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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 November 2016

Friday

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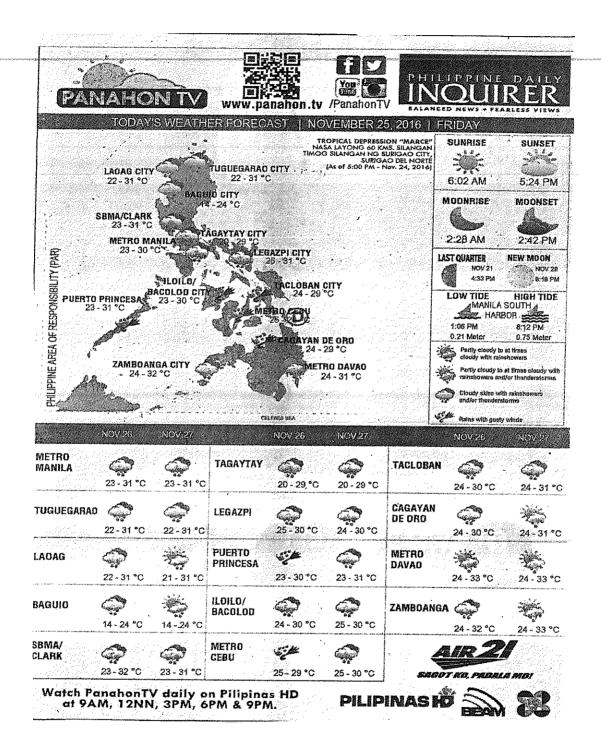
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Leila

By Julie M. Aurelio and Nikko Dizon @Team_Inquirer

lust as Sen. Leila de Lima had feared, a congressional committee feasted on her former driver/bodyguard, Ronnie Dayan, and his seven-year romance with her.

She warned Dayan, in a Viber message to his daughter on Oct. 1, to stay away from the House of Representatives inquiry into allegations she had received drug money when she was the justice secretary.

On Thursday, during the resumption of the hearing, the House justice committee approved a motion to issue a show-cause order directing De Lima to explain why she should not be cited in contempt for telling Dayan to ignore the summons and go into hiding instead—an advice suggesting obstruction of justice.

"The continuing snub of De Lima, to my appreciation now, I think is also an affront to a coequal chamber," said Misamis Oriental Rep. Reynaldo Umali, the committee chair.

Dayan said he had asked De Lima for advice on what to do after his sister received the House invitation but that the senator did not reply, prompting him to ask her daughter to contact her.

Messages from TL

Dayan's daughter, Hannah Mae, 23, showed to the lawmakets the exchange of Viber messages between her and "TL" or "Tita Leila."

· "Pakisabi sa kanya magtago lang muna siya. Kagagawan yan OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email nila Speaker (Pantaleon) Alvarez at dikta ni Digong. Pagpipyesta-Army Core Purpose: Si han lang siya at kaming dalawa kapag nag-appear siya sa hearing (Tell him to hide ... hide for

now. That's the work of Speaker Alvarez and dictated by Duterte. They will only feast on him, on the two of us, if he appears at the hearing)."

daughter then Davan's asked the senator if her father won't be arrested if he snubbed the probe, to which De Lima reportedly replied: "Di ba nagtatago naman siya (Isn't he hiding anyway)?"

ABS Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera made the motion to issue a show-cause order against De Li-

In response, three members of the Liberal Party in the Senate—Senators Bam Aquino, Frankon Drilon and Francis Pangilinan-said the House should direct the matter to the entire Senate, not to just one senator.

The three senators noted the unparliamentary conduct of some members of the House committee.

"The disrespectful and condescending line of questioning, which at one point seemed to justify an act of domestic violence, has no place in the halls' of Congress," they said.

Dayan had disappeared for three months. He had ignored a summons to appear before the House, for which an arrest warrant was issued against him for contempt and a P1-million bounty was put up. On Tuesday, he was arrested in a rice field in La Union province.

Questioning during the seven-hour hearing on Thursday dealt with the romance between Dayan and De Lima, who had earlier confirmed the affair in a TV interview, blaming it on the "frailties of a woman."

But the lawmakers got nowhere in trying to elicit from 195 Dayan admission that De Lima had received protection money from drug lords at New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Q



FROM 'TITA LEI' The Viber messages supposedly sent by Sen. Leila de Lima and received by Ronnie Dayan's daughter, Hannah Mae, from "Tita Lei" urged Dayan to snub the House committee hearings. -- PERFECTO CAMERO/CONTRIBUTOR

a House immunity from suit for his declarations, claimed he did not personally know confessed drug lord Kerwin Espinosa, but received money from him five times on orders of De Lima in parking lots at Mall of Asia in Manila and in Baguio City.

In a four-page affidavit, Dayan denied allegations made in earlier House hearings by con-

Dayan, who earlier received victs doing time at NBP that Dayan demanded protection payoffs when De Lima was justice secretary to fund her senatorial campaign. He said he did not know the NBP drug lords.

> He said he knew Rafael Ragos, acting bureau of corrections chief, but denied he received money from him.

Dayan admitted he and De Lima had a seven-year affair,

which started in 2007 when he was employed as her driver/bodyguard when she was still an election lawyer.

Espinosa payoffs

Davan said that he did not know Espinosa was a drug lord whenever they met for the payoffs. Dayan said he thought Espinosa was the engineer who De Lima said gave her a white Fortuner. He said De Lima had texted him directing him to meet with Espinosa.

Dayan said he first met Espinosa in August 2014 on the fifth floor of the SM Mall of Asia parking building in Pasay City. Espinosa slid open the door of a white van and gave him the money. It was followed by another meeting in October the same year at the Dampa in Parañaque City.

Davan said he was alone when he met with Espinosa. who gave him the money in a paper bag that was stapled close. Dayan said he gave the bags to De Lima at home.

Under questioning by the congressmen, Dayan said he never looked inside the bags and only assumed they contained money by feeling it.

But he said that on his dayoff he told De Lima he did not have any money, and she simply opened the bag and gave him P25,000 to P30,000.

Dayan said it was only in November 2014 when they met on the fourth floor parking lot of Building A of MOA that Es-· pinosa asked for his name. This was followed by two more meetings that same month, the last of which was in Baguio.

He said Espinosa gave him the money at the parking lot of Alexandria Residence where Espinosa stayed. He said Espinosa arrived in Baguio on Nov. 19, 2014. Dayan said he, De Lima, and Espinosa met there on Nov. 22, 2015.

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FM mortician: Face on display was only wax

A wax mask covered the face of Ferdinand Marcos for the 23 years his corpse was on show, but the body on display was no fake, the dictator's mortician said,

Frank Malabed, the embalmer of choice for high profile politicians and celebrities, revealed the secrets of his trade following the controversial burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City last

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FM From Page 1

week.

