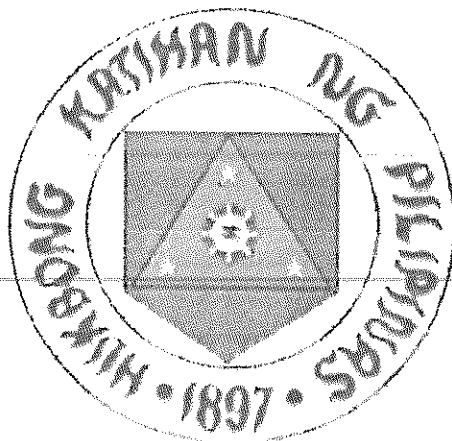


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 November 2016

Tuesday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

15 NOVEMBER 2016



Grotesque quandary: So many to kill, so little time
Justice winks in the palace and the Ombudsman

Villanueva dismissed

Corruption probe against Duterte for PRR 'pork' payment

Duterte slams BSP AMLC

More respondents named in complaint vs ex-Pagcor official

Trump vows to deport 2.5 million immigrants

Fools rush in

Rody slams AMLC for inaction on drug money laundering



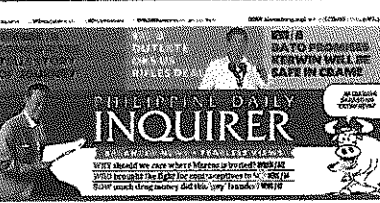
Ombudsman ousts senator over 'pork'

Senators thumb down resolution vs Fil Libingan burial

'Habes corpus plan part of calibrated response vs rebellion'

Let's admit affair with driver denies drug rap

Senators not



'TESDAMAN' GETS AX

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

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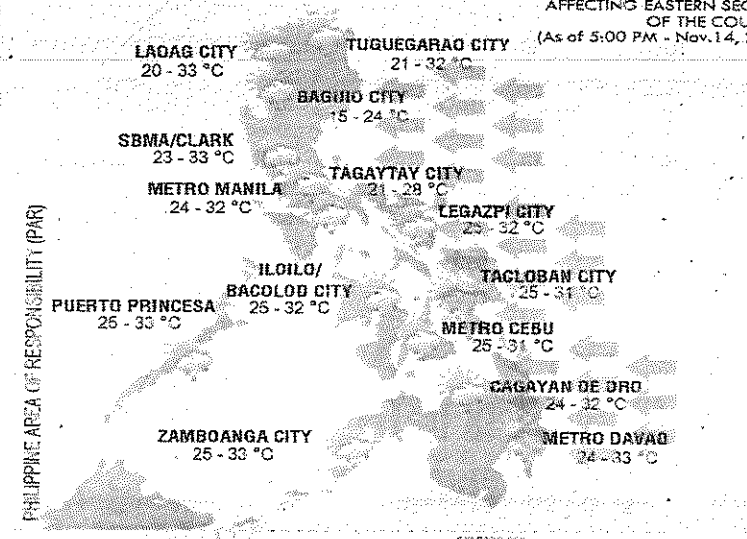
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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 15, 2016 | TUESDAY

EASTER LIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (As of 5:00 PM - Nov. 14, 2016)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:57 AM	5:24 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:18 PM	6:21 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
NOV 14 5:52 PM	NOV 21 4:33 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 5:01 AM -0.02 Meter	10:04 PM 1.19 Meter




Partly cloudy skies

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	NOV 15	NOV 17		NOV 15	NOV 17		NOV 15	NOV 17
METRO MANILA	23-32 °C	23-31 °C	TAGAYTAY	20-28 °C	19-29 °C	TACLOBAN	24-31 °C	24-32 °C
TUQUEGARAO	22-32 °C	23-31 °C	LEGAZPI	24-32 °C	24-31 °C	GAGAYAN DE ORO	23-32 °C	23-31 °C
LADAG	20-32 °C	21-32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-33 °C	24-32 °C	METRO DAVAO	24-32 °C	25-32 °C
BAGUIO	14-23 °C	14-23 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24-32 °C	24-31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24-32 °C	24-32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24-33 °C	24-32 °C	METRO CEBU	25-32 °C	25-32 °C			

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SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

11 November 2016

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Ombudsman ousts senator over 'pork'

Senators see constitutional crisis

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales ordered yesterday the dismissal from government service and the filing of criminal charges against Sen. Joel Villanueva for his alleged misuse of pork barrel funds worth P10 million when he was a party-list congressman in 2008.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III was directed to implement the directive imposed as an administrative penalty against Villanueva, who was found guilty of grave misconduct, serious dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service.

Pimentel will have to immediately implement the dismissal order or he himself might end up facing administrative charges.

Based on the rules of the Office of the Ombudsman, a pending appeal or motion for reconsideration, which Villanueva has filed, cannot stop the implementation of the anti-graft agency's decisions and directives.

Morales said Villanueva, who was director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) during the Aquino administration, would be charged with graft and malversation of public funds through falsification of public documents before the Sandiganbayan.

