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NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 September 2018

Thursday

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Inflation surges to 6.4%

Highest in 9 years

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The country's headline inflation hit a nine-year high in August, spiking by 6.4 percent year-on-year and registering higher annual inflation across a majority of regions, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed Tuesday.

The August figure is higher than the 2.6 percent registered in the same month last year and the 5.7 percent inflation in July. Core inflation was up 4.8 percent.

Jobless rate eases but underemployment up. See B1.

This brings year-to-date headline inflation to 4.8 percent.

Inflation in the National Capital Region (NCR) went up by 7 percent in August, compared to the 3.3 percent hike in the same period last year. This is also higher than the 6.5 percent increase last month.

The PSA reported that annual inflation in Areas Outside NCR (AONCR) grew at 6.2 percent, compared to the 2.4 percent last year and the 5.5 percent last month.

"Fourteen regions recorded higher annual inflation

Turn to Page 2

Inflation From Page 1

in August compared with their previous month's annual rates. Among the regions in AONCR, the highest annual mark-up of 9.0 percent was observed in Region 5 (Bicol), while the lowest annual rate of 3.6 percent remained in Region 3 (Central Luzon)," the PSA said.

Other regions with higher annual inflation are Region 1, Ilocos (6.8 percent); Region 2, Cagayan Valley (7.1 percent); Region 4-A, Calabarzon (6.1 percent) and Region 4-B, Mimaropa (4.5 percent); Region 6, Western Visayas (7.4 percent); Region 8, Eastern Visayas (6.1 percent); Region 9, Zamboanga peninsula (6.4 percent); Region 10, Northern Mindanao (6.1 percent); Region 11, Davao Region (7.1 percent); Region 12, Soccsksargen (7.9 percent); Region 13, Caraga (4.8 percent); Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (8.1 percent).

In contrast, inflation in Region 7 (Central Visayas) saw slower growth at 6.3 percent from last year's 6.5 percent, while inflation in the Cordillera Administrative Region remained unchanged at 4.1 percent.

Meanwhile, the PSA reported that the increase in the headline inflation at the national level was driven by the annual increase in a number of commodity groups, led by alcoholic beverages and tobacco, which spiked at 21.6 percent.

This was followed by food and non-alcoholic beverages with an 8.5 percent growth; furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, 3.5 percent; health and restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services, 4.0 percent; and recreation and culture, 2.4 percent.

Economic management

But Malacañang assured the public yesterday that the government is doing its best to address the rising inflation.

Amid the rising cost of basic commodities, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque Jr. urged the public to be more understanding as the economic managers are working double time to address inflation.

"The administration is taking steps to address the challenges, particularly rising prices, faced by Filipino families," he said.

"The President's economic team continues to monitor inflation with vigilance as government takes action to assist the poor while keeping the macroeconomy stable," Roque said.

For its part, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) is considering to revise its inflation assumptions for this year, following the higher-than-expected inflation footprint last August, the Department of Budget and

Management (DBM) said yesterday.

The DBCC, which is composed of the DBM, Department of Finance (DOF), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), will meet after their scheduled Philippine economic roadshow in London later this month.

"We'll convene the DBCC to see if there's a need to reflect the new developments," Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said in an interview.

According to Diokno, members of the DBCC will discuss the latest developments in the economy and study possible revisions to the council's projections on inflation this year, which is currently at 4.0 to 4.5 percent.

"We'll revise the inflation target, of course, upward. We don't know yet. The one who proposes that is usually BSP," Diokno said.

Diokno said the inflation results in August should serve as a "wake-up call" for policymakers to pass the rice tariffication bill.

The secretary also continued to express optimism that inflation would taper off in the last quarter of the year and go back within the two to four percent target of the government.

The BSP said in a statement that the higher-than-expected inflation outturn for August could be attributed to the impact of supply-side factors owing to recent weather disturbances and the continued uncertainty in rice supply.

"Moreover, energy and transport prices have contributed to the uptick in inflation," the BSP added.

The BSP also said it continues to monitor the outlook for inflation, along with the public's inflation expectations and evidence of second-round effects, all of which would be considered closely in the assessment of the monetary policy stance at the September Monetary Board policy meeting.

"The BSP reaffirms its strong commitment and readiness to take all necessary policy actions to address the threat of high inflation and deliver on its primary mandate of price stability," it said.

The BSP added that it supports the implementation of government coordinated non-monetary measures to address the supply-side nature of current inflation pressures.

Meanwhile, the NEDA said the higher than expected inflation for August calls for a committed effort from agencies in the agriculture sector to boost output and introduce policy reform needed to bring down prices of agricultural products.

"The government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, must act quickly and fervently with sound judgment to ease the increasing prices of agricultural commodities, which are the main drivers of inflation," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said.

Price adjustments on food and non-alcoholic beverages were higher than the 2.9 percent inflation from a year ago and the 7.1 percent in July.

"While the government's economic team expected inflation to peak in the third quarter before tapering off towards the latter part of the year, inflation in August is largely beyond the median market forecast. That is why we remain steadfast in putting forward measures that will address prices, especially for food," Pernia said.

Damage to agriculture brought about by the southwest monsoon and Typhoon Karding in Ilocos, Cagayan and Cordillera regions amounted to P33.5 million, thus taking a toll on the prices of agricultural commodities.

"The rehabilitation of the disaster-stricken agriculture areas must be highly prioritized," Pernia said.

The NEDA also emphasized the need to boost the country's rice production as palay production growth slowed down to 1.68 percent from 12.06 percent during the first half of last year.

In addition, the country's total rice stocks inventory of the National Food Authority further declined to 1.9 million metric tons as of Aug. 10. This was around 15 percent lower than the levels in the previous month.

Pernia also cited the weak performance of the fisheries sector, with output of fisheries and other products falling by 2.14 percent and 0.44 percent in the first half of this year. This was mainly caused by reduced trips of fishermen, fish kill and destruction of fish cages, aside from weather disturbances.

The socioeconomic planning secretary reiterated the passage of the amendments to Republic Act 8178 or the Agricultural Tariffication Act, which is a crucial step in reforming the agriculture sector over the medium and long term.

Food reforms

Economic managers are moving for the implementation of a number reforms directed at addressing growing food inflation, prompted by the unexpected rise in headline inflation.

In a meeting yesterday, members of the country's economic development cluster composed of the DOF, DBM, NEDA, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Justice (DOJ), BSP, Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) and some members of the National Food Authority (NFA) Council agreed that reforms for reducing food prices need to be implemented immediately.

"The highest contributors to inflation in August are electricity, gas and fuels, fish, rice, personal transport, vegetables and meat. Reforms in agriculture will continuously be implemented to address the supply issues causing the rise in food prices," the economic managers said in a joint statement.

They said this is supported by the lowest regional inflation rate recorded in food-abundant and agriculturally productive Central Luzon (Region 3) at 3.6 percent.

"A committed effort from government in the agriculture sector to boost supply of key products and introduce policy reforms will bring down prices for all Filipino families," the economic team said.

Among the reforms to be implemented is the replication of the issuance of certificates of necessity to allow imports on fish to be distributed in the wet markets in Metro Manila and to other markets of the country by the DA.

On rice supply issues, the economic team has ordered the NFA to release 4.6 million sacks of rice available to markets.

"We also expect approximately two million sacks of rice previously contracted to be delivered before the end of September," the economic team said.

In addition, the NFA Council authorized the importation of five million sacks that will be arriving over the next one and half months and another five million sacks to be imported early next year.

Some 2.7 million sacks of rice will be allocated to Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi to address reported shortage in these areas.

Also, harvest has started in many parts of the country, with the projected harvest for 2018 of 12.6 million metric tons of rice the equivalent of 252 million sacks.

Economic managers have agreed to recommend to the President the issuance of a directive to further simplify and streamline the licensing procedures for rice imports of the NFA.

They are also urging the Senate to immediately pass the Rice Tariffication Bill within the month.