The interment stoked fresh speculation about the dictator's final resting place, with many believing the real Marcos was secretly laid to rest years ago and the body on display had been a wax replica.

But Malabed, who embalmed the body, insisted it was real.

"The face the people saw was wax. But for the rest of the body there was no need for that because it was clothed," the 66-year-old told AFP. "The hair, that's only a wig."

Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, three years after the People Power revolution forced him from office.

Critics say during 20 years in power he looted state coffers and ordered the torture and killing of thousands of foes.

Marcos' body was embalmed by Malabed in Hawaii. In 1993 it was flown to

the ancestral home in the northern Philippines, where it was put in a glass case for public viewing.

'Shriveled skin'

OFFICE OF

Malabed said Marcos, who died from lung, kidney and liv-



Malabed

er complications at age 72, was disfigured by oedema - the build-up of fluid that causes tissues to become swollen.

Embalming drains blood and other body fluid, which is replaced with preservative solution. But the resulting "shriveled skin did not look good," the mortician said.

"Ma'am did not care for *that," he added, referring to the widow Imelda.

"She wanted Filipinos to see president Marcos (the way) he looked before, when he was

still young."

Malabed said he received the already embalmed body a

week after Marcos' death, but had to repeat the procedure because the face looked "bloated" and he feared it would decompose within a week.

"I'm a perfectionist when speaking about embalming," he said, later telling the Marcos family the reworked body would be intact for 30 years.

"I'm proud, because he was a 20-year president and not an ordinary person."

In 1991, Malabed said the widow paid another mortician to work on the face with materials "similar to" the restorative wax used to rebuild the faces of people disfigured in fatal accidents.

Malabed said he last checked the corpse "by hand" on Aug. 8, pronouncing it in good condition as burial preparations began in secret. He said another mortuary handled the actual ceremony.

The director's eldest daughter Imee, "The remily's official spokeswoman for the body, did not respond to AFP's requests for comment.

But days before the burial, Imee told ABS-CBN television that "of course" the body was real, though "all kinds of pro- 285, 5295 cedures, all kinds of chemicals had been used" on it. - AFP

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PA in Central Visayas gets new commander

By Mario J. Mallari

The Philippine Army yesterday installed a new commander in Central Visayas following the promotion of Maj. Gen. Harold Cabreros as Army's Number 2 man.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano formally installed Brig. Gen. Jon Aying as new commander of the 3rd Infantry Division (ID) which has jurisdiction over provinces in the Western and Central Visayas regions.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1984, Aying was the former assistant deputy chief of staff for plans and programs at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Aying is not stranger in his new assignment having commanded the Army's 303rd Brigade in the Visayas from 2013 to 2015.

Other field duties include Battalion

Commander of the 61st Infantry Battalion, and Operations Officer of Task Group Panay, both under 3ID.

Aying also served as a Military Assistant at the Department of National Defense; Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G3, Special Operations Command; Executive Officer at the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Education, OG8; Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, G2, 3ID; and Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Education, G8, 2ID.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT-2) was sent off for deployment in Central Mindanao as part of the regular rotation of troops.

Navy chief Vice Admiral Joseph Mercado led the sendoff ceremonies held at the Captain Salvo Pier in Sangley Point, Cavite.

Composed of about 500 Marines, the MBLT-2 is led by Lt.

Col. Jose Marie Santos.

Prior to its deployment to Central Mindanao, the MBLT-2 underwent retraining from April to November this year — including military tactics and planning, booth lectures and practical exercises, live-fire maneuvers, marksmanship, rigid physical fitness activities.

Elements of the MBLT-2 had

also participated in the recently concluded Philippines Amphibious Landing Exercise-33 between Filipino and American troops.

Prior to its re-training, the unit has earned numerous victories against lawless elements, particularly the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group, in the southern part of the Philippines.



Hefty reward Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya (middle) awards P600,000 to the individual who provided information that led to the killing of Abu Sayyat Group member Suhud Yakan, who was wanted for involvement in the kidnapping of 15 persons and killing two residents of Golden Harvest Plantation on June 11, 2001 in Barangay Tairan Lantawan, Basilan. Also in photo is acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Brig. Gen. Felimon Santos.

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BUY ONE, TAKE ONE

PUTIN OFFERED GOOD DEAL FOR GUNS-DUTERTE

By Leila B. Salaverria @LeilasINQ

Russia has offered to sell rifles to the Philippines at an apparent bargain after a United States senator questioned the country's planned purchase of guns from America, according to President Duterte who is seeking more robust ties with Moscow.

Mr. Duterte had met with Russian President Vladimir Putin made at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

The Philippines' planned purchase of assault rifles from the United States has been put under review after Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin questioned the sale amid concerns over human rights violations.

Mr. Duterte said the Philippines would explore other potential transactions that offer "better deals and more advantageous terms."

Putin had offered to sell guns to the Philippines, he said.

"If the Senate—I forgot, Cardin?—does not want to sell rifles to us, Putin said that you can have, I'll give you, buy one and take one. Almost like that," he said in a press briefing upon arrival from Peru and New Zealand.

"He said, 'If you cannot buy arms anywhere, you go to me,'" he added.

Upon arrival Wednesday night in Davao, Duterte said he did not discuss any arms deal with Putin during their meeting in Peru.

The President, who bristles at criticism of his antidrug war and the killings that have marked it, said he sees no reason to "belabor the point" with Cardin.

There are other countries the Philippines can ask for help, he said. But he added that a country should not deprive an ally of key equipment.

Mr. Duterte also said he welcomes the invitation of Putin, his "idol," to Russia.

In preparation for this, he asked Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to undertake an advance visit to Russia "soonest" in order to firm up a substantive agenda with Moscow. INQ

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WITH DUTERIE'S

MADRE MOUN-SIERRA TAINS—Communist guerrillas warned that a peace deal with President Duterte's government is unlikely to be reached if he won't end the Philippines' treaty alliance with the United States and resist foreign control by other countries he's trying to befriend, like China and Russia.

In a clandestine news conference in a New People's Army guerrilla encampment tucked in the harsh wilderness of the Sierra Madre mountains southeast of Manila, regional rebel commander and spokesperson Jaime Padilla outlined the advantages and downside of talking with Mr. Duterte to end one of the world's longest-running Marxist insurgencies.

The dozens of mostly young guerrillas in muddy boots in their rain-soaked encampment on a wooded plateau reflected their resiliency but also showed the tough conditions that have long hampered their insurgency.

Reprehensible moves

Young rebels cooked rice, pork and chicken in soot-covered pots over wood fire while gingerly puffed others cigarettes while watching the peripheries. The nearest army camp lies just 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) away. When an air force Huey helicopter flew overhead, rebels at the news conference briefly paused and watched the passing aircraft.

