

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



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

10 November 2016

Thursday

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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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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New York, New York
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Libingan burial insults Edsa spirit, says bishop

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Republican candidate vows to be president 'for all Americans'

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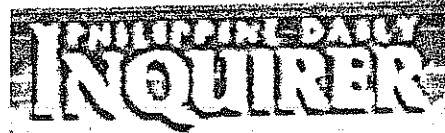
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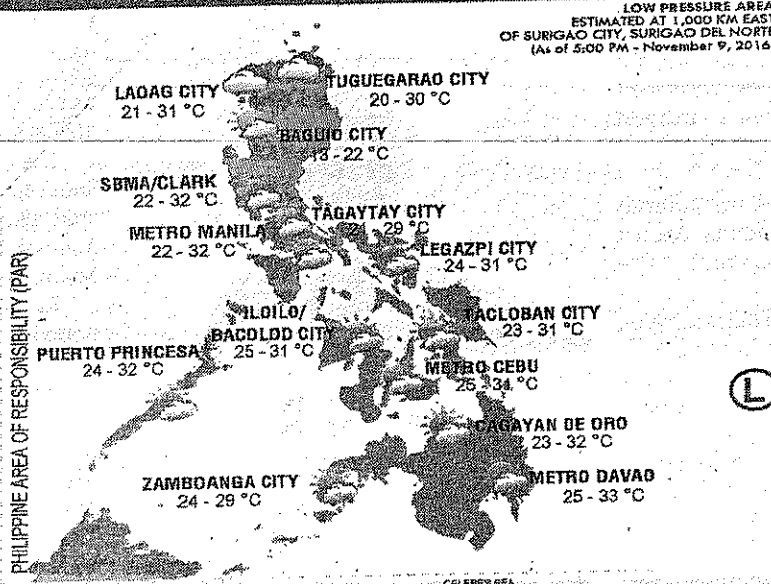


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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 10, 2016 | THURSDAY



| | |
|---|---|
| SUNRISE 5:55 AM | SUNSET 5:26 PM |
| MOONRISE 2:01 PM | MOONSET 1:21 AM |
| FIRST QUARTER NOV 8 3:51 AM | FULL MOON NOV 14 9:52 PM |
| LOW TIDE 12:55 PM 0.11 Meter | HIGH TIDE 4:49 AM 0.80 Meter |
| Partly cloudy skies 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 | |

| NOV 11 | | NOV 12 | | NOV 11 | | NOV 12 | | NOV 11 | | NOV 12 | |
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| METRO MANILA | | TAGAYTAY | | TACLOBAN | | | | | | | |
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| BAGUIO | | ILOILO/BACOLOD | | ZAMBOANGA | | | | | | | |
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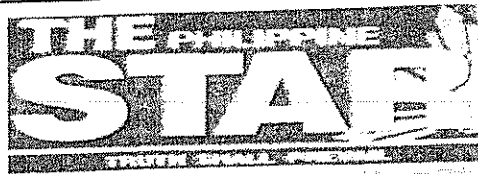
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SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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OMG, IT'S TRUMP

Republican Donald Trump stunned the world by defeating heavily favored rival Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's presidential election, ending eight years of Democratic rule and sending the United States on a new, uncertain path.

A wealthy real-estate developer and former reality TV host, Trump rode a wave of anger toward Washington insiders to win the White House race against Clinton, the Democratic candidate whose gold-plated establishment résumé included stints as a first lady, US senator and secretary of state.

Worried a Trump victory could cause economic and global uncertainty, investors were in full flight from risky assets. But the US dollar and world stocks began to steady in the European morning on Wednesday, having been hammered overnight.

Trump collected enough of the 270 state-by-state electoral votes needed to win a four-year term that starts on Jan. 20, taking battleground states where presidential elections are traditionally decided, US television networks projected.

He appeared with his family before cheering supporters in a New York hotel ballroom, saying it was time to heal the divisions caused by the campaign and find common ground after

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Securing the land.

OMG

From Page 1

a campaign that exposed deep differences among Americans.

"It is time for us to come together as one united people," Trump said. "I will be president for all Americans."

He said he had received a call from Clinton to congratulate him on the win and praised her for her service and for a hard-fought campaign.

His comments were an abrupt departure from his campaign trail rhetoric in which he repeatedly slammed Clinton as "crooked" amid supporters' chants of "lock her up."

Trump also insisted he expected "great relationships" with foreign nations.

"America will no longer settle for anything less than the best – we must reclaim our country's destiny," he said. "I want to tell the world community that while we will always put America's interests first, we will always deal fairly with everyone – all people and all other nations. We will seek common ground, not hostility. Partnership, not conflict."

Republicans kept control of Congress. Television networks projected the party would retain majorities in both the 100-seat US Senate and the US House of Representatives, where all 435 seats were up for grabs.

At Clinton's election event at the Javits conference center a mile away from Trump's event, an electric atmosphere among supporters expecting a Clinton win slowly grew grim as her losses piled up.

Clinton opted not to appear at her event, instead sending campaign chairman John Podesta out to tell her supporters to go home.

"We're not going to have anything more to say tonight," he said.

Clinton was expected to speak on Wednesday morning, an aide said.

Prevailing in a cliffhanger race that opinion polls had clearly forecast as favoring a Clinton victory, Trump won avid support among a core base of white non-college educated workers with his promise to be the "greatest jobs president that God ever created."

In his victory speech, he said he had a great economic plan, would embark on a project to rebuild American infrastructure and would double US economic growth.

His win raises a host of questions for the United States at home and abroad. He campaigned on a pledge to take the country on a more isolationist, protectionist "America First" path.

He has vowed to impose a 35 percent tariff on goods exported to the United States by US companies that went abroad.

Trump, who at 70 will be the oldest first-term US president, came out on top after a bitter and divisive campaign that focused largely on the character of the candidates and whether they could be trusted to serve as the country's 45th president.

The presidency will be Trump's first elected office, and it remains to be seen how he will work with Congress.

During the campaign Trump was the target of sharp disapproval, not just from Democrats but from many in his own party.

Stunned world

Countries around the world reacted with stunned disbelief.

German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, an ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, described the result as a "huge shock" and questioned whether it meant the end of "Pax Americana," the state of relative peace overseen by Washington that has governed international relations since World War Two.

Neighbor Mexico was

pitched into deep uncertainty by the victory for Trump, who has often accused it of stealing US jobs and sending criminals across the border.

British Prime Minister Theresa May congratulated Trump and said the two countries would remain "strong and close partners on trade, security and defence."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called on Washington to stay committed to last year's international nuclear deal with Iran, which Trump has threatened to rip up.

Trump's national security ideas have simultaneously included promises to build up the US military while at the same time avoiding foreign military entanglements.

He wants to rewrite international trade deals to reduce trade deficits and has taken positions that raise the possibility of damaging relations with America's most trusted allies in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Trump has promised to warm relations with Russia that have chilled under President Barack Obama over Russian President Vladimir Putin's intervention in the Syrian civil war and his seizure of Ukraine's Crimea region.

Putin sent Trump a congratulatory note on Wednesday, saying he hoped that they can get the US-Russian relationship out of crisis.

Clinton's weaknesses

Trump entered the race 17 months ago and survived a series of seemingly crippling blows, many of them self-inflicted, including the emergence in October of a 2005 video in which he boasted about making unwanted sexual advances on women.

He apologized but within days, several women emerged to say he had groped them, allegations he denied. He was judged the loser of all three presidential debates with Clinton.

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A Reuters/Ipsos national Election Day poll offered some clues to the outcome. It found Clinton under-performed expectations with women, winning their vote by only about seven percent, similar to Obama when he won re-election in 2012.

And while she won Hispanics, black and millennial voters, Clinton did not win those groups by greater margins than Obama did in 2012.

Younger blacks did not support Clinton like they did Obama, as she won eight of 10 black voters between the ages of 35 and 54.

Obama won almost 100 percent of those voters in 2012.

