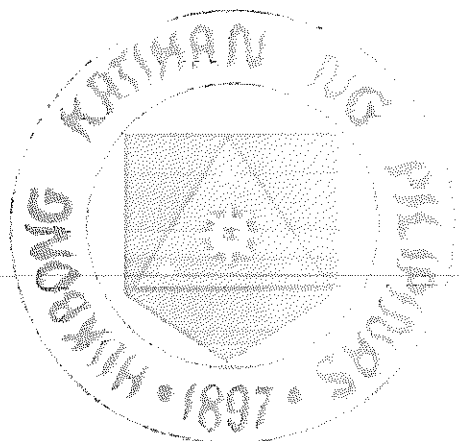


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 October 2016

Tuesday

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

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

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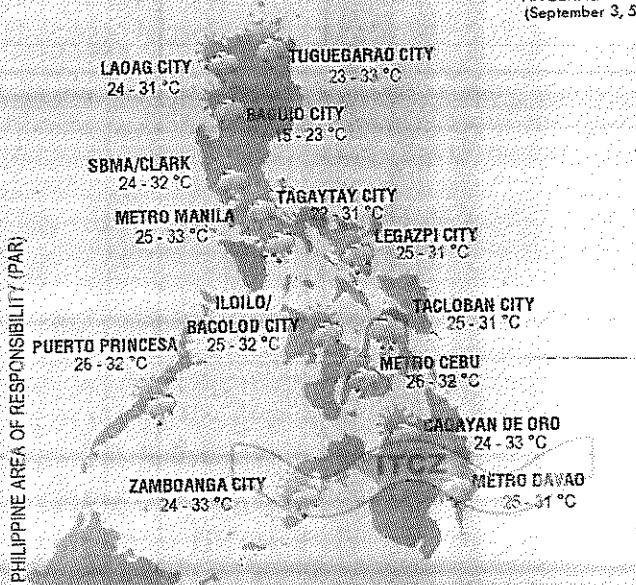
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 4, 2016 | TUESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO (September 3, 5:00 PM)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:46 AM	6:43 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:08 AM	8:03 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
OCT 8 8:11 AM	OCT 9 12:33 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
(MANILA SOUTH HARBOR)	
6:11 AM	11:47 PM
0.20 Meter	0.93 Meter


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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	OCT 3	OCT 4	OCT 5	OCT 6	OCT 7	OCT 8	OCT 9
METRO MANILA	24-33°C	24-32°C	22-31°C	22-30°C	25-30°C	24-32°C	24-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	24-34°C	25-33°C	25-31°C	25-30°C	24-33°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
LADAG	24-32°C	25-31°C	25-30°C	24-30°C	25-33°C	25-33°C	25-33°C
BAGUIO	16-24°C	16-24°C	25-31°C	25-30°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-32°C	24-32°C	25-31°C	25-32°C	25-31°C	25-32°C	25-32°C

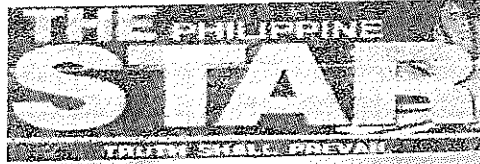
Watch PANAHON TV everyday at 5:30 AM on PTV (Channel 4)



SAGOT KO, PAGALA MO!

04 October 2016



Page: 1

“No need to review EDCA”

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Despite President Duterte's declaration that he would seek a review of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States, the Philippines' top diplomat said there is no need to do so, as the Supreme Court had upheld the legality of EDCA.

“We have to respect it. The Supreme Court has just ruled that it's legal,” Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay told radio station *dzRH* yesterday.

“We could review if there are provisions there that are irrelevant and unnecessary,” Yasay said, but indicated that this was not called for at this point.

On Sunday, President Duterte said he would seek a review of EDCA, which grants American troops access to Philippine military bases.

Yasay said he has no information about the two-year-old defense deal not bearing the signature of former president Benigno Aquino III.

“I don't know about that all we know was the Supreme Court ruling that it's constitutional. That was the process done to approve EDCA and it has been complied with,” Yasay said partly in Filipino.

Former defense secretary

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No need From Page 1

Voltaire Gazmin and US Ambassador Philip Goldberg signed the EDCA at Camp Aguinaldo on April 28, 2014.

During his first press conference on July 1, Yasay said the EDCA stands and there is no move for the new administration to review the defense pact.

Militant groups' leaders met with Duterte on June 30 after he was sworn into office and called for a review of the EDCA, the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Mutual Defense Treaty.

Yasay said there is a process that should be followed insofar as a review of EDCA is concerned and that it should be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Duterte has vowed to respect international treaties and obligations entered into by the Philippines.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had said the EDCA would benefit the Philippines,

aside from strengthening the country's defense capabilities.

Bayan backs Rody

Militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) has expressed support for President Duterte's plans to review the EDCA.

Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said that although the Supreme Court upheld its validity, the EDCA brings back the US bases in the Philippines through the so-called agreed locations.

"The US can use Philippine facilities for free for an unspecified duration. They will also be allowed to put up permanent facilities and preposition weapons and vehicles on Philippine soil," Reyes said, adding as an executive agreement, the EDCA can be easily terminated by the President.

"After his review, Duterte can simply serve notice to

the US that the Philippines wants to terminate the pact," he said.

Duterte's pronouncements on EDCA followed his previous declarations that he would no longer allow the conduct of the Phl-US military exercises and the joint patrols with the US in the West Philippine Sea.

He had said he is open to forging defense ties with Russia and China and procure weapons from them, and that he wants US troops out of Mindanao.

"Duterte's assertion of Philippine sovereignty as against US impositions is one of his most significant achievements during his first 100 days," Reyes said.

He said the President's actions could be considered historic and unprecedented as they challenge decades-old neo-colonial relations with the end goal of developing foreign relations based on mutual respect, cooperation and benefit.

"We would like to see the

President succeed in charting a new path toward development that is not reliant on the US and in finally ridding the country of foreign troops and bases," Reyes said.

'Alliance with China'

Meanwhile, Duterte has said that a Chinese official suggested that he ally himself with China because the Philippines could not expect anything from the US.

"China said, shift your alliance to us. You won't gain anything from them," Duterte said during the opening of the MassKara Festival in Bacolod City on Sunday.

"I'm going to China to make friends with them and also with Russia," he added.

Duterte did not identify the Chinese official he was quoting. Before making the remark, the President was talking about his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Sum-

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mit in Laos last month.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang was present during the ASEAN meet but it was unclear whether he was the one being referred to by Duterte.

The President said he confided to Medvedev that the US criticized him because of his crackdown on illegal drugs.

"I met with Medvedev. I'm revealing it to you now.

"Nakiusap ako na ganito ang sitwasyon. Pinahihirapan ako nito at binaboy ako ng mga walanghiya (I told him that the situation was like this. They are making it hard for me and they are shamelessly bastardizing me)," Duterte said.

"Sabi niya ganun talaga Amerika so istorya kami. 'Sige tulungan ka namin,' (He said America is like that. We will help you)," he added.

