

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



**TEAM ARMY**

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**04 November 2016**

**Friday**

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



## 04 NOVEMBER 2016

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

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 4, 2016 | FRIDAY

**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

**ITCZ**  
METEOROLOGICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO. LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 185 KM EAST OF SORSOGON CITY (As of 5:00 PM - November 3, 2016)

Location	Temperature Range
LAOAG CITY	25 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	24 - 29 °C
BAGUIO CITY	15 - 22 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 31 °C
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C
ILIGAN CITY	24 - 28 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	23 - 29 °C
BACOLOD CITY	24 - 29 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	23 - 29 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 30 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 32 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:53 AM	6:27 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:18 AM	9:00 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
OCT 31 1:38 AM	NOV 4 9:51 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
7:48 AM 0.01 Meter	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:37 PM 1.04 Meter

Partly cloudy to 22 times cloudy with rainshowers  
 Partly cloudy to 22 times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  
 Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  
 Light rain

Location	Weather Icon	Temperature Range
METRO MANILA		24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO		24 - 30 °C
LAOAG		24 - 30 °C
BAGUIO		15 - 23 °C
SBMA/CLARK		25 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY		22 - 29 °C
LEGAZPI		24 - 29 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA		24 - 30 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD		23 - 29 °C
METRO CEBU		25 - 31 °C
TACLOBAN		23 - 29 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO		23 - 30 °C
METRO DAVAO		24 - 30 °C
ZAMBOANGA		23 - 31 °C

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**AIR 21**  
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

04 November 2016



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# Coast Guard off to Panatag

By GIOVANNI NILLES and EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has resumed sending patrol vessels to Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, but only to "test the waters" and not to confront the Chinese who have stopped harassing Filipino fishermen but remained in control of the area, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said yesterday.

He said the Coast Guard would merely be conducting a "roving inspection," and that the possibility of a confrontation "is farthest from our mind right now." The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over the PCG.

The PCG suspended deployment in the area at the height of Typhoon Karen and later Super Typhoon Lawin and in deference to President Duterte's state visit to Beijing last month.

Days after Duterte's return last Oct. 21 from Beijing, the Chinese stopped harassing Filipino fishermen at the shoal, but have maintained a presence in the area.

PCG spokesman Commander Armand Balilo said two ships would be in the

vicinity of the shoal at any given time.

To be deployed to Panatag, Balilo said, were the ships BRP *Tibbataha*, BRP *Davao del Norte* and three monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) vessels. The BRP *Pampanga* is on standby for deployment.

Panatag is only 124 nautical miles from Zambales and is well within the country's 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

"There is instruction to deploy vessels to Bajo de Masinloc any time today (Thursday). They will be coming from Manila and Subic," Balilo said, referring to Panatag by its local name.

"Their mission is for the Philippine Coast Guard to

Turn to Page 8

## Coast From Page 1

sustain the government's presence in the area and to assess the condition of our fishermen," he added.

"When the President was in China, Coast Guard commandant Rear Admiral William Melad gave instructions not to send our ships to avoid any untoward incident that might have an effect on the diplomatic efforts of the President," he pointed out.

Malacañang earlier stressed the Filipino fishermen were able to return to Panatag after four years of Chinese blockade due to "friendly agreement" with China.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said China's relaxing its hold on Panatag was mainly a result of Duterte's visit to Beijing, specifically his bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping. "While fishermen are no longer harassed by the Chinese Coast Guard ships staying at the shoal, there was no formal agreement signed yet by the two governments," Abella said.

## No formal deal

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. also made it clear there was no formal agreement with China on the latter's lifting of its blockade of Panatag Shoal.

"There is no agreement that has been arrived at with China insofar as these ships leaving or our fishermen having access to Scarborough," Yasay said.

"But I would imagine as part of our quiet diplomacy trying to build mutual trust and confidence with two countries, these have been made possible," he pointed out.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines would continue to monitor developments, said its spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

"The AFP welcomes the recent developments that have been monitored to have been happening in the area and we hope this continues in the interest of all those who are getting their livelihood out of the area," Padilla said.



"We in the AFP will just continue to monitor and hopefully, the current status out there is for the good of local fishermen," Padilla said.

Chinese Foreign Affairs ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying also said the successful visit of Duterte to China has put the relations between the Philippines and China back on track.

"We have seen all-round improvement of China-Philippines relations following President Duterte's visit to China," she said.

But she stressed that China has been merely exercising normal jurisdiction over the shoal and "the situation there is and will remain unchanged."

The Chinese seized the shoal in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippine Navy, which had tried to arrest Chinese poachers.

GMA News cited a near encounter in September when a PCG patrol confronted a Chinese vessel that had strayed into the Philippines' EEZ.

But the Chinese replied they were "currently conducting a patrol in our exclusive economic area under the jurisdiction of People's Republic of China."

The July 9 ruling by the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration declaring Panatag as a common fishing ground did not stop China from asserting control over the shoal.

In the same ruling, the international tribunal also invalidated China's massive "historical" claim in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

Meanwhile, in the fishing community of Masinloc in Zambales, people are confident of a merrier Christmas this year with the lifting of the Chinese blockade of Panatag.

Antonio Calixtro, a fish dealer based in Barangay Matalbis, said the development has rekindled hope among fishermen and that their enthusiasm is palpable.

