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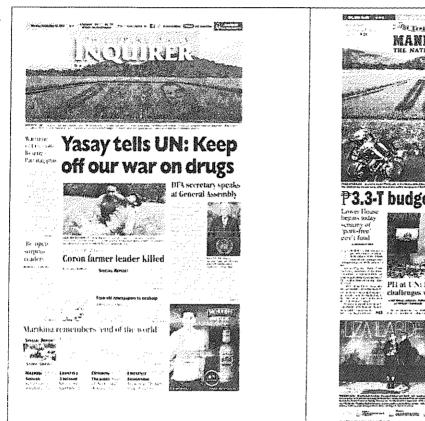
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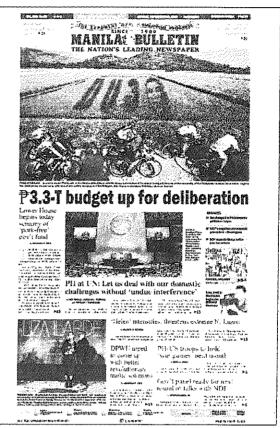
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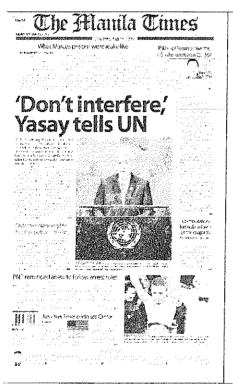
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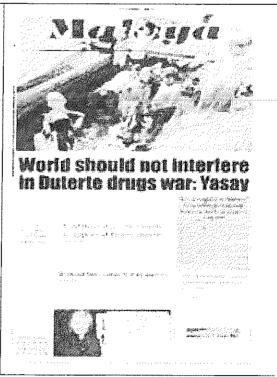
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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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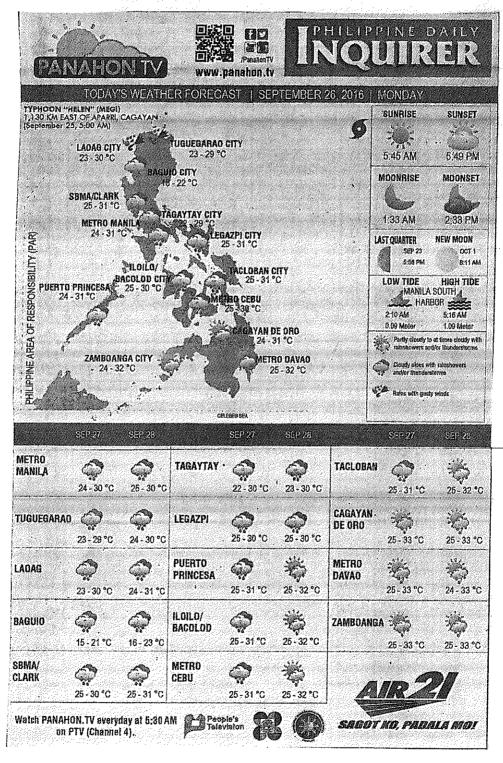
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% September 2016

DFA secretary speaks

at General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS— Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay on Saturday pushed back against criticism of President Duterte's war on drugs, telling the United Nations not to interfere.

"We urge everyone to allow us to deal with our domestic challenges in order to achieve our national goals, without undue interference," Yasay told the UN General Assembly.

There has been growing international alarm over the rising death toll from Mr. Duterte's crackdown on the illegal drug trade, with human rights groups saying that security forces are engaging in extrajudicial killings.

Mr. Duterte, 71, won May's presidential election in a landslide after vowing to eradicate the illegal drug trade in six months, and promising that 100,000 criminals would be killed in the process.

Since he took office on June 30, more than 3,000 people Army have been killed, about a third



RULE OF LAW Foreign Secretary Yasay says rule of law governs President Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs.

of them drug suspects shot dead by police and the rest murdered by unidentified attackers, according to the Philippine National Police.

More than 700,000 drug users have turned themselves in to police for fear of being killed, straining resources at the country's rehabilitation centers.

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YASAY/AI2 the land.

From page AI

Despite growing international criticism, including from the United Nations and US President Barack Obama, the controversial Mr. Duterte has said he won't stop the campaign.

He has said killing drug suspects is lawful if police act in self-defense and urged armed citizens to shoot and kill drug dealers who resist arrest.

Witnesses have accused some police of gumning down people merely suspected of involvement in the illegal drug trade.