During the campaign, Trump said he would "make America great again" through the force of his personality, negotiating skill and business acumen.

He proposed refusing entry to the United States of people from war-torn Middle Eastern countries, a modified version of an earlier proposed ban on Muslims.

His volatile nature, frequent insults and unorthodox proposals led to campaign feuds with a long list of people, including Muslims, the disabled, Republican US Sen. John McCain, Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly, the family of a slain Muslim-American soldier, a Miss Universe winner and a federal judge of Mexican heritage.

A largely anti-Trump crowd of about 400 to 500 people gathered outside the White House after his victory, many visibly in shock or in tears.

Some carried signs that read "stand up to racism" and "love trumps hate."

The election was unprecedented in the way it turned Americans against each other, according to dozens of interviews in rural United States and across some of the most politically charged battleground states. Throughout his campaign – and especially in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in

July – Trump described a dark America that had been knocked to its knees by China, Mexico, Russia and the Islamic State.

The American dream was dead, he said, smothered by malevolent business interests and corrupt politicians, and he alone could revive it.

He has vowed to win economic concessions from China and to build a wall on the southern US border with Mexico to keep out undocumented immigrants.

As financial markets absorbed the prospect of Trump's win, the Mexican peso plunged to its lowest-ever levels. The peso had become a touchstone for sentiment on the election as Trump threatened to rip up a free trade agreement with Mexico.

His triumph was a rebuke to Obama, a Democrat who spent weeks flying around the country to campaign against him, repeatedly casting doubt on his suitability for the White House.

Obama will hand over the office to Trump after serving the maximum eight years allowed by law.

Trump promises to push Congress to repeal Obama's troubled healthcare plan and to reverse his Clean Power Plan. He plans to create jobs by relying on US fossil fuels such as oil and gas.

Clinton's failed second bid?

Trump's victory marked a frustrating end to the presidential aspirations of Clinton, 69, who failed for the second time to be elected the first woman US president.

In a posting on Twitter during Tuesday evening, she acknowledged a battle that was unexpectedly tight, given her edge in opinion polls going into Election Day.

"This team has so much to be proud of. Whatever happens tonight, thank you for everything," she tweeted.

The wife of former president Bill Clinton, she held a steady lead in many opinion polls for months.

Voters perceived in her a cautious and calculating candidate and an inability to personally connect with them.

Even though the FBI found no grounds for criminal charges after a probe into her use of a private email server rather than a government system while she was secretary of state, the issue allowed critics to raise doubts about her integrity.

Hacked emails also showed a cozy relationship between her State Department and donors to her family's Clinton Foundation charity.

Trump seized on the emails to charge that Clinton represented a corrupt political system in Washington that had to be swept clean.

– Reuters

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BusinessMirror

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Air Force probes helicopter's emergency landing in Palawan

By RENE ACOSTA @reneacostaBM

THE Air Force is investigating the "emergency landing" of a Sokol W-3A multipurpose helicopter on Tuesday in Palawan, which military officials initially said was due to mechanical failure.

Col. Antonio Francisco, Air Force spokesman, said the incident is undergoing investigation as a standard operating procedure, adding that he could not comment until the probe is concluded.

Francisco did not say if all the seven other Sokol helicopters, which were acquired under the modernization program of the Armed Forces, will be grounded as part of the standard operating procedure when things like the Palawan emergency landing happen.

The Air Force said the helicopter, with tail number 926, was conducting a "probing flight" on Tuesday for the Asean Air Chief Justice Summit that will be held in Palawan, when it encountered "one engine inoperative malfunction."

This prompted its pilot in command 1Lt. Gino Glenn Solano to perform an emergency landing at around 2:45 p.m. at Sitio Sabang, Barangay Cabayugan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Sitio Sabang is about 28 nautical miles north of downtown Puerto Princesa City.

Solano said the pilot landed the helicopter on a rice field since it was the nearest and safest area that is away from the population.

"However, the rice field's uneven surface led the aircraft to tilt to the right as it touched down, causing damage to its main rotor blades."

At the time of the incident, the Sokol was carrying five Air Force personnel, including the pilot and copilot and seven Na-

tional Police officials.

Among the officials onboard were Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) police commander; Chief Supt. Camilo Cascolan, National Police operations directorate chief, and Chief Supt. Nestor Bergonia, chief of the force's National Operations Center.

The Armed Forces Western Command through its spokesman, Lt. Cherry Tindog, said some of the helicopter's passengers suffered minor injuries, although the Air Force said none was injured.

This is the second time that a Sokol helicopter figured in such incident. On August 7, 2014, just a few seconds after it lifted off from the grounds of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade headquarters in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

The chopper was carrying the then Army Fourth Infantry "Diamond" Division Commander and now Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya; the then 4ID inspector general, Col. Alexander Macario and five staff members of former Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin.

The helicopter was escorting another Sokol that was carrying Gazmin and then-Interior Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, who lost to President Duterte in the May 2016 elections.

The eight Sokol helicopters that were delivered from 2012 to 2013, were the first big-ticket item procured for the military by the Aquino administration.

The acquisition of the helicopters got Gazmin in trouble with then-President Benigno S. Aquino III kowing to the choppers' entry and exit problems as their weapons, particularly machineguns have to be dismounted before passengers can board them.

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INQUIRER

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PH won't cut ties with US, but war games to be scaled down

President Duterte has decided to retain the Philippines' security alliance with the United States, according to the country's defense secretary, but joint military activities would be scaled back and less focused on combat activities.

Mr. Duterte has threatened repeatedly to cut defense pacts and end joint drills involving thousands of soldiers, after lashing out at criticism by the Obama administration for his war on drugs, a centerpiece policy that has killed more than 2,300 people in four months.

But Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the security alliance with the United States would not be scrapped, including a 2014 agreement that allows prolonged deployment of American forces in the country.

"It will remain," Lorenzana told reporters, referring to the strategic alliance with Washington. "No, it will not be abrogated. But we will reduce the number of activities."

The navy exercises Carat, or cooperation afloat readiness and training, and Phiblex, a marine amphibious landing exercise, would be ditched, he said. Both are held annually.

Lorenzana said the war games called Balikatan (Shoulder-to-shoulder) involving thousands of American and Filipino soldiers and marines would continue, but

would be refocused to humanitarian, engineering and civic action activities.

"We will also retain small unit exercises, like special operations, counterterrorism and antinarcotics," he said, adding the military would inform its US counterparts about the President's decision at a meeting this month.

Reset button

Mr. Duterte's declarations that exercises this year between the two militaries were "the last" because he hated having foreign troops in the country have resonated internationally, and baffled much of the region, as have his overtures to historic rival China.

Despite the threats, only one exercise—joint patrols inside the Philippines' 12-mile territorial waters—has been officially canceled.

On Monday, Duterte said he had canceled an order for 26,000 assault rifles for the police, after a US senator said he would halt the deal over human rights concerns.

The Philippines will cut to six or seven the number of military drills with the United States set for next year, from an initial figure of more than a dozen, said a defense ministry spokesperson, Arsenio Andolong.

"The president hit the reset button and there are new

operating parameters when it comes to these agreements," he said.

No official word

A spokesperson for the US State Department, Anna Richey-Allen, said Washington has not received an official word from Manila. "We will be seeking clarification through direct dialogue," she said.

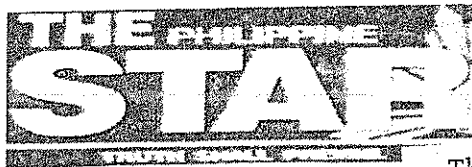
"We will continue to consult, as we always have, with our Filipino partners to appropriately tailor our assistance. We will honor our alliance commitments and treaty obligations and expect the Philippines to do the same," she said.

The United States promised to repel external aggression in the Philippines with a mutual defense treaty signed in 1951, a relic of the Cold War. The allies enjoyed special ties until Manila closed US military bases in 1992 upon expiry of an agreement.

