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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 October 2016

Tuesday

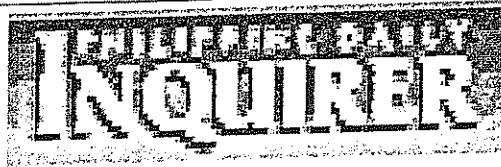
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING LUZON (As of 5:00 PM - October 24, 2016)

Location	Temperature Range
LAOAG CITY	25 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	24 - 35 °C
BAGUIO CITY	16 - 24 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY	24 - 30 °C
METRO MANILA	24 - 33 °C
LEGAZPI CITY	25 - 32 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY	25 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	25 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 35 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:49 AM	5:31 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:16 AM	2:03 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
OCT 23 3:14 AM	OCT 31 1:38 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
1:13 PM 0.09 Meter	4:36 AM 0.95 Meter

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

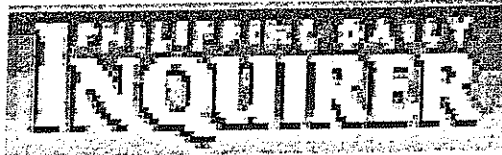
	OCT 25	OCT 26	OCT 27
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	22 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 34 °C	23 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
LAOAG	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 24 °C	15 - 23 °C	26 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 33 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 - 31 °C	22 - 30 °C	24 - 32 °C
LEGAZPI	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 34 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU	24 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 34 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C

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

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SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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DUTERTE SPARKING INT'L DISTRESS-US

America's top diplomat for Asia on Monday said President Duterte's controversial remarks and a "real climate of uncertainty" about his administration's intentions have sparked distress around the world.

Daniel Russel, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said he also relayed to Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. international concern over continuing killings in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs.

Russel's visit to the Philippines, part of a three-nation trip to Southeast Asia, comes amid increasing uncertainty about Washington's treaty alliance with Manila.

Antagonism toward US

The firebrand Mr. Duterte, who took office on June 30, has displayed antagonism toward America, declaring his desire to scale back military engagements with the United States and telling US President Barack Obama to "go to hell."

The Duterte administration, however, has not formalized his public declarations to remove US counterterrorism forces from Mindanao and stop large-scale joint exercises involving American forces, creating confusion among even his Cabinet officials.

Mr. Duterte sparked diplomatic alarm when he announced during a state visit to Beijing last week his "separation" from the United States and realignment with China.

Upon returning home the day after his stunning remarks, Mr. Duterte said he did not mean he was severing diplomatic ties with Washington but only wanted to end a foreign policy that was overly oriented toward the United States.

"I've pointed out to Secretary Yasay that the succession of controversial statements,

comments and a real climate of uncertainty about the Philippines' intentions has created consternation in a number of countries, not only in mine," Russel told reporters on Monday in Manila after a meeting with Yasay that went overtime.

The unease, Russel said, was also palpable "not only among governments, but also ... in other communities, in the expat Filipino community, in corporation boardrooms as well."

Drug killings

Russel said that while the United States supported Mr. Duterte's "effort against the scourge of drugs," Washington was concerned over the loss of lives.

"This is not a positive trend," he said, adding that the United States remains committed to continuing a solid alliance with and providing assistance to the Philippines, including in fighting the drug menace.

More than 3,700 drug suspects have been killed by police

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and mysterious assailants since Mr. Duterte launched a brutal campaign against drugs upon taking office on June 30.

Expressions of concern about the killings from the United States, United Nations, European Union and international human rights organizations have provoked sulphuric reactions from Mr. Duterte, who called them "fools" and "sons of bitches."

His exhortations to police to kill suspects who will resist arrest have drawn a warning from the International Criminal Court that Philippine officials responsible for the killings could be prosecuted for crimes against humanity.

"We support direct dialogue and negotiations between the Philippines and China as long as they take place on terms that are acceptable to the Philippines, as long as they are consistent with international laws," Russel said, referring to the agreement between Beijing and Manila to settle their territorial dispute in the South China Sea through direct talks de-

spite an international arbitration panel's ruling in July in favor of the Philippines.

Russel said that while Washington welcomed the relaxation of tensions between Manila and Beijing under Mr. Duterte, the rapprochement should not come at the expense of the United States or other nations.

"It's a mistake to think that improved relations between Manila and Beijing somehow come at the expense of the United States," he said. "This should be addition and not subtraction."

Clarification sought

The outgoing American ambassador in Manila said Mr. Duterte's anti-US rhetoric was "inconsistent" with the decades-old alliance between the Philippines and the United States.

"It's clear that many of the things that have been said are inconsistent with friendship and alliance," Philip Goldberg, whom Mr. Duterte has called "gay son of a bitch," told re-

porters after the turnover of a C-130-T military plane to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Monday.

Goldberg said Washington was trying to clarify Mr. Duterte's "separation" remarks in Beijing.

"We are trying to sort out exactly what that means in policy terms [and] in terms of our relationship. We've always treated the Philippines as an equal and as a sovereign country, that is why we are seeking clarification," Goldberg said.