Addressing the UN General

Assembly on Saturday, Yasay said the rule of law governs the campaign against illegal drugs, which, he said, had stunted the Philippines' development.

"We have not and we will never empower our law enforcement agents to shoot-tokill individuals suspected of drug crimes," Yasay said. "Extrajudicial killings have no place in our society, and in our criminal justice system."

Yasay said Mr. Duterre enjoyed a 92-percent approval rating at home for his stance and suggested that his campaign was misunderstood.

"Our actions, however, have grabbed both the national headlines and international attention for all the wrong reasons," he said.

He argued that corruption and drugs had "torn apart many of our communities, destroyed our families and snuffed out the hopes and dreams of our people—young and old—for a bright future."

Invoking the United Nations' new sustainable development goals adopted last year, Yasay said the Philippines would not be able to meet those goals without tackling corruption and drugs.

Relations between Mr. Duterte and the United Nations have been tense after the newly elected leader launched several tirades against the world body for its criticism of his tactics, even threatening to pull the Philippines out of the world body—a threat he later withdrew.

Insults, hypocrisy

Earlier this month, the President declined a meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon on the sidelines of a meeting in Laos of South East Asian leaders.

On Thursday, the foul-mouthed Mr. Duterte hurled insults at Ban and the European Union; whose parliament adopted a resolution on Sept. 15 urging the Philippines to put an end to the extrajudicial killings and allow an independent investigation of the rights abuses.

Mr. Duterte, however, said he would invite the UN chief and EU officials to investigate his war on drugs, but only if he could question them in public afterward to prove their human rights concerns were baseless.

He accused his Western critics of hypocrisy for raising concerns about his brutal campaign against drugs while launching military strikes that have killed innocent people in the Middle

Mr. Duterte's defiance of high-profile organizations and his insults on anyone, from Obama to the Pope, both of whom he has called "sons of bitches," have amused Filipinos, but worried foreign governments, not the least the United States, which sees the Philippines as a vital partner in Asia in the face of a rising China. Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters

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AFP, PNP dare to teach kids to say no to drugs

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

SOLDIERS and policemen are teaming up to educate public school students in Manila on the bad effects of drugs.

Earlier, 29 members of the Philippine Army's Civil Military Operations Group (CMOG) finished the 10-day Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Officers Training conducted by 14 policemen who completed the same program last year.

Since their graduation, the 14 lawmen have been teaching DARE lessons to Grades 5 and 6 students in public schools in Manila.

DARE, which originated from the United States, is a "class-room instruction program that taps active duty police officers to teach Grades 5 and 6 students good decision-making skills to keep them away from the influence of drugs and other vices," the city government said in a statement on Saturday.

Estrada said the program was introduced in the country in 1993 when he was the Vice President. After being discontinued, it was revived in the city last year, he added.

According to Estrada, the 29 military men and women were a "welcome addition" to the current pool of DARE instructors in the city.

"We should not be surprised to see soldiers getting involved in the DARE program because after all, our President Rodrigo Duterte has declared (a) war on drugs," Estrada said in his speech during the soldiers' graduation rites held at city hall.

According to him, the DARE program "complements" Mr. Duterte's campaign as a "demand reduction strategy."

While the President's program goes after'drug lords, drug pushers and drug addicts, Estrada said that DARE "touches base with very young Filipinos who are often at the top of the list of victims of drug dealers."

Curiosity put in check

"These 'tulak' (drug pushers) only have one objective: To get the attention of the child who, at the age of 10 and above, is by nature looking for new knowledge, exploring things in his surroundings." he added.

surroundings," he added.
With DARE, the "sphere of influence of the 'tulak' (pusher) becomes significantly smaller as the child's curiosity is put in check."

The program, Estrada said, would teach children to say no to drugs and avoid situations that could put them in contact with drug pushers and stay away from them.

Col. Thomas Sedano Jr., CMOG group commander, said the program could also be integrated with the Army's Pinoy Batang Bayani program that teaches nationalism, patriotism and love of country to young children.

In his speech to the graduates, he said that he hoped that the "pilot project" would be "replicated" in other Army units.

"This is a first for the Philippine Army," he said, thanking Estrada for their inclusion in the program.

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Pahina. _____

Mga sundalo sinanay ni Erap para magturo

MATAPOS ang ilang tauhan ng pulisya, mga sundalo naman ang sinanay ni Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada para magturo ng anti-drug education program na Drug Abuse Resistance Education sa mga mag-aaral sa buong bansa.

