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NEWS CLIPPINGS

18 November 2016

Friday

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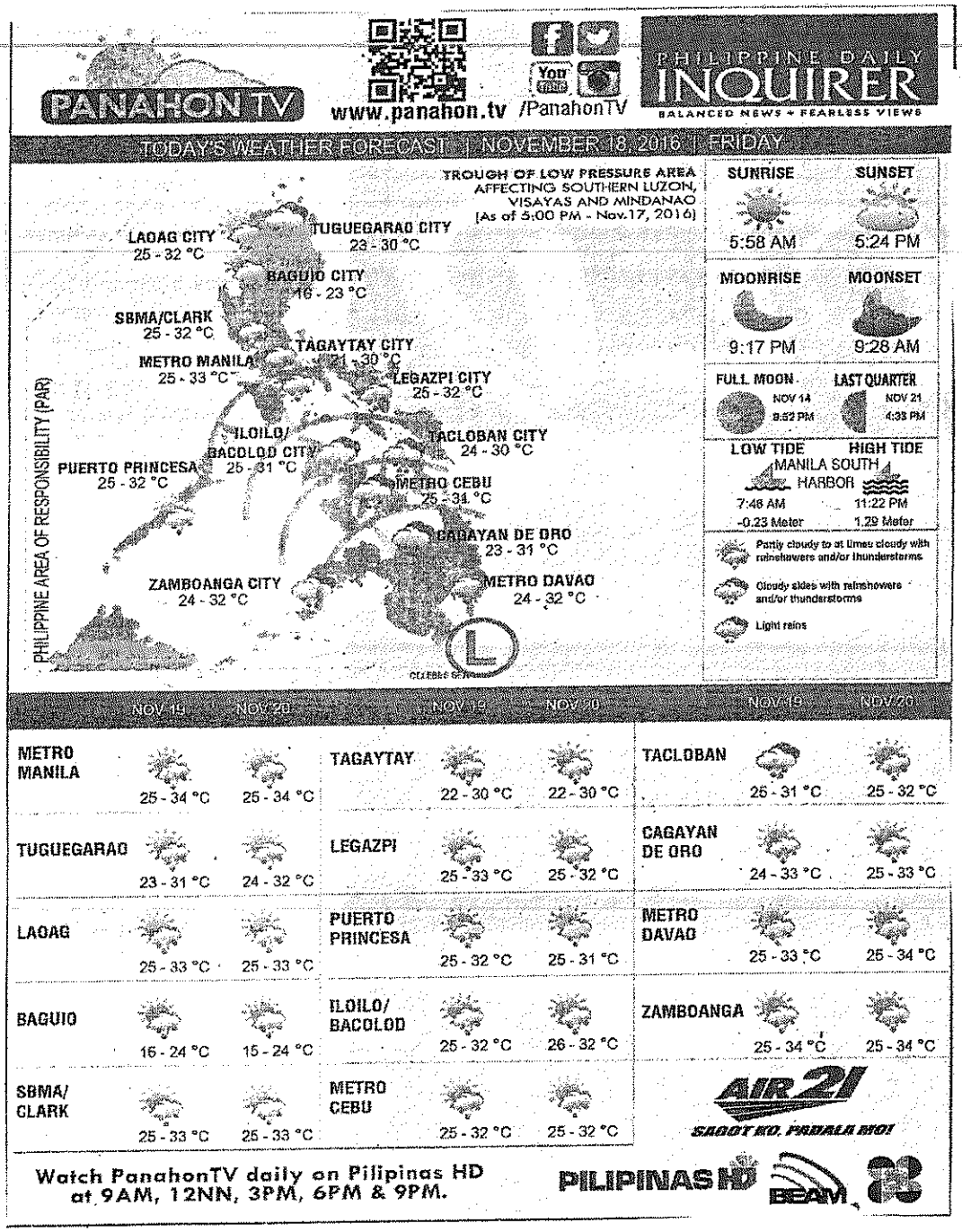

18 November 2016

Duterte may follow Russia exit from ICC

Rody favors 'new world order' with China, Russia

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte just might take Russia's cue and withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), which he called "useless" and strongly biased against small nations like the Philippines in trying human rights cases.

"They withdrew their membership. I might follow. Why? Only the small ones like us are battered," Duterte said in remarks yesterday at the Davao International Airport before leaving for Peru for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit.

He said powerful nations were never made to account for the killing of thousands in Aleppo, Syria and Mosul in Iraq.

"The killings are endless," he said. "Just because it is America, it does not mean that it is good."