His co-accused in the criminal cases include former Department of Agriculture secretary Arthur Yap, Villanueva's staff Ronald Samonte and DA employee Delia Ladera.

Also to be named respondents are

Turn to Page 4

Ombudsman From Page 1

National Agri-Business Corp. (NABCOR) representatives Alan Javellana, Romulo Relevo, Ma. Julie Villalarvo-Johnson, Rhodora Mendoza and Maria Ninez Guanizo, and Aaron Foundation Philippines Inc. (AFPI) president Alfredo Ronquillo.

Ombudsman investigators found that on June 10, 2008, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) released P10 million as part of Villanueva's priority development assistance fund (PDAF) or pork barrel as representative of the party-list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) to be used "for the implementation of agri-based livelihood projects in the various congressional districts in Region XI."

Two days later, Villanueva allegedly requested Yap to release the amount to NABCOR as implementing agency, with the AFPI as the partner non-government organization (NGO).

On June 19, 2008, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was entered into between Yap, as DA representative, and the NABCOR allowing the utilization of the pork barrel funds to purchase pechay, radish, sitaw, okra, hybrid yellow corn seedlings, liquid fertilizers and threshers from MJ Rickson Trading Corp.

The items procured were

supposed to benefit the residents of the municipalities of Pantukan, Nabunturan, Tambongon, Bongabong, Napnap, Mipangi, Anislagan and Magsaysay in the province of Compostela Valley.

But in-depth field validation and investigation revealed that the localities were not even suitable for farming as the vast majority of land is occupied by banana and coconut plantations.

The Office of the Ombudsman said not a single name in the purported list of beneficiaries was a registered voter or resident of the province and local officials attested and certified that no agri-based livelihood projects were implemented by AFPI.

Documents also disclosed that AFPI had no financial capability to implement the P10-million project considering its measly capital stock contribution of only P68,000.

Ombudsman field investigators also found that the supplier, MJ Rickson, could not be located in its business address in Martiniko Street, Malabon City and is not a business entity licensed by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority or registered with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Respondents were also found to have submitted fabricated and undated documents to support the "ghost project"

such as accomplishment reports, disbursement reports, acceptance reports and liquidation documents.

Noting it was fraught with irregularities and red flags, the Commission on Audit (COA) disallowed the P10-million transaction and issued a Notice of Disallowance on Aug. 12, 2014.

In defense, Villanueva claimed during the preliminary investigation that his signatures in the documents pointing to his involvement were forged.

Morales, however, rejected such explanation and ruled that "laws and regulations were disregarded by public respondents when Villanueva directly selected NABCOR and AFPI to implement his livelihood projects and the implementing agency officers accepted and accommodated Villanueva by facilitating the processing and approval of the PDAF releases."

"NABCOR officers did not even bother to conduct a due diligence audit on AFPI as to its technical and financial capability and simply accepted and relied on the representation of Villanueva and AFPI to undertake the projects in contravention of existing procurement laws," she added.

Morales cited Supreme Court jurisprudence that, "in a Congressional Pork Barrel System, it is the legislator who exercises actual control and custody of the PDAF share."

Immediate implementation

Section 27 of Republic Act 6770 or the Ombudsman Law states that “all provisional orders of the Office of the Ombudsman are immediately effective and executory.”

Also, Rule III, Section 7 of the anti-graft agency’s Rules of Procedure states that while decisions can be appealed, motions for reconsideration cannot stop implementation.

“An appeal shall not stop the decision from being executory. In case the penalty is suspension or removal and the respondent wins such appeal, he shall be considered as having been under preventive suspension and shall be paid the salary and such other emoluments that he did not receive by reason of the suspension or removal,” the rules read.

“A decision of the Office of the Ombudsman in administrative cases shall be executed as a matter of course. The Office of the Ombudsman shall ensure that the decision shall be strictly enforced and properly implemented. The refusal or failure by any officer without just cause to comply with an order of the Office of the Ombudsman to remove, suspend, demote, fine or censure shall be a ground for disciplinary action against said officer,” the rules stress.

In October 2013, Ombudsman Morales even issued an office order that clearly states

that the heads of office of government agencies directed to implement decisions and orders should carry out the directive.

“It must be understood that pursuant to Section 26 of Republic Act 6770, any delay or refusal to comply with the referral or directive shall constitute a ground for administrative disciplinary action against the officer or employee to whom it was addressed,” Morales stressed.

Constitutional crisis

Senators warned yesterday of a constitutional crisis if the Office of Ombudsman insists on dismissing Villanueva over his alleged misuse of pork barrel funds when he was a party-list lawmaker in 2008.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said under Republic Act 6770 or the Ombudsman Act of 1989, the ombudsman’s disciplinary powers do not extend to members of Congress and the judiciary.

“There is misinterpretation of the law here or even abuse of authority,” Sotto told reporters. “There is already a constitutional crisis here triggered (by the ombudsman).”