"On our part, we have a very strong sense that the Philippines is an ally, a friend. We have a strong commitment to its defense," he said.

Goldberg said the US rebalance to Asia would proceed.

In his speech during the turnover ceremony, Goldberg lamented the "changes" that had happened since he last oversaw the turnover of a similar aircraft to the PAF six months ago.

"Quite a bit happened, quite a bit changed since then. But one thing hasn't changed: that the United States' commitment to the Philippines remains as strong as ever," he said.

'Absurd' Estrada comment

Goldberg described as "absurd" former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada's comment on Saturday that Mr. Duterte's anti-US rhetoric could lead to "severe consequences," including his ouster.

"The United States is a great friend of the Philippines [and] respects the democracy in the Philippines and the process that has happened to elect a new president and a new administration," Goldberg said.

"Those are fundamental core beliefs of the United States and any statement that we would, in any way, be involved in such a thing is not right," he added. —REPORTS FROM AP, REUTERS, MARLON RAMOS AND JOCELYN R. UY INQ

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FOUR OTHER KIDS WERE MEMBERS

BOY, 10, AMONG 32 ABUS WHO SURRENDERED

By Julie Alipala
@alipalajulieINQ

SUMISIP, BASILAN—Thirty-two members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group surrendered to the military on Monday.

They included a 10-year-old boy, identified only as Tony, who said he could shoot an M4 Carbine assault rifle. Tony surrendered with his elder brother Halid and nine others.

Their faction of 11 was led by Moton Indama, a cousin of Abu Sayyaf leader Furuji Indama. Moton had about 30 fol-

lowers but only the 11 surrendered because "they" were afraid to join me. They were afraid that after surrendering, we will all be killed," he said.

Tony, who lost his parents in a military operation, said another older brother opted not to surrender.

Twenty-one other terrorists from another Abu Sayyaf faction, the Batwas group, also gave themselves up.

"We want to live like civilians where we can roam freely in our town together with our families," Weller Baliyung, 27, said.

Baliyung said their food supplies and other support for the war had been dwindling due to the nonstop military operations.

"We have lost so many comrades. We still want to live and see our families," he said.

Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo de la Cruz, Western Mindanao Command chief, received the surrenderees in a ceremony at the Sumisip town hall. Of the 32, five were children.

De la Cruz said Tony would now have a chance to dream big. "He could be a cop or a lawyer." INQ

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From battlefield to shooting range MILF, AFP engage in 'shootout'

B. ALI G. MACABALANG

CAMP SIONGCO Maguindanao – It was one shootout that the protagonists were only too happy to be engaged in.

Combatants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were joined by soldiers from the Army's Sixth Infantry Division (6ID) Sunday in a "Shoot for Peace" in a friendly shootfest that took their erstwhile bloody encounters in the battlefields to the confines of a shooting range.

"The event is a peace-building version of bloody shootouts among soldiers and combatants of the MILF and MNLF in previous years. It's an innovation conceived by the new 6ID leadership to intensify confidence-building among the three groups," Lt. Col. Markton Abo, 6ID spokesman, said.

The MILF sent to the "Shoot for Peace" event a contingent consisting of members of its coordinating commit-

tee for cessation of hostilities (CCCH), which is responsible in sustaining the peace accords that were recently signed with the government.

The Moro group had forged two major peace accords with the government in 2013 and 2014, where it agreed to abandon its decades-old secessionist stance in favor of meaningful autonomy under a Bangsamoro juridical entity that will replace the existing Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Government and MILF representatives had drafted a Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) to establish the new autonomous body. But Congress revised and later shelved the enabling bill following controversies spawned by the infamous Jan. 25, 2015 Mamasapano clash that left 44 terrorist-hunting police commandos and over 20 other people including MILF combatants.

Immediately after President Du-

arte assumed office, the government expressed its firm intention to "implement" the government peace accords with the MILF and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) through the passage of an "inclusive" BBL that would encompass the aspirations of the two Moro fronts and other stakeholders in the Mindanao peace process.

Abo said the new 6ID commander, Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., a former head of the military CCCH in the peace deals with the MILF, hosted the "Shoot for Peace" to sustain the momentum of MILF-government cordiality pending the passage of the enhanced BBL.

In a fellowship night with the local media last week here, Galvez confirmed that the 6ID was cooperating with the MILF in running after local drug offenders within the command's jurisdiction.

The 6ID covers Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and parts of Lanao del Sur and South Cotabato.

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The Manila Times

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Army taps MILF leaders to track down drug lord

COTABATO CITY: The Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division (6th ID) commanding general has ordered its 601st Brigade to again tap Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commanders to help in tracking down another drug lord who escaped from a raid after wounding three soldiers in a gun fight recently.

Major Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., 6th ID commanding general, had ordered the 601st Brigade to enlist the help of local MILF commanders in locating Mayogantong Bansil, wanted for large-scale drug trafficking, according to Lt. Col. Markton Abo, 6th ID spokesman.

Abo said Bansil had fled his hideout in the municipality of General S.K. Pendatun after Thursday's gun fight.