Unlike the Philippines, which acceded to the ICC founding treaty in 2011, Russia signed but never ratified the treaty. It has therefore never been under ICC jurisdiction so its withdrawal was largely symbolic. *(See related story on A-23.)*

Duterte took aim anew at US foreign policy and the United Nations and said he would be happier if Russia and China called the shots.

"You know, if China and Russia would decide to create a new order, I will be the first to join," he said.

The ICC's chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda had earlier warned that Philippine officials could be haled before the court for state-sponsored extrajudicial killings in the drug war. The court has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression

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Duterte From Page 1

committed since July 2002.

"I want to get out of... there used to be (what) they called (the) League of Nations before. It was in The Hague... this predecessor of the United Nations. It used to be called League of Nations," Duterte said.

He added a new world order should "be guided only by the best interest of the people."

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order removing Russia's signature from the founding treaty of the ICC on Wednesday.

Duterte said he is inclined to accept the offer of Russia to help the Philippines in its war against illegal drugs.

Duterte, known for his frank statements, speculated that Russia's ICC move might be because of its air strikes in Syria.

"The problem is Russia withdrew from the ICC. What could be the reason? I really do not know. Maybe to protect what they are doing in Syria, the incessant bombing and the killing of civilians," the President added.

Russia is under international pressure over the Syria air strikes, with some human rights activists and US officials accusing it of bombing civilians and civilian targets. Russia has denied those allegations.

Duterte said he was annoyed by criticisms of his drug war and that "nobody was listening" to his reasons for the crackdown, including US President Barack Obama.

Duterte is slated to hold bilateral talks with Putin on the sidelines of the APEC meeting in Peru. "The theme of our talk? To reset relations," the President said.

Amid reports of thousands of drug-related killings in the Philippines, the ICC's Bensouda earlier warned, "Let me be clear: any person in the Philippines who incites or engages in acts of mass violence including by ordering, requesting, encouraging or contributing, in any other manner, to the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC is potentially liable to prosecution before the court."

"I am deeply concerned about these alleged killings and the fact that public statements of high officials of the Republic of the Philippines seem to condone such killings and further seem to encourage state forces and civilians alike to continue targeting these individuals with lethal force," she added.

The ICC steps in only when countries are unable or unwilling to prosecute crimes against their own people.

The Rome Statute of the ICC went into force in the Philippines in November 2011, bringing to 117 the number of states that had ratified the founding treaty.

– With Giovanni Nilles

18 November 2016

Black Friday rally to dramatize opposition to FM burial

By MAYEN JAYMALIN

Anti-Marcos protesters will hold a Black Friday rally today to dramatize their opposition to the planned burial of former president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

"At the different protest centers, protesters will burn images of Marcos," he said. "They will also announce future plans for their campaign against the Marcos burial."

A noise barrage is set at 12 noon at various sites in Quezon City, Manila, Marikina, Caloocan City and Parañaque, according to Christian Yamzon, Bayan media officer.

A bigger protest action will be mounted during the actual burial of Marcos, Yamzon said.

Meanwhile, most candidates for the posts to be vacated by retiring

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Associate Justices Arturo Brion and Jose Perez, who went through the two-day public interviews that ended yesterday, agreed with the SC decision allowing the Libingan burial of Marcos.

The Judicial and Bar Council asked them if they agreed with the SC ruling.

Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta, Centro Escolar University Law School vice dean Rita Linda Ventura-Jimeno and Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Samuel Martires agreed with the majority decision that the Marcos burial is a political question resolved by presidential prerogative under the Constitution.

Acosta said the burial of Marcos has basis in law, citing Republic Act 289 (National Pantheon law).

"I will concur (with the SC ruling), the law is very clear. It's time for the nation to be healed," she said when asked how she would have voted in the case if she were already a member of the SC.

Jimeno agreed with the SC upholding the eligibility of Marcos for burial at the Libingan as a former president, soldier and Medal of Valor recipient.

"It is my respect for the rule of law which tells me the Supreme Court's decision should be respected, and I do respect it," she said.

Martires said he does not believe that Marcos was dishonorably discharged by the Filipino people.

"It's always been my belief that Marcos wasn't ousted, but he opted to leave to prevent bloodshed," he said.

In the continuation of the public interviews yesterday, aspirants Court of Appeals Associate Justice Amy Lazaro-Javier and law professor Joseph San Pedro disagreed with the SC ruling and supported the dissenting opinions.

Javier believes in the dissenting opinion that Marcos was dishonorably discharged during the EDSA people power revolution in 1986 and therefore disqualified for a hero's burial.

"The highest form of conviction is people power... I think the conviction made by the people themselves is the highest court," she said.

"Any other inferior court, even the SC, can't trivialize that decision (of the people)."

