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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

19 October 2016

Wednesday

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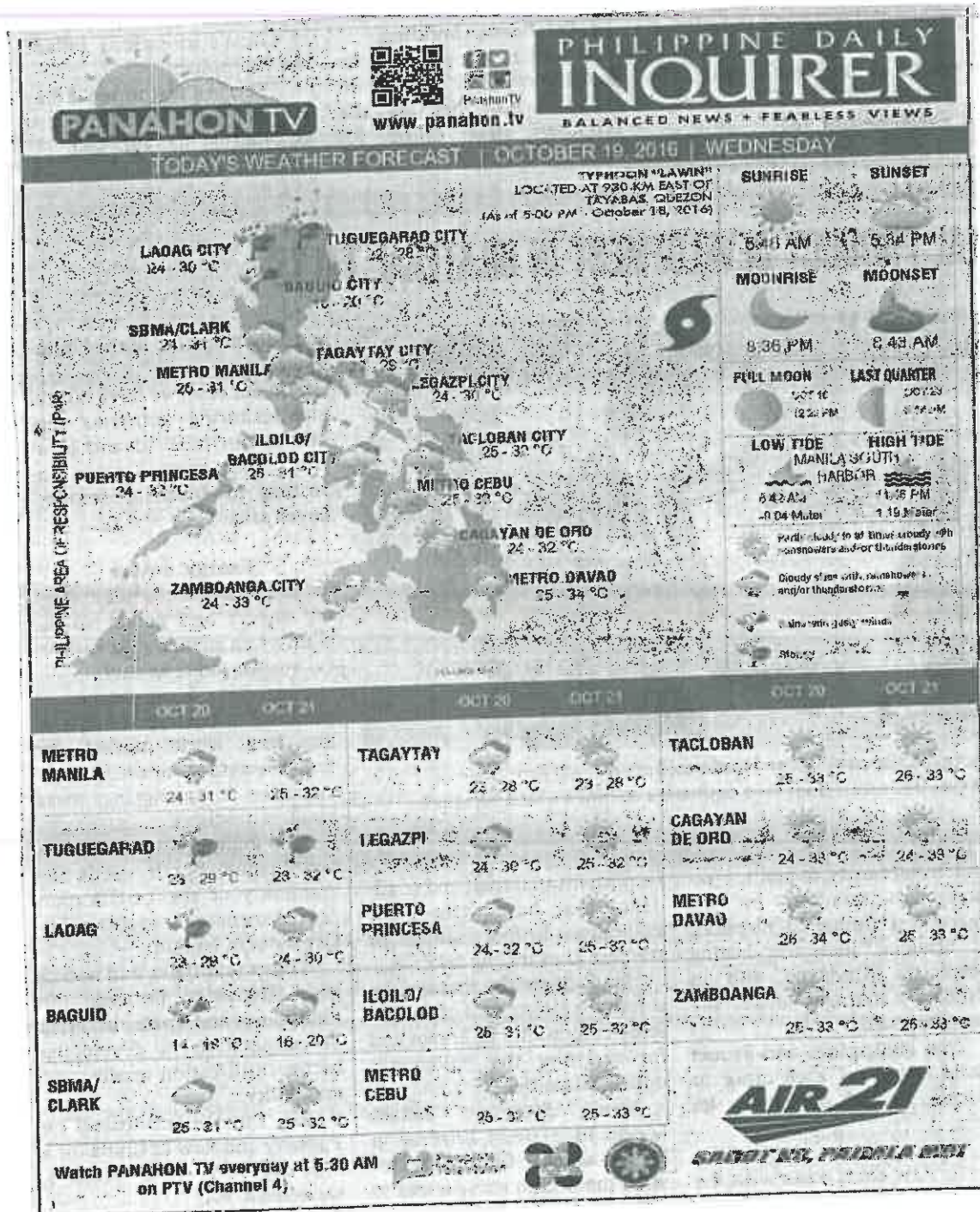
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.



19 October 2016

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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# China may conditionally open shoal to Filipinos

**BEIJING** – China will consider giving Filipino fishermen conditional access to disputed waters in the South China Sea after the presidents of the two countries meet in Beijing this week, two Chinese sources with ties to the leadership said yesterday.

President Duterte plans to raise the plight of Filipino fishermen when he meets his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, a Philippine official told *Reuters*.

Duterte arrived in Beijing from Brunei last night.

China seized Scarborough Shoal – claimed by Beijing as Huangyan island and by Manila as Panatag – in 2012, denying Philippine fishermen access to its rich fishing grounds.

The seizure formed part of a case the Philippines took to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which in July rejected China's expansive nine-dash-line territorial claim over nearly the entire South China Sea.

The ruling also declared Scarborough, which lies 130 nautical miles off Zambales, a common fishing area. China violated Philippine fishing rights by denying Filipinos access to the shoal, the ruling stated.

China immediately declared the ruling "null and void," but said it is time to get

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## China may From Page 1

talks started again between the countries directly involved in the territorial disputes to reach peaceful resolution

### 'Everybody can go'

Beijing is now considering making a concession to Duterte, whose rapprochement with China since taking office on June 30 marks an astonishing reversal in recent Philippine foreign policy

"Everybody can go, but there will be conditions," one of the Chinese sources who speaks regularly with senior officials told *Reuters*, referring to Chinese and Filipino fishermen

Asked what the conditions

were, the source said. "The two countries would have to form working groups to iron out details"

It was unclear, however, if China would agree to joint coastguard patrols

The sources did not say what, if anything, China might demand from Manila in exchange for the fishing concession

"It will be a return to the Arroyo days," the second Chinese source said, referring to the administration of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2001-2010), when fishermen from both countries had access to waters near Scarborough

If all goes according to

script, fishery cooperation would be one of more than 10 broad framework agreements the two countries would sign during Duterte's visit, the sources said, without giving further details

The Philippine foreign ministry said it had "no comment at this time."

### Free navigation

China has overlapping claims in the South China Sea with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam

The United States, along with Japan and other powers, want to ensure Beijing doesn't interfere with free navigation in the strategic South China Sea, which connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans and

through which flows \$5 trillion of trade a year

US Navy ships have conducted "freedom of navigation" operations around artificial islands China has been building in the disputed Spratly Islands, which mostly consist of coral reefs and tidal features in the South China Sea

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi did not answer directly when *Reuters* asked yesterday whether China would offer any concessions to the Philippines on the South China Sea, including fishing rights around Scarborough Shoal

"China's position on the South China Sea is clear and consistent. There is no change and there will be no change. This position accords with his-

torical facts and international law," Wang said at a news conference with his New Zealand counterpart

### 'Historic visit'

Wang, however, was upbeat about Duterte's trip

"This will be a historic visit and a new beginning in China-Philippines relations," the foreign minister said

China's ambassador to Manila, Zhao Jianhua, said last Friday a budding bilateral friendship could boost chances of removing one of their biggest bones of contention in the South China Sea

But on Sunday Duterte said he would raise the Hague ruling and vowed not to surrender any sovereignty, comments that will not sit comfortably

with Beijing

Philippine Supreme Court senior associate justice Antonio Carpio warned that Duterte could be impeached if he gives up the country's sovereignty over Scarborough, according to Philippine media

China's objective is to jointly develop resources in the South China Sea with its neighbors, said Lu Xiang, an international relations expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a government think tank. "Disputes with any neighbor are not conducive for China," he said, when asked what China wanted in exchange for any concession to Duterte

"We need a better external environment," Lu said

—Reuters

19 October 2016

INQUIRER

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# CHINA OFFERS MEGADEALS

## \$3B FOR PH INFRA PROJECTS

China Railway Group Ltd., a state-owned firm, is keen on committing \$400 million to \$3 billion for Philippine infrastructure projects under the public-private partnership framework. Among the projects the Duterte administration is offering to investors is the Mindanao railway system to link the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Zamboanga, Butuan, Surigao, Davao and General Santos.