Duterte reiterated that he would seek stronger ties with China and Russia, countries widely perceived to be rivals of the US.

"Tomorrow, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Chi-

nese President) Xi Jinping will be my close friends," he said in jest

Duterte said he is not afraid if his policy and pronouncements would turn off US investors.

"You said you would take away your dollars. Go ahead, take them away," he added.

The US, a longtime ally and treaty partner of the Philippines, has called out the Duterte administration for alleged extrajudicial killings linked to the government's anti-drug war.

The remark irked Duterte, who viewed it as undue interference with the Philippines' internal affairs.

Despite his tough talk, Duterte had said he would not cut ties with the US.

"We are not going to cut our umbilical cord with the countries we are allied with," Duterte said last month.

"But certainly, we will follow an independent posture and independent foreign policy," he added. – **With Alexis Romero, Rhodina Villanueva**

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INQUIRER

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Speaker backs down on sex video showing

Drug probers left to decide on issue

By Nikko Dizon

SPEAKER Pantaleon Alvarez is changing his tune after saying last week he found nothing wrong with the public showing of a sex tape purportedly featuring Sen. Leila de Lima.

On Monday, Alvarez said he was leaving it up to the House of Representatives' committee on justice to decide if it was necessary to watch the video at a hearing scheduled for Thursday.

At a press conference, the congressional leader acknowledged that "many women's groups reacted" to his statement about having to show the supposed sex video of De Lima, who is being linked by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to illegal drug trafficking at New Bilibid Prison (NBP) through the testimonies of convicts there.

De Lima, a former justice secretary, is one of the harshest critics of the Duterte administration's war on drugs that is marred by extrajudicial killings.

Alvarez said he had met with Representatives Kaka Bag-ao of Dinagat Islands, Dina Abad of Batanes and Josephine Sato of Occidental Mindoro to assure them that "I have nothing against women."

"I am part of the women's advocacies, the same way that I am one with the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community," he said.

SPEAKER, A7

Speaker backs down on sex video

al. 5285, 5295

From page A1

Alvarez noted that at the time he made his remarks last week that the sex video could be shown at the hearing "there was no objection to it."

The showing, he added, would violate no law, as "[w]e are doing this in aid of legislation."

"If Senator De Lima does not want to appear here at the House of Representatives, we will let the people, the public, judge whether that sex video is true or not," he told reporters then.

Firestorm of protest

The Speaker's statements triggered a firestorm of protest—from women's groups to online statements, to female legislators, along with a handful of their male counterparts, signing a statement expressing their objections to the showing of the video.

They said it was immaterial to the congressional investigation aimed at putting together legislation that would stop the illegal drug trade at NBP.

Senators also objected to the plan to show the video at a public hearing.

Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III warned representatives that they would pay a political price for reckless actions.

Fake, porn site

Senators Panfilo Lacson and Antonio Trillanes IV said it would be "highly inappropriate" and "foul" to show the video.

Sen. Grace Poe said playing the video would violate the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009.

But the sex video itself was fake, according to people whom the INQUIRER asked to watch a version of the tape purportedly

showing De Lima and her former driver, Ronnie Dayan, who is accused of collecting payoffs for her from drug lords inside NBP.

As it turned out, the video's source is a porn site. The video was splattered with the watermark title, "Senator Leila de Lima Scandal Pak Ganern," with the video's website source, <http://www.torjackan.info>, pasted at the center.

Amid the protests, Alvarez said, "it should be worked out in the committee that this (video showing) should no longer reach my office."

On Sunday, the House committee on justice chair, Rep. Reynaldo Umali, said that it would be up to the DOJ if it would insist on showing the tape.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II first raised the possibility of showing the video after engaging in a word war with De Lima.

If Aguirre insisted on it, Umali said he would have to call for a division of the House.

Put to a vote

"I do not want to preempt whatever they want to do. In the meantime, we will play it by ear. Whatever happens here and hopefully, people will come to their sense of dignity, sense of decency," Umali said. The hearing will resume on Oct. 6.

Among those invited by the committee to testify were Dayan, convict Jaybee Sebastian, former Executive Director Reginald Villasanta of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, former Director Franklin Bucayu of the Bureau of Corrections, and Presidential Security Group member Joenel Sanchez, a former bodyguard of De Lima.

Alvarez said he had instructed the House justice committee not to recommend the prosecution of anybody from the congressional inquiry.

It should produce, instead, a proposed legislation on how to stop the drug trade at NBP, he said.

'Psychological violence'

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) described the threat to play the video as a form of "psychological violence" against De Lima and women in general.

"Such repeated threat of showing the alleged sex video shows utter lack of respect for the dignity and privacy of a prominent woman legislator and is clearly meant to shame her," the CHR said on Monday.

Showing the video, "regardless of its authenticity," would make those responsible criminally liable, the CHR said. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*



Army helps clean up mosques for Islamic New Year

By John Unson (philstar.com) | Updated October 3, 2016 - 4:18pm



Members of the 6th Infantry Division went out of their camp on Sunday for an "Amon Jaded" clean-up drive in Cotabato City and Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. **JOHN UNSON**

COTABATO CITY, Philippines — Personnel of the Army's 6th Infantry Division on Sunday held clean-up drives at two mosques as a special "Amon Jaded" offering to residents here and in nearby Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao.

The activity was launched ahead of Amon Jaded — the "new year's day," or day one of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic lunar-based Hijrah calendar.

Hundreds of soldiers also collected garbage along a stretch of the highway connecting Cotabato City and the access route to Camp Siongco, the command center of the 6th ID, in Barangay Awang in Datu Odin Sinsuat.

Major Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said he is thankful to Cotabato City Mayor Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi for lending them heavy equipment to hasten the cleaning of the embankment and ditches along the highway.

Guiani-Sayadi, who assumed as mayor only last month following the demise of Cotabato City Mayor Japal Guiani, Jr., had earlier committed to support the peace-building and humanitarian activities of the police and the military in support of Malacañang's peace overtures with local sectors.

Sunday's clean-up drive by the 6th ID, which also focused on the beautification of the surroundings of Islamic worship sites in Barangay Awang and at the Malagapas area in Cotabato City, was planned by Galvez, his civil-military relations assistant, Lt. Col. Markton Abo, officials of the 6th Civil Military Operations Battalion and the division's Public Affairs office.

Galvez said the activity was meant to prove the commitment of the 6th ID to the Mindanao peace process and to President Rodrigo Duterte's local community empowerment initiatives.

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INQUIRER

Page. AR

Rody gives soldiers, cops huge pay hike

By Gil Cabacungan
and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Duterte has approved an increase in the combat and incentive pay of soldiers and police personnel as part of his campaign promise to improve the lives of the security forces.

“There is an urgent need to increase the said benefits to improve the living conditions of the men in uniform who are engaged in combating threats to national security and public peace and order,” said Mr. Duterte in Executive Order (EO) No. 3, which took effect on Sept. 1.

EO 3 has fixed the combat duty pay of members of the Armed Forces of Philippines and the Philippine National Police to P3,000 a month. The amount is six times the current combat pay of P500 a month for soldiers and nine times the P340 a month for police.

