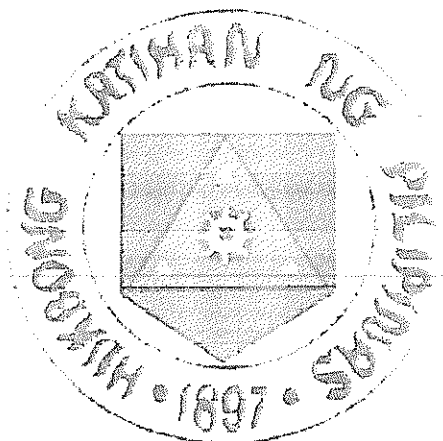


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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House delegation joining Oxfam peace talks with NDF

Actor faces life over marijuana

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Brush over Nobel for exotic matter research

As we must for Trump

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 5, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
950 KM EAST OF CASIGURAN, AURORA
INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON,
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(As of 5:00 PM - October 4, 2016)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CELEBES SEA

SUNRISE 5:46 AM	SUNSET 5:43 PM
MOONRISE 8:56 AM	MOONSET 8:45 PM
NEW MOON OCT 1 8:11 AM	FIRST QUARTER OCT 9 12:33 PM
LOW TIDE 6:59 AM 0.18 Meter	HIGH TIDE 1:26 PM 0.62 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

OCT 6		OCT 7		OCT 6		OCT 7		OCT 6		OCT 7	
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 29 °C	21 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C			
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 31 °C	24 - 33 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 28 °C	25 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C			
LAOAG	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C			
BAGUIO	15 - 22 °C	15 - 22 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C			
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C						

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INQUIRER

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'No regrets for drug war'

Dela Rosa out to encourage policemen to do their job

WHEN Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa gave a rousing speech to his men at the PNP regional headquarters in Luzon, they rewarded him with a gift: a replica of the sword used by actor Mel Gibson in the movie, "Braveheart."

The barrel-chested PNP chief grinned and gave the sword a practice swing. A voice on the camp's loudspeaker declared him "the

bravest of bravehearts."

Dela Rosa acts as the enforcer for President Duterte, whose war on illegal drugs has led to the killing of more than 3,400 people in just over three months.

Dela Rosa's tour of Luzon was the latest in a series of trips to stiffen the resolve of PNP offi-

NO REGRETS/A18

From page A1

als at the campaign's bloody frontline.

"I have to encourage them to do our job," he told a Reuters reporter who went on the trip last month. "We are at war."

The campaign has sparked outrage abroad, but has won praise from a crime-weary population at home and only muted criticism from civil society groups.

In a country where the police are generally despised and feared because of their reputation for corruption and violence, Dela Rosa is popular.

'Good soldier'

Mr. Duterte has often called for the killing of drug dealers, and Dela Rosa has echoed the incendiary remarks. In a speech last month, he encouraged users and pushers to kill drug lords who had grown rich from exploiting the poor.

"You know who are the drug lords here, go to their houses, pour gasoline, set it on fire, show them you are angry at them," he said.

Still, Dela Rosa's close opera-

tional knowledge of the drug war could make him a focus if there is ever an independent investigation of the killings, said Rose Trajano, secretary general of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, a nationwide coalition based in Manila.

"He is a good soldier of the President, but there will also be fear in him," Trajano said.

Dela Rosa told Reuters he was confident that killings during police operations were legitimate, and that the "deaths under investigation" were mostly the work of drug syndicates. "They are killing each other," he said.

Under pressure

In person, Dela Rosa is intense but courteous, and says he is under pressure.

"My worry is that I won't be able to deliver what is expected of me," he told Reuters.

Mr. Duterte vowed on Sept. 18 he would extend his antidrug campaign for another six months, but Dela Rosa said he still felt pressed for time.

The biggest obstacles to the campaign, he said, were providing rehab services for the many

users of crystal meth, a highly addictive drug known locally as "shabu," and halting its influx from abroad, particularly the flow from China.

More than 700,000 drug users and pushers have registered with the authorities in a process termed "surrendering."

But there are very few programs or facilities to help most of them, and local media have reported the killing of scores of people who have registered.

Killings to rise

Dela Rosa told Reuters the number of antidrug killings would continue to rise.

"Every day the number of dead increases," he said. "Every day the arrests increase and those who surrender."

He bristled at the mention of foreign critics. The United States has said it is "deeply concerned" by the killings, while two UN experts have accused Mr. Duterte of incitement to violence, a crime under international law.

"They're making us out to be killers," Dela Rosa said. "It really broke my heart. We're doing this for the good of the

Filipino people."

Before the antidrug campaign, he said, people were scared to leave their houses. "Now the situation has been reversed. Law-abiding people are going out. Criminals are hiding. See the difference?"

But while other serious crime has declined, the murder rate has soared, and in some communities residents told Reuters that police and vigilante killings had made them too frightened to go outside after dark.

'We became friends'

Dela Rosa, 54, whose earliest ambition was to be a boxer—is popularly known as "Bato," after his hometown south of Davao City. It also means "rock" in Filipino.

His late father was a pedicab driver who could barely afford to send him to school, Dela Rosa said in a tribute on his Facebook page in June.

Davao City is where President Duterte spent 22 years as mayor, unleashing a brutal antidrug campaign that the hard-charging Dela Rosa joined as he rose through the ranks of the local police force.

