested for poaching but which charges were dismissed by a local court.

Duterte ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) last weekend to dismantle all permanent checkpoints in the country, but clarified the police may also put up mobile checkpoints to thwart crimes and other illegal activities.

He urged the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to also look into the problem, lamenting the killings of policemen and soldiers by drug suspects

The President also slammed anew the United States for criticizing his bloody drug war, which is marked by reports of summary killings and human rights violations.

He said the US colonized the Philippines and "lived off the fat of our land."

Duterte called on quarters in the military to provide him a better solution if they have problems with his decision to craft an independent foreign policy, separating from the US and pivoting to China, Russia and Japan.

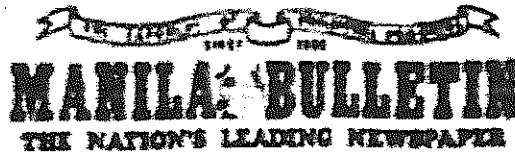
The President again justified the killings, saying he was just saving the next generation.

"To us, this is a very serious problem. Even one child who gets raped, a one-year-old, that's what makes my blood boil. Were it not for the laws of God and men, I'd really kill

them all. What they see is the 3,000 (drug suspects) who were killed," Duterte said.

"Dagdagan ko ng 50,000 yan, bahala; kayo diyay (if I add 50,000 more, I don't care)," he added. "If I do not interdict now, I would have compromised the next generation." – Christina Mendez

03 November 2016



Page: 10

A special dev't program for Mindanao

MINDANAO today has possibly the best opportunity to catch up with the rest of the country. For the first time in our history, we have a president from Mindanao – Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City. The two chambers of Congress are led by Senate President Koko Pimentel of Cagayan de Oro and House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez of Davao.

President Duterte launched last Saturday in Cotabato City a Comprehensive Reform and Development Agenda for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other conflict areas in the region, with a promise that the national government will bring in more funds for development and growth than ever before. Mindanao, he said, could become the richest region of the country because of its abundant natural resources and its vast agricultural lands.

But Mindanao is also the region with the greatest peace and order problem today. The Armed Forces are now conducting a drive against the Abu Sayyaf, with 38 now killed in the ongoing offensive by Task Force Sulu and the Army 11th Scout Ranger Company. Abu Sayyaf, it may be recalled, drew international condemnation when it beheaded kidnap victims from Canada and released other hostages from Indonesia only upon payment of ransom.

Elsewhere in Mindanao, an uncertain peace reigns in areas where the government has reached out to the Moro Islamic Liberation

Front, the Moro National Liberation Front, and the New People's Army. These three major armed groups are now meeting with representatives of the Duterte administration which has specific programs for them, including a federal system of government that will give the Moro leaders more than the usual authority of autonomous regions.

The problems in Mindanao are many but not insurmountable and the new administration should succeed where previous ones have failed. Today President Duterte is engrossed in the campaign against drugs all over the country. He is also striking out for a more independent foreign policy. He has called for a massive infrastructure spending program that should push national development to new heights.

But his heart, surely, is closest to Mindanao. This long-neglected third region of our country, always a "land of promise" that has not been fulfilled. During his speech in Cotabato City, he spoke of the promise of agriculture, pledging to provide tractors and fishing boats to the people. In the short term, he directed the Department of Social Welfare and Development to focus on projects that will help the people fight poverty and hunger.

We look forward to this special program for Mindanao. It will help balance national efforts for the various regions of the country and boost that southern island's contribution to total Philippine growth and progress.

70

03 November 2016



Page: 44

Joint PH-Malaysia drive vs Abus eyed

By Cynthia D. Balana
ocynchdbINQ

The Philippines and Malaysia could share experience to strengthen their military ties, a visiting Malaysian prince who also a general in his country's army said on Wednesday after President Duterte said he will likely discuss possible joint military and police operations between the two nations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Brig. Gen. Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail, the Crown Prince of Malaysia's state of Perlis and the Commander of the 504th Regiment of the Malaysian Territorial Army, said "there are possible avenues for collaboration" between Malaysia's Reserved Officers Training Unit and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserved Command (AF-Rescom).

"It is significant for both countries to work out avenues in areas for future engagements as well as keeping in

touch through various medium available, either via informal or formal means," Faizuddin said during his visit to the AFP headquarters and the AF-Rescom at Camp Aguinaldo.

Mr. Duterte told reporters late Tuesday that addressing the "deteriorating peace and order" in waters between the two countries will top the agenda of his meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and other top officials in Malaysia next week.

Paralyzed trade

"There is a need for us, the three countries Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia, to talk about this seriously and to put a stop because it has somehow paralyzed the trade and commerce in that area," he said.

He said his talks will cover border control, border crossing, "and, maybe, joint military and police operations."

During a recent visit to Indonesia, Duterte said he discussed possible security strate-

gies with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and the Indonesia leader was "OK with everything." Duterte did not specify the security steps.

Continued attacks

Abu Sayyaf gunmen and allied militants have continued attacks at sea this year, kidnapping Malaysian and Indonesian crewmen of slow-moving tugboats mostly pulling coal barges.

The security talks are complicated and tricky because the Philippines and Malaysia have had territorial issues and questions have arisen, for example, on how far Malaysian authorities chasing fleeing militants can go as they approach Philippine territory. In initial talks, the countries have considered establishing a more secure sea lane for commercial vessels as well as coordinated law enforcement actions, including sea and air patrols.