But the guerrillas have also OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF found themselves in a dilemma due to Mr. Duterte's moves Ar they find reprehensible, including the killings of a large number of poor drug users that sparked accusations of massive

human rights violations against him, a recent decision to allow dictator Ferdinand Marcos to be buried in a heroes' cemetery and threats to shift to dictatorial rule if rival politicians derail his antidrug crackdown and try to impeach him.

While the President has gotten attention with his angry threats to end the presence of American forces in the country, stop joint combat exercises with US troops and terminate a defense accord with Washington, Padilla said Mr. Duterte has, so far, not formalized these utterances and instead has walked back on many publicly stated policies.

No reason for alliance

"While the Duterte government hasn't abrogated all these treaties, the New People's Army will have no reason to enter into a friendship or alliance with him," Padilla, 69, told a small group of journalists escorted into an encampment ringed by mostly young rifle-wielding guerrillas.

"That's not negotiable because as long as the US military has a presence, the imperialist influence on Duterte's government will remain," said the bespectacled Padilla, who wore a Mao cap with his 9 millimeter pistol within reach on a wooden table.

Other rebels echoed Padilla's remarks. "We support Duterte but not 100 percent," said a 24-year-old rebel who identified himself as Guiller. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295 "He's projecting himself as anti-US and pro-poor but that's 1 still mostly rhetoric. If the problems persist, the revolution will go on." -AP

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Duterte wants military confined to camps today

Amid rumors of a coup, President Duterte has ordered the military restricted to barracks during the Black Friday protests today.

Duterte said on Wednesday that he respected the decision of various groups opposing the hero's burial accorded to former president Ferdinand Marcos.

Duterte ordered the military to stay put even after he revealed there were groups out to remove him from the presidency.

He also waived the need for anti-Marcos groups to secure rally permits.

Along with his directive, Duterte barred Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel from mingling with the crowd or the police, the primary agency tasked to maintain peace and order during rallies.

"Consistent with these valucd principles, let me assure you that while protest actions are being staged, our military forces will remain confined in freedom of expression would

their camps. They are restricted to be there in their proper places," Duterte said. AFP chief Gen. Ricardo

Visaya stressed the military's role is to support the Philippine National Police (PNP) to maintain peace and order in today's protest actions.

"It's the PNP who has the primary role and if they need assistance, our ITF-NCR is always ready to support the police," Visaya said, referring to the AFP's 200-strong Joint Task Force National Capital Region.

Various anti-Marcos groups are expected to converge in key areas of Metro Manila to denounce the hero's burial of the late strongman at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We are hoping for the best but we are preparing to be deployed and to perform what we will be asked to perform in terms of maintaining order, in terms of maintaining discipline on areas where the

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and JAIME LAUDE

be held," AFP Public Affairs number of police personnel. Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Previous destabilization efforts during past administrations needed the support of the military, along with a critical mass of people, to succeed.

Their role shall be limited to traffic enforcement and the basic policy standards. They are prohibited from carrying long firearms," Duterte said.

Duterte said he will not prevent anti-Marcos groups "We shall also keep a lean from conducting their protest

rallies in respect of their con- he a soldier?" he said. stitutional rights of free speech and freedom of expression.

"Protest actions shall be allowed in all open public places for as long as they want with no time limit," Duterte said in Davao City upon his arrival from Peru.

Duterte attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Lima and flew home to Davao City late Wednesday.

Duterte said he already his return with protests.

At the same time, Duterte also threw questions to protesters questioning his decision to allow the Marcos burial.

"To all the protest organizations, let me throw this simple proposition to you: I will gladly and happy even to step down and relinquish my post if you can answer in the negative these two key questions: was the late Ferdinand cairan, Rhodina Villanueva,

"Never mind about a hero. Because we are to document something like that. To document heroism requires history. That's not an easy task," he said.

Duterte maintained he was guided by the common good and the general welfare of the people in allowing the Marcos burial.

"In the absence of the protest organizations here or pending their availability for their actual answers, let me end this arrival learned of the plans to greet statement tonight: all of the decisions that I have made and still have to make are always guided by the common good and the general welfare of the people," Duterte said.

"Be it in foreign affairs or in the domestic front, all actions of the government will be always driven by the desire to resolve and advance the national interests," he added. - With Giovanni Nilles, Evelyn Ma-Marcos a president and was Ghio Ong, Edu Punay

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Black Friday protest vs Marcos burial set today

By CHITO A, CHAVEZ

Veteran activists were called on to link arms with various youth movements in today's Black Friday Protest at the Rizal Park in Manila and 13 other rally sites in the country. The First Quarter Storm (FQS) Movement renewed its call to the activists of the 1960s and 1970s to join the protest rally citing the sneaky burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) on Nov. 18.

The FQS Movement is an organization of activists during the first >15

two turbulent decades of the Marcos reign that saw the upsurge of nation-wide mass protests, the imposition of martial law, the rise of the New People's Army and Moro armed resistance, the formation of a broad anti dictatorship united front, and the eventual ouster of Marcos in 1986.

"First Quarter Storm" refers to the first three months of 1970 when young activists staged a series of demonstrations against the US-backed Marcos government.

"The FQS Movement fully supports the Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses to Malacañang (CARMMA) which is leading the second Black Friday Protest on November 25," said FQS Movement Vice Chair Ed Tablan and FQS Movement Secretary-General Francisco Blanco.

The first Black Friday protest was held Nov. 18 following what the movement called the "blitzkrieg" burial of Marcos at the LNMB.

"We also deplore the reactionary propaganda and intrigue being spread by some purported EDSA activists and 'grouplets' that CARMMA and the Makabayan block in Congress are not legitimate activists. They are doing the people a great disservice. We call on them to come to their senses if they have the interest of our people at heart," said the FQS Movement officials.

"All activists of the 1960s and 1970s, this is our own generations' distinguished fight. Let us keep alive the spirit of the First Quarter Storm of 1970 by linking arms with the people and youth of today to expose and oppose the rehabilitation of the Marcoses. Together with the millennials, let us shout our vintage rage: Marcos, Hitler, Diktador, Tuta!" the FQS Movement declared.

Educators join

Members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) will be joining protesters from various sectors at the Black Friday protest today.

ACT said that the education sector is one with the Filipino people and victims of Martial Law in denouncing the Supreme Court decision allowing a "hero's burial for Marcos."

"This direct act of contempt against the historic judgment of the Filipino against the Marcos dictatorship must be stopped at all costs," said ACT President Benjamin Valbuena. "We have not forgotten and will continue to resist attempts to rehabilitate the Marcoses," he added.

ACT also called on its members outside Metro Manila to organize protest actions against the Marcoses and to hold Duterte accountable for allowing the state interment of the late president in the country's national shrine for heroes.

Police ready

The Southern Police District (SPD) has deployed around 300 to 400 police personnel for the nationwide protest condemning the surprise burial of Marcos at the LNMB last week.