San Pedro agreed with this opinion.

"I think the primary issue there is the historical underpinning of our 1987 Constitution," he said.

"We came from an ouster of a dictator and to allow the dictator is a dishonor to the people who sacrificed to have our democracy right now."

Other nominees who faced the JBC are CA Associate Justices Japar Dimaampao and Noel Tijam; Department of Justice chief state counsel Ricardo Paras III; Davao Regional Trial Court Judge Rowena Apao-Adlawan and CA Mindanao Executive Justice Romulo Borja.

Seven other candidates for the vacancies were no longer interviewed because of their previous interviews over the past year.

They are CA Presiding Justice Andres Reyes Jr. and CA Justices Apolinario Bruselas Jr., Rosmari Carandang, Stephen Cruz and Jose Reyes Jr., Quezon City Judge Reynaldo Daway and Sandiganbayan Justice Alex Quiroz.

'People must decide'

Sanlakas secretary general Aaron Pedrosa said the decision on whether to bury Marcos at the Libingan must be left to the Filipino people, who were also the game changer in Edsa 1.

"President Duterte cannot simply reduce the issue to a clash of political clans, especially if he is aware of the injustices and crimes committed by the Marcos dictatorship," he said.

Pedrosa said the Aquinos were not the only victims of martial law nor are they the ones leading the condemnation of a hero's burial for Marcos.

"Under Marcos' rule, 3,240 were killed, more than 70,000 were imprisoned, 34,000 people were tortured and 254 people were victimized by enforced disappearances," he said.

Pedrosa said the "last word" on the issue could now rest in the hands of the Filipino people, who have every right to resist any attempt to deodorize the atrocities committed by Marcos.

"We demonstrated this when we ousted the dictatorship in 1986," he said

"A hero's burial for Marcos will not give closure to the families and the memory of those who were denied dignity and rights under his tyranny. Nor will it absolve the present and future generations of the 26.7 billion-dollar debt we will be paying as late as 2025, almost forty years after Marcos' regime ended."

Pedrosa said since the SC ruled that the matter was a political question, Duterte has the power to cancel or retract his order allowing the burial of Marcos.

"It is enough for the President to look at the backlash caused by his order to see that the Marcos burial will not bring closure and healing to the Philippines," he said.

– With Edu Punay, Ding Cervantes

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Reds hit Army for truce violation on Panay Island

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Communist rebels on Panay Island have accused government troops of violating the indefinite ceasefire declared by President Duterte, saying soldiers continue combat patrols, intelligence-gathering and "psychological warfare" operations in villages in Iloilo, Antique and Capiz provinces.

In an e-mailed statement, Julian Paisano, spokesperson of the political department of Coronacion Chiva "Waling-Waling" Command of the New People's Army (NPA), said troops belonging to the 82nd Infantry Battalion (IB) and 61st IB maintain detachments in populated areas in violation of international humanitarian law and rules of war.

But Capt. Gizelle Lim, spokesperson of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said activities of soldiers have been confined to socio-civic campaigns in cooperation with government agencies and nongovernment organizations.

Paisano said residents suspected of being sympathetic to rebels were being threatened by soldiers.

"These directly violate the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, the first agreement signed by both the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)," Paisano said.

He said NPA units have intentionally avoided soldiers to prevent clashes.

Lim denied Paisano's allegations.

She said government troops have been helping civilian agencies in conducting livelihood training, delivery of social services and assistance.

"We continue to observe the suspension of military operations (Somo) order," she told the Inquirer.

Lim said the Somo does not direct soldiers to be confined in their headquarters but to suspend offensive operations.

Troops conducting socio-civic activities are armed to protect themselves and members of organizations helping them.

In a separate statement, NDFP peace panel member Benito Tiamzon said continuing military operations "are making the situation on the ground untenable and endangering even the fragile unilateral ceasefires currently in place."

The government and NDFP each declared an indefinite unilateral ceasefire as part of confidence-building measures in the peace negotiations aimed at ending the 48-year-old communist insurgency. INQ

18 November 2016

AFP, MMDA to open Camp Aguinaldo to motorists

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will soon open Camp Aguinaldo to private vehicles to decongest EDSA, officials said yesterday.

The MMDA also expanded motorcycle lanes on C-5 Road and EDSA during rush hours.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief, said tentatively, private motorists – especially those coming from C-5 Road and EDSA – can start using roads in the camp before the first week of December. The traffic scheme will run until Jan. 15.

The camp's roads will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

He said the AFP and MMDA will hold a meeting on Monday to discuss camp regulations, including issuing temporary access stickers to car owners.