Pimentel said he received the order of the ombudsman last Nov. 2 asking him to submit a compliance report in 30 days.

“There’s no need to rush action on this,” Pimentel said, adding the chamber is likely to sit on the order until the higher courts

act on Villanueva’s appeal.

“There’s no urgency really on terminating a sitting senator,” he said.

The matter was discussed during the plenary session after Pimentel referred the ombudsman’s order to the committee on rules chaired by Sotto.

Sotto, however, did not immediately act on the referral and expressed reluctance to accept the order as he felt the Office of the Ombudsman overstepped its bounds.

He also cited Senate Resolution 82 filed by the late Senate president Ernesto Maceda that expressed the sense of the chamber against any judicial order to suspend a senator.

Senate President Pro Tempore Franklin Drilon agreed with Sotto on his interpretation of the ombudsman’s role and cited the Constitution where it states Congress is given the power to discipline and expel its members.

Drilon explained the case was novel as the ombudsman felt that it has jurisdiction over Villanueva as the dismissal was when he was still head of TESDA.

However, the dismissal order included an accessory penalty of perpetual ban from holding public office, which meant it extended to his being a senator.

Sen. Leila de Lima, who was the one who sought Villanueva’s prosecution when she was justice secretary, declined to comment.

15 November 2016

INQUIRER

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Ombudsman orders 'Tesda' dismissal

FROM A1

By Vince F. Nonato
and Christine O. Avendano
@Team_Inquirer

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales has ordered the dismissal of Sen. Joel Villanueva, aka Tesdaman, for allegedly misusing his pork barrel funds when he was the representative in the House of an anticorruption party-list group.

At the same time, Morales ordered the filing of criminal charges in the Sandiganbayan against the senator and nine others found liable for the release of P10 million of his congressional Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to a "ghost" livelihood project in Compostela Valley.

Villanueva was the representative of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) in the House before he was appointed by then President Benigno Aquino III director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) in 2010.

In a statement, Villanueva said he had filed his appeal with the antigraft watchdog, but added he would leave to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III the matter of his dismissal.

Fabricated evidence

Villanueva said the evidence against him was fabricated. "Up to this day, I maintain my innocence," he said.

Pimentel said he would await the outcome of Villanueva's appeal before deciding on the dismissal recommendation.

In ordering the senator's dismissal from public office, Morales held Villanueva administratively liable for grave misconduct, serious dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service. She directed Pimentel to implement the dismissal.

The case against Villanueva

outlined two counts of violation of Section 3(e) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and one count each for malversation of public funds and malversation through falsification of public documents.

Charge sheet

Others ordered charged are former Agriculture Secretary and now Bohol Rep. Arthur Yap, Villanueva's staffer Ronald Samonte, Department of Agriculture employee Delia Ladera, and National Agribusiness Corp. (Nabcor) officials Alan Javellana, Romulo Relevo, Ma. Julie Villaralvo-Johnson, Rhodora Mendoza, and Maria Ninez Guanizo and Alfredo Ronquillo, president of Aaron Foundation Philippines, Inc. (AFPI).

The Ombudsman filed in August last year an administrative complaint against Villanueva in connection with the alleged irregular purchase, using his PDAF allocation, of vegetable seedlings distributed in Compostela Valley.

The case arose from Vil-

lanueva's request on June 12, 2008, to release P10 million of his PDAF to Nabcor, which was tapped to implement the project together with AFPI as partner nongovernment organization.

Phantom beneficiaries

The amount was earmarked for agri-based livelihood projects meant to benefit the residents of eight towns in Compostela Valley. It was used to buy various seedlings, liquid fertilizers and threshers from MJ Rickson Trading Corp.

Ombudsman investigators later found that no one on the supposed list of beneficiaries was a registered voter in the province. Local officials attested that no livelihood projects were implemented by AFPI.

It also turned out the chosen localities were not suitable for farming because most of the land was occupied by banana and coconut plantations.

Documents also showed that AFPI had no financial capability to implement the P10-million project considering its capital stock

contribution of only P68,000.

Investigators could also not locate the supplier MJ Rickson at its business address and that it was not registered with either the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority or the Department of Trade and Industry.

The respondents also allegedly submitted fabricated and undated documents, such as accomplishment reports, disbursement reports and liquidation documents, to support the "ghost project."

The Commission on Audit later issued a notice of disallowance on Aug. 12, 2014, because of the supposed irregularity in the transaction.

Due diligence audit

Morales said that Villanueva disregarded various laws and regulations when he "directly selected Nabcor and AFPI" to implement his livelihood projects.