A19

### FROM A1

By Doris Dumlao-Abadilla  
@Philbizwatcher

BEIJING—China Railway Group Ltd., a state-owned infrastructure firm, is keen to invest as much as \$3 billion in Philippine infrastructure projects in the next few years.

The prospective investment commitment from China Railway—also known as China Railway Engineering Corp. (CREC)—is among the plum investment deals lined up to be finalized here during the four-day state visit of President Duterte.

#### Mindanao railway

Industry sources said CREC was expected to enter into a partnership with a Philippine group to vie for large-scale infrastructure projects to be bid out by the Duterte administration under the public-private partnership framework. The partnership is also keen to propose original projects.



**A company this size and scale can mobilize resources necessary to take on mega-infrastructure projects**

Among the key projects that the Duterte administration is pitching to investors is a massive Mindanao railway system.

The Mindanao railway project is envisioned to link the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Zamboanga, Butuan, Surigao, Davao and General Santos—spanning a total of 2,000 kilometers.

This railway system is seen to play a major role in improving Mindanao's intraisland ac-

cessibility, linkages and seamless multimodal transport networks.

CREC, listed on the Hong Kong and Shanghai Stock Exchanges, is in a good position to bid for the Mindanao railway project alongside other major infrastructure projects, according to industry sources.

#### \$400M to \$3B

They said CREC and its Philippine partner would ink a memorandum of understanding here in the next few days.

CREC will commit a minimum portfolio of \$400 million for Philippine projects to as much as \$3 billion.

Already one of the leading construction and infrastructure groups in China, CREC is seen aspiring to boost its presence across the region and sees a lot of opportunity in the Philippines following Mr. Duterte's "pivot to China."

The group is considered to be in a good position to bring its technical expertise and financial muscle to help ease infrastruc-

ture projects in the Philippines.

In its home country, CREC is involved in key projects, such as the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway, Shanghai-Nanjing intercity railway, Shenzhen Metro Line 5 and Shiziyang Tunnel on GuangZhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong express rail link.

In 2015, CREC generated \$100 billion in revenues or nearly a third of the Philippine gross domestic product.

"Only a company this size and scale can mobilize resources necessary to take on megainfrastructure projects," said a source familiar with the state visit.

Economists and market analysts expect this state visit to boost the inflow of foreign direct investments from China.

Several government-to-government and private business-to-business investment MOUs (memorandums of understanding) are expected to be signed during Mr. Duterte's state visit, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said in a text message yesterday. INQ



19 October 2016

The Manila Times

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## BLIND ARMY SOLDIER TO JOIN HEROES RUN

SECOND Lieutenant Jerome Jacuba lost his eyesight when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off during a combat operation in Maguindanao in southern Philippines in May this year.

Still confined at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) in Quezon City, he asked his commanders recently to allow him to join the Heroes Run organized for the benefit of the families of fallen and injured soldiers who gallantly risk their lives in answer to the call of duty.

To be held on October 30, the 5th Heroes Run is the biggest get-together for men and women of the AFP well as the general running public on their quest to aid the fallen and injured soldiers' dependents.

It is an annual fund-raising event spearheaded by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc.

Jacuba said despite his condition, he will run in the 5-kilometer category.

He cannot see anything except for glimpses of light.

Jacuba said he is determined to run and be an inspiration, not just to his fellow soldiers, but to the people



**RUNNING MAN** President Rodrigo Duterte thanks 2nd Lt. Jerome Jacuba in this photo taken in Malacañang last July. Jacuba lost his eyesight in May in a combat operation in Maguindanao. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

"Joining the Heroes Run is a self-reaffirmation that I can still do something for the Philippine Army and for the families of my fellow soldiers in spite of my present circumstances. I also would want to set a good example to my daughters," he pointed out.

Jacuba is a loving father to two young daughters.

His youngest child, turning two

years old this year, was only 22 days old when he last saw her.

"I will be running because I want to inspire the people and tell them that anyone can be a hero," he said.

Jacuba's brother Pfc Joelvanny Jacuba, also an enlisted Army personnel, will be assisting him when he joins the run.

According to Col Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, it has been six

months since Jacuba lost his eyesight and he still have scars from the IED shrapnels, and grains of sand are still embedded on his skin.

"But, with the fortitude he has shown, his heart and soul is healing fast," Hao said.

There was a brief but powerful encounter between President Rodrigo Duterte and Jacuba when the President visited the AFP Medical Center in July.

It was a moving sight when the President embraced Jacuba as he thanked him for the sacrifices he has done for the country.

Hao said Jacuba had finished a 6-week short course on Non-Visual Desktop Access (NVDA).

The Army man can now use basic computer features, such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

He is using a laptop, installed with NVDA features, given to him by the President.

The 5th Heroes Run 2016 will be held simultaneously in Manila, Iloilo and Davao on October 30 and in Baguio City on November 13.

**FERNAN MARASIGAN**

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# TRADOC Honors Vice Commander, Philippine Army

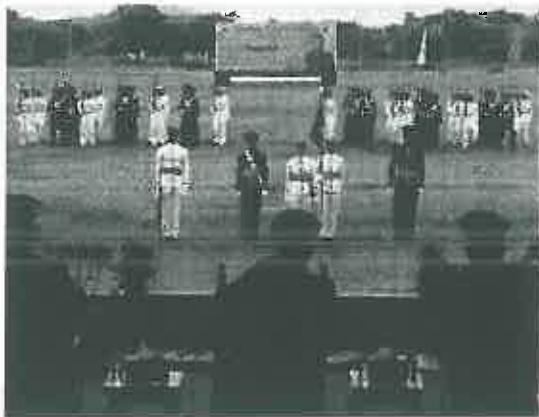
Lui Claudio



**Capas, Tarlac** – The Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Philippine Army under Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino honors Philippine Army Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan through a testimonial parade and review at TRADOC Grandstand, Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac Saturday morning. The traditional military honor is in connection with the mandatory retirement of Maj. Gen. Pangilinan comes November 13, 2016.

Maj. Gen. Pangilinan was accorded with arrival honors at TRADOC headquarters. Likewise, a wreath laying was conducted at Capas National Shrine prior his arrival at Camp O'Donnell.