Ayon kay Estrada, bahagi ito ng kanyang adhikaing mapalawak ang implementasyon ng DARE sa mga paaralan hindi lang sa Maynila kundi pati na rin sa buong Pilipinas.

"Ito ay isang makasaysayang sandali. Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon, magiging behagi na ng DARE ang ating mga kasundaluhan. Sila ang magsisilbing 'forward force' sa pagtuturo natin ng DARE sa bansa," ani Estrada kasabay ng pagtatapos ng 29-miyembro ng Philippine Army-Civil Military Operations Group sa Manila City Hall kamakalawa.

Malaking tulong aniya ang 29 bagong Army DARE instructors, 10 rito ay mga babae, upang madagdagan ang 14 pulis na DARE instructors na kasalukuyang nagtuturo ng DARE lessons sa mga Grades 5 at 6 na mag-aaral sa mga paaralan sa Maynila

Si Estrada ang chairman ng DARE Philippines Association, inc., na siyang nagdala ng DARE sa bansa mula sa US noong Bise Presidente pa siya at pinuno ng Presidential Anti-Crime Commission noong 1993.

Ang DARE ay isang classroom instruction program kung saan mga aktibong pulis ang nagtuturo sa mga kabataan kung paano umiwas sa mga bisyo, lalo na ang droga.

Ayon kay Dr. Antonio Abacan, Jr., presidente ng DARE

Ayon kay Dr. Antonio Abacan, Jr., presidente ng DARE Philippines Association, Inc., nakumpleto ng 29 miyembro ng CMOG ang 10-araw, 80-oras na DARE Officers Training course.

Nagpasalamat naman kay Estrada si Col. Thomas Sedano, Group Commander ng PA-CMOG, sa pageasali nite sa mga sundalo sa pagtuturo ng DARE.

"First time 'to sa Philippine Army. Ii-inlegrate natin ito (DARE) sa ating 'Pinoy Batang Bayani' program na nagtuturo ng nasyonalismo at pagmamahal sa bayan sa ating mga kabataang magaral." sabi ni Sedano.

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Soldier nabbed for stealing, selling bullets

DAVAO CITY – An Army soldier was arrested for selling bullets he allegedly stole from a military training camp in Mawab, Compostela Valley on Friday.

Sgt. Jeffrey Ordono, training officer of the Army's 10th Infantry Division (ID), allegedly took at least 1,000 bullets before he was arrested.

The 10th ID said Ordoño sold the bullets to civilians. He

is undergoing investigation at the 10th ID.

Charges for violating the Articles of War on "waste and unlawful disposition of military property" may be filed against Ordoño.

— Edith Regalado

25 September 2016

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Warming of ties slows Beijing's Panatag plan

BELJING—China's next big target for construction of an artificial island in the South China Sea has long been assumed to be a cluster of rocks poking above sapphire waters near the Philippines.

For several years, Chinese Coast Guard vessels and fishing trawlers have hovered around the reef, known to the world as Scarborough Shoal and to Filipinos as Panatag Shoal. Giant dredges, suitable for building a military base, were recently rumored to be on their way there.

But the election in May of a new President in the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, who has since showered threats and epithets on the United States, has changed China's calculation.

WARMING/AI3

That does not mean China has given up on the long-term goal of what could be a vast military base on Panatag Shoal. But for the moment, the plans appear to be postponed.

More important for Beijing right now, Chinese analysts say, is friendship with Mr. Duterte and an effort to wean his country away from its treaty alliance with Washington.

Transforming a shoal right under his nose would ruin any chance of that, these analysts say.

Irrational move

"It would be irrational to build it into a fortress now," said Zhang Baohui, a professor of international relations at Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

"The government would like the Philippines to at least remain neutral in the rivalry between the United States and China. Now at least they have a chance," he

said.
In July, an international tribunal in The Hague delivered a harsh rebuke to China's activities in the South China Sea, including its construction of artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago, not far from the Philippines.

But China has ignored the decision.

The Obama administration praised the ruling as legally binding but refrained from trumpeting it.

The reasoning was that little could be done, short of risking military confrontation, to stop the construction of facilities like hangars for fighter jets and buildings for radar and surface-to-air missiles.

Military bases

Three of seven artificial islands in the Spratlys are designed as military bases, the American military says.