The bill amends Republic Act No. 8178, or the Agricultural Tariffication Act of 1996, which will pave the way for the replacement of the quantitative restrictions on rice imports with tariff.

They added that a monitoring team for surveillance of rice from ports to NFA warehouses and retail outlets will be formed by the DTI, NFA, Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as well as farmer groups.

On chicken, the DA and DTI will convene poultry producers and set up public markets where producers can sell directly to end customers to reduce the gap between the farm gate and retail prices. The DA will provide cold storage for this purpose.

Among other reforms pushed by economic managers is the opening of importation of sugar to direct users to moderate cost to consumers by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA); the prioritization of the release of essential food items in the ports by the Bureau of Customs.

"The spike in the prices of vegetables was attributed to seasonal weather conditions. We will see relief in this area after the typhoon season," the economic managers said.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said these proposed reforms "should start taking effect this month."

BSP deputy governor Diwa Guinigundo said if these measures are implemented in September, the 6.4 percent inflation rate in August "will be the peak."

The government's economic team previously announced that inflation was expected to peak in the third quarter before tapering off towards the latter part of the year, and then fall within the government's target by next year.

"However, inflation in August was beyond the median market forecast. We remain steadfast in putting forward and accelerating these measures that will address food prices for all Filipinos," the economic managers said.

Leni's appeal

Vice President Leni Robredo reiterated yesterday her appeal to the government to increase the P200 monthly cash subsidy being provided to poorest Filipino families to help them cope with the continuing rise in prices of commodities and services.

Robredo also lamented that around four million households have yet to receive the subsidy.

– With Mary Grace Padin, Christina Mendez, Helen Flores, Roel Pareño, Paolo Romero, Marvin Sy, Jess Diaz, Sheila Crisostomo

6 September 2018 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Page: A1

CONSUMERS GROAN AS FOOD PRICES SURGE

STORY BY BEN O. DE VERA, JOVIC YEE AND DEXTER CABALZA

The cost of a basket of basic commodities and utilities jumped to a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in August. Hit hard by the high inflation rate are the poor as food accounts for a big chunk of their income. A6

FROM A1

By Ben O. de Vera
Jovic Yee
and Dexter Cabalza
@Team_Inquirer

Prices of food, especially rice, fish, meat and vegetables, rose further in August, pushing inflation nationwide to 6.4 percent year-on-year, a nine-year high and prompting many consumers to find various ways to scrimp—from carpooling and bringing packed lunches to even forgoing dates on weekends.

Inflation was higher in Metro Manila at 7 percent, while price increases outside the metropolis averaged 6.2 percent, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Hit hard by high inflation are the poor as food accounts for a big chunk of their income.

"This poses a serious threat to the food security of the bottom 30 percent of families in terms of income, who spend roughly P70 of every P100 they earn on food," Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said in a statement.

The inflation rates were higher than estimates of government and private sector economists, who had projected the nationwide rate to fall between 5.5 and 6.2 percent.

From January to August, inflation averaged 4.8 percent, above the government's 2-4 percent target.

Even middle-class families are feeling the weight of high inflation.

Packed meals

Advertising manager Erick Listana used to have lunch in a restaurant or in the office canteen.

Listana now brings packed meals to work just to save money. He also had to cut down on some of his leisure activities, such as going to the movies on weekends.

He said he also had to add P2,000 to his family budget for groceries as the amount he was previously contributing was no longer enough.

To save on fuel expenses, accountant Aries Atienza and his

colleagues have decided to carpool to work.

He noted, however, that his situation was not as bad as his brother's, who had to figure out how he would be able to sell his produce given their high prices.

A small cabbage, he said, can now cost as much as P100 apiece.

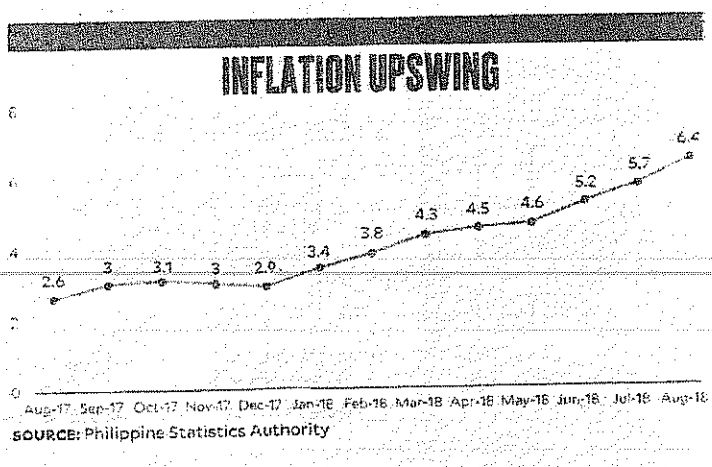
Atienza said that to avoid incurring heavy losses, his brother would often cook the vegetables and sell them off as "pinakbet," an Ilocano vegetable dish.

He pointed out though that selling the produce as viand still did not turn in a profit.

Food prices up 8.5%

In its report, the PSA noted that prices of food and nonalcoholic beverages rose 8.5 percent year-on-year.

The PSA also reported that prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco jumped 21.6 percent.



SOURCE: Philippine Statistics Authority

Prices of furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house rose 3.5 percent; health and restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services, up 4 percent; and recreation and culture, up 2.4 percent.

"A big chunk of the August inflation rate is due to the rise in food prices—fish, rice, other meat and vegetables," Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said on Wednesday.

Diokno said the four food items accounted for 38 percent (2.4 of the 6.4 percent) of the August inflation.

Rice prices, especially those of commercial varieties, surged last month in the wake of the depleted rice stock of the National Food Authority (NFA).

The NFA's failure to perform its task of ensuring stable prices and supply of the staple has fueled calls for either the sacking of its administrator or its abolition.

Life harder for workers

At the Pasay public market, several kilometers from her boardinghouse, Nimfa Legaspi on Wednesday evening bought food for her and coworkers just "to save the smallest of my change."

She touched each variety of rice at one of the stalls, but settled for 2 kilograms of La Rosa for P90 for their dinner and breakfast.

"This is not the variety that I often bought before. I could no longer afford Angelica or Jasmine (that cost at least P50 per kilo)," said the 54-year-old, who earns P512 daily, the minimum wage in Metro Manila.

She lamented that life was becoming more difficult.

Legaspi chose to leave her children in Batangas province to earn more while working at a construction site in Parañaque.

Asked what their viand at the boardinghouse would be, she said: "It should be meat but I can't afford it. I might opt for fish but it might be also expensive."

Legaspi pleaded with the Duterte administration to raise the wages of poor workers like her. "Everything now costs more. I hope our wages will also go up so our families will not go hungry."

Self-inflicted

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda called the high inflation rate "self-inflicted" as the government "did little or nothing."

What's more worrisome is that rising prices would reverse gains in poverty reduction and hunger mitigation since the main culprit is food inflation.

Salceda called for the immediate adoption of measures to tame inflation, like higher NFA rice importation and targeted distribution to rice-deficit areas and food-deficit populations.

Rice tariffication

In a text message, Diokno said the August inflation called for a swift passage of the rice tariffication bill and faster delivery of the unconditional cash transfers.

President Duterte earlier certified the bill urgent to ensure its swift passage in Congress.

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said massive rice importation and the purchase of palay (unhusked rice) from local farmers could ease inflation like what she did in 2009.

George San Mateo, head of the transport group Piston, said jeepney drivers bore the burden of not only high inflation but also regressive taxes on oil products.

San Mateo lamented that despite the series of fare increase petitions, some of which have already been approved, drivers' income continued to shrink amid rising prices of rice and other commodities. —WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, KRIXIA SUBINGSUBING, DARRYL JOHN ESQUERRA AND PATHRICIA ANN V. ROXAS INQ

DFA places Libya under Alert Level 3

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) urged thousands of migrant Filipino workers in Libya to prepare for possible evacuation as it raised the alert level there following days of factional fighting.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano declared Libya under Alert Level III due to escalating violence that threatens the safety and security of an estimated 3,500 Filipinos working there.