After a Visiting Forces Agreement struck in 1998, however, the US military returned in 2000 for training and exercises in the Philippines.

The relationship was tightened further in 2014, when an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement gave US forces access to military bases and some troop rotation. Mr. Duterte has hinted he would abrogate that treaty. —REUTERS

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Malaysia alarmed by Sulu kidnappings

By GIOVANNI NILLES

KUALA LUMPUR – The recent kidnapping incident in Sulu has alarmed Malaysia, necessitating collaboration with the Philippines on sharing intelligence information.

In a press briefing at the Philippine embassy here, Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Eduardo Malaya III said the issue gains "high priority" during the one-on-one meeting of President Duterte and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak today at the Perdana Square, Malaysia's main government center in Putrajaya.

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The possible exchange of intelligence information would also be tackled during the expanded bilateral meetings, the ambassador said yesterday.

"The kidnapping in Sulu Sea not only alarmed Filipinos, but also Malaysia," Malaya said. "We are preoccupied with the issue. The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia are serious in addressing the issue in Sulu and Sulawesi seas."

Earlier, the Philippine military said the extremist group Abu Sayyaf abducted 69-year-old German Jergen Gustav Kantner and partner Sabina Wetch off the coast of Sabah in Malaysia.

Wetch was killed, her body found on their yacht drifting off Laparan Island in Sulu.

"Both sides must stick to the (no-ransom) policy because the payment of ransom can only lead to more crimes and kidnappings with the money being used to finance (these activities)," Malaya pointed out during an interview.

He said some protocols are now being set up for the sharing of intelligence information and to allow the governments to act quickly on similar incidents in the future.

The sharing of data, Malaya added, is needed to allow either of the country's military units to immediately relay the information to their counterparts.

"The parties need to act in a coordinated manner," Malaya said, noting both governments had difficulty catching the suspects in the past because of lack of coordination.

He said there were instances when the military units of one government already had the information in their hands but could not readily share it, thus leading to delays in tracking down the suspects.

Malaya said he is happy with Duterte's order for the Armed Forces of the Philippines to go after the Abu Sayyaf.

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The Manila Times

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ON OR BEFORE HE RETIRES

AFP chief wants Abu Sayyaf wiped out

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN

ON or before he retires from the service next month, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya wants the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) totally decimated, a military official said on Tuesday.

Visaya said he is optimistic that the military will beat his self-imposed deadline on December 8, when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56, according to Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP Public Affairs Office.

"He is personally monitoring

the developments, he is receiving briefings as regards the development on the ground and he is still optimistic that he will be able to beat the [deadline], he will be able to complete what he wanted to do before the end of his term," Arevalo said.

During the 3rd Quarter Com-

mand Conference at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City last month, Visaya ordered the 125,000-strong military to use all available war materiel to finish off the Abu Sayyaf.

"Let us use all available tools of war in inflicting not just physical destruction but also in rendering a psychological blow against the ASG. Ensure their isolation from their local support system and make the communities resilient against the influence of terrorists," he told military commanders.

Since July this year when government forces started an all-out offensive against ASG strongholds in Sulu and Basilan, Arevalo said the military inflicted serious blow against the extrem-

ist group.

"[We should not only look at the decimation of the Abu Sayyaf but also at our gains particularly at the support of our people that explains the surrender of a number of ASG members with their firearms]," he noted.

From July to October 30, Arevalo said there were at least 70 jihadists killed in Sulu and Basilan.

The all-out offensive also resulted in the wounding of 22 ASG members and the capture of 32 others.

A total of 34 Abu Sayyaf bandits also surrendered to authorities during this period.

On the government side, 15 soldiers were killed while 28 others were wounded in action.

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Military chief still hopeful of eliminating Abu Sayyaf before his retirement age

By Mario J. Mallari

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya remains optimistic that he can meet his self-imposed deadline to defeat the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group by next month.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, said that the chief of staff is constantly monitoring the ongoing military operations in the provinces of Basilan and Sulu against the ASG.

"We still have a period between now and December 8...he is still into it, he is personally monitoring developments on the ground and he is still optimistic that he will be able to complete what he wanted to do before the end of his term," Arevalo said.

Visaya is reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 on December 8.

Since July when Visaya assumed the AFP top post, Arevalo said that the military has been scoring heavily during combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We should not only look at the decimation of the Abu Sayyaf in terms of number, we should also see the gains we are getting in terms of support from civilians resulting in surrender of Abu

Sayyaf men with their firearms," said Arevalo.

Arevalo also cited Visaya's efforts to send 50 youth leaders from Mindanao to Kuala Lumpur to see "there is hope beyond the shores of Basilan and Sulu" and "peace would lead to development."

Visaya has poured more than 9,000 troops and various military assets, including sea and air craft, to implement the order of President Duterte to destroy the Abu Sayyaf.

However, despite the claimed military scores against the Abu Sayyaf, the terrorists are still holding at least 16 hostages composed of nine foreigners and seven Filipinos.

Among the foreign hostages are five Malaysians, two Indonesians, one Korean and a Dutch. Three are still being validated – two Indonesians and a German, the latest victim who was snatched earlier this week off Sabah by the group of ASG sub-leader Muamar Askali, alias Abu Rami.

Askali claimed his group is holding Juegen Kantner, 70, who was intercepted while cruising on a yacht with marking "Rockall" along Tanjung Luuk Pisuk. His female companion Sabina Wetch was found dead on the vessel.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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FM to have a simple soldier's burial – Governor Imee

By **GENALYN D. KABILING** and **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

The family of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos may now proceed with preparations for his burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB),

President Duterte said yesterday after assuring he would not change his mind on the matter.

After the Supreme Court al- ▶4

lowed the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani with a vote of 9-5, with one justice inhibiting, former Sen. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. apparently called up the President to ask, "Can we now proceed?" Duterte said he replied: "Yes, you can."

And speaking in behalf of the Marcos family, Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos said they do not plan to have a grand state funeral for the former President.

"Mailibing siya sa Libingan, simple, at katulad nga ng pangkaraniwang sundalo (To bury him at the Libingan in simple rites like an ordinary soldier)"

of hospital, he prefers the Veterans, V. Luna hospital)," referring to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and the V. Luna General Hospital also known as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Hospital which provide medical care to Filipino veterans and military personnel.

The late strongman's military service record describes him as a guerilla under both the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFPE), for the Bataan Death March in 1942, and the United States Army Forces in the Philippines-Northern Luzon (USAFP-NL).

In a radio interview yesterday, Marcos said they were willing to airlift the remains of the former president from Batac to Fort Bonifacio to make things

easy for everyone.

Meanwhile, Rev. Fr. Joey Ranjo, the parish priest of Sta. Monica Church in Sarrat town, said the church has been prepared for the wake of the former president as agreed earlier between the Diocese of Laoag headed by Bishop Renato Mayugba and Governor Marcos.

The Sta. Monica Church, the Immaculate Conception Church in Batac City, and the Saint Augustine Church in Paoay town have earlier been prepared for the wake of the former president before its burial at the LNMB.

It's the law

President Duterte maintained he was simply following the law that allows former presidents like Marcos to be

Marcos added.

"Wala nang bonggang-bongga. Tutal hindi naman state funeral, kundi libing lang ng isang kawal, ng isang sundalo, ang minimithi ng ama ko (There will be no pomp preparation because it will not be a state funeral but a funeral for a soldier. This is what my father wished for)," she said.

Imee, the eldest of the three Marcos children shared, "talagang yon ang gusto niya (FM)... Sundalong-sundalo kasi ang tatay ko. Maski sa ospital... gusto niya, Veterans, V. Luna (That is really what he wants because my father was really a true soldier. Even in the choice

buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Besides, Duterte pointed out the "sins of Marcos" have yet to be proven in a competent court.

"I've said before, I will not take my word back," the President said in a press conference at the Manila airport before he left for Malaysia, a day after the Supreme Court handed down its ruling.