Among them, Zamora Reef (Subi Reef) has a harbor bigger than Pearl Harbor, and another, Panganiban Reef (Mischief Reef), has a land perimeter nearly the size

of the District of Columbia's, a submarine warfare officer in the US Navy, Thomas Shugart, said in a paper issued this past week.

Together, the three islands could probably accommodate as many as 17,000 military personnel and support aircraft able to deter or counter an American intervention, said military Shugart, who is serving as a senior military fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington but writes as an independent analyst.

Even bigger prize

Panatag Shoal, with a deep lagoon covering nearly 155 square kilometers, offers an even bigger prize as a potential Chinese military base.

"The picture would become even worse were China to build and militarize a similar island base at Scarborough Shoal," Shugart wrote.

Both China and the Philip-

pines claim the shoal, which the United States used as a firing range during the Vietnam War. Until 2012, Chinese and Filipino fishermen operated there.

Then China seized the shoal, and Chinese Coast Guard vessels have chased away Filipino fishermen ever since.

Overlapping claims

Vietnam. Brunei Malaysia also have overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

Addressing the UN General Assembly on Saturday, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh called on the claimants to exercise self-restraint and solve the disputes by beaceful means.

Pham said the parties should abide by international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and respect diplomatic and legal processes.

the United States stations fighter jets and naval vessels, Panatag Shoal is in a particularly strategic place.

Its conversion into a military base would enable China to project military power across the South China Sea from a triangle of bases formed by the shoal, the Spratly archipelago to its south and the Paracel Islands farther to the west and closer to the Chinese mainland, Shugart said.

Anticipation regarding China's plans for Panatag Shoal has been building since March, when, at a meeting in Washington, US President Barack Obama warned President Xi Jinping of China against taking action that could activate American treaty obligations to the Philippines, said a senior US state department official.

In the heated arena of South China Sea politics in China, the Just 280 km from the Philipshoal—known as Huangyan Ispine coast and Subic Bay, where land here—has become a

Still, Mr. Duterte's openness to talking with China, and his. cantankerous attitude toward the Americans, would probably delay the construction plans for Panatag Shoal, Jin said.

A pause, he said, would allow for talks between China and Southeast Asian nations on a so-called code of conduct to lay down rules of behavior in the South China Sea.

On the heels of Mr. Duterte's election, China and the Philippines began preparatory talks last month at a meeting in Hong Kong between former Philippine President Fidel V Ramos and Wu Shicun, the president of the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, a Chinese government think tank.

The spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, Lu Kang, said on Friday that China looked forward to Mr. Duterte's visiting Beijing soon. Reports from New York Times Service and AP

touchstone for both hawks and more moderate voices.

Two fiery speeches at campuses in southern China in July by a popular current affairs television personality, Jin Canrong of Renmin University in Beijing, drew support from online chat forums.

Construction next year

He said that China would begin construction on Panatag Shoal next year, and that despite the warnings from America, "the spirit of President Xi is, 'We must do it."

Jin described piling sand on coral at Panatag as an ambitious project that would take four years but said that China needed to complete it to achieve de facto military control over the South China Sea.

In an interview after his speeches, Jin said the tribunal ruling would have no effect on China's plans for Panatag Shoal.

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No threat to destabilize Duterte gov't – AFP

The military has not monitored any destabilization moves, an official of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said they have not monitored any threat to destabilize the administration.

Arevalo made the comment when reporters asked him about purported destabilization plots against President Duterte.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said Malacañang is taking such reports "seriously."

"We take any destabilization

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

moves seriously, whether it's a rumor or A1 information; it is against the law. It's inciting to rebellion and this has happened in the past," Andanar said.

Arevalo, however, gave assurance that the military has not monitored any group or personalities behind the reported destabilization plot.

"Nothing. This is why I am asking by whose group or who... we have no information about those things," Arevalo told reporters.

He said the AFP does not see

any "group or interest groups that could launch destabilization plots. We have not monitored such groups, including those of military retirees."

Even among those in active service, Arevalo said there was no indication of any effort to oust the President.

"The Armed Forces of today has grown to become more professional. We have learned from our past experiences and we do not want another adventurism or destabilization efforts at the expense of our economy and our nation as a whole," he said.

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The Manila Times

PH needs world support on sea row - Defense exec

AN official of the Department of National Defense told a recent Japan-Asean Vice-Ministerial Meeting that the Philippines needs the support of the international community as Beijing remained recalcitrant in not recognizing and abiding by an international tribunal ruling against its sweeping claims to the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

At the same meeting, Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David called on China to comply with the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration fundamentally declaring China's 9-dash line as having no basis in international law, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or Unclos.