Under Alert Level III, all Filipinos in Libya should start preparations for possible evacuation and all those with valid employment contracts currently on vacation in the Philippines will not be allowed to return, the DFA said.

The DFA is placing on standby rapid response teams to assist the Philippine embassy in Tripoli in evacuating the 1,800 Filipinos in the capital who have been caught in the middle of the fighting that has been raging for more than a week now.

On Monday, the Philippine embassy advised the Filipino community to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary movement due to mounting violence and criminality.

Filipinos who may require assistance are requested to contact the embassy at: +218 91 824 4208 and +218 94 454 1283.

Families of migrant workers in the Philippines may contact the Office of Migrant Workers Affairs at (+632) 834-4996 and *oumwa@dfa.gov.ph* during office hours. DFA Action Center +632 834-3333 or 834-4997 after office hours.

An agreement on a ceasefire in Tripoli has been reached under the auspices of Ghassan Salame, the top UN official in Libya.

The agreement aims to "end all hostilities, protect civilians, safeguard public and private property."

The increasing strife in Libya also halted the efforts of the Philippine government to secure the release of three Filipinos kidnapped by an armed group last July.

A member of the high-level delegation created by Malacañang to directly deal with the Libyan government to solve the kidnapping problem revealed a Filipino negotiator was already in Tunis on his way to Libya but was forced to return home as the airport in the African state was closed due to continuing infighting among warring militias.

Last month, President Duterte declared that he was ready to send Philippine Navy frigates to Libya to free the Filipino hostages.

The presidential statement triggered moves in the Navy to coordinate with the DFA in the event Duterte issues an official order for a naval deployment to Libyan waters.

But the President had a change of heart and ordered the creation of a joint task force composed of Cabinet members to work for the release of three Filipinos held by one of the guerrilla factions fighting in Libya.

– With Jaime Laude

6 September 2018 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Page: A6

NEWS BRIEFS

Navy to conduct thorough probe of frigate's grounding

The Philippine Navy will launch a thorough probe on the grounding of its flagship, BRP Gregorio del Pilar, as soon as she arrives at the Subic port. Navy flag officer in command Vice Adm. Robert Empedrad told reporters on Wednesday that the frigate was still being towed to safe harbor by the tugboats M/T Vigilant and M/T Trabajador. Empedrad said the Navy expected the frigate to arrive at Subic on Friday. "We need the ship to arrive at Subic and then we [will] conduct the comprehensive investigation," he said. The BRP Gregorio del Pilar, which had its starboard (right) propeller detached due to the grounding, is already due for its scheduled maintenance at the shipyard in Subic, the Navy chief said. The vessel was extricated late Monday night from Hasa-Hasa (Half Moon) Shoal in the West Philippine Sea after it ran aground last week.—JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE

1 September 2018 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Page: A4

PROCLAMATION NO. 75

AQUINO CONFIRMS AMNESTY TO TRILLANES, QUESTIONS DUTERTE PROCLAMATION

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
@julietlabjINQ

Former President Benigno Aquino III on Wednesday stood by the validity of his grant of amnesty to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, saying documents showed the application was filed and was approved by the Department of National Defense (DND) and concurred in by Congress in 2011.

Aquino said he was willing to attest to the validity of the amnesty if needed.

"If I'm called to be a witness, I have no problem with that," he told the Inquirer.

First on the list

President Duterte has ordered the arrest of Trillanes, one of his fiercest critics, after voiding his amnesty on the grounds that the former mutineer had not applied for amnesty and had not admitted his guilt.

Aquino said copies of documents in his office showed then Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV was first on the list of 91 officers and enlisted personnel granted amnesty for involvement in either the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the 2006 Marines standoff or the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

"In the case of Senator Trillanes, it is very clear that he applied for amnesty. It was recommended by the ad hoc committee of the DND and approved by the SND (Secretary of National Defense)," he said over the phone.

He also pointed out that his Proclamation No. 75 granting amnesty to Trillanes and other military and police personnel involved in the incidents was concurred in by the House and the Senate through Concurrent Resolution No. 4 dated Dec. 13 and 14, 2010, respectively.

The resolution was signed by then Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Benigno Aquino III —LYN RILLON

"If I issued the amnesty without the concurrence of Congress, this would not have been valid," Aquino said.

In his proclamation, Aquino

6 September 2018 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Page: 12

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Benigno Aquino III —LYN RILLON

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In his proclamation, Aquino

cited the clamor from many sectors to grant amnesty to the concerned officers and personnel and "the need to promote an atmosphere conducive" to peace.

Following the proclamation, the officers and personnel were required to apply in the DND for amnesty under the proclamation.

Admission of guilt

Congress' concurrent resolution recommended that "no application for amnesty shall be given due course without the applicant admitting his guilt or criminal culpability of any or all of the subject incidents in writing as expressed in the application."

One of the documents provided by Aquino was DND Ad Hoc Committee Resolution No. 2.

It recommended to the defense secretary the approval of the application for amnesty after confirming the involvement of the officers and enlisted personnel in the incidents, and the absence of any opposition within the 15-day period provided for in the proclamation.

Another document was a letter to Aquino from then Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin dated Jan. 25, 2011. It informed the then President that Gazmin had approved the recommendation of the ad hoc committee and "thereby granted amnesty to the aforesaid officers and enlisted personnel through Committee Resolutions Nos., 1, 2, 3 and 4 duly signed."

Puzzled

"On 04, 05, 06 and 07 January 2011, a total of 38 officers and 53 enlisted personnel have filed their applications for amnesty at the Office of the Committee Secretariat of the DND Ad Hoc Amnesty Committee," Gazmin said.

But Aquino was puzzled by officials of the present administration, who said they could not find the application and that Trillanes did not make an admission of guilt.

"If you were not involved (in the incident), why will you apply for amnesty? By applying, you actually admitted and confirmed your participation," he said.

He questioned the basis for the order to arrest Trillanes, since the court cases against him had been dismissed due to the amnesty.

The former President said he was also "curious" as to why Mr. Duterte was the one ordering the arrest of Trillanes.

"The Chief Executive basically executes the law. He does not write the law, does not interpret the law. He can only make an order in furtherance of a court order or the specific grounds for arresting an individual under the rules of court," Aquino said. INQ

TRILLANES TO BRING DU30 ARREST ORDER TO SC

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

After making his reputation as a rebel, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV is gearing up for a battle in the courts to stop President Duterte from jailing him.

Mr. Duterte, who swore revenge after Trillanes linked him to corruption and one of his sons to illegal drugs and smuggling, and supported petitions to the International Criminal Court seeking his indictment over thousands of alleged extrajudicial killings in his brutal war on drugs, voided the amnesty given to the senator as a military rebel in 2011.

Through Presidential Proclamation No. 572, which he signed on Aug. 31, Mr. Duterte said he voided Trillanes' amnesty because the former Philippine Navy lieutenant fell short of the minimum requirements, including admitting his guilt.

The President ordered the police to arrest A4

FROM A1

Trillanes and the military to resume court-martial proceedings against him that were halted after he was granted amnesty.