Indonesia has restricted coal shipments to the Philippines because of the danger.

The Abu Sayyaf has sur-

vived through the years mainly from ransom kidnappings. A Philippine threat assessment report seen by The Associated Press showed that the militants pocketed at least \$7.3 million from six ransom kidnappings involving 21 people in the first six months of the year.

Kidnapping payoffs

The report said the payoffs enabled the group to procure firearms and ammunition.

The President has ordered the military to destroy the Abu Sayyaf. The Philippine military said on Tuesday it has killed 70 Abu Sayyaf militants and captured 32 others since July.

The Philippines and Malaysia established diplomatic relations in 1959. Their defense cooperation is conducted through the Philippines-Malaysia Military Cooperation Working Group (MCWG).

Both armed forces agreed last year to curb smuggling, piracy, and terrorism in the waters between the two countries.

-With a report from AP INQ

03 November 2016



Page: 1

'We still have air guns, fists'

Russia offers to sell arms to Phl

By ALEXIS ROMERO and JAIME LAUDE

If they won't sell assault rifles to the Philippines, the nation can still fight criminals with air guns and fists. President Duterte yesterday shrugged off threats that the United States would stop the sale of assault rifles to the Philippine National Police (PNP), saying there are other sources in the market.

Duterte, who has displayed animosity toward the US because of its criticisms of his brutal war on drugs, dismissed Washington's reported refusal to sell rifles as a mere scare tactic.

"Is that it? What? They are not selling us arms? That's their only way to scare me? That they won't sell firearms? We have several air guns here," Duterte remarked.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa also down-

played the US embargo on selling firearms to the Philippine police.

Dela Rosa said the PNP would continue its war against illegal drugs and criminality even if it meant coming to blows with drug lords after police have fired their last bullet.

"It will not affect our anti-drug campaign. Your policemen, without guns and bullets, will be engaging drug lords in fistfights or in hand-to-hand

Turn to Page 8

We still From Page 1

combat in order to finish our war against illegal drugs," he said.

Dela Rosa though admitted the US embargo will have an impact on the government's counterterrorism campaign, as the PNP intends to equip all its elite police units with the more sophisticated M4 assault rifles.

On the part of the military, the US embargo on the PNP will not affect the country's external defense, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

"Our procurement weapons and equipment are being done through Foreign Military Sales (FMS)," Arevalo said.

He explained the FMS is covered by the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and as long as the defense treaty is in effect, the AFP can procure weapons from the US.

"The FMS is tied with the MDT which is in effect up to now," Arevalo said.

Duterte said he will consider continuing acquiring weapons and defense equipment from the US if the military recommends it, despite the offers from China and Russia.

Duterte said he has asked

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and military officials to travel to China and Russia to check what they have to offer, but added that the military's recommendation will be crucial.

He said, "If you want to stick with America, fine," but added that he told the AFP to consider Washington's critical stance against him.

The US State Department halted the planned sale of some 26,000 M4 assault rifles to the PNP after a US lawmaker, Sen. Ben Cardin, expressed concern over human rights violations in the Philippines.

The Duterte administration has been accused of committing human rights violations in its campaign against drugs, which has so far left more than 3,000 drug offenders dead.

The US, the Philippines' longtime ally and treaty partner, has expressed concern over the killings, a move that Duterte viewed as interference in domestic affairs.

Last month, Duterte declared that he was "separating" from the US in terms of the economy and security, but later clarified there was no severance of diplomatic ties with the

superpower.

Officials said Duterte was merely emphasizing the need for the Philippines to pursue a foreign policy more independent from the US.

Duterte said he sees no problem with the issue since the country can always buy its weapons anywhere, not just from the US.

Besides, the Philippines could always turn to other nations such as Russia and China for such needs in assault rifles and other weapons, even missiles.

"Remember what the Russian diplomat said? Come to Russia. We have anything you need," Duterte told reporters late Tuesday.

Duterte mentioned his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev during the ASEAN Leaders Summit in Laos last September.

Duterte said Medvedev indicated that Russia was ready to help. He said he is planning to visit Russia upon the invitation of Medvedev.

He added China is also offering to sell weapons and materiel to the Philippines. "Even China is open... anything you want. They even sent us a brochure," he said.

Unfair

Lawmakers said the planned US embargo on weapons sales to the Philippines would be an opportunity for the country to look for better sources.

"It is a wake-up call for us to stop totally relying on foreign suppliers. This is another kind of pivot we need. To tap our domestic industries for the equipment needs of our policemen and soldiers," Sen. Ralph Recto said.

Sen. Miguel Zubiri added there are plenty of other suppliers such as Israel and Russia, which have both been manufacturing and exporting reliable weapons.

Zubiri said it was unfair for the US to blame the Philippine government for extrajudicial killings in the absence of any proof.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the planned embargo "was not a scare tactic but a bully attitude towards a longtime ally."

He said the move was "not fair" as the Philippines is an equally sovereign state.

"Prudence dictates that the US State Department should first show a conclusive investigation that affirms what Sen. Benjamin Cardin has alleged before issuing a statement banning the sale of assault rifles

to our uniformed services," Lacson said.

Lacson said the government should jumpstart the PNP's Capability Enhancement Program (CEP) and start shopping in other territories for their armament requirements.

"There are other sources like Israel, Belgium, even Russia and China," Lacson said.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito lamented that after decades being trumpeted by the US as its most trusted ally in the region, the Philippines has one of the weakest armed forces.