Convening for the 8th time and this time in Sendai, the meeting focused on the current state of regional security and efforts to address common security challenges cooperation between the 10-mem- ' ber Association of Southeast Asian Nations or Asean and Japan.

David had been requested to share the Philippine perspective on the current regional security situation.

His talk focused on developments in the South China Sea where he also updated the meeting with the most current state of Chinese-built islands in the South China Sea.

Interestingly, according to David, the bulk of the discussions during the meeting centered on issues related to the South China Sea to include maritime domain OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUlawareness, efforts under Unclos

to resolve and address the issue as well as major power activities Army Coin the area.

Among the identified areas of cooperation between Asean and Japan include maritime security, landmines and peacekeeping operations, international law, cyber-security and humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

Others who attended the meeting were Assistant Secretary Raymund Quilop; Commodore Danilo Rodellas, currently the commander of the Naval Forces West; and Col. Noel Plaza, the Philippines' defense attache to Japan.

Even as Beijing continued to deny that it is poised to carry out fresh activities at the disputed South China Sea, Director Arsenio Andolong of the Public Affairs Service of the Department of National Defense earlier said he believed that the presence of Chinese ships in the contested waterways is a precursor to possible building of new structures.

"We believe that this is preand examined areas of defense—cursor to possible building of structures on the shoal, which is why we are gravely concerned about this development especially given that it is well within, the shoal is well within our exclusive economic [zone]," he added, apparently referring to Scarborough Shoal.

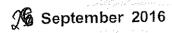
"And we would like to point out that the ambassador of China denied this only a week ago, if you noticed that the photos were taken on September 3 so that makes it even more disturbing," Andolong said.

The Defense department has been receiving information about the presence of several Chinese vessels in Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) the sightings of which were confirmed by continuous patrolling. and monitoring, according to the Defense spokesman.

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Military sees no destab Threats to oust Duterte

By Mario J. Mallari

bnethe Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has not memitored any group out to destabilize the Duterte administration as it dismissed the possible involvement of active colfliers, or even those retired, in any attempt to oust the President. ", nCol. Edgard Arevalo, AFP-public affairs office chief, stressed that the 125,000-strong military has learned its lessons during previous affirenturism.

interest group that could destabilize... we have not monitored any even in the group of retirees," Arevalo said.

whas grown to become more sprofessional. We have learned from the past experiences and we don't want a repeat of what happened vinithe past," he added.

esu The mutinous Magdalo group, scomposed of some 300 junior

officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP, launched the short-lived Oakwood mutiny in 2003 — calling for the ouster of then President Arroyo.

In 2006, senior officers of the Scout Rangers, led by then Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, and Marines, led by Col. Ariel Querubin, also plotted to withdraw support from Arroyo.

None of the military uprisings against Arroyo succeeded and those found to be key players like Lim and Querubin were incarcerated.

No.less than Malacañang floated a supposed destabilization plot being hatched by Filipino-Americans based in the United States against Duterte.

Duterte himself raised the possibility of a US backed coup d'etat against him.

However, Duterte has been visiting military and police camps all over the country — promising salary increases and modern equipment to the troops.

The left-wing National

Democratic Front (NDF), for its part, is not discounting conspiracy theories that the US is out to oust Duterte due to his leftist tendencies.

Top NDF leader and suspected Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chairman Benito Tiamzon said certain elements in the military are against the administration's peace negotiations with the communist movement, which was a view supposedly fueled by the US government.

"We know that even before President Duterte was elected, there were already elements of the US government and members of some influential groups who were planning to stop the left's influence on the government," Tiamzon said at a forum with students of the Rizal High School in Pasig City.

But Arevalo stressed that the AFP would not join any move to disrupt the positive momentum in the country in terms of peace and economic gains.

"We have very good economic gains...we are brokering peace will all quarters, it's quite remote for the Armed Forces to be the one to cause destabilization," Arevalo said.

Historically, Duterte's fears are possible as he has repeatedly noted the predicaments endured by vocal anti-US leaders in the Middle East, particularly Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Muammar Kaddhafi of Libya, who were both ousted and eventually killed, allegedly by American infiltrators.