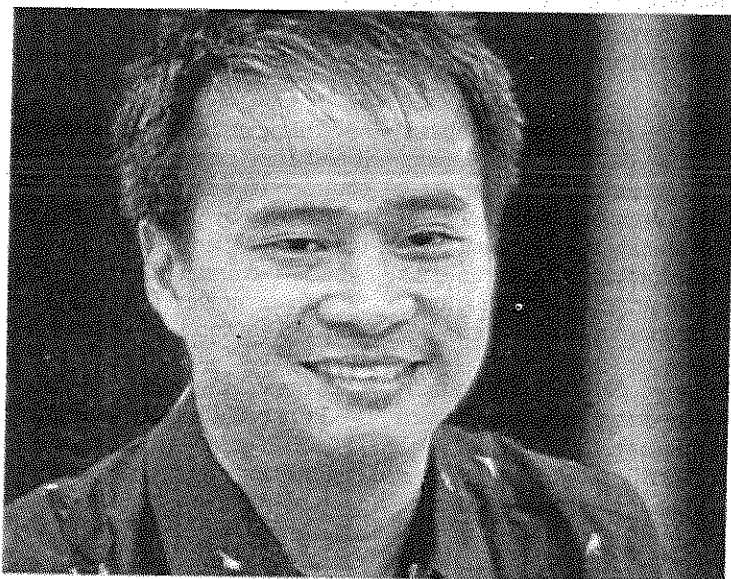
"Nabcor officers did not even bother to conduct a due diligence audit on AFPI as to its technical and financial capability and simply accepted and relied on the representation of Villanueva and AFPI to undertake the projects in contravention of existing procurement laws," she said.

Morales stressed that under the congressional pork barrel system, "it is the legislator who exercises actual control and custody of the PDAF share."

Villanueva has another pending case with the Office of the Ombudsman in connection to a third batch of pork barrel scam cases involving fake foundations allegedly controlled by businesswoman Janet Lim-Napoles.

During Monday's session, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said that under the Ombudsman's Act, the office could not discipline members of Congress.

Senate President Pro Tempore Franklin Drilon said that the matter should be brought to the courts. INQ



PORK MISUSE Sen. Joel Villanueva maintains his innocence on charges he misused pork barrel funds when he was a party-list congressman. He is leaving it to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III to act on the dismissal order of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales. —INQUIRER PHOTO

K November 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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p-2
• **New Army 'No. 2'**

The Philippine Army installed over the weekend its new vice commander following the mandatory retirement of former Army vice commander, Maj. Gen. Edmundo R. Pangilinan. Maj. Gen. Harold N. Cabreros assumed office as the new vice commander replacing Pangilinan during the turnover ceremony in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, last Saturday. Cabreros, a member of the PMA Class 1984, is the current commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) based in Jamindan, Capiz. He assumed as commander of the 3rd ID on Dec. 2015. (Francis T. Wakefield)

p-8
• **Cabreros, new Army vice chief**

DAVAO CITY – Maj. Gen. Harold N. Cabreros, former top official from the Davao-based Eastern Mindanao Command, has replaced Maj. Edmundo R. Pangilinan the Philippine Army's second in command. Cabreros, a member of the PMA Class 1984, replaced Pangilinan, who has retired from the service, in formal ceremonies held here Saturday. The new Army vice chief was commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) based in Jamindan, Capiz, since December 2015. As 3ID commander, Cabreros was responsible in the implementation of the Army's Internal Peace and Security Operations in Western and Central Visayas regions such as campaigns against the CPP-NPA, Bayanihan Team Activities, and various peace and development programs. (Yas D. Ocampo)

15 November 2016

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4 soldiers hurt in roadside bombing

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Four soldiers were wounded in a roadside bombing in the outskirts of Lamitan City, Basilan yesterday.

Members of the 7th Army Scout Ranger Co. were conducting foot patrol when an

improvised bomb planted by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits went off along the highway in Barangay Sabong at around 9 a.m.

Col. Cirilo Donato, commander of the 104th Army Brigade, said the wounded

soldiers were taken to a hospital in Lamitan before they were airlifted to the Camp Navarro General Hospital.

Pursuit operations were launched for the rebels.

Soldiers belonging to the Western Mindanao Command

had been scouring Basilan and nearby areas in search for six Vietnamese sailors taken from a Davao-bound cargo ship in Basilan strait by suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen on Friday morning.

—Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

November 2016



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4 soldiers wounded in Lamitan IED attack

Four government soldiers were hurt after an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded while they were conducting foot patrol operations in Lamitan City, Basilan on Monday.

Army Major Filemon Tan, the spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), disclosed that the incident happened at about 9:15 a.m. in Barangay Sabong, Lamitan City, Basilan.

Tan said a section of the 14th Special Reaction Company-Special Operations Command (SRC-SOC) under Sgt. Bala was on foot patrol when the team was hit by an IED.

As a result three SRC members were wounded.

Tan said members of the Third Special Reaction Brigade reinforced the team, and rescued the wounded personnel and brought them to Lamitan Hospital for treatment.

Joint Task Force Basilan also coordinated with WestMinCom for air ambulance.

At about 10:15 the same day, the wounded personnel were transferred to Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City on board an SF Condor of the 4th Special Forces Battalion.

The military is investigating the incident.

