

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

23 November 2016

Wednesday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 23, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
LOCATED AT 985 KMS. EAST OF HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR (As of 5:00 PM - Nov.22, 2016)

| | |
|---|---|
| SUNRISE 6:01 AM | SUNSET 5:24 PM |
| MOONRISE 12:53 AM | MOONSET 1:25 PM |
| LAST QUARTER NOV 21 4:39 PM | NEW MOON NOV 29 8:18 PM |
| LOW TIDE 12:06 PM 0.06 Meter | HIGH TIDE 3:47 AM 0.79 Meter |

| NOV 21 | | NOV 23 | | NOV 24 | | NOV 25 | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| METRO MANILA | 23 - 33 °C | 23 - 31 °C | TAGAYTAY | 20 - 29 °C | 20 - 27 °C | TACLOBAN | 23 - 29 °C |
| TUGUEGARAO | 22 - 31 °C | 22 - 29 °C | LEGAZPI | 25 - 30 °C | 25 - 29 °C | CAGAYAN DE ORO | 24 - 30 °C |
| LADAG | 23 - 31 °C | 22 - 30 °C | PUERTO PRINCESA | 25 - 32 °C | 25 - 30 °C | METRO DAVAO | 24 - 32 °C |
| BAGUIO | 15 - 23 °C | 14 - 22 °C | ILOILO/BACOLOD | 25 - 30 °C | 24 - 29 °C | ZAMBOANGA | 24 - 32 °C |
| SBMA/CLARK | 23 - 33 °C | 23 - 31 °C | METRO CEBU | 24 - 29 °C | 24 - 30 °C | | |

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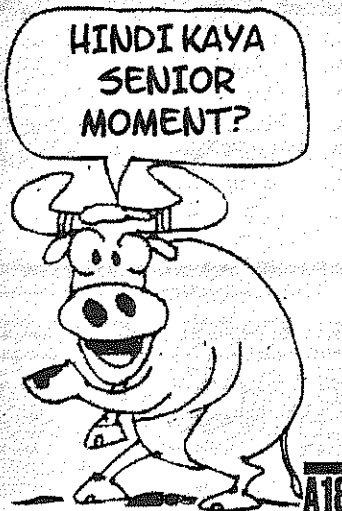
SNEAKY INTERMENT AT LIBINGAN

DU30 UNAWARE OF MARCOS' BURIAL DATE, PALACE INSISTS

Believe it or not, President Duterte did not know about the exact burial date of strongman Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani, according to Malacañang.

A Palace spokesperson said the President was on his way to Lima, Peru, to attend the Apec summit when the dictator was buried in a family-only affair arranged by the military at the heroes' cemetery in Taguig City on Nov. 18.

The stealth that attended the burial sparked massive protests in Metro Manila and in major cities around the country.



FROM A1

By Marlon Ramos
and Leila B. Salaverria
@Team_Inquirer

Despite President Duterte's access to intelligence gathered by the state, the burial of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani on Nov. 18 went under his radar.

Believe it or not, Malacañang yesterday insisted that Mr. Duterte was unaware that the late tyrant's burial was to be held a day before he left for Lima, Peru, to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

This contradicted an earlier statement of one of the President's most trusted aides, Director General Ronald de la Rosa of the Philippine National Police, that Mr. Duterte had been informed of the burial.

The assistant presidential communications secretary, Marie Banaag, said Mr. Duterte was already in transit to Lima when reports on the rushed burial came out.

"We have been so consistent about that. It has been very clear that insofar as the President is concerned, he wanted that kind of burial for the former President. But as to the exact date, we don't know because that is a family decision," Banaag said at a press briefing in Malacañang.

Funeral wreath

She dismissed insinuations that Mr. Duterte was told beforehand of the burial date as he had sent a funeral wreath extending his condolences to the Marcoses, who had supported his candidacy in the May 9 presidential election.

"We're not the ones who lost a loved one. It's not the government or this administration that lost a loved one for us to decide on everything," she said.

Banaag said the President's plate was already full with other pressing concerns for him to think about sending funeral flowers for

the deposed strongman's burial.

"Our country is beset with many problems. We are not saying that the (Marcos) burial is not an issue. What we're saying is that the President is attending to many other things," Banaag said.

"I don't really think the President still thought of sending the funeral wreath He just respects the dead and he only did what the law says," she continued.

Unaware of exact date

Before flying back home on Monday night, the President told Filipino journalists who covered his attendance at the Apec meeting that he "knew nothing" about the exact date of the Marcos burial.

Said Mr. Duterte: "In all honesty, I'm telling you: 'I knew nothing about it.' They only asked me when would be the 'appropriate time for me? I said, 'do as you wish.'"

"I didn't ask them and why would I ask? I allowed it already so what's it to me? What would I get if I had known in advance whether he would be there for the interment on that day?" he added.

Protests, Ramos

The burial sparked protests from groups and individuals, who claim that Marcos did not deserve to be entombed at Libingan as he was not a hero.

Former President Fidel Ramos also opposed the move, describing it as an "insult to veterans."

Ramos castigated the covert manner of the burial that he said was carried out with connivance among the Marcos family, military and police officials. He said the Duterte administration was "losing support, they are losing friends."

"We respect the opinion of former President Ramos but the President's position is very clear:

The Supreme Court ruled on the basis of its appreciation of the legal aspect of the case, not on whether martial law led to human rights violations or some other political issue," Banaag said.

As to whether Mr. Duterte has been losing friends because of the developments, she said she knew of no desertions.

"So far, there has been none. We know of no such development. The President will arrive and they will talk," she said.

'Big brother'

She said Ramos had been clear that while he might disagree with the President's decisions or positions on certain issues, he remained a "big brother."

Mr. Duterte credited Ramos for convincing him to run for President and appointed the former Chief Executive as a special envoy to China.

Banaag said that as long as

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Supreme Court ruling dismissing the petitions against it became final and executory.

The burial was also announced only an hour before it took place, and after Libingan was closed to the public and surrounded by state security forces.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael "Ka Paeng" Mariano said he would not resign from the Cabinet although he was against the hero's burial for Marcos.

"Before we entered the government, we were already aware of the differences we have with President Duterte on some issues. Despite our opposing stance on the Marcos burial, we continue to engage him on this matter," Mariano said in a statement on Monday, three days after Marcos was buried.

Equally important issues

A founding member of the militant farmers' group, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Mariano underscored the "equally important issues" he wanted the President to pursue.

"We accepted the post in the Duterte [administration] because we aim to find common grounds in pursuing talks for just and lasting peace including the release of political prisoners, completion of the comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms, prioritization of social services and the forging of an independent foreign policy," he said.

He noted that Mr. Duterte had already convened the long-defunct Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, resulting in decisions or considerations on "landmark cases," such as the revocation of two stock distribution option contracts, one agribusiness venture agreement contract, a two-year moratorium on land-use conversion of agricultural lands, condonation of arrears on interests of unpaid amortization by agrarian reform beneficiaries, free irrigation, return of coco levy funds to farmers and end to labor contractualization. —WITH A

REPORT FROM JAYMEET T. GAMIL

the President trusted his Cabinet secretaries, she saw no reason for them to resign even if they opposed his decision to allow Marcos burial at Libingan.

"They may not agree on various fronts, but then let it not be said this would mean resigning, because they have other programs which they would want to implement together," she said.

Leftists in Cabinet

Cabinet members who had been martial law activists have castigated the stealthy burial, but have said they would not leave the administration because they still see space for them to engage with the President on other matters.

Mr. Duterte continues to stand firm on his decision allowing Marcos to be laid to rest at the country's cemetery for heroes amid massive outrage over the stealthy burial, which was carried out before the

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

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'Leila got cash from Kerwin'

Dayan nabbed in La Union, pins down Leila

By EVA VISPERAS
and CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

URBIZTONDO, Pangasinan – After a six-hour chase over hills and across rivers, police officers sent to arrest Ronnie Dayan finally found him sitting alone and bedraggled, waiting for them under the shade of a tree in the middle of farmland before noon yesterday in San Juan, La Union.