Notably, Bolivian President Evo Morales, in 2008, bared a coup attempt against his government that's accordingly sponsored by the US whose Ambassador to Bolivia at that time was Philip Goldberg.

Goldberg, who was eventually expelled from Bolivia, is the current US Ambassador to the country and has been a frequent subject of Duterte's personal tirades, even calling him once as a "gay" and "a son of a whore."

September 2016



No destab move monitored by AF

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it has not monitored any effort to destabilize the administration of President Duterte and gave the assurance soldiers would not support such a move.

"We have not monitored any destabilization attempt. There is no need even to issue an appeal because we have not seen or we are not aware of any information that there would be destabilization efforts," said AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Arevalo's pronouncement was contrary to last week's statement of Communications Secretary Martin Andanar who said government has monitored threats to oust Duterte.

Citing "credible sources" from United States, Andanar said the government is looking into the reported

ouster move "seriously." He said some Filipino-Americans want Duterte out of the presidency by January next year.

Asked if sectors within the military will join any ouster move, Arevalo said: "The Armed Forces of today has grown to become more professional. We do not want a repeat of the past... Adventurism or destabilization efforts caused our economy to suffer and our nation as well. As of now, we have already picked up economically. Our economic gains are good. We do not want the Armed Forces, as a professional organization, to take part in those activities that would disrupt development," he said.

We are brokering peace with all quarters. It's quite remote for the Armed Forces to be the one to cause destabilization," said Arevalo, apparently referring to government peace initiatives with rebel groups.

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Gov't panel ready for next round of talks with NDF

By ANTONIO COLINA IV

Philippine Government (GRP) Peace Panel adviser Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan announced that the government team is all-set for the next round of negotiations with the National Democratic

Front (NDF) slated in Oslo, Norway from October 6 to 10.

"All the Reciprocal Working Groups (RWGs) are functioning well and the Reciprocal Working Committees (RWCs) have conducted meetings too. I think it's all systems go for the next round. We're ready for peace," said Pamintuan, who is also national president of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP).

The peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP were stalled during the administration of former President Benigno Aquino III, and was ordered revived by President Duterte and fast-tracked by the release key leaders of the communist group who were tapped by NDF consultants for the talks.

The first round of the negotiations was held in Oslo last August 22 to 28.

Among those released were Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria Tiamzon, former Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chairman and secretary general, respectively.

"President Duterte has acknowledged that basic reforms must be implemented. In fact, the choice of progressive individuals in key social reform departments of government was a clear indication that the President is serious in addressing the root causes of this protracted war," Pamintuan added.

More consultants for 2nd round

Meanwhile, NDF peace panel chairperson Luis Jalandoni said the communist group was hoping that three more detained consultants will be released in time for the second round of talks early next month. "(We are) hopeful. We think it can be done," Jalandoni said in a recent peace

forum in Davao City.

He said they were pinning their hopes on President Duterte's promise to "walk the extra mile" in granting a pardon to convicted NDF consultants Eduardo Sarmiento, Leopoldo Caloza, and Emeterio Antalan.

Their release will add to the 22 detained political prisoners who were released by the government so that they could act as NDF consultants during the talks.

"Dineclare na at nagpromise na si Duterte Twill pardon them, I will walk the extra mile'. Ang commitment nya, lahat ng NDF consultants ay marelease para makapag-participate (Duterte declared and promised. His commitment was that all NDF consultants will be released so that they can participate in the talks)," he said.

Jalandoni explained that Sarmiento can be released once the President issues a pardon, but Caloza and Antalan will still have to withdraw their respective appeals so Duterte could have them released through pardon.

No to NPA abolition

Jalandoni also pointed out that the communist group's military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), need not be dissolved as a result of the peace negotiations.

He said the NPA "must be retained to protect farmers, communities, and forests after the signing of the bilateral document on end of hostilities."

Jalandoni told the press forum that the NDF will propose that the NPA not to surrender the weapons of its combatants "because they will be helpful in making sure that communities are safe and assist in the (implementation of the) land reform (program)."

"The AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and NPA, wala nang away - ano ngayon ang gagawin? Sabi namin ang NPA hindi magsusurender ng arms, gagamitin pa rin nila to defend yung mga communities at lahat itong organizations at tutulong sila sa land reform and industrialization pwede rin silang maging forest guards para iprevent ang deforestation (There will be no more war between the AFP and NPA. So what will they do? We told the government that the NPA need not surrender their weapons because they need them to defend communities. And these organizations will help in land reform and industrialization. They can also become forest guards to prevent deforestation)," he explained.