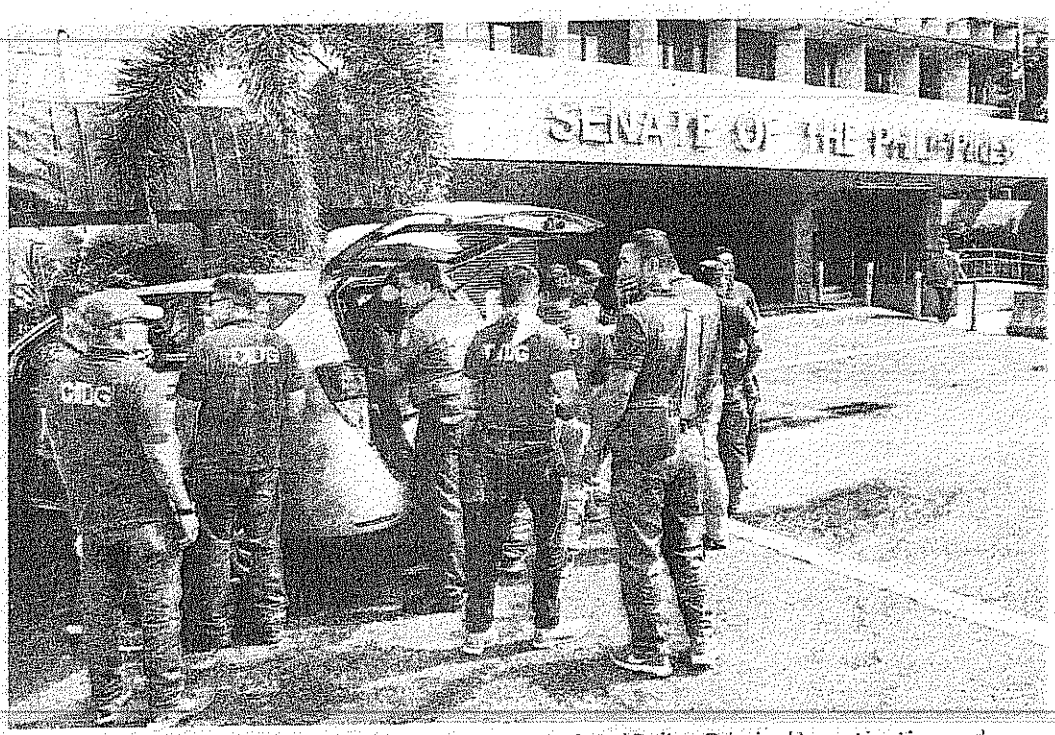
Holed up in the Senate to avoid arrest, Trillanes said he would challenge the application of the Department of Justice (DOJ) for a warrant to arrest him for rebellion and coup d'état, the charges brought against him for taking part in attempts to overthrow President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003, 2006 and 2007.

He said he would also challenge in the Supreme Court Mr. Duterte's proclamation, which he described as "illegal."

"To me, this goes beyond political lines because the presidential declaration should alarm the justices of the Supreme Court. It contains [Mr.] Duterte's exercise of executive, legislative and judicial powers," Trillanes said.

He said the rebellion and coup d'état charges against him were dismissed in September 2011. He showed reporters court documents to prove that the cases had been dismissed.

Trillanes won the first round against the DOJ on Wednesday after Judge Andres Soriano of the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 148



POLICE PRESENCE Officers from the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group have maintained a visible presence outside the Philippine Senate building in Pasay City since Tuesday, prompting Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto to ask: "There is no warrant of arrest issued by any court, so what are they doing here?" —RICHARD A. REYES

refused to grant the department's ex parte motion for a warrant of arrest and hold departure order for the senator without a hearing.

In his order dated Sept. 4, Soriano gave Trillanes five days to comment on the government's motion and set a hearing for Sept. 13

Soriano said the "very sensitive case" took on "very serious legal issues" so that he had to be "careful."

Cases dismissed

Soriano noted that the coup charge against Trillanes was dismissed on Sept. 21, 2011, by then acting Judge Maria Rita Sarabia, "pursuant to the grant of amnesty" to him.

He said the separate rebellion charge against Trillanes was dismissed by Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati RTC Branch 150 on Sept. 7, 2011, also because he had been granted amnesty.

The DOJ did not bring a motion for a warrant of arrest and hold departure order for Trillanes in Branch 150.

Soriano said his court may have jurisdiction to hear the factual aspect of the controversy, "that is whether Trillanes fulfilled the requirements for his application [for] amnesty."

Sought for comment, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said: "It's a good sign that the court accepts continuing jurisdiction over the case."

Guevarra said Trillanes could not be arrested without a warrant.

"The police will have to wait for the warrant," he said.

Resigned from military

In the Senate, Trillanes said he could not be court-martialed because he was no longer a military officer and that he became a civilian after he successfully ran for the Senate in 2007.

Trillanes presented documents that showed he resigned from the military on Feb. 6, 2007, and a copy of a general order dated May 3, 2007, on the effectivity of his resignation.

He also showed a service clearance dated Aug. 28, 2007, stating that he had no money and property accountabilities and could leave the service.

Trillanes said he resigned from the military when he filed his certificate of candidacy for the Senate.

He said the documents showed that the Department of National Defense had no jurisdiction over him. —WITH A REPORT FROM DEXTER CABALZA INQ

Palace eyes action vs other mutineers

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV is not being singled out, Malacañang officials said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. and chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo said the amnesty granted to other personalities in 2010 would also be subjected to review.

Roque was referring to the Magdalo group of military officials, including Trillanes, that participated in the Oakwood mutiny in 2003.

The presidential spokesman debunked claims that Trillanes was subjected to political persecution after the opposition senator's amnesty grant was ordered revoked by President Duterte through Proclamation 572.

Roque denied that Duterte wanted his critics silenced.

"The President believes in free speech. The President does not want to silence the opposition, there is no truth in that," Roque said in Filipino.

Roque said Duterte was just enforcing the law in Trillanes' case.

"I think even the individuals in the military establishment that gave the amnesty knew that they

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Palace From Page 1

are lacking requirements. So, it was really only a matter of time before the issue would come out," Roque said.

For his part, Panelo likened the Trillanes case to Maria Lourdes Sereno, who was ousted as chief justice for her failure to file the required statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Panelo said there was lack of requirement in Trillanes' application for amnesty.

He said Trillanes will have to prove that he filed his application for amnesty, which is one of the reasons why it was revoked.

"The burden of proof shifted now," Panelo said, adding that the senator should prove he had filed his application.

As a consequence of the revocation of amnesty, Panelo sees the impending arrest of the opposition senator.

Roque recalled the big issue then was whether Trillanes should admit to their offenses to be granted amnesty.

Unlike Trillanes, Roque said other Magdalo officers, including Milo Maestrecampo and Gerardo Gambala, admitted to the offenses before they were granted amnesty.

Incidentally, the two military officers, along with their comrade, now Office of the Civil Defense deputy administrator Nicanor Faeldon, are allied with Duterte.

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OPINION OF FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL HILBAY

LEGAL EXPERT SAYS ONLY COURTS CAN ORDER ARREST OF CIVILIANS LIKE TRILLANES

By Marion Ramos
@MRamosINQ

Only judicial courts may order the arrest of a civilian like Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay said on Wednesday, maintaining that the 1987 Constitution does not authorize President Duterte to detain any citizen arbitrarily.

Hilbay, a professor of constitutional law at the University of the Philippines, also said the government was barred from reviving the criminal cases against Trillanes, as these had been dismissed by the courts after the former military officer was granted amnesty.

"Trillanes is already a civilian when he became senator. You cannot be both a civilian and a military person at the same time. That means the military has no authority to arrest him," he added.

Hilbay said Mr. Duterte could not undo the amnesty granted by former President Benigno Aquino III to Trillanes and other rebel soldiers belonging to the Magdalo group.

"Once it is granted, it cannot be revoked. That's the point of amnesty. After one has been forgiven, it's time for us to move on to avoid troubles," Hilbay said.

"The President has no constitutional authority to revoke an amnesty," he said.

Vice President Leni Robredo on Wednesday condemned Mr. Duterte's order voiding Trillanes' amnesty, saying it was clearly an attempt by the President to silence his critics.

Speaking at a news conference in Zamboanga City, Robredo said the opposition would fight all attempts of the administration to persecute its critics and silence voices critical of the government.