The President also raised the combat incentive pay of both the police and soldiers to P300

a day or a maximum of P3,000 a month from P150 a day or a maximum of P1,500 a month.

The combat pay shall be made for specific combat missions and for personnel enlisted in the mission orders.

The increase in combat pay is part Mr. Duterte’s promise to increase the salaries and perks of soldiers and police.

In his first three months in office, Mr. Duterte has made it his priority to secure the loyalty of the soldiers and police by visiting military camps and police districts, and giving funds for weapons, gear and medical facilities.

Mr. Duterte said the pay hike was in compliance with the constitutional requirement for the state to provide remuneration and benefits to the armed forces to ensure their professionalism.

He said the money would initially be drawn from the miscellaneous personnel benefits fund and would later be included in the annual budget of the military and police.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Soldiers get P3,000 increase in pay

THE Armed Forces said President Duterte's order to increase the combat pay of soldiers and policemen, from P500 to P3,000, was a "fitting recognition" of the sacrifices of military personnel who offer lives, if needed, for the country's security.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said soldiers are in high morale over the increase, which is retroactive to September 1.

The order also provides combat incentive pay of P300 daily, but no more than P3,000 per month, to soldiers who will be engaged in firefight with enemies of the state.

Padilla said the last time the sol-

diers got an increase in their combat pay was about six years ago, when the pay was increased from P120 to P500.

Asked if the soldiers are being pampered by the President, Padilla said: "Ang sundalo po ay nagsisilbi lamang. Kung binibigyan po kami ng mga benepisyong katulad nito kami po'y nagpapasalamat ng taos puso."

Padilla said a soldiers' life is hard, noting that they are on technically working on a 24/7 basis, sans overtime pay.

"Hindi po eight hours a day ang panunungkulan ng bawat sundalo, ito po ay 24/7. At ang pinakamabigat po dyan, ang kahandaan

nyang magbuwis ng buhay, kung kinakailangan, para lang pangalagaan po ang seguridad ng bayan," he said.

Padilla said 70,000 soldiers are assigned in the front lines and are qualified to receive an increase in combat pay. The military's total strength is about 125,000.

Padilla said the increase in combat pay and the combat incentive pay may mean an increase in the military budget by about P4 to 5 billion.

He said the increase in combat pay and combat incentive pay will be initially funded through the AFP's Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits this year. – *Victor Reyes*

04 October 2016



Pahina. 4

P3,000 combat pay sa pulis at sundalo

Ipinalo sa P3,000 ang combat duty pay at itinaas din ang combat incentives ng mga pulis at sundalo.

Ito'y matapos pirmahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Executive Order No.3 na pumupuntirang itaas ang natatanggap na combat pay at iba pang insentibo sa hanay ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at mga miyembro ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) performing combat duties/activities and uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) engaged in actual police operations as defined in regulations to be issued by the Secretary of National Defense and the National

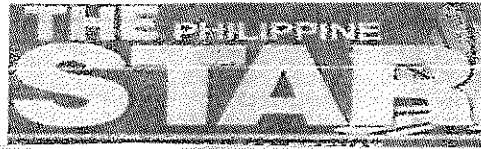
Police Commission, respectively, are entitled to receive Combat Duty Pay," ayon sa Executive Order na nilagdaan noong Setyembre 26, ngayong taon.

Itinakda sa P3,000 ang fixed rate o halagang matatanggap kada buwan ng mga opisyal at enlisted personnel ng AFP gayundin ang uniformed personnel ng mga PNP.

Nabatid na dati ay nasa P500 lamang ang rate kada buwan na tinatanggap ng qualified members ng AFP habang P340 ang buwanang tinatanggap ng qualified uniformed personnel ng PNP.

Dimagdagan din ng Presidente ang combat incentive pay ng mga pulis at sundalo na napapasabak sa aktuwal na operasyon (Aries Cano/Betchai Julian).

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AFP looking into reports of coup plot vs Duterte

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is taking seriously reports of a coup plot against President Duterte, who said yesterday he would retire from politics when his term ends in 2022.

Brig Gen Restituto Padilla said the AFP has yet to check the origin and credibility of the

alleged coup reports.

"News about these seeming disturbances within the military are unknown to us, but these are things that we take seriously, so we will look into it," the AFP spokesman told reporters.

Padilla said the President has been prioritizing the welfare of the soldiers.

"After the President prioritized visiting various military camps to communicate with the soldiers, all our soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors gave our commander-in-chief a warm reception, and the interaction between him and the armed

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE and GIOVANNI NILLES

forces at those instances was good," Padilla said in Filipino.

But he refused to comment on the President's pronouncement on the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the United States. He said the AFP is just waiting for formal instructions from the Office of the President.

"As cited by the President's spokesman himself, all statements from the President must be formally conveyed to us. So, we are holding our comment on that, pending formal instruction or official statement from the President," Padilla said.

"The Armed Forces is seeking clarification regarding this (EDCA), and we have communicated to the Department of National Defense that until such time that we get clarification on the statement, we cannot comment on it," he added.

Asked if the Philippines can defend its territory without US help, Padilla said the armed forces have their own capabilities to face present threats.

"The current status of our country is we are friends with all our neighbors; we abide by the constitutional policy of always prioritizing peace, and that's exactly what we are

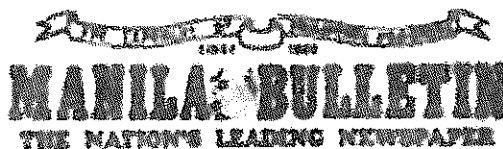
doing, so, within the scope of our capabilities, we are able to protect our interest at the moment," Padilla said.

Duterte to retire in 2022

Duterte said yesterday he would retire from politics after he leaves Malacañang in 2022.

"Elections come and go as we all know, and this (presidency) would be my last fling with public service," Duterte said in a speech during the opening of the 37th Masskara Festival in Bacolod City on Sunday. "I am old, and after this, I am going to retire."

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Page: 2

AFP douses cold water on coup rumors

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assured yesterday that the 125,000-strong military force remains loyal to President Duterte amid speculations of a possible coup to overthrow the present government circulate.

"News about these seeming disturbances within the military are unknown to us, these are things that

we take seriously so we will look into it," Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said at a press briefing.

Padilla said this in reaction to a statement made by Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco that some groups who are dissatisfied with the current government are possibly planning to launch a coup to oust the President.

"Hindi namin alam kung ano origin nito pero there have been some

pronouncements lately but that's the only thing I can say for now, we are seriously looking into it," Padilla said.

When asked about the relationship between the military and President Duterte, Padilla said it remains strong as ever. The morale of soldiers is also strong, he said.

"Matapos na bigyan ng prioridad ng ating Commander-in-Chief ang pagpunta sa lahat ng kasundaluhan,

maayos po ang pagtanggap po ng lahat ng ating mga sundalo, mga marino, mga airman, at saka mga sailors sa ating commander-in-chief (After the Commander-in-Chief gave priority to visiting our troops, he has been received very well by our soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors)," Padilla said.

When asked if there is a creeping division in the military, Padilla flatly said there is none.