Calixtro supplies fishermen's needs like fuel for motorized banca, ice for preserving fish and food for a week for fishing expeditions.

"We have problems for daily needs since the Chinese occupied Scarborough in 2012 and denied our fishermen access to the shoal, but now that has changed and we hope to see it continue to happen so we will have a merry Christmas," Calixtro told **The STAR**.

Roberto Aldea, a storeowner in Barangay Luanan in Palauig, said the residents suffered terribly when the Chinese barred their fishermen from Panatag.

"But now that has changed again and hope our Christmas will be merry and happy again," Aldea said. He lends grocery items to fishermen's families.

Malacañang has also confirmed fishermen from Zambales, Bataan and even Pangasinan are now allowed inside the lagoon. Aerial image released recently by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative indicated the inner lagoon was still closed to Filipino fishermen, with a Chinese coast guard vessel guarding the lagoon's mouth.

### Doubts raised

Meanwhile, Pangasinan Rep. Jesus Celeste yesterday expressed doubts Filipino fishermen were able to go to Panatag without hassle, saying no fishing boat could have reached the place due to inclement weather.

In an interview over *dulZ*, Celeste said fishermen usually avoid the shoal in the months of November and December due to big waves. "To my mind, I cannot believe there are fishermen who went to that area," Celeste, himself a fisherman, said. "November, December, there is no fishing because of big waves," he added. Celeste's turf includes coastal towns like Infanta, Dasol and Bolinao. He said fishermen go to Panatag between February and July.

"Once *amihan* starts, they do not go there anymore. They will just lose because of their fuel expenses but few fish catch," he added.

But Charlito Maniago, barangay captain of Cato, Infanta, Pangasinan said some of his constituents returned from Panatag late October with bountiful catch.

"We would see this time because they are set to leave anew and fish in that area again, if indeed they are already free again to fish in Scarborough Shoal," Maniago said. Travel from Cato to Panatag takes about 18 hours.

Maniago also said they had expected President Duterte to discuss developments at Panatag during his brief visit to Sual last Nov. 2. The President, however, only presided over the ceremonial sendoff for 17 Vietnamese fishermen arrested in September for fishing illegally in the waters of Ilocos Sur.

– With Jaime Laude, Bebot Sison Jr., Pia Lee-Brago, Eva Visperas



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

Page: 1

# Nur agrees to talk peace

By GENALYN D. KABILING

Owing to his trust and respect for President Duterte, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chairman Nur Misuari has pledged his steadfast support to the government's efforts in advancing peace in Mindanao.

Misuari made the pledge to the President in Malacañang after being delighted to regain his partial freedom following the suspension of an arrest warrant against him.

"Allow me to reiterate my sense of gratitude to the President and my promise that should he need our cooperation in his campaign for peace, you can count on us, Mr. President," Misuari said in his remarks at the Palace.

Misuari had earlier came out of hiding after a court suspended a warrant arrest in connection with his alleged involvement in the deadly Zamboanga siege in 2013. Some government officials, led by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza, fetched Misuari in Jolo. ►4

## Nur agrees to talk peace

Sulu and brought him to Manila for a historic meeting with the President in the Palace.

Misuari admitted that he was "happy to be free again," thanking the President for his role in "restoring my freedom if only partially."

"I am so happy to be free again, owing to the initiative of our President," he said.

He also described the President as the "man who I respect and trust," adding he could never reject an invitation from Duterte to talk peace "because I respect him too much."

"I came here to meet the President, the man who I respect and trust," Misuari said.

Misuari said.

"I believe, as I said during the campaign, there is one single man who can provide solutions to the problem of peace and order in our homeland of Mindanao," he said.

The President, meantime, welcomed "with great happiness" Misuari's decision to talk peace with the government. He assured Misuari that there was no intention to deprive him of his liberty.

Duterte had earlier invited Misuari to hold a dialogue about the peace process in Mindanao, assuring the fugitive leader that he would be given safe passage by the government. He recognized

Misuari's key role in bringing peace to the troubled south.

"There is the pending warrant which is suspended now upon my orders so that we can talk and I would like to assure Nur, brother Nur, that there was never any intention to deprive you of your liberty," Duterte said.

He also asked Misuari to work with him and other Moro brothers in creating a "country that is really, that is just and that is good and that would be for the next generations to come."

"I assure you, I said, as you have narrated, we will come up with the modality and then of course, how to place us in our proper homeland, our Mindanao, and that we will talk about the Bangsamoro Authority," he added.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre

said criminal proceedings against Misuari have been suspended to allow the resumption of peace talks with the rebel group. He stressed that the warrant of arrest against him was not lifted, but only suspended.

Misuari is facing non-bailable charges of rebellion and violation of Republic Act 9851, the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity, before the Pasig Regional Trial Court (RTC) in connection with the 2013 Zamboanga siege.

"Proceedings were only suspended. Thus, implementation of warrant of arrest against Misuari was suspended," stated Aguirre.

In a resolution dated October 27,

Judge Ma. Rowena Modesto-San Pedro of Pasig Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 158 granted the request of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) to suspend the proceedings and the enforcement of the arrest warrants.

"The Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Bureau of Investigation, and other law enforcement agencies are hereby directed to suspend, as well, the enforcement of the Warrants of Arrest issued against accused Nur Misuari," read the resolution.