Troops continue to assist the police in the conduct of investigation and pursuit operations. (Francis T. Wakefield)

15 November 2016

Standard

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4 troops hurt in Basilan

FOUR elite troops were wounded when one of them stepped on a planted improvised explosive device while on foot patrol Monday in Barangay Sabong, Lamitan City, Basilan, Major Felimon Tan Jr., spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command, said.

Tan did not give the names of the wounded but he said all were alive and quickly airlifted to the nearest military hospital for medical treatment.

Tan said the explosion happened at around 9:15 a.m. while conducting pursuit operations of a group of Abu Sayyaf Group. **Florante S. Solmerin**

15 November 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8

4 MILF men killed in anti-drugs ops in Lanao del Sur

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY – Four Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters were killed while three of their comrades were wounded in a clash with a “large armed group of drug traffickers” in two villages in Balindong, Lanao del Sur, Manila Bulletin sources reported.

The casualties came after a fire-fight reportedly erupted between the group of Northwest Front Commander Abdurahman “Bravo” Macapaar, a staunch anti-illegal drugs advocate, and armed followers of an elected official in the villages Debarosan and Bualan in Balindong town.

MILF former peace panelist Robert Maulana A. Marohombsar said the clashing groups were still trading sniper shots on Saturday, saying that casualties from the “large armed group of drug traffickers” were still unknown.

“As of this time, MILF forces have surrounded Bualan, even as the IMT (International Monitoring Team) and other peace bodies have trekked to the area of conflict to forge a truce,” Marohombsar said in a social media post Sunday.

He said one of the confirmed fatalities was a son of Lanao-based MILF Second Vice Chair Aleem Solaiman Pangalian.

Representatives of the multi-nation IMT were reportedly trying to intervene and stop the fighting.

An earlier report from Usama Ali, core chair of the MILF's Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, said the firefight started when a relative of the village chair of Debarosan demanded the release one of seven people the MILF arrested on suspicion of involvement in illegal drugs trade.

He did not name the Debarosan village chair, but identified his brother as a core member of a local extremist group espousing the jihadist ideology of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The unnamed village official had reportedly succeeded in retrieving his sister, who was one of seven suspects arrested earlier by the group of Macapaar.

But according to the Marawi City-based Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, Macapaar immediately responded by herding his men to barangays Debarosan and Bualan to take back the village official's sister. However, they were met by heavy resistance by a heavily-armed group.

Field reports said two houses and a school building were torched at the height of the fighting.

Lanao del Sur Vice Governor Mamtal Adiong Jr. has asked both sides to stop armed confrontation for the sake of civilians, sending in his own emissaries for pacification efforts.

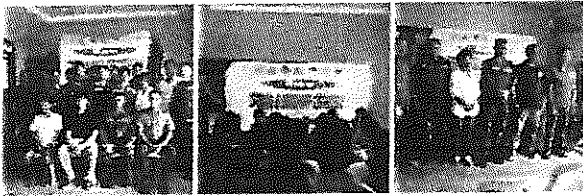
The MILF leadership and the Duterte administration had agreed to wage a joint war against illegal drugs last August.

SEND-OFF CEREMONY | Bayanihan sa Barangay

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 14, 2016 at 2:18 PM

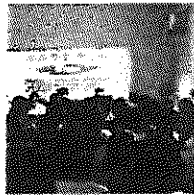
17IB, MASIN, ALCALA, Cagayan (DWDD) – The 17th Infantry (Do or Die) Battalion, 5th Infantry Division conducted the Opening and Send-Off Ceremony of the troops that will implement “Bayanihan sa Barangay” at Allacapan, Cagayan.

Cpt Rodolfo J Lucas (FA), the Executive Officer of 17IB and other Officers and Men of 17IB together with the Local Government Unit of Allacapan headed by Hon. Harry Florida, Municipal Mayor and P Chief Insp Rodel Tabulog, Chief of Police of Allacapan initiates the opening and send-off ceremony.



The Local Government Unit of Allacapan warmly welcomed the bayanihan teams and expressed their full support to the activity. The bayanihan activities will be conducted at the six (6) barangays of Allacapan namely: Capanikian Norte, Capanikian Sur, Utan, Binobongan, Dalayap and Tubel.

2Lt Donabell R Rapi (CE), the Civil-Military Operations Officer of 17IB discussed the background of the bayanihan and explained its purpose. She said that their objective in conducting such bayanihan is to help the said barangays to live peacefully, facilitate its development, extend basic services, tie up to the other government agencies in bringing their programs and services, and help the PNP Allacapan in anti-drug campaign, anti-criminality and support to law enforcement.



Hon. Florida stressed out to his constituents that their (bayanihan teams) stay to their barangays doesn't mean to conduct “militarization” but instead to conduct bayanihan sa barangay and support the PNP. He also assured the bayanihan teams for his full support to their endeavor.