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Military seriously checking on coup plot vs Rody

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is seriously investigating a supposed coup plot against President Duterte raised by Malacañang officials



PADILLA

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said that just like any threat to the President and the republic, the alleged plot is being taken seriously by the 150,000-strong military.

Padilla, however, stressed that military troops are currently in high spirits—with promises of more benefits by Duterte.

"News about these seeming disturbances within the military is unknown to us. These are things that we take seriously, so we will look into it," said Padilla.

Secretary Leoncio Evasco, Secretary to the Cabinet, raised that possibility of a coup d'état against Duterte.

This is because there are personalities unhappy with the way Duterte is running the administration.

Turn to page 2

From page 1

such as Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the Liberal Party, he said.

However, Evasco said a coup plot will not prosper because Duterte enjoys a high trust rating.

According to Padilla, the morale of the AFP has been high under the 100-day old Duterte administration.

Padilla cited Duterte's continuing visitations to major AFP camps throughout the country during his first few months in office.

The AFP spokesman said that in all his visits to military camps, the President has been warmly welcomed by the troops.

He also said that Duterte's promised pay increase and other benefits to the soldiers are keeping

the AFP in high spirits.

The President vowed to double the salary of soldiers and police, and recently he raised the combat pay from P500 to P3,000.

"The Commander in Chief's commitment could not be equaled...so based on that, the morale of our troops is high and everybody is serving the organization," said Padilla.

Asked where could the talks about a coup plot originate, Padilla replied "we don't know the origin of these talks but there have been some pronouncements lately but that's the only thing I can say for now - we are seriously looking into it."

The newspapers have been replete with reported plans of a

coup through yet another people power but apparently, the military intelligence service and even NICA have not even looked into these reports, since AFP says it is only starting to look into these issues.

Duterte raised the possibility of a United States-backed coup to oust him for his strong sentiments and statements against the US which maintains that its relationship with the Philippines remains "ironclad."

The President also said he heard of rumblings within the AFP due to his favorable moves for the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

Padilla maintained that the AFP has not monitored any rumbling within the ranks.

The nation has experienced the

toppling of two governments, and both were *coups d'etat* although these two topplings were disguised as "People power."

There are also clear indications that a coup is being planned, such as the revival of an investigation in the Davao Death Squad (DDS) by Sen. Leila de Lima, even when these Davao alleged extrajudicial killings are not part of the subject of the resolution filed by de Lima, lumping all the drug related killings as extrajudicial killings alleged by de Lima and Sen. Antonio Trillanes as being ordered by President Duterte, without, however, highlighting the number of police killings as against the vigilante killings as well as the number of

the drug pushers and users who have surrendered to law enforcers.

There are other converging political developments, such as the US State Department Assistant Secretary adverting to the "affinity of Filipinos" with the US, using the phrase "people power"; the threat of Duterte not to implement the EDCA, which has to do with the creation of bases in various parts of the country for Americans; and the foreign media, along with the local mainstream media reporting on all the "blunders" against the country's allies committed by Duterte.

The armed forces are known to keep information from the presidents on such plots, although more often than not, there is

intelligence information on such coups being planned by groups wanting to oust the sitting presidents they dislike, especially since they can't oust them constitutionally.

In the case of then sitting President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, his defense chief, Orly Mercado and the then Armed Forces chief of staff the late Gen. Angelo Reyes, along with the chiefs of the other branches of the AFP, the intelligence agencies, whether police or military including his NICA chief and the Intelligence service of the AFP, did not provide Estrada with any intelligence report, including his NICA chief since they were all into the plot to topple the government of Estrada.

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INQUIRER

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What's with end of Edca remark, asks military

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines is seeking clarification from the Department of National Defense on the reported threat of President Duterte to abrogate the Philippines-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) and take a new foreign policy direction.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the AFP was reserving comment on the issue until a clarification from Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was received on what the Commander in Chief really meant.

On Sunday, the President told an audience at the Maskara Festival in Bacolod City that his administration was reviewing the Edca. He said that although it was an official document, it was not signed by former President Benigno S. Aquino III.

Mr. Duterte made the threat following reports the United States might sanction the Philippines because of the President's deadly war on drugs.

"If you Americans are angry with me, then I'm also angry with you," Mr. Duterte had said.

Padilla said he believed the President just wanted to explore relations with other countries.

"The current status of our country is we are friends with all our neighbors. We abide by the constitutional policy of always prioritizing peace and that's exactly what we are doing, so within the scope of our capabilities we are able to protect our interest at the moment," he said.

Padilla said the AFP chief of staff will hold talks with his counterpart in the US Pacific Command in a meeting in the country this month.

Looking for coup talk

Meanwhile, the AFP is "seriously looking" into persistent reports of a brewing coup in the military to be staged by military officers unhappy with Mr. Duterte's leadership style and public pronouncements as the Commander in Chief.

Padilla said that while the AFP had not monitored any unusual movements in the ranks, the military hierarchy was not taking the reports lightly.

"News about this seeming disturbance within the military are unknown to us. (But) these are things that we take seriously so we will look into it," Padilla said in a news briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

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US emphasizes importance of EDCA

By ELENA L. ABEN

The United States (US) emphasized on Monday the importance of the 2014 PH-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

“EDCA is a mutually beneficial agreement which will, among other things, enhance our ability to provide rapid assistance in the Philippines in

cases of natural disasters by allowing us to pre-position relief and other supplies,” said Molly Koscina, the US Embassy information officer.

Koscina stressed that the agreement does not provide for permanent U.S. bases in the Philippines.

“The United States has no intention to re-open military bases in the Philippines,” she said in a statement sent to the Manila Bulletin.

Koscina added that “all activities to assist with the long-term modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are planned and conducted with the concurrence and at the invitation of the Government of the Philippines.”

The EDCA was signed by then Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg on April 28, 2014, hours before President Barack Obama arrived in Manila for his first official visit.

It allows allows the US access to five Philippine military bases- Antonio Bautista Air Base in Palawan; Basa Air Base and Fort Magsaysay in Luzon;

Lumbia Air Base in northern Mindanao; and Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu- where they build temporary facilities to strengthen the country's equipment-deficient military.

The signing of the 10-year agreement came months after super typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan) ripped through the Central Visayas region, wiping out coastal towns and cities and killing 6,300 people.

In a speech he delivered during the opening of the Maskara Festival in Bacolod City on Sunday, Duterte threatened to rescind EDCA which is considered an executive agreement between the United States and the Philippines.

The Chief Executive, in his speech, also warned that he may soon eject American troops from the country.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it will seek clarification over a statement made by President Duterte that he is open to the idea of voiding the EDCA. (With a report from Francis T. Wakefield)

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Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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AFP seeks clarification on Edca

By Florante S. Solmerin

THE military declined to comment on President Rodrigo Duterte's threat to junk the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States pending a clarification from Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"The Armed Forces is seeking clarification and we have communicated [our request] to the Department of National Defense. Until we get the clarifica-

tion behind those statements, we cannot comment on it," military spokesman Brigadier General Resituto Padilla told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Padilla made the reply after defense journalists asked if the Armed Forces of the Philippines can stand on its own without American forces amid the China's aggression in the West Philippine Sea.