"I liked what he was doing and he liked what I was doing, so we became friends," Dela Rosa recalled. Mr. Duterte made him the city's police chief in 2012.

The Coalition Against Summary Execution, a Davao-based watchdog, has documented 1,424 vigilante-style killings in the city, including 162 in 2012-13 when Dela Rosa was the city's police chief.

Asked about the findings, Dela Rosa said: "I will look into that." Adding: "I don't memorize that data."

Mr. Duterte appointed Dela Rosa as PNP chief over other more senior officers, giving him free rein to roll out Davao City's harsh crime-fighting model across the country.

Tried marijuana

At a PNP camp in Baguio City, Dela Rosa donned a tribal head-dress and robe to hand out awards to officers for their antidrug efforts.

Hundreds of officers asked to take selfies with Dela Rosa, who always obliged. Sometimes only his trademark shaven head was visible amid a scrum of

well-wishers.

Even in the PNP camps, however, Dela Rosa is circled by six bodyguards. Drug traffickers, he told Reuters, "can kill me anytime."

Dela Rosa said in an interview with popular talk show host Boy Abunda that he twice tried marijuana at college and got high but decided to stop because it could ruin his future.

He loves gun

In another of his regular television appearances, this time on a show called "Get It Straight," Dela Rosa declined to say how many people he had shot in his police career "because people might say the (police) chief is a killer."

Local journalists covering Dela Rosa told Reuters they had never seen him smoke or drink. His main hobby is collecting guns.

"He loves guns," said Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino, who served with him in Davao and now commands Central Luzon, a region that has clocked up about 500 drug-war killings.

"Every time he sees a good gun, he buys it." **Reuters**

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6 more military camps offered for drug rehab

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Army (PA) yesterday said it has offered six more military camps that may be used as treatment and rehabilitation center for drug dependents and users.

Army Col. Benjamin L. Hao, Philippine Army spokesman, said the additional camps include Camp Melchor F. Dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela; Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal; Camp Alfredo Santos in Calauag, Quezon; Camp Kibaritan in Kalilangan, Bukidnon; Camp Lucero in Carmen, North Cotabato; and Camp Paulino Santos in Alamada, North Cotabato.

Earlier, Hao said that two Army camps – Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva City; and Camp Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz, have been identified as drug rehabilitation centers.

Hao said just recently, the 401st Brigade headquarters opened its two-hectare facility inside the Prosperidad Military Reservation in partnership with the province of Agusan del Sur.

The center, called the Residential Treat-

ment Rehabilitation Center (RTRC), can accommodate 60 patients at a time and shall be managed by the provincial government of Agusan del Sur.

"The Philippine Army is committed to give its all-out support to the anti-illegal drug campaign of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte," Hao said.

President Duterte revealed plans to establish drug rehabilitation centers in each region of the country to help close to 700,000 self-confirmed drug addicts who have surrendered to authorities nationwide.

To achieve this, Duterte has urged the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to provide the government with a small space in military camps to set up the rehabilitation centers.

Hao said Camp Dela Cruz has an area of 484.2178 hectares; Fort Magsaysay (45.837 hectares); Camp Capinpin (60.1970 hectares); Camp Alfredo Santos (40 hectares); Camp Peralta (33.020 hectares); Camp Kibaritan (42.265 hectares); Camp Lucero (181.6522 hectares); and Camp Paulino Santos (171.0937 hectares).

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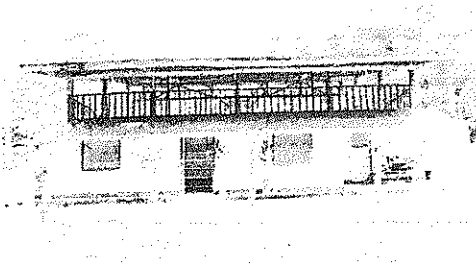
More Army camps offered as drug rehab centers

By: Frances Mangosing

[@FMangosing](#)

INQUIRER.net

03:28 PM October 4th, 2016



THE ADMINISTRATION building of Agusan del Sur's rehabilitation center for drug users rises inside the camp of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade in Prosperidad town. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Philippine Army is offering more of its camps that could be used as drug rehabilitation centers

Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hec said the camps were: Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela; Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal; Camp Camp Alfredo Santos in Calauag, Quezon; Camp Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz; Camp Kibaritan in Bukidnon; Camp Lucerp in Carmen, North Cotabato; and Camp Paulino Santos in Alameda, North Cotabato.

The Army is also offering the 401st Brigade headquarters in Agusan del Sur. The Residential Treatment and Rehabilitation Center can accommodate 60 patients at a time

President Rodrigo Duterte first proposed that military camps could be used as drug rehabilitation centers during his first State of the Nation Address.

The President has been relentlessly campaigning against illegal drugs nationwide, a promise he made during his campaign. *JE/rga*

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Cops foil ASG mission to create havoc in Zambo, arrest 3 members

By **NONOY ELACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Three members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were arrested by the police Monday afternoon at a pension house, while the city was in the middle of celebrating the Feast of Nuestra Señora La Virgen del Pilar which attracts large crowds from around the country.

The mission of the three men was to create havoc in the city and to kidnap a wealthy Filipino-Chinese trader, police said. The three men were under Jolo-based Commander Al-hapsi Misaya who is involved in many incidents of kidnapping foreigners and bombing incidents in Zamboanga City and other neighboring provinces.