"As a lawyer, I stick by what the law says. The law says that soldiers and ex-presidents, 'yung namatay o maski hindi siguro ex, basta presidente ka, doon ka ilibing,'" he added.

Former president and now Manila City Mayor Joseph Estrada was the first to initiate the move to bury Marcos at the Libingan but the move did not push through.

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UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS ABOUT DICTATORSHIP

DUTERTE STANDS FIRM ON MARCOS BURIAL AT LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI

By Marlon Ramos
and Gabriel Cardinoza
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte on Wednesday stood firm on his decision, upheld by a 9-5 vote of the Supreme Court, allowing the burial of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

He said that when Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked him on Tuesday at the memorial for Super-typhoon "Yolanda" victims in Tacloban City if the family could proceed with the inter-

ment, he told him, "It's your choice ... I've said (this) before. I will not take my word back."

In a brief interview on Wednesday before he left for Malaysia, the President shrugged off the contention by leftist groups and victims of martial law atrocities that Marcos was no hero and did not deserve to be buried at the heroes' cemetery.

"The question ... about the dictatorship of Marcos is something which cannot be determined at this time. It has to have history," he said.

"That part of the sins of Marcos has yet to be proven by a competent court," he said. Allegations about Marcos' stolen wealth "is an altogether different issue."

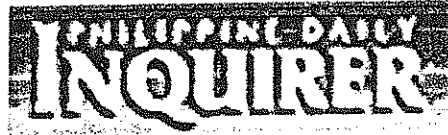
In a decision announced on Tuesday, the high tribunal threw out seven petitions against the burial of Marcos at Libingan, declaring that there was no abuse of discretion committed by Mr. Duterte in allowing the interment of the dictator there.

Mr. Marcos, ousted in the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution, died at the age of 72 while

in exile in Hawaii three years later. His body, returned to the Philippines in July 1993, is in the family mausoleum in his Batangas, Ilocos Norte, hometown.

Told that Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III planned to seek a reconsideration of the court decision, Mr. Duterte said: "The law says that soldiers and ex-Presidents who died can be buried there... I simply follow the law. We cannot do anything about it. The law itself says that ... (Marcos) was a President and he was a soldier. INC

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LIBINGAN BURIAL INSULTS EDSA SPIRIT, SAYS BISHOP

"Marcos is no hero. He should not be presented as one."

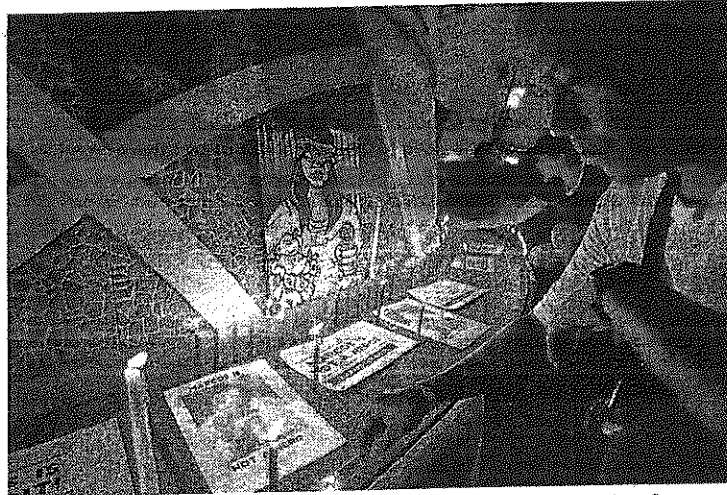
Bishops, victims of atrocities during the Ferdinand Marcos regime and opposition politicians issued strongly worded statements denouncing Tuesday's Supreme Court decision allowing the dictator's burial at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

On campuses in state universities in Los Baños and in Iloilo province, students lit candles and planned more protest rallies.

"We are very sad. The burial is an insult to the EDSA spirit. It mocks our fight to restore democracy," Lingayen Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said in a statement.

"Marcos is no hero! He should not be presented as one. During martial law he had made many people suffer by arbitrary torture and death. He has deprived many poor people of their basic needs while his family and cronies were enriched. We do not forget this! We will not allow that this be forgotten by the future generations in order that the same strong-hand oppression may not happen again," he said.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes said "the memory of the cruelty of Marcos and family can never be obliterated from the minds and hearts of thousands of martial law victims."



LEGAZPI PROTEST Militants light candles at the Battle of Legazpi Shrine in Legazpi City to show their dismay over the Supreme Court's decision allowing the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to be buried at Libingan ng mga Bayani. —GEORGE GIO BRONDIAL

Former President Benigno Aquino III declined to comment. Said his spokesperson, Abigail Valte: "Yes, his family was also a victim of martial law, but he has always said that there are a thousand other stories that should not be drowned out. I'd say this is his way of giving way to these narratives."

Sen. Leila de Lima, one of seven petitioners against the burial, said she would file a motion for reconsideration. She said the court should have at least taken "judicial notice of the political, constitutional and legal history of our nation," including the circumstances of Marcos' ouster.

Former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, also a petitioner, said the ruling represented a "tectonic shift" after several decisions that stated Marcos was a plunderer and a human rights violator. "Now they are going to turn around and call him a hero?" he said.

On Tuesday, students began protests at the University of the Philippines Visayas in Miag-ao. The campus at West Visayas State University in Iloilo City followed on Wednesday.

The students lit candles and displayed placards decrying the decision of the high court.

Militant organizations led by Bagong Alyansang Mak-

abayan also led candle-lighting protests at Plazoletagay in Iloilo City and at the Roxas City Ronda in Capiz.

"It's a slap on our face. We are shocked and saddened," said Fortunato Pelaez, vice president of Samahan ng mga Ex-detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto.

Fr. Brian Gore, 72, an Australian Columban priest jailed by Marcos, said 75,000 claims by human rights victims had been made against the dictatorship. "Even if only half of those cases were proven to be valid, that still is a huge indictment. Think of the number of people who were murdered, raped, tortured, falsely imprisoned, it's a real kick in the teeth to those people," he said.

Christian Olasimain of Zamboanguenos Against the Hero's Burial of Marcos said the group was planning an indignation rally in the coming days.

In Davao City, Mags Maglana spokesperson of Konsensya Dabaw, said: "We should tell President Duterte that we cannot truly discuss historical injustices without recognizing and denouncing the abuses during the time of Marcos." —WITH REPORTS FROM TINA G. SANTOS, TARRA QUISMUNDO, GIL CABACUNGAN, NIKKO DIZON, JULIE S. ALIPALA, KARLOS MANLUPIG, NESTOR P. BURGOS JR., CARLA P. GOMEZ, JHUN-NEX NAPALLACAN, REY ANTHONY OSTRIA, MA. APRIL MIER AND MAR S. ARGUELLES INQ

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Nur rejects joint MNLF-MILF panel for peace negotiations

By **GENALYN D. KABILING** and **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

The prospect of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and its rival group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) sitting on the same side in peace negotiations with the government has been shot down by MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari.

Misuari insists on separate MNLF talks with the government, President Duterte told reporters before flying to Thailand and Malaysia Wednesday.

Duterte said Misuari told him he

prefers a one-on-one arrangement for the MNLF.

"Misuari is now in Abu Dhabi, I think, or he is supposed to leave for Abu Dhabi. I don't know but...there seems to be almost an implied agreement that we'll have separate talks with Misuari," the President said.

He said the MNLF leader is "abroad right now and I really do not know when he will be back to talk to us. But at least in principle, we have agreed that we stop the war everywhere involving MN

and the government."

Misuari had come out of hiding after a court suspended an arrest warrant against him in connection with the 2013 Zamboanga siege.

The former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor pledged support to the peace process in Mindanao after meeting with Duterte in Malacañang last week.

A committee that will draft a proposed Bangsamoro basic law has been expanded to include members from MNLF, MILF, and other peace stakeholders.