Just because President Duterte announced an independent foreign policy, the US stopped its arms sales to the Philippines.

"That is not how to treat a very loyal ally," Ejercito said.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian believes the US State Department has exceeded its mandate by halting the arms sale based on pure speculation.

He said the US State Department should have waited first for the results of the probe by international bodies on extrajudicial killings in the country.

Gatchalian also prodded the PNP to speed up its probe into cases of extrajudicial killings.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director

Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde said the PNP could purchase its firearms in the local market.

He said the PNP can even boost the economy by purchasing firearms from local gun manufacturers.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) denounced the US for being hypocritical in invoking concern over human rights violations in stopping the sale of firearms to the PNP.

"The cancellation of the weapons sale to the PNP is a clear rebuke by the US government against the Duterte regime which has increasingly asserted its independence from US dictates and has stood firmly against continuing US military presence in the country," the CPP said.

But "it is a good thing" that the US cancelled its arms sale to the PNP, it said.

The cancellation of the US of its sale of assault rifles to the PNP "is a great opportunity for the PNP to rethink and repudiate the militarization of police work, something which the US police forces have done and which is now being thrust on the local police forces," the CPP said. – With Edith Regalado, Marvin Sy, Paolo Romero, Artemio Dumlao, Robertzon Ramirez, AP

03 November 2016

The Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: Au

4 vie for next Philippine Navy chief

by Florante S. Solmerin

THE Philippine Navy will have a new flag-officer-in-command on November 12, a day before the mandatory retirement of outgoing Navy chief Vice Admiral Caesar Taccad.

Of the four contenders to replace Taccad, Western Command chief Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado, a

member of the Philippine Military Academy Matikas Class of 1983.

The others contenders are Navy Vice Commander Rear Admiral Rafael Mariano, Fleet Commander Bayani Gaerland and Naval Education and Training Commander Narciso Bengson.

Taccad's retirement will spur major changes in at least two area commands: the West-

com if Mercado is chosen as the new FOIC and the Central Command, which is currently headed by Maj. Gen. Raul del Rosario.

Del Rosario, an Air Force pilot, is touted to replace Mercado if he assumes the top Navy post.

Sources from the AFP said Inspector General Maj. Gen. Oscar Lactao may replace Del Rosario as Centcom head.

Lactao, a member of the PMA Maharlika Class of 1984, was linked to the so-called "Novotel generals" who allegedly met with then presidential candidate Manuel Roxas II weeks before the May polls.

Lactao denied that he was part of the meeting, saying he was at the Novotel hotel in Cubao for personal reasons and that he was only "at the wrong place and at the wrong time."

3 November 2016



Page: 11

THURSDAY / NOVEMBER 3, 2016
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

OPINION

Digong: the rainmaker

With all the things on his plate, President Duterte found the time during the long weekend to sneak in a visit to soldiers wounded during the latest skirmish with Abu Sayaff bandits. Such visits are important for him. He genuinely cares for those who go into harm's way at the service of the Republic.

Whatever his adversaries might say about him, they know his concern for the people is genuine. It is profound.

President Digong sees his role as Father of the Nation. He understands his work as being, at all times, protector of the vulnerable, the weak, the children who will inherit whatever we make of the future. He may sometimes appear stern, but at all times he wants to perform acts of kindness.

We have never had a leader who loved the people with such a passion. He does not want the nation to be looked down upon, even if that meant standing up to the world's superpower.

He is deeply conscious of the work of those who came before him. Which other Filipino president, as a case in point, remembered to send wreaths to the tombs of former presidents on All Saints Day?

When he toured military and police camps last month, President Duterte gave out automatic pistols to the servicemen for their personal protection. Which other politicians thought of that?

The President has consistently justified his war on drugs as an existential struggle to save the next generation of Filipinos. This is always more than a law enforcement effort, something policemen do simply because the law re-



BREW POINT

MARTIN ANDANAR

quires them to act on the problem. This is about saving the nation, protecting ordinary citizens from the scourge of crimes spawned by drug use. This is about holding our communities together, making them safer and more productive. This is about reestablishing order in neighborhoods where drug addicts prowl much like invincible zombies.

It is the specter of the state cowering before the drug lords, of our institutions held hostage by powerful criminal syndicates that haunt President Duterte. He will not allow an intolerable situation to get even worse. He will not allow narcopolitics to hold our future in its deadly embrace. He will not allow law-abiding citizens to be terrorized by discombobulated addicts. As he says repeatedly, he will risk everything to defeat this unseemly foe.

In the President's mind, it is destiny's dictate that he get the job done. Our beleaguered people delivered him to the presi-

dency because he was the only one with the will and the capacity to take the drug bull by the horns. He was the only one who would invest immense political capital in winning this war, the only one who could motivate the law-enforcement agencies to go beyond their limits and crush the scourge.

Desperate times require exceptional leadership. The nation is fortunate to have an exceptional leader in the threatened times we live in. He is the epitome of what, in Tagalog patois, we describe as "*matigas ang ulo pero pusong mamon*." He will not stop if the people's welfare depends on his getting things done. He will try and rescue every distressed person if that is at all possible.

He is tribal elder, stern father, rainmaker and mayor rolled into one. He is *sui generis*. No one else can get to the gist of what ails our national community like he does. No one else is nearly as persistent. No one else is nearly as uncompromising. No one else might be able to deliver a better future, especially for the millions of Filipinos trapped in poverty and enslaved by fear.

