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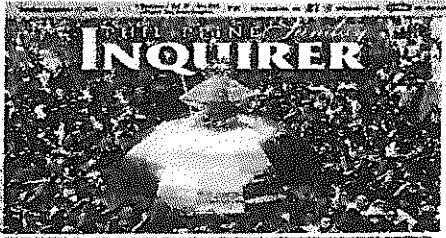
**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**11 September 2016**

**Sunday**

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### 11 SEPTEMBER 2016



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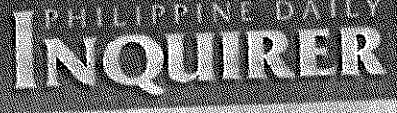
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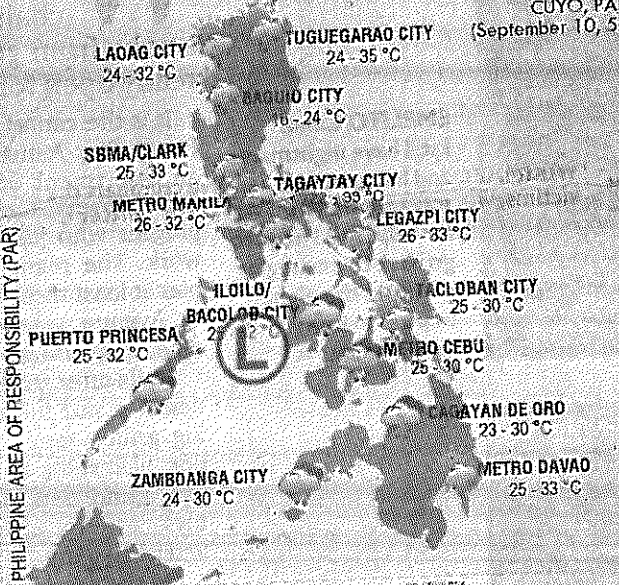


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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 | SUNDAY**



**LOW PRESSURE AREA**  
45 KM NORTHEAST OF CUYO, PALAWAN  
(September 10, 5:00 AM)




<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:45 AM	6:01 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
1:30 PM	12:29 AM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> SEP 9 7:49 PM	<b>FULL MOON</b> SEP 17 3:05 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 1:26 PM 0.25 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 4:17 AM 0.96 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	SEP 12	SEP 13	SEP 12	SEP 13	SEP 12	SEP 13		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	22 - 32 °C	22 - 32 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	26 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25 - 35 °C	25 - 34 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	16 - 24 °C	17 - 24 °C	<b>ILOILO/ BACOLOD</b>	26 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/ CLARK</b>	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C			

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**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**



11 August 2016



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## Duterte to media: You can criticize me as long as it's true

By EDITH REGALADO

I'm not mad at you. President Duterte yesterday told media to criticize him over his mistakes.

"Do not hesitate to attack or criticize me if I do wrong in my job. It is your duty," Duterte told the media during a briefing upon

his arrival at the Davao International Airport from a five-day trip abroad.

Duterte said he is not mad at the media for reporting the incident between him and US President Barack Obama during the recent ASEAN Leaders'

Summit in Vientiane, Laos.

Obama scrapped their bilateral talks following Duterte's controversial remarks.

"I am not at liberty to be angry with anybody. It is your sworn duty to ask

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## Duterte From Page 1

questions. I am not mad at you," he said.

Duterte said he perfectly understands the job of a journalist, stressing the important role of media in society.

"The media has an im-

portant role in recording the history of the country," he said.

Duterte also cited the case of broadcaster Ed Lingao, who earlier mistakenly read a news item that the Presi-

dent called Obama a 'son of a whore' during a pre-departure press conference last Monday before he left for Vientiane.

The President also made mention of Lingao's case during the gathering of the Filipino community in Jakarta last Friday.

Duterte said he had already accepted Lingao's apology, especially since the broadcaster had already apologized to him in public.

He said he believes Lingao committed the error without malice.

But Duterte pointed out how certain sectors, including

the media, had the tendency to twist stories, particularly quoting him out of context.

He said that most of the time, the opposite of what he said or a completely different story comes out in the media.