Misuari has reportedly refused to

participate in the talks with the MILF, a former MNLF faction which he now regards as "traitors."

The President said that after his visit to Malaysia he plans to "talk to everybody" on advancing peace in the country.

"I will convene a meeting then we will make the introductory presentation of the proposed revised Bangsamoro Transition document," he said.

Duterte is confident the peace efforts with rebel groups would bear fruit in two years.

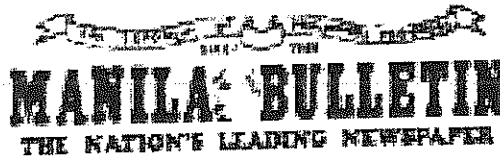
Last Tuesday, Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (PAPP) Jesus Du-

reza said the government will deal separately with the MNLF because of "a very deep division" remains between the two Moro groups.

Bringing peace to Mindanao will not be cheap.

Bangsamoro Development Agency Chairman Saffrullah M. Dipatuan estimates that ₱136 billion will be needed to implement the two-phase Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) once the enabling law creating the new Bangsamoro entity that will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is approved.

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‘PH can, must manufacture firearms for PNP, AFP’

By **MARY SUPNAD**

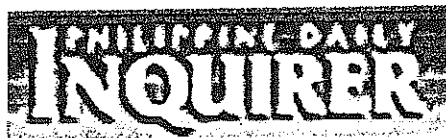
Pangasinan 2nd district Representative Leopoldo Bataoil expressed optimism recently that the Philippines can manufacture firearms for its military and police forces with intricate features, citing Filipino engineers’ ingenuity and brilliance.

Bataoil, a retired two-star police general, emphasized that the need for M-4 assault rifles by the Philippine National Police (PNP) is immediate,

and backed President Duterte’s preference to purchase firearms from other countries such as Russia, or elsewhere around the globe instead of the United States.

Bataoil explained that we as a country and people must have foresight, enthusiasm and seriousness to manufacture our own firearms and supply the same to government institutions such as the PNP and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as well as other law enforcement agencies.

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Who should the Marcoses thank?

Ferdinand Marcos' family and loyalists are rejoicing that the dictator's remains can be buried in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani for now. If they would care to know, there are three good reasons for their luck, embodied in persons and institutions to whom they should be thankful.

First of all, the Marcoses should be thankful to former president Corazon Aquino for her inaction in punishing Marcos' widow Imelda, his heirs and his cronies during her term. Many view this inaction as an act of mercy or *delicadeza*, or attribute it to her deep religiosity which others criticized as a mere manifestation of weak and unassertive leadership. Had Cory or her son P-Noy done it, anyway, they would have been labelled vindictive by the Marcoses and their loyalists.

Said Tonyo Cruz of the Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses to Malacañang: "Just imagine, had President Cory made use of her revolutionary powers—and upheld the revolutionary verdict of the people—to push the speedy and open trial of the Marcoses to help lead the way towards accountability for the plunder and human rights violations they committed." Then Imelda, the Marcoses and their cronies would have been agonizing in prison cells today like other notorious corrupt leaders all over the world.

Second of all, the Philippines' adversarial system of criminal court procedures set them free. In this system, a trial can be a contest where people are more interested in

COMMENTARY

PIT M. MALIKSI

winning than in discovering the truth. More often than not, the more clever, persuasive side wins in this system. In Philippine courts, one would likely win due to technicalities rather than greater facts or reasons.

Well-meaning lawyers prefer the inquisitorial system in the courts of France and much of Europe using these procedures based on Roman law. At the end of the free trial hearing, the judge in an inquisitorial system recommends a trial only if there is sufficient evidence of the defendant's guilt. If a case goes to trial, the judge who conducted the pretrial hearing retains control, asking questions based on records from that hearing. The trial is a questioning-reasoning procedure, not a technical competition ("Law in Other Cultures," Gordon W. Brown et al., McGraw Hill Pub.).

Third of all, the Marcoses and the loyalists, including the paid hacks, should be grateful to President Duterte who flexed his presidential muscle to transfer the dictator's remains from Ilocos Norte to the Libingan ng Mga Bayani. They are certainly indebted to the President who cannot forget and forgive the historical injustices and atrocities committed during the Philippine-American war, but will forget the 70,000 imprisoned critics of the dictator, including

Marcos' charismatic nemesis Ninoy Aquino, as well as Jose Diokno, Edgar Jopson and hundreds of other opposition leaders and journalists; the 35,000 tortured young and old suspects of rebellion; the 3,257 murders of perceived enemies of the state; and the 50,000 arrests during Marcos' despotic rule.

In a testimony, Karapatan chair Marie Hilao-Enriquez noted: "The Hawaii and United States supreme courts [found] Ferdinand Marcos Sr. guilty of human rights violations against 75,730 martial law victims in a class suit filed and spearheaded by the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (Selda) on Dec. 4, 1984. Bongbong and the Marcoses must admit and ask forgiveness for their sins against the Filipino people, return all the money they stole, and render justice to the martial law victims."

Now that my 550 students at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, are adding their voices to the resistance being aired against the nine Supreme Court justices who voted to allow the burial of Marcos' remains in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, they are also echoing Inquirer columnist Solita Collas-Monsod's call of "Justice, not technicalities" (Opinion, 11/5/16).

Pit M. Maliksi (pitmaliksi2004@yahoo.com) is a graduate of library science from the University of Santo Tomas and of second language teaching from Central Texas College in the United States. He is the founder of Mga Apo ni Tomas, a civic society of 1,000 young professionals in Santo Tomas, Batangas.

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An EDCA challenge to Defense Secretary Lorenzana

BY RICARDO SALUDO
Columnist

WAS President Rodrigo Duterte joking when he mused last week that the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) would be gone if he stayed in power long?

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana apparently thinks so. This week the retired major general and Philippine Military Academy graduate insisted that the EDCA and the Balikatan military exercises, also verbally nixed by President Duterte, were here to stay.

► **SaludoA5**

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We'll leave it to Secretary Lorenzana to sort out with his boss which of them was speaking in jest. For our part, this article challenges him and his friends at the US Embassy, US State Department, and US Department of Defense to rebut arguments laid out here against the EDCA.

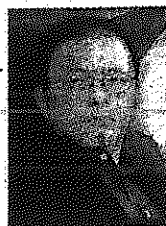
Secretary Lorenzana can also get debating help from the agreement's Philippine proponents: his predecessor Voltaire Gazmin, as well as President Benigno Aquino 3rd's Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario and Ambassador to Washington Jose Cuisia. The latter two recently admonished President Duterte and Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay to keep confronting China over territorial issues.

Thankfully, the current administration isn't buying the Aquino-Del Rosario-Cuisia recipe for regional instability and national insecurity. Now, geopolitics experts and even US officials concede that Duterte's conciliatory approach is calming tensions and nudging Beijing to abide by The Hague ruling affirming Philippine maritime claims under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

For Secretary Lorenzana's response, this writer offers his column space on Tuesday, Thursday, or both (1,000 words each day). He may advise The Manila Times (opinion@manilatimes.net) on or before Monday morning which day or days he wants for his article, which should be emailed before noon on the day preceding publication.

We look forward to the arguments from him, Del Rosario, Cuisia and America, especially those directly addressing the points below:

The EDCA makes the Philippines a target of foreign attack.



REPUBLIC
SERVICE

**RICARDO
SALUDO**

The agreement would increase rotations of nuclear-capable US forces and grant them access to Philippine military bases. Those assets and bases can be legitimately targeted by adversaries of the US, even if we have no conflict with them.

Cruise missiles launched from our territory can hit most of China, plus its vital shipping in the South China Sea, including four-fifths of its oil imports. Against that threat, the People's Liberation Army has arrayed hundreds of projectiles along the Chinese coast and inland, ready for devastating strikes at American forces and the bases they use.