Police Regional Office for Zamboanga peninsula (PRO-9) Director Chief Supt. Billy Beltran identified the arrested ASG members as Abdel Dela Cruz, 27, of Jolo, Sulu; Jabar Ignohasim, 24, of Bus-bus, Jolo Sulu; and Abdulla Yusup, 27, of Talipao, Sulu.

The three were arrested at the entrance

of Atilano Pension House located at Barangay Canelar Street at about 2:45 p.m., Monday.

Reports reaching Beltran indicated that the three were tasked to create havoc by hurling grenades along the RT Lim Boulevard. They were also on a mission to kidnap a wealthy Filipino-Chinese businessman who is a resident of this city.

According to the police, the three suspects arrived in this city Monday before sunrise on board a passenger vessel "Katrina." Police agents were able to trace them when they checked in at Salwa Hotel and Atilano's Pension House.

However, the men observed the presence of authorities and moved to Atilano's Pension House, where they were later arrested.

One of the ASG men, the 27-year-old

Dela Cruz, is wanted for murder under criminal case number 1989-3 issued by Judge Betlee-Ian J Barraquias, presiding judge, RTC, 9th Judicial Region, Branch 3 in Jolo, Sulu, Beltran said.

Recovered from the possession of Dela Cruz were one Cal. 45 pistol loaded with five rounds of live ammunition and three magazine loaded with five rounds of ammunitions each, he added.

The police also confiscated from the possession of Ignohasim a backpack containing three hand grenades, detonating cord, time fuse and two pieces of non-electric blasting caps, Beltran said.

Yusup, the third ASG man, had a bag containing one grenade.

The ASG suspects and the recovered items were brought to the Zamboanga City Police Office for further investigation and proper disposition.

05 October 2016

The Manila Times

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Sulu troops undergo post-trauma debriefing

SOLDIERS at the forefront of combat operations against the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu are undergoing continuous combat stress debriefing to cope with psychological rigors of their duties, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Tuesday.

Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, spokesman for the AFP's Joint Task Force Sulu, said three companies from different battalions have so far undergone the combat stress debriefing being conducted by medical teams coming from the AFP Medical Center.

According to the AFP, the combat stress debriefing is a mechanism to ensure the psychological health, morale and welfare of troops involved in highly dangerous combat operations.

Such type of stress was first observed on American troops during the Viet-

nam War by medical personnel and was found out to be a type of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD.

The debriefing, the AFP pointed out, aims to address possible cases of PTSD among troops, a sickness that is beyond superficial wounds common among soldiers, policemen and other law enforcers who have been to combat zones or some life-threatening situations.

Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, JTF commander, explained that "combat stress debriefing is part of the program of the AFP to take care of the health and welfare of troops involved in combat. The AFP provides a continuing healthcare program to our soldiers from the moment officers and troops get commissioned or enlisted until they retire from the service."

FERNAN MARASIGAN

October 2016



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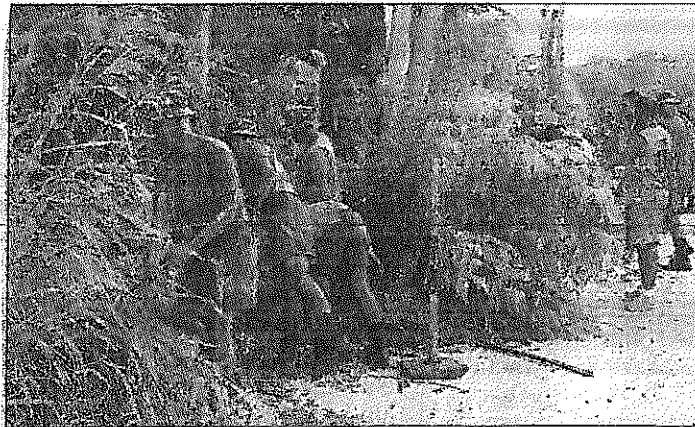
Troops fighting Abus undergo stress debriefing

Government troops deployed to go after Abu Sayyaf bandits have been required to undergo stress debriefing to keep them in top shape.

"The stress debriefing is a mechanism to ensure the psychological health, morale and welfare of the troops involved in the highly dangerous combat operations," Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, Joint Task force Sulu spokesman, said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, task force commander, said the debriefing aims to address possible cases of post-traumatic disorder, which was observed among American troops who served during the Vietnam War.

In response to President Duterte's directive to finish off the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the remaining hostages, the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines deployed eight Army battalions aside from its elite military units in Sulu. – Jaime Laude



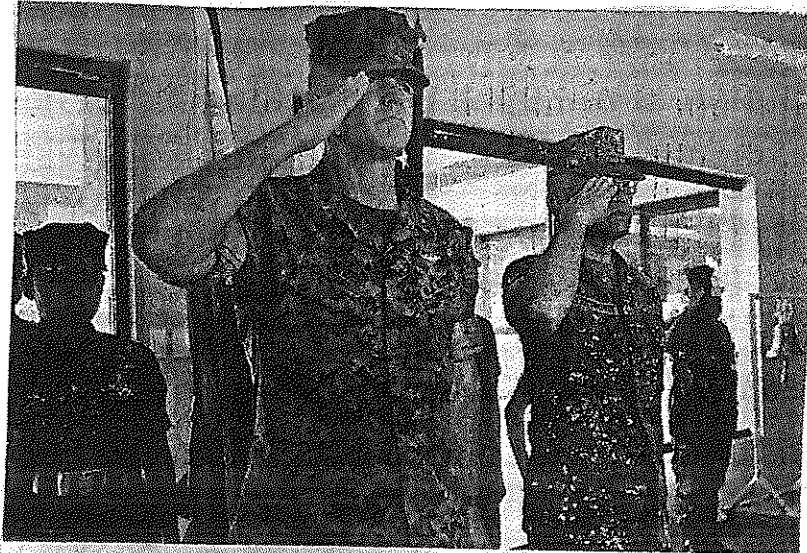
Soldiers of the 6th Infantry Division participate in a cleanup drive in Cotabato City on Sunday.