The 601st Brigade has jurisdiction over General S.K. Pendatun and neighboring towns in Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

Two of Bansil's men, who are unidentified but described as both in their 30s, were killed by soldiers during the raid when they fired at the law enforcers who were out to serve Bansil a warrant of arrest.

But a follower of Bansil who introduced himself as Ryan was arrested while trying to escape from the scene carrying 40-millimeter shoulder-fired grenade projectiles.

The suspect was said to have identified himself as "Ryan Mayo-gantong Bansil," but investigators said it could be an attempt to mislead authorities on the real identity of the main target.

Local officials said the older Mayogantong Bansil is the real drug lord and the main target of the operation.

Galvez said they are coordinating with the MILF's ceasefire

committee that deals with a counterpart group in the government in their bid for a joint operation to get Bansil.

"It would be easier to find Bansil with the help of MILF leaders through a joint effort as provided for by the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF," he added.

Lt. Col. Ricky Bunayog, 33rd IB commander, confirmed that three of his men who provided tactical support to the raiding team were injured in the gun fight with Bansil's group.

"Local policemen aided by personnel of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) were to arrest Bansil but they resisted, provoking a running firefight that lasted for about 30 minutes more or less," Bunayog said.

Bunayog identified his wounded troops as Private 1st Class Denemar Albani, Cpl. Marcial Duri and Sgt. Aurelio Ferrer.

Bansil is a known cohort of two other drug lords - Wang and Taipeh - reportedly holding out in Kabuling area at the border of Pandag and Datu Paglas towns in Maguindanao.

He is among the top 20 most wanted drug lords listed in the police's "order of battle."

Earlier, a large group of MILF members have arrested the followers of suspected drug trafficker - Mokz Masgal - in Midsayap, North Cotabato.

Masgal, known as Commander Madrox, eluded arrest by fleeing to the nearby 220,000-hectare Liguasan Marsh, bringing with him his five followers.

Police are holding 13 of Masgal's followers.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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25 October 2016

The Manila Times

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11 Sayyaf members surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The Philippine Army said 11 Abu Sayyaf members surrendered on Monday in Basilan where security forces are battling the group tied to the Islamic State.

The bandits – Ring Langka, Tari and Halid Murasimin, Moton Indama, Haimin Jalil, Marham Musana, Sadjara Hadjarama, Gulam Hajim, Haraward Sahirulla, Basri Laisun and Hasim Baliyung – reportedly surrendered in Sumisip town.

They also handed over assorted weapons, including a machine gun and rifle grenades.

It was not immediately known whether those who surrendered will be charged in court since the Abu Sayyaf Group is not included in the government amnesty program.

Many armed bandits had surrendered in the past decades in Basilan, but eventually returned to their group to fight government forces again in pursuit of their aspiration for the establishment of an Islamic homeland in southern Mindanao. **AL JACINTO**

25 October 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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ASG sub-leader, 10 followers yield

A SUB-LEADER of the Abu Sayyaf and 10 of his followers, including four minors, surrendered to the military in Sumisip town in Basilan yesterday morning.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military's Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, said the 11 were led by Moton Indama, a relative of Abu Sayyaf leader Furuji Indama.

Tan said the 11 surrendered to officials of the Joint Task Force Basilan, under Col. Cirilito Donato, at the headquarters of the 64th Infantry Battalion in Sumisip town at around 10 a.m.

Tan said the four minors were aged 12, 15, 17 and 18. The four and the rest of those who surrendered were turned over to the lo-

cal police.

Tan said the 11 surrendered due to pressure caused by the ongoing intensified operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and in Sulu. He said local government officials also helped in convincing the 11 to return to the government fold.

The 11 brought with them three cal. 45 pistols, a cal. 38 revolver, a M653 rifle, a Minimi sub-machine gun, an M203 rifle, an M1 Garand rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun, and several rounds of ammunition and magazines.

Indama, second cousin of Furuji Indama, is the leader of more or less 20 Abu Sayyaf members operating in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, said Tan.

Tan said Indama's group is behind several landmine attacks in Tipo-tipo town. – *Victor Reyes*

25 October 2016

The Manila Times

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5 abducted Filipino seafarers home soon

THE five Filipino seamen freed by Somali pirates after nearly five years of captivity are now under the custody of the Philippine government and will fly home on October 28, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Charles Jose, spokesperson and assistant secretary of the DFA, said the Filipinos were welcomed by Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus Yabes, together with Philippine Embassy in Nairobi Chargé d' Affaires Uriel Norman Garibay and other government officials, at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport upon arriving in Nairobi on Monday.

"Our countrymen are already in safe condition. They will undergo medical test and psychological debriefing before they will be sent to the Philippines," Jose told reporters.

The official said the Philippines is cooperating with the international community to curb piracy.

"The problem of piracy is an international issue and many countries and international organiza-

tions are coordinating to combat this. In fact, the one responsible for the release of the hostages was an organization," Jose said.