Duterte said he was considering stopping all bilateral military

exercises with the US, including the Edca because it was not even signed by the previous president and could not be considered a treaty.

When Edca was being formulated and finally signed in 2014, the agreement was seen as a deterrent to China's aggression as it continued to grab territories and artificial islands in the WPS despite the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration junking China's "9-dash line."

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PH, US war game 'Phiblex' starts today

BY VICTOR REYES

FILIPINO and American troops are due to start today the military exercise called Phiblex, or Amphibious Landing Exercise, which President Duterte said will be last war game with the Americans.

One of the major exercises annually conducted under the

Mutual Defense Treaty and Visiting Forces Agreement, Phiblex will formally open at the Marines headquarters in Fort Bonifacio this morning.

The training involves 1,400 American and 500 Filipino soldiers. It will be conducted in different parts of Luzon, includ-

PH, US

ing traditional training areas in Zambales, Tarlac and Palawan.

Marine spokesman Capt. Ryan Lacuesta has said the exercise, which will run until October 12, is meant to improve the interoperability of both forces in addressing various threats.

The two sides have conducted two other major exercises for this year, namely the Balikatan exercise in April, and the Cooperation Afloat Readiness

Training in June.

Last week, President Duterte said the Phiblex will be the last war game with the US as he is seeking stronger ties with China and Russia. However, Duterte said Philippine military alliance with the Americans will continue.

The military said it is still seeking clarification on Duterte's statement about the exercises with the US military.

If this will be indeed be the last exercise with the Americans,

Filipino troops can train on their own, said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman.

Asked if the AFP can defend Philippine territory without help from the US, Padilla said the military has the capability.

"Based on the threats that we face, angkop naman ho tayo at naghahanda para sa mga iba pang haharapin... within the scope of our capabilities we are able to protect our interest at the moment and that is how far I can go," he said.

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INQUIRER

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Solon: Move gunnery range out of Tarlac

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Citing the safety and ancestral land rights of Aetas and upland farmers, Tarlac Rep. Noel Villanueva has opposed a plan of the military to transform the Crow Valley gunnery range (CVGR) in Capas town for international military use, and has proposed its transfer instead to the Basa Air Base in Pampanga province.

Speaking to the INQUIRER on Saturday, Villanueva said he gave his recommendations during the budget hearing for the Department of National Defense on Sept. 27.

He said he also relayed his suggestions to President Duterte in a letter on Aug. 10.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has reiterated the “legality of its administration and control of the CVGR complex,” in a document it sent to Villanueva recently.

Base lands

The CVGR is “Zone C” of the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Tarlac, part of the base lands leased to the United States military under the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement, which the Senate had not extended in September 1991.

Spanning more than 18,000 hectares, the CVGR is under the control of the Philippine Air Force. Live firing and bombing exercises have resumed there

since 1999 under the Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and US.

But Aetas have pending ancestral domain claims over these lands and have used the area to access Mt. Pinatubo, a sacred site of their mountain deity and a popular trekking destination from which they earn a living.

Villanueva said turning CVGR into an international gunnery would lead to the “massive dislocation” of residents in the villages of Sta. Juliana, Patling, Maruglu and Bueno in Tarlac.

In a resolution he filed in 2014, Villanueva asked Congress to investigate an outpost of the PAF that supposedly

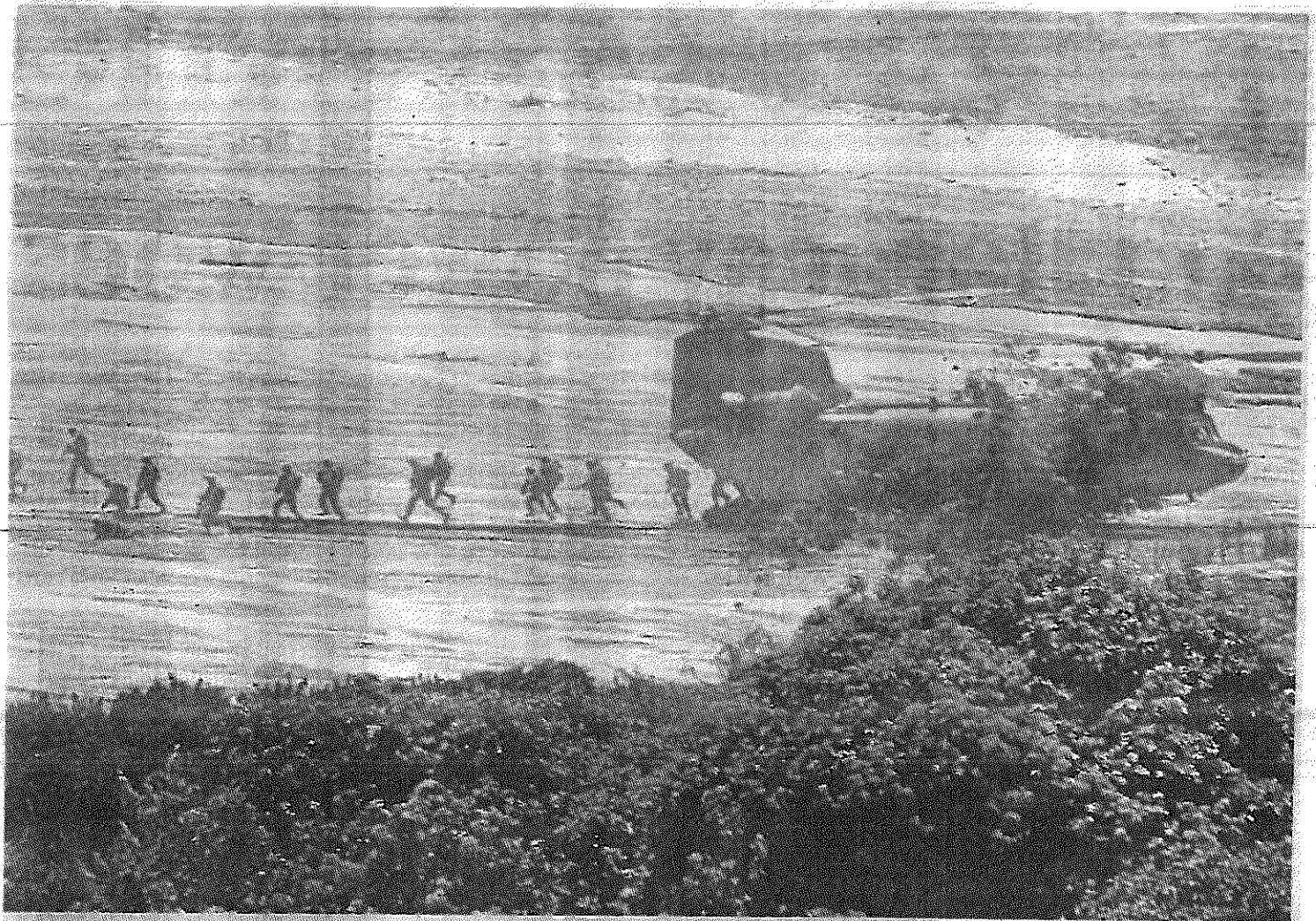
stopped residents in the mountain villages from bringing construction materials to repair their houses or taking down crops for sale in the lowlands.