In its recent US Army-sponsored report, "War with China: Thinking Through the Unthinkable," the RAND think tank warned that US and Chinese forces can inflict massive damage on each other. Hence, "both have an incentive to strike enemy forces before being struck by them" <<http://www.manilatimes.net/the-war-report-president-duterte-must-read/280564/>>.

RAND added that "the Chinese regard aircraft carriers and regional air bases as prime targets." Under the EDCA, US warplanes can use airfields at Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, and Puerto Princesa's airports, plus facilities in Nueva Ecija and Pampanga.

The EDCA gives nil support in territorial disputes.

Despite their enlarged deployment under the agreement, American forces won't intervene in territorial frictions.

Asked twice after the EDCA signing

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

in 2014 what the US would do if Sino-Philippine disputes turned violent, President Barack Obama could only say that differences should be settled peacefully. Yet he pledged just days before in Tokyo that Washington would defend the Senkaku/Diaoyutai islands also claimed by Beijing.

And when then-President-elect Duterte asked Ambassador Philip Goldberg "Are you with us?", the envoy replied: "Only if you are attacked." No wonder the Seventh Fleet did zilch when China grabbed Mischief Reef in 1995 and Scarborough Shoal in 2012.

The EDCA undermines the independent foreign policy of President Duterte.

Hosting and supporting the US military under the EDCA makes Philippine foreign policy parrot America's.

Thus, despite talking "alliance" in Beijing, President Duterte wouldn't convince China if American forces hereabouts threaten it. And even if we're neutral in the Senkaku/Diaoyutai dispute, we effectively take Tokyo's side, since the Seventh Fleet rotating and using bases in our country would defend the Japanese claim.

To make our international relations truly independent, we cannot host forces deployed by another country to advance its foreign policy.

The EDCA allows America to violate the Constitution's ban on atomic weapons.

Washington never says which of its warships, submarines and planes carry nuclear weapons. Since the EDCA would let those forces in without checking for nukes, it abets violations of the Constitution's express ban on such ordnance entering the country.

If the agreement proceeds, President Duterte may face a mandamus petition requiring protocols to ensure that US assets in the country have no

nukes. Failing to comply could be culpable violation of the Constitution.

With proper defenses, the Philippines can deter territorial encroachments without the EDCA.

US security experts urge the Philippines to acquire maritime surveillance planes, anti-ship coastal defenses, and anti-aircraft systems to counter maritime encroachments. Former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, a US Naval Academy graduate, recommends the BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missile developed by Russia and India.

At a total cost of P35 billion, including support infrastructure, 200 of the hard-to-spot mobile projectiles would deter interlopers 300 to 400 kilometers from shore—covering our entire exclusive economic zone under the UNCLOS.

Add reconnaissance aircraft and anti-aircraft guns and rockets—which can all be funded by rebudgeting part of the P1 trillion left unspent by the Aquino government—and we can protect our EEZ sans EDCA.

Last issue: Will America defend the Philippines without the agreement? Yes, because it cannot allow hostile forces to occupy and use the archipelago as a vast military platform—as the US can now do under the EDCA. And in the face of 200 supersonic BrahMos and the Seventh Fleet, invading our country would be suicide.

Your ball, Mr. Secretary.

(The author, managing director of the Center for Strategy, Enterprise & Intelligence, was Cabinet Secretary in 2002-08, and Asiaweek editor-writer in 1984-2001. He holds an MS in Public Policy & Management from the University of London, and a diploma in strategy and innovation from Oxford.)

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A big task ahead for Liberal Party

WE wish Senator Francis Pangilinan well on his designation as acting president of the Liberal Party (LP). He and the other party leaders face a task that previous majority parties had sorely neglected – how to survive and maintain their identity as a political force after suffering defeat in an election.

Since martial law destroyed the two-party system in 1972, parties in the country have ceased to be a real force in Philippine politics. Invariably, a winning president gathered around him other political leaders but only in a temporary alliance without the unifying ideology of a party such as those in the United States, in Europe, and other countries in Asia.

Thus, all the presidents after President Ferdinand Marcos had their own groups that existed as the majority parties for only the six years of the president's term. Today, we no longer hear much of President Corazon C. Aquino's Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, President Fidel V. Ramos' Lakas-CMD, President Joseph Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, or President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Lakas-Kampi as active political parties.

After LP candidate Mar Roxas lost this year's presidential election and President Benigno S. Aquino III's administration ended last June, the LP promptly broke up into two major groups. One joined the party under which President Duterte ran and won – the PDP-Laban. The other retained its LP

identity but became a leading member of President Duterte's "super-majority" in Congress. For all intents and purposes, the two groups are part of the new administration.

Last week, Senator Pangilinan was named acting LP president and assigned the task of holding an election for members of the LP Directorate not later than March 31, 2017. He acknowledged that because of the weak ideological party system in the Philippines, the LP has lost many of its members to the ruling PDP-Laban. "It is during these challenging times that we can really know those who have strong understanding not only on principles but also on the role of the party that is not in power," he said.

The role of the party that is not in power – that will be a major concern of the LP as it now moves to reorganize itself. A greater concern should be the LP ideology of liberal government as distinguished from the more conservative ideology of the old Nacionalista Party. The liberal ideology is at the center of the political spectrum, distinguished from political extremes on the left and right.

The Liberal Party was founded by President Manuel A. Roxas, after starting as a "Liberal wing" of the Nacionalista Party led by President Manuel L. Quezon. If Pangilinan and the other party leaders can restore this historic ideology of the LP to the point where it holds the loyalty of like-minded political leaders, it will be a big step towards the development of real political parties needed in our democratic system of government.

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METRO CORNER

Peace red flags

By **ERIK ESPINA**

PEACE must be gained with four hands shaking. It is counsel from the vista strewn over several decades of "sincere talks" by previous administrations over unending carnage of soldiers, policemen, and civilians negotiating with sclerotic ideologues who define freedom by polemical intolerance and totalitarian regimes. Exceptions were, a Ramon Magsaysay Sr., Ferdinand Marcos, an Erap Estrada and the bold pursuit of peace under the Duterte administration.

Ferdinand Marcos ascribed to "Keep your friends close, but keep your enemies closer." Suspected "left-leaning" personalities were appointed so he would be appraised of their thinking on what was "foreign copied evolution of coincidences." With President Rodrigo Duterte, the sincerity for lasting peace is in establishing the "moral predicate" by opening the cabinet to "far-left" partisans. This sets the tenor for him

to admonish the group with the moral ascendancy of "Do you really want peace? Because we can continue the war if you wish." While the President openly acknowledged being socialist, he is not a Marxist. Both share some views on society. However, history exposes the latter motivationally utilitarian, with both conflicted on identified polemic definitions and approaches, e.g., nationalist democracy, nationalization of certain sectors, etc. Given that certain cabinet officials remain tactfully mum, their loyalties with the "party," and a national front that protests and recriminates on the streets, albeit still supportive for Duterte, but until when? Till 2019 when they have bargained advantage for senatorial slots under the Duterte banner? What next when they demand: 1) All "far-left" prisoners must be freed? 2) But "No to dis-armament for the NPA" as they are in the service of the people?

On the MNLF, demands are fair: 1) Equal representation in the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, 2) Two Bangsamoro federal states, 3) Recogn-

ition of (North Borneo) Sabah as per Supreme Court en banc decision. The MILF and patron Malaysia are critical versus this new rapprochement with the MNLF. Chair Nur Misuari recently accused Putra Jaya as behind Southern Mindanao (SM) kidnappings. The margins in both peace efforts (CPP & S. Mindanao) will inch closer in initial engagements before polarization to an immovable mass. The real problem, was never sincerity on the part of government. But the clash of "end states." Government on the side of law and order, often bent backwards to accommodate legitimate demands. On the other side, a "coalition government" leading to the toppling of a "Mabinian" (elected) government for a totalitarian "party democracy." In SM, the MILF/Malaysian end-state is to buffer Sabah from a united Philippine Republic, or better, Philippine renunciation of the Sabah territory. Opened option is a sole Bangsa federal state, and after 6 years, joining the Malaysian Federal Confederation.