The judge indicated that the suspension of proceedings is only for a period of six months starting from the issuance of the resolution. (With a report from Jeffrey G. Damicog)

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Pahina. \_\_\_\_\_

## AFP may free viewing sa Pacman-Vargas bout

Magkakaloob ng 'free viewing' ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa nalalapit na laban ni pambansang kamao Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao kay Mexican boxer Jessie Vargas sa Thomas and Mack Center sa Sabado ng gabi

sa Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, Linggo ng umagang naman (Nobyembre 6) sa Manila.

Ayon kay AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, kabilang sa lugar na pagdarausan ng live screening sa Pacman vs

Vargas ay sa AFP Wellness Center sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. AFP Medical Center sa V. Luna at mga pangunahing base ng Philippine Army, Philippine Navy at Philippine Air Force.

"Sa ating kasundaluan, laho na po dito sa ating AFP Medical Center kung saan ang ating mga wounded warriors ay nag-aantay upang mapanood na naman ang kanilang peoples champ na si Manny Pacquiao sa kanyang susunod na laban kay Vargas, handa na po tayo," ayon kay Padilla.

Ayon kay Padilla, napili nila ang AFP Medical Center para pagdausan ng live screening upang palakasin pa ang moral ng mga magigiting na sundalong sugatan sa combat operation na naka-confine

sa nasabing pagamutan. Samantala tulad ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ang fearless forecast naman ng AFP ay manaknockout ni Pacman si Vargas.

Si Pacman ay isang reservist ng Philippine Army na may ranggong Lt Colonel na isa ring Executive Officer ng 1st Sarangani Infantry Battalion (Ready Reserve Force).

Pumasok si Pacman sa Army Reserve Force noong Abril 2006 bilang Sarhento at mula rito habang patuloy ang panalo nito sa boxing ay tumaas ng tumaas ang ranggo.

Na-promote naman si Pacman sa ranggong Lt Colonel noong 2011 matapos itong muling mag-uwi ng panalo. (Joy Cantos)

## AFP di magpapadala ng patrol ship sa Scarborough Shoal

Walang planong magpapadala ng mga patrol ship ang AFP sa Scarborough Shoal, nasa 124 nawtikal na milya ang layo sa karagatan ng Masinloc, Zambales.

Ito'y sa gitna na rin ng ulat na nakakalapit na ang mga mangingisdang Pinoy sa Scarborough Shoal na hindi na binu-bully ng Chinese Coast Guard na nagbantay sa nasabing teritoryo na inaangkin din ng mga ito.

"The AFP welcomes the recent development that have been monitored to be happening in the area and we hope this continues in the interest of all those who are getting their livelihood out of the area," pahayag ni AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

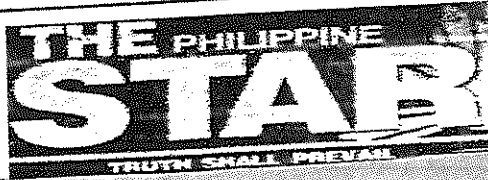
Sa kabila nito, sinabi ni Padilla na patuloy naman ang isinasagawa nilang pagmo-monitor sa mga kaganapan sa nasabing teritoryo na inaangkin din ng China.

Sinabi ni Padilla na masyadong sensitibo ang isyu sa pagmamay-ari sa Scarborough Shoal na mas kilala rin bilang Panatag Shoal kaya kailangang kalkulado ang kanilang mga galaw upang hindi lumikha ng maling interpretasyon sa China.

Sa ngayon po ay hindi po tayo magpapadala ng barko. Monitoring lang po tayo at hayaan po natin na yung current conditions ang siyang nangyayari," ayon pa sa AFP Spokesman.

Sa tala ang Scarborough Shoal ay nasasaklaw ng 200 Exclusive Economic Zone ng bansa habang malayo naman ang distansiya nito sa China na halos nasa 500 nawtikal na milya pero sa kabila nito ay iginigiit na bahagi ng kasaysayan ng kanilang bansa ang lugar na isang mayamang lugar na pangisdaan. (Joy Cantos)

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## No budget for allowance hike of cops, soldiers

By JESS DIAZ

The proposed 2017 national budget does not include the increased combat allowance for soldiers and policemen promised by President Duterte.

Camarines Sur Rep Rolando Andaya Jr., Deputy Speaker and former House appropriations committee chairman, disclosed this to media yesterday.

Andaya was quick to add, though, that it is still not too late for the House to include the required P12-billion budget for the increased combat incentive next year.

He said the chamber could propose the inclusion of the fund during the bicameral conference on budget, after the Senate approves its version of the government's spending bill.

The House passed its proposed 2017 national budget on third and final reading before the congressional recess two weeks ago. The chamber is set to transmit it to the

Senate when sessions resume next week.

Andaya said the Department of Budget and Management was not able to include funding for the increased combat allowance because the budget proposal was already with the House when President Duterte authorized the adjustment.

He assured soldiers and policemen, though, that there is still time to adjust the 2017 budget to provide funds for their incentive.

Duterte increased the combat pay of uniformed military and police

personnel from about P500 a month to P3,000 starting September.

The President has also promised to double their pay next month.

Earlier, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said there were no funds in this year's or in next year's budget to fulfill the President's promise.

But he pointed out that the country's soldiers and cops would get salary hikes, as these are included in the government-wide pay adjustment program laid out in the 2017 budget.