Duterte had a falling out with media earlier in his

administration after international media groups called for a boycott of his press conferences.

Duterte initially clammed up but eventually toned down and gradually began to give media interviews and press conferences earlier last month.

September 2016

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## 'Narco vice mayor' being probed for Davao blast

The Philippine National Police (PNP) filed drug trafficking charges yesterday against Talitay, Maguindanao Vice Mayor Abdul Wahab Sabal, who is also being investigated for the Davao City bombing last Sept. 2 that killed 14 people.

The PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) filed the charges against Sabal and three other suspects before the Department of Justice (DOJ).

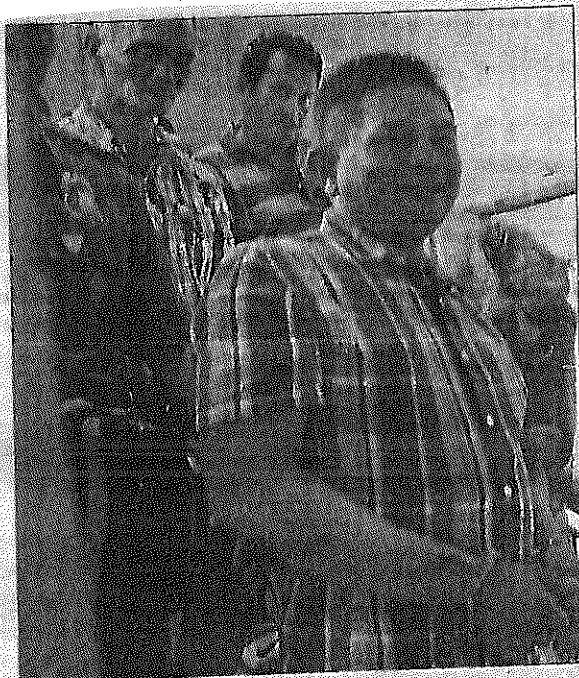
Sabal was flown to Manila from Maguindanao early yesterday morning follow-

ing his arrest on Thursday at the Cotabato City airport.

DOJ prosecutor Gino Santiago said the complaints were filed against Sabal, Mohanna Sabal, Nasser Maulana and Norodin Abas.

Santiago said that based on the letter request of the PNP, the investigators filed complaints of violating Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 1992 and Illegal Possession of

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Vice Mayor Abdul Wahab Sabal of Talitay, Maguindanao and three companions arrive at the Department of Justice where drug trafficking charges were filed against them yesterday. Sabal is also being investigated for his possible involvement in the Davao night market blast on Sept. 2. EDD GUMBAN

Firearms and Explosives against the four respondents.

The DOJ clarified that it would be decided by next week if a case would be filed against the suspects in the proper court.

Aside from the illegal drug trade, police are investigating the possible involvement of Vice Mayor Sabal in the bombing at the Davao City night market.

Police released an artist's sketch of the suspect who was

wearing a mask.

PNP chief Director General Roland dela Rosa said that the blast could have been perpetrated by narco-politicians in retaliation for the government's sustained anti-drugs campaign.

Santiago said that there was "no mention" that the complaint filed against the four individuals were connected to the Davao blast last Sept. 2.

Earlier, President Duterte accused Sabal and his brother Talitay Mayor Montasir Sabal as narco-politicians for their involvement in the illegal drug trade.

The Sabal brothers earlier surrendered to Maguindanao police director Senior Supt. Nicksdon Muksan and denied their involvement in drug trafficking.

They later presented themselves to

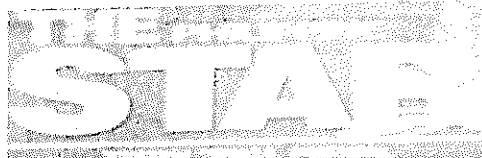
Dela Rosa in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

In Manila, Sabal was initially brought to the AIDG office before he was brought to the DOJ in Manila.

PNP spokesman Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos said that he still has no information regarding Sabal's arrest and presence at the AIDG.

— Evelyn Macairan

11 September 2016



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# Commander in Mamasapano carnage now no. 2, in PA

By JAIME LAUDE

A senior Army commander in Central Mindanao during the Mamasapano incident early last year has been designated to become the second in command of the Philippine Army.

Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, commander of the 6th Infantry Division based in Awang, Maguindanao, was installed as vice commander of the 80,000-strong Philippine Army yesterday.

Pangilinan's replacement has yet to be of-

ficially announced, through there were reports he will be replaced by Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the incumbent Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff for Operations (J3).

Retiring from the service this coming November, Pangilinan, then commander of the 6th Infantry Division, defended his actions in Mamasapano, citing the lack of coordination with the military by the police.

A total of 60 people, including 44 Special Ac-

tion Force (SAF) policemen, were killed in the firefight with Muslim rebels in Mamasapano on Jan. 25 last year.

The slain policemen were part of a SAF operation to arrest Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, and other terrorists hiding in a remote village in Mamasapano.

The police operation went awry after the SAF commandos figured in a firefight with Muslim rebels on their way out of the area.

At the height of the fighting, the ambushed SAF troopers asked for police and military reinforcements that never came.

Pangilinan said he could not just order the delivery of artillery fire and close-air support to the beleaguered policemen without the policemen's actual location as against the supposed targets.

When finally military reinforcement came in late afternoon, only one of the SAF raiding party survived the carnage.



(1 September 2016

## INQUIRER

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# Bicol troops moved to Lanao for terror war

MARAWI CITY—The military is pouring more soldiers into Lanao del Sur to bring the war on terror to the doorsteps of an armed group of at least 200 men that had sworn allegiance to the terror network Islamic State (IS).

The latest batch of soldiers to arrive here came from Bicol and is about the size of a battalion. They are now part of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, which is on the hunt for the Maute Group, composed of armed men who had pledged loyalty to IS.

Maj. Gen. Gerrado Barrientos, head of the 1st Infantry Division, said some of the soldiers would be stationed at Kampo Ranao here, where three other battalions are currently based.

The main assignment of the soldiers is to hunt down and finish off the Maute Group.

At least 1,000 soldiers, backed by armored personnel carriers and howitzers, are now taking part in the campaign to bring down the Maute Group, also known as Al Ansar Al-Khalifa.

Barrientos said more soldiers were arriving as the war on terror escalates in Mindanao.

"If we can't fix this problem now, it will grow and will affect the next generation," he said.

Addressing himself to his men, Barrientos asked soldiers to "do your best so that when this place becomes free from lawless elements, you can say that you are part of the solution."

With more soldiers coming, Barrientos said "sooner or later, this problem would end."

Lt. Col. Arnel Bautista, 49th IB commander, said his men were ready to do battle with the Maute Group, which was previously unheard of until it went on a kidnapping and killing spree in Lanao del Sur. In one case, the group beheaded two captives.

It also launched bomb attacks on selected targets, like military camps.

In February, soldiers battled the Maute Group for days in Butig town, Lanao del Sur, which led to the killing of several of its leaders.

The group retaliated, however, launching more attacks and, on Aug. 27, freeing eight of its members among 23 inmates in a daring raid on the Lanao del Sur provincial jail.

Despite Maute Group's increasing notoriety and its pledge of allegiance to IS, military and police authorities said there was still no evidence to back speculation that the Maute Group had merged forces with Abu Sayyaf.

Director General Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, PNP chief, said he did not have information about the merger of Maute and Abu Sayyaf.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said on the contrary, both groups are competing for recognition by IS in a bid to get financial support.

"Until now, we haven't monitored any unusual support from IS to the local bandits and we haven't seen any evidence they support each other," Tan said. *Richel V. Umel and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

September 2016

The Manila Times

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## 3 ASG men nabbed in Zamboanga

GOVERNMENT forces foiled another bombing attempt in Mindanao following the arrest of three alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) during a joint police and military operation in Zamboanga City.

Major Felimon Tan, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), identified the arrested ASG men as Jamar Musa Maing, 41, Ahmad Tandih Lawisan, 33 and Omar Kumbing Tandih, 36.

The suspects were cornered in their alleged hideout near the motor pool of the Zamboanga City Water District on Friday in Barangay Pasonanca, following citizens'

report on the presence of unidentified armed men in the area.

Seized from the three were two fragmentation grenades, a caliber 38 revolver with six live rounds of ammunition, and two cellular phones.