"An opposing voice is important in a democracy, especially when something is going

> You cannot be both a civilian and a military person at the same time. That means the military has no authority to arrest him
>
> **Florin Hilbay**
> Former solicitor general

on that we think is not right," she said.

'Missing' application

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said the sudden disappearance of Trillanes' 2011 application for amnesty was not a sufficient reason for President Duterte to invalidate the pardon given to the former military officer.

"The mere report that 'there is no available copy of his application for amnesty in the records' does not show that he did not apply because if he did not apply, he should not have been granted amnesty," Lagman said.

"The 'missing' application could have been maliciously concealed or deliberately destroyed," Lagman said. "There is a presumption of regularity and compliance with prerequisites and conditions in the grant of amnesty to Trillanes."

News reports and videos of Trillanes' application are publicly available and should be enough to debunk Malacañang's claims, Lagman pointed out.

"The revocation of Trillanes' amnesty ... is unwarranted because an amnesty is final, absolute and irrevocable," he added.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate said the political persecution of Trillanes and other critics of the President would spark a bigger opposition to the Duterte administration.

Zarate said the Department of Justice's application for a warrant of arrest for Trillanes was an admission that Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 572 was not the same as an arrest order.

"We're not under martial law. The President may have forgotten that he's not yet a full-blown dictator," Zarate said. —WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE ALIPALA, INQ

AMNESTY ROW

AFP TO PURSUE SOLON'S TRIAL BY COURT-MARTIAL

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV must be detained by the military and tried by court-martial while the search for his missing amnesty application form goes on, defense officials said on Wednesday.

But even if the document is found, Trillanes, who has been reverted to active military service as a Navy lieutenant after President Duterte voided his amnesty on Aug. 28, still has to produce the authenticated original application before a court to regain his freedom, Arsenio Andolong, spokesperson for the Department of National Defense (DND), told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Andolong confirmed Trillanes' statement that there was a ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo when he applied for amnesty in January 2011.

Only Trillanes knows

"There were forms signed. Unfortunately, it seems he is the only one who has the copy of the original [amnesty application], because we cannot locate it. If he physically submitted it to the [temporary committee for amnesty] or Malacañang, we don't know. Only he can answer that," Andolong aid.

Trillanes was in the first group of 38 military officers and 53 enlisted men who applied for amnesty on Jan. 5, 2011, after they had been put on trial for taking part in coup attempts against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003, 2006 and 2007.

Granted amnesty

Three weeks later, the DND announced that all the applicants, including Trillanes, had been granted amnesty.

On Jan. 27, 2011, Trillanes and 94 other military officers and enlisted men took their oath of allegiance to the Constitution.

Ronald Patrick Rubin, chief of the DND internal audit service, said the court-martial that sat to try the charges against Trillanes did not lose jurisdiction over him after he was granted amnesty and he was separated from military service.

Trillanes was charged with violating Article of War 96, or conduct unbecoming an officer, and Article of War 97, or conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

"The court-martial proceedings would continue, as these were acts that he committed while he was still in active service," Rubin said.

"The jurisdiction of the court-martial was established or was acquired during the time that he was still in active duty," he said. INQ

Trillanes to seek TRO vs proclamation, arrest

By PAOLO ROMERO

As soldiers and policemen gathered outside the Senate awaiting orders to arrest Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, the former Navy officer said his lawyers are set to ask the Supreme Court (SC) today to stop the enforcement of a presidential order for his arrest with the voiding of an amnesty granted to him in 2010.

While seeking an SC temporary restraining order on Presidential Proclamation No. 572, Trillanes maintained he would yield only to a legal arrest warrant even as he stressed the military cannot take him into custody and subject him

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Trillanes From Page 1

to a court martial as he has been a civilian since 2007.

The senator, an arch critic of President Duterte, however expressed belief no such legal arrest warrant is forthcoming as there are no charges that can be filed against him in connection with his mutinous acts in 2003 and 2007.

"The order to arrest me is not valid. I would've walked in (into detention) but if I'm going to turn myself in voluntarily, we won't be able to question the validity of the warrantless arrest," Trillanes told reporters. "And we're asking why are they arresting me in the first place?"

Trillanes stayed in his office after the Senate leadership reached a consensus barring any arrest of any lawmaker in the chamber's premises.

His lawyers advised him to remain in the Senate to avoid any possible untoward incident as the police continued to be camped outside the chamber despite the absence of a court ruling for his arrest.

He was visited by his wife, Arlene, as well as members of cause-oriented groups Tindig Pilipinas and Every Woman and some former Cabinet members.

His staff said a prayer vigil would be held at the Senate for Trillanes.

He showed to reporters documents attesting to the dismissal of coup-related charges against him, including the ruling of the Makati City Regional Trial Court Branches 148 and 150 in September 2011.

He also stressed he would not have been granted amnesty by then president Benigno Aquino III if he had not complied with all the legal requirements, including a formal admission of guilt.

– Jaime Laude

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Trillanes eyes TRO to prevent his arrest

SEN. Antonio Trillanes 4th on Wednesday said he would ask the Supreme Court (SC) to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop his arrest over the revocation of amnesty granted to him by the Aquino administration.

President Rodrigo Duterte has issued Proclamation 572 revoking the amnesty granted to Trillanes in 2011 by the Aquino administration and ordering the senator's immediate arrest.

The President said Trillanes failed to personally file a petition for

➤ArrestA8

■ARREST FROM A1

Trillanes

amnesty and he did not admit guilt on his involvement to overthrow the government of then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003 and 2010.

"We will file a petition for TRO with the Supreme Court because this goes beyond political lines. The Presidential Proclamation should alarm the justices of the Supreme Court," Trillanes said in a briefing.

The senator pointed out that Proclamation 572 allows Duterte to exercise executive, legislative and judicial powers at the same time.

"If they [SC justices] affirm the Presidential Proclamation, the President can now issue a warrant [of arrest]," he said.

When asked whether he would go out of the Senate premises where he is holed up to personally file the petition before the SC, Trillanes replied, "The advice given to me by my lawyers and the Senate leadership is not to make it easy [for them to arrest me]."

Senate President Vicente Sotto 3rd on Wednesday took custody of Trillanes pending the issuance of arrest order against the latter.

Trillanes questioned the "basis" of the Department of Justice's move to have an arrest order issued against him.

He maintained that the coup d'etat and rebellion cases against him were both dismissed in 2011.

Trillanes said he could no longer be subjected to court-martial proceedings because he was already a civilian when he resigned from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and later ran for and won a seat in the Senate in 2007.

The senator made the remark in reaction to a statement of AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo that he needed to undergo court-martial proceedings again after the President's revocation of the amnesty granted to him eight years ago.

In a briefing, Trillanes presented documents "to negate" the position of the AFP that he will be again subjected to such proceedings, including a certificate of last payment, which showed that he received his last salary as a soldier on March 1, 2007.

"As early as May 3, 2007, I was already issued general orders by the AFP in relation to my resignation from the service. This set of documents shows that I am no longer part of the AFP since 2007. They don't have any more jurisdiction over me. I'm already a civilian," he said.

Trillanes told Arevalo "to step back" and study his documents.

"We have to dig our records. They should no longer waste their time. It's absurd to begin with. So, I will give these documents to them," he said.

Meanwhile, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said a military tribunal could not resume or reacquire jurisdiction over Trillanes in connection with the revocation of the amnesty granted to him by Aquino.

"Trillanes is no longer in the military since he was automatically resigned from the military service when he first filed his CoC (certificate of candidacy) for senator," Macalintal said in a statement.

"Hence, the PNP (Philippine National Police) and the military cannot arrest Trillanes on mere order of the President since the latter has no power to order the arrest of any person without a warrant of arrest issued by a competent court having jurisdiction over any criminal case filed against Trillanes," he added. **BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO**

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SOLGEN REQUESTED SENATOR'S AMNESTY PAPERS

Lawmakers rally behind Trillanes

BY MA. REINA LEANNE C. TOLENTINO

LAWMAKERS from the Makabayan bloc of the House of Representatives on Wednesday backed Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th's fight against the revocation of his amnesty, even if they disagreed on many issues.