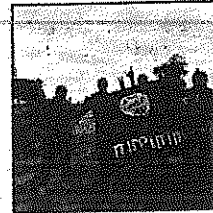
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ANALYSIS

IS losing ground but still a threat



By **AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

PARIS, France — The Islamic State (IS) group has been eroded by international efforts to crush the jihadist group but its ability to mount devastating attacks on the West remains very real, defense and security experts say.

As France prepares to mark the first anniversary of the Paris attacks by the group on November 13, analysts say military defeats in its strongholds in Iraq and Syria will almost certainly not make its Western targets any safer.

“Depriving ISIS of control over population centers and sanctuary to raise funds and train fighters, and breaking it up as key organization, matters,” said Anthony Cordesman of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), using another name for the group.

“Defeating it in any practical sense, however, will not begin to deal with the lasting threat,” he added.

It was in June, 2014, that IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed the creation of a caliphate in land the group had seized in Iraq and Syria and urged Muslims who shared the group’s vision to join them.

Thousands of foreigners answered his call, among them several French and Belgian men who would go on to slaughter 130 people in a Paris concert hall and at bars and restaurants.

The bloodshed in Paris contributed to strengthening the resolve of the West to fight IS. A year on, Iraqi forces backed by the air power of the United States and countries including France are locked in fierce fighting to re-take Iraq’s second city of Mosul from the jihadist group.

On Sunday, a US-backed Kurdish and Arab force said it had begun an assault on the city of Raqqa, IS’ stronghold in Syria.

These military efforts have led to a sharp reduction in the number of foreigners making the trek to join IS forces in Iraq and Syria. The Pentagon says from 2,000 a month in early 2015, the figure is now just 200.

Tighter controls on the Turkish border – the main gateway to Syria – and improved surveillance by European intelligence have also helped stem the flow of foreign recruits.

The military onslaught on IS has also slowed the production of the slick, blood-drenched propaganda which has played a prominent role in attracting recruits.

The number of articles or videos posted online by the jihadists’ official media outlets dropped by 70 percent, from 700 items in August, 2015, to 200 a year later, according to a report by the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at the elite US West Point military academy.

The author of the report, Daniel Milton, said while IS’ main selling point was the creation of its self-proclaimed caliphate, it was now “struggling to maintain the appear-

ance of a functioning state.”

Most experts agree, however, that crushing IS' hopes of establishing the caliphate will not diminish its ability to launch attacks against the West.

“In the minds of supporters in the US, EU, North Africa, and elsewhere, the appeal of the Islamic State has not dissipated with its territorial losses. For some, the group remains a powerful magnet that attracts violence and a sense of belonging,” the US-based Soufan security analysis group said recently.

It is possible that the group's losses in Mosul and elsewhere “could lead

to an increase in external support, and a corresponding increase in the threat of terrorism around the world,” it added.

While IS may now find it harder to launch complex operations such as the Paris attacks, Western governments fear an increase in attacks by individuals who are merely inspired by the group.

“We are probably in a phase with fewer spectacular operations but more individual acts, with inspiration coming through from the Internet,” said Didier Le Bret, who was France's national intelligence coordinator until September

this year.

French authorities, for example, suspect a French-born IS propagandist, Rachid Kassim, guided an attack in July in which an elderly priest was murdered. Kassim, who is thought to be based in Syria, used the encrypted message system Telegram.

Another growing threat is the return of foreign fighters to their countries of origin as IS' territory shrinks.

Joby Warrick, the American journalist who won the Pulitzer Prize this year for his book “Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS,” believes 40,000 foreigners have gone to Iraq and Syria to fight.

16 November 2016

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

Burial

Page: 14

AFTER many years, the proposed interment of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng Amga Bayani remains a divisive issue. It comes as no surprise that the Supreme Court's 9-5-1 decision, released Tuesday, dismissing petitions that claim President Rodrigo Duterte gravely abused his discretion in ordering the burial, was met with noise and indignation.

Over social media, the anger is palpable. Some users changed their cover or profile photos to black, showing their grief. Victims, or relatives of victims, of rights violations during the martial law period are up in arms over the court's decision. They say it is a travesty. Marcos is certainly no hero, they say—he was, instead, a plunderer and a murderer. Protests

are being staged left and right, with participants denouncing the Supreme Court for allowing the interment of the strongman among heroes.

Tuesday was a dark day in history, they say.

Amid the heightened emotion, calling for sobriety may be seen as foolhardy—but we venture to do it anyway.

Foremost, there were no sur-

prises here at all. Mr. Duterte explicitly said while he was just campaigning that he would bring closure to the burial issue if he won. He won by a significant plurality despite—because of—this. It makes sense that he should follow through on his campaign promise.

Second, the groups opposing the burial very clearly recognized the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court over the issue the moment they filed their petitions before it. They clearly laid out their arguments, not to the question of what makes one a hero, or whether Marcos should be deemed a hero, but on whether he fits the criteria for being buried at the place

that just happened to be called the resting place of heroes.

The petitioners and the others cannot now reject the decision of the court just because it runs counter to what they want. They would have been jubilant had the ruling gone their way.

Finally, corpses are meant to be buried. They have no business being mummified or being displayed in a museum. The dead's protracted presence among the living is nothing short of jarring—they serve as grotesque reminders of our inability to put our issues to rest. So bury them—in a family mausoleum, underneath a parking lot, a mass grave or a nondescript

sewer—anywhere, so long as they are gone from sight.

We can choose to prolong the debate until we exhaust all energy and goodwill we have left for all other issues this benighted country faces. Or we can bury Marcos now, without necessarily conceding he is a hero if we don't want to—just that he, to the letter, fits the description of who may be buried on those grounds.

Anger does nothing but sap our energy and good sense to learn from our mistakes. The court has spoken, and there is no more impediment for Duterte to go ahead with his decision. The outcome appears inevitable.

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ONLINE NEWS 10 NOVEMBER 2016

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Caguioa: Libingan burial 'doesn't make Marcos a hero'

INQUIRER.net / 04:04 PM November 09, 2016

Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa in his dissenting opinion on allowing the burial of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani said that "burying (Marcos) [at] the LNMB does not make him a hero." Caguioa said interring Marcos' remains at the LNMB "is contrary to the Constitution, the law, and several executive issuances that have the force of law, as well as the public policy that the Constitution."

Here's a summary of Caguioa's opinion as released by the Supreme Court public information office:

Justice Alfredo Benjamin S. Caguioa pointed out that the order to inter the remains for former President Marcos at LNMB is contrary to the Constitution, the law, and several executive issuances that have the force of law, as well as the public policy that the Constitution, the said laws, and executive issuances espouse and advance.

He pointed out that the argument "that burying (Marcos) in the LNMB does not make him a hero disregards the status of the LNMB as a national shrine, the public policy in treating national shrines, the standards set forth in these laws and executive issuances as well as in the AFP LNMB burial regulations." He also disagreed with the Solicitor General's argument that the President's power to reserve land for a public purpose under Section 14, Chapter IV, Book III of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 (RAC) was sufficient basis for the President's decision to inter the Marcos remains. On this, he noted that the RAC provision (as well as Sec. 83 of CA 141 or The Public Land Act) both required the President to exercise this power by proclamation or executive order. The President's order to inter is a verbal order, which falls short of the manner prescribed by law for its exercise.

"Burying (Marcos) in the LNMB does not make him a hero [and] disregards the status of the LNMB as a national shrine, the public policy in treating national shrines, the standards set forth in these laws and executive issuances as well as in the AFP LNMB burial regulations."

He also disagreed that interring the Marcos remains constituted a public purpose for purpose of the RAC considering the Solicitor General's admission that the burial of the Marcos remains was a campaign promise of the President to the Marcos family. In his opinion, this indicated that the interment serves no public purpose and does not justify the disbursement of public funds therefor.