Unified ceasefire

The GRP and the NDF have already been exchanging drafts on the unified ceasefire agreement that will bind both of them ahead of the second round of peace negotiations.

GRP panel member Atty. Angela Librado Trinidad said the bilateral agreement to halt armed hostilities was necessary so that both panels will be free to move around to hold consultations with the stakeholders on the substantive agenda, most especially the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-economic Reforms (CASER).

Jalandoni said that both panels agreed to revitalize the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

"Pwede mag-file ng complaints dyan, pwede compaints ng mga lumad matatake up dyan. Meron din meeting ng ceasefire committees na magprepare para ang problema ng unilateral ceasefire ay mapagusapan at saka, magtake ng steps para maging bilateral ceasefire documents na more stable (They can filed complaints with the JMC, the complaints of lumads can also be taken up. There are also meetings of the ceasefire committees which will be ready to talk about the unilateral ceasefire and make sure that the bilateral ceasefire will be stable)," he said.

Jalandoni pointed out that the JMC has been in existence since the past Aquino administration, until the peace talks were stalled due to the non-release of political prisoners identified as their consultants.

He said members of the JMC met at the Norwegian embassy in the country to discuss ways on how they could maximize the functions of the committee and make it more efficient.

26 September 2016



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PhI-US war games set in Luzon

Filipino soldiers and US service members based in Okinawa, Japan will take part in the Philippines Amphibious Landing Exercise next week to better prepare for bilateral operations during a natural disaster or armed conflict.

Humanitarian civic assistance efforts, an amphibious landing exercise and live-fire training featuring artillery are just a few of the many team building opportunities during PHIBLEX 33, all designed to advance cooperation, improve interoperability and assist in strengthening amphibious capabilities, the US embassy said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. John Jansen, 3rd Turn to Page 7

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Marine Expeditionary Brigade commanding general, said the opportunity to train and build mutually beneficial capabilities with the Armed Forces of the Philippines is essential for sharpening bilateral amphibious and humanitarian assistance capabilities, both hallmarks of the US Marine Corps.

Exchanging expertise and cultivating our longstanding security alliance provides a cornerstone for security and stability in the region, and has for decades," he said.

The humanitarian and civic assistance portion of the exercise, beginning this month and concluding on Oct. 12, includes engineering projects to improve local infrastructure and health engagements to exchange Vessel, the BRP Tarlac. - Pia Lee-Brago

medical best practices and supplement the medical needs of Philippine citizens.

Field training during the exercise includes small arms and artillery live-fire, which will provide the local and US Marine units multiple opportunities to maintain and sharpen their skills while enhancing an already high level of interoperability.

Additional participating US units include Amphibious Ŝquadron 11, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the three ships of Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group (BHR ARG)

The ARG consists of the USS BHR (LHD-6), the USS Green Bay (LPD-20) and the USS Germantown (LSD-48). Philippine units include the 3rd Marine Brigade and the Philippine Navy's new Strategic Sealift

September 2016



Favor for Misuari, but no justice for Zamboanga siege victims

I REALLY can't believe how our Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad. Did it Department of Justice decided to withdraw the arrest warrant against Moro National Liberation Front's Nur Misuari after he facilitated the release of hostages being held by the zens were killed by Misuari's group in warrant against Misuari was part of

consider the barangays in Zamboanga City that MNLF secessionists under Misuari burned to the ground in the 2013 Zamboanga siege? Innocent citithousands of people who were forced to leave their homes are, until now,

internally displaced.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre said that the move to lift the arrest terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group, including that attack, and the hundreds of the peace talks. Does our government really need to negoti-

> ate with someone who has been charged with violating international humanitarian laws and has committed crimes against humanity?

The bloody Zamboanga siege did not only destroy many homes; people also lost their loved ones-father, mother, brother, sister, or child. Not to forget that soldiers sacrificed their lives to protect their fellowmen. I support the government's fight against terrorism, and it will be much appreciated if our present leadership finds a way to give iustice to both victims and survivors of past terrorist acts.

-LYDIA S. ESGUERRA. lydiaesgueraa @gmail.com

26 eptember 2016



ONE of the more practical and commend able orders from President Rodrigo Duterte EDITORIAL is his directive following a visit to Camp Vicente Alagar in Cagayan de Oro City last. week - the grounding of the governmentsupported paramilitaty groups.