The send-off ceremony were also witnessed by the Sangguniang Bayan of Allacapan, Barangay Captains of the other Barangays of the municipality, PNP and other stakeholders involved. **17IB / MCAG**

BLOOD LETTING | TRADOC Donates 48,600cc of Blood to AFP Medical Center

Posted by **Alvin Santiago** on November 14, 2016 at 7:44 PM

CAPAS, Tarlac (DWDD – The soldiers of the Philippine Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), under Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino donated 48,600 cc of blood to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) V-Luna, through a bloodletting activity at the TRADOC Grandstand 8:00 a.m., November 14, 2016.



BGen. Aquino said that the activity will provide AFPMC with adequate supply of blood to sustain its requirements for the soldiers, dependents and civilians who are undergoing treatment or in need of blood. "The blood we donated will help save and prolong lives of patients, BGen. Aquino said

TRADOC will be celebrating its 65th founding anniversary on November 18, with this year's theme: "*Ika-Anim Napu't Limang Taong Katuwang sa Paglinang ng Talino't Kakayahan ng Kasundalohan: Pundasyon ng Malakas na Hukbong Katihan*". **PAO TRADOC / MCAG**

15 November 2016



Pahina. 2



SINUSURI ni reserves Army Col. Francis Tolentino ang M16 Assault rifle na ibinigay ni Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitan sa turnover ceremony at change of command ng 1501st Infantry Brigade Ready Reserve Philippine Army sa London Tech, Brgy. 80, Caloocan City.

JOJO RABULAN

15 November 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
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AFP unsure if Abu Sayyaf took Vietnamese sailors

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday that it was still verifying whether or not Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists were the ones behind the abduction of six Vietnamese sailors in the waters near Sibago island in Basilan province on Friday.

AFP Spokesman, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla disclosed that, since report of the abduction three days ago, they have yet to establish if the Abu Sayyaf was indeed behind the incident.

He added that no group has come forward or has sent word to take responsibility for the abduction.

"Not yet, not yet. We still cannot say if indeed they (Abu Sayyaf) had a hand on the incident. That's why on our report what we put their is armed men," Padilla said during an interview.

"It's hard to say if, indeed, they were behind (the abduction). There is always that possibility that another group might be behind it," he added.

Padilla stressed that the military had been trying to pinpoint the location of the Vietnamese since they went missing last Friday.

"The AFP Western Mindanao Command immediately launched an area search and, up to this time, that is still ongoing. Efforts are being made to find them," Padilla said.

When asked if the victims were brought to Basilan, Padilla said: "I don't have any information and if I do, I'm not at liberty to tell it," he said.

Earlier, authorities were able to gather information from Lai Minh Kao, a crew member of the Vietnamese boat Royal 16, which was attacked by at least 10 armed men while traveling from Vietnam to Davao at around 5 a.m. Friday.

He identified those who were taken by the armed men as the ship's captain Pham Min Tuan and crew members Do Trung Hieu, Hoang Vo, Tran Khac Dung, Huang Trung Thong and Huang Van Hai.

The ship according to a report was carrying a load of cement when the seajacking occurred.

The AFP Western Mindanao Command said Lai is now recuperating at the Brent Hospital here after he was shot by the attackers, who were believed to be ASG bandits.

Zamboanga City Coast Guard Station Commander Jerome Cayabyab earlier said they received a call from the ship captain of container ship M/V Lorcon-Ilo-Ilo, informing them of a distressed ship they sighted near Sibago island.

Cayabyab said they immediately responded to the call, and tracked down the Vietnam flag-bearing ship.

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Senators thumb down resolution vs FM Libingan burial

With eight affirmative votes, six against and six abstentions, the Senate failed to adopt yesterday a resolution opposing the burial of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros, author of Senate Resolution 86, described the defeat of her measure as a "missed opportunity to defend the truth and our history from the Marcoses' historical revisionism and negationism."

"It missed the chance to be on the side of real heroes," Hontiveros said after the voting.

She commended her colleagues – Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Senators Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Leila de Lima,

Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan, Grace Poe and Joel Villanueva – for voting for the resolution.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senators Gregorio Honasan, Richard Gordon,

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Senators

From Page 1

Panfilo Lacson, Manny Pacquiao and Cynthia Villar voted against adopting the resolution.

Minority Leader Ralph Recto and Senators Juan Edgardo Angara, Nancy Binay, Francis Escudero, Sherwin Gatchalian and Juan Miguel Zubiri abstained.

Hontiveros filed the resolution after the Supreme Court upheld President Duterte's authority to decide to have Marcos buried in the cemetery for Filipino heroes.

"The SC had ruled that it is legal to bury former president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng Bayani and said that there is no grave abuse of discretion. I respect the decision of the SC. But having said that, I believe that former president Marcos is

not a hero. Perhaps he can be buried there because he was a former president and a former soldier," Recto said.

Escudero said the issue has been debated for over 30 years and it's time for the nation to put the matter to rest "so we can concentrate on the Filipinos."

Angara maintained his position that such a matter should be decided in a referendum.