The US-based Oceans Beyond Piracy, a privately funded and independent non-profit organization, spearheaded the negotiation for the release of the hostages. However, because of security issues and the multi-national component of the case, it took a long time for the case to be resolved.

Arnel Balbero, Elmer Balbero, Antonio Libres, Jr., Edwas Tinninggal, Jr. and Ferdinand Dalit were among the 29-man crew of the Omani-flagged FV Naham 3 that was hijacked on March 26, 2012 while traversing the Indian Ocean some 65 nautical miles south of Seychelles.

Other than the five Filipinos, the crew was made up of Cambodian, Chinese, Indonesian, Taiwanese and Vietnamese seafarers. Of the 29, one died during the hijacking while two others succumbed to illnesses while in captivity.

MICHAEL JOE T. DELIZO

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Cebu next Abu Sayyaf target?

By MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.

CEBU CITY – Police and government officials in Cebu have received information that at least six members of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group arrived in Cebu last Saturday.

Supt. Julian Entoma, head of the Regional Intelligence Division of the police regional office, said the six men, headed by a Kumander Messiah, came from Dipolog, where they took a boat to Dumaguete before proceeding to Cebu.

Abu Sayyaf members are staying. He urged the public to be cautious but assured there is no need to be alarmed because the police is on top of the situation.

“We continue to monitor if anyone is left behind and asked the Muslim communities in Cebu as well as management of malls, lodges and resorts

Entoma said the group could be in Cebu to sow terror or kidnap prominent personalities here.

Sensing that the police has learned of their presence, some of the men have already left Cebu, Entoma said.

“Based on our monitoring they came here to kidnap prominent personalities although they are also likely targeting malls and other commercial establishments,” he said.

Entoma did not say where exactly in Cebu the remaining

to keep watch,” Entoma said.

Police presence has been increased in crowded areas in Cebu, including malls, bus terminals, churches, and seaports.

Cebu City Councilor Dave Tumalak, who is deputy mayor for police operations, called on the public to be vigilant.

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China should also give up claims in some of RP's territories – 'JV'

By **Angie M. Rosales**

China should reciprocate the gesture of President Duterte's gesture, by giving up its claims in the disputed areas such as the Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands, Sen. JV Ejercito yesterday said.

"If China wants to regain our trust, maybe they should give up their claim in some of our territories and also, they have to respect the outcome of the arbitration (tribunal)," the senator said.

"It's our sovereignty that they're already disrespecting by harassing our fishermen and by claiming some territories that are obviously ours. Me personally, hopefully, as a sign of goodwill, it will be good if China will give up its claim on our disputed territories, especially those areas near on our shores and obviously those that are part of West Philippine Sea. That's my personal opinion," Ejercito added.

The senator said Duterte cannot be faulted for showing his inclination in strengthening ties

with China rather than the US, saying that the Chief Executive may be seeing some business opportunities, when it comes to the relationship with the Chinese government.

Ejercito said he's among those who surprised to hear of the President announcing that he will cut economic and military ties with the US.

"I am an ally of the President but I am also concerned of his statements. We are also concerned of the possible backlash of the shift, sudden shift from being an ally to China. But I'm glad also that the President clarified that we do not have to sever ties with the US but he just wants to pursue an independent foreign policy," the senator, at a press conference, said.

Former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, meanwhile, expressed concern over the recent pronouncements of Duterte, saying that the President's statements saying that bilateral talks on the disputed Scarborough Shoal will resume,

following his meeting recently with Chinese leaders, may have weakened the country's claims on the said territory which had already been ruled in favor of the Philippines by the United Nations' Arbitral Tribunal.

"Well he has not made a big issue out of it. As a matter of fact, he has weakened it somewhat. We're hopeful that he will be able to find a way to go back to our original position which is the 200-kilometer exclusive economic zone has been decided properly," he said.

"It's not the alliance itself with China, it's the fact that he said that we're going to ask that our fishermen be allowed to go to the Scarborough shoal. Wait, that's ours! Why would you negotiate Scarborough Shoal?" Osmeña pointed out.

While officially, Duterte may not have repudiated the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) decision, there are several steps that he has been doing that has weakened the country's position and has strengthened China's position, he said.

15 October 2016



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11 Abu bandits surrender

SUMSIP - Eleven Abu Sayyaf bandits, including a relative of Furuji Indama, surrendered yesterday.

Moto Indama, 26, and his companions turned over their high-powered firearms to Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo de la Cruz, Western Mindanao Command chief, and Basilan Gov. Jim Hataman-Saliman.

The firearms include machine guns, rifles, a shotgun, three .45 caliber pistols, a caliber .38 revolver and ammunition.

The other surrenderees were identified as Marham Musana, 18; Sadjara Hadjarman, 23; Halid Murasimin, 20; Gulam Hajim, 19; Haraward Sahirulla, 20; Basri Laisun, 35; Nasim Baliyung, 21, and three boys aged 17, 15 and 12.

The group was involved in a series of firefights with the military in Barangay Baguindan in August.

Indama said they surrendered because they are tired of hiding and fighting.