Andaya has estimated that doubling the salaries of uniformed military and police personnel would cost taxpayers about P230 billion a year.



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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## AFP treads softly on Scarborough

BY VICTOR REYES  
AND ASHZEL HACHERO

FOR the sake of the fishermen's livelihood, the Armed Forces will not be sending ships to assert the country's claim over Scarborough or Panatag shoal, Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said yesterday.

"As of now, we're not," Padilla said when asked to react to the suggestion of some groups to send ships to the shoal which was taken over by China in April 2012.

Padilla said the military's action will remain confined to monitoring. He did not elaborate.

"We'll be monitoring only and let the current condition to prevail...It's better that we not comment (on how the military will do the monitoring)," he said.

He said the Armed Forces welcomes the recent developments in the shoal "and we hope this continues in the interest of all those who are getting their livelihood out of the area."

"It's better that we allow the

See AFP > Page B6

### AFP

prevailing condition to continue for the interest of our fishermen," said Padilla, appealing to the public not to "muddle" the situation, pending dialogue between the two sides.

"We all know that (past) events there were sensitive so any move should be properly calculated. What we want to prevail is a situation where our fishermen can resume livelihood and we achieved that already," added Padilla.

China had been driving away Filipino fishermen from the shoal until after President Duterte went on a state visit to China to strengthen ties.

Despite the development, Foreign Affairs

Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. reiterated that no agreement has been reached between Manila and Beijing regarding Panatag Shoal.

Yasay said what happened could be part of a "quiet diplomacy" between the two countries to inspire and build mutual trust.

"There is no agreement that has been arrived at with China insofar as these ships leaving or our fishermen having access to Scarborough or Panatag Shoal but I would imagine as part of our quiet diplomacy trying to build mutual trust and confidence with two countries, these have been made possible," Yasay said in a television interview Thursday.

The DFA chief also denied that the country sought permission from Chinese authorities to allow Filipino fishermen to

return to Scarborough. He said doing so would mean conceding authority to China.

Yasay did not answer why Chinese Coast Guard ships and a Navy vessel are still in the area, though Filipino fishermen who have ventured there said they were not harassed.

In a statement Wednesday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the condition "is and will remain unchanged," as "the Chinese side has always been exercising normal jurisdiction over Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal).

For his part, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said both countries reached a "friendly understanding" to let Filipino fishermen go back to Scarborough, without Manila and Beijing dropping their claims.

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## Visaya in Indonesia

**ARMED** Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya yesterday flew to Indonesia to attend the 7th Indo Defense Expo and Forum, a one-day high-level meeting of senior government and military officials from different participating countries.

The event will be conducted at Kemayoran in Central Jakarta and will be attended by over 750 companies from countries including Germany, India, Italy, Australia, South Korea, France, Turkey, USA, UK, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Belarus, and Indonesia.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo said the expo which will be held from November 3 to 5 is a gathering of 750 major and minor weapons manufacturers and is aimed at the development of military technologies and capabilities in the Southeast Asia region.

“General Visaya is expected to meet with his Indonesian counterpart, General Gatot Nurmantyo, and heads of delegations from East Timor, Malaysia, and Poland where they may discuss matters pertaining security concerns like terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and other transnational crimes,” Arevalo said.

**Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

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## Phil, Malaysia, Indonesia to join forces vs Abus

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia will jointly pursue the Abu Sayyaf as an international terrorist group, President Duterte said.

Duterte stressed the need for the three countries to join forces and strengthen border patrol to prevent the Abu Sayyaf from kidnapping foreigners.

"We are looking into who are with the Abu Sayyaf other than the Filipinos. There could be foreigners with the group," Duterte said on Tuesday.

Duterte said he would discuss the issue with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak when he visits Kuala Lumpur next week.

"I have already discussed it with Indonesian President Joko Widodo and we have agreed on strengthening our border cooperation," he said.

Up to 18 Indonesians and Malaysians were kidnapped in three attacks on tugboats earlier this year in Philippine waters by groups suspected to have ties to the Abu Sayyaf. All 14 Indonesian citizens were

later released.

The rise of sea hijackings involving the Abu Sayyaf has prompted Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia to agree on measures to coordinate patrols to secure the region's busy waterways. However, coordinated patrols are yet to get underway.

"We are going to jointly address this problem of piracy in the seas together with Indonesia and Malaysia by conducting joint border patrols in going after the Abu Sayyaf," Duterte said.

Abu Sayyaf, known for amassing tens of millions of dollars from kidnappings, reportedly earned more than P380 million in ransom for the first half of the year.

"The point is, they are bringing their victims and keeping them in Sulu," Duterte said.

Duterte said the government would also look into the 126,000 cross-border trips between Malaysia and the Philippines as well as between Indonesia and the Philippines, that have gone unchecked by proper authorities.

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# Misuari ready to talk peace with gov't

Fugitive Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chairman Nur Misuari surfaced in Sulu yesterday and then met with President Duterte at Malacañang to discuss peace between the government and the Muslim rebels in Mindanao.

Duterte recalled how he had accepted Misuari with open arms when he was still vice mayor of Davao City and "I said that maybe someday we can finally talk about peace."