Lacson said he could not vote for the measure as the SC has made a ruling, while Zubiri pointed out the ruling did not decide on whether Marcos was a hero or not.

Drilon and De Lima said they voted yes because the Senate has the right to express its sentiment as a political institution.

"On the dismissed petition, the SC said this was a political decision. The Senate as a political body has every right to express its sentiment, especially on a political decision. It is not disrespect for the SC. We place ourselves on the record. Let history judge us after this day," Drilon said.

Meanwhile, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar apologized for calling those opposing Marcos' burial at Libingan temperamental brats.

Andanar used the term in his newspaper column to express his frustration "against those who seek to divide the country for reason that have nothing to do with genuine patriotism and civic duty.

"It was never my intention to trivialize, diminish or in any way denigrate the struggles of the survivors of martial law and those who oppose former president Marcos," he said in a statement.

Widespread protests

Militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) yesterday warned of continuous and widespread demonstrations to protest Marcos' burial at the Libingan.

The group said mass gatherings and protest actions are necessary to dissuade Duterte from carrying out the burial and effectively send a message that the peo-

ple would never forget the crimes of the dictatorship.

"The protests will hold to account Duterte and his alliance with the Marcoses. It should be an indictment of our bankrupt political system which has continuously rewarded plunderers and rights violators," Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said.

He said the protests are part of the continuing education of the current generation on the crimes and abuses committed during martial law.

"History lessons will be taught on the streets, in discussion groups and teach-ins. The fight to uphold the judgment of history must continue wherever the dictator may be interred."

Reyes said should the burial proceed anytime this year, all roads would lead to the Libingan "in what would be a national day of rage and remembering."

Demonstrations will be carried out in all major cities in the country coinciding with a huge protest near the burial site, he said.

"We call on the people from all walks of life to stand for truth and justice. Never again, there would be no honors for the dictator. Justice for all victims of martial law and state terror," the group said.

'Bury him somewhere else'

A party-list lawmaker urged Marcos' family to bury the former president somewhere else to avoid polarization and let him rest in peace.

"I am appealing to the Marcoses to take the moral high ground by burying him somewhere else," Ako Bicol Rep. Rodel Batocabe told journalists in a news conference, adding that Marcos should be allowed to rest in peace.

Batocabe made the appeal in the wake of threats by militant groups and victims of human rights during the dictatorship that they would never forgive Marcos should he be buried at the Libingan.

– Paolo Romero, Alexis Romero, Rhodina Villanueva, Delon Porcalla, Non Alquitran

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Pahina. 4

MILITARY INFORMER TINODAS

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Isang military informer ang pinagbabaril hanggang sa mapatay ng mga armadong lalaki kamakalawa sa Bgy. Muti sa lungsod na ito.

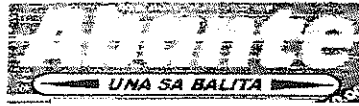
Ang biktima ay nakilala lang sa tawag na “Juella,” umano’y military informer sa naturang lungsod.

Nakatayo umano ang biktima nang lapitan ng mga suspek at agad pinagbabaril hanggang sa mapatay.

Inaalam na ngayon ng mga awtoridad ang pagkatao ng mga salarin.

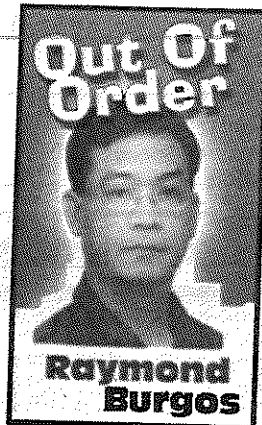
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Pahina. 4

Writ of habeas corpus



Sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, dalawang Pangulo pa lang ang nagsuspendi ng writ of habeas corpus at nagkataong parehong Ilocano ang dalawang pinuno ng bansa.

Ang una ay si Pangulong Elpidio Quirino na nagpasyang suspindihin ang writ of habeas corpus sa harap ng lumalalang rebelyon ng Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB) na pinamumunuan ni Luis Taruc at ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP) na pinamumunuan ni Jesus Lava noong 1951-52.

Ang ikalawa ay si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos na nagpasyang isuspendi ang writ matapos ang

1971 Plaza Miranda na kanyang ibinintang sa muling-tatag na Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ni Jose Maria Sison at New People's Army (NPA) na itinatag sa pangunguna ni Bernabe Buscayno alyas Ka Dante.

Pero naging permanente ang naturang suspensyon nang ideklara ni Marcos ang Batas Militar noong Setyembre 21, 1972 na nagbigay daan sa kanyang pagiging diktador hanggang Pebrero 1986.

Ang writ of habeas corpus ay isa sa mga pribilehiyo sa Saligang Batas na nagtitiyak na walang puwedeng maging biktima ng ilegal na detensyon dahil kailangan iharap sa hukuman ang mga arestado para mabasahan ng sakdal at sa gayo'y maging ligal ang kanyang detensyon.