JOHN UNSON

05 October 2016



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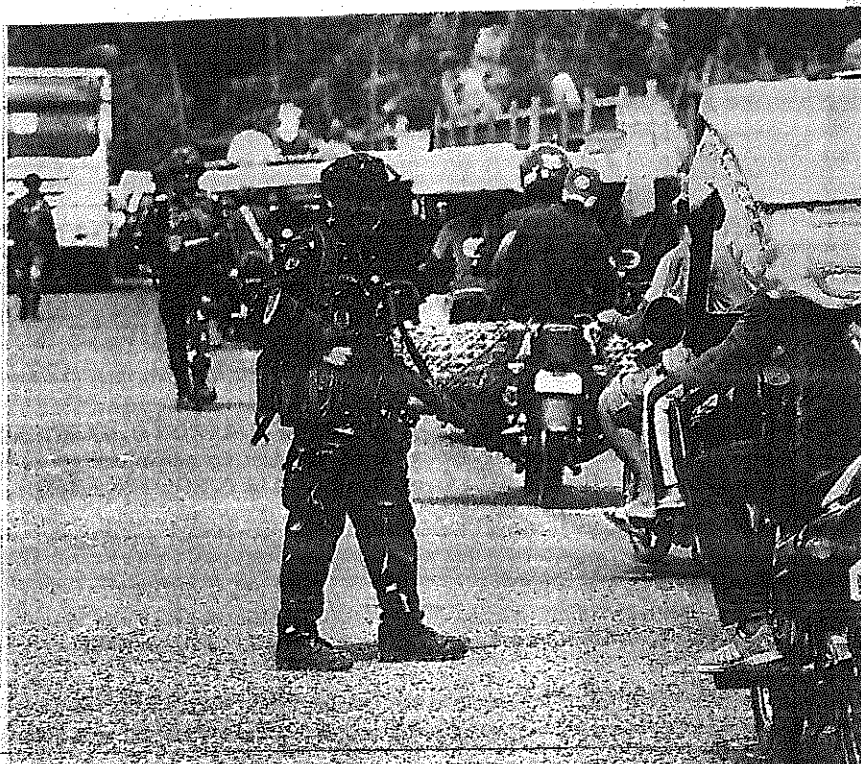
US marine commander Brigadier General John Jansen (L) and Philippines marines commandant Major General Andre Costales (R) salute at the start of the opening ceremony of the Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) at the Philippine Marines headquarters in Manila yesterday.

AFP

05 October 2016

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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TROOPERS ON THE ROAD — Army troopers not only secure the road at the border of Maguindanao and North Cotabato but also oversee traffic flow. The traffic build up is caused by the ongoing repair of a bridge. (Keith Bacongco)

05 October 2016



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Palace mum on Duterte. Yasay's conflicting statements on EDCA

Malacañang yesterday declined to comment on the seemingly conflicting statements of President Duterte and Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. about the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the US.

"That policy statement, it's beyond my pay grade," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a press briefing.

Andanar said the bilateral agreement was discussed during the Cabinet meeting last Monday but could not provide details as it was done behind closed doors.

EDCA was signed by the Philippines and the United States on April 28, 2014. Then defense secretary Voltaire Gazmin and US Ambassador Philip Goldberg signed the agreement, which granted

As this developed, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense and security, asked the Duterte administration to approach the EDCA issue carefully.

Honasan said Malacañang must first "build a consensus" with Congress and even the judiciary on Duterte's call to have the EDCA reviewed.

On Sunday, Duterte said he wanted a review of the defense

American troops access to Philippine military bases.

The bilateral deal was seen as a response to China's muscle flexing in the South China Sea.

University of the Philippines College of Law professor Jay Batongbacal and former Ateneo School of Government dean Antonio La Viña both wrote on Facebook that the signatures of Gazmin and Goldberg were enough to

By ALEXIS ROMERO and CHRISTINA MENDEZ
deal, noting that the agreement did not contain the signature of former president Benigno Aquino III.

Yasay, however, clarified the following day that there was no need to review EDCA for now as the Supreme Court has upheld its legality. "We have to respect it," Yasay said in a radio interview last Monday.

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin make the agreement binding since they were the duly authorized representatives of the two countries.

"I hope the President has been briefed that the president never signs an international agreement. He authorizes his foreign affairs secretary or other high level official to do it on his and the country's behalf," La Viña said in his FB post. – With Paolo Romero, Delon Porcalla, Ding Cervantes, Artemio Dumlao

October 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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House delegation joining Oslo peace talks with NDF

By CHARISSA M. LUCI

The House of Representatives will send a six-man delegation take part in the second round of peace negotiations

between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) on October 6-9 in Oslo, Norway.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said the House

►7

delegation, headed by Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sema will join the government's peace negotiating panel, which is set to exchange drafts on the proposed bilateral ceasefire and craft an amnesty proclamation with the NDF.