"We want to go back to our peaceful and normal lives,"

he said.

Sumsip Mayor Gulam Bor Hataman said the bandits had sent feelers for their surrender.

'One happy moment'

De la Cruz said the surrender of the bandits was "one happy moment."

"Even President Duterte who visited here recently said we can't be killing each other every day," he said.

He said the government is waiting for more Abu Sayyaf gunmen who sent surrender feelers.

Twenty-one other Abu Sayyaf members surrendered last month.

Saliman said the provincial government with the support of officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao would provide scholarships to surrenderees who want to continue their studies.

"We are aware of the possible reprisal and we are ready to protect those who surrendered," he added.

- Roel Pareño

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DEMILITARIZATION OF COMMUNITIES AT HEART

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MEET WITH GINA TURNS INTO 3-WAY TALK WITH AFP CHIEF

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@jaymeegamilINQ

Indigenous peoples (IP) calling for the demilitarization of their communities had a chance to air their gripes directly to the military chief yesterday during a dialogue with Environment Secretary Gina Lopez at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The indigenous peoples from across the Philippines are holding a weeks-long campout on the campus of the state university to bring to national attention their plights in their communities.

Lopez listened to various concerns—from calls to close mining sites to demands for justice for the killing of indigenous peoples in the past year.

When she heard that one of the calls of the indigenous groups was to demilitarize their communities, she phoned Gen. Ricardo Visaya on the spot and put the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff on speaker phone to allow him to explain the military's side.

Visaya explained to the indigenous peoples: "The soldiers assigned to your place are

not there to disturb you but to respond to the presence of the NPA (New People's Army) who are exploiting you."

"It's not militarization. When you speak of militarization, the military interferes with the barangay—how your place is to be run. They just guide you. They will just teach you so there will be quiet and happiness," Visaya said, to increasing murmurs from the gathered tribal folk.

'The NPA recruit lumad'

From Agusan del Sur province, where he was at the time, Visaya said, "Each encounter with the NPA, those who are killed are lumad. The NPA recruit lumad. We don't want you to join them."

Lopez, upon hearing the reactions of the indigenous people's leaders, told Visaya that "they're concerned the military is killing civilians."

Visaya responded: "There are lumad who die because they joined the NPA." This was met with jeers from the crowd, which gave way to cries of "berdugo!" and chants of "militar sa kanayunan, pagbayarin!"

Earlier, Lopez assured the indigenous peoples about

Visaya: "He's for you... He doesn't want the militarization of ancestral domains. If something happens after he says it's enough, you just contact him, or contact us. Let's fix it... So we will work together."

Cancel permit, stop violence

Minda Dalinan, representing the B'laan tribe from South Cotabato, noted the perceived link between mining in their area and the military presence. "Cancel [the permit of] Sagittarius Mining. If it's cancelled, the violence from the military and police will stop."

She also spoke out against the heavy-handed response to the indigenous peoples' rallies in Metro Manila over the past week. "Despite the violence we suffer in the countryside, they still inflict violence on us in Metro Manila. What does the AFP and especially the police want? Why don't they allow us to say what we feel?"

A rally by the IPs at AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, was met with a water cannon. At the US Embassy in Manila, tear gas canisters were lobbed and a policeman ran over protesters with a van. INQ

15 October 2016



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ABU SAYYAF PRESENCE

CEBU COPS ON ALERT FOR TERROR GROUP

By Ador Vincent S. Mayol
@adorCDN

CEBU CITY—Gebuanos have been advised to be vigilant after the police received reports that from four to six members of the Abu Sayyaf arrived in the city over the weekend.

Supt. Julian Entoma, chief of the Regional Intelligence Division, said the group led by Commander Alhabsi Misaya reportedly went to Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental before proceeding to Cebu on Saturday.

Police could not determine where the group was holed up in Cebu. They were either in

Cebu City or Talisay City, investigators said.

Entoma said that police intelligence showed the terror-group was planning to abduct foreigners and prominent personalities and bomb malls and other establishments in Cebu.

"The police has been on alert since Friday night. After receiving the report from our counterparts in Mindanao, we immediately alerted our teams and the security officers of the malls, lodges and beaches," said Entoma in an interview.

The police also sought the help of the Muslim community in Metro Cebu in monitor-

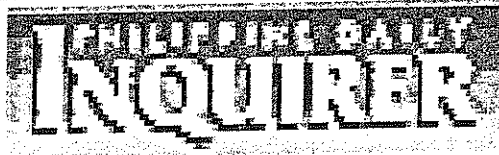
ing the Misaya group.

On Sunday, Entoma said the police regional office in Zamboanga City reported that Misaya's group was seen in the area and that its members might have left for Cebu.

"But we are not certain whether all six members returned to Mindanao. We nevertheless continue to monitor," he said.

Photographs of Misaya were distributed to different police stations in Cebu as well as in malls and other business establishments to alert security officers and mallgoers and help avert the plot of the group. INQ

15 October 2016



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Educating millennials on martial law

Of late, members of the younger generation, commonly referred to as “millennials,” have been the target of condemnation by some sectors for their supposed clueless acceptance of deceptive accounts of Ferdinand Marcos’ dictatorship.