"And little did I know, brother Nur, by the grace of Allah, I became the president of the republic and in the twilight of our years, we would be able to talk about the problem of our country, the revolution that you have led all these years and finally, understanding on a common ground with government," Duterte said.

"And that I assure you, I said, as you have narrated, we will come up with the modality and then of course, how to place us in our proper homeland, our Mindanao, and that we will talk about the Bangsamoro Authority," the President added.

Duterte said he and Misuari were now ready for the peace negotiations and even the federal system of government, "give everybody his due, do justice to the Moro people" who had been victimized by atrocities for years.

Duterte and Misuari embraced each other before Misuari on the President's instance approached the podium and spoke.

Misuari vowed to cooperate with Duterte's peace efforts as he assailed the media for supposedly distorting his statements. He expressed confidence that the President would fulfill his promise to bring lasting peace to the country.

The impact of the Zamboanga City siege, for which Misuari is wanted, was not mentioned during the speeches of Duterte and Misuari. The aging MNLF leader, however, mentioned the event to stress that his group was not yet a spent force as portrayed by media.

Misuari said even the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), the breakaway group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was sympathetic with him and told him "if you go to war, count on us."

"I want people to be truthful about things. If you want us to be fair with you, you want us to deal with you, please be fair with us, just tell the truth, simple truth," Misuari said.

## Sipadan hostage-taking

Misuari also revealed that some Malaysian leaders were

By ALEXIS ROMERO

behind the Sipadan kidnapping incident in April 2000. A total of 21 people, mostly European tourists, were kidnapped in a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia and were held by the Abu Sayyaf for more than a year in Mindanao.

"...one day, I will drag their leaders into that International Criminal Court. I have all the evidence in my hands. My people are everywhere and besides, they cannot escape because they are hiring my own people," Misuari said.

The MNLF founder lamented that his group was blamed for the kidnapping incident. Misuari was governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao at the time.

Misuari also narrated his role in the release of some Abu Sayyaf hostages, including Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingsstad. He also agreed with and backed Duterte's war against illegal drugs.

## More inclusive

Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 158 Judge Maria Rowena Modesto-San Pedro issued an eight-page resolution on Oct. 27 granting the motion of Misuari to suspend the proceedings and warrants of arrest against him in connection with the September 2013 Zamboanga City siege.

The court said the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the

Department of Justice not only supported but also adopted Misuari's motion to temporarily set aside the cases against him so he could participate in the peace talks.

The President said this was done upon his orders.

Duterte said the warrants of arrest were "lifted," but Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II clarified they were only suspended.

The local government of Zamboanga City, the court noted, likewise did not oppose the motion.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, who fetched Misuari from Sulu to meet Duterte in Malacañang, was described by Duterte as a key player in his road map to peace in Mindanao.

Habib Mujahab Hashim, chair of the MNLF's Islamic Command Council (ICC), said Dureza presented the suspended warrants to Misuari, who emerged in Jolo with several of his armed MNLF followers.

Hashim said Dureza escorted Misuari out of Jolo at 11.25 a.m. to meet with Duterte originally in Davao City.

Duterte cited Dureza for the leg work that paved the way for Misuari's appearance at the Palace.

Misuari is facing charges of rebellion and violation of Republic Act 9851 or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian



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law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity as his men held hostage Zamboanga City residents and put the place under siege for almost a month.

The suspension of proceedings and the enforcement of the warrants of arrest against Misuari will be effective for six months, unless sooner lifted by the court, read the order directed at the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Bureau of Investigation.

The local government of Zamboanga City initiated the filing of the cases against Misuari and wanted him held accountable for the 21-day siege that killed more than 200 civilians, soldiers and rebels.

Duterte earlier called on the military and police not to arrest Misuari so as not to jeopardize government efforts to forge peace with the MNLF.

In its decision, the court cited the vital role of Misuari in the peace talks and that pursuing negotiations with the MNLF was a political assessment of the executive department.

Hashim said the meeting of Misuari and Duterte would boost the chances of lasting peace in Mindanao.

The government has been talking peace with the MILF but the Duterte government wants the MNLF and other sectors included, as well as the full implementation of all Bangsamoro peace agreements.

The government of Zamboanga City and the AFP also declared their full support for Duterte's "bold and fresh"

initiatives to bring out Misuari to achieve sustainable peace in Mindanao.

But Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar said the city would pursue its cases against Misuari for his alleged masterminding the bloody September 2013 siege.

"Secretary Jess (Dureza exerted) effort to explain that Misuari's release is temporary and subject to several conditions imposed by the court," Salazar said.

Salazar said she had mentioned to Duterte on several conversations that Misuari must be made accountable for his alleged crimes against the people of the city. "We trust (that) justice will eventually be served," Salazar said.

AFP spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla said the military could only hope that Misuari's surfacing would lead to a big leap in attaining peace. "We, as members of the AFP, are abiding by the orders of our commander-in-chief, because we know that his only desire is to have a lasting peace in our country," Padilla said.

"There will be some opposition to this move but let us wait. The process is yet to be finished and let us allow our negotiators to work (on) this. The more important thing is to serve justice but at the same time it is also equally paramount to bring peace to the land," Padilla said.

Law enforcers failed to effect Misuari's arrest as he had surrounded himself with heavily armed fighters in the MNLF jungle base in Sulu.