Tan said that based on intelligence information, the suspects were tasked to conduct bombing operations in Zamboanga City.

"They are all members of the Ajang-Ajang group believed to be responsible for liquidation of troops and other criminal acts in the area," Tan said in the report.

The Ajang-Ajang group is led by Ben Saudi, one of the sub-leaders of the ASG based in Sulu.

Authorities said the vigilance

demonstrated by concerned residents in reporting suspicious activity likely helped thwart possible atrocities planned by the group.

The arrest of the three came at the height of an intense military offensive against the ASG in Sulu; and the implementation of a full alert status in neighboring cities like Zamboanga City.

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered intensified military operations against the Abu Sayyaf to crush the group, which has beheaded three hostages – two Canadians and a Filipino – and is holding at least 10 more, including seven foreigners, in the hinterlands of Sulu.

**ANTHONY VARGAS**

September 2016

The  
**Standard**  
DEFINING THE NEWS

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## Checkpoint troops told to strictly observe human rights

TROOPS tasked to augment police checkpoints and visibility operations across the country have been directed to strictly uphold human rights and the rule of law.

"The guidance is of course to follow and strictly observe human rights, rules of law and the procedures in the conduct of checkpoint," deputy commander Col. Vic Tomas of the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) said in an interview Friday.

Some 200 officers and enlisted personnel of the unit have been deployed to five Metro Manila police districts.

Tomas said they also have a standby force to help the police in possible contingencies.

"We would like to inform everybody that they should feel safe with the presence of both police and military. They have nothing to fear as this is not martial law," he added.

Armed Forces of the Philippines public af-

fairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo earlier reminded troopers not to touch or open any vehicle or order its occupant to alight.

Checkpoints must also be well-lit and personnel manning them must be in full uniform.

Baggage can only be inspected if the owner or passenger gives permission, he added.

Arevalo warned that failure to comply with these reminders could result in the filing of

administrative sanctions and other charges.

"We would like to ensure that as we respond to the Commander-in-Chief's call for the AFP to help suppress lawless violence in Mindanao and prevent its spread in other areas of the country, the execution of our tasks will always be proper and with due regard to every citizen's entitlements under the Bill of Rights," he pointed out.

A "state of national emergency on account

of lawless violence in Mindanao" was declared by President Rodrigo Duterte in the aftermath of the Sept. 2 bomb blast in Davao City that killed 15 and wounded 70 persons.

"We would like to enlist the willing cooperation of our *kababayans* [compatriots] in this endeavor to suppress lawless violence and prevent the spread of similar violent incidents in other parts of the country," he said.

11 August 2016



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THE PRESIDENT'S MEN AND WOMEN

## The perfect spy chief


By MARICHU VILLANUEVA

He was a young Army first lieutenant in 1974 when Rodrigo Duterte was a struggling fiscal in Davao City. Several decades later, Hermogenes Esperon Jr. finds himself serving the president of the country in the person of fiscal turned Davao City mayor Duterte.

Esperon said he is honored to rejoin government service as National Security Adviser under President Duterte. Esperon has served six out of the seven presidents of recent history.

Esperon, who belongs to PMA Class 1974 Marangal, started his military career in

**Turn to Page 14**



**Hermogenes Esperon Jr.**  
National Security Adviser



## The perfect From Page 1

strife-torn Mindanao, specifically in Basilan and Sulu. His battlefield experience became a hallmark of his military service.

Deployed in battles across the country, Esperon rose through the ranks and earned medals for his gallantry in defense of the country. He capped his illustrious military career with a stint as chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in 2006 until he retired in 2008.

To this day, he bristles whenever his critics would refer to him as one of the so-called "Hello, Garci generals." He was accused of involvement in alleged cheating during the 2004 elections after being mentioned in the "Hello, Garci" phone conversation recordings. A fact-finding report later cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Esperon was deployed to Mindanao right after his graduation from the PMA, battling Muslim secessionists from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and rebels from New

People's Army (NPA) when the country was still under martial law.

When the late Corazon Aquino was swept into Malacañang following the 1986 People Power revolution, Esperon was the army intelligence chief of the Northern Luzon Command based in Camp Aquino, Tarlac.