Chief Supt. Tomas Apolinario Jr., SPD director, said they are still on alert although the "Black Friday" protest is expected to gather thousands of rallyists at the Luneta Park in Manila at 4 p.m.

"We are still on alert although the primary place of gathering is at the Luneta Park. We are identifying convergent areas of the protesters because we have to assist in traffic and security," Apolinario told the Manila Bulletin.

The SPD director also said they will be exercising maximum tolerance to avoid any untoward incident between the rallyists and the police force.

Two questions

Meanwhile, President Duterte on Wednesday emphasized that all his decisions — those that he have made and still have to make — are always guided by the common good and the general welfare of the people.

This, as he maintained that he was just following the law in allowing the burial of the late President Marcos at the LNMB.

The Chief Executive made the statements at a news conference in Davao City after his arrival from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Peru.

Addressing the controversy over the former strongman's burial at the LNMB, Duterte posed a challenge to organizers of anti-Marcos rallies as he said: "I will gladly and happy even to step down and relinquish my post if you can answer in the negative these two key questions: Was the late Ferdinand Marcos a president and was he a soldier?"

"Never mind about a hero. 'Cause

we are to document something like that. To document heroism requires history. 'Di madali 'yan," he added.

"Was Marcos a coward during the war? That is not my business. We cannot tell," he continued.

The President challenged protest organizers to just answer those two basic questions, adding that he has to decide one way or the other.

"I cannot decide it in favor of the sentiments. Hindi few, marami iyan. But the problem is you are asking me to violate the law," he further said.

And as he assured the safety of those who will join the protest rallies, the President paraphrased a famous line by English writer Evelyn Beatrice Hall, "I may not agree with what you say but I will protect your right to say it. That is our democracy."

"As your President, you have my word and you have that commitment," he added.

With that, Duterte said that protest actions shall be allowed in all open public places for as long as they want with no time limit and that protesters will neither need to secure rally permits in fear of being evicted. (With reports from Merlina Malipot, Martin Sadongdong, and Elena Aben)

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Situation in Mindanao getting better - AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said yesterday that as far as he is concerned, the situation in Mindanao, particularly in Basilan and Jolo, is getting better as a result of the all-out offensive launched against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

"I would like to tell you that the situation in Mindanao, particularly in Basilan and Jolo is getting better," Visaya said

The AFP official added that this is the first time in the history of the AFP when many Abu Sayyaf fighters surrendered to the government.

"As you can see, this is only the first

time in the history of our Armed Forces that Abu Sayyaf fighters surrendered. The surrender not only involves one or two persons, but around 20," he noted.

Visaya, at the same time, reiterated that there is no rise of kidnapping incidents involving members of the Abu Sayyaf.

"There is no rise of kidnapping. In fact it was reduced," Visaya said.

In recent weeks, foreigners have been kidnapped off Sabah waters by still unidentified gunmen said to be perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf. But confirmation has yet to be made regarding that.

While last November 19, two Indonesian fishermen boarding a Malaysianregistered fishing trawler were forcibly taken by five unidentified armed men on Merabong waters near Kunak District, Sabah.

"There were two attempts of kidnapping incident that happened in Malaysia but they cannot enter our country because of the strategic location of our naval assets there (Sulu and Basilan)," Visaya noted, on the other hand.

Meanwhile, with regard to his self-imposed deadline to crush the Abu Sayyaf before his retirement on December 8, Visaya said he is trying his best.

"I'm trying my best and in fact I will be going to Basilan and Jolo to see our troops and give guidance again before my retirement," he noted.

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The Manila Times

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Framers of 1987 Charter condemn Marcos burial

A group of 10 members of the 48-man commission that wrote the 1987 Constitution on Thursday denounced the burial of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, calling it "shameless treachery."

The framers, in a statement on the eve of the anti-Marcos "Black Friday" protest at Rizal Park today, said the burial ran afoul of the Charter, which they said envisioned a clean break from Marcos' one-man rule.

This was contrary to the November 8 Supreme Court ruling that said no law prevented the Duterte administration from allowing the interment at the "heroes' cemetery."

"We condemn the burial of the dictator Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, in shaineless treachery, in disregard of the facts of history, in contempt of the grief and sufferings of the bereaved victims of martial law, and in defiance of the hopes

>BurialA2

A wax mask covered the face of Ferdinand Marcos for the 23 years his corpse was on show, but the body on display was no fake, the dictator's mortician saind in an interview.

Frank Malabed, the embalmer of choice for high profile politicians and celebrities, revealed the secrets of his trade following the controversial burial at the Heroes' Cemetery in Manila last week.

The interment stoked fresh speculation about the dictator's final resting place, with many believing the real Marcos was secretly laid to rest years ago and the body on display had been a wax replica.

But Malabed, who embalmed the body, insisted it was real.

"The face the people saw was wax. But for the rest of the body there was no need for that because it was clothed," the 66-year-old told AFP.

"The hair, that's only a wig."

Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, three years after the "People Power" revolution forced him from office.

Critics say during 20 years in power he looted state coffers and ordered the torture and killing of thousands of foes.

Marcos's body was embalmed by Malabed in Hawaii. In 1993 it was flown to the ancestral home in the northern Philippines, where it was put in a glass case for public viewing.

'Shrivelled skin'

Malabed said Marcos, who died from lung, kidney and liver complications aged 72, was disfigured by edema – the build-up of fluid that



HE MAKES THE DEAD BEAUTIFUL

Frank Malabed, the embalmer of former President Ferdinand Marcos, shows the make-up kit that he uses for his job. AFP PHOTO

causes tissues to become swollen.

Embalming drains blood and other body fluid, which is replaced with preservative solution. But the resulting "shrivelled skin did not look good", the mortician said.

"Ma'am did not care for that," he added, referring to the widow Imelda.

"She wanted Filipinos to see President Marcos (the way) he looked before, when he was still young."

Malabed said he received the already embalmed body a week after Marcos's death, but had to repeat the procedure because the face looked "bloated" and he feared it would decompose within a week.

"I'm a perfectionist when speaking about embalming," he said, later telling the Marcos farnily the reworked body would be intact for 30 years.

"I'm proud, because he was a 20-year president and not an ordinary person."

In 1991, Malabed said the widow paid another mortician to work on the face with materials "similar to" the restorative wax used to rebuild the faces of people disfigured in fatal accidents.

Malabed said he last checked the corpse "by hand" on August 8, pronouncing it in good condition as burial preparations began in secret. He said another mortuary handled the actual ceremony.

The dictator's eldest daughter Imee, the family's official spokeswoman for the body, did not respond to AFP's requests for comment.

But days before the burial, Imee

told ABS-CBN television that "of course" the body was real, though "all kinds of procedures, all kinds of chemicals had been used" on it.