His unorthodox style might distress the more conventional among us. But he gets results. Fortunately, for most Filipinos, that is what truly matters.

Our citizens sense the honesty, feel the love and see the tenacity. He might be unique in his language and his methods. He surely operates out of the box. He works without complaining. He feels for the poor. He has the public good constantly in mind.

As the Americanism goes, he is exactly what the doctor ordered: the man who will reshape this nation for the better.

03 November 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A5

How Japan can become our leading ally

I give you my word today that we will not abandon Japan in our partnership and security matters given the common belief that our conflicts and problems with other nations must be resolved peacefully, in accordance with international law. ... we would also be a partner and a player of maritime safety, maritime security anytime and that we would like to avoid at all costs violence because we have to resolve it peacefully and in accordance with international law.

— President Rodrigo Duterte after Oct. 26 meeting with Japanese PM Shinzo Abe

TALK about role reversal. After meeting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on October 26, visiting President Rodrigo Duterte assured his host that "we will not abandon Japan" which he called "special friend closer than a brother."

Ponder again those words from the leader of the Philippines, conquered by

► **SaludoA5**



REPUBLIC
SERVICE

**RICARDO
SALUDO**

the Empire of Japan nearly 75 years ago, and now one of the biggest beneficiaries of Japanese trade, aid and investment.

Why on earth must Duterte tell Japan — our biggest aid donor — that the Philippines would not forsake it, as if it depended on us for some crucial need?

Well, in fact, Japan did need President Duterte's assurance of continued Philippine support, if not alliance.

Here's why. During his state visit to China the week before going to Tokyo, Duterte announced "separation" from the United States and "alliance" with China and maybe Russia "against the world."

Imagine China and the Philippines joining forces in the waters between them, through which most of Japan's oil imports pass, and you see why PM Abe needed to be assured that such a naval nightmare isn't the kind of alliance Duterte had in mind.

Tokyo got that assurance in the joint statement issued by Duterte and Abe after their meeting. Eight of the 15 points in the communique touched on maritime security issues, with repeated references to cooperation between Japan and the Philippines.

Along with words came action. The Philippines is getting two large patrol boats and ten other patrol vessels from Japan, along with two marine surveillance planes, and training for the Philippine Navy's pilots and enhancing its infrastructure. Duterte also expressed appreciation for Tokyo's plan to provide high-speed boats for anti-terrorism activities.

The day after his meeting with Abe, Duterte said he was amenable to joint patrols with Japanese naval vessels in Philippine territorial waters in the South China Sea. Weeks before, he stopped joint patrols with the US Navy.

So is Duterte moving to a closer relationship, even an alliance, with Japan? Let's take a close look at three strategic factors.

Japan needs a strong Philippines

First, Japan needs a strong, independent Philippines for regional security, especially on

the high seas. Otherwise, we can easily be taken over by a big power hostile to Japan.

That would threaten vital sea lanes and fishing waters in the South and East China Seas and the Western Pacific. It would also complicate the deployment of US forces from Guam, Hawaii, Australia, and the Indian Ocean, to defend Japan.

So Tokyo has every reason to build up Philippine defense capabilities, especially air and naval power needed to counter foreign pressure and aggression, and ensure freedom of navigation in surrounding waters.

Won't that provoke China in the same way that the US-Philippines alliance did?

Maybe not. Despite historical animosities with China, Japan is not a rival superpower, and the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF), dwarfed by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and with no nuclear weapons, does not pose a strategic threat.

Moreover, due to restrictions in Japan's peace constitution, the JSDF cannot deploy massive forces in the Philippines, as the US Seventh Fleet would under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Since it cannot garrison the Philippines, so to speak, Japan needs to build up our own defense capabilities if we are to resist aggression, especially the anti-access/area denial weaponry urged by security experts.

By contrast, the US preferred to escalate its naval and air assets in Philippine territory and bases, with little urgency in providing and developing the A2/AD gear we need, like the marine surveillance planes now coming from Japan.

The Philippines can secure Japanese shipping

Even before the Philippines can attain ample defense capabilities,

it can already help secure Japanese shipping even now by providing an alternative route skirting the South China Sea and going through the country's archipelagic waters.

From the Malacca Strait and Singapore, ships bound for Japan can sail into the Sulu Sea, traverse the Visayas, and exit to the Pacific Ocean, where they can be secured by the US and Japanese navies operating out of Guam and Japan.

To enable this alternative route via the Philippine territorial sea, internationally recognized under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Japan can help enhance port and marine support facilities along the way, so as to accommodate huge ocean-going vessels. At present, most Philippine ports are for domestic shipping only.

The Japan-Philippines economic synergy

The third strategic factor underpinning deeper Japan-Philippines relations is economic synergy between ageing, worker-deficient Japan and populous, young Philippines.

This symbiosis is partly seen in the influx of nurses and caregivers into Japan, along with growing ranks of Filipino workers in various fields. This trend will become more and more crucial as Japan's population gets even older, and its industries and its farms find it harder and harder to get workers. Not to mention willing hands for menial tasks.

In addition, Japanese industries should find the Philippines a welcome alternative to Malaysia, Thailand, and China, where labor is getting most expensive and harder to get. In addition, plants in the country would be much closer to certain markets like the US, Australia, and Japan itself. And Filipinos can also address Japan's fast-rising demand for IT staff.

Add to the people factor the longstanding bounties of Philippine agriculture, fishing, and resources, and the economic synergy further strengthens Japan-Philippine ties.

Yes, in our security and our economies, we can indeed become closer than brothers.