"Nagpapasalamat tayo sa liderato ng Kamara na magpapadala ng isang delegasyon sa Oslo, Norway, para mayroong engagement na rin ang Kongreso sa kung ano man ang mapag-uusapan ng GPH-NDFP sa executive side (We thank the House leadership for sending a delegation in Oslo, Norway, to ensure Congress' engagement in the GPH-NDFP peace process)," Congressman Zarate said at a press conference. Zarate is one of five members of the House delegation to the Oslo peace talks.

He cited as crucial the October 6-9 talks, as the government and NDF set to discuss the socio-economic reforms.

"Napakalaki ng papel ng Kongreso dito. Yung mga kasama sa delegasyon ay magiging aktibo sa engagement sa peace process (Congress has big role in the peace process. Those who are part of the delegation will actively engage in the peace process)," Zarate said.

Aside from Zarate, the four other members of the House delegation are Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, chairwoman of the House Committee on Peace and Reconciliation; North Cotabato Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan, Pangasinan Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil, and North Cotabato

Rep. Nancy Catamco.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza had earlier expressed hope that they will be able "to agree on the more substantial issues of social and economic reforms."

He said they are seeking a more permanent cessation of hostilities.

Chief government peace negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said they are ready to submit the draft amnesty proclamation that will only cover currently detained NDF members.

The Philippine government is seeking to forge a peace deal with the NDF by August next year.

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PH foreign policy to benefit China—Fitch

By Ben O. de Vera

THE “INDEPENDENT” foreign policy of the Duterte administration should not be belittled, as it could significantly undercut the influence of the United States, a longtime ally and global superpower, in the region, ac-

cording to the research arm of debt watcher Fitch Ratings.

“Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s apparent foreign policy shift away from the US toward China could substantially undermine Washington’s geopolitical influence in Asia at a time when tensions between

Beijing and its neighbors are rising,” Fitch Group’s BMI Research said in a Sept. 30 report titled, “Duterte’s foreign policy shift to undermine US’ geopolitical influence.”

“As a result, the US and Japan will increasingly attempt to cultivate Vietnam as a regional se-

curity partner in the South China Sea,” the report said.

The “rebalancing”—as described by members of Mr. Duterte’s Cabinet—of Philippine foreign policy is seen to

PH FOREIGN / A19

Off-track foreign policy / A14

From page A1

benefit China.

"A major geopolitical shift in Asia appears to have begun in mid-2016, when Rodrigo Duterte became President of the Philippines, and this will undermine the US position to the benefit of China," BMI Research said.

It noted that Mr. Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, "pursued a staunchly anti-China policy, as Beijing adopted an increasingly assertive stance toward its claims to the South China Sea."

"Aquino bolstered the Philippines' ties with the US and Japan, both of which are wary of China's growing military power in Asia," BMI Research further noted.

Accommodating China

In contrast, Mr. Duterte "has adopted a noticeably anti-American tone, while sounding more accommodating toward China."

"This suggests that the Philippines' presence in an informal US-led bloc of Asian nations aimed at counter-balancing China's rise is no longer assured," BMI Research said.

The report noted that be-

cause of its strategic location between global trade routes connecting the Pacific Ocean and the West Philippine Sea, the Philippines had gained geopolitical importance.

"The US first recognized the Philippines' strategic significance more than a century ago, when it seized the territory from Spain in the Spanish-American War of 1898," it said.

Even after ending its rule over the Philippines when granted independence in 1946, the United States kept close ties with Manila, it added.

The latest manifestation of close Philippine-US relations was in 2014, when Aquino signed a 10-year Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with Washington, it noted.

Tribunal ruling

When the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled last July that China's historical claim over more than four-fifths of the West Philippine Sea was invalid, "Beijing immediately rejected the ruling, regarding the court as being biased," BMI Research pointed out.

"China will most likely continue to consolidate its position

in the South China Sea through the construction of artificial islands capable of housing military facilities, and most probably by declaring an Air Defense Identification Zone over the sea in the near future," it added.

BMI Research said that "in contemporary Asian geopolitics, China regards the Philippines as a key element of the so-called 'first island chain' running from southern Japan and Taiwan down to the South China Sea, which the US formulated in the Cold War to contain the USSR and China."

"Therefore, if the Philippines were to abandon the US-led network of alliances, it would be a severe blow to Washington's 'first-island-chain' strategy," it said.

"Even if the Philippines merely adopted a more neutral position, this would work to China's advantage," it added.

'Volatile personality'

As for Mr. Duterte, BMI Research said his "volatile personality portends geopolitical confusion."

He "has generated international headlines since September 2016 by publicly cursing the US and EU, which criticized his antidrug campaign for the esti-

mated 3,000 deaths that it has caused. Duterte regards such criticism as infringements on Philippine sovereignty and has increasingly emphasized that he will pursue an 'independent foreign policy' that would entail warmer relations with China, and possibly Russia, too," the report noted.

Unclear policy

But for BMI Research, the President's long-term foreign policy plans "remain unclear."