The President told reporters that the presence of civilian armed groups carrying government issue firearms in many parts of the country "could undermine the ongoing peace. initiatives."

Duterte said he has directed the Philippine Army to take full control and demobilize the Bagani Command. He was referring to the Magahat-Bagani Force operating in Surigao del Sur and another group in Arakan, North the crest of big Cotabato.

This new tack in handling the Civilian in Mindanao.

Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAF-GU), the Baganis, and similar armed groups with doubtful loyalties but using government arms and resources is a big departure from ture of violence and rural life dysfunction the way previous administrations treated these multiplier forces in the fight against insurgency.

The National Democratic Front (NDF) which whom the Duterte administration is having peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway had pointed out various violations of human rights and atrocities committed by these armed groups with tacit approval from the military. At the receiving end of these violent acts and harassment were the lumads, or indigenous peoples in Mindanao and elsewhere, and ordinary poor farmers trying to eke out a living in forests, fields and small farms. 🦓 🐃

These organized militias are also the breeding ground for killers and ruffians like Edgar Matobato, the now-sensational thug from Samal island who threw his weight around as he rode on political names

The phenomenon of armed militias serving civilian officials of military masters in loose and unofficial capacities gives rise to the culthat erodes peace and impedes progress.

These organized militias are also the breeding ground for killers and ruffians like Edgar Matobato, the now-sensational thug from Samal island who once terrorized his neighborhood and threw his weight around as he tode on the crest of big political names in Mindanao.

With the grounding of all armed paramilitary groups, Duterte has shown to his dialogue partners such as the NDF-Communist Party of the Philippines, the MILF and the MNLF that he is sincere in achieving peace for the nation.

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

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PH peace panel ready for 2nd round of talks with NDF

By: Tonette Orelas

03:55 PM September 25th, 2016



Members of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (from left) Fidel Agcaoili, Coni Ledesma, Jose Maria Sison, Luis Jalandoni, Juliet de Lima and Asterio Palima raise their fists and hold an NDFP flag to mark the end of the first round of peace talks with the government panel in Oslo, Norway. EDRE OLALIA/CONTRIBUTOR

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Philippine government is all set for the next round of formal peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF) from October 6 to 10 in Oslo, Norway, a government peace adviser said on

Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan, an adviser of the Philippine peace panel and national president of the League of City of the Philippines, said all reciprocal working groups were "functioning well." "I think it's all systems go for the next round. We're ready for peace," Pamintuan said in a statement.

The Duterte administration revived the negotiations, stalled during the Arroyo administration, by approving the temporary release of several leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) who serve as advisers of the NDF peace panel.

The first round of talks was held last August 22 to 28, also in Oslo.

The CPP, NDF and the New People's Army have waged one of the longest insurgencies in Asia as they seek genuine agrarian reform, national industrialization and an independent foreign policy. RAM/rga

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Russia eyes military deal, transfer of technology to Philippines From Update.Ph (Sep 25): Russia eyes military deal, transfer of technology to Philippines

Officials from the Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) discussed with Philippine Embassy officials in Moscow possible Philippines-Russia military cooperation which may include acquisition of Russian military equipment and technology, September 16.

Among the topics that were discussed include different modes of financing, transfer of technology, investment in domestic military production and servicing, training, and after-sales service and maintenance.

Russian officials include Mr. Sergey I. Buganov, Chief of the First Department on Military and Technical Cooperation with Foreign States, and Mr. Valery A. Orel, Chief of the Section on Military-Technical Technical Cooperation with Countries of the Asia-Pacific Region.

Philippine Ambassador to Russia, Carlos D. Sorreta, and Third Secretary and Vice Consul Luningning Camoying, the Political Officer of the Embassy, met with the Russian officials.

"We welcomed the briefing, which was quite revealing, particularly as to the extent that Russia is able to interact with a large number of countries in this field and the different mechanisms that are employed, including in terms of the acquisition and transfer of Russian military equipment," Ambassador Sorreta said.

"This is all part of our job to explore opportunities that could contribute to our government's efforts to modernize our defense capabilities," the Ambassador added.

The briefing followed the recent visit to Moscow of a Department of National Defense Delegation led by Undersecretary for Finance and Materiel, Raymundo De Vera Elefante, which met with top Russian defense officials, including officials of the FSMTC.

http://www.update.ph/2016/09/russia-eyes-military-deal-transfer-of-technology-to-philippines/9691

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