Under president Fidel Ramos, Esperon was named Task Group Commander for the 1996 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' summit. Amid the global threats of terrorism and local security concerns, Ramos lauded Esperon's handling of the APEC security preparations.

Impressed by his APEC feat, Ramos made Esperon deputy commander of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), concurrently commander of the Presidential Escorts who are the close-in security of the president.

He was on a special mission by Ramos to apprehend fugitive former Zamboanga congressman Romeo Jalosjos, who was accused of statutory rape. Esperon led a small group of PSG personnel and caught Jalosjos after a chase around Metro Manila from his hideout in Quezon City.

Jalosjos was later convicted and jailed.

At the end of his term, Ramos awarded Esperon the Presidential Merit Medal.

Esperon returned to the battlefield in Mindanao when former president Joseph Estrada launched an all-out war against the MILF. He was instrumental in the taking of one of the big MILF camps, Rajah Muda in Basilan.

Recalled back to AFP headquarters, Esperon was given a new assignment following the ouster of Estrada in 2001, when newly-installed president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo named him PSG Group Commander. During this tumultuous period when militants tried to attack the seat of government, Esperon fortified the Palace grounds with electrified gates and used concertina wires and empty container vans to barricade all entry points to Malacañang.

After retiring from the AFP, Esperon was appointed by Arroyo as Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and later as Cabinet Secretary, Presidential Management Staff (PMS).

One year after his exit from government service, he was appointed executive vice president in charge of security of the Manila Bulletin

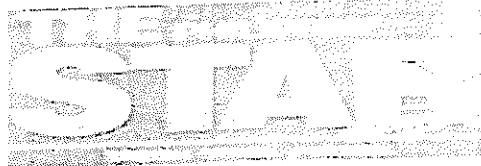
Publishing Corp.

In 2010, Esperon ran but lost in the elections for the 6th congressional district in Asingan, Pangasinan.

Golf brought Ramos, Duterte and Esperon together. It was sometime in 2014 when Esperon and Ramos flew to Davao City to push Duterte to run for the presidency. During the campaign in the May 9 elections, Esperon worked behind the scenes in Duterte's camp, contributing significantly to his victory.

Knowing all the tricks of the trade in and out of government to deal with internal or external threats, his new job as chief spook of the Duterte administration fits Esperon to a tee.

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## Bill on 3-year tour of duty for AFP chief refiled

By JESS DIAZ

A bill proposing to prescribe a 36-month tour of duty for the chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) – vetoed by former President Benigno Aquino III four years ago – has been re-filed in the House of Representatives.

"The quick turnover of AFP chiefs of staff has become counterproductive – even somewhat disruptive," Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel, the bill's author, said.

"Over the last 30 years, the AFP has had 28 chiefs of staff who each served an average of only 12 months. In the case of our last 10 chiefs of staff, each actually served only an average of seven months," he said.

The AFP chief's counterpart in the United States – the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff – enjoys a fixed term of two years, Pimentel said.

"If we are to reinforce the military as our protector and defender of the national territory, we should give its chief operating officer a stable stint to carry out programs and projects with some degree of constancy," he added.

Pimentel's Bill 3402 sets a three-year term for the AFP chief. When he or she reaches the compulsory military retirement age of 56 before completing the fixed term, his or her statutory forced retirement would be deferred.

The bill affirms the president's absolute power, as commander-in-chief of all armed forces, to remove the chief of staff "at will" – or at any time before the end of 36 months.

Since the 1986 People Power Revolution, the AFP has had only two chiefs of staff – Renato de Villa and Lisandro Abadía – who were able to serve the maximum three years allowed by the 1987 Constitution, Pimentel said.

He said the AFP chief who had the shortest stint was Nestor Ochoa, who held the post in an acting capacity for just 10 days.

The chief of staff has operational control over all armed service branches – the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Marine Corps.

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## INQUIRER

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# House bill filed setting 3-year fixed term for AFP chief of staff

By DJ Yap

A BILL proposing a fixed three-year term for the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been revived in the House of Representatives.