As a child, Malabed dreamed of becoming an engineer, but he soon followed in the footsteps of his mortician father.

By the time he was an 18-yearold apprentice, Malabed was working on the mangled bodies of US soldiers killed in the Vietnam War, which had been flown to the then-US air base at Clark.

Malabed got his first big break embalming a brother and a sister of Imelda, a job which opened doors to the Marcos family.

But it has not been all Marcos: he also embalmed Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, the Marcos family's arch-political foe whose assassination at Manila airport by government forces in 1983 altered the course of Philippine history.

Under strict instructions from the family matriarch, Malabed preserved the body, but made no effort to fix the bullet-shattered face.

Aquino's corpse — wearing the same bloodstained jacket in which he had died — became the rallying point for the revolution that ultimately brought his widow to power, and sent Marcos into exile.

For Malabed, a devout Catholic, the identity of a person when they were alive is not important; he treats all his clients equally.

His skills do not come cheap, he admits, but says the final result is well worth it.

"I make people beautiful even in death."

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Duterte: 'Unli' rallies for anti-Marcos groups

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte on late Wednesday night said those opposing the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City are free to use any available space they can find for their protest actions and hold as many rallies as they want even without any permit.

The burial triggered mass actions last week. Another mass action, called "Black Friday" protest, is scheduled to be held today at the Luneta Park in Manila.

Duterte said: "Protest actions shall be allowed in all open public places for as long as they want, with no time limit. The protesters will neither need ... to secure rally permits in fear of being evicted...To paraphrase what was said: I may not agree with what you say but I will protect your right to say it. That is our democracy. As your President, you have my word and you have that commitment."

Duterte made the statement said after arriving from Peru and New Zealand.

Marcos' remains were buried Friday last week without public announcement, while Duterte was in Peru, and while oppositors have yet to file a motion for reconsideration to the Supreme Court's November 8 ruling that in effect allowed the burial at the heroes' cemetery.

Duterte reiterated the law, which allows the burial of a former soldier and a former president at the national heroes' cemetery, was just being implemented.

He said he would step down from the presidency if any of the protesters could tell him that Marcos was never a president or a soldier.

Asked if his government will continue to pursue the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses, Duterte said what he wants to do is to strengthen and expand the "powers" of the Presidential Commission on Good Government which was created to go after the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the former first family.

The First Quarter Storm Movement urged activists of the 1960s and 1970s to join the protest action led by the Campaign against the Return of the Marcoses in Malacañang (Carmma) which include as members victims of human rights violations under martial law. The FQS Movement is an organization of activists during the two turbulent decades of the Marcos regime.

Bishop Broderick Pabillo, chairman of the Episcopal Commission on the Laity of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, asked the faithful to join the Luneta protest.

Soldiers are on standby, ready to assist policemen in crowd management.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said 200 soldiers are on "standby augmentation."

The Southern Luzon chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines said the burial resulted in greater divisiveness instead of the national unity that President Duterte has cited as reason for allowing the controversial internment.

"This imperious display of power and entitlement by the Marcoses does nothing in furtherance of national reconciliation. We cannot let this happen without destroying the very fabric that constitutes our democratic institution built on our history as freedom-loving Filipinos,' the group said in a statement signed by their governor, lawyer Bienvenido Somera.

Also signing the statement were IBP Makati chapter head Gil Roberto Zerrudo; Rodolfo Zabella Jr., Quezon chapter; Rommel Fernandez, Marinduque chapter; Rene Grapilon, Occidental Mindoro chapter; Jonathan Mario Ibe, IBP Camanava chapter. – With Evan Orias, Gerard Naval, and Ashzel Hachero

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AFP chief needs more time vs ASG

By Florante S. Solmerin

GENERAL Ricardo Visaya on Thursday conceded his five-month stint as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was not enough time to defeat the nearly three decades-old Abu Sayyaf Group in southern Mindanao.

Visaya, however, said there were essential gains his leadership had accomplished in the campaign to eliminate the ASG scourge.

"When I took over as the chief of staff, my first instruction [to our troops]: to defeat the Abu Sayyaf we have [to] neutralize first the speed of the enemy in the high seas and that happened," he said.

To accomplish this, Visaya said they had

To accomplish this, Visaya said they had to consult and sought authority from the marine agency of the Department of Transportation to deputize the military to confiscate suspected boats especially unregistered speedboats used by the terrorists in their kidnap-for-ransom activities.

"We are very happy that we were able to achieve our objectives of neutralizing the speed of the enemy in the high seas, that's one [achievement]," he said.

But Visaya said the military had to excel more in another realm of battle.

"Well, just give us time because our soldiers had to familiarize themselves on the terrain [in Sulu and Basilan]. You know that the battalions that were deployed there came from as far as Cagayan Valley [Region 2], from the Bicol region, Southern Tagalog region and there is a different terrain in these places. It will really take time for our troops to familiarize [themselves] with the terrain and when the time comes I'm sure the fight against Abu Sayyaf will be much, much easier," he explained.

After he deplored atrocities of the ASG, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Visaya to annihilate the terrorists.

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AFP chief willing to go to jail over FM burial



Frank Malabed, the embalmer of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, shows the make-up kit that he uses for his job. In an interview the embalmer of choice for high profile politicians and celebrities, revealed the secrets of his trade following the controversial burial of the late dictator at the Libingan ng mga Bayani last week.

By Mario J. Mallari

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said he is ready to go to jail if that is the consequence of following the Supreme Court (SC) decision allowing the burial of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos Sr. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB).

Various militant groups had filed a petition before the SC on Monday calling for the Marcoses, the Department of National Defense (DND) and the AFP to be cited in contempt for proceeding with the burial of Marcos at LNMB last November 18.



Visaya said he respects the position of petitioners, led by Bayan Muna and Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (Selda), but stressed that the military only followed the SC decision and the request of the Marcos family for a "private" burial.

"We respect everybody, their complaint

Turn to page 7

against us, (if) they would like us to be seen in jail, so be it. We will respect that," said Visaya.

"Now, we respect also the Marcoses. The Marcoses would like the former president to be buried sòlemnly and privately, so we have to respect that, that's their call when to bury the president...we just have to assist and we have to implement whatever is the decision of the Supreme Court. Is there any illegality there, I don't think so," he added.

The AFP chief, at the same time, dismissed perceptions that the Burial of the late dictator was secretly held by the Marcoses and government authorities.

"They (Marcoses) just wanted to hold it privately...what's wrong with that? Even you, if you want to bury your loved ones privately, what's wrong with that?" asked Visaya, who hails from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte the home province of the Marcoses.

Visava also appealed to former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo not to use the word "connivance" in describing the burial of Marcos.

"Please don't use connivance, we do not connive with anybody. We are the Armed Forces of the people, please trust us, anybody can ask help from us...even enemies of the state, we help them ... we are all Filipino," said Visaya.