Part of the program is the presentation of command and honors, inspection of troops and the honors to the nation. Moreover, the officer candidates of the Officer Candidate School presented silent drill as part of the entertainment.



Maj. Gen. Pangilinan commended the TRADOC officers and men led by Brig. Gen. Aquino for the warmest welcome and honors accorded to him. He congratulated Brig. Gen. Aquino for leading TRADOC towards excellence.

MGen. Pangilinan was former Commander of 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Philippine Army based in Camp Siongko, Awang, Maguindanao prior his post as Vice Commander, Philippine Army in Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

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## ANYONE CAN BE A HERO | Blind Army officer to run in Heroes Run 2016

Lui Claudio

**FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila** – An Army officer who lost his sight from an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Maguindanao will participate in the 5th Heroes Run here on Oct. 30.

2nd Lt. Jerome Jacuba, who is still confined at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) in Quezon City, confirmed through an interview that he will run in the 5-kilometer category despite his condition.

Jacuba cannot see anything except for glimpses of light. He is determined to run and be an inspiration, not just to his fellow soldiers, but to the people.

"Joining the Heroes Run is a self-reaffirmation that I can still do something for the Philippine Army and for the families of my fellow soldiers in spite of my present circumstances," said Jacuba. "I also would want to set a good example to my daughters."

Jacuba is a loving father to two young daughters. His youngest child, turning 2 years old this year, was only 22 days old when he last saw her.

"I will be running because I want to inspire the people and tell them that anyone can be a hero," he added.

Jacuba will be assisted by his brother, PFC Joevanny Jacuba, who is also an Army enlisted personnel.

It has been six months since Jacuba lost his eyesight. He still have scars from the IED shrapnels, and grains of sand are still embedded on his skin. But, with the fortitude he has shown, his heart and soul is healing fast.

There was a brief but powerful encounter between President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Jacuba when the President visited the AFP Medical Center last July. It was a moving sight when the President embraced Jacuba as he thanked him for the sacrifices he has done for the country.

At present, Jacuba finished a 6-week short course on Non-Visual Desktop Access (NVDA). He can now use basic computer features, such as word, excel and power point. He is using a laptop, installed with NVDA features, given to him by the President.

The Heroes Run is an annual fund raising event spearheaded by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) benefitting families of fallen soldiers and those who were wounded in action.

The 5th Heroes Run 2016 will be held simultaneously in Manila, Iloilo and Davao on Oct. 30; and in Baguio City on Nov. 13.

Interested participants may contact mobile number 0995-012-9988, or visit [www.army.mil.ph/heroesrun2016/info.htm](http://www.army.mil.ph/heroesrun2016/info.htm).

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<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

## **Army: IPSP Bayanihan in Negros successful**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 17)

As it draws to a close by the end of this year, Philippine Army officials in Negros say the implementation of the Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) Bayanihan on the island is a success.

This was the general assessment of Col. Francisco Delfin, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade based in Murcia, Negros Occidental and Lt. Col. Roderick Garcia, commander of the 79th Infantry Battalion based in Tanjay, Negros Oriental.

The Army officials issued their statements in an interview following a weekend meeting by the local Bantay Bayanihan, a multi-sectoral group tasked to monitor the implementation of the IPSP Bayanihan in Negros Oriental.

According to Col. Delfin, the people are responding positively to the various activities being implemented under IPSP Bayanihan for peace and development.

Unlike in the past when people would cower in fear or even hide upon seeing uniformed Army soldiers, today, the citizenry welcomes the presence of these government troops in their communities, Col. Delfin pointed out. Delfin said they are getting positive feedback from the civil society organizations (CSOs) on the change in people's perception of the Army today, which he attributes largely to the government's transformation program of the Philippine Army.

The transformation program puts emphasis on professionalism and "adherence to international human rights laws", Delfin stressed.

"You can see that our operations now are not tainted with complaints of human rights violations," he pointed out.

In the one year and a half since his assignment to Negros Island, Col. Delfin disclosed that he has not seen or received any complaint of human rights violations by any of his men.

The transformation program has greatly helped in the success of the IPSP Bayanihan as people now have the trust and confidence in the Army and are now cooperating with the government troops, Delfin said.

For his part, Lt. Col. Garcia of the 79th IB points to the peace initiatives in the 2nd and 3rd districts of Negros Oriental where "conflict has been managed".

Garcia said the operations and activities of the New People's Army (NPA) have "scaled down" in these areas as he cited the local government units and the CSOs for their support and cooperation in the peace efforts.

After these areas were cleared of the insurgency problem, the 79th IB is now into non-traditional efforts such as participating in socio-civic activities like treeplanting, Brigada Eskwela, coastal clean-up, and medical and dental missions, among others, Garcia said.

These non-combat activities have actually brought the Army closer to the people, according to Garcia.

"We just want the people to know that we are here to help alleviate their lives and for peace and development to take place in their area," he added.

The 79th IB, Garcia said, also provides manpower to the Philippine National Police (PNP) when needed as well as being on call 24/7 during disasters and other emergencies.

When asked what will happen when the IPSP Bayanihan terminates at the end of this year, Col. Delfin assured that the leadership of the AFP is continuously assessing the campaign to determine if there is a need for its continuation.

The IPSP Bayanihan is a campaign of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and shared and co-authored by other stakeholders in the non-government sector in winning the peace and reeled off on January 1, 2010.

Col. Delfin disclosed that while some parts of Negros still are affected by the insurgency, the problem is no longer as critical as it was in the recent years.

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Meanwhile, Marietta Jambora, convener of the Bantay Bayanihan in Negros Oriental, explained that the weekend meeting was part of the IPSP Bayanihan nationwide research to conduct an evaluation and assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and accomplishments of the campaign plan since its implementation.

Jambora further explained that these will be submitted, along with recommendations, shall be submitted to the General Headquarters of the AFP "as inputs to the crafting of the next campaign plan".

On Tuesday, October 18, 2016, the GHQ-AFP will be sitting down with the Security Reform Initiative (SRI), the national secretariat of the Bantay Bayanihan network nationwide, to discuss the "IPSP Bayanihan's impacts from a security reform perspective", said Jambora.

Bantay Bayanihan is a network of civil society organizations, now reaching 150 network-members in 16 conflict-affected areas nationwide performing an oversight function on the AFP's implementation of IPSP Bayanihan and opening dialogue spaces for peace and security reform issues.

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<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

## **Firearms seized from abandoned camp of self-claimed MNLF faction in N. Cotabato**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 18)

Joint military and police forces seized several firearms from an armed group claiming to be a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in remote Barangay Guangan here.

Lt. Col. Harold Argamoza, Army's 39th Infantry Battalion commander, said that recovered from the abandoned makeshift camp of the Bangsamoro Royal Republik (BRP) in the village were a 9 mm caliber pistol, a .45 caliber pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun.

Also retrieved were a BRP signage, photos, documents and an MNLF flag.