A similar measure was vetoed in 2012 by President Benigno Aquino III, but this time the proponent, Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel, said he hoped President Duterte would be in favor of the measure.

"The quick turnover of AFP chiefs of staff has become counterproductive—even somewhat disruptive," said Pimentel, a member of the committee on national defense and security.

"Over the last 30 years, the AFP has had 28 chiefs of staff who each served an average of 12 months. In the case of our last 10 chiefs of staff, each actually served an average of only seven months," he said in a statement.

In contrast, the AFP chief of

staff's counterpart in the United States—the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—enjoys a fixed term of two years, Pimentel said.

"If we are to reinforce the military as our protector and defender of our national territory, we should give its chief operating officer a stable stint to carry out programs and projects with some degree of constancy," he said.

House Bill No. 3402 proposes a three-year term for the chief of staff, who may finish his term

even upon reaching the military retirement age of 56 by having the statutory forced retirement deferred.

### President's power

The bill, however, affirms the President's absolute power, as Commander in Chief of all the armed forces, to remove the chief of staff "at will"—or at any time before the end of 36 months.

Since the 1986 People Power revolt, according to Pimentel,

the AFP has had only two chiefs of staff—Generals Renato de Villa and Lisandro Abadia—who served the maximum three years allowed by the Constitution.

The chief of staff who had the shortest stint was Gen. Nestor Ochoa, who held the post in acting capacity for just 10 days, he said.

In October 2011, the 15th Congress ratified the bill providing a fixed term for chiefs of staff. It was seen as a solution to

quick leadership turnovers in the military.

In explaining his veto of the earlier bill, Aquino said a provision in the bill approved by the 15th Congress would violate Article 16, Section 5, of the Constitution.

That section provides that "laws on retirement of military officers shall not allow extension of their service" except during times of war or national emergencies declared by Congress.



September 2016



Pahina. 5

TAYO ay may malagal nang panawagan sa gobyerno bago pa man maupo ang kasalukuyang administrasyon. Dagdagan ang hazard pay ng ating kasundaluhan.

Sa isang kasabihan, nasa hukay ang isang paa ng isang taong nasa panganib. Ganito ang katayuan ng ating magigiting na sundalo ngayon.

Kamakailan, 15 sa ating puwersa ang nalagas sa pakikipagbarkakan ng mga ito sa mapamuksang Abu Sayyaf.

Dahil dito, mas lalong nanggigil ang gobyerno sa ASG kaya nag-utos ang pangulo ng 'full force' na pakikidigma sa mga teroristang ito.

Limang batalyon o mahigit dalawang libong (2,000) sundalo ang ipinadala sa Sulu para ipagpatuloy ang pagpaulbos sa Abu Sayyaf.

Noon pa, ipinanawagan na natin ang pagtataas sa hazard pay ng ating mga sundalo dahil talagang napakaliit ng halagang P390 kada buwan.

Opo, P390/buwan. Kahit sa karinderya, hindi kakasya ang halagang 'yan sa loob ng tatlong araw.

Araw-araw, nahaharap sila sa napakatin-ding panganib, na ang tanging benepisyo sa bulsa ay P390.

May panukala tayo sa Senado, ang Senate



## Isulong ang pagpapataas ng hazard pay ng ating mga sundalo

Bill 955 na nilalayon nitong itaas ang hazard pay ng AFP o katumbas ng 25 porsiyento ng kanilang basic pay.

Ang ibig sabihin, kung ang isang Private First Class ay may buwanang sahod na P15,592, dapat ay may buwanang hazard pay ito na P3,898.

Nitong Pebrero ng taong kasalukuyan, nagtaas ng hazard pay para sa AFP ang gobyerno (panahon ni Pangulong Aquino).

Pero hindi naman sa minamaliit natin ang dagdag na hazard pay, maliit talaga.

Mula sa orihinal na P240/month, itinaas ito sa P390/month base sa Executive Order 201 ni dating Pangulong Noyoy. Sa 2017, nakaprogramang itaas ito sa P540/month; P690/month para sa 2018, at P840/month sa 2019.

Kahit saang anggulo natin tingnan, napakaliit ng benepisyong ito para sa isang sundalong gahibla lang ang isang makalabas nang buhay sa mga ganitong digmaan. Hindi makatarungan.