To allay fears that the traffic scheme would cause a security nightmare, Arevalo said the matter will be discussed thoroughly and the discussion will include conducting background checks on all applicants for the access stickers.

MMDA officer-in-charge Tim Orbos said Camp Aguinaldo and the MMDA will start accepting applications on Monday, but officials have yet to set the price for the sticker.

Noemi Recio, MMDA traffic engineering center chief, said the scheme would allow motorists to avoid Santolan and EDSA going to Katipunan Avenue.

She said they will also open a diversion road through Office of Transportation Security property in Pasay City.

Motorists coming from EDSA will enter Domestic Road going to Roxas Boulevard and exit to Andrews Avenue going to airport.

In connection with this, she said that they will open Airport Road from Domestic Road to Roxas Boulevard.

Recio also said that they still start tearing down a wall, which is on government property, on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City so that motorists will no longer turn around at a gasoline station going to Makati Avenue through Jupiter street.

She said tearing down the wall would take two weeks as they still have to ask permission from the barangay and the city government.

Orbos and Recio said three more government properties – MMDA land on Roxas Boulevard, a military camp in Bonifacio Global City and a private road in Ortigas Center will be open to motorists.

Expanded motorbike lane

Meanwhile, Orbos said motorcycle riders will now be allowed to occupy two lanes, the fourth lane from the sidewalk and the leftmost lane on C-5 and EDSA, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

However, the expanded motorcycle lane does not apply to Macapagal Boulevard and Commonwealth Avenue.

"We want to ensure the safety of other motorists. It is practically unsafe to stay on one lane in these thoroughfares especially during heavy traffic," Orbos told reporters.

He also clarified that private cars can still occupy the expanded motorcycle lanes. – **Robertzon Ramirez, Jaime Laude**

18 November 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 1

Reds call DU30 'buffoon' for ML, writ suspension quips

By Ted Tuvera

Cracks are showing in the tenuous alliance between the left-wing movement and President Duterte as the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday blasted the administration's "rightist tendency" in Duterte's recent statements hinting at the possible suspension of the writ of habeas corpus or even a declaration of martial law.

In a statement released by its Information Bureau,

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Reds call DU30 'buffoon' for ML, writ suspension quips

From page 1

the CPP said that self-proclaimed leftist Duterte is evolving into a tyrant similar to the late strongman former President Ferdinand Marcos.

"It strongly appears like Duterte is merely destigmatizing such measures in order to make these acceptable to the people. He makes himself look like a buffoon to trivialize such hallmarks of Marcos' martial law dictatorship," the CPP said.

"Duterte must be cautioned against making the miscalculation that he can get away with measures of reviving a Marcos-style rule," it added.

"Limited or not, a suspension of the writ of habeas corpus is an affront to fundamental human rights which are bound to be abused by the police and military," it added.

The CPP also condemned Duterte's proposal to resurrect the decades-old Philippine Constabulary (PC) which it described as an instrument used by Marcos to "suppress" oppositionists during martial law.

If ever the PC will be revived, the supposedly civilian police force will eventually be under the command of the military and the commander-in-chief. Such move, the commies say, is "stupid".

"(Duterte) frivolously dangles the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and paints it as a necessary measure in his war against drugs. He insists on reviving the PC on brainless reasoning," they said.

"Hyperbole or not, Duterte must be severely castigated for putting forward the twin proposals which seek to justify the possibility of removing restraints on his power and allowing him to rule absolutely," the group said.

No bilateral truce

The other day, CPP chairman Benito Tiamzon said their movement is not, in any way, preparing to enter into a bilateral ceasefire agreement with state-security forces contrary to the claims made by the government.

Tiamzon denied Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) peace panel chairman and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III's statement that the National Democratic Front (NDF) is close to signing a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

"This is obviously a campaign by the GRP to drum up false news about an impending bilateral ceasefire in order to gloss over the serious obstacles put up by the GRP to the forging of a more stable ceasefire," Tiamzon said.

The rebel leader was reacting to a news report published over the weekend in a Mindanao online daily quoting government that both panels hope to ink a bilateral ceasefire agreement by December 10.

He also denied that the two panels have been exchanging drafts on the ceasefire agreements since the resumption of the formal peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway in August 2016.

According to the said report, Bello noted that the only hurdles to the forging of a bilateral ceasefire accord were technical in nature, such as coming up with common definitions of "hostile acts" and "buffer zones."

Upon getting hold of Malacañang, Duterte kept on parading his plan to resume the stalled peace talks and eventually end the nearly 50-year clash between the CPP-NDF and the government.

"We are talking to have the final document [signed] either by end of November or first week of December. But we are eyeing the last week of November since we need to address other concerns in the talks," Bello said last Nov. 7.