But blaming millennials obscures the role played by an ineffectual oligarchic democracy and its dismal failure to effectively prosecute the Marcoses and their cronies for plunder and human rights abuse. The persistence of foreign domination, landlord and elite rule, and bureaucratic corruption after the fall of the dictatorship have made it easier for the Marcoses to misleadingly claim that life was better under martial law.

Indeed, President Duterte’s promise to bury the dictator’s remains in the Libingan ng mga Bayani is only the culmination of the long passage toward the political rehabilitation of the Marcos family.

Apart from school textbooks and curriculums that whitewash the abuses of the martial law regime, the continued enforcement of Marcos-era education policies also plays a role in the erasure of collective memory.

With Batas Pambansa 232 (or the Education Act of 1982), Marcos decreed the deregulation of the education system by allowing private schools to set tuition and other school fees. This resulted in the jacking up of the cost of education, with tuition soaring from P700-P2,600 a semester in 1982 to P1,200-P7,000 in 1987, according to

COMMENTARY

KARLO MONGAYA

a 1987 study of tuition levels of selected tertiary schools in Metro Manila. Fast-forward to three decades later, and the cost of tuition has spiraled by 5,000-7,000 percent, with the continued deregulation of the education system.

When Benigno Aquino III became president in 2010, the annual tuition was P30,000-P60,000. That amount had risen to P40,000-P80,000 by the time he left office last June, according to a study by the office of Kabataan Party-list Rep. Sarah Elago. Many have been deprived access to education, with only 14 in every 100 Grade 1 pupils making it to graduate school.

Meanwhile, Marcos’ 1972 Presidential Decree No. 6-A created the task force for an educational development plan aimed at realigning the education system toward supplying semiskilled labor for transnational corporations. This neocolonial orientation continues today, with the K-to-12 program focusing on technical-vocational courses and the “internationalization” of higher education that reduces the teaching of history and the humanities in favor of “globally competitive” programs.

All these form part of the neoliberal policies dictated by the International Monetary Fund-World Bank that transformed

the public obligation of the state to provide social services like education into another opportunity for profit-making.

The gearing of education to supplying a cheap labor force and increasing profit margins has resulted in attacks on academic freedom, critical thinking, and the gutting of historical awareness among the youth. Many millennials have been left with no compass to navigate through history and its enduring legacy on the present.

Educating millennials on martial law thus means correcting insidious historical revisionism in schools as well as asserting education’s role in nation-building, as opposed to its current role as a commercial and neocolonial apparatus.

Last Sept. 21, students across the country walked out of their classes to join street protests timed with the 44th anniversary of the declaration of martial law. The young protesters called on President Duterte to make education free at all levels, put an end to extrajudicial killings, release all political prisoners, and stop the planned burial of the dictator’s remains in the heroes’ cemetery.

With his first 100 days in office over, it’s time Mr. Duterte heeded these demands and made good on his promise of change by finally breaking away from the neoliberal policies that have strengthened the oligarchic stranglehold on the country.

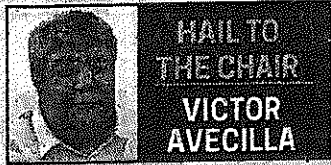
Karlo Mongaya is a graduate student of Araling Pilipino at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

25 October 2016

The
Standard

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The SC decision on the Marcos burial



THE Supreme Court has remained undecided on the issue of whether or not ex-President Ferdinand Marcos may be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. News reports disclose that the justices are deeply divided on the issue.

President Rodrigo Duterte made the overture two months ago by permitting the burial of the late strongman at the Libingan. Duterte wanted the nation to move on from its divisive discussions about martial law. For Duterte, the burial will provide closure to a controversial chapter in Philippine history that is largely unknown to the present generation of Filipinos. Duterte also believes that the closure itself will push the country out of the wilderness of political bickering and finger-pointing and back to the path towards progress and development.

Although the Marcos burial was planned for August 2016, activities in that direction will have to wait. Seven petitions opposing the intended burial at the Libingan were filed in the Supreme Court by parties opposed to the idea of President Marcos resting in a cemetery reserved for heroes.

Only a few of the petitioners were anti-Marcos partisans during their time. One petition was filed by a group of college students whose awareness of what actually happened during the martial law regime is hearsay, second-hand, or based solely on what historians aligned with the family of ex-

President Benigno Aquino III have said.

Senator Leila de Lima is also a petitioner. Whether or not De Lima was at the forefront of the anti-Marcos campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s is debatable because she does not seem to be among those who were openly fighting President Marcos. Critics say that De Lima filed the petition in her capacity as a loyal follower of the previous president and his family.

Since a temporary restraining order against the Marcos burial was issued by the Supreme Court, everyone interested in the outcome of this case will simply have to wait. Considering, in turn, that most of the justices have more or less made up their minds on the matter, it will not hurt to reiterate an earlier discourse on this issue.