In a news conference, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate condemned the Duterte government's crackdown on opposition figures, saying Trillanes was being made to "kneel" like the detained Sen. Leila de Lima and Maria Lourdes Sereno, who was ousted as chief justice.

Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Arlene Brosas said it was clear the amnesty revocation was a "political persecution of Senator Trillanes."

Opposition lawmakers later filed a resolution denouncing the revocation of Trillanes' amnesty and urging the Duterte administration to recall Proclamation 572.

House Resolution 2155 was authored by lawmakers from the "Magnificent 7" group, namely Representatives Edcel Lagman, Raul Daza, Tomasito Villarin, Emmanuel Billones, Gary Alejano, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. and Edgar Erice; and the Makabayan bloc, namely Representatives France Castro, Carlos Zarate, Ariel Casilao, Arlene Brosas and Sarah Elago; and Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte.

"Whereas, Proclamation No. 572 of President Rodrigo Duterte revoking the amnesty grant to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV is not by itself a warrant of arrest because only a competent court can issue an arrest warrant on the basis of a pending criminal case," the resolution stated. "Whereas, there are other concrete evidence documenting that he applied for amnesty like relevant photographs and video footage."

"Whereas, the revocation of Sen. Trillanes' amnesty grant is unwarranted and unlawful because an amnesty is final, absolute and irrevocable," it added. "Whereas, since under Section 19 of Article VII of the Constitution, a Presidential amnesty proclamation needs the prior concurrence of majority of

all Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, then any revocation, if ever allowable, must also have the concurrence of the Congress."

Calida sought Trillanes papers

It was the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) that requested Trillanes' amnesty application before the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Department of National Defense (DND) said on Wednesday.

Patrick Rubin, the DND chief internal audit service, said the OSG made direct contact with the military, particularly with the AFP deputy chief of staff for personnel (J1), a military staff office keeping the records for all personnel and officers.

"The AFP was directly contacted by the Office [of the Solicitor General] that requested for the documents...it will be the best for the AFP to answer that," Rubin, a lawyer, told reporters in a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Rubin said Trillanes could show documents before the military court proving his application of amnesty granted by the DND in January 2011.

This was after the military said the documents filed by Trillanes for amnesty in 2011 went missing.

DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong also said the loss of the documents did not mean Trillanes would be prohibited from presenting his own copies.

"We are not jumping to any conclusions. Of course, we have to give them the benefit of the doubt, so we leave it at that," Andolong said in the same conference.

Solicitor General Jose Calida has declined to discuss his role in the amnesty pullout, citing lawyer-client privilege.

'Dangerous precedent'

Duterte's order to revoke Trillanes' amnesty would be a dangerous precedent since the reprieve was granted by the President's predecessor, according to an active military source.

"[The amnesty] passed through Congress, there was regularity in granting the amnesty. For me, it cannot be [revoked]," the source, who spoke in anonymity, said.

The source also insisted that Trillanes filed an application for his amnesty with a certification issued and signed by then-defense secretary Voltaire Gazmin.

WITH DEMPSEY REYES

6 September 2018 The Manila Times Page: 1

Govt to review amnesties given to other mutineers

THE Philippine government will look into the amnesty applications of fellow mutineers of Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th, according to Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo.

In a radio interview aired over dzMM, Panelo on Wednesday said the amnesties granted to more mutineers might be revoked if the review found irregularities in their applications.

"It is not true [that Trillanes is the only one being pressed by the amnesty revocation.] As we said, there were individuals before [who] said and commented that something was wrong with the grant of amnesty, so, all [applications] will be reviewed," Panelo added.

"If, for example, most of them or some of them did not follow the requirements,

>Mutineers AS

MUTINEERS FROM A1

Govt to review

then of course, their amnesties will be revoked," he said.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) said it had no role in the review of Trillanes' amnesty.

The statement came in reaction to the senator saying that Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra is "incompetent" for showing "the low quality of his legal abilities and legal skills."

"The DoJ was not involved at all in the review of his amnesty," Guevarra said in a text message.

He questioned Trillanes' admission of guilt and the redaction of public statements, which were "inconsistent" with his admission of guilt.

In 2011, 19 military officers filed for amnesty under the Aquino administration over their participation in the Oakwood Mutiny in 2003, the Marines stand-off in 2006 and the Manila Peninsula siege in 2007.

All uprisings were protests against then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the supposed corruption in the government at the time.

Trillanes ran for senator and won in the 2007 elections.

On Wednesday, he showed a news clip of him in 2011 submitting his application for amnesty.

Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr., however, said in an interview that it was not sufficient proof.

"First of all, I do not know if it was received by the government. It is needed that, the application is not only shown, but there was a "received application" [stamp] there," Roque told dzRH radio.

"The video, it does not prove anything, because what is important is the document itself. Another thing is, what is written in the document if there is really a document, if he really admitted to the crime of coup d'etat that I think never really happened," he said.

Aside from Trillanes, among those who applied were retired Marine colonel Ariel Querubin, Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano, former Metro Manila Development Authority chairman Danilo Lim and Office of Civil Defense Deputy Administrator Nicanor Faeldon.

Faeldon resigned from his post as Customs commissioner last year over the entry of P6.4-billion worth of shabu from China.

He, however, was reinstalled by Duterte in the Cabinet.

RALPH U. VILLANUEVA

List of mutineers granted amnesty

1Lt. Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo
Tsg. Noel B. Aggalut
2Lt. Edgard R. Aguilar
Cpt. Gary C. Alejano
Pfc. Teddy P. Antonio
2Lt. Leopold D. Apillanes, Jr.
Pfc. Abraham P. Apostol
Cpl. Bonifacio B. Barrion
Cpl. Roderick L. Bayubay
Cpl. Jeffrey G. Bolatin
Ssg. Francisco N. Bosi, Jr.
Cpl. Jollie L. Boston
Cpl. Berting C. Cabana
Ltsg. Manuel O. Cabochan
Pfc. Gerry B. Calingacion
Cpl. Lorenzo V. Caranzo
2Lt. Larry C. Cendana
Ltjg. Ceferino M. Checa 3rd
1Lt. Jonathan D. Costales
Ens. Ronald E. Diso
Ens. Arjohn B. Elumba
Cpl. Ruel S. Espenillia
(Ret)Col. Rafael Galvez
Cpl. Leo C. Gapayao
Lt. Eugene Louie P. Gonzales
Cpl. Jerson O. Labilles
Sgt. German M. Linde
2Lt. Norman Spencer O. Lo
Cpl. Dennis P. Lopez
Sgt. Monchito O. Lusterio
2Lt. Jeveehboy N. Macarubbo
(Ret)Col. Jake Malajacan
Cpl. Walter M. Manalansan
Cpl. Joey I. Membreve
(Ret)Major Gen. Renato Miranda
Cpl. Roel C. Molina
Cpt. Segundino P. Orfiano Jr.
Sgt. Jigger S. Paculba
Cpl. Cesar A. Padilla
Cpl. Paul P. Paner
Lt. Billy S. Pascua
Ltjg. Arturo S. Pascua, Jr.
Cpl. Reymond S. Pastera
Cpl. Christopher C. Perez
Cpl. Carlo P. Pillos
Cpl. Filomeno J. Ramirez
Pvt. Jocil B. Regulacion
Sgt. Ronald B. Reyes
Cpl. Florante C. Rosete
2Lt. Filmore G. Rull
2Lt. Jonnell P. Sangalang
Lt. Norberto E. Santiago, Jr.
Cpl. Dante L. Santos
2Lt. Jeoffrey C. Tacio
Ens. Cesar Carmel P. Tamba
Cpl. Emmanuel C. Tirador
Ltsg. Andy O. Torrato
Ltsg. Antonio F. Trillanes 4th
Cpl. Edgar B. Velasco

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DND backs Trillanes, confirms he filed amnesty application

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Department of National Defense yesterday backed the statement of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV that he filed an application for amnesty in 2011, but the department said the document remains missing.