"He is one of several populist leaders who have enjoyed a meteoric rise in 2016, and is not a member of the Philippines' traditional US-aligned elite. As such, it is unsurprising that he has a worldview different from his predecessors," it said.

"In addition, as a former mayor of Davao, Duterte lacks international experience, and could eventually find that his nationalist rhetoric is difficult to implement. Duterte also has a reputation for making bold or controversial statements, only for him or another senior official to backtrack somewhat afterwards, raising question marks about his true intentions," it added.

As such, "Duterte's apparent volatility carries political risks," BMI Research said.

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Indonesia to hold exercises in disputed sea

JAKARTA—Indonesia's air force is holding its largest military exercise this week, near some of its islands in the South China Sea, in a show of sovereignty over the gas-rich area on the fringe of territory claimed by China, officials said on Tuesday.

President Joko Widodo in June launched an unprecedented campaign to bolster fishing, oil exploration and defense facilities around the Natuna island chain after a series of face-offs between the Indonesian navy and Chinese fishing boats.

China, while not disputing Indonesia's claims to the Natuna islands, has raised Indonesian anger by saying the two countries had "overlapping claims" to waters near them, an area Indonesia calls the Natuna Sea.

Deterrent

"We want to show our existence in the area. We have a good enough air force to act as a deterrent," said Jemi Trisonjaya, spokesperson for Indonesia's air force.

More than 2,000 air force personnel were taking part in the two-weeklong exercise, which

includes the deployment of Indonesia's fleet of Russian Sukhoi and F-16 fighter jets, he said.

Other branches of the Indonesian armed forces are not taking part in the exercise, which ends on Thursday.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, where about \$5 trillion worth of trade passes every year.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

While Indonesia

is not part of the dispute over claims in the South China Sea, it objects to China's inclusion of waters around the Natuna Islands within its "nine-dash line," a demarcation line used by China to show its claims in the sea.

Reuters

poning the barangay and SK polls was not yet signed into law by the President.

He said the Comelec could not suspend the preparations due to a proposed law.

"If the elections will not be held on Oct. 31 despite the non-passage of the law postponing the polls, they (Comelec officials) should be held responsible," Macalintal said.

"Comelec officials could be liable for impeachment for culpable violation of the Constitution for not implementing the existing law on barangay and SK polls," Macalintal pointed out.

According to Macalintal, Republic Act 9340 provides that the barangay and SK polls shall be held "on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three years thereafter."

The Comelec earlier passed a resolution suspending all activities in connection with the Oct. 31 polls as it was expecting the passage of law postponing the scheduled polls.

To avoid any liability, Macalintal urged the Comelec to resume preparations for the barangay and SK polls.

The Comelec is allowed to conduct the barangay and SK polls until Nov. 30 since it is au-

thorized to adjust the period of activities due to unavoidable circumstances, Macalintal said.

The Omnibus Election Code allows the Comelec to postpone the elections to a date not later than 30 days when situations make it impossible to hold "a free, orderly and honest election."

Macalintal also asked the Comelec to enforce the fire-arms ban and prohibition on transfer or appointment of new employees in the government from Oct. 1 to Nov. 7 as part of the conduct of the barangay and SK elections.

- Mayen Jaymalin

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8,000 barangay chiefs, cops on narco list

By ALEXIS ROMERO

About 8,000 names of government officials, including barangay captains, allegedly involved in illegal drugs are contained in the third narco list to be released soon by President Duterte.

"The portals of government have been opened to drug people," Duterte told Army troopers at Fort Bonifacio yesterday.

He said the sheer number of state workers believed to have links to illegal drugs proved that narco-politics had penetrated the government.

"All of those in my list – there are about 8,000 drug pushers and manufacturers who are barangay captains, add that to the police. There are a lot of policemen. My God, I'm very sorry, there are a lot of policemen," he added.

Duterte said the narco-politics problem was the main reason why he favored the postponement of this month's barangay elections.

"Narco-politics is here already. That's the reason why I told the Speaker and

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8,000 From Page 1

the Senate president, do not call for an election in the barangay now. It will be a disaster," the Chief Executive said.

Duterte said local officials with drug links were practically untouchable before he assumed office.

"If you call an election, the winners will be the ones with money," the President said.

"That's why my first step then was to order all military and police personnel assigned to politicians to go home within 24 hours," he added.

The President has shamed more than 160 former and incumbent local executives, lawmakers, uniformed personnel and judges with alleged ties to drug rings.

Postponement

The bill postponing this month's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections has been formally transmitted to Malacañang and is now awaiting Duterte's signature.

The bill, which reschedules the elections from Oct. 31 this year to Oct. 23, 2017, was sent to the Office of the President last Monday, **The STAR**

learned yesterday.

A check at the Senate's website confirmed that the enrolled copies of the bill were forwarded to Duterte's office last Oct. 3. Under the Constitution, the President has 30 days to sign a bill or allow it to lapse into law or exercise his power to veto.

Without an enabling law, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said Commission on Elections (Comelec) officials would face possible sanctions if the barangay and SK elections were not held on Oct. 31.

He issued the warning as the proposed measure post-

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U.S. offl sa lengguwahe ni Digong: IT IS WISEST TO IGNORE HIM

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Tila nakuha na ng United States ang tamang timpla kay Digong.