Argamoza said that combined local police and 38th IB personnel swooped down on the village after receiving reports that the BRP group is organizing and establishing an encampment in the area.

"We verified the report and confirmed the presence of the self-confessed MNLF group in Guangan," he said.

Argamoza said they coordinated with local village officials on their operation, tagging along Datu Rodney Fuerte, who chairs the Municipal Federation of Tribal Chieftain, as witness to their action. The camp, however, has been deserted before the raiding team arrived.

Earlier reports said a certain Datu Monreal, who was recruiting natives in adjacent Kidapawan City to join their cause, headed the group.

The BRP moved to the interiors of this town after Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph Evangelista issued a cease and desist order for the group's recruitment activity.

Local MNLF leaders based in Kidapawan City have denied the claim of Monreal that they were a part of the organic MNLF group.

The MNLF, then under founding chair Nur Misuari, inked a final peace accord with the national government on Sept. 2, 1996.



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## Phl-China war games likely – DND

By EDITH REGALADO

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN – War games between the Philippines and China are possible, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday as President Duterte started his visit to Beijing amid a maritime dispute between the Philippines and China.

During the send-off ceremony for President Duterte at the Bandar Seri Begawan Airport, Lorenzana said the war games between Filipino troops and Chinese military could not be expected to take place immediately as there are many things to comply with before these could be mutually agreed upon.

Lorenzana also said the possible war games would not be tackled during the President's four-day state visit in Beijing. "It could be discussed at another time or another meeting in the future."

"There are no ramifications if ever there are really efforts to hold joint military exercises with China," he added.

Duterte ended yesterday his three-day state visit in Brunei Darussalam and was on his way to Beijing for a four-day state visit.

Duterte earlier said that he is open to joint military exercises with China and Russia.

"Yes, I will. I have given enough time for the Americans to play with the Filipino soldiers," the President was earlier quoted by a Hong Kong television network as saying.

19 October 2016

The Manila Times

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# AFP starts war drill without US troops

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN

**T**HE Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy on Monday kicked off a joint exercise that seeks to enhance their inter-operability and operational capabilities in performing territorial defense operations.

Now on its 10th year, the exercise codenamed "Dagit 2016," aims to further improve capabilities of both units in joint air and naval operations in support not only of territorial defense operations but also in the conduct of Internal Security Operations (ISO) and in support of Territorial Defense Operations (TDO).

Lt Sahinul Taib, spokesman for the Philippine Navy Fleet, said

the exercise will be conducted in areas around Naval Base Heracleo Alano, Sangley Point, Cavite City, Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim (MBGL), Ternate, Cavite; Manila Bay, and Caballo Island.

It would be carried out in three phases— preparation phase from October 17 to 23; exercise phase from October 24 to 27, and the final phase on October 28.

The exercise phase is the Field Training Exercise (FTX), which includes subject matter expertise exchanges (SMEEs), classroom instructions, table top exercise (TTX) and joint training exercise (JTX).

Rear Admiral Bayani Gaerlan, Philippine Fleet commander, said in his speech during the opening ceremony that the exercise will surely advance the Navy and the Air Force units' inter-operability in joint maritime security operations as well as foster camaraderie among officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"This exercise aims to enhance our unit's operational capability in joint maritime security operations, and improvement of areas of inter-operability and other joint training opportunities between

the Navy and Air Force and it will also test and improve on the inter-operability of our new equipment, ships and aircraft and especially among our personnel," he pointed out.

The drill started in 2003 during the term of then-Navy Capt. Jose Luis Alano, with the Naval Air Group and 15th Strike Wing as the only participating units involved.

In 2007, it eventually evolved to what is now known as the PN-PAF IOX or Inter-operability Exercise when both branches of service have realized the importance of the

role being played by each service in actual operations in the area of responsibility of different unified commands.

The Philippine Marines and their US counterpart recently concluded the 33rd joint military exercise called Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise or Phiblex, which could be the last in the six-year term of President Rodrigo Duterte who has been scathingly attacking the United States, even threatening to revoke an agreement that allows American forces to conduct activities in agreed locations inside Philippine military bases.



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## SC defers vote on Libingan burial for Marcos

The Supreme Court (SC) has deferred ruling on the controversial order of President Duterte allowing the interment of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

In session yesterday, the high court instead extended for the second time the status quo ante order it issued last August stopping the Marcos burial.

The halt order, which lapsed yesterday, was extended up to Nov. 8, according to SC spokesman Theodore Te.

An insider bared that the SC has likewise set its voting on the seven petitions seeking to prevent the burial of the former president at the Libingan on the same date.

The court was supposed to decide on the case after hearing the sides of petitioners and the government in oral arguments last month.

But the source told **The STAR** that the justices were split by two main opinions submitted by Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, as some of them sought more time to decide on which one to support.

The high tribunal initially issued the halt order last Aug. 23, effective for 20 days or until Sept. 12.

But at the conclusion of oral arguments last Sept. 7, the SC extended the order directed at Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Vi-

By **EDU PUNAY**

saya until Oct. 18 to allow the resolution of the case on merits.

The seven petitions were filed by groups of martial law victims led by former Bayan Muna party-list representative Satur Ocampo, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and former Commission on Human Rights chair Etta Rosales, a group led by former senator Heherson Alvarez; a group of University of the Philippines students; former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao human rights chair Algamar Latiph and Sen. Leila de Lima.

### FM burial not a political favor

Marcos supporters held an overnight vigil outside the SC compound in Padre Faura, Manila and were joined by Marcos' eldest daughter and Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos last Monday night.

Marcos' son, former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., joined supporters yesterday afternoon and appealed for patience as they wait longer for the SC ruling.

"Somehow we expected the decision would be released today. But I believe that the longer time it takes for our justices to study the case, the clearer and the more they will realize the right of my father for burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani," he told reporters.

"We were able to wait for 23 years, so I believe a few

more days wouldn't matter that much. So let's allow our justices to deliberate on this issue carefully and I am confident that they will allow the burial of my father at the Libingan in the end," he stressed in Filipino.

Just like Imee, Bongbong denied the claim of some of the petitioners that the interment of their father at the Libingan is a payment of gratitude for their alleged financial support to the candidacy of President Duterte in the May 2016 polls.

"We did not give out funds to other candidates because I was also a candidate myself. The support we gave to Duterte in the campaign was only in terms of endorsement and political support," he stressed.

The former senator, who lost in the vice presidential race, believes that the decision of the President to allow his father's burial at Libingan was not a political favor.

"I do not think the President makes his judgments that way. I think he makes his judgments based on law. He's a lawyer and he bases his decisions and positions on law. And he has been very clear about the right of my father to be buried in the Libingan," he explained.

The Palace reiterated yesterday that Duterte respects the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the issue of the burial of former president Marcos at the heroes' cemetery.

"The President is so clear about him respecting the deci-





**Former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his sister Irene are welcomed by supporters at the Supreme Court yesterday.** EDD GUMBAN

sion of the Supreme Court on that matter," presidential communications assistant secretary Ana Marie Banaag said.