Kaya narito tayong muli – panibagong panawagan sa mga kinauukulan lalo na sa pamahalaan.

Mahal natin ang ating sandarhang-lakas sapagkat malaking sakripisyo ang ginagawa nila para sa bayan.

Sana, suklian din natin sila ng nauukol na benepisyo upang kahit paano, huwag naman nilang maramdaman na sadyang ibinubuwis nila ang kanilang buhay nang wala man lamang malasakit mula sa mga pinuno.

Ipakita natin sa kanila ang importansiya sapagkat sila ang ating suhay sa bawat sigwa sa seguridad.



September 2016



Pahina. 5

## EQUIP A SOLDIER PROJECT

I HAVE been busy lately because of "Equip a Soldier Project," an effort that a group of patriotic, likeminded people who support the AFP—Atty. Trixie Angeles, Camille Abadicio of CNN Philippines, Jun Magno, Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cabunoc, House Deputy Speaker Mercedes Alvarez, Phil Fortuno and myself—has initiated in partnership with businessmen Nelson Dy and Dexter Tiu.

Our only objective when we started was to give boots to the operating troops especially in Sulu and Basilan.

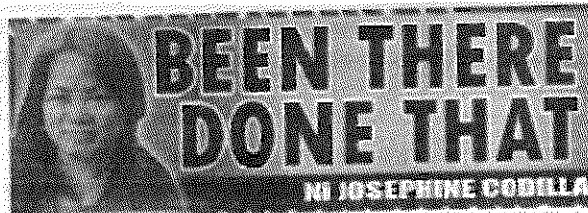
The project started when a photo of a pair of worn-out combat boots by posted Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc went viral on Facebook after Atty. Trixie Angeles shared the post to her friends and to her blogger friends' pages.

Because of the overwhelm-

ing concern of netizens for the soldiers who are now fighting the enemies of the state, we decided on August 29, Araw ng mga Bayani, to revive the "Equip a Soldier Project," an effort that started in 2013 when netizens offered to help soldiers in the field after 18 soldiers from the Special Operations Command of the Philippine Army perished while fighting the MILF in Al Barka, Basilan.

In "Equip a Soldier Project," we are facilitating donations of boots to soldiers who have been identified by their battalion as outstanding, most needy, or by any other category they choose to select recipients.

We also had to make it clear to people that the soldiers are



not asking for these boots and equipment, only that we had to respond to the wishes of so many people for us to bring their donations to the soldiers after having seen their sacrifices and condition in the field.

I have talked to some field commanders about this and they most welcome the effort which they say will definitely boost the morale of our soldiers who are perennially engaged in encounters especially with the Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan and Sulu which I frequent as a journalist and a Warrior Diplomat.

I sometimes go with the troops in operations and have seen how hard they work and how difficult their lives are.

We are not even inviting donors. Those who have seen, read and are moved by our stories at our "Equip a Soldier Project" Facebook page share them to others.

Again, in the meantime, we are just facilitating donations, and maybe in the near future could expand our project to include basic concerns other than just boots and uniforms. Thanks to all our donors!

## ONLINE NEWS

### 11 SEPTEMBER 2016

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

#### **Troops on checkpoint duties ordered to strictly uphold human rights**

MANILA, Sept. 10 (PNA) -- Troops tasked to augment police checkpoints and visibility operations across the country have been directed to strictly uphold human rights and the rule of law.

"The guidance is of course to follow and strictly observe human rights, rules of law and the procedures in the conduct of checkpoint," deputy commander Col. Vic Tomas of the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) said in an interview Friday.

Some 200 officers and enlisted personnel of the unit have been deployed to five Metro Manila police districts.

Tomas said they also have a stand-by force to help the police in possible contingencies.

"We would like to inform everybody that they should feel safe with the presence of both police and military. They have nothing to fear as this is not martial law," he added.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo earlier reminded troopers not to touch or open any vehicle or order its occupant to alight.

Checkpoints must also be well-lighted and personnel manning them must be in full uniform.

Baggage can only be inspected if the owner or passenger gives permission, he added.

Arevalo warned that failure to comply with these reminders could result in the filing of administrative sanctions and other charges.