He said the AFP had told him that it had formed a technical working group to address issues “particularly the presence of the Aetas within the gunnery range danger zones.”

“I hope President Duterte would take a closer look at the plight of the Aetas, and move toward the recognition of their right to their lands, so that they may forever live undisturbed on these lands that their forefathers had nurtured,” he said.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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WAR GAMES American soldiers step out of a Chinook helicopter during a military exercise with Filipino troops at Crow Valley gunnery range in Capas town, Tarlac province.

WILLIE LOMIBAO / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

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The National Newspaper

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Joint sea patrols with Indonesia, Malaysia eyed

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts have discussed the possibility of holding joint air patrols due to the rising number of kidnapping and robbery in the waters of the three countries.

Gazmin, Malaysian Defense Minister Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu held a trilateral meeting last Saturday in Hawaii at the sidelines of the ASEAN-US Defense Dialogue.

The joint air patrols are on top of the standing border patrol or maritime patrol agreements between the three countries.

DND assistant secretary for assessments and international relations Raymund Quilop said the planned joint air patrol was the offshoot of the increasing incidence of kidnapping and robbery at sea.

The Abu Sayyaf has abducted around 26 Malaysian and Indonesian nationals in Philippines, Malaysian and Indonesian waters over

the past six months and brought to Sulu. Nineteen of them were released or have escaped.

The Abu Sayyaf is also holding captive four Filipinos and a Dutch national in Sulu.

Government forces have stepped operations against the Abu Sayyaf in the province and in Basilan since August, in line with President Duterte's vow to end the group during his term.

"Meeting on October 1, the three ministers agreed to explore joint air patrols even while their respective armed forces are finalizing the parameters for maritime patrol in the agreed upon transit corridor in what the three countries consider as maritime areas of common concern," said Quilop.

This is the second time Lorenzana had a trilateral meeting with his Malaysian and Indonesian counterparts to discuss the growing problem. The first meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia last August.

"Primarily driven by the need to address the rising incidents of armed robbery at sea, kidnapping and piracy in the three

countries' areas of common concern, the trilateral meeting has evolved to be a platform for the defense ministers to address other emerging common concerns, to include violent extremism," said Quilop.

Quilop said the three defense ministers also discussed the threats posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known as Islamic State of Iraq and Levant.

"The phenomenon of returning fighters from the conflict in the Middle East could eventually create security challenges for the three countries, something which the ministers recognized and hence their decision to further get their act together," said Quilop.

Citing the "political support" of President Duterte, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, Quilop said the three defense chiefs "are confident that the apparent intent of ISIL-affiliated groups in their respective countries to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia, similar to what the ISIL intends."

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Page: 01

Sans formal halt order, RP-US cooperation to push through – AFP

By Mario J. Mallari
and Ted Tuvera

Upcoming engagements between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the United

States military will push through as scheduled until a formal notice coming from higher authorities declaring otherwise.

This month AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya is hosting the Mutual Defense Board.

Turn to page 3



Sans formal halt order, RP-US cooperation to push through – AFP

From page 1

Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) meeting with the US Pacific Command.

"This will push through until there is no formal advice (stating otherwise)," said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr.

He added the MDB-SEB will be held here in Manila this month as originally scheduled.

"I really don't know the final agenda. It continuously changes from what I know," he said.

Today, the Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise 33 (Phiblex 33) will open – involving about 1,400 US troops and 500 Filipino soldiers, at the Philippine Marine Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. Phiblex 33 will run up to October 12.

Based on recent pronouncements by President Rodrigo Duterte, Phiblex 33 would be the last joint military training between the RP and US troops under his six-year term. He said this at least twice.

But Padilla said the AFP is still awaiting clarification on the matters.

"Based on the announcement of the President of which we are seeking clarification of, until such that we get that clarification, that's the only time we will comment, so let's wait," he stressed.

At the same time, Padilla said the military will also seek clarification from Defense and Malacañang officials on the President's statement on the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

"The Armed Forces is seeking clarification regarding those and we have communicated to the Department of National Defense, and until such time that we get the communication regarding the clarification behind those statements, we cannot comment on it," he added.

Duterte, who is very vocal in his preference of dealing with China and even Russia over the United

States, said he would seek a review of the defense agreement, which was signed by former Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter during the Aquino administration.

The President's statement followed his tough position against the Americans and on the existing defense and cooperation agreements and activities between the US and the country, including the Balikatan and joint patrols in the South China Sea and the presence of US soldiers in Mindanao for counter-terrorism operations.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, for its part, welcomed Duterte's threat to cancel EDCA, that went into force in January.

"The abrogation of the EDCA, which allows the US to build military camps and facilities inside Philippine military camps and maintain contingents of armed troops, has become an urgent matter of survival for the Duterte regime," it said in a statement.

"Over the past several decades, the US government has long carried out both outright and clandestine acts of subversion wherever governments have stood up to defend their national interests and chose to tread a path independent to US geopolitical and economic interests," it added.

Particularly pointing at US Assistant State Secretary Daniel Russell's statement that it is wrong for the Philippines to turn its back on Washington, the CPP said it shows how the US "arrogantly assumed the self-assigned role of global police."

"I think it would be a serious mistake in a democratic country like the Philippines to underestimate the power of the people's affinity for the US. That's people power," Russell was quoted as saying.

But CPP said Russell's statement "is an outright threat to subvert the Duterte regime which has been increasingly critical of US meddling and hypocrisy in the Philippines."

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Gov't readies bilateral truce, amnesty for Reds

By Ted Tuvera

The Philippine government is willing to grant the communist insurgents' request for amnesty for about 400 of their detained comrades.

Government peace panel chief negotiator Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said that a draft amnesty proclamation is already ready for submission during the second round of peace talks with the left-wing National Democratic Front (NDF) that will resume on Thursday in Oslo, Norway.

"The list has been narrowed down to just over 400 from a high of more than 500. As per agreement during the formal resumption of the peace talks in August, the proclamation will only cover NDF members currently detained," Bello said.

Bello added that the President, with the concurrence

of Congress, could declare a general amnesty once the peace talks end up successfully.

However, the GRP chief negotiator with the NDF said that the second round of talks, which will be discussing political and constitutional reforms in addition to the social and economic reform agenda is accordingly the toughest part of the peace process.

Meanwhile, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Secretary Jesus Dureza said that the possibility of a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the NDF's armed allies, the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), will be raised in the second round of talks.

However, Dureza said that there should be a strict mechanism to monitor possible violations of the unilateral ceasefire orders by both the GRP's state security forces and

the NPA guerillas.

It is recalled that communist rebels ambushed a combined Army-Caggu patrol in Davao del Norte just days after President Duterte issued his first unilateral ceasefire which he eventually terminated in less than a week.

"The previous ceasefires were unilateral. We need to craft mechanisms to monitor violations and resolve conflicts and issues arising from them," Dureza said.