Ginagawa ngayon ng mga opisyal ng US ang lahat ng makakaya para hindi na muna pansinin ang anumang mga pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte dahil wala pa naman itong ginagawang hakbang para mabawasan ang pagtutulungang militar ng Amerika at Pilipinas.

Sinabi ng dalawang opisyal ng US nitong Lunes na ang pagkalas ng Pilipinas sa Amerika ay lilikha ng problema sa rehiyon, kung saan lalong nagiging agresibo ang China.

Gayunman wala pang mga seryosong usapan upang isakatuparan ang mga ito, kaya ayaw munang magsalita o gumawa ng anumang hakbang ng US na maaaring magtulak kay Duterte na totooan ang mga naging pahayag nito.

"He is like Mr. Trump," sabi ng isang mataas na opisyal ng US military sa Southeast Asia. Ang kanyang tinutukoy ay si US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. "He craves attention, and the more he gets, the more outrageous he becomes. It is wisest to ignore him."

Binigyang-diin ng mga opisyal ng US na kahit na sinabi ni Duterte na tatapusin na nito ang joint military exercises, palayasin ang US special operations forces sa Mindanao at rerepasuhin ang Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), ay wala pa sa mga ito ang isinasakatuparan ng Pangulo at tiniyak ng kanilang mga

katapat sa Pilipinas na tuloy pa rin ang balikatan.

"No one is really losing sleep over it," sabi ng isang US defense official na tumangging pangalanan.

"It is all bluster," sabi naman ng ikalawang defense official at idiniin na ang mga pahayag ni Duterte "have not bled over into our world."



SAMAHANG MATIBAY Nagkapit-bisig ang mga kasapi ng Philippine Marines at US Marines sa pagbubukas ng Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise sa Taguig City kahapon.

JANSEN ROMERO

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MANGINGIDNAP SANA NG NEGOSYANTE

3 sa ASG butata sa kidnap, bombing try

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Dinakip ng pulisya ang tatlong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na inatasan ng dukutin ang isang negosyanteng Filipino-Chinese sa siyudad na ito, sa loob ng isang pension house dakong 3:00 ng hapon nitong Lunes.

Kinilala ni Police Regional Office (PRO)-9 Director Chief Supt. Billy Beltran ang mga naaresto na sina Abdel Dela Cruz, 27; Jabar Ignohasim y Sampang, 24, kapwa ng Jolo; at Abdulla Yusup y Bakil, 27, ng Talipao, Sulu.

Inaresto sa bukana ng Atilano Pension House sa Barangay Canelar Street, ang tatlo ay miyembro ni Commander Alhapsi Misaya, ng Abu Sayyaf-Sulu.

Ayon sa report kay Beltran, inatasan ni Misaya ang tatlo na maghagis ng mga granada sa RT Lim Boulevard sa kasagsagan ng selebrasyon ng Fiesta Pilar, at dukutin ang isang negosyanteng Filipino-Chinese na taga-Barangay Pasonanca.

Ipinagdiriwang ng Zamboanga City ang kapistahan ng Nuestra Señora La Virgen del Pilar simula Oktubre 1 hanggang 15.

Nakumpiska kay Dela Cruz ang isang .45 caliber pistol na kargada ng mga bala at tatlong magazine na may mga bala, nakuha naman mula kay Ignohasim ang backpack na may

tatlong granada, detonating cord, time fuse at dalawang non-electric blasting caps, habang isang sling bag na may isang granada ang nabawi kay Yusop. **Nonoy E. Lacson**

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Pahina. 2

Ex-NPA bilang BIR, BOC collectors

IMINUNGKAHI ni House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez na kunin ng gobyerno bilang tax collectors ng Bureau of Internal Revenue at Bureau of Customs ang mga dating miyembro ng New People's Army.

Partikular na isinusulong na maging collector ang mga NPA na nagbalik-loob na sa gobyerno.

Isinulong ni Alvarez ang mungkahing ito bilang counter proposal sa maunang rekomendasyon ni Labor Secretary at Peace Panel member Silverstre Bello III na gawing mga forest ranger ang rebel returnees.

Mas makabubuti umano kung ang returnees ay gawing collector ng BIR at BOC o kaya ay bilang customs police.

Gitit pa ng House Speaker na maraming dating rebelde ang kwalipikado dahil nagsilapag-aral ang mga ito bago namundok.

Ngunit kailangan aniyang dumaan muna sa pagsasanay ang mga ito bago isabak sa BIR at BOC.

Sa kanilang pagbabalik-gobyerno, matakling tulong sa mga dating rebelde ang magkaroon ng disentang hanapbuhay. MM

October 2016



Pahina. 2

MEKANIKO? Mekanikong may dalang baril? Bakit may dalang baril ang taong ito? Natukoy at nahuli na ang motoristang bumaril at nanagasa ng MMDA traffic enforcer sa Quezon City. Sa Aparri, Cagayan nahuli si Geronimo Iquin.

Ang sasakyan na binaklasan ng plaka ay hindi pala sa kanya at ipinagawa lang. Kung ipinagawa, bakit niya gamit-gamit? Batay sa imbestigasyon at sa nakuhang CCTV, binaril ni Iquin ang hindi armadong si Ernesto Paras, Jr. Inubos pa umano ang laman ng magazine at sinagasaan pa nang umalis na sa lugar. Ano ang kanyang pangangatwiran ngayon? Nagdilim lang daw ang kanyang paningin.