"We would like to ensure that as we respond to the Commander-in-Chief's call for the AFP to help suppress lawless violence in Mindanao and prevent its spread in other areas of the country, the execution of our tasks will always be proper and with due regard to every citizen's entitlements under the Bill of Rights," he pointed out.

A "state of national emergency on account of lawless violence in Mindanao" was declared by President Rodrigo Duterte in the aftermath of the Sept. 2 bomb blast in Davao City that killed 14 and wounded 70 persons.

"We would like to enlist the willing cooperation of our 'kababayans' (compatriots) in this endeavor to suppress lawless violence and prevent the spread of similar violent incidents in other parts of the country," he said.

(PNA)

CVL/PFN

[www.gmanetwork.com](http://www.gmanetwork.com)

## **AFP chief urges Abu Sayyaf members to surrender**

**Published** September 10, 2016 6:59pm

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya on Saturday encouraged members of the Abu Sayyaf Group to turn themselves in while encouraging troops to renew the government's offense against the bandits.

Visaya said during his visit to the troops that they would neutralize all ASG fighters who refuse to surrender and release their hostages.

"Those in the Abu Sayyaf who want to surrender, the AFP will accept them, provided that they release their hostages; if not, our soldiers will hunt them down and pursue them until all of them are neutralized," Visaya said.

It was Visaya's fifth visit to troops in Sulu since ASG took hostages from the local community and the second since the terrorist group beheaded Patrick James Almodvar, a local Muslim resident.

Around 32 ASG rebels have been killed in Sulu while 27 were killed in Basilan since President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the military to "destroy" the terrorist group in August.

Fifteen soldiers have also been killed and 27 more have been wounded in action in Sulu while one was wounded in Basilan.

Brig. Gen. Dela Vega, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said they have no deadline "on how long the focused military operations will last" and will "hunt and pursue" the ASG "as long as needed."

Dela Vega said that local officials and residents in Sulu have been cooperating in the military's campaign against the group.

"The local officials and residents appreciate the effort of our soldiers and are providing much needed help in fighting the ASG and in rescuing the kidnap victims," Dela Vega told Visaya during the visit. —**Rie**

**Takumi/ALG, GMA News**

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **AFP-PNP todo bantay sa Zamboanga peninsula dahil sa terror threat**

By Bombo Mars deSanPosted in Latest NewsSaturday, 10 September 2016 18:34

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Nagpapatuloy ngayon ang simultaneous joint checkpoint operation ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Zamboanga peninsula.

Inihayag ni C/Supt. Billy Beltran, ang regional director ng Police Regional Office (PRO-9) na ito ay bahagi pa rin ng pinaigting na seguridad matapos ilagay sa full alert status ang buong Zamboanga Peninsula dahil na rin sa banta ng terror attack ng teroristang Abu Sayyaf.

Deniklara ng AFP at PNP ang full alert status sa buong Zamboanga peninsula dahil na rin nagpapatuloy na intense military operation laban sa Abu Sayyaf sa Sulu at ang madugong pagpapasabog ng bomba sa Davao City.

Partikular na nasa-sentro ang atensyon ng mga otoridad ay mga major highways, terminals, airports, sea ports, mga areas of convergence at mga vital installations.

Patuloy namang umaapela ng kooperasyon ang mga otoridad sa publiko upang mapigilan ang anumang masamang banta ng armadong grupo.

"The whole Zamboanga Peninsula is placed on full alert following the Davao Blast Incident and Major operations against ASG in Sulu. We urged the general public to continue to support and cooperate with the PNP/ AFP to provide timely information of any suspicious persons in your neighborhood by informing PNP Hotline," pahayag pa ni Beltran.

Ang Zamboanga City ay isa umano sa mga lugar sa Zamboanga peninsula na nakatutok ang otoridad dahil ito ay sentro at una na ring nakatanggap ng mga banta ng terror attack kagaya ng pambobomba.

Naniniwala ang otoridad na posibleng magsagawa ng mga diversionary tactics ang Abu Sayyaf upang ilihis ang tensyon ng operasyon ng militar sa Sulu at isa umano ang Zamboanga City sa lugar na target ng mga bandido.