03 November 2016



Page: 15

A POINT OF AWARENESS

By PRECIOSA S. SOLIVEN

If the Americans leave, will Filipinos be truly independent?



As a child begins his life, he aims directly and energetically toward functional independence. Like an arrow released from its bow, he veers straight and swift to acquire speech and movement. If the child is not hindered but instead encouraged, this mobility allows him to gain independence. This can be compared to how a country acquires independence. But are conditions in our country promoting the national will to develop our selves? (I wrote this column in March 1991)

Can we get things done?

Can we stand on our own feet, and race against other developing countries?

DECS Secretary Isidro Carifio rushes his staff to finish their tasks, saying "I have only three minutes left and there is much to be done." The same sentiment was expressed by Governor Bitay Lacson regarding his program to re-construct Negros Occidental. Lacson told the Senate-Congressional Education Commission surveying school problems in 18 regions "Time is running short. I am not after being re-elected but in getting things done." These good men, new in politics, fear both the lack of time and the prospect of old politicians taking over and destroying what they have begun.

Are we still schizophrenic?

For the past few weeks, the PLDT-TV 30-second focused on the "schizophrenia" of our country. A gentleman says, "We are clean, and yet we are dirty. We take a bath everyday but we're surrounded by litter... we just don't care."

Is it merely conditioning of the environment? Rizal Park was once an empty lot of overgrown cogon grass and litter. When it was cleaned, landscaped, and provided with enough waste cans, the people did not dirty it. In the '60s, Singapore looked like Escolta, a small central city with a dirty *estero*. Sampan houseboats crowded the inner city river. Today, Singapore has an international look, resembling a lush green English park. Their government invested heavily on a good city plan. New zoning laws imposed heavy fees or penalties of imprisonment on violators. Hong Kong in the fifties looked pathetic with only three major hotels and Mainland Chinese refugees squatting on the mountainside. Twenty years later, it's filled up with international hotels and buildings. The tiny island looks like a pincushion fully studded with hotels.

By contrast, Manila city authorities have done nothing to clear the *esteros*. Squatters inhabit the railroad and riverside, endangering their lives. Zoning seems to be nonexistent. Squatters settle in the children's park, or establish their own "town" along the boulevard. Smokey Mountain could have been leveled and converted into flower plant market, pleasing to the eye and a source of income. Allowing people to settle down here seems illegal and cruel.

Philippines, among 24 countries hosting US facilities

The Philippines is one of 24 countries hosting US facilities, thus ensuring world peace. The other countries are Panama, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Greenland, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, England, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Kosovo, Djibouti, Turkey, Korea, Japan, Singapore and Australia. The US Military facilities contribute to global stability and enable the US and the Soviet Union to negotiate on nuclear arms reductions.

They also enhance rapid economic expansion in the Philippines. Through nearby straits such as Malacca, Lombok and Sunda, about 50 percent of Asia's oil and 80 percent of the Philippines' oil is imported by sea. The Philippines is located at a crossroad between the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. It is adjacent to the Asian mainland and near critical straits that connect the Pacific with the Indian Ocean and the Middle East.

The Phi-US mutual defense treaty has helped maintain world peace for 70 years

The US military facilities in the Philippines-US Mutual Defense Treaty have helped maintain world peace for 70 years since the end of World War

II. Thus the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) is based on the history of Philippine-American brotherhood. On Dec. 8, 1941, the US fleet at Pearl Harbor was destroyed by Japan. The Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore all fell to the Japanese. This taught America and the Philippines the value of an ever-ready defense program.

In December 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the foundation for the modern Military Bases Agreement (MBA). "I give to the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected," he said.

In 1943, President Manuel Quezon affirmed the importance of the bases as a "question of our future security and safeguarding forever the mutual interests of the United States and the Philippines in the Pacific." Later, the destruction of enemy merchant ships in the Pacific and the fast movement of the American carrier fleet contributed to General MacArthur's historic return in October 1944.

The MBA has undergone more than 40 amendments since it was signed in 1947. The original agreement provided the US with a 99-year-old lease to more than 20 base sites, covering 250,000 hectares in 13 provinces.

Today, they occupy some 10,000 hectares. The Serrano - Bohlen Memorandum of Agreement shortened the fixed term of the original agreement from 99 to 25 years (1966-1991).

The 1979 amendment turned Clark Airbase over to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. From the base area of 53,000 hectares, 3,760 were designated as the United States facility within the Philippines base. Clark Air Base is the headquarters of the US Thirteenth Air Force.

The largest American unit at Clark is the Third Tactical Fighter Wing, which together with the Fifth Fighter Wing of the Philippine Air Force, contributes to the air defense of the Philippines.

Under a continuing program called "Cope Thunder," and with permission from the Philippine government, US forces employ the Crow Valley complex for highly realistic combat practice missions.

Under the 1979 amendment Philippine sovereignty was recognized with the establishment of the Subic Naval Base Command (SUBCOM) placed under the Fleet Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy. Some 6,000 hectares were designated as the US Facility. Cubi Point Naval Air Station (NAS) is the primary land base for the Seventh Fleet's aircraft where their ships are in point. From there, P-3 Orion aircraft fly off to monitor submarines in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean.