The ceasefire document was scheduled to be signed on or before October 26 but the parties decided to postpone it.

"We have to postpone the signing. There are still several items that need to have a consensus, such as the monitoring mechanism, the parameters of hostile acts, the definition of buffer zones," Bello said.

During the first round of talks, the government and the NDF agreed to transform their separate indefinite unilateral ceasefire into a joint, bilateral ceasefire within two months from the signing of their Joint Statement last August 26.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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BELOW THE LINE

ROTC and nation-building

By JOSE ABETO ZAIDE

IN his first State of the Nation Address, PDu30 underscored reviving the Reserve Officers' Training Course (ROTC) for college students, apparently to strengthen the country's military capability in light of China's aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea.

IN THE BEGINNING...The dilemma of the Philippine Commonwealth was how to fund the Philippine Armed Forces. It considered these models:

• A voluntary service, like that of the United States at that time. However, this was seen as the most expensive in the long run; or

• Mandatory two-or three-year military service for all males as in Old Prusia, Imperial Russia, or Japan.

• The Swiss or Austrian models, which combined a small regular force with a citizenry that was trained for fixed periods.

Because of budget constraints, the third system was chosen and the ROTC was introduced.

When the Philippines fell to the Imperial Japanese Army, the bulk of ROTC graduates who did not surrender formed the cadre for guerrilla units throughout the country. One of the most famous was known as the Hunters ROTC Guerrillas.

After the war, specialized ROTC units were formed. UP and UST provided one ROTC medical unit and a field artillery unit each, while the Mapua Institute of Technology was to have one ROTC engineering unit.

There was the Rainbow Rangers-Sunday Soldiers. Their officers came from the ROTC program, while the trainees were students who specialized in small-unit tactics and unconventional warfare as the backbone for civil home-defense units.

In November, 1971, one battalion of Sunday Soldiers and UP ROTC officers under the command of Lt. Col. Benjamin Vallejo distinguished themselves in guarding the elections in Lanao.

***

In our time, we had no choice. We went through two years of AFROTC (Air Force) program. We chaffed at the collar (starched grey khakis) at every Friday drill and formation. Before that, in high school, we even did two years of Preparatory Military Training (PMT). And in grade school, we began (optional) as Cub Scouts and moved up at intermediate grade to Boy Scouts.

But we mixed the ROTC business with pleasure. Midyear we had firing lessons at Fort Bonifacio. We had sham battles at yearend – Freshmen units were to attack the Sophomores who were defending Loyola Heights. After the long hike, we approached Katipunan, creeping stealthily. But when the Magnolia ice cream vendor approached, everyone surfaced to buy popsicles and gave the ruse away. At another incident, a platoon armed with dummy rifles surprised the commandant ... Centenera; but the commandant pulled out a 45 caliber so he came back with prisoners.

The sham battle got better the next year when Freshmen and Sophomores joined forces against 50 Air Force trainees who were defending a hill in Marikina. We were not trusted with live bullets, but we knew that as in the previous year, we would be rationed firecrackers and rockets from Bocaue. Since we were ACIL pedagogues teaching catechism in Bulacan, we detoured to the fireworks factory to order ample extra arsenal. Early in the battle, the overly outnumbered and outbombarded Air Force trainees raised the white flag. But since we were not acquainted with the Genevea convention on surrender, we didn't take prisoners and continued to rain rockets on the hapless defenders, who could only throw stones and curse our sainted mothers.

Some classmates like Ernie Fajardo, Ben Morales and others had to repeat their AFROTC years and ended up with AFROTC years 1, 2, 3, and 4. Frido Ong drew the lottery which signed him up to serve "cadre," a one-and-half month boot camp at Fort Villamor. He hated his luck then, but the experience of sharing mess halls and latrine with everyone – whether you are Ayala or Batungbakal – is the great equalizer. It is like a bag of beans shaken in a kettle to make one nation.

***

2001 – the discovery of Mark Welson Chua Jr.'s murder and the exposé of alleged irregularities in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit of UST became the catalyst for the passage of Republic Act 9163, the "National Service Training Program Law, which removed mandatory ROTC for male college students in the Philippines.

***

Fast-forward to 2014. Senator William Gatchalian authored House Bill No. 2338 reviving the ROTC program and making it a requisite for graduation for all college degree courses as well as technical or vocational courses, and a pre-requisite for graduation. Under the measure, male students will be required to undergo military training while female students will have courses on basic rescue operations and health services.

The revival of the ROTC, Gatchalian said, will help drive the point that although the Philippines is a small nation in economic and military terms, it will never back down from its fight for sovereignty in the Sea.