Marcos' remains were flown by ilitary helicopters from Batac, flocos Norte to the LNMB in the morning of Nov. 18 and were buried at exactly noon time with full military honors fitting a former president.

There were arrival honors Of cvided by a brigade sized parading troops, 21 gun salute, three volleys of fire and taps. Then acting AFP whief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda handed the Philippine flag to former First Lady Ilocos Rep. Imelda Marcos which capped the military honors.

Meanwhile, Visaya said that the military is ready to support the Philippine National Police (PNP) in maintain peace and order during today's protest rally against the burial of Marcos at the LNMB.

"Our Joint Task Force National Capital Region is always ready, only for support role," said Visaya.

Tatad challenges FVR

Following protests against the Politial of late president Ferdinand Marcos at the LNMB, former senator Francisco Tatad challenged former President Fidel V. Ramos who was Philippine Constabulary chief under Marcos to reveal the truth about the alleged atrocities and human rights violations perpetuated by the late dictator aduring martial law.

At the Kapihan sa Manila Bay amedia forum at Café Adriatico in . Malate, Manila, Tatad called out to Ramos to give his side on the allegations of abuse committed by Marcos after declaring military rule and suspending the writ of habeas corpus.

"He (FVR) owes the Filipino people an explanation to clarify whether Mr. Marcos had truly sinned against the Filipino people and was really involved in the atrocities done during martial law," the former senator pointed out.

During the forum discussion which touched on Marcos's burial at the LNMB, Albay 1st District representative Edcel Lagman expressed opposition in what has been termed as a hero's burial of the former strongman, saying that this was a grievous insult to martial law victims because it had opened previous wounds.

Reacting to Lagman's remark, Tatad questioned the Albay lawmaker's opinion that the burial of Marcos was a grievous wrong that needed to be corrected if there is a true desire for a closure on the issue.

"There are no convictions against Marcos and it has never been proven that he ordered the atrocities so why should it be an issue if he has been buried at the LNMB? The bone of contention is why shouldn't he be buried there when he was truly a soldier who like all men in uniform should be afforded a soldier's burial," Tatad stressed.

Tatad further said that in order to have avoided any controversy, the Marcos family should have decided to bury Marcos's remains at a private plot of ground instead of insisting to have it interred at the LNMB.

"It was Marcos's request to have his remains buried beside his mother's in Batac, Ilocos Norte. Ifthis had been done, it could have resulted into giving his grave the status of being a monument or shrine where people could pay him respect as a former leader of our country," the former senator concluded.

President Duterte made the same observation during his arrival speech Wednesday night saying that Marcos' credentials as former President and war veteran merits him a spot at the LNMB.

A Palace spokesman, meanwhile, said changing the LNMB's name is indeed an option that the administration is considering.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Presidential Communications Assistant Secretary Ana Marie Banaag said that renaming the honorary necropolis could be considered as a means to pacify anti-Marcos sentiments.

Moreover, as protests are to be mounted today against the Marcos burial, Banang said that with President Duterte's exercise of maximum tolerance ťο demonstrators, Malacanang hopes that the sentiment won't snowball into an ouster-call against Duterte.

"We hope not, we pray not because the President has given all protesters leeway, much leeway. They can air, they can ventilate their grievances. They can say whatever they want. It may not be something that would be favorable for the President. It maybe something that is against what the President wants but the President is giving them freedom to do so," Banaag said. Ted

Tuvera, Gerry Baldo

24 November 2016



ORNON

Framers of 1987 Constitution condemn burial of Marcos in LNMB

The overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship is the backdrop to the drafting of the 1987 Constitution.

The power of the people deposed a tyrant whose greed was boundless and whose cruelty was criminal to countless victims who were detained arbitrarily, tortured, made to "disappear" and "salvaged" during the martial law years.

The Constitution was written after nationwide consultations with a sovereign people whose valiant resistance to ruthless dictatorial rule and vision of a new social order are inscribed in its provisions.

The heart of the Constitution underscores in no uncertain terms: the primacy of human rights, the promotion of social justice in all phases of national development, strict adherence to

the rule of law and never again to any form of authoritarianism. It envisions a different future from the Marcosian nightmare of greed, intolerance, brutality and disrespect for democratic institutions. And we are inspired by the outpouring of protest by the youth who give life to our hope for generations of heroes who are the antithesis of everything

that was Marcos.

We condemn the burial of the dictator Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, in shameless treachery, in disregard of the facts of history, in contempt of the grief and sufferings of the bereaved victims of martial law, and in defiance of the hopes of our people and their children to build a future based on the values of truth, justice, respect for human rights and caring for others.

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RC Cola trips Cignal, faces Generika next

Games Sunday (Philisports Arena) 1 p.m. – F2 Logistics vs Cignal 3 p.m. – RC Cola-Army vs Generika

RC Cola-Army held off Cignal in the third set to complete a 25-16, 25-9, 25-23 victory at the close of the preliminaries in the Asics Philippine Superliga (PSL) Grand Prix presented by PLDT Home Ultera at the FilOil Flying V Center in San Juan last night.

Skipper Jovelyn Gonzaga fired 15 kills and a pair of aces while Honey Royse Tubino stepped up with 10 markers for the Lady Troopers, who notched their fourth win in 10 games.

RCCola-Army will face Generika while sixth-placed Cignal battles powerhouse F2 Logistics in the sudden-death playoff this Sunday.

The winners will advance to the next round to join early semifinalists Foton and Petron. The semis will be played on Dec. 3 at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation in Legazpi.

Against Cignal, which lost its prized import in Olympian Lynda Morales to injury, the Lady Troopers were at their best.

But in the third set, the HD Spikers raced to a 10-8 start behind the powerful kills of Janine Marciano, Paneng Mercado and Laura Schaudt.

The Lady Troopers, however, quickly wiped off a 23-21 lead off a sharp kill by Rachel Anne Daquis and another hit by Gonzaga.

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

ONLINE NEWS 26 NOVEMBER 2016

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Militant groups laud Duterte's no rally permit announcement but...

By: Kristine Angeli Sabilio - @KSabilioINQ INQUIRER.net / 02:38 PM November 24, 2016

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) on Thursday said it will definitely push through with its Black Friday protest after President Rodrigo Duterte announced that they no longer need to apply for a rally permit.

"Bayan welcomes the President's statement that permits will not be required for the #MarcosNoHero rallies tomorrow," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said in a statement.

"#BlackFriday in Luneta is on." he said. adding that simultaneous protests will be held in other cities nationwide.

"We expect peaceful yet indignant actions. Black will be the color of the day," he said.

However. Reyes said Duterte should not only welcome protests but also "listen to the people and understand their deep resentment of the dictator."