The ship repair facility extends the most obvious direct support to Seventh Fleet vessels. It has three floating dry docks where almost any repair on a naval vessel can be accommodated. Under the MBA as amended, the United States may also use other premises in the country. The largest of these are: Camp John Hay Air Station in Baguio, used as a rest and recreation facility, Wallace Air Station in La Union, a joint RP-US air defense radar complex, the Naval Communications Station in San Miguel, Zambales and several subordinate communication sites, and Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac, a radio transmitter site.

**We provide a vital link
in the global chain of defense**

Let me reiterate that majority of us are pro-COUNTRY. The Philippines can retain her sovereignty without separating from the brotherhood of nations, without spurning America who acts consistently in our favor. As US Ambassador Nicholas Platt (1987-1991) says, "In our Mutual interest" a write-up of the factual information of the MBA, "We must reach out to one another. We need not fear losing our identity. In fact, through our steady confidence and cooperation with one another, we provide a vital link in the global chain of defense, which protects all the lives of the brotherhood of nations on this earth."

(For feedback email to precious.solliven@yahoo.com)

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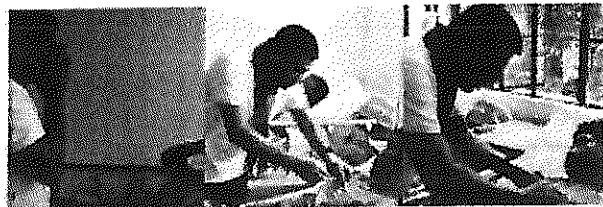
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HEROES | PRRD Visits Wounded-in-Action (WIA) Soldiers from Sulu

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 2, 2016 at 6:23 PM

JOLO, Sulu (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte visited the Wounded-in-Action (WIA) soldiers in Jolo, Sulu after a recent encounter with the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).



The WIA soldiers had an incident with the ASG in Patikul, Sulu on October 30, 2016 where a hundred rebels exchanged fire with the government troops, resulting to the deaths and injuries of the rebels. Based on reports, six (6) ASG members were killed in the said encounter.



Eight (8) army soldiers sustained injuries during the clash, and six (6) among them were rushed to the Camp General Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital in Jolo. The other two (2) soldiers were transferred to Zamboanga City for immediate medical attention.

President Duterte honored the bravery of the injured troops by awarding them the Wounded Personnel Medal.

He also gave cash, medical assistance, and brand new .45 caliber handguns to each soldier.

"Kung may kailangan kayo, gamot, cash assistance, anything, magsabi kayo sa akin," the Commander-in-Chief said.

The President also visited the other soldiers admitted in the hospital where he shared a short and friendly chat with them, as well as listened to their concerns. **RTVM / MCAG**

www.bomboradyo.com

8 sundalo sa Region 2, kabilang sa sugatan sa engkuwentro vs ASG

By Bombo Cauayan Posted in Latest News Wednesday, 02 November 2016 11:32

CAUAYAN CITY, Isabela – Walang naitalang casualty kundi pawang mga galos lang sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ang tinamo ng walong tropa ng 21st IB ng 5th Infantry Division na nakabase sa Gamu, Isabela.

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

Ito'y kasunod ng kanilang inilunsad na opensiba laban sa mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa Patikul, Sulu.

Sa nakuhang impormasyon ng *Bombo Radyo Cauayan*, nakasagupa ng tropa ng 21st IB ang nasa higit 100 miyembro ng bandidong grupo.

Nabatid na lumasap ng heavy casualty ang tropa ng ASG dahil sa mga heavy artillery na inilunsad ng militar.

Ang mga nasugatanng sundalo ay personal na ring dinalaw ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa isang ospital sa Jolo, Sulu.

Nagbigay ang pangulo ng medalya at cash incentives sa walong sundalo na pawang taga-Region 2.

www.dwdd.com.ph

ALL SOULS DAY | Remembering our Brave Soldiers

Posted by **Alvin Santiago** on November 2, 2016 at 1:28 PM



Camp Guillermo Nakar, Lucena City (DWDD) – The Southern Luzon Command, (SOLCOM) Armed Forces of the Philippines remembers our soldiers who lost their lives in performing their duty of protecting the Filipino people in a short prayer offered by the Chief Chaplain of SOLCOM.

In the spirit of remembrance, all saints day and all souls day is a memorial long weekend to spend with families and relatives this year. But it is not just a holiday. It is about those brave soldiers who died in strange lands, who never had the chance to say goodbye, never got married, and never saw their children grow up. It is a day of remembering those who fought for our freedom and were no longer with us.

For Mrs. Asia Hanna Lubian it is the day to cherish and remember her late husband, Corporal Michael Salahuddin Lubian who died leading his men in a 4-hour gun battle with the members of new people's army at Sitio Carinay, Brgy Villa Ibaba, Atimonan, Quezon last July 12, 2015. Corporal Lubian is the Team Leader of the troops from 85th Infantry Battalion securing the construction of a government flagship project in Atimonan.

Mrs. Asia Hanna Lubian said, after a year, I finally learned the true meaning of Memorial Day and felt the pain of it. But I never had to question whether I would see him again. He was a good friend to everyone he met and always there for those he loved. He smiled everywhere he went, brought joy to so many places where he was assigned, he is a loving husband and father and his dedication to our country was strong. "He will always be in our hearts".