FEEDBACK: ***joseabetozaide@gmail.com***

ONLINE NEWS
18 NOVEMBER 2016

www.pna.gov.com

USS Comstock arrives in Subic Bay

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 17): USS Comstock arrives in Subic Bay

USS Comstock (LSD 45) with embarked Marines of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit will visit Subic Bay to provide the crew and Marines an opportunity to rest and recuperate after nearly a month and a half at sea.

Subic Bay marks the second port visit for the Comstock after departing Naval Station San Diego on October 14. Several Filipino-American Sailors and Marines will also spend time with their families and experience the local culture while learning about their own heritage.

"I am very proud that my first port visit as the Commanding Officer of the Comstock was to my birthplace, Guam. and I'm even more honored that our next port visit will be to the country where my mother and father were born - the Philippines." said Comstock Commanding Officer Cmdr. Gervy Alota.

"It will be a fantastic opportunity for my crew toenjoy and learn about the history and culture of the Philippines and to strengthen the already close ties between our two nations. I look forward to reuniting with my family and forming new friendships with the people of Subic Bay."

The Comstock and embarked 11th MEU, part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, have been conducting training together for nearly a month and a half at sea. Comstock and other ships of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group are currently on a routine patrol in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the region.

The Comstock is based out of Naval Station San Diego, Calif.

The 11th MEU is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

www.pna.gov

DND allocates PHP256.3-M for coast watch req'ts in northern Luzon

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 17): DND allocates PHP256.3-M for coast watch req'ts in northern Luzon

The Department of National Defense (DND) has allocated PHP256.36 million for the supply and delivery of "coast watch system requirements" needed to enhance the maritime capability in northern Luzon.

This will equip three stations and one center in the region. Money for the project will be sourced from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Act Trust Fund.

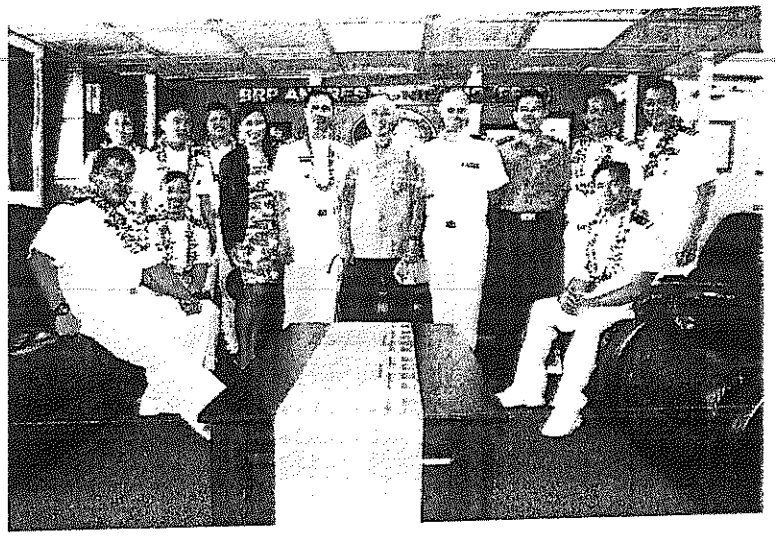
The project will be undertaken through alternative mode of procurement which is Limited Source Bidding having satisfied the conditions as stated in Section 49 of the Revised Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act), DND Special Bids and Awards Committee chair Assistant Secretary Teodoro Cirilo Torralba III said.

Pre-selected companies for this contract include Datatrail Corp/Elbit Sys Ltd, Indra, Baybridge Service (Far East), Pronet, Elta Systems Ltd, HITT (Scan Marine, Inc), Ltd One Commerce Int'l Corp (Signalis Rep).

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

PH warship BRP Andres Bonifacio arrives in Hawaii

From Update.Ph (Nov 17): **PH warship BRP Andres Bonifacio arrives in Hawaii**



BRP Andres Bonifacio officials with Philippine Consulate representatives. FF-17 photo

BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF-17) safely arrived in Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii on November 15, reported in the warship's official social networking page. This completes her second voyage en route to the Philippines.

Her first voyage was from Alameda, California to San Diego, California – November 1 to November 5.

FF-17 is expected to arrive in the country second week of December. Her third and final stop-over is Guam.