While the unilateral ceasefires declared by both the GRP and the NDF were indefinite in nature, the presidential peace adviser said the government is eyeing a more permanent cessation of hostilities.

"These can only be done if we are able to agree on the more substantial issues of social and economic reforms. These are the more contentious issues and we expect humps and bumps during the peace negotiations," Dureza added.

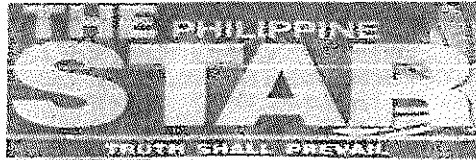


Good news!

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla (left) explains President Duterte's Executive Order 3 which fixes the monthly combat pay to P3,000 effective September 1 during a press conference yesterday

PNA

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Misuari to get safe conduct pass – Rody

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari has been assured of a safe conduct pass for his meeting with President Duterte in Davao City.

“Nur Misuari is scheduled to get out of his camp,” Duterte said during the opening of the MassKara Festival in Bacolod City on Sunday. “I will just give him a conduct pass, he will go to Davao, we will talk.”

Duterte did not say when the meeting will take place.

Misuari has a standing warrant of arrest for rebellion and violation of the International Humanitarian law, genocide as well as other crimes against humanity in view of the Zamboanga City siege in September 2013 that left over 200 people dead.

The President earlier ordered the police and military not to arrest Misuari so the government can talk peace with the MNLF again.

However, Duterte turned down Misuari’s request to include Abu Sayyaf bandits in the peace talks and give them general amnesty.

“If that’s the case then let’s not talk anymore. I will not. For the life of me, I will not,” he told Marine troopers at Fort

Bonifacio last week.

“Why should I talk to animals? What’s the point? They are merciless,” he added.

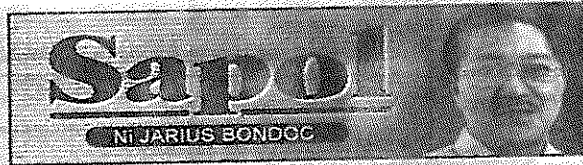
Misuari was reportedly instrumental in the release of Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad from his Abu Sayyaf captors.

Officials said Misuari also helped facilitate the release of three Indonesians who were kidnapped in Sabah in July and three other Indonesians seized in Sulu in June.

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Pahina. 4



Abu Sayyaf maling-mali ang tantiya kay Duterte

SUSUMPA na lang si Rody Duterte sa Panguluhan nu'ng Hunyo 30 nang pugutan ng Abu Sayyaf ang isa sa tatlong dayuhang hostage na kinidnap nila sa Samal Island. "Regalo" raw nila 'yon sa bagong pinuno. Nagtimpi si Duterte. Aniya naiintindihan niya ang mga unang rason kung bakit itinatag ang grupo. Nu'ng una kasi ay splinter ito ng kabataan mula sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front sa Basilan-Sulu-Tawi-Tawi.

Pero sa mga sumunod na linggo ipinakita ng Abu Sayyaf na hindi sifa titigil sa terorismo. Patuloy silang

nang-kidnap-for-ransom ng mga dayuhan at Pilipino. Karamihan ng mga biniktima ay mga mangingisda at tripulanteng Indonesian at Malaysian, dahil dati nang nagbabayad ng ransom ang mga kabayan nila. At sa huli ay pinahirapan nila bago pugutan ang 18-anyos na lalaking tubo sa mahirap na pamilya sa Zamboanga City. Kinikikilan nila ang pamilya ng P2 milyon, pero P100,000 ang pahirapang naipon nito -- kaya pinatay nila ang bata.

Maling-mali ang Abu Sayyaf. Hindi nila natantiya si Duterte. Hindi nila naisip na ang pagtitimpi nito ay para lang mag-ipon ng lakas. Hindi nila nakita na paikut-ikot ang Pangulo sa mga kampo para pukawin ang mga sundalo at pulis. Hindi nila naisip na paspasan nito pinalaya ang mga nakabilanggong Komunista para magka-tigil-putukan at makapag-usapang pangkapayapaan sa mga rebelde sa Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao. Hindi nila nasuri na ibig sabihin nito ay maililipat niya ang mga batalyon na dating nakikipag-laban sa New People's Army. Hindi nila nabatid na, sa huli, bubuhusan ni Duterte ang Western Mindanao ng

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

SAPOL... Mula pahina 4

libu-libong sundalo para tugisin ang Abu Sayyaf. Ni hindi nila napansin na sa Kamaynilaan ay hindi iniinda ni Duterte ang mga hiyaw ng human rights violations. e sa pugad pa kaya ng terorista?

Ubusin na ang Abu Sayyaf, utos ni Duterte. Tamang-tama 'yan.

Makinig sa Sapol, Sabado, 8-10 ng umaga, DWIZ (882-AM)

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INQUIRER

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No need to scrap Edca

PRESIDENT Digong should think twice—nay, 100 times—before burning bridges with the United States.

The President should not scrap the PH-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) just because Uncle Sam is critical of his war on drugs.

Both the United States and our country benefit from the war games under Edca.

If we get too emotional because of criticisms about the way we handle our internal problem, we might lose a longtime ally.

By all means, let's be friends with Russia and China which have extended the hand of friendship to us.

But we can be friends with the United States, Russia and China—all at the same time.

There's a reason for President Digong to be upset with the United States for criticizing his war on drugs.

The US government practices a double standard.

Why are the Americans against the killing of drug traffickers in the Philippines when they are helping Colombian and Brazilian authorities fight drug cartels?

Many people have been killed in Colombia's continuing war on drugs and the United States doesn't decry this as extrajudicial.

Members of the US Drug Enforcement Agency do intelligence work for the Colombian government and even take part in battling drug traffickers in that South American country.

In Brazil, some members of the elite US Navy Seals fight side by side with the police in Rio de Janeiro in battling heavily armed

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



"Red Commandos," members of that country's drug syndicate (Source: Gangster Warlords by Ioan Grillo)

Why is the United States tolerating Colombia and Brazil's efforts, even taking part in going after the drug cartels in those countries, but condemning Duterte's deadly campaign against illicit drugs?

Isn't that hypocrisy on the part of Uncle Sam?

The President has apologized to the Jews for his remark about slaughtering three million Filipino drug addicts, comparing them to the Jews during Adolf Hitler's time.

That was the second time President Digong apologized in public, the first to former Pangasinan governor and now Congressman Amado Espino and two other provincial officials for mistakenly linking them to drugs.

One good thing about the President is his ability to own up to a mistake and say sorry.

But too many apologies also erode his credibility.

LBC's new epithets are Late Baggage Corp. or Lost Baggage Corp. but it doesn't seem to care.

My public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," has received numerous complaints from customers about money or items sent through LBC which

failed to arrive at their destination or got lost along the way.

The latest complainant is Michelle Balinas of Cainta, Rizal, who sent P25,750 to Edgardo Ybanez of Biliran province which he never received.

Balinas sent the money through the LBC office on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, in early July.

When Ybanez said he didn't receive the money, Balinas complained to the LBC management.

On Sept. 28, Balinas went to my office to decry the company's inaction.