Duterte has said that he sees no problem about burying the former president at the Libingan ng mga Bayani since there is no law that prevents it.

Before leaving for his week-long state visits to Brunei and China, Duterte said that he would respect the decision of the SC on the issue.

Martial law victims representing the group Samahan ng Mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (Selda) expressed hopes that the SC justices would not succumb to pressure being applied by Marcos loyalists on the issue of the late dictator's burial at the

Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Our President whose father spent some time in the Cabinet of the late dictator wants to bury his wax remains in the Libingan ng mga Bayani as payback for his family's good fortune during martial law because of this. Recently, President Duterte announced that he will abide by the SC's ruling on the issue," Selda said.

Selda chair Marie Hilao-Enriquez said they hope the SC justices remember that the US government hurriedly whisked the dictator and his family out of the country and brought them to Hawaii.

"We in SELDA, a majority of whose members have spent years or weeks in Philippine prisons because of martial law,

have time and again announced our position that president Marcos is no hero and he must not be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani," the group said in a statement.

They charged the dictator and his estate of "crimes against humanity to which the Federal District Court of Hawaii found the former dictator and strongman Marcos guilty of these crimes."

Enriquez added the law also seeks to teach the future generations what the martial law freedom fighters have done for the country and correctly teach the youth about martial law being the darkest period in Philippine history - With Christina Mendez, Perseus Echeminada, Rhodina Villanueva



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## SC extends SQA on Marcos burial at LNMB

By Benjamin B. Pilita and Charlie V. Manalo

The Supreme Court (SC) has extended the stay order against the burial of Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) until November 8.

The decision was handed down yesterday by the High Court on the issue of Marcos' burial at the LNMB.

At the end of yesterday's en banc session, the Supreme Court (SC) ruled in favor of extending the stay order until November 8.

Manalo earlier had said it would be by the SC ruling on the controversy.

He said he would see and the family will be patient and wait a few more days until the Supreme Court (SC) decides on whether to allow the late president to be interred at the LNMB.

Marcos, in yesterday's decision, said he didn't see any big issue in the Supreme Court's decision to extend the stay order (SQA) on the burial of his father, former president Ferdinand Marcos, at the LNMB.

"We have been patient for 23 years, we can be patient for a few days more," the former senator said.

The SC extended until November 8 the SQA order on the Marcos burial which lapsed yesterday.

It was the second extension made by the High Court on the order.

On August 28, the SC issued an SQA on a hero's burial for Marcos until September 18, which was later extended until yesterday.

According to SC insiders, the extension of the SQA order will give the justices more time to deliberate and convince each other to vote for their respective preferences, to which the younger Marcos readily agreed.

"Let us give our Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court the time they need to study this case," said Marcos.

"I am confident that they will ultimately agree to let my father be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani because it is in accordance with law," he stressed.

Marcos said the burial of his father at the LNMB would finally close a divisive chapter in Philippine history.

"When I ran for office in the last elections, I ran under a platform of unity and this show of support for the burial of my father at the Libingan ng mga Bayani is a continuation of that campaign for unity," said Marcos.

"We also would like to thank again President Rodrigo Duterte

for continuing to support this unifying and healing effort to bury my father at the Libingan ng mga Bayani," he said.

"We would like to thank all those who took part in the march and those present today (yesterday) to express their support for our family," said Marcos in appreciation to the thousands of Marcos loyalists who staged a vigil in front of the SC building in anticipation of a favorable ruling. His sister, Ilocos Gov. Imee Marcos was with the rallyists.

The SC has extended the SQA order against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Department of National Defense (DND) from preparing for Marcos' burial. The SQA has been extended up to November 8, the resumption of the SC's en banc. Today, Oct. 18 is the SC's last en banc and will take a short recess.

There are two opinions on the Marcos' case: that of Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa.

Marcos said the justices should be given more time to study the different opinions.

Marcos denied that Duterte's decision allowing the burial of his father at the LNMB is a payback for their support last election.

"I do not think the President makes his judgments that way. I think he makes his judgments as I think you already know, based on law. He's very much a lawyer and he very much bases his decisions and positions on law," Marcos added.

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## NDRRMC on full alert over 'Lawin'

BY VICTOR REYES

THE National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) will remain on full alert as it prepares for typhoon 'Lawin,' which is expected to make landfall in Cagayan on Thursday.

"The NDRRMC operations center is still on Red Alert status," said NDRRMC executive director and Office of Civil Defense administrator Ricardo Jalad, who convened a pre-disaster risk assessment for Lawin yesterday.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the eye of Lawin was 930 kms east of Tayabas, Quezon, with maximum sustained winds of up to 185 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 230 kph. It is forecast to move west northwest at 25 kph.

The NDRRMC raised its alert status to Red a day after Karen made landfall in Aurora last Sunday, leaving P2.7 billion worth of damage to rice and high-value corn and crops, mostly in Central Luzon.

Karen also affected over a thousand people, many of them still in evacuation centers, in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Bicol regions. It destroyed and damaged around 4,000 houses.

Jalad said the NDRRMC, chaired by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, has directed regional and local disaster risk reduction and management units "to take precautionary measures" against Lawin.

He said the Department of Interior and Local Government, an attached agency, has ordered local government units to ban tourism activities like mountaineering, diving, and swimming in areas to be affected by Lawin.

Jalad also said the Department of Social Welfare and Development has replenished food and non-food items in areas likely to be affected while the Department of Public Works and Highways has prepositioned assets for clearing operations.

"Currently, the regional and local DRRM (disaster risk reduction and management) councils, with the help of the AFP, are testing communication lines to ensure connectivity at the height of typhoon Lawin," Jalad said.

Jalad also advised the public "to undertake preparedness measures and continue to monitor updates on this weather system through radio, television and social media."

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## Solon hits new 'lumad' slays

By Maricel V. Cruz

A YOUTH legislator on Tuesday sought a congressional probe into the new spate of killings of tribesmen or *lumad*, peasant leaders and activists allegedly by military agents.

In House Resolution 479, Kabataan party-list Rep. Sarah Elago voiced concern over the reported killings of involving *lumad* and peasant leaders, especially within the first 100 days of the Duterte administration.

Elago said the most recent case is the consecutive killing of *lumad* peasant leader Jimmy Saypan and *lumad* youth leader Joselito Pasaporte, both from Compostela Valley, who were supposedly slain by alleged elements of the Armed Forces of

the Philippines.

"The killings coincided with the 'Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya,' a caravan of different groups all over the country, from north to south, who came together in a unified call—to end plunder and AFP operations in their ancestral lands, to stop the fascist attacks against the Moro and indigenous peoples, to uphold national sovereignty and the people's right to self-determination against US imperialism and to struggle for just and lasting peace," Elago said.

Elago said Pasaporte, 28, a resident of Mabini, Compostela Valley, and a member of the environmental group Panalipdan Youth, was shot dead at 5:20 p.m. of October 13 by unidentified gunmen linked to the 46th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army.