First, the petitions pending in the Supreme Court allege grave abuse of discretion on the part of President Duterte for his decision to push through with the Marcos burial. Jurisprudence, in turn, defines grave abuse of discretion as arbitrariness, capriciousness, and whim.

Second, in cases where the exercise of executive power is allegedly tainted with grave abuse of discretion, the prevailing jurisprudence in Constitutional Law posits that the question the Supreme Court must ask is not whether the president acted *correctly*, but whether the president acted *arbitrarily*. Thus, the issue before the Supreme Court is not whether President Marcos deserves to be buried in the Libingan, but whether President Duterte acted with grave abuse of discretion in allowing the Marcos burial to proceed.

Third, the Supreme Court is composed of justices who

are unelected public officials. Therefore, if it is established that the president did not act arbitrarily, then the Supreme Court must give the president the benefit of the doubt and refrain from getting in the way of executive action and discretion. To hold otherwise is to allow an *unelected* branch of the government to substitute its own judgment for that rendered by an *elected* branch of the government, without any compelling reasons to warrant the same. That will be antagonistic to the essence of a democratic and republican government operating under the rule of law.

Fourth, the Constitution explicitly provides that sovereignty resides in the people, and all government authority emanates from them. During the 2016 presidential campaign, then candidate Rodrigo Duterte promised the voters that if he is elected president, he will have the Marcos remains buried at the Libingan. Duterte won convincingly and overwhelmingly, and by a majority unprecedented in Philippine election history. That mandate requires Duterte to keep his end of the bargain by, among others, allowing the Marcos burial at the Libingan.

Fifth, complying with the mandate of the Filipino people who elected him, Duterte decided to allow, once and for all, the Marcos burial at the Libingan. Complying with a directive from the people who elected him can hardly be considered as an arbitrary act on the part of President Duterte. In fact, it is anything except being arbitrary.

Finally, the Libingan ng mga Bayani is a military cemetery. As such, the final word as to who gets to be buried there,

and who does not, belongs not to the judiciary but to the President as the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Therefore, unless the petitioners are able to show very good reasons to warrant a judicial incursion into matters which belong to the exclusive realm of the military, and the prevailing jurisprudence frowns against such judicial incursions, the Supreme Court has no choice but to accord due respect to the decision of President Duterte to bury ex-President Marcos at the Libingan. To view the situation otherwise is to countenance a judicial usurpation of the powers which the commander-in-chief clause of the Constitution exclusively vests in the president.

The final decision of the Supreme Court in the Marcos burial case will have tremendous consequences on the separation of powers principle that underlies the existing constitutional government of the Philippines. While the power of the Supreme Court to say what the law means is conceded, Congress has the power to unseat justices of the Supreme Court for culpable violation of the Constitution or for betrayal of the public trust. The exercise of that power was instigated by a sitting president back in 2011, and demonstrated to the people in 2012 by the televised ouster of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

In the event that the Supreme Court dismisses the petitions, that ruling should not be interpreted to mean that the Supreme Court sided with the executive department. It means the Supreme Court simply upheld what the Constitution mandates—nothing more, nothing less.

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ONLINE NEWS

25 OCTOBER 2016

www.rappler.com

US turns over C130 cargo plane to PH Air Force

From Rappler (Oct 24): US turns over C130 cargo plane to PH Air Force

The US formally turned over another C130 to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on Monday, October 24.

"With this new addition to your C130 fleet, I know that the Philippine Air Force will be even more prepared to respond when called upon to deliver aid in case disaster strikes," said US ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg in his speech during the ceremony held at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

It is the 2nd of the two C130s bought by the previous Aquino administration after Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) exposed the weakness in the military's cargo and transport capability.

The first was turned over in April 2016. The PAF now has a total of 5 C130 planes.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenza highlighted the role of C130 cargo planes in relief efforts to help the victims of last week's typhoon Lawin.

"This event significantly symbolizes the Philippines' relations with the United States. It has served as a steady anchor in our recognition of the interlocking linkage between peacekeeping and peace-building towards lasting peace, security and development, not only in the Asia-Pacific region, but globally," said Philippine Air Force chief Lieutenant General Edgar Fallorina.

The Philippines paid \$35 million (about P1.6 billion) for the two C130s. The actual cost is \$55 million, but US Foreign Military Financing covered \$20 million.

A C130 can lift about 100 troops or its equivalent weight, a critical asset in transporting immediate relief after disasters even to remote airfields.

The entire AFP, the Philippine National Police, and government agencies, especially the Department of Social Welfare and Development, rely on the Air Force in moving people and logistics to different parts of the archipelago.

The US State Department approved the request of the Philippines to purchase the cargo planes in August 2014.

"The sale of the two C-130s is part of the US government's commitment to help the Philippines develop its territorial defense and maritime security capabilities, as well as enhance its ability to respond to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief emergencies, which routinely occur in the Philippines," the US embassy had said.