Ayon sa ating 1987 Constitution, maari lang suspindihin ang writ of habeas corpus kung mayroong paglusob at pagsakop sa Pilipinas ng isang dayuhang bansa o mayroong malaganap na rebelyon na nagnanais pabagsakin ang gobyerno.

Kaya nga marami ang umalma nang sabihin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na piinag-iisipan niyang suspindihin ang writ of habeas corpus sa gitna ng rumaragasang kampanya ng gobyerno laban sa kriminalidad at ilegal na droga.

Limang senador ang agad na kumontra sa planong ito ni Duterte at kabilang dito ang mga Liberal Party senators na sina Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan, Leila de Lima at Bam Aquino na nagsabing hindi basehan ang all-out war laban sa ilegal na droga para sa suspensyon sa pribilehiyo ng writ of habeas corpus.

Wala ring rebelyon na nagaganap sa kasalukuyan dahil may umiiral na peace talks sa pagitan ng pamahalaan at ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) at wala na ring giyera sa pagitan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) at Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Sinabi naman ni Senador Panfilo Lacson na hindi tumutugma ang naturang suspensyon ng writ sa mga tagumpay na nakamit ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa kampanya laban sa kriminalidad at ilegal na droga.

Base sa opisyal na report ng PNP kamakailan, bumaba ng 49 percent ang kriminalidad sa buong bansa mula nang maging Pangulo si Duterte at ilunsad ng PNP ang all-out war laban sa ilegal na droga at kriminalidad.

Si Communications Secretary Martin Andanan ang nagsabi na hindi seryoso si President Rody sa kanyang panukala at maituturing na palutang lang ito ng Pangulo gaya ng nakalipas na mga kontrobersyal na pahayag nito na binabawi rin niya pagkatapos. Sana nga.

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INQUIRER

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Bury Marcos, fight on

Why should we care where Ferdinand Marcos is buried? He is long dead. Let them finally stick him in the ground and be done with it. That it is ground where the nation buries those who dedicated their lives to its service is beside the point.

The Libingan ng mga Bayani is the graveyard of the Establishment, to use a 1960s word. Would Jose Ma. Sison be buried in it? Not likely. Will Sison's name be enshrined at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani? Maybe not even. Sison missed his chance at martyrdom a long time ago. Would Nur Misuari be buried in the Libingan? Not likely either. He is always elsewhere, where there is no fighting, unlike the Moro fighters who wrote "Victory or to the graveyard" in their blood and died where they stood.

Visit the Libingan ng mga Bayani and you will be in a sea of simple white crosses. There is sameness and anonymity. You will be hard put to locate a grave if you do not know exactly where it is. Weathered by the elements, the names engraved on many of the crosses can hardly be read. There is silence, except when a plane passes very low overhead, as it is directly under the path of aircraft landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. And there is the very palpable feeling of an absolute dimension that we know we all share, a common destiny, a common fate.

COMMENTARY

RODERICK TOLEDO

I was in my senior year in high school when we studied "Antigone," one of the great Greek tragedies. It was also the year when martial law was declared, when agents of the Military Intelligence Group came to our house in the night and arrested me without a warrant, just two days past my 17th birthday. Antigone and I, what did we have in common? I suppose the desire to do what we thought was right. Antigone wanted to bury her rebel brother, Polyneices, instead of allowing his body to rot in the sun as decreed by her uncle, King Creon. Greek tragedy being what it is, of course, everyone in the cast dies, except for the stubborn and prideful Creon, who loses everyone he loves and must bear the unbearable consequences of his hubris.

Here we are, like the Greek chorus, commenting on the action unfolding before us. Was the Marcos regime a golden era for the country? This is historical revisionism, most certainly. But history is revising itself all the time. Why is Islam occupying Europe, centuries after the Europeans sallied forth to take the Holy Land from the Arabs? Why are the Neo-Nazis very much alive and

kicking in Germany? Why is communist China now the foremost exponent of capitalism? Why are the Israelis and Palestinians locked in eternal conflict? Why did Donald Trump win? Why is the US Border Patrol unable to stem the tide of Mexicans crossing the Rio Grande and wanting to live and work in land that was once theirs? Why, despite my days and nights at the barricades of Edsa and the retaking of Malacañang in 1986, have I attended just one commemoration of that momentous, liberating event?

If we are to learn anything from Greek tragedy, it is to realize that nothing is preordained, that we do not live in an orderly universe. The tragedy of our situation is sometimes we think there is linearity and logic in our political life. There is none. There is the cycle of conflict and struggle and it will never end, for we must persist in our paths and continue to do what we think is right.

Our ire should not be directed at the dead but at those who carry on the Marcosian legacy of murder, plunder and corruption, those who walk this earth remorseless and unashamed. Let his body be removed from the field of battle and let us continue the fight. Ferdinand Marcos is in the dustbin of history, wherever his body may lie.

Roderick Toledo is a freelance communication projects manager.