Lieutenant General Ferdinand F Quidilla Commander, Southern Luzon Command conveys his sincere gratitude to every Army, Navy, Airforce and Marines who fell in combat. We may never see them again but their deeds will bring significant change in the life of every Filipino. **PAO SOLCOM / MCAG**

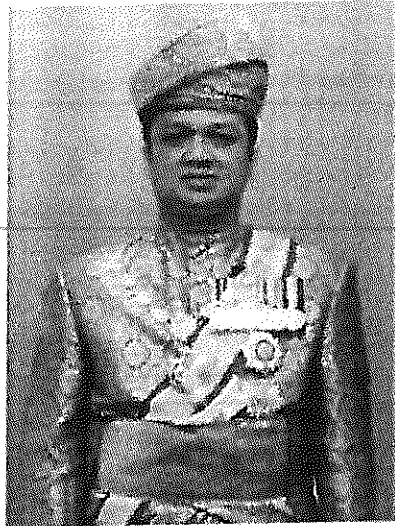
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17

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ROYAL HIGHNESS | Malaysian Crown Prince visits AFP

Posted by **Lui Claudio** on November 2, 2016 at 1:10 PM



His Royal Highness Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail

CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City – The Crown Prince of Malaysia's state of Perlis, His Royal Highness Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail, visited the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters today, 02 November 2016, as part of his four-day academic and military tour.

The AFP Deputy Chief of Staff LtGen Salvador Melchor B Mison Jr received Prince Faizuddin on behalf of the Chief of Staff, General Ricardo R Visaya.

AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard A Arevalo said "the engagement envisions to learn from the experience and best practices of both Malaysia and the Philippines on the Reservist and Reserve Officers Training Program. The Malaysian delegation would like to learn how best the AFP organize, train, and deploy its Reservists especially in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) Operations among other objectives of the visit."

"The AFP meanwhile would like to hear for one, how the Malaysian Armed Forces recruit and manage all sorts of professionals into their Reservist Corps," Col Arevalo added.

Aside from being the Crown Prince, Faizuddin is also the Commander of 504th Regiment of the Malaysian Territorial Army, holding the rank of Brigadier General. He likewise heads the Malaysian Reserved Officers Training Unit (ROTU) or Pasukan Latihan Pegawai Simpanan(PALAPES).

After his meeting with LtGen Mison, Prince Faizuddin visited the AFP Reserve Command (AFPRESOM) also in Camp Aguinaldo. He was met by AFPRESOM Commander Col Pascual Luis D Bedia (MNSA) PA.

In his speech during his courtesy call in AFPRESOM, Prince Faizuddin said "there are possible avenues for collaboration between Malaysian ROTU and the AFPRESOM such as through joint training."

"It is significant for both countries to work out avenues or areas for future engagements as well as keeping in touch through various medium available, either via informal or formal means," Prince Faizuddin added.

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The Prince then toured the AFP Museum along with his 9-men delegation mostly composed of deputy commandants in major reserve training units in Malaysia. They will also visit the University of the Philippines.

UP is home to the UP Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), one of the pioneers of ROTC in the Philippines.

The Crown Prince arrived in the Philippines last Monday, 31 October 2016 and will depart for Singapore tomorrow, 03 November 2016.

The Philippines and Malaysia established diplomatic relations in 1959. Since then, the two countries have entered into joint military trainings and exercises, information exchanges, and reciprocal visits between respective defense officials.

Part of its Defense Cooperation is the Philippines-Malaysia Military Cooperation Working Group (MCWG). This was organized to review and plan for continuous military activities between the AFP and Malaysian Armed Forces.

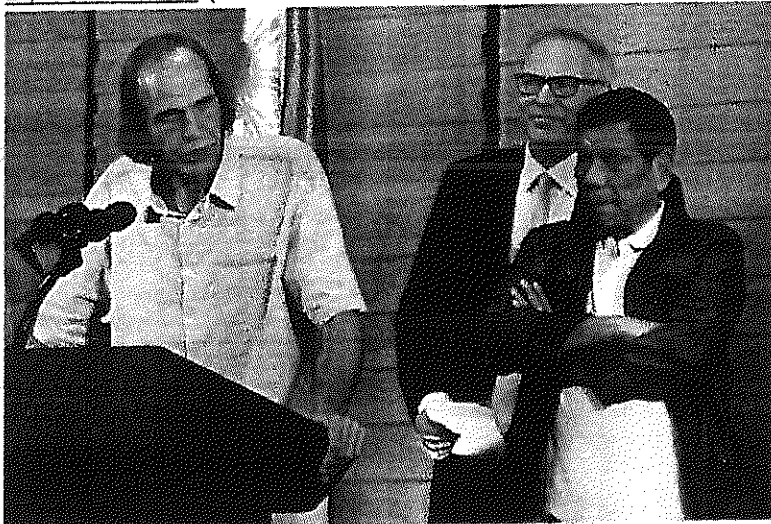
In the recent MCWG meeting conducted last year, both armed forces agreed to curb smuggling, piracy, and terrorism along the trade routes in the waters between Philippines and Malaysia.

"The visit of the Malaysian Crown Prince to our Armed Forces marks the robust and strong partnership between the AFP and the Malaysian Armed Forces. It signifies our modest but steady achievements in our effort to promote regional peace and stability through our Reservist Program," General Visaya said.

www.philstar.com

Duterte eyes joint operations with Malaysia vs Abu Sayyaf

By Jim Gomez (Associated Press) | Updated November 2, 2016 - 12:50pm



In this Sept. 18, 2016, file photo, released Norwegian hostage Kjartan Sekkingstad, left, briefly delivers his statement after meeting Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, right, in Davao city in southern Philippines. Sekkingstad was freed after a year of horrific jungle captivity when he was constantly threatened with

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beheading. Abu Sayyaf militants pocketed at least 353 million pesos (\$7.3 million) from ransom kidnappings in the first six months of the year and have turned to abductions of foreign tugboat crewmen as military offensives restricted the gunmen's mobility, a confidential Philippine government report said Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016. **AP Photo/Manman Dejeto, File**

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte will discuss possible joint military and police operations with Malaysia to quell Abu Sayyaf militant kidnappings of sailors along the countries' sea border, saying that the brazen attacks have paralyzed trade and commerce.