When we called up LBC about Balinas' complaint, we were told its legal office would face any lawsuit to be filed against the company.

In short, LBC was not taking responsibility for the loss of Balinas' money while it was in transit to Biliran.

What arrogance!

Anyway, that was not the first time we received complaints of a similar nature against LBC.

I took a Philippine Airlines flight from Puerto Princesa City to Manila yesterday and, as usual, the plane took off late, living up to the joke about PAL—Plane Always Late.

The plane was scheduled to take off at 7 a.m. and arrive in Manila at 8 a.m.

Flying time from Puerto Princesa to Manila and vice versa is exactly one hour.

The plane took off late—at 9 a.m. and landed at the Manila International Airport at 9:55 a.m.

As a result, the stewardess proudly announced over the plane's loudspeaker that the plane had arrived "ahead of schedule."

ONLINE NEWS

04 October 2016

DND to acquire gas turbine generator set for FA-50PH jet

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 3): DND to acquire gas turbine generator set for FA-50PH jet

The Department of National Defense (DND) is allocating the sum of PHP75,049,000 for the acquisition of one set of gas turbine generator for its brand-new FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" jet fighters.

The fund will be sourced from the Philippine Air Force General Appropriations Act CY 2016. Winning bidders are required to deliver the items with 540 days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.

Prospective bidders should have completed, within the last five years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project.

The DND Bids and Awards Committee will hold a pre-bid conference on Oct. 13, 10:00 a.m. at the DND-BAC Conference Room, basement left wing, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. While bid opening is on Oct. 25, 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

The Philippines has a 12 FA-50PH order from Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) worth PHP18.9 billion.

The first two units arrived last Nov. 28 with the remaining 10 to be delivered during 2016 and 2017.

The FA-50PHs has a top speed of Mach 1.5 or one and a half times the speed of sound and is capable of being fitted air-to-air missiles, including the AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air and heat-seeking missiles aside from light automatic cannons.

It will act as the country's interim fighter until the Philippines get enough experience of operating fast jet assets and money to fund the acquisition of more capable fighter aircraft.

Its design is largely derived from the F-16 "Fighting Falcon", and they have many similarities: use of a single engine, speed, size, cost, and the range of weapons.

KAI's previous engineering experience in license-producing the KF-16 was a starting point for the development of the FA-50PH.

The aircraft can carry two pilots in tandem seating. The high-mounted canopy developed by Hankuk Fiber is applied with stretched acrylic, providing the pilots with good visibility, and has been tested to offer the canopy with ballistic protection against four-pound objects impacting at 400 knots.

The altitude limit is 14,600 meters (48,000 feet), and airframe is designed to last 8,000 hours of service.

There are seven internal fuel tanks with capacity of 2,655 liters (701 US gallons), five in the fuselage and two in the wings.

An additional 1,710 liters (452 US gallons) of fuel can be carried in the three external fuel tanks. Trainer variants have a paint scheme of white and red, and aerobatic variants white, black, and yellow.

The FA-50PH uses a single General Electric F404-102 turbofan engine license-produced by Samsung Techwin, upgraded with a full authority digital engine control system jointly developed by General Electric and Korean Aerospace Industries.

The engine consists of three-staged fans, seven axial stage arrangement, and an afterburner. Its engine produces a maximum of 78.7 kN (17,700 lbf) of thrust with afterburner.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=928171>

DND in the market for FA-50PH engine

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 3): DND in the market for FA-50PH engine

The Department of National Defense (DND) is allocating the sum of PHP416,476,000 for the acquisition of brand-new engine unit for one of its FA-50 "Fighting Eagle" jet aircraft.

The fund for the engine will be sourced from the Philippine Air Force General Appropriations Act CY 2016.

Earlier reports claimed that the engine of one of the two operational FA-50PHs was totally destroyed after a bird strike in Clark Field, Pampanga.

The first two FA-50PHs, out of 12-plane order from Korea Aerospace Industries, was delivered last November.

Winning bidders are required to deliver the engine within 720 days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed.

They should have also completed a similar project within the last five years.

The DND Bids and Awards Committee will hold a pre-bid conference on Oct. 13, 10:00 a.m. at the DND BAC Conference Room, basement, left wing, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. While bid opening is on Oct. 25, 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=928188>

Ceasefire, amnesty up in Oslo 2nd round of talks

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 3): Ceasefire, amnesty up in Oslo 2nd round of talks

Negotiating panels of the Philippine government (GRP) and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) are expected to exchange drafts on the proposed bilateral ceasefire and craft an amnesty proclamation as peace talks are set to resume in Oslo, Norway.

Thursday, Oct. 6.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said that they hope to come up with a ceasefire agreement that will include joint monitoring and possibly with a third-party overseer.

"The previous ceasefires were unilateral. We need to craft mechanisms to monitor violations and resolve conflicts and issues arising from them," Dureza explained.

While the unilateral ceasefires declared by both the GRP and the NDF were indefinite in nature, the presidential peace adviser said the government is eyeing a more permanent cessation of hostilities.

"These can only be done if we are able to agree on the more substantial issues of social and economic reforms. These are the more contentious issues and we expect humps and bumps during the peace negotiations," Dureza added.

Both panels have already crafted drafts on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER), which is described as the "meat" of the peace talks.

The end of hostilities and disposition of forces—the other substantive agenda of the peace talks—hinge on the success of CASER, along with political and constitutional reforms.

Dureza, however, is confident that the inspiration provided by President Rodrigo Duterte will enable both parties to pull the peace process through.

"He may not be capable of elegant language, as you have noticed, but he has pure spirit and heart in wanting to have peace in the land," Dureza said on Friday, Sept. 30, at the closing ceremony of the 2016 National Peace Consciousness Month.

GRP peace panel head and Labor Secretary Silvestre 'Bebot' Bello III meanwhile said that a draft amnesty proclamation is already ready for submission during the second round of peace talks.

"The list has been narrowed down to just over 400 from a high of more than 500. As per agreement during the formal resumption of the peace talks in August, the proclamation will only cover NDF members currently detained," Bello elaborated.

He said the president, with the concurrence of Congress, could declare a general amnesty once the peace talks are brought to a successful conclusion.

Bello, however, said both negotiating panels will also have to hurdle issues on political and constitutional reforms in addition to the social and economic reform agenda for the peace talks to succeed.

The Philippine government is confident that it will be able to strike a deal with the communist rebels by August next year.

Peace talks between Philippine government and the NDF have been going on and off over the last 30 years with over 40 rounds of formal and informal talks.

Every time, however, the negotiations are scuttled due to hard line demands from both sides.

In July, President Duterte ordered the release of 22 detained NDF consultants, 16 of them later joined the first round of Oslo talks in August, to fulfill a campaign promise and to jumpstart the peace negotiations.

He also declared a unilateral ceasefire during his State of the Nation Address only to lift it later after the communist rebels ambushed a combined Army-CAFGU patrol.

The president nevertheless re-imposed the unilateral ceasefire on the eve of the August Oslo talks, which the NDF reciprocated with an indefinite and unilateral ceasefire of their own.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=&sid=&nid=&rid=925170>