"Actually, that's true. There was a ceremony here in (Camp) Aguinaldo. There was signing of a form," DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong told a press briefing.

The amnesty granted to Trillanes in January 2011 by the Aquino administration was voided by President Duterte through Proclamation Order No. 572 he signed on August 31.

The proclamation revoked a DND resolution that granted amnesty to Trillanes, a former Navy lieutenant involved in a July 2003 mutiny against then President and now Speaker Gloria Arroyo.

The proclamation said Trillanes failed to comply with two requirements for amnesty, which are a formal application under oath and admission of guilt. It said there was no available copy of his application for amnesty, as attested by the office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for personnel, and there was no admission of guilt for his crime.

Trillanes belied this Tuesday as he said he filed for amnesty.

A video of Trillanes signing and filing an amnesty application form spread in social media on Tuesday. Media men covered the event that took place on Jan. 5, 2011.

After an amnesty committee of the DND and Armed Forces approved his application, Trillanes took an oath before then Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin.

"I was told that he took an oath of allegiance… Unfortunately, we don't have a copy of that (filled up form)... Unfortunately, it appears that he's the only one who has a copy of the original because we cannot locate it at the moment," said Andolong.

Andolong said the document is supposed to be with the office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for personnel, it being the secretariat of the DND-AFP amnesty committee.

"As of this morning, it cannot still before found... There's a secretariat, that (document) is supposed to be with them. That, we cant find it," said Andolong.

Lawyer Ronald Patrick Rubin, chief of the DND Internal Audit Service, said, "We are in the process of getting in touch with the members of the committee, although it happened eight years ago." The committee was chaired by then DND undersecretary Honorio Azcueta.

Former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay it is not Trillanes' problem if government misplaced his amnesty application form.

He also said that contrary to the govern-

See DND ➤ Page B3

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DND

ment's assertion, Trillanes complied with all requirements. He said Trillanes has a certificate of his amnesty application, meaning he was able to complete the process. He said the certificate is the best proof that he applied for and was granted amnesty.

A former military lawyer said the voiding of Trillanes' amnesty has set an alarming precedence.

"What if that becomes a trend? They'll say there is no record, and revoke amnesty given to anyone. That's alarming... For me, it cannot be done. It passed through Congress. There should be regularity in the grant of amnesty," he said.

"They are saying the document cannot be found? There is, it just cannot be found," added the source.

Another former military lawyer said Trillanes and other mutineers indeed filed for an amnesty.

But he said some of the mutineers, especially the "defiant" core leaders of the Magdalo group that led the Oakwood mutiny in July 2003, did not put a check mark on some items in the checklist in the application form, like on "admission of guilt."

Told that the proclamation may lead to the voiding of the amnesty grant to other personnel, he said: "Yes, especially the core leaders. Remember, its only the core leaders who are defiant."

Rubin defended the resumption of trial of Trillanes before a military tribunal.

Trillanes has been charged with violation of the Article of War 96 (conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman) and 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline) before he applied for amnesty.

"The jurisdiction of the court martial was established or was acquired during the time that he was still active, there was a supervening event which was the granting of the amnesty which was subsequently declared as void," he said.

"However, as the court martial already acquired jurisdiction over him, it did not lose jurisdiction just because he's already separated from the service. So the court martial proceedings will continue as these were acts that he committed while he was in active service," said Rubin.

Trillanes said there is not basis for placing him under a military court because he has severed his connection with the Armed Forces, which was in 2007 or four years after the Oakwood mutiny.

Trillanes presented documents showing he was given clearance by the Navy in connection with his "ipso facto resignation" effective Feb. 6, 2007.

"These sets of documents prove that I'm no longer part of the AFP. Hindi ka mabibigyan ng clearance kung me kaso ka (You will not be given clearance if you have a case)," Trillanes said in a press conference yesterday afternoon.

He said he would provide the AFP a copy of the documents.

Trillanes, who won a Senate seat in the May 2007 elections, also presented a certificate of last payment, dated Aug. 29, 2007, which showed he received his last pay, for Feb. 1 to 28, 2007, and a statement of service showing he started his military career in 1991.

Acting AFP chief Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison has given orders to convene a general court martial to try Trillanes.

Rubin said the court martial proceedings were "suspended because of the grant of amnesty." – *With JP Lopez and Ashzel Hachero*

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Trillanes to question Rody order before SC

BY JP LOPEZ

SEN. Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday said he will question before the Supreme Court today the proclamation issued by President Duterte voiding the amnesty granted to him by the previous administration.

Trillanes, a former Navy lieutenant who was among the leaders of a failed mutiny 15 years ago, said Proclamation No. 572 signed by Duterte on August 31 is "trash" and "goes beyond political lines."

In the proclamation, Duterte also ordered Trillanes' arrest and instructed the Department of Justice and the Armed Forces "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" filed against him in connection with the July 2003 Oakwood Mutiny, the February 2006 Marines standoff, and the Manila Peninsula "siege" in November 2007.

"We will file a petition for TRO (temporary restraining order)," Trillanes said. "We will be questioning the whole presidential proclamation, questioning its validity."

The opposition senator maintained he filed an application for amnesty and admitted his guilt for his role in moves against the Arroyo government when he was still a Navy officer.

This was confirmed by the defense department yesterday but said the application document still could not be found.

Trillanes said those responsible for his "missing" application form for amnesty should be charged in court.

"I took an oath in front of the administrative officers and we submitted the application form in full view of the public," he said.

He, however, did not say if he would pursue charges against them.

He said he should not be blamed for the missing document.

Trillanes also presented copies of court decisions showing the rebellion and coup d'etat charges filed against him were dismissed in 2011.

Trillanes also said that for the meantime, he will remain inside the Senate, on the advise of the Senate leadership and his lawyers, despite the absence of a warrant of arrest against him.

"If we're going to question the validity of the presidential declaration, particularly the provisions involving the warrantless arrest, then I should not venture out," he said.

He also said his lawyers can file his answer before a Makati court which

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TRILLANES

asked his comment on the request of the Department of Justice for an alias warrant of arrest and a travel ban order against him.

Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 Judge Andres Soriano gave Trillanes five days to comment on the DOJ motion and set the hearing on September 13.

Trillanes said he is not hiding behind the Senate but was questioning the legality of the arrest order without a warrant.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said Trillanes can stop court proceedings if he would be able to present proof of his compliance with the amnesty grant.

"If he presents all these things, the proof of compliance in the proper forum, the court may say the President has abused his authority. In other words, the continuation of the proceedings may not happen anymore," he said.

Guevarra also said there is no double jeopardy in Trillanes' case because the coup case "has not been terminated in either an acquittal or conviction." "It's a mere continuation of the case," he said.

Trillanes and several junior military officers and enlisted personnel were charged with coup d'etat before the Makati City RTC Branch 148 for Oakwood mutiny.

Then Presiding Judge Oscar Pimentel set the promulgation of the case in December 2010 but Aquino issued an amnesty proclamation in November 2010.

Congress concurred with Aquino's proclamation in January 2011.

Days after, the Makati RTC granted Trillanes' motion to cancel the promulgation on account of the amnesty.

In the same month, Trillanes applied for amnesty before the Department of National Defense, which approved it weeks later.

Makati RTC Branch 148 Presiding Judge Andres Bartolome Soriano said acting Presiding Judge Ma. Rita Bascos signed a court order dismissing Trillanes' case on Sept. 21, 2011.

Soriano said the court needs to resolve the issue of whether Trillanes' case can be reopened or not.

"Frankly, that will be a matter dependent on the assessment also of the developments right now. The issue is whether that (case) can still be reopened or not," he said.

Soriano explained that when someone is given amnesty, it should extinguish his crime.