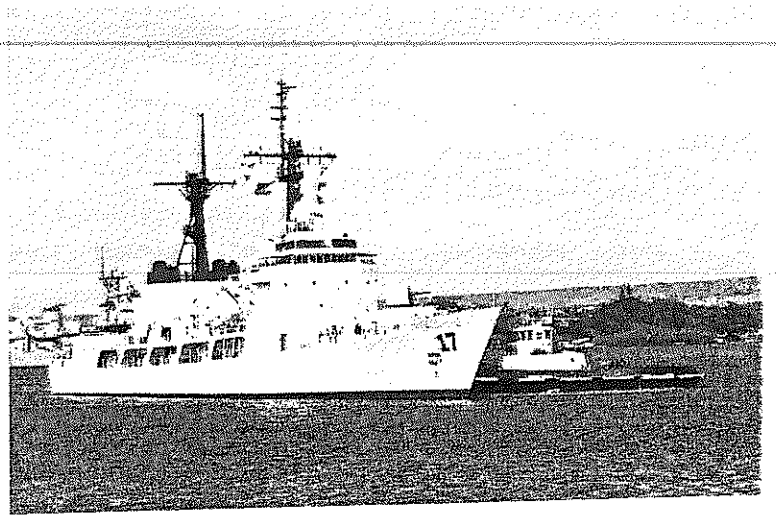
She was acquired through US Excess Defense Article Program.

BRP Andres Bonifacio is the sister ship of BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (FF-15) and BRP Ramon Alcaraz (FF-16), all former Hamilton-class cutters acquired through the US Excess Defense Article Program in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

LOOK: PH frigate welcomed in Pearl Harbor

From Update Ph. LOOK: PH frigate welcomed in Pearl Harbor



US Navy photo

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) commanding officer Captain Stanley Keeve Jr. welcomed Philippine Navy frigate BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF-17) and its crew November 15 during a regularly scheduled port visit en route to the Philippines, the United States Navy said.

BRP Andres Bonifacio and its crew will be to hosting a reception onboard and interact with their host ship USS Halsey (DDG-97).

"Bonifacio was transferred to the Philippine navy at a ceremony in Alameda, California, July 21, as part of an agreement to transfer Hamilton-class 378-foot high endurance cutters to the Philippines through the Office of International Acquisition s Excess Defense Articles program," the US Navy said.

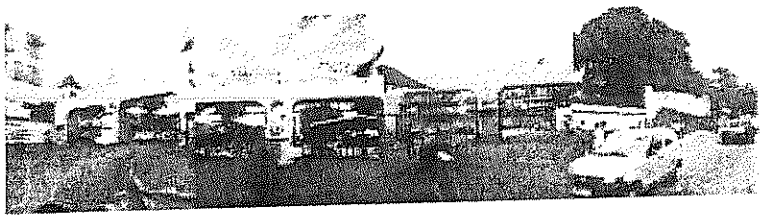
"The ship and crew just completed a four month upgrade and training period with the U.S. Coast Guard in Alameda that included one-on-one training with Coast Guard sailors and formal training on the ship's systems," US Navy added.

www.dwdd.com.ph

EASING EDSA TRAFFIC | Camp Aguinaldo Opens Up to Motorists

Arvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the request of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), will opening some of its gates to private motorist to help ease traffic along EDSA.



According to Lt Col Enriqueto R Deocadeza, GHQ and HSC, they will be opening some of the camps gates to private cars as an alternate route from 6am to 9am only until January 9 or 15

MMDA General Manager Tim Orbos stated that starting next week, Camp Aguinaldo Gate 3 along EDSA, Gate 5 EDSA North Bound White Plains and Gate 6 along Katipunan Avenue will be opened.

For motorist coming from EDSA ang heading towards Katipunan, instead of turning right at Boni Serrano they can enter Gate 3 and exit at Gate 6.

For motorist coming from Katipunan and are South Bound, they can enter Gate 6 and exit at Gate 3 then make a U-turn under the Santolan Flyover then towards Makati.

With this effort, an average of 200 vehicles will be diverted to help ease traffic atEDSA-Santolan Crossing.

But as part of the camps security measure, interested motorist needs to secure an Access Card to enter the facility.

The requirements are: copy of the vehicles ORCR, photocopy of a valid ID and 2×2 photo of the registered owner. The MMDA and the AFP are still working out the details on where these access card / sticker may be purchased and how much. **ALS / AES / MCAG**

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Camp Aguinaldo to open to private vehicles this Christmas season

By: Frances Mangosing - Reporter / @FMangosingINQ
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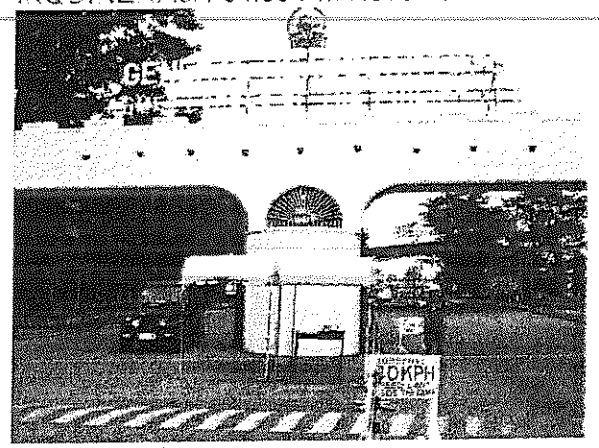