Mabuti naman at nahuli na ang taong ito. Ito ang mga hindi na dapat ibalik sa lipunan. Parang napakadalí naman niyang pumatay dahil lamang sa sinita sa parking. Ganito na ba ang pag-iisip ngayon, dahil na rin kaya ito sa araw-araw na patayang nagaganap sa buong bansa?

Nakundisyon na raw ba sa iba na puweden nang pumatay ng tao, kahit napakaliit lang ng dahilan? May lisensiya ba ang baril



Shocking, EDCA, ititigil na raw?!

na ito at ayon sa mga pulis ay paltik lang? Ilan pa kaya ang may mga dalang paltik?

SA kabila ng patuloy na batikos ni Pangulong Duterte sa Amerika at ang mga pahayag na ipatitigil na ang mga joint military exercises ng Pilipinas at Amerika, pati na rin ang pagkuwestiyon sa Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement o EDCA, natuloy ang planadong ehersisyo ngayon.

Ayon din sa U.S. State Department, wala pa silang natatanggap na pormal na sulat mula sa Pilipinas hinggil sa mga pahayag ni Duterte.

Sa totoo lang, kapag may sinasabi si Duterte, agad namang nagpapaliwanag ang kanyang mga tauhan na iba talaga ang gustong sabihin.

Pero pati ang Armed Forces of the Philippines ay nagtatanong na rin kung ano itong pahayag na ititigil na ang EDCA?

Humihingi ng klaripikasyon ang AFP mula sa DND sa bagong banta rito ni Duterte. Nalilito na rin siguro sila. Matagal na ang kooperasyon ng Amerika at Pilipinas, partikular sa militar.

Matagal nang nagsasama ang mga sundalo natin at sundalo ng Amerika sa taun-taon na ginaganap na Balikatan. Sa madaling salita, maganda ang samahan.

Kaya raw humihingi ng klaripikasyon ang AFP dahil sa tingin natin ay ayaw nilang mawala ang tulong-militar ng Amerika.

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President Duterte rejects Misuari's request to bring security escorts in Davao City

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 4): President Duterte rejects Misuari's request to bring security escorts in Davao City

President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday said fugitive Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari agreed to talk to him in Davao City but with his own security escorts.

"Regarding Nur, I talked to him coming over here. He is willing to go to Davao to bring troops with him for security. I explained that's not possible anymore. He is facing charges," President Duterte said in his speech in an event with local government units (LGUs) leaders at Mayuree Grand Ballroom Dusit Thani in Makati City.

In his efforts to establish avenue to reach peace with the MNLF rebels, President Duterte called up and told Misuari that he is willing to fetch the fugitive MNLF leader from Jolo and bring him to Davao City where they can talk about peace.

"If you want, I myself would go to Jolo and I will bring you to Davao and talk there so that everything will be okay," President said, relating his phone conversation with Misuari.

President Duterte said he would talk with Misuari again on Tuesday night.

The President reiterated his firm stand not to talk with Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist group that Misuari wanted to be included in the peace talks.

"I don't want to talk to Abu Sayyaf. They are too brutal but outright criminals," he said.

In a separate speech he delivered at the Philippine Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City, President Duterte announced that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chair Murad Ebrahim and vice chair Ghadzali Jaafar have agreed to talk peace again with the government.

"They agreed to talk and we will resume the talk next...I will be out of the Manila for a quite some time," President Duterte said.

President Duterte said he also talked with Moro scholars in Mindanao "and they said that Mindanao really belongs to them."

"It was taken away by the Americans and that they will not negotiate with me. They will talk but they will not negotiate for as long as they find some Americans in Mindanao," he said.

The President clarified that he was not asking the Americans to leave the entire Philippines.

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AFP capable of defending PHL territory

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 4): AFP capable of defending PHL territory

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assured is capable of defending the country's territory even without foreign help.

This was stressed by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in an interview Monday.

"The AFP has its own capabilities and based on the threats that we face, it is sufficient and we are now preparing for other possible threats," he said in Filipino.

However, despite its willingness to defend the country, Padilla is hopeful that the AFP will not be mobilized to fight foreign aggressors or intruders as the Philippines has friendly relations with all nations, especially its neighbors.

"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 and that far I can go," he added.

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PHIBLEX provides American, Filipino marines with insights to meet terror, internal security threats

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 4): PHIBLEX provides American, Filipino marines with insights to meet terror, internal security threats

Aside from beefing up the country's territorial defense capabilities, the annual amphibious landing exercises between American and Filipino marine units also provides more insight on meeting terrorism threats and internal security operations.

This was stressed by Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) commandant Major Gen. Andre M. Costales during opening salvo of the 33rd iteration of the Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) which took place at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City Tuesday.

PHIBLEX will take place in various locations in Luzon and Palawan and will last until Oct. 12. "(The field exercises) covers the capacity and capability building not only for territorial defense but also on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, combating terrorism and internal security operations," Costales said.

And every year, PHIBLEX's aim is to enhance knowledge, skills, and strategy for inter-operability," he stressed.

Taking off from US and Philippines shared victories in the previous year's exercises and learning a lot on the identified challenges and anticipated gaps and with commitment from the two respective marine forces, Costales said the goal to sustain to good relationship and cooperation has been kept, thereby upgrading each other's capabilities and competencies.

An estimated 1,400 American military personnel and 500 Filipino soldiers will take part in PHIBLEX 33.

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