—With Edu Punay, Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude



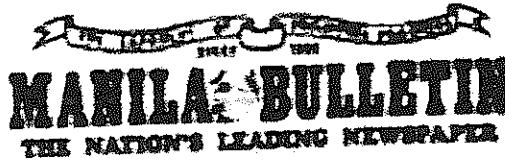
President Duterte welcomes MNLF chairman Nur Misuari at Malacañang yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROSALES

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# Nur links Malaysia leaders to Mindanao kidnappings

B. GENALYN D. KABILING

**M**oro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chair Nur Misuari has accused “leaders” of Malaysia for alleged involvement in the kidnappings in Mindanao, threatening to take them before the international court.

Misuari dropped the bombshell shortly after holding talks with President Duterte in Malacañang on how to pursue lasting peace in the troubled south.

“Our source is saying that since Malaysia is the one who is involved in this kidnapping-for-ransom, probably, one day, I will drag their leaders into that International Criminal Court,” Misuari said in his fiery remarks at the Palace.

“I have all the (pieces of) evidence in my hands,” he added.

Misuari claimed that these Malaysian conspirators have hired his own people to do their dirty work, citing the 2000 Sipadan hostage taking.

“My people are everywhere and besides, they cannot escape because they are hiring my own people. Even Sipadan, they hired my cadre officers, because they opt for the millions,” he said.

In 2000, 21 foreign hostages were abducted from a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia, by Islamic militants and were later taken to an Abu Sayyaf stronghold in Jolo. The captives were eventually released after the alleged exchange of hefty ransom payments.

In recalling the incident, Misuari voiced his disgust toward the Malaysian leaders who had the gall to seek a dialogue with him in Jeddah or Saudi Arabia. He said he rejected such overtures because “I don’t have the heart to see these people.”

Misuari criticized these Malaysians for the “conspiracy to destroy the honor and integrity of my people.”

While he linked the Malaysians to the abductions in the south, Misuari highlighted his role in the safe recovery of hostages, including Norwegian

Kjartan Sekkingstad, taken by the Abu Sayyaf Group.

He said when Duterte asked him to move against the Abu Sayyaf, he sent his forces to force the bandits to release the hostages. “I want people to be truthful about things. If you want us to be fair with you, you want us to deal with you, please be fair with us, just tell the truth, simple truth,” he said.

In the same event, Misuari rallied behind President Duterte’s war on illegal drugs, saying the menace was the biggest threat to humanity.

“Everytime I finish my prayers in the morning, morning prayers, I go to the balcony of my humble house, overlooking the highway, in Jolo. Everytime I see people, young people, in the prime of their life, walking like insane people. I say what’s the cause? Drugs,” he said.

“They are destroying our children, our youths. Who will succeed us after this, when our citizens are already destroyed by these drugs? To us, I’ve always been saying that drug is a restless creeping threat to humanity,” he added.

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# Humanitarian crisis looms in Sulu, Basilan

Residents displaced by fighting between gov't, Abu sayyaf need help, says International Committee of the Red Cross official

By Julie Alipala  
@alipalajulieINQ

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it has been receiving reports of humanitarian concerns in Sulu and Basilan provinces as a result of clashes between government troops and bandits, but it must carefully assess the situation before it sends teams there due to a violent experience in the past.

Wolde-Gabriel Saugeron, deputy head of delegation for prevention and communication of ICRC, cited the January 2009 kidnapping of ICRC workers Andreas Notter, Eugenio Vagni and Mary Jane Lacaba in Sulu.

"The kidnapping of 2009 was quite a trauma for the organization," Saugeron said in a recent visit here.

He said the humanitarian concerns, due to conflicts in the two provinces, were being assessed by ICRC because "there are needs of the civilian population."

The military has launched massive operations in Basilan and Sulu to stamp out Abu

Sayyaf bandits.

Journalists based in these provinces reported there had been families displaced by the fighting and they hardly received aid. They said residents in Barangay Danag in Patikul town, for example, were ordered to vacate their homes to give way to military operations there.

## Displaced families

Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman Jr., regional vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and who acts as regional social welfare secretary, said five towns in Sulu were affected by the operation. He said their monitoring showed that 19,763 people or 3,985 families had been displaced in the province.

In Basilan, where operations covered four towns, he said 1,729 families were affected by the fighting.

"Definitely, we are now assessing the situation and also reaching out to all stakeholders so we can have a dialogue with everyone and be granted enough security guarantee to work in Sulu and Basilan."

Saugeron said.

He said working in the two provinces "is definitely one of our priorities now."

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the operations in Sulu and Basilan were continuing and that casualties from both sides

were being reported.

The ongoing offensives against the Abu Sayyaf make humanitarian intervention a bit difficult, Saugeron said.