"But that is not the issue here. It appears to me, that there may be other issues. It's not as simple as the availment of the amnesty, at least there are other issues being raised. I don't like to talk about the issues right now because they have to be addressed more formally," he said.

In asking the court to issue a warrant against Trillanes, the DOJ said the coup case filed against him has "yet to be terminated through a promulgation of judgment which was merely suspended last Dec. 26, 2010." – ***With Ashzel Hachero and Evan Orias***

6 September 2018 Standard TODAY Page: A1

Trillanes still a free man; court yet to rule on arrest

By Rey E. Requejo, Macon Ramos-Araneta, Maricel V. Cruz and Nat Mariano

SENATOR Antonio Trillanes IV will remain a free man until the Makati City regional trial court grants the Department of Justice's motion seeking the issuance of an updated warrant of arrest against him, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said Wednesday.

The court earlier opted to hear Trillanes' side before deciding whether to grant the DOJ motion.

"The police will have to wait for the warrant," he said in a text message, after President Rodrigo Duterte revoked the amnesty granted him in 2010 and ordered his arrest.

Members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal

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PAYING BACK IN SPADES. Crenelated Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, holed up at the Senate since Tuesday after the grant of amnesty to him was canceled, shows to members of media on Wednesday documents related to the grant during a news conference at the Senate. **Ey Acasio**

Trillanes...

From A1

Investigation and Detection Group are already at the Senate, ready to arrest the mutineer-turned-senator.

But Guevarra said he was speaking only based on rules applying to civilians and regular courts.

"I am not in the military so I don't know their rules pertaining to arrests," he said.

Aside from the criminal prosecution, the proclamation issued by Duterte also ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to proceed with the court martial case against the senator, who led unsuccessful coups against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2003 and 2007.

Trillanes was granted an amnesty in 2011 by his political ally, President Benigno Aquino III.

Makati RTC Judge Andres Bartolome Soriano has set a hearing on Sept. 13 and ordered Trillanes to file a comment on the DOJ petition within five days.

In seeking the issuance of a hold-departure order and an updated warrant, the DOJ noted that the case of coup d'état against Trillanes has yet to be terminated by the court despite the issuance of Proclamation No. 75, which granted him amnesty.

The Makati City RTC Branch 148 merely granted the motion of Trillanes to cancel the promulgation by reason of Proclamation No. 75, said Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera.

"It is clear that this instant case is still pending with this honorable court and has yet to be terminated through a promulgation of judgment, which was merely suspended last Dec. 16, 2010," the motion read. **With PNA**

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Noy, Gazmin should come clean – Gordon

He is there on his own free will. He sought sanctuary in the Senate

By Kristina Maralit

Former President Benigno Aquino and his defense secretary Voltaire Gazmin needed to explain the granting of amnesty to former rebel soldier Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV that turned out to be defective, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

Gordon, however, said the Senate did the "right thing" when it took Trillanes under its custody following an order of President Rodrigo Duterte to invalidate his amnesty, Gordon said.

Officials of the previous administration needed to clarify the granting of the amnesty, Gordon said.

Gordon told a handful of the Philippine media delegation during President Rodrigo Duterte's visit to the Magen David Adom, a disaster response center in Jerusalem, that the previous administration and former Defense Chief Voltaire Gazmin "has a lot of explaining to do" on how it granted Trillanes amnesty despite alleged loopholes in the process.

They needed to do that for "closure," he said.

Trillanes has pending cases before civilian courts and the general court martial being a former military man.

Also, it is not a "good look," according to Gordon, that Trillanes and former President Benigno Aquino III campaigned together when they both ran for the Senate.

"We have to understand we all need closure. That's the problem when there is no closure. Just because you are political allies, you're given amnesty. It's not a good look. The public will always look for justice and the truth," he said.

Trillanes faces arrest after the Chief Executive issued Proclamation 572 rescinding the granted amnesty for his involvement in a failed *coup d'etat* 15 years ago.

Gordon said the Senate, as an institution, will do what it can to protect the former Navy officer.

"What the Senate President did was right," Gordon, who has been at odds with Trillanes, said.

"Sen. Trillanes had said before that he will peacefully go with them (police) once the warrant of arrest is out. That's

Turn to page 2

Noy, Gazmin should come clean – Gordon

If we are perceived to have done wrong, we will be given the chance to explain our side. That is how democracy works

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okay, that's right. I have no beef with that."

The two senators had a highly-publicized word war late last year when Gordon filed an ethics complaint against Trillanes who in turn threatened to charge the Blue Ribbon Committee chairman with plunder over alleged corruption in the Red Cross.

No forcible seizure

Still, Gordon is putting aside their differences and reiterated that he is one with his fellow senators in saying that they will not allow the embattled Trillanes to be forcibly taken away from the Senate's custody.

"He is there on his own free will. He sought sanctuary in the Senate. That's our duty, to help him. But the Senate President said, once the court issues an order, we will release him. But, of course, personally, I wouldn't want the police to just barge in and take him away," Gordon said.

"We won't let that happen. Let's wait for the warrant. But once he is arrested, then he will have to face the music," he stated.

While Gordon supports Trillanes' right to have his day in court, he also stressed that the rule of law must prevail and for due process to be followed.

"Let's follow the law. I think what the Secretary of Justice (Menardo Guevarra) and the President did was right because there must really be an admission (of guilt) and proof – a sworn application for amnesty. But it looks like it really hasn't been proven that an application was filed. There's a certificate, but that is already for the amnesty granted. The application form is what is needed," Gordon explained.

"That's the problem. The application form is missing, per the records of the AFP. Sen. Trillanes is just like me and you, an ordinary citizen. Just because you have a title, you're exempted from the law. That's what we should learn as a nation, to answer for our wrongdoings. If we are perceived to have done wrong, we will be given the chance to explain our side. That is how democracy works," he added.

No right under void amnesty

Labor Undersecretary and former Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto "Jing" Paras, meanwhile, said the conferment of amnesty on Trillanes was a "maneuver" of Aquino and Gazmin.

"Upon the instruction of PNoy (Aquino), the application for amnesty was allowed by Gazmin despite the lack of requirements.

"Mere intent to avail of amnesty is not a compliance with filing of application, what is required is the actual submission of application duly notarized. Without actually submitting an application duly received and stamped as received, his application for amnesty is a mere scrap of paper," he said.

Paras said the best evidence is the presence of the document.

If he had filed the application, he should have a copy of it but he did not present it and instead he showed a video to media, he said.

"The Trillanes' amnesty is merely a political maneuver by Noynoy Aquino which clearly had no legal basis," he added.

Alvin Murcia and Elmer N. Manuel

AFP, PNP hunt Trillanes

Court martial raps remain

As the court martial already acquired jurisdiction over him, it was not lost just because he's already separated from the service

By Mario J. Mallari and Kathleen Mae Buiquerin

Not only the police but also the military is ready to seize embattled Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV after President Rodrigo Duterte voided the amnesty he received from former President Benigno Aquino on the military uprisings he led during the term of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who is now House Speaker.

The moment that the court issues a warrant, Trillanes can be apprehended immediately despite the congressional immunity from arrest on members of the Senate, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said.

Guevarra added the police will have to wait for the warrant before arresting the senator.

Guevarra clarified though that he is only speaking based on the rules applying to civilians and regular courts.

"I am not in the military so I don't know their rules pertaining to arrests," he added.

AFP, PNP hunt Trillanes

About 50 policemen and soldiers had been dispatched to the Senate since Tuesday

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also ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to proceed with the court martial case against the senator.

The AFP said it had readied the former detention cell of the senator in the AFP Custodial Center at Camp Aguinaldo to accept Trillanes for his court martial proceedings.

The jail cell has been refurbished after it has been used as a temporary holding area for drug lords, Department of National Defense (DND) spokesman Arsenio Andolong said.

According to Andolong, the jurisdiction of the court martial was established during the time