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## House to pass P3.35-trillion 2017 budget today

The House of Representatives is expected to approve today the proposed P3.35-trillion 2017 national budget.

This developed as President Duterte has certified the budget bill as urgent.

The certification was transmitted to the House yesterday.

Duterte pointed out "the necessity of the immediate enactment" of the budget bill "to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year, to expedite the funding of various programs, projects and activities for 2017 and to ensure budgetary preparedness that

will enable the government to effectively perform its constitutional mandate."

The outlay is President Duterte's first spending measure.

Deputy speaker and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said yesterday amendments to Duterte's first budget proposal "were very minimal."

"We just tried to connect the actual numbers with the President's budget message," he told a news conference.

He said he expects major changes to come when the House of Representatives and the Senate reconcile their respective versions of the 2017 outlay.

By JESS DIAZ

Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles, appropriations committee chairman, said the proposed budget for next year was approved in the committee level "in record time."

He said the speedy approval was a vote of confidence for the President.

Among state agencies, the Department of Education will get the biggest share of next year's budget with P567.6 billion, followed by the Department of Public Works and Highways with P458.6 billion and Department of the Interior and Local Government with P150.1 billion.

The Department of National Defense will get P134.5 billion, Department of Social Welfare and Development, P130 billion, Department of Health, P94.1 billion, Department of Transportation, P55.5 billion, Department of Agriculture, P45.3 billion, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P29.4 billion, and Department of Finance, P23 billion.

The health department will lose P30 billion compared to its budget for this year, while the agriculture department will have P3.6 billion less for next year.

Funding for the Department of Labor and Employment was also cut by P5.3 billion to P13.5 billion, while the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs was slashed by P4 billion, from P20.8 billion to P16.7 billion.

On the other hand, Duterte substantially increased the budget for his own office, from P2.9 billion to P20.030 billion. The increase includes P2.5 billion in intelligence funds and more than P7 billion for representation and entertainment expenses.

A big part of the funding for the Office of the President will be spent for the country's

hosting of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay lamented that the President reduced funds for "family planning supplies" from P527 million this year to only P165 million in 2017, or by P362 million.

This is contrary to Duterte's repeated pronouncement that his administration would pursue a "robust" implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RH) Law, he said.

Lagman was one of the authors in the House of the RH bill that became law.

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## AFP nalilito sa foreign policy ni Duterte

Isiniwalat kahapen ni Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejandro na nalilito na ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa foreign policy na isinusulong ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte partikular na sa military alliance sa China.

"Nakakausap naman natin ang ating Armed Forces at naramdaman natin na, there is confusion in the armed forces right now as to the apparent shift, defense

policy shift of this administration from United States to China," ani Alejandro.

Hindi naman anyya arto masisisi ang organisasyon na dati niyang kinabibilangan dahil matagal na ang samahan ng mga sundalo ng Pilipinas at Amerika lalo na sa defense strategy.

Mas ialong pinatatag umano ang alyansa ng AFP at Amerika sa kanilang isinagawang military exercise kung

saan kung dati ay skill level lamang sinasagay ang mga sundalo ngayon ay nakatutok na sa pananakop ng China sa Pilipinas.

Maliban dito, ngayon pa lamang ay nag-aalinlangan din umano ang mga sundalo dahil sa plano ni Duterte na bumili ng military hardware sa China na posibleng magkaroon anyang matinding 'strategic impact' sa AFP. (Bernard Taguinod)

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## NPA recruitment continues

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has expressed concern over reports that the New People's Army (NPA) in Negros Island Province (NIP) has been recruiting new members despite ongoing peace talks between the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF.

While Army 303rd Brigade Commander Col. Francisco Delfin revealed that NPA rebels have been actively recruiting new members in far-flung barangays in Negros Island Province (NIP), their hands are tied regarding the actions needed to prevent the recruitment.

"Ang military operations ay malinaw na ipinagbabawal under the Suspension

of Military Operations (SOMO) na iniutos ng ating chief of staff (Gen. Ricardo Visaya). What we're going to do is to take note of this, record it and bring it up in the proper forum," said Marine Col. Edgard A. Arevalo, the chief of the AFP's Public Affairs Office (PAO).

When asked to describe the magnitude of the kind of recruitment being done by the communist fighters and if it is widespread, Arevalo said: "Wala pa akong specific information as to the particular extent sa ngayon but there are reported incidents pero hindi ito sinasabi nating massive," he said. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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## Abu Sayyaf member killed resisting arrest

A MEMBER of the Abu Sayyaf Group was killed when he grabbed the firearm of one of the arresting soldiers in Panglima Sugala town in Tawi-tawi last Monday afternoon.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the Zamboanga City-based AFP Western Mindanao Command, said the suspect, Ustab Anji, had a P350,000 cash reward offered by the government for his neutralization.

Tan said troops from the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9, with the assistance of Panglima Sugala policemen, effected the arrest of Anji at around 1 p.m. last Monday in Barangay Magsagaw.

His arrest was made by virtue of warrants for 21 counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention, in connection with the kidnapping of 21, mostly Caucasian, hostages from the Sipadan diving resort in Malaysia in April 2000.

The victims were later brought to Sulu, a bailiwick province of the Abu Sayyaf, where they were later released after payment of ransom.



TAN

Tan said Anji was also involved in the kidnapping of Indonesian and Malaysian nationals over the past several months.

Twenty-six Malaysian and Indonesian nationals, mostly tug-boat crew members, were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf in the waters of Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines over the past seven months.

Nineteen of them have been either released or have escaped in Sulu, bringing to only seven the number of Malaysians and Indonesians who are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in the province.

The Abu Sayyaf is also keeping four Filipinos and a Dutch as hostages in Sulu.

Col. Custodio Parcon, commander of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, warned Abu Sayyaf members who may be intending to hide in Tawi-tawi.

"They will be monitored and they will be neutralized... Huwag na nilang subukang pumasok dito, madidisgrasya lang sila," said Parcon. — **Victor Reyes**

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## Rally dispersed as protesters hurl stones

BY VICTOR REYES

AROUND 300 members of leftist groups were dispersed yesterday with water cannons when their protest action at a gate of the Armed Forces general headquarters Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City turned violent.

The militants, led by the Kilusan ng Moro at Katutubong Mamamayan para sa Sariling Pagpapasya, converged at the camp's Gate 2 along EDSA at around 10 a.m. to air their sentiments on various issues.

Military policemen allowed the protesters to hold a program during which they decried the military's purported killings of Lumad or indigenous peoples, and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement signed by the Aquino government with United States, among other issues.

"Paramilitary groups protected by the AFP continue to persist and wreak havoc in Lumad communities. Human rights violators and killers of indigenous and

Moro leaders are still not brought to justice," said the group's leader, Kerlan Fanagel.

Fanagel cited the killing of Jimmy Saypan, a Lumad peasant leader, in Compostela Valley last October 10. The Army's 10th Infantry Division has denied involvement in Saypan's death.

At around 11 a.m., camp commander Brig Gen Ailan Martin said the protesters began throwing stones inside the camp, to the detriment of people transacting business at the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLAI), and parked vehicles.

Fortunately, no one was hurt and no vehicle was damaged.

Martin said the protesters also vandalized the walls of the camp, painting words, like "berdugo."

"We are okay with rallies but when they resort to violence and vandalism, that's already enough," he said.

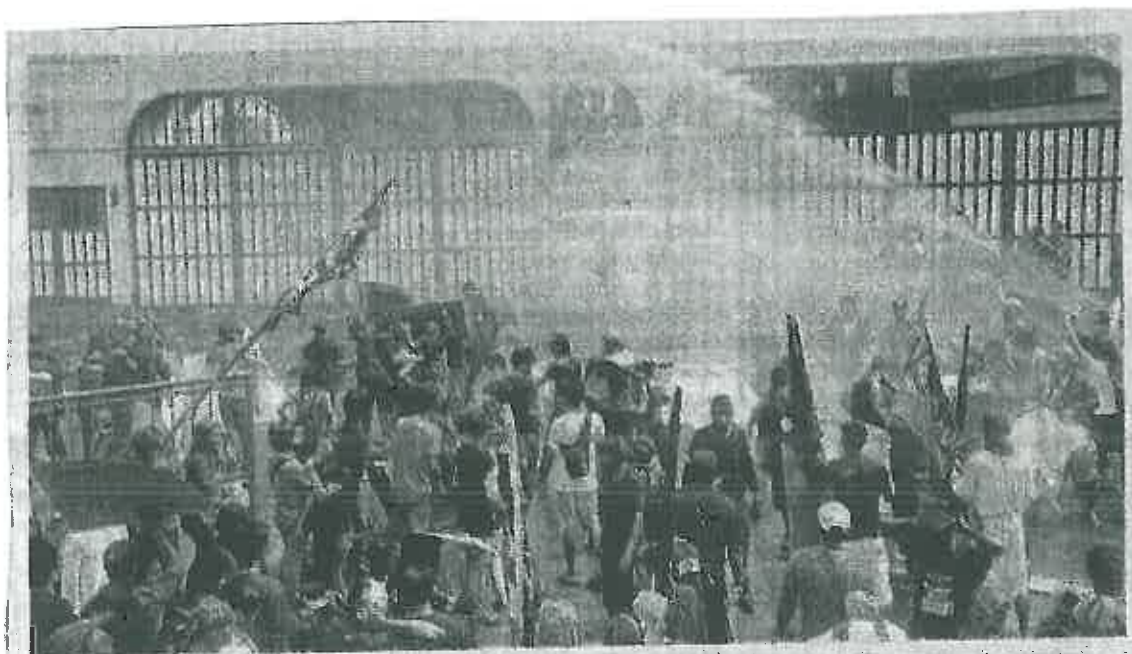
The protesters left the gate 15 minutes after military policemen began firing water cannons at them, said Martin.



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**CHIN-UP LUMADS.** Daring *Lumads*—the indigenous non-Islamized peoples of Mindanao—and human rights activists stand up to the water cannons of military police during a rally outside Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Tuesday, demanding a stop to attacks against tribal minorities in the countryside. **Manny Palmero**

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## INQUIRER

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SHAKY'S VOLLEYBALL

# TIGRESSES SHOOT FOR REBOUND WIN; COAST GUARD TRIES TO STAY AFLOAT

By Marc Anthony Reyes  
@marcreyesINQ

University of Santo Tomas hopes to bounce back from a stinging defeat when it takes on Laoag even as Coast Guard attempts to move out of a rut battling Air Force today in the Shakey's V-League Reinforced Conference at Philsports Arena.

The Tigresses were stymied in their attempt to make the semifinals after losing to Bureau of Customs last week.

But that defeat is expected to fire up UST as coach Emilio "Kungfu" Reyes said they are out to get back in winning form.

At 4-1, UST can automatically make the semifinals with a win over the Power Smashers, who are smarting from a defeat at the hands of University of the Philippines last Monday.

Cherry Rondina came back after her triumphant stint in the UAAP beach volleyball, but she still had to adjust playing in indoor conditions.

Coast Guard will try to avert sinking further when it battles Air Force, which is equally in dire straits.

Another defeat would eliminate Coast Guard, while Air Force needs a win to fire up its chances of making the next round. INQ



After failing against Alyssa Valdez and Bureau of Customs, the UST Tigresses go for a semifinal berth anew against Laoag's Power Smashers. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

## AFP well aware of NPA recruitment efforts

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 17)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is well aware of the recruiting drive being conducted by some factions of the New People's Army (NPA).

But due to the prevailing suspension-of-military operations brought about by the ongoing peace talks between the government and the insurgents, the AFP cannot just take any punitive actions against rebels.

"AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya, upon learning of this, ordered us to take note of the said recruitment, record it and bring it up in the proper forum when the time comes, we will be able to determine what are the actions that we're suppose to take when in the future (recruitment) will be considered as a violation of the ceasefire agreement, then we might be given the mechanism of redress, or the course of the action needed to stop the recruitment," AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

At present, the AFP is now discussing the issue with its leadership and if necessary, they will bring it to the attention of those sitting in the peace panel.

Arevalo added that they have no figures on how many recruits the NPAs did manage to get but stressed the numbers are not that significant.

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

## Combat pay hike included in 2017 budget -- House leader

House deputy speaker and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, Jr. said on Monday the combat pay increase is included in the proposed 2017 national budget as the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) claimed earlier.

Despite having doubts on which particular part of the proposed budget it will come from, Andaya said in a press conference that the combat pay hike for qualified officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) is part of the proposed budget for next year.

"Meron daw pagkukunan sa budget (It will be supposedly sourced from the budget)... We just have to rely on their (DBM) word at this point in time," said the lawmaker.

Andaya, also a former Budget secretary, said the House has not received any "formal explanation" yet as to specifically where will the officials get the money for combat pay hike.

"Not that I'm not convinced. It's just a normal way of thinking. The executive order was signed in September. The budget was submitted (to the Congress) in August. How can it be included there?," asked the Camarines Sur representative.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed on Sept. 26 his third executive order, which includes the increase of combat duty pay of AFP and PNP uniformed personnel from maximum rate of PHP340 for PNP, PHP500 for AFP to a fixed rate of PHP3,000 per month.

Andaya said around PHP12 billion will be allotted only for combat duty pay.

He also mentioned that 80 percent of the AFP and PNP total population are currently qualified for the combat duty allowance.



<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

## **DSWD Field Office XII helps families of soldiers wounded in action**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said Tuesday that the Department continues to provide assistance to the families of personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) who have been wounded and killed in action.

"We continue to act on the instructions of President Rodrigo Duterte to help the wounded soldiers and to give whatever assistance the DSWD can to their families," said DSWD Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo.

Taguiwalo said that the support of the DSWD was in addition to the support of the Office of the President, the AFP and the PNP to the wounded.

She added that DSWD-Field Office XII had submitted a progress report on the interventions they had provided to the families of AFP/PNP personnel wounded in action.

"Social workers also provided the family members with counseling and put together case reports on each family," she said.

Last month, the FO addressed the needs of three soldiers and their respective families.

PFC Chris Joh Figueroa from Sultan Kudarat was wounded on July 16, 2016 in an operation against a group alleged to be selling drugs in Midsayap, North Cotabato. He was taken to Camp Siongco Clinic and Hospital in Awang, Cotabato City.

He is married but he and his wife are childless.

The DSWD-FO provided counseling to the family and referred their case to the Municipal Social Welfare Officer of Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat.

The family is set to be provided with financial assistance of Php 15,000 as support for their plan to establish a small hog-raising business in their community.

Figueroa's parents are farmers.

CPL Alvin Nicolas was wounded in battle against members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Aug. 26, 2016.

He supports his mother Florentina who works as a laundry woman earning only Php 2,500 a month.

When Alvin was wounded, he was flown to Manila for confinement and treatment, but his family members were unable to visit him because they had no money for air fare.

The FO is providing Florentina with Php 15,000 as financial assistance so she can see her son.

CPL Eric Jules Oriel was one of the soldiers wounded last July 19, 2016 in Compostela Valley.

He was confined at Panacan District Hospital in Davao.

He is married and he and his wife Jennelyn have two children.

Jennelyn will be provided with financial assistance of Php 10,000 to augment the supplies of her sari-sari store.

The two children, who are both, in grade school will be provided with educational assistance of Php 2,500.

"The different forms of assistance the DSWD-FO has given to the families of the wounded soldiers are not considerable, but these will at least help them in their income generating efforts," the DSWD Chief said.

She further said that DSWD's social workers visited each of the homes of the soldiers and saw that they were all from poor economic backgrounds, and that they became soldiers primarily to have means to fight off poverty and so they can provide for their families.

"We explained to them the programs and services of the DSWD so they can, in the future, access more of them based on their needs and as soon as they can provide the requirements of the programs," she said.

She reiterated that she supports the ongoing peace negotiations of the GPH with various armed groups and shared the President's wish that a just and lasting peace will be realized in the Philippines.

[www.interaksyon.com/national](http://www.interaksyon.com/national)

## NPA urges Duterte: 'Rein in your troops'

By: InterAksyon

October 18, 2016 4:56 PM



Military checkpoint in Lanao del Norte. Photographed by Erwin Mascannas, InterAksyon

MANILA, Philippines - The New People's Army on Tuesday called on President Rodrigo Duterte to "tame" the military, which the rebels accuse of continuing to mount counterinsurgency operations in disregard of the government's unilateral cease fire.

"It is increasingly apparent that ... President Duterte has no control of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) as his orders to the soldiers to become friendly with the revolutionary forces are outrightly [sic] being disregarded," Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, the NPA's national spokesman, said in a statement. He also warned that "continuing hostilities directed against the NPA and revolutionary forces endanger the indefinite cease fire."

The government and the rebels earlier separately declared indefinite unilateral ceasefires ahead of the resumption of formal peace negotiations. Both sides have also agreed to hammer out an indefinite bilateral cease fire to hasten talks intended to end the close to half-century long communist armed struggle. However, the rebels have accused government troops of ignoring the cease fire by continuing to carry out operations or occupying hinterland communities.

Lately, two peasant leaders in Compostela Valley province, Jaime Saypan and Joselito Pasaporte, were murdered by suspects Madlos said were "militiamen under the command of" the Army's 10th Infantry Division. And in the Bicol region, he said, "NPA leader Edwin Dematera and his companion Den de la Cruz were arrested while traveling in Magallanes, Sorsogon Cruz last October 4."

Madlos also disclosed that the military has embarked on a public relations campaign "to justify the hostile operations ... in contempt of the indefinite cease fire."

"Over the past week or so, AFP personnel have been doing the rounds of radio stations, newspapers (and) social media web sites to defend and justify the hostile counter-insurgency operations" being carried out under the counterinsurgency program called Oplan Bayanihan, he said.

In the guise of civic action, Madlos claimed, "combat troops of the AFP conduct intelligence operations in the hope of identifying leaders of local mass organizations and community leaders of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)."

He said residents of areas occupied by the military "have been lining up to join the NPA to defend their rights." To prevent escalation and a possible collapse of the cease fire, Madlos urged Duterte to "ensure that all units of the AFP are pulled-out from their current forward deployment within the guerrilla zones of operations of the NPA and areas under the sway of the revolutionary forces."

<http://www.philstar.com/>

## Abu Sayyaf suspect shot dead by Marines in Tawi-Tawi

Julie Alipala



Abu Sayyaf. (RADYO INQUIRER FILE PHOTO)

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – Marine soldiers in Tawi-Tawi shot dead a suspected Abu Sayyaf member said to be involved in the Sipadan hostage crisis after the latter reportedly tried to grab the firearm of a soldier while being brought to a police station on Tuesday.

Major Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said Ustab Anji was arrested during a raid on his lair in Barangay Magsagaw in Panglima Sugala town around 1 p.m. Authorities also seized from him a .45 pistol and a grenade.

While being brought to the Panglima Sugala police station, Tan said Anji grabbed the firearm of one of the soldiers. A scuffle ensued and the suspect was later shot dead.

"Anji was involved in the Sipadan hostage-taking incident and his capture carried a monetary reward of P350,000. He was also tagged in the recent kidnappings of Indonesian and Malaysian nationals," Tan said.

**SFM/rga**



<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

## **Tribal leaders ask Congress to address militarization, land use conversion of ancestral lands**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 18)

Leaders of various national minority groups called on the House of Representatives on Tuesday to help them in the fight against land-grabbing and the militarization of their communities under the continuing implementation of Oplan Bayanihan.

Leaders include Matigsalog woman chieftain Bai Bibyaon Ligkayan Bigkay, Datu Cho Monico, Jerome Aba of Suara Bangsamoro, Minda Dalinan of the Kahugpungan ng mga Lumad sa Halayong Habagatang Mindanao, and Nenita Condez of the Salabukan Nok G'Taw Subanen.

The tribal leaders, who are part of the ongoing "Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya para sa Sariling Pagpapasya at Makatarungang Kapayapaan," decried the continued militarization of ancestral lands through Oplan Bayanihan.

In a news briefing Tuesday, Kabataan Partylist Rep. Sarah Elago said Oplan Bayanihan, which she described as a "counterinsurgency scheme", continues to terrorize tribal communities.

The tribal leaders also called on Congress to support the proposed two-year ban on land use conversion, saying that land use conversion has also affected ancestral lands, which are being turned into agro-industrial plantations, especially in Mindanao.

"Even our national minorities attest to the fact that land use conversion of agricultural lands is a monster that must be reined in. In this light, we urge Congress to support the 2-year land use conversion moratorium of agricultural lands, which addresses the longstanding ploy of unscrupulous landowners and real estate developers to convert prime agricultural lands for industrial, residential, and commercial purposes to escape coverage from the agrarian reform law," Elago said.