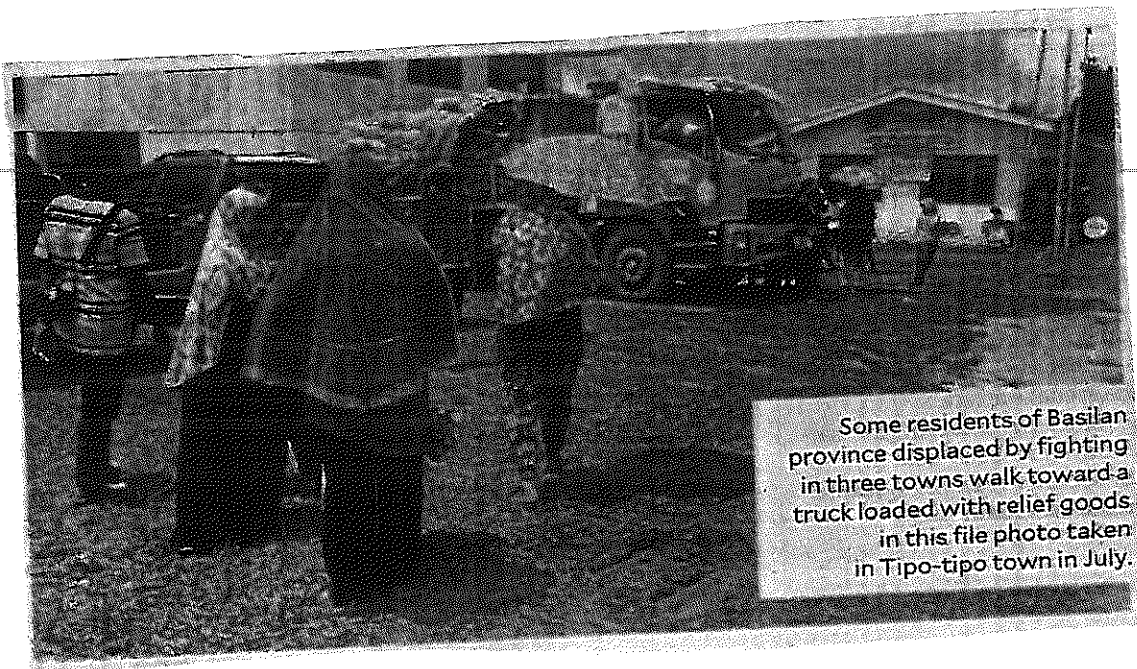
But he said ICRC was trying its best to deliver aid to displaced residents of Sulu and Basilan through its local partners.

"We are not directly going

there [at this time] but it doesn't mean that we are inactive. We can work through other partners," Saugeron said.

Lucman said the regional government had provided an initial assistance of about 12,000 food packs, worth P5.3 million, to families displaced by clashes in these provinces. INQ

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Some residents of Basilan province displaced by fighting in three towns walk toward a truck loaded with relief goods in this file photo taken in Tipo-tipo town in July.

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# China wants military alliance with PH to 'move forward'

B. CHARISSA M. LUCI

The Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND) wishes to "move forward" on its military ties with the Philippines.

Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense (MND) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), expressed hope that the military-to-military relationship between China and Philippines would be further developed and strengthened. He made the statements during a press briefing at the Ministry on October 27, 2016.

Responding to the Chinese Ministry of Defense's pronouncement, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr clarified that "we do not have military alliance with China," adding that "forging military alliance with China is not in the Philippine government's radar."

Colonel Wu Qian said, "If you want me to make comments on the recent China-Philippines military-to-military relationship, I'd like to say that the relationship seemed to be going nowhere, but we expect to find a way

forward," he said during the press briefing.

Wu noted that "the healthy and stable development of the military-to-military relationship between China and the Philippines is in accord with the fundamental interests of the people of the two countries, and are conducive to regional peace and stability."

He said that the Chinese military took note of the "consensus" reached between President Xi Jinping and President Duterte when the latter visited Beijing last month.

"The armed forces of the two countries will earnestly implement the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and President Duterte, remove obstacles, manage disputes, accumulate mutual trust and strengthen exchanges and cooperation, so as to make positive contributions to the development of bilateral relations," Wu said.

Reaffirming his earlier statement, Secretary Yasay said: "Military alliance is something that is not being thought of. We have not discussed it with China at this point."

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## EDITORIAL

### Second chance for Misuari

Nur Misuari once famously sighed that waging a rebellion was easier than governance. This was when he was governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao - his prize for forging peace between his Moro National Liberation Front and the Ramos administration in 1996.

The landmark peace agreement brought many MNLF members into the social mainstream, raising hopes for peace in the Muslim region. But the ARMM suffered from weak governance. MNLF members also found themselves confronting their breakaway faction, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

By most indications, the founding MNLF chieftain proved to be an ineffective ARMM governor. Allegations of corruption hounded Misuari's government, and the ARMM struggled to be lifted from poverty and underdevelopment. Lines between public and private funds were blurred, with the ARMM arsenal serving as Misuari's own but built up using people's money. In 2000, MNLF members ousted him as their chairman and fielded Parouk Hussin to replace him as ARMM governor. The national government also sought an accounting from Misuari for P43 billion in ARMM funds.

With his hold on power crum-

bling, Misuari loyalists attacked Army outposts in Sulu on Nov. 19, 2001. His nephew Julhambri Misuari also led some 300 MNLF loyalists in taking over the Cabatangan government complex in Zamboanga city, holding local residents hostage. By the time the "mini rebellion" was quelled, some 100 people were dead and many others wounded.

In 2013, as the Misuari faction of the MNLF felt left out in the peace process with the MILF, Misuari loyalists again attacked Zamboanga, laying siege to the city for nearly three weeks. About 25 people were killed and the house-to-house combat displaced an estimated 100,000 people.