FILE PHOTO

Camp Aguinaldo, the military's main camp, will be open to private motorists during the Christmas season to ease traffic congestion along the major thoroughfares in EDSA and Katipunan.
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority General Manager Thomas Orbos announced in a news conference on Thursday that private vehicles will be allowed in Camp Aguinaldo starting next week until January 15.
The private motorists will need to apply for access cards starting next week. Details on the requirements for the application are still being finalized as of posting time.

Lt. Col. Enriquieto Deocadez, assistant chief for operations for the General Headquarters Service Support Command, said that the MMDA has requested to open the camp to motorists from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
"Sina-sacrifice natin 'yan para lang ma-ease 'yung traffic. Pero syempre we should stick to camp rules and regulations," he said when asked if opening the camp to motorists would compromise security.
Additional military police would be deployed to control the traffic situation inside the camp.
AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the Gates 1 and 6 along Boni Serrano, 3 along EDSA and 5 in Santolan would be open to private motorists.
"We would just like to appeal to the public who will avail (the passes) that they should observe proper rules and regulations inside the camp," he said. *JE*

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'Marcos burial barefaced disrespect to martial law victims'

By: Yuji Vincent Gonzales - Reporter / @YGonzalesINQ

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A "barefaced disrespect" and "insult" to martial law victims was how the Council of the Laity of the Philippines denounced the Supreme Court decision allowing the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The council said burying Marcos at the heroes' cemetery is a "great insult to the thousands of victims of atrocities committed during his reign."

"The Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas believes that the Supreme Court's decision rejecting the petitions to stop the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani is a barefaced disrespect to the victims of one of the darkest moments in the history of our people and our country in general," the council said in a statement dated Nov. 11.

"Burying him at the Heroes' Cemetery is a mocking act that will send a strong distorted message to our young people that in this country, dictators, plunderers and executioners are being rewarded," it added.

The council said Marcos' burial at the LNMB will distort truths in Philippine history, particularly the spirit of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled the dictatorship.

"The Supreme Court's decision appears to have been anchored only on the legal provisions of the Philippine Constitution but with apparent complete disregard for moral issues that go along with it. Marcos may have been a President but he ended up a dictator; he may have been a soldier but his grave abuse of power and systemic violence undermines his well flaunted valor," the statement read.

"It will not bring healing as the Marcos family and their cronies continue to deny the injustices they have committed and the victims of Martial Law are not properly restituted. There can never be peace without truth and justice," it added. *CDG/rga*

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'SC can't trivialize people's conviction of Marcos'

PEOPLE POWER TO OUST EX-PRESIDENT HIGHEST FORM OF CONVICTION, SAYS APPLICANT FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE POST

By: Tetch Torres-Tupas - Reporter / @T2TupasINQ

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Even the Supreme Court cannot trivialize former President Ferdinand Marcos' conviction by the people during the Edsa People Power 1 revolt, a Court of Appeals Associate Justice said Thursday.

Members of the Judicial and Bar Council's (JBC) asked aspirants to the Supreme Court Associate Justice post if they agree with the high court's decision which in effect allowed the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB).

Associate Justice Amy Lazaro-Javier disagreed with the majority ruling, saying she believes the highest conviction against the former dictator was done through the 1986 EDSA People Power uprising which ousted him from power after 21 years as president.

"I do not agree with the majority opinion. I think the conviction made by the people themselves is the highest court and not even the Supreme Court can trivialize that conviction," Javier said.

"It lasts forever and ever, even beyond life. He was convicted by the People Power-the highest form of conviction and no higher conviction can wash it off," she added.

Javier is one of those vying for the slot held by Arturo Brion, who is set to retire on December 29 after reaching the mandatory age of 70.

Another aspirant, lawyer Joseph San Pedro, agreed with Javier, saying the "primary issue is the historical underpinning of the 1987 Constitution."

"We came from an ouster of a dictator and to allow the dictator to be buried there is a dishonor to the people who sacrificed to have our democracy right now," San Pedro said.

Other applicants for the same SC post–Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Rueda-Acosta, Centro Escolar University law school vice dean Rita Linda Ventura-Jimeno and Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Samuel Martires–all supported the majority ruling on the controversial issue during their JBC interview Wednesday./*rga*