The former driver of Sen. Leila de Lima and her alleged bagman in the illegal drug trade at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) reportedly broke down upon seeing his wife and son as well as other relatives who came to witness his arrest.

Last night at the House of Representatives, he admitted receiving an unspecified amount of money from alleged Albuera drug kingpin Kerwin Espinosa five times and personally giving it to De Lima in 2014, "before she decided to run for the Senate." But Dayan denied using or selling drugs or knowing other alleged drug traffickers.

Second district board member Raul Sison told **The STAR** the arrest was actually a surrender arranged by his son, Mayor Martin Raul Sison II, and Dayan's sister Barangay Galarin *kagawad* Tita Torreta.

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Dayan was first brought to Camp Diego Silang in Sar Fernando in preparation for his transfer to Camp Crame in Quezon City.

At Malacañang, Communications Assistant Secretary Marie Banaag said they hope the arrest of Dayan "would lead to the uncovering of truth in the proliferation of drugs in Bilibid and for the guilty to be punished."

Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa presented Dayan to members of the media at the lobby of the PNP national headquarters in Camp Crame early last night.

"He is willing to tell all during the hearing at the House," Dela Rosa said. "He was hiding in the mountains, in Sitio Bato, San Gabriel, La Union. There was a long chase that literally took our operatives to the mountain. He tried to hide in a river but there was no letup in the chase until he was cornered in San Felipe," he said in Filipino.

"He (Dayan) is going to be a friendly witness in the Congress hearing," said the PNP chief.

"We do not exert undue duress or pressure to him," he added.

Dayan was not in handcuffs when presented to media.

"He is free as a bird and we made sure he has bulletproof protection. What's important is he is safe," Dela Rosa said.

He added the PNP has yet to get the affidavit of Dayan, who will be turned over to the House of Representatives, which issued the warrant for his arrest.

"He will be accorded all his rights, including right to have counsel of (his) own choice," Dela Rosa added.

15-km chase

Chief Supt. Gregorio Pimentel, Ilocos region police director, said his men spent several sleepless nights going after Dayan. He maintained Dayan's arrest – at 11:55 a.m. – was "a product of one month and 12 days of continuous police operations."

He said the chase covered over 15 kilometers.

Dayan said he was suffering from arthritis acquired while

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in hiding, since his daily diet consisted mainly of string beans.

Dela Rosa also belied reports they were pressuring Dayan into linking Vice President Leni Robredo to the illegal drug trade.

Dayan said the last time he spoke with De Lima was shortly after the May elections. "She thanked me for my contribution to her election victory," he said, adding he posted campaign materials for her.

He refused to answer when asked if he had contributed money to De Lima's campaign.

Days before Dayan's arrest, some members of the media received text information about his supposed apprehension at Trinoma in Quezon City. It was the same information that linked Robredo to the drug trade.

Sison, meanwhile, said they made sure Dayan was safe when local police led by Chief Insp. Joshua Maximo coordinated with the provincial police led by Senior Supt. Ronald Lee in fetching Dayan.

"We have an agreement they would take full responsibility for Dayan's security so his surrender was arranged," he pointed out.

Police, he said, cornered Dayan in Sitio Turod, Barangay San Felipe, San Juan, La Union at around 11:30 a.m.

As soon as Dayan saw a police car and several other vehicles, he immediately raised his hands and removed his hat in a gesture of surrender,

Sison said.

The official said they immediately got out of their vehicles and ran toward him. "It's as if we were running after a chicken as we all ran fast toward him," he said.

"He did not resist arrest," Sison said.

He said he noticed Dayan had significantly lost weight when he tried to frisk him for weapons.

"If you press Ronnie's body, it's like cotton, he became very thin and dehydrated," he said.

"When I embraced him, in case he would be shot, the bullet would first hit me before Ronnie. I really assumed the responsibility for Ronnie," he added.

"*Kuya, wala akong baril* (Brother, I have no gun)," Sison quoted Dayan as telling him.

The House committee on justice had ordered Dayan's arrest for contempt for his failure to attend congressional hearings on the alleged drug trade at the NBP. At the center of the investigation was De Lima, for whom Dayan had reportedly acted as bagman.

De Lima admitted on national television that she and Dayan had been lovers.

Wasted

The board member said Dayan looked pale and bedraggled and was only in slippers.

"He was very unenergetic, it seems he was not eating. He has empty pocket, tired and dirty and crying upon seeing his family," Sison added.

Dayan reportedly has a brother in Bacnotan, La Union but Sison said he had been living like a recluse – possibly

State witness

Now in police custody Dayan may be tapped as state witness in the NBP drug trade probe, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said.

"Yes, it's very possible," he replied when asked if Dayan could be covered by the DOJ's witness protection program.

Aguirre explained that just like drug lord Kerwin Espinosa, Dayan would have to first spill the beans and submit a tell-all affidavit to qualify as state witness.

"It is a chance for Mr. Dayan to clear his name, so we encourage him to tell the whole truth of what he knows," he stressed.

Aguirre, however, clarified that should Dayan decide to cooperate with authorities and divulge vital information about the drug trade at the NBP, the DOJ would still have to evaluate his qualifications.

"Under the rules, he should not be the most guilty – not necessarily the least guilty among the accused or respondents – in the offense charged for him to qualify in the WPP," he stressed.

The DOJ chief said he believes Dayan could be a very vital witness in the drug cases as he could "tie up the loose ends and supply the missing

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because he wanted to spare his loved ones from unwanted public attention.

Sison said he and many others were surprised by Dayan's alleged drug links.

The official said that after being wrongly included in President Duterte's so-called drug matrix, he and his son decided to do everything to make Dayan surrender.

Also mistakenly included in the drug matrix was another Pangasinan politician, Rep. Amado Espino Jr.

He scored Dayan's relatives for claiming no knowledge of his whereabouts. "I hope with his surrender, the truth will come out," Sison said.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption earlier put up a P1-million reward, while a Pangasinan businessman also pledged P100,000 for any information that would lead to Dayan's arrest.

Dayan and De Lima used to spend weekend vacations in a big house in Galarin, Urbiztondo.

links in the cases before the DOJ."

Dayan is among the respondents in the drug trafficking charges filed with the DOJ by the National Bureau of Investigation, its former deputy directors Ruel Lasala and Reynaldo Esmeralda and the VACC against De Lima and other former officials.

He is accused of collecting millions from the inmates to fund De Lima's senatorial bid in the May 2016 elections.

Earlier, Aguirre said the admission by De Lima in a TV interview that she had an affair with Dayan could bolster the drug charges against them, as it confirmed the statement of witnesses that the driver was powerful as "common-law husband" of the then DOJ secretary.

The investigating panel of DOJ prosecutors has set the first hearing for Dec. 2 at 1 p.m.

At the House of Representatives, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said the hearings on the NBP drug trade would resume with Dayan's arrest.

"That's good news. He (Dayan) should be brought to the House committee on justice," Alvarez said, adding that Dayan – a former military man – should also be brought to his office as he was the one who issued a warrant for his arrest.

"He will have to be brought before the Speaker who issued a warrant for his arrest, and will testify before the committee on justice," the Davao del Norte congressman maintained.

This was echoed by House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas.

House Deputy Speakers Raneo Abu and Frederil Castro also hinted at reopening the probe.

"We support the call to reopen the New Bilibid Prison drug probe. The arrest of Dayan is a welcome development to solve the missing link behind the proliferation of illegal drugs inside the

NBP," Batangas Rep. Abu said.

For his part, Castro said the House committee on justice headed by Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali would have to reopen its probe, since the panel "has already closed the investigation subject to the condition that upon the arrest of Dayan...it (House probe) will reopen. Therefore the possibility is that there will be a reopening of the investigation of the NBP drug trafficking," the congressman from Capiz disclosed.

Parañaque Rep. Gus Tambunting commended the police for a job well done. "It's about time. There is warrant for his arrest issued more than a month ago. Let's just make sure to observe due process and secure his person."