Now President Duterte has plucked Misuari from his legal woes and given the MNLF founder yet another chance to work for peace. For understandable reasons, there are groups particularly in Zamboanga that harbor misgivings about this peace initiative with a man who has a record of using power for personal purposes. At the start of a new administration, however, the President can still ask the nation to support his peace efforts. Misuari is being given a golden chance to reinvent himself. The least that he can do is to make sure he will not disappoint a trusting President.

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## ONLINE NEWS

04 NOVEMBER 2016

### **Court orders lifting of arrest warrant vs Misuari**

From ABS-CBN (Nov 3): Court orders lifting of arrest warrant vs Misuari



*Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chariman Nur Misuari speaks during the turn-over ceremony of Norwegian kidnap victim Kjartan Sekkingstad to government officials in Indanan town, Sulu province on September 18, 2016. Nickee Butlangan, AFP*

**A local court has ordered the lifting of the arrest warrant against Moro National Liberation Front founding chairman Nur Misuari in connection with the bloody Zamboanga City siege in 2013.**

**No less than Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza met Misuari in Jolo, Sulu Thursday to hand over the court order lifting the arrest warrant. The order was signed by Pasiq Regional Trial Court branch 158 Judge Maria Rowena Modesto San Pedro.**

**A DZMM report said MNLF forces accompanied Misuari during the meeting. The report said that after the meeting, Dureza and Misuari both boarded a private jet en route to Manila.**

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier ordered government forces not to implement the arrest order against Misuari ahead of peace negotiations with Moro groups in Mindanao.

For his part, Misuari thanked Duterte for the lifting of the arrest order, saying it proves he had nothing to do with Zamboanga City siege.

<http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/03/16/court-orders-lifting-of-arrest-warrant-vs-misuari>

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## **RECOGNITION DAY LIKE NO OTHER | PMA MasidLawin 2020**

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 3, 2016 at 3:03 AM

**BAGUIO CITY (DWDD)** – For those who were minded to know what this day 29 October 2016 means to the Philippine Military Academy “Masidlawn” Class of 2020.

They, the lowest class in the hierarchy of cadet classes (fourth class; plebes; freshmen), have today been “accepted” to the level of a true Cadet in terms of deportment, maturity, soldiery, and other attributes of a future AFP Officer as they received the traditional handshake of recognition; held in time.

The ultimate act of acceptance or of recognition of such metamorphosis is that handshake – the blessed handshake.

These “recognized cadets” can now, among other aspects of their status attained, grow more hair to groom from near skin shave; will no longer have to pass thru the farthest route by “trotting”; speak to their senior cadets in a conversational manner & not by replying on top of their lungs; and are expected to excel in everything– including tactics and academics– now that all their restrictions were lifted.

Anyone who has experienced this “magic” would like, share, and say, “This not your kind of Recognition Day.” Photo by SN1 Viluan / PAOAFP; Caption by Col Arevalo / MCAG

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## **AFP: Study needed before PHL can decide on new suppliers of weapons, equipment**

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 3): AFP: Study needed before PHL can decide on new suppliers of weapons, equipment

**An official of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said purchase of military weapons and equipment from other suppliers aside from the US needs careful study and research.**

**Before looking for a new supplier, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the weapons and equipment for purchase must meet the requirements set.**

**"I think the Commander in Chief (President Rodrigo Duterte) has already mentioned that there are other suppliers who are willing to provide for our needs but this needs a detailed study or research to determine whether they are really adaptable to local conditions, availability of supply, reliable, efficient and dependable,"** Arevalo said in Filipino.

He cited the case of radio equipment which he said must be able to communicate from ship-to-ship, planes or in ground units.

Earlier, Arevalo said US supplies of weapons and other defense equipment will continue pending the abrogation of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT).

He made this comment after being asked on whether the alleged US order halting the sale of 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippine National Police (PNP) will have repercussions on the Filipino military.

"The alleged US decision to halt sales of 26,000 assault rifles to the PNP will not have an effect on the AFP as our weapons and equipment are sourced through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) which is guarantee under the MDT," Arevalo said in Filipino.

Through FMS, weapons or equipment for acquisition will not need to pass US Congress approval, unlike contracts completed using American suppliers or manufacturers.

Sole approval on FMS lies on the US government, the AFP official said.

Until the 1951 MDT is abrogated, the AFP can source its equipment needs through FMS, he added.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=936672>

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## **Major AFP camps, bases to show Pacman-Vargas bout for free**

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 3): Major AFP camps, bases to show Pacman-Vargas bout for free

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has announced that major camps nationwide will be airing live Manny Pacquiao's bout against Mexican Jessie Vargas at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday (Saturday in the US).

Military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, said the boxing match will be carried live also by the AFP Wellness Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City; the AFP Medical Center in V. Luna; and major bases of the Army, Navy and Air Force, including those conducting focused military operations in Basilan and Sulu against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The move would raise the morale of troops convalescing at the AFP Medical Center.

Padilla added that all AFP personnel, like President Rodrigo Duterte, are expecting Pacquiao to floor Vargas.

Pacquiao is known in the military as Lt. Col. Emmanuel Pacquiao (Res) of the Philippine Army and is an executive officer of the 1st Sarangani Infantry Battalion (Ready Reserve).

The Filipino boxer joined the Army's reserve force on April 27, 2006 as a sergeant and rose through the ranks through meritorious promotion.

He was conferred his current rank in 2011 after satisfying the requirements for commissionship in the military.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=936857>

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