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The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the hero's burial for Marcos at the LNMB, ruling that President Rodrigo Duterte did not commit grave abuse of discretion in ordering Marcos' interment at the heroes' cemetery. Junking all petitions against Duterte's directive with a vote of 9-5, the high tribunal maintained that no law prohibits Marcos' burial at Libingan, and that President Duterte "acted within the bounds of law and jurisprudence." *CDG*

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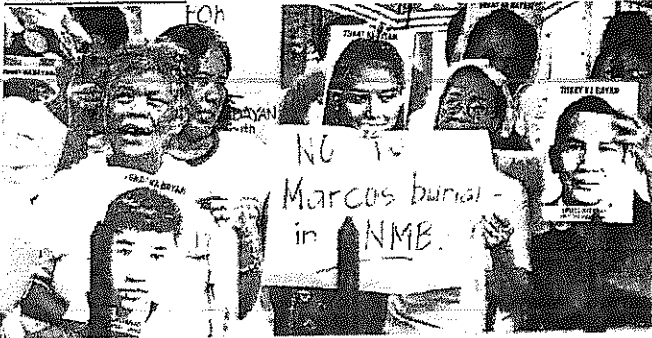
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Leonen: Marcos is no hero; Libingan burial illegal

Only Filipinos can weigh a president's place in history

INQUIRER.net / 03:09 PM November 09, 2016



Martial law victims and human rights activists picket the Supreme Court to make a final appeal to the justices to vote against the burial of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Associate Justice Marvic Leonen said the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was "no hero" and that to bury his remains at the Libingan ng mga Bayani would be "illegal."

In his dissenting opinion on allowing Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery, Leonen said the interment would "contribute to the impunity against human rights abuses and the plunder of our public trust."

Here's a summary of Leonen's opinion as released by the Supreme Court public information office:

Associate Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen started his dissent, thus:

"Under our constitutional order, Presidents, unlike kings, earn their honors. As public servants, their position in itself should not be the basis to glorify them. Neither will their place in history be determined by a successor President. Only the sovereign Filipino People deserve to determine a President's place in history.

Given the present state of our Constitution, our laws, and our jurisprudence, it is illegal for the remains of Ferdinand E. Marcos to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. The Filipino people do not deserve such a symbolism."

Given the present state of our Constitution, our laws, and our jurisprudence, it is illegal for the remains of Ferdinand E. Marcos to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. The Filipino people do not deserve such a symbolism.

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Justice Leonen then argued that "Marcos is no hero. He was not even an exemplary public officer. He is not worthy of emulation and inspiration by those who suffer poverty as a result of the opportunity lost during his administration, by those who continue to suffer the trauma of the violations to the human dignity of their persons and of their family. He is certainly not worthy of emulation and inspiration by those who do public service, including the lawyers, judges, and justices who simply want to do what is right, protect others, and conscientiously and diligently protect public funds entrusted to them."

[puppquote] Marcos is no hero. He was not even an exemplary public officer. He is not worthy of emulation and inspiration by those who suffer poverty as a result of the opportunity lost during his administration, by those who continue to suffer the trauma of the violations to the human dignity of their persons and of their family.[/pullquote]

His dissent focused on six points, thus:

1. The General Orders which were the basis for the issuance of the questioned orders of public respondents are invalid because they violate RA 289.
2. Assuming without accepting that AFP Regulations were valid when issued, the verbal orders of the President, the Memorandum of the Secretary of National Defense, and the orders of respondent Enriquez all violate the requirement in RA 289, section 1 that those buried must have led lives worthy of "inspiration and emulation."
3. Assuming without conceding that the AFP regulations were valid when issued, the public respondents gravely abused their discretion when they failed to show, in view of the findings of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, that they had sufficiently determined that there was factual basis to believe that the burial of Marcos's remains would be consistent with RA 289 and the various proclamations relevant to the LNMB.
4. The President's verbal orders, the memorandum of the Secretary of National Defense, and the orders of respondent Enriquez were issued with grave abuse of discretion because they violate RA 10368.
5. The President's verbal orders, the memorandum of the Secretary of National Defense, and the orders of respondent Enriquez cannot be justified under the provisions of the Revised Administrative Code because there is no public purpose for the interment of Marcos's remains at LNMB.

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6. The actions of public respondents are contrary to the oath of office of the President because they encourage impunity, which is the result of rewarding the person who presided over human rights violations and who personally participated in the plunder of the public treasury.

Ending his dissent, Justice Leonen writes:

"We forget the lessons of the past when we allow abuse to hold sway over the lives of those who are unrelated to us. Silence, in the face of abuse, is complicity.

The burial of Ferdinand E. Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani is not an act of national healing. It is an effort to forget out collective shame, to bury our inaction for many years. It is to contribute to the impunity against human rights abuses and the plunder of our public trust.

To deny these petitions is to participate in the effort to create myth at the expense of history."

Ferdinand E. Marcos is no hero. His remains, by law, cannot be transferred to the Libingan ng mga Bayani."

The high tribunal voted 9-5 with one abstention to dismiss the petition filed by anti-Marcos groups and personalities to block President Rodrigo Duterte's order. **CDG**

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Duterte eyes separate talks with Nur Misuari

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated November 9, 2016 - 4:47pm



Moro National Liberation Front Chairperson Nur Misuari appears in this Sept. 18, 2015 photo after a Norwegian hostage was turned over by ransom-seeking Abu Sayyaf extremists in an island town south of Jolo island. AP/Nickie Surlangan file

MANILA, Philippines -- President Rodrigo Duterte is eyeing holding separate talks with Moro National Liberation Front founding chairman Nur Misuari, who has been critical of the peace talks between the government and rival group Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Duterte said he would hold a meeting with stakeholders of the peace process after his two-day visit to Malaysia.

"I will talk to everybody," Duterte said before leaving for Thailand and Malaysia at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

"Almost immediately after my visit and my talk to Malaysia. I will convene a meeting, then we will make the introductory presentation of the proposed revised Bangsamoro transition document," he added.

"Misuari is now in Abu Dhabi, I think. Or he is supposed to leave for Abu Dhabi. I don't know but there seems to be (an implied) agreement that we'll have separate talks with Misuari."

Founded in 1972 by Misuari, the MNLF originally fought for the creation of an independent Moro state in Mindanao. The group and the Philippine government signed the Tripoli Agreement in 1976 which led to the creation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao two decades later.

The MILF, meanwhile, was formed by MNLF's second-in-command Salamat Hashim following an internal dispute over the 1976 deal.

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In 2013, the Aquino administration and the MILF inked a framework agreement to create a Bangsamoro political entity that would replace the ARMM. The government and the MILF signed a comprehensive peace agreement a year later.

The agreements between the government and the MILF were opposed by Misuari, who claimed that they violated the Tripoli deal and the 1996 peace covenant. In a recent interview with CNN Philippines, Misuari called the MILF "traitors" and "criminals" and urged the Duterte administration to dissociate from them.

The MNLF founder, implicated in the 2013 siege of Zamboanga City by a faction of the MNLF, vowed to support Duterte's efforts to promote peace in Mindanao.

On Monday, Duterte signed Executive Order No. 8, which expanded the membership of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, the body tasked to draft the enabling law that would create a Bangsamoro government.

The commission now has representatives from the MNLF, indigenous peoples, Mindanao sultanates, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, local governments and sectoral groups.

Misuari, however, will not be part of the BTC as the government intends to address his issues through another approach.

Despite Misuari's tirades against the MILF, Duterte remains optimistic about the prospects of the peace process.

"I really do not know when he (Misuari) will be back to talk to us. But, at least, in principle, we have agreed that we stop the war everywhere involving (MNLF) and the government," the president said.

"It seems that we will be lucky. After two years, maybe we can have a partial, well, entire cessation of armed violence in the country," he added.

The government is also in peace talks with communist rebels represented by the National Democratic Front.

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