Duterte, upon arriving in Davao on Wednesday evening, said those opposing the surprise burial of former president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani may freely hold protests, without needing permits from local officials.

However, he also insisted that Marcos was a president and a soldier and is therefore qualified to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Spontaneous protests and organized actions are telling signs that the burial is widely rejected. He must not underestimate the people's outrage," Reyes said. *CDG*

www.inquirer.net

Marcos burial promoted divisiveness, not national healing—group

By: Tetch Torres-Tupas - Reporter / @:T2TupasINQ

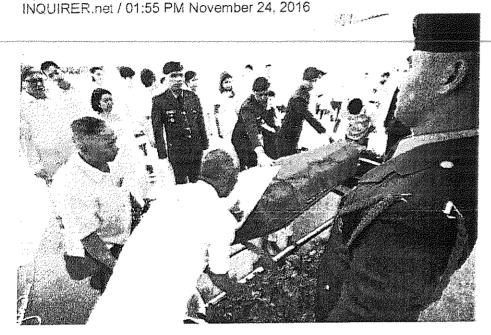


Photo from Ferdinand E. Marcos Presidential Center

The burial of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos has promoted divisiveness and subverted the truth of the country's history, the Integrated Bar of the Philippine (IBP)-Southern Luzon Region said in a statement on Thursday.

IBP-Southern Luzon Region contradicted the claims of the government that Marcos burial will promote national healing and reconciliation.

"This imperious display of power and entitlement by the Marcoses does nothing in furtherance of national reconciliation," it said in a statement signed by Atty. Bienvenido L. Somera Jr., Governor, Southern Luzon Region; Atty. Gil Roberto L. Zerrudo, President Makati Chapter; Atty. Jonathan N. Mario D. Ibe, President, Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas Chapter: Atty. Rodolfo Zabella Jr., Vice-President Quezon Chapter; Atty.Rommel Fernandez, President Marinduque Chapter and Atty. Rene Grapilon, President, Occidental Mindoro Chapter.

"We cannot let this happen without destroying the very fabric that constitutes our democratic institution built on our history as freedom-loving Filipinos." it stated.

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Marcos was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) last Nov. 18 even without finality of the Supreme Court's decision that dismissed by a vote of 9-5 the petition against the burial.

Calling it premature and a disrespect not only to the judicial process but to the public as well, the petitioners called for the exhumation of the body, citing the Marcos heirs and the military in contempt of court.

The IBP-Southern Luzon Region, on the other hand, said the stealthy manner by which Marcos was buried "reeks of plain arrogance, self-entitlement and disrespect for basic due process and rule of law."

"It is an affront to our national consciousness, collective freedom and a repudiation of our people's historical struggle against the tyranny of Martial Law under the Marcos dictatorship," said the IBP-Southern Luzon Region.

The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) said Marcos was not a hero.

"Apolinario Mabini, Voltaire Garcia, Ka Pepe Diokno, Lorenzo Tanada, Abe Sarmiento, Claudio Teehankee, Lando Olalia, Fred Gapuz, Romy Capulong & many others are our real heroes who fought for justice, freedom & democracy," NUPL Secretary-General Edre Olalia said.

NUPL who represented former Bayan Muna Representative Satur Ocampo in the anti-Marcos burial petition at the Supreme Court also called on other members of the legal community to join the protest on Friday at the Rizal Park.

Assembly will be at the Supreme Court and then they will march to Luneta. RAM/rga

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Manila — The Philippine Navy has just formally sent off 2[™] Marine Battalion for its deployment to the operational area in a simple ceremony this morning held at CAPT SALVO Pier, Sangley Point, Cavite City. This has been officiated by no less than the Acting Flag-Officer-In-Command Philippine Navy, Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph S Mercado AFP who is also the Guest of Honor and Speaker, along with the Commandant Philippine Marine Corps, Maj Gen Andre M Costales Jr AFP. The unit movement is part of the rotation policy of the Command to retrain and refurbish Marine Battalions in the field.

Composed of more or less 500 strong Marines, the 2nd Marine Battalion led by their Battalion Commander Lt Col Jose Marie Santos PN(M). Said unit will be deployed in the Central Mindanac particularly in Sultan Kudarat Province after finishing the training program of the Corps at Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Taguig City. The 2nd Marine Battalion had undergone rigorous re-training from April – November 2016. Along with the training program are booth lectures and practical exercises on admin matters, military tactics, simulated military planning, live-fire maneuvers, marksmanship, rigid physical fitness activities, and the recently concluded RP-US Amphibious Landing Exercise 2016.

Prior to its re-training, the unit has earned numerous victories against lawless elements and terrorists in the Southern part of the Philippines. Its major accomplishments include combat operations against the dreaded Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu while equally performed significant non-traditional roles such as civil-military operations that has gained superb appreciation from the natives as well as stakeholders at said areas.



This recent deployment will certainly boost the AFP's quest in winning the peace and maintaining stability within the region.

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SAVED | PN Patrol Boat 119 Rescues Three Fishermen in Samal

Camp Panacan Station Hospital (DWDD) – The crew of Patrol Boat (PB) 119 headed by Lt. Cdr. Ignacio M. Umali Jr. brought here Nov 22 the three fishermen they rescued from a banca that capsized in Samal waters the recent night.

The rescued fishermen namely Soy-an T. Osani, 47 years old; Jamir P. Osani, 20 years old; and Henry L. Everre, 17 years old, residents of Barangay Isla Verde, reportedly finished loading their catch at 10 p.m. when a huge wave hit the broadside of their banca, causing it to capsize.

Lt. Cdr. Umali PN and his men onboard Navy vessel BRP Nicolas Mahusay (PB 119) were on routine maritime patrol along the waters of Samal when they sighted the fishermen at 5:35 a.m. today. They immediately responded to aid the three and at 6:10 a.m., successfully loaded the rescued fishermen onto PB 119 and towed the banca towards Naval Station Felix Apolinario, Panacan, Davao City. Cpt. Victor Salvador C. Dato, the physician on duty at Camp Panacan Station Hospital certified the wellbeing of the fishermen and gave them clearance to go home.

Soy-an Osani, the oldest of the three, says "Nagpapasalamat talaga kami at dumating ang Navy at nakita kami." PB 119 eventually assisted the fishermen and their banca to Sta. Ana Wharf, Davao City. PB 119 / Ensign Eunice Fe M. Sabado PN / MCAG

TESTIMONIAL PARADE | Marine Gen Aaron Fetalvero

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NSLG, San Antonio, Zamblaes (DWDD) – Testimonial Parade and Review in honor of Marine General Aaron Fetalvero, Commander, Naval Installation Command, Philippine Navy held at the Naval Education and Training Command, Naval Station Loevigildo Gentioque, San Antonio, Zambales. Col Edgard Arevalo PN M

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Indigenous People to benefit in a 240-hectare replanting in Fort Magsaysay

DWDD News Staff

A 240-hectare military reservation area at Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City will be replanted with indigenous trees under a tripartite agreement that will benefit indigenous people (IP) Aetas in the uplands of Nueva Ecija.