Addressing the "deteriorating peace and order" in those waters will top the agenda when Duterte meets Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and other top officials in Malaysia next week, Duterte told reporters late Tuesday.

Duterte said the attacks embarrassed him because the Abu Sayyaf perpetrators are based in the southern Philippine island of Jolo, an impoverished, jungle-clad region where the militants hold their hostages for ransom.

"There is a need for us, the three countries Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia, to talk about this seriously and to put a stop because it has somehow paralyzed the trade and commerce in that area," Duterte said.

He said his talks will cover border control, border crossing, "and, maybe, joint military and police operations."

During a recent visit to Indonesia, Duterte said he discussed possible security strategies with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and the Indonesia leader was "OK with everything." Duterte did not specify the security steps.

Despite initial talks by the three countries about ratcheting up security, Abu Sayyaf gunmen and allied militants — part of a wider Muslim rebellion that has been raging in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation for decades — have continued attacks at sea this year, kidnapping Malaysian and Indonesian crewmen of slow-moving tugboats mostly pulling coal barges.

The security talks are complicated and tricky because the Philippines and Malaysia have had territorial issues and questions have arisen, for example, how far Malaysian authorities chasing fleeing militants can go as they approach Philippine territory. In initial talks, the countries have considered establishing a more secure sea lane for commercial vessels as well as coordinated law enforcement actions, including sea and air patrols.

Indonesia has restricted coal shipments to the Philippines because of the danger. Although most of the vessels attacked were tugboats, which are easy to board, the militants attacked an ocean-going South Korean cargo ship for the first time about two weeks ago off southern Tawi-Tawi province, near Sulu, abducting its South Korean skipper and a Filipino crewman.

Without any known foreign source of funds, the Abu Sayyaf has survived through the years mainly from ransom kidnappings. A Philippine threat assessment report seen by The Associated Press showed that the militants pocketed at least \$7.3 million from six ransom kidnappings involving 21 people in the first six months of the year.

The report said the lucrative payoffs enabled the group to procure firearms and ammunition.

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

Duterte, who took office in June, has ordered the military to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, while pursuing talks with two larger Muslim rebel groups.

The Philippine military said Tuesday it has killed 70 Abu Sayyaf militants and captured 32 others in an offensive that began in July.

www.rappler.com

Recto, Lacson: After US snub, PH should produce own weapons

'It is a wake-up call for us to stop totally relying on foreign suppliers,' says Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto

Camille Elemia

@CamilleElemia

Published 2:26 PM, November 02, 2016



LOCAL PRODUCTION. Senators Ralph Recto and Panfilo Lacson say the government should now focus on its self-reliance programs after the US reportedly stopped the sale of rifles to the Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines – After the United States reportedly halted rifle sales to the Philippines, two senators are pushing for the local production of weapons.

Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto and Senator Panfilo Lacson said in separate statements that it is high time for the government to focus on its self-reliance program in terms of weaponry.

"There is now more reason for our Department of National Defense to revive our self-reliance program so we can produce our own weapons and ammunition and other military hardware," said Lacson, chairman of the Senate public order committee and former chief of the Philippine National Police.

Recto said the US' move should be a wake-up call for the Philippines to stop depending on foreign suppliers.

"This is another kind of pivot we need. To tap our domestic industries for the equipment needs of our policemen and soldiers. It is a wake-up call for us to stop totally relying on foreign suppliers," Recto said.

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"*Hindi naman puwede na mula helmet hanggang boots imported* (We can't have a situation where helmets to boots are imported). If some of the things can be made locally and the products are of the same price and quality as the ones bought abroad, then let us manufacture them here," he added.

The local firearms industry, Recto said, is vibrant enough to produce the country's weapons. In fact, he said, local companies have been exporting these products for many decades now.

The minority leader added the country's car manufacturing industry could supply military and police vehicles. Recto claimed even local shipyards could make patrol ships for the government.

"If we're buying boats either for coastal, river, environmental, or fisheries patrol, then let our local shipyards make them. The weaponry can come from abroad *pero siguro 'yung barko puwede na dito* (but we can source the boats locally)," he said.

'Bully'

According to *Reuters*, the US decided to halt the planned sale of 26,000 rifles to the Philippines after US Senator Benjamin Cardin raised concerns about the killings in the country linked to the Duterte administration's war on drugs.

But for Lacson, this is nothing but the US acting as a "bully." Lacson reiterated there has been no conclusive evidence that the government is sponsoring extrajudicial killings.

"The United States' decision...[is] not a scare tactic but a bully attitude towards a longtime ally – which is not fair, the Philippines being an equally sovereign state," the senator said.

Lacson earlier said the Philippines has nothing to lose with the sale disruption, saying there are other possible sources of weapons – Germany, Israel, Belgium, and even China and Russia.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier expressed plans to purchase weapons from the China and Russia.

The US move comes amid Duterte's shift to an "independent" foreign policy and after he announced his economic and military separation from the US, the country's oldest and most powerful ally. – **Rappler.com**