Who gets the P1 M?

Meanwhile, lawyer Ferdinand Topacio said there is a need for authorities to spell out clearly if Dayan had been arrested or had surrendered so they would know to whom the P1 million would be given. Topacio was among the individuals who raised the P1-million reward money for Dayan's arrest.

"We will coordinate with the CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) and Gen. (Benjamin) Magalong (PNP deputy director for operations) to determine where the reward money will go," he told **The STAR** by phone.

Topacio represents the VACC in the drug trafficking charges against De Lima and Dayan in the DOJ.

He said that while there were conflicting reports on how Dayan finally ended up in police custody, what's important was the prospect of his finally spilling the beans on the NBP drug trade. – With Edu Punay, Delon Porcalla, Jess Diaz, Jun Elias

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'Obama optimistic Phl-US ties will improve under Trump'

By ALEXIS ROMERO

LIMA – Compliment or snide remark? Outgoing United States President Barack Obama expects a "better and stronger" relationship between Manila and Washington under his successor Donald Trump because of the businessman's similarities with President Duterte, a Cabinet official said. Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said here Monday Obama had told him that Duterte and Trump seemed to have "the same kind of

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Obama From Page 1

temperament."

"My response to him was 'well, I hope so'," Yasay told reporters.

It was not clear when Obama relayed the message to Yasay. The two, however, had opportunities to talk during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gala dinner and the traditional photo shoot of APEC leaders – events that Duterte missed reportedly because of jet lag.

Trump defied expectations and humiliated pundits and pollsters when he defeated former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton in an election that observers said was rife with unprecedented mudslinging and personal attacks.

Duterte has been labeled as

the Philippines' Trump because both of them are known for their tough talk and their fondness for political hyperbole, qualities that catapulted them to election victories.

Duterte, for instance, has assailed the US, the European Union and the United Nations for calling him out on his anti-drug war. He also slammed the Catholic Church for its supposed "hypocrisy" and asked supporters to kill those into illegal drugs.

Trump, meanwhile, did not mince words in assailing illegal immigrants, Muslims and journalists who were critical of him. He was more sober though after winning the elections and vowed to be the president of all Americans.

Yasay believes the issues surrounding the relationship be-

tween the Philippines and the US are "more fundamental than personalities involved."

"We want to convey our message to America that our relationship can be stronger if there will be a reevaluation and readjustments of our relationship where this time, dependency will not be allowed. That is more fundamental," the foreign affairs chief said.

Yasay said Obama did not have a message for Duterte, who had been hurling tirades against the American leader for supposedly interfering in the Philippines' affairs, including the crackdown on illegal drugs.

"But he (Obama) was really saying something that, to my mind, was forward looking. Perhaps he saw that our relationship has been strained only with the leaders involved. But with Trump, maybe he

is more optimistic," Yasay said.

"I think we

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have all the fundamentals that would ensure that our relationship will even be stronger," he added.

Yasay said ties between the Philippines and the US would grow stronger if certain fundamentals were "managed properly."

"It will be towards a direction (where) both countries will treat each other as sovereign equals and with mutual respect. That's basic insofar as carrying out a mutually beneficial relationship," he said.

Earlier this month, Duterte said he could get along well with Trump, whom he described as "the chosen leader of the most powerful country."

"I can always be a friend of anybody especially presidents, chief executive of another country. He does not call me out over my campaign about human rights," the Philippine leader

told reporters in an interview last Nov. 15.

Duterte is hopeful that Trump will be fair to the more than 270,000 Filipino illegal immigrants in the US.

But he said Trump's election would not make him change his pivot to China and Russia after announcing his "separation" from the US.

Still close

Despite Duterte's pivot to China and Russia, military relations between the Philippines and the US remain robust.

Senior Filipino and US officials made this known yesterday following the conduct of the yearly Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) meeting held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines' headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

– With Jaime Laude

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ABU SAYYAF KIDNAPPINGS AFTERMATH

SULU ARMY COMMANDER PROMOTED, NOT SACKED

By Cynthia D. Balana
@cynchdbINQ

The Philippine military has dismissed reports that Joint Task Force Sulu Commander Brig. Gen. Arnel de la Vega has been sacked for failing to stop the Abu Sayyaf group from its kidnapping activities despite a massive military operation in the south.

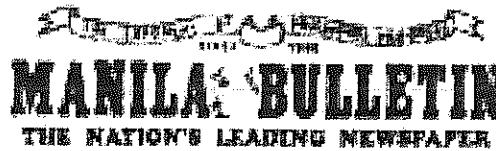
Military spokesperson Col. Edgar Arevalo said De la Vega was in fact taking the spot of Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Santiago, who retired on Monday as commandant of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines after 38 years of service.

De la Vega spent just four months as joint task force head, during which there has been an increase in Abu Sayyaf kidnappings despite a massive military build up to combat the extremist group in the south.

De la Vega was a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '85 while Santiago belonged to Class '82.

Santiago also served as the Deputy Commander of the Communications, Electronic and Information Service of the AFP. He was also the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations and Chief of Staff of the defunct National Development Support Command. INQ

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Balance Piston and our emerging new policy

JOINT Philippine-American exercises begin today for the month-long Balance Piston in Palawan, with 40 elite Filipino troopers taking part. The US and Philippine officials have agreed to forego live-fire maneuvers, Philippine Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao said. This appears to be a change resulting from President Duterte's earlier declaration that while we will respect the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the US, assault and live-fire drills will be discontinued.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Perfecto Yasay Jr. explained the change in a briefing for media last Friday. He said he had met with US Secretary of State John Kerry and the US government had agreed that joint exercises will now be redirected to cooperation in fighting terrorism, illegal drugs, and corruption, and in disaster risk management, away from combat exercises.

President Duterte, Secretary Yasay said, has assured that the Philippines will respect EDCA and other support agreements under the Mutual Defense Treaty, but the joint exercises should not be "demonstrative of preparing ourselves for any eventual attack from aggressors, particularly China."

Yasay said the Mutual Defense Treaty was executed in 1951 at a time when it was feared that if Korea fell to the Communists, the other countries

in the region – Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and the Philippines would be next, like falling dominoes. Well, the domino theory has not materialized, he said. In Southeast Asia today, there is instead a strong Association of Southeast Asian Nations, rather than a Communist hegemony as feared.

"So we have told the United States that maybe we should tone down and not focus on joint military exercises," Secretary Yasay said. Instead the focus should be on fighting new threats like terrorism, drugs, and natural disasters.

In recent months, President's statements in relation to the US have been described as controversial and subjected to clarifications, interpretations, and justifications, with one cabinet member even urging that they be considered with creative imagination. They have been seen as generally negative, while tending to favor closer ties with China as well as with Russia.

What is now developing is a new Philippine foreign policy. It is not a rejection of our close traditional ties with the US, only a modification that includes closer ties with other nations, particularly our giant neighbor to the northwest, China. We have issues with China, particularly our overlapping claims in the South China Sea, but President Duterte believes these can best be settled under his new, more independent foreign policy. The new focus of Balance Piston is in line with this emerging new policy.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Marine battalion sent to Central Mindanao

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Marine Battalion Landing Team 2 is set to be sent off today to Central Mindanao to help fight various security threats, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters which is blamed for bombings and other atrocities in the region.

Marines spokesman Capt. Victor Donque said the newly-retrained and refurbished battalion, which will come from Sangley Point in Cavite City, is replacing the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 based in Sultan Kudarat.

"The Philippine Marine Corps will be deploying another battalion in Central Mindanao to boost the AFP's quest in winning peace against the lawless elements and other secessionist groups in Sultan Kudarat province," said Donque.

"This will be in consonance with the rotation policy of the

corps and to give opportunity to another Marine battalion for re-training and refurbishing at Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Taguig City," added Donque.

The re-training and refurbishing of a battalion, which is about 500 men, usually lasts for six months.

Meanwhile, a soldier was critically wounded in a firefight with suspected members of the BIFF in Barangay Dado, Datu Piang town in Maguindanao yesterday morning.

Col. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Army's 601st Brigade, said the firefight broke out around 9:30 a.m. while troops from the 5th Special Forces Battalion were on combat operation.

Sobejana said military aircraft were dispatched to provide air cover for the engaged troops during the firefight.

He named the wounded soldier only as S/Sgt. Olimpo.

B

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HUNT FOR MAYOR

SOLDIER, 4 OTHERS DEAD IN MAGUINDANAO CLASH

COTABATO CITY—Four armed men, said to be part of a group coddling fugitive Mayor Montasir Sabal of Talitay town in Maguindanao province, and a soldier were killed in a clash near Liguasan Marsh on Monday, military reports said.

The clash came as authorities continued to pursue Sabal, who had eluded a joint police and military operation on Friday.

Two helicopter gunships and 10 armored personnel carriers were used to support some 300 soldiers and policemen sent to arrest the mayor.

President Duterte had named Sabal and his brother, Abdulwahab, as among Maguindanao's "narcopoliticians."

Abdulwahab was earlier arrested on charges of illegal possession of firearms.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (6th ID), said S/Sgt. Giovanni Olimpo was manning a machine gun mounted on a hovercraft in the marshland of Maguindanao when he was hit by a bullet.

"He died serving his country, helping the government

carry on its antinarcotics campaign," Galvez said of Olimpo.

Officials of Talitay town confirmed a military report that four gunmen were also killed in the clash.

Abu Misri Mama, speaking for the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, said it was his group that clashed with the soldiers in the boundary of Talitay and Datu Anggal Midtimbang towns on Monday.

Mama said one of their members was killed in the clash.

Col. Markton Abo, 6th ID spokesperson, said the military and the police continue to pursue Sabal and his armed followers.

In an earlier interview, Abo said the firing of rockets during the operation to arrest Sabal was part of a clearing maneuver and was meant to ensure the safety of government troops.

Mayor Sabal was not in his house when government troops came. He has been in hiding since authorities first tried to arrest him in Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat province in August. —EDWIN FER-

NANDEZ INQ INQ

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5 killed in Maguindanao clash

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – Five persons were killed, including an Army soldier, in an encounter between government security forces and a group of armed men believed coddling the followers of Talitay town Mayor Muntassir Sabal who is wanted for drugs.

S/Sgt. Giovanni Olimpo was killed as he was firing a machine gun toward the enemy line.

Olimpo was among a team of Army soldiers out to verify the existence of a makeshift shabu laboratory in the municipality.

"He died serving his country, helping the government fight drugs," Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said.

Village officials said four

gunmen – identified as Kamir, Bitol, Ubaida and Omar – were killed in the firefight.

The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) announced its guerrillas were responsible for the death of Olimpo.

Town officials denied claims by the BIFF that three military boats with soldiers on board were destroyed in the firefight.

Sources said the BIFF is coddling the followers of Sabal, whose residence was raided for shabu and firearms last Friday.

Sabal and his vice mayor brother Abdulwahab were tagged as "narco-politicians" by President Duterte.

Abdulwahab has been detained since October for alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade.

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PNP, AFP sign MOA to strengthen anti-illegal drugs campaign in Caraga

BUTUAN CITY – The Philippine National Police (PNP) signed late Monday afternoon a memorandum of agreement with top commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to intensify the government's anti-illegal drug campaign.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed at Camp Rafael C. Rodriguez here by the top officials of the Northeastern Mindanao

in the country.

These two top PNP and AFP officials also said the objective of the joint cooperation agreement was the total eradication of the dangerous drugs.

Aside of joint operations, the two commanders also agreed to have exchange of information gathered from the field in relation to illegal drug activity.

Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13), led by Regional Director Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, and field unit commanders of the AFP's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID), led by Major General Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr.

Felix and Madrigal said the MOA showed that the government was serious in eradicating illegal drugs

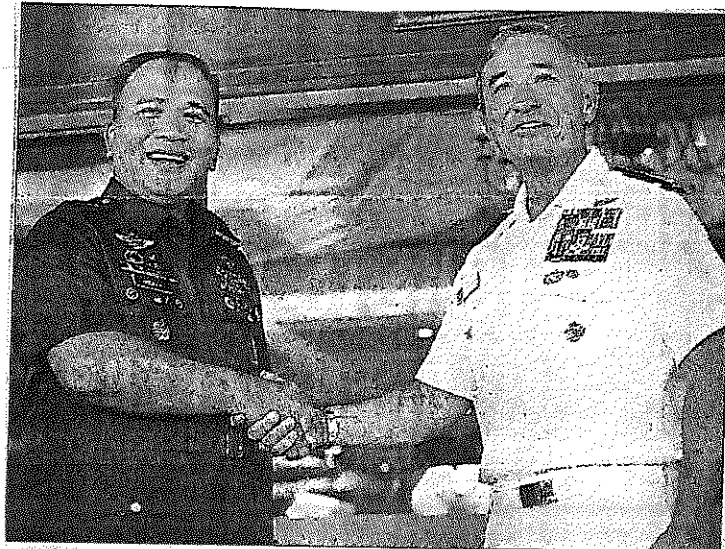
These police and Army commanders are also teaming up to educate public school students on the bad effects of drugs.

"Itong agreement na ito ay mag-papalakas pa ng ating kampanya laban sa droga at kailangan din naming ang kooperasyon ng ating mamayan," Chief Supt. Felix told newsmen, after the MOA signing. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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Armed Forces chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya and US Pacific Command chief Admiral Harry Harris shake hands after the Philippine-US Mutual Defense Board meeting at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. AFP

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GERMAN HOSTAGE PLEADS FOR HELP

By Julie S. Alipala
@jalipalaINQ

PAGADIAN CITY—Abu Sayyaf bandits on Tuesday briefly circulated a video online, showing German hostage Juergen Kantner pleading for help.

In the video, which circulated briefly on Facebook, Kantner pleaded with the Philippine and German governments to help raise his ransom.

The voice of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Muammar Askali, also known as Abu Rami, could be heard in the background, ordering Kantner to speak.

"I need your help," Kantner said. "From the Philippine government and German government to bring P500,000."

P5-M ransom

But the bandits quickly corrected him, saying the ransom was P5 million.

Askali also asked the captive to write his name and address, saying, "We will give him a chance to contact his family, but we observed he is not giving us the correct details."

He said Kantner earlier claimed he was Kantner Jurgen, who worked in Heizung Gaver.

"He said he was never kidnapped, and that he was not the person kidnapped in Somalia in 2008," Askali said, referring to an earlier report by Agence France-Presse that said Kantner was kidnapped by Somali pirates in 2008.

"We hate lying. If we found this German citizen lying to us, we will not have second thoughts about hurting him. We

Abu Sayyaf bandits on Tuesday briefly circulated on Facebook a video showing German hostage Juergen Kantner pleading for help. Kantner asked the Philippine and German governments to help raise P5 million for his ransom. The bandits said they would later announce the deadline for the delivery of the ransom payment. They warned the German government that Islam allowed them to kill Kantner.

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monitor online news," warned.

Message for German gov't

Addressing the German government, Askali said: "We hold your citizen captive and it is permitted in Islam to take his blood and life."

The Abu Sayyaf said it would call local and foreign news organizations to announce the deadline for the ransom.

Kantner and his wife, Sabine Merz, were abducted on Nov. 5, when the Abu Sayyaf chanced upon them onboard their yacht, cruising the waters of Tanjong Luuk Pisuk in Sabah.

Askali earlier claimed they killed Merz when she tried to shoot them when they reached the waters of Tawi-Tawi.

On Nov. 6, villagers reported finding the body of a woman lying beside a shotgun on board a light blue yacht with the German flag off Laparan Island in Sulu, said Maj. Filemon Tan Jr. spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command.

Tan said the body had gunshot wounds and bruises.

He said the passports of Kantner and Merz were found on the yacht. The picture in Merz's passport appeared to match the dead woman, he said. INQ

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The Manila Times

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DESPITE MARCOS' BURIAL

Labor secretary: Peace talks stay

BY LLANESCA T. PANTI

PEACE talks between the Duterte Administration and the National Democratic Front/Communist Party of the Philippines/New Peoples Army (NDF/CPP/NPA) will not be derailed by the hero's burial for former President Ferdinand Marcos, government chief negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd said on Tuesday.

Bello noted that while the NDF is opposed to the recently concluded hero's burial for Marcos, the release of political prisoners including couple Benito and Wilma Tiamzon is enough to build confidence between the two parties.

"The release of the political prisoners showed the sincerity of the President. For the first time in history, the NDF is willing to agree to a ceasefire. In the past, they would never even discuss ceasefire because to them, it is as good as capitulation," he pointed out.

"The President showed sincerity and immediately expressed willingness to talk to them, so those are

indeed confidence-building [initiatives]. I don't think the burial of a strongman is enough to affect the peace process. It is of little significance," Bello said.

The NDF/CPP/NPA as well as President Duterte's Makabayan bloc allies from Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Anakpawis and Kabataan party-list that support the peace process with communist rebels are opposed to the hero's burial, citing Marcos' martial law regime that left at least 75,000 victims of torture and extrajudicial killings, on top of ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses estimated at \$10 billion.

"This should not affect their long association. It is normal that they [from the communist side and their allies] would express their indignation, especially among the victims of human rights violations and enforced disappearances. We expected them to be emotional, but this should not distract us from the peace negotiation. We have a more noble and significant mandate for our country, a just and lasting peace," Bello said.

"We can't block the flow of the peace process because of an incident like this which has been decided by the Supreme Court. Yes, the President said he is in favor of it, but the Supreme Court has decided and we have to follow it. The Supreme Court is supreme in the interpretation of the law, in the same vein that the President is supreme in the implementation of the law," he added.

Bello was referring to the Supreme Court decision junking the petitions against the hero's burial for Marcos via a 9 to 5 vote.

He admitted that both parties are unlikely to sign a permanent ceasefire pact by the initial deadline

of December 10 because the parties are yet to agree on conditions that constitute a hostile act.

"We are yet to come up with conditions on what can be considered a hostile act. There are a lot of ramifications... like, for example, is their [communist rebels'] collection of the revolutionary tax a hostile act? *Madugo 'yan* [It's bloody]," he said.

"We really wanted to have a consensus on a ceasefire by December 10, which is also International Human Rights Day, but we are not sure if we can beat that deadline. Still, we are not giving up on signing a joint and permanent ceasefire agreement that would lead to cessation of hostilities," Bello added.

He allayed fears that the military is not happy about the government's engagement with the communist rebels.

Bello said there are members of the military who are even part of various government negotiating panels on implementing human rights and international humanitarian law and ceasefire monitoring, among others.

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SC defers petition to exhume Marcos

THE Supreme Court (SC) has deferred action on the petition seeking the exhumation of the remains of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

During the deliberations of the SC en banc, the justices decided to postpone action on the case because the ponente, Justice Diosdado Peralta, was on leave.

The tribunal will tackle the petition next week.

On Monday, separate petitions were filed before the SC en banc by martial law activists who asked the high court to cite in contempt the Marcos family and some military officials for the unannounced interment of Marcos.

Many people were caught by surprise on Friday when the remains of Marcos was flown from Ilocos Norte to the heroes' cemetery.

The petitioners asked the court to order the detention of Marcos' heirs and military officials involved "until they have satisfactorily cleansed themselves of the contemptuous act or until such further orders of the Court."

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said Marcos' remains should be exhumed because the decision of the high court allowing the burial of the former leader at the heroes' cemetery is not yet final and executory.

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Marcoses' restricting access 'injustice'

THE family of late former President Ferdinand Marcos is perpetuating injustice by subjecting access to the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LMNB)—a public property—to their whims, a lawmaker said on Tuesday.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, whose brother Hermon was abducted during Marcos' martial law regime and was never found again, was referring to the existing policy wherein the families of those buried at the LMNB or Heroes' Cemetery were barred by the military guards from entering it.

Marcos loyalists, on the other hand, were allowed to go inside since the former leader was buried there in a rush on Friday noon last November 18. It was later revealed that the military guards have to seek clearance from the Marcoses on who should enter the Hero's Cemetery.

"Is the Libingan now under the management of the Marcos family? The fact that you need to seek permission from the Marcos family before you can go inside the Libingan ng mga Bayani premises shows to us that they are continuing injustice," Lagman said in a news conference.

Marcos is survived by his wife and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos, daughters Imee and Irene and son Ferdinand Jr.

"Why are they barring the non-supporters [of Marcos] from entering the Libingan ng mga Bayani? The late

dictator is a prisoner in an undeserved grave," Lagman said.

Deputy Speaker and Rep. Frednil Castro of Capiz, a member of the National Unity Party, shared Lagman's sentiments.

"I don't think this is right. Restriction is not necessary because the LMNB is a public place. What should be done is to protect the place from being desecrated," Castro said in a chance interview.

Sectors that are against the Marcos burial have argued that the ex-leader does not deserve to be buried there because his martial law regime left at least 75,000 victims of torture and extrajudicial killings.

"There should be no restrictions. If the kin of those who are buried there want to visit their dead, they should be free to do so. When they decided to bury President Marcos there, they allowed [burying him] in a public property. The military does not need to ask permission from the Marcos family," Castro said.

The LMNB, which is under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was established in May 1947 as a final resting place for soldiers who perished in World War 2 and was later extended to accommodate departed Philippine Presidents, national heroes, patriots, National Artists and National Scientists.

LLANESCA T. PANTI

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The Manila Times

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100 POLICEMEN SECURE LIBINGAN

THE Southern Police District (SPD) on Tuesday said it has deployed a company of civil disturbance management (CDM) policemen to secure the perimeter of the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB or Heroes' Cemetery) where former President Ferdinand Marcos was laid to rest last Friday.

"At any one time, we have a company of CDM personnel that are deployed to secure the LNMB. We have regular security force deployed there," SPD director and Senior Supt. Tomas Apolinario Jr. told a press briefing at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Apolinario said they have no time frame on how long the CDM numbering 100 policemen will be securing the LNMB.

He added that the policemen are posted at the cemetery from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and expressed hope

that there would not be any violent rally to happen at the LNMB.

The police official said most of those who are visiting the cemetery are supporters of the former president.

Meanwhile, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) said majority of his fellow alumni at the premiere school support the ruling of the Supreme Court dismissing petitions filed against the burial of the former president at the Libingan.

Rodolfo Mendoza was an intelligence officer when he retired from the Philippine National Police in 2008.

Mendoza said the Roman Catholic Church is "slightly" divided on the issue of Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

ANTHONY VARGAS

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Abu Sayyaf attacks Japanese cargo ship in Sulu Sea

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits attacked a Japanese cargo ship in the Sulu Sea near Tawi-Tawi province, belated reports on Tuesday said.

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

According to the regional piracy watchdog ReCAAP, the ship's crew took anti-piracy measures and successfully prevented boarding by the perpetrators.

It also said that since March this year, there have been 11 incidents

(ReCAAP) reported that the bulk carrier Kumiai Shagang thwarted the November 20 attack and continued its voyage from Port Hedland in Australia to Qingdao in China.

The Sulu Sea in the southwestern area of the Philippines is

in the area and most of these were claimed by the Abu Sayyaf.

At least 44 crew have been abducted this year off Sabah in Malaysia and the Abu Sayyaf is still holding over a dozen kidnapped Malaysian, Indonesian

separated from the South China Sea in the northwest by Palawan and from the Celebes Sea in the southeast by the Sulu Archipelago.

The cargo ship is owned by Southern Pacific Holding and managed by Kumiai Senpaku.

and Vietnamese sailors, including a German boater Jurgen Kantner.

There was no immediate statement from the military's Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City as to the reported recent attack.

AL JACINTO

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Armed Forces building up its cyberspace capabilities

By Mario J. Mallari

Amid the increasing "war" in the cyberspace through hacking activities and other cybercrimes, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is now building up its capabilities to address digital threats.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said the military is aiming for technology advancement, through the AFP Signal Corps, to improve its combat power.

"The AFP Signal Corps has significantly contributed to bolster the AFP's cyber workforce which has been our first line of defense against the growing number of digital threats," Visaya said.

"With the rapid technological advancements, the AFP shall take advance steps towards information superiority which shall greatly increase our combat power," Visaya added.

The military acknowledged Internet as the new domain in military warfare.

Sources said "war" is actually ongoing between East and the West in the cyber space where attacks on both sides happened 24/7.

"That can be easily monitored -- you can view real time hacking and other cyberattack activities between and among countries," an informed military officer said.

"We really have to improve our capabilities on information technology to address these threats," he added.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP-Public Affairs Office chief, said the AFP is building up its cyberspace capabilities following its adoption of the Internet as a new domain in military warfare.

"It is high time for the AFP to build up its cyberspace capability as we are in the midst of rapidly evolving technologies," Arevalo said.

"Our operations greatly rely on a secure and reliable cyberspace that protects fundamental freedoms, privacy and the continuous flow of information," he added.

The move to beef up the AFP's presence in the virtual world was highlighted during the celebration of the 81st AFP Signal Corps Anniversary from November 12 to 23.

Various activities such as the AFP Signal Family Conference, Cybersecurity Awareness Seminar and Technology Day Display were lined up to celebrate the significant milestones of the corps.

The AFP Signal Corps maintains the main communication backbone of the AFP -- the AFP Fixed Communication System. It has been providing the AFP's echelons of command and control with voice and data services for the past 60 years.

The AFP Signal Corps also plays a key role in delivering crucial information services during and in the aftermath of disasters as well as in national events such as the recent Asean Summit.

"On its 81st anniversary, the AFP Signal Corps shall continue to pursue the AFP Joint Command and Control Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (C4ISTAR) Project. This aims to upgrade the current capability of the organization to establish a network-centric enabled AFP," said Maj. Gen. Jose Tanjuan Jr., AFP deputy chief of staff for communications, electronics and information systems.

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Ramos split with Duterte widens

President Duterte returned from the Asia-Pacific Cooperation (Apec) Summit in Lima, Peru, sailing into a storm of protests sparked by the reburial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the cemetery for heroes with full military honors, which he allowed.

The reburial has ignited the worst political unrest the Duterte administration has faced since it took office last June. It has reopened festering wounds from the abuses of the Marcos tyranny, and plunged the country into a turmoil that threatens to unseat President Duterte who has barely completed its first six months.

It is unfortunate that the protests were triggered by the Marcos family's devious attempts to rehabilitate the dictator from national disgrace, among them, the reburial of his remains in the cemetery for heroes, with the complicity of the Duterte administration.

The controversy has blown up into a crisis of confidence for the administration as former president Fidel Ramos joined the groundswell of popular outrage over the sneaky and secretive reburial of Marcos. Last Monday, as the President flew in from the Apec forum, Ramos unleashed a devastating criticism of the reburial, warning Mr. Duterte and his administration that because of the "sneaky" burial, they were "losing support," and "losing friends." It also signaled the widening gap between Mr. Duterte and Ramos who had resigned his assignment as special envoy to China to as-

COMMENTARY

AMANDO DORONILA

sist Duterte's so-called "nationalist independent foreign policy."

The President has declared the Philippines' "separation" from the United States, tilting it toward an alignment with China and Russia.

Ramos denounced the Marcos reburial as "an insult to veterans" and a trivialization of the sacrifices of uniformed men. "Why did the sneaky burial happen without you knowing too much about it? Ramos asked in a media briefing. "Because there was advance planning, call it connivance, led by the Marcos family, together with some local police and Armed Forces of the Philippines officials."

In his warning, Ramos also criticized Marcos' daughter Imee, for telling him that he himself apologize for the martial law atrocities because he was the chief of the Philippine Constabulary then. Ramos said he had atoned for his shortfalls by leading the EDSA People Power that toppled the Marcos regime. "I hope you people remember your history. My apology was more than an apology," Ramos said, recalling that he risked his life in breaking away from Marcos in 1986, "in the Christian tradition you confess and then you atone."

He also rejected Imee's claim that she and her siblings were still young during the martial law years, noting she was one year older than his eldest daughter who was 18 at

the time, and was national president of Kabataang Barangay during martial law.

Asked what should be done now, Ramos said, "The ball is now with the Supreme Court." Relatives of martial law victims are taking to the streets in protest of the burial and have petitioned the Court for the exhumation of Marcos' body. They claim that they were not given enough time to appeal the Court's ruling upholding Mr. Duterte's decision to authorize the burial.

With these developments, a new round of buck-passing has begun. The ball is in the hands of Mr. Duterte who is now in the horns of a treacherous dilemma. He asked the nation to bear with his decision. He said that while "there was really a wound in the country, but for those who cannot really forgive, that's the hard part. You just have to live with your grief, and that grief is hate. That is the problem." He pointed out that there are "only two legal criteria for one to qualify for a Libingan burial and Marcos fits in both—as soldier and/or president."

To the question of whether Marcos was a hero, he replied that this was a case of "a word against their word." With these, Mr. Duterte put the case for judgment by the unruly street protesters.

Let Mr. Duterte, and his top officials as well, be warned of the unforgiving wrath of a people who feel betrayed by their leaders.

Amando Doronila was a regular columnist of the Inquirer from 1994 to May 2016.

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PAGBABAGO

Framing news stories on GPH-CPP-NPA-NDF peace process



By **DR. FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID**

UNTIL recently, there has been little media coverage on the CPP-NPA-NDF and much less on the peace process with the Philippine government which was revived after President Duterte took office.

This 46-year-old communist rebellion, although much weaker than it used to be, is currently the oldest continuing rebellion in Asia. Founded by Jose Maria Sison, the party organized its military wing, the NPA, in 1969 and its political arm, the NDF, in 1973. The latter is a coalition of extreme left-leaning political parties, trade unions, and political activists to bolster its fight for social justice. The NPA armed struggle reached its height in the 1980s.

On December 6, the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), together with the Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NORCEF) which commissioned the study, "Political Economy and the Framing of News Stories on the GPH-CPP-NPA-NDF Peace Process", will convene a forum which will present the study to participants from government agencies involved in the peace process, professional media organizations, broadcast and print media networks, alternative media, NGOs, the academe and the international community. Among the speakers are NOW and AIJC Chair Mel Velarde, Marco Mezzer, Senior Adviser, NORCEF, Director Patnei Ruivivar of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on

the Peace Process, Dr. Crispin Maslog, senior author, Rappler CEO, Maria Ressa, Melinda Q de Jesus, Executive Director, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, Ariel Sabellino, Exec. Director, Philippine Press Institute, Raymund Villanueva, Director for Radio, Kodao Productions, Rey Hulog, Exec. Director, Kapisanan ng Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, and AIJC President, Ramon Tuazon, and this writer.

The study was conducted before the recent peace negotiation was revived. Thus, these observations on the framing of news stories cover the years before 2016:

1. The peace process between the GPH-CPP-NPA-NDF is "invisible" with nothing going on or worth reporting. As a result, there has been little media coverage. The last administration had focused much of its attention on negotiations with the MILF.

2. The peace process as a news story did not seem to resonate with the public. Even the reporting on the Mindanao peace process did not appear interesting enough to audiences outside Mindanao.

3. Generally, peace stories are not popular with most audiences. Regular monitoring shows that ratings of public affairs programs usually drop when the peace process is featured as a central issue.

4. Much of media coverage of the GPH-CPP-NPA-NDF peace process is lacking in context. The stories are treated as issues that are no different from ordinary street crimes.

5. Information primarily comes from the military which is understandably biased against the rebels. The CPP is presented as intent on causing terrorism, inflicting harm on people, and destabilizing the government.

6. Reports on the peace process primarily rely on press releases from government and the military. Mindanao journalists appear to be more cautious when reporting about the peace process.

7. Conflict has significant news value. Thus, mainstream media highlight conflict instead of peace. This explains the focus on clashes, ambushes, and other forms of violence.

8. Journalists are expected to comply with their respective daily quotas. Thus, the absence of more in-depth reporting.

Most news agencies do not have regular reporters for the peace beat. The latter also report for the defense, the presidential, or the police beat. Most reporters do not have the experience needed to craft news reports with adequate context.

9. Mindanao journalists complain of a Manila desk bias which is reflected in their description of the entire Mindanao region as a "war zone".

The study makes these recommendations:

1. Jumpstart the GPH-CPP-NPA-NDF peace process

2. Stir up public opinion on need to resume the peace process

3. Upgrade the quality and number of stories on the peace process

4. Hire more full-time reporters on the peace process; and

5. Create a Center for Peace Studies and

Peace Journalism

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Something fishy

THE Palace said this week that President Duterte will soon issue an executive order making a portion of Scarborough Shoal a "marine sanctuary and no-fishing zone"—giving the illusion that he can do with mere words what the Chinese Coast Guard have been enforcing with their ships—keep people out of the disputed lagoon.

In announcing the move, a spokesman for the President said that at their recent meeting in Lima, Peru, Chinese President Xi Jinping appeared receptive to Duterte's idea of turning the shoal into a sanctuary, which would

peasing an occupying foreign force—which is how we must view the Chinese ships, if we truly believe that Scarborough Shoal is ours.

When President Duterte returned from his state visit to China in October, much ado was made over the fact that Filipino fishermen were able to return to their traditional fishing grounds in the Scarborough Shoal without being harassed by Chinese ships. Those ships remained, however, much as they have since China seized the Scarborough Shoal in 2012 and deployed navy and coast guard vessels to prevent Filipino fishermen from working in the rich fishing grounds nearby.

Not a single word in President Duterte's upcoming executive order will change the fact that Chinese ships con-

effectively ban all fishing inside the shoal but not around it.

"We will mobilize government forces to promote our agreements, step up guidance to create a favorable environment," the spokesman said, giving the impression that Manila had the wherewithal to enforce anything in the disputed shoal.

But Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez's statement that the changes would be "unilateral" for the time being suggested there was no Chinese buy-in to the President's plan.

Moreover, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon said turning the shoal into a sanctuary would help diffuse the country's territorial dispute with China, suggesting that President Duterte's declaration was aimed at ap-

tinuing to exercise physical control of the shoal that we claim as our own, or that Filipino fishermen have been allowed to re-enter the area only upon the behest of a friendly government in Beijing. This was reinforced by Xi himself, when he was quoted as promising Duterte that Filipino fishermen would continue to have access to the disputed shoal.

In the realpolitik governing the South China Sea, the President's executive order would be laughable—were it not also a brazen attempt to fool the public into believing that Mr. Duterte had the power to exercise sovereignty over the Scarborough Shoal. The sad fact, however, is that the only people who would obey Mr. Duterte's executive order are Filipino fishermen, whose interests he had promised to protect.

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SC to continue deliberation on Marcos burial petitions next Tuesday

By: Tetch Torres-Tupas - Reporter / @T2TupasINQ
INQUIRER.net / 04:38 PM November 22, 2016

The Supreme Court's deliberation on the motion that sought the exhumation of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) and a petition to cite the late dictator's heirs and the military in contempt will continue next week.

High Court's Public Information Chief Atty. Theodore Te said the urgent motion for exhumation filed by Albay Representative Edcel Lagman and the petition filed by Bayan Muna Representative Satur Ocampo to cite the Marcos heirs and the military in contempt of court were deliberated on Tuesday.

However, he said the high court has decided to continue with its deliberation next Tuesday en banc.

"The Court took it up but decided to take it up again next week," Te said in a press conference.

An insider also said that Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, the author of the November 8 decision dismissing consolidated petitions against the interment of Marcos' remains at the LNMB went on wellness leave.

Both Lagman and Ocampo's petitions said that the Marcos burial at the LNMB even if the Supreme Court decision was not yet final is a sign of disrespect not only to the petitioners but to the high court as well.

In dismissing the consolidated petitions with a vote of 9-5, the high court said President Rodrigo Duterte did not abuse his discretion in allowing the interment of Marcos at the LNMB.

It noted that pursuant to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Regulation, Marcos is qualified being a former president, commander-in-chief, retired soldier, war veteran, former defense secretary, legislator and recipient of the Medal of Valor, the highest honors bestowed by the Philippine military. *RAM/rga*

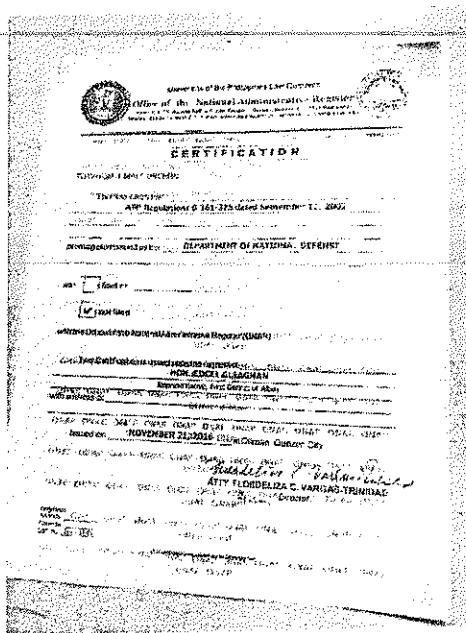
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'AFP regulation paving for Marcos' hero's burial has no effect'

By: Marc Jayson Cayabyab - Reporter / @MJcayabyabINQ
INQUIRER.net 02:25 PM November 22, 2016



Certification from the Office of the National Registrar shows that the AFP regulation allowing Marcos' hero's burial was not registered, and therefore not in effect. Photo by Marc Jayson Cayabyab

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) regulation allowing the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani was not in effect because it was not registered.

This was the claim of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, the petitioner in the Marcos' burial, in a press conference at the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Lagman said he was curious if the AFP Regulations G 161-1375 was not registered in the first place with the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines Law Complex.

It turns out the AFP regulation dated Sept. 11, 2002, that allowed Marcos to be buried at the military-run hero's cemetery as a former president and soldier, was not even legally effective because it was not registered, Lagman said.

Lagman held up a certification which said that the AFP regulation was not filed with the ONAR. The certification was signed by Atty. Flordeliza Vargas-Trinidad and issued upon Lagman's request.

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The non-registration of the law also violates the Administrative Code of 1987, which requires every agency to file with the UP Law Center three certified copies of every rule it adopts, Lagman said.

The Code also states that each rule can only be effective upon 15 days from the date of filing.

~~Lagman said that prevailing jurisprudence has ruled that non-registration would rule out the efficacy of any rule,~~
and therefore, there exists no AFP regulation that qualifies Marcos to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"If this was not filed provided under the Administrative Code, then it has no effect, it cannot be used as a rule or issuance to justify the entitlement of Marcos to be interred in the Libingan ng mga Bayani," Lagman said.

"The prevailing jurisprudence is if you don't register, the rule has no efficacy," he added.

In voting 9-5 allowing a hero's burial to Marcos, the Supreme Court said there is no law prohibiting Marcos' burial at the hero's cemetery, and that Marcos was qualified to have a hero's burial according to the said AFP regulation.

The regulations state that among those qualified to be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani are Medal of Valor awardees, presidents or commanders-in-chief, ministers or secretaries of national defense, general/flag officers of the AFP, government dignitaries, statesmen, national artists, and others upon approval by the president or the Batasan Pambansa, among others.

Meanwhile, those not allowed were those who were dishonorably separated, reverted, or discharged from the service and otherwise qualified personnel who had been convicted by final judgment of an offense involving moral turpitude.

But the Supreme Court said Marcos was not convicted by final judgment of the offense involving moral turpitude nor dishonorably separated/reverted/discharged from active military service.

The high court said the fall of the Marcos dictatorship due to a People Power uprising was not tantamount to Marcos' dishonorable separation, reversion or discharge from the military service.

Marcos' remains were sneaked in the Libingan ng mga Bayani on Friday for the secret burial, amid mounting protests. *IDL/rga*

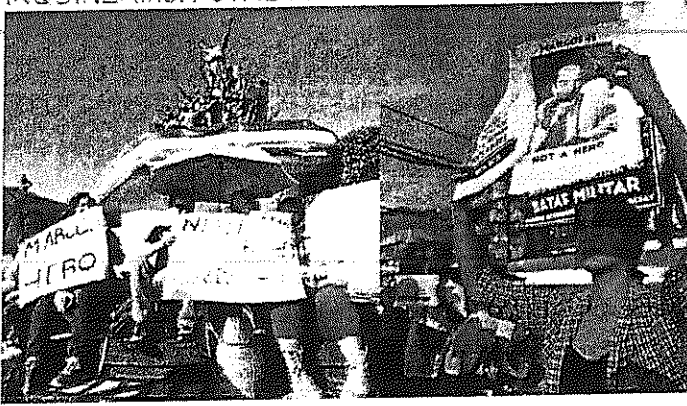
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Pinoys urged to join 'Black Friday' protest vs Marcos burial

By: Yuji Vincent Gonzales - Reporter / @YGonzalesINQ
INQUIRER.net / 01:42 PM November 22, 2016



PROTEST SCENES Concerned citizens (left photo) who are outraged by Friday's burial of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani continue their protest on Sunday at the Edsa People Power Monument. In Legazpi City, millennials (right photo) take to the streets to condemn the surprise interment. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE, GEORGE GIO BRONDIAL

Militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) on Tuesday called on Filipinos from all walks of life to "go all out" for Nov. 25 and join nationwide protests against the stealthy burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Saying that the "fight against Marcos is not over," Bayan chairperson Carol Araullo urged Filipinos to gather at Rizal Park in Manila for the #BlackFriday protest "in a demonstration of defiance and collective indignation directed at the Marcos family, the Supreme Court and President Rodrigo Duterte who enabled the hero's burial."

"To have the dictator Marcos given military honors and buried in the LNMB gives this generation a portent of the return of the Marcoses to Malacañang. Indeed it is the next step in the continuing efforts [to] rehabilitate the dictator and restore the Marcoses to the highest seat of power," Araullo said in a statement.

"There is no moving on. We demand justice for all victims of fascism and the rotten social system of political accommodation and bureaucrat capitalism. This is the Filipino people's fight now. Let us raise our voice and make our stand—Marcos is a thief, a fascist and dictator. Marcos is no hero," Araullo added.

The Luneta protest is set at 4 p.m. on Nov. 25. The protest will coincide with Duterte's arrival from Peru.

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Marcos' secrecy-shrouded burial at the heroes' cemetery last Friday took the nation by surprise and sparked protests in different parts of the country. The burial, marked by full military honors including a 21-gun salute, came almost 30 years after Marcos was ousted in the historic and military-backed EDSA People Power Revolution.

In Manila, protesters led by millennials and students took their protests to the EDSA shrine, site of the peaceful 1986 revolt.

Bayan urged the public to continue airing their opposition to Marcos' interment at the LNMB and to continue "the fight against the revision of history and the return of the Marcoses."

"Let us hold public discussion, mass meetings, teach-ins, and other assemblies. Let us come out with statements, social media posts and other forms of expression. We shall not let this gross insult and historical distortion pass unchallenged. Let us continue the fight to uphold the judgement of history and fight for true justice and democracy," the group added. *RAM/rga*

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PARTNERS | Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board

Arvin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) met today, November 22, 2016 at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

According to AFP Spokesperson BGen Restituto Padilla, in a Joint Statement immediately released by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US Pacific Command after the engagement, the successful completion of the MDB-SEB ensures continued robust relations between the United States and the Philippine militaries.

This highlights the enduring commitment of both countries to the US-Phil alliance.



Both countries look forward to continued close cooperation in areas central to both countries national and security interests including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, counter-terrorism, cyber-security, and maritime security.

The board was jointly presided by co-chairs General Ricardo R. Visaya, Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. They were joined and supported by various standing committees and participating agencies of both governments." **ALS / AES / MCAG**

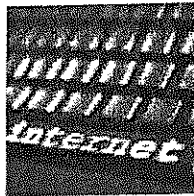
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NEW DOMAIN | AFP builds up Cyberspace Capability

Arvin Santiago



CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is building up its Cyberspace capabilities following its adoption of the Internet as a new domain in military warfare.

According to AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard A Arevalo said, "It is high time for the AFP to build up its cyberspace capability as we are in the midst of rapidly evolving technologies. Our operations greatly rely on a secure and reliable cyberspace that protects fundamental freedoms, privacy, and the continuous flow of information."

The move to beef up the AFP's presence in the virtual world was highlighted during the celebration of the 81st AFP Signal Corps Anniversary from November 12 to 23. Various activities such as the AFP Signal Family Conference, Cybersecurity Awareness Seminar, and Technology Day Display were lined up to celebrate the significant milestones of the Corps.

The AFP Signal Corps maintains the main communication backbone of the AFP – the AFP Fixed Communication System. It has been providing the AFP's echelons of command and control with voice and data services for the past 60 years.

The AFP Signal Corps also plays a key role in delivering crucial information services during and in the aftermath of disasters as well as in national events such as the recent ASEAN Summit.

"On its 81st anniversary, the AFP Signal Corps shall continue to pursue the AFP Joint Command and Control Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (C4ISTAR) Project. This aims to upgrade the current capability of the organization to establish a network-centric enabled AFP," said MGen Jose P Tanjuan Jr, AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Electronics and Information Systems.

"The AFP Signal Corps also envisions the establishment of a Cyber-capable armed force by developing policies and establishing a responsive organizational structure manned by a pool of Cyber-capable workforce," MGen Tanjuan added.

The AFP Signal Corps anniversary is set to culminate in a ceremony to be held at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club in Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday, November 23.

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The AFP Signal Corps was officially formed as one of the technical services of the Philippine Army in 1936 through the National Defense Act. The term "signal" became known to refer to a highly distinct military occupation dealing with methods of communications.

Though being the least-equipped Army unit, with only reconditioned radio and telephone sets built from salvaged parts of obsolete equipment, the AFP Signal Corps managed to render exemplary service during and in the aftermath of World War II.

Among others, the corpsmen were able to establish obscured communication links from the Philippines to the US War Department in California; provide first radio contact with US Forces stationed in the Western Pacific who were shipping military supplies and allied bureau personnel; and transmit ballot returns during the first post-war elections.

"The AFP Signal Corps has significantly contributed to bolster the AFP's cyber workforce which has been our first line of defense against the growing number of digital threats," General Ricardo R Visaya, AFP Chief of Staff said.

"With the rapid technological advancements, the AFP shall take advance steps towards information superiority which shall greatly increase our combat power." General Visaya added. **PAO AFP / MCAG**

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ONE WITH NATURE | SolCom launches “endangered tree sanctuary”

Lt. Claudio



LUCENA City, Quezon – The Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) launched a pilot project called the “Endangered Tree Sanctuary” (ENTRESA) through a tree planting activity today at the SOLCOM-AFP headquarters, Camp Nakar, this city. Maj. Virgilio J. Perez Jr. (INF)-PA said more or less 200 seedlings of endangered trees will be planted inside the camp.

He added that endangered tree sanctuary is one of the major thrusts of SOLCOM Commander Lt. Gen. Ferdinand F. Quilla and this is a support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to environmental protection and preservation program of the national government.

“The purpose of the project is to promote the protection and preservation of endangered trees and contributes in mitigating the effects of global warming” said Perez.

SOLCOM-AFP is inviting other government offices to join and witness the event.

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