The agreement was signed last Sept. 6, 2016 by Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) Director Dr. Henry A. Adornado, Judge Virgilio Caballero, and LTC Eugenio Batara (Seventh Infantry Division, Philippine Army) in behalf of MGen Angelito De Leon of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The partnership has significant ecological enhancement and livelihood benefits to IP Aetas. It is in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 26 (National Greening Program or NGP) whose implementation has been extended to 2028 under EO 193 signed by former Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III.

"Provision of food security and additional income to the community will be strengthened by intercropping agricultural crops in the NGP sites. The katutubos here, similar to the indigenous forest species, are very resilient. The project will be a means for katutubos to help us attain biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation," said Adornado.

Also attending the signing agreement were representatives from the local government unit of Doña Josefa, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Nueva Ecija, and the IP planters.

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

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

"Judge Caballero sees the project as an act of stewardship on the environment and as a milestone especially for the IP community who will be involved in plantation establishment," reported Rio Christine P. Bustamante of the NGP Operations Center.

The Philippine Army committed to secure the project area and to screen laborers who will participate in the plantation.

Fort Magsaysay, the country's largest military reservation now covering a total of 35,000 hectares, has become the training ground of the Philippine Army as a replacement to the Fort Bonifacio military reservation since it began to be modernized in 1983.

The NGP was extended to 2028 as the Food and Agriculture Organization, in its 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment, ranked the Philippines as fifth worldwide in the greatest forest area gain from 2010 to 2015.

"There is still an estimated 7.1 million hectares of unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands which contribute to environment-related risks such as soil erosion, landslides, and flooding. Consistent with the updated Master Plan for Forestry Development (2016 - 2028), there is a need to harmonize all forest development activities that will encourage and enhance development of forest plantations," according to EO 193.

ERDB has an existing bamboo plantation project in Fort Magsaysay. The reforestation project in Fort Magsaysay is eyed too as an agroforestry area that may also house livestock raising as productivity livelihood program for target beneficiaries.

ERDB has already conducted training of Philippine Army officers on different bamboo propagation techniques, proper selection and cutting of planting materials, and step-by-step procedure on plantation establishment.

Training also involved application of a mycorrhizal fungi that act as a natural or organic fertilizer and has beenbeen proven to accelerate growth of forest tree seedlings by as much as 400 percent. ERDB produces its own brand of this mycorrhiza, the HI-Q VAM 1.

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MOU allowing military to seize unlicensed speedboats crucial in campaign vs Abu Sayyafe

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 24): MOU allowing military to seize unlicensed speedboats crucial in campaign vs Abu Sayyaf

Outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said the memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing them to seize unlicensed speedboats helped in quelling terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group's (ASG) hijack operations in the high seas.

He was referring to a MOU deputizing the military in the enforcement of regulations on the use of high-speed watercraft, at three gross tonnage and below.

It also allows the AFP to confiscate unregistered sea crafts, intensifying security in local ports, and dismantling illegally constructed ports in order to mitigate the movement of terrorists and criminal groups and to conduct acts inimical to national security.

"When I first took over as AFP chief, my first instruction was in order to defeat the ASG, we must neutralize first the speed of the enemy in the high seas. But because of some legalities, we cannot just intercept and impound (unlicensed) speed boats as there is no specific law preventing (owners and operators) from installing additional outboard motors. We know most of the unregistered speed boats (in Sulu and Basilan) are being used by the ASG," Visaya said in Filipino.

"With the MOU authorizing us to confiscate these unregistered boats, we are able to achieve our objectives of neutralizing the speed of the enemy in the high seas. With this, the ASG is now only confine in Basilan and Jolo (Sulu)," he added.

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Battle-hardened 2nd Marine Battalion deployed for security missions to Sultan Kudarat

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 24): Battle-hardened 2nd Marine Battalion deployed for security missions to Sultan Kudarat

The 500-strong 2nd Marine Battalion, one of the military's combat seasoned unit, was ordered deployed to Sultan Kudarat province effective Wednesday.

The unit, which is commanded by Lt. Col. Jose Marie Santos, underwent rigorous re-training from April until this month.

Capt. Victor Donque, Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) spokesperson, said the 2nd Marine
Battalion undergone intensified training on both lectures and practical exercises on administrative
matters, military tactics, simulated military planning, live-fire maneuvers, marksmanship and rigid
physical fitness activities.

He added the unit also participated in the recently concluded Philippine and US Amphibious Landing Exercise.

Prior re-training, Donque said the 2nd Marine Battalion has earned numerous victories against lawless elements and terrorists in the southern part of the Philippines.

Its major accomplishments include combat operations against the dreaded Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Tow Tawi and Sulu while equally performed significant non-traditional roles such as civil-military operations the gained superb appreciation from the natives as well as stakeholders from the said areas.

Formal send-off for the 2nd Marine Battalion took place at the Capt. Salvo Pier , Sangley Point City.

The unit movement is part of the rotation policy of the PMC to retrain and refurbish Marine Battalions in the field.

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Filipino-Muslim youth leaders meet with Malaysian peers during an educational tour

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 24): Filipino-Muslim youth leaders meet with Malaysian peers during an educational tour

Fifty Filipino-Muslim youth leaders are in Kuala Lumpur for a five-day goodwill visit and educational tour where they will have a series of interactions with their Malaysian peers from various cultural and religious backgrounds from November 22 to 25, the Department of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said.

The youth participants who range from 15 to 18 years old and who are mostly from Sulu Province, arrived aboard a Philippine Air Force C-130 plane on November 22. They were welcomed at Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang by Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia J. Eduardo Malaya and Embassy officers and staff.

"The visit is an opportunity for our Muslim youth to be exposed to another perspective outside of the Philippines, and to promote understanding and goodwill with their Malaysian counterparts and hopefully to learn about the values of moderation and tolerance of other cultures and beliefs. We hope that the participants would have a good experience and would share this to their fellow youth back home." Ambassador Malaya said.

The first ever Muslim Filipino Youth Leaders' Educational Tour is a project of the civil-military operations office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), in cooperation with the Embassy.

The delegation is led by Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) Deputy Commander B/Gen. Jose P. Cabanban.

The participants were welcomed at the Embassy, where they had a briefing on Philippine-Malaysian relations on November 23. They also performed a selection of Muslim songs and dances to the delight of consular clients at the Embassy's consular area.

The youth will also visit different Malaysian government offices such as the Dewan Rakyat (Malaysian Parliament) and the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), organizations and schools such as the Global Movement of Moderates and the International Islamic University of Malaysia, as well as representatives from Malaysia's multicultural communities.