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3 Japanese navy ships arrive in Manila

From Rappler (Oct 24): 3 Japanese navy ships arrive in Manila

The 3 vessels – JS Kashima (TV-3508), JS Setoyuki (TV-3518) and JS Asagiri (DD-151) – bring 190 navy officials
On the eve of President Rodrigo Duterte's visit to Japan, 3 Japanese ships arrived in Manila on Monday, October 24, bringing navy officers for a series of meetings with their Philippine counterparts.

"The Training Squadron of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) berthed here today for a five-day goodwill visit to the Philippines from Oct. 23 to 27," the Philippine Navy said.

The 3 vessels – JS Kashima (TV-3508), JS Setoyuki (TV-3518) and JS Asagiri (DD-151) – ferried 190 navy officials.

A customary welcome was conducted by Philippine Navy vessel BRP Rajah Humabon (FF11) at the vicinity of Corregidor Island, where it escorted the Japanese vessels to their berthing area.

The Japanese navy officials will have a series of engagements with their Filipino counterparts. Filipino navy officials will be given a tour inside the Japanese vessels.

"The visit is another gesture of fostering goodwill which contributes to the furtherance of friendship between the PN and JMSDF established through the years with continuing commitment to promoting naval diplomacy and camaraderie," the navy said in a statement.

Japan and the Philippines stepped up security cooperation during the previous administration of President Benigno Aquino III against the backdrop of China's aggressiveness in the South China Sea.
Japan donated ships to beef up the fleet of the Philippine Coast Guard.

In 2015, Philippine and Japanese navies flew together over the West Philippine Sea for the first time since the World War 2. The two countries also began talks on a possible visiting forces treaty that would allow Japanese troops in the Philippines.

How the Duterte administration is going to proceed remains unclear as the President pivots to China and away from the US, a key ally of Japan.

Duterte has said that Japan might, "depending on developments," join talks between the Philippines and China to resolve overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

Duterte's state visit to China last week resulted in, among others, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the establishment of "joint coast guard committee on maritime cooperation."

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www.sunstar.com

Presence of 6 Abu Sayyaf members monitored in Cebu

From the Sun Star-Cebu (Oct 24): Presence of 6 Abu Sayyaf members monitored in Cebu

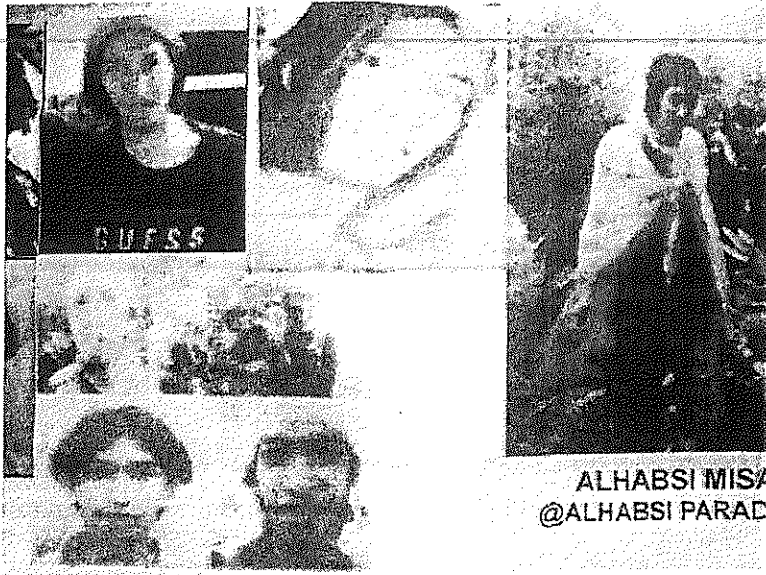


Photo courtesy of PRO-RID-Central Visayas

SIX members of Abu Sayyaf group reportedly arrived in Cebu last Friday, October 21, according to an official of the Regional Intelligence Division (RID) of Police Regional Office-Central Visayas.

Superintendent Julian Entoma, RID-Central Visayas chief, said the bandits led by sub-commander Alhabsi Misaya came in the province to reportedly kidnap "prominent" persons, but they left the province last Sunday, October 23.

The police official, however, said they are still monitoring if there are still members of the group in Cebu and other parts of the region.

The group might also target commercial establishments like malls and public markets, he said.

Entoma told reporters they are coordinating with the Muslim communities, managements of malls, pension houses, lodges, and beach resorts to tighten their security.

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www.pna.gov.ph

PAF allocates PHP31.4-M for reconfiguration of 'Sokol' helicopter into SAR aircraft

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 24): PAF allocates PHP31.4-M for reconfiguration of 'Sokol' helicopter into SAR aircraft

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has allocated the sum of PHP31, 451,000 for the acquisition of spare parts needed for the reconfiguration of W-3A "Sokol" combat utility helicopter, with tail number 922, into a search-and-rescue aircraft.

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for October 25, 9 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Submission and opening of bids is on November 8, 9 a.m. at the same venue.

The PAF acquired eight units of the "Sokol" from Polish manufacturer PZL-Swidnik and British-Italian firm AugustaWestland for PHP2.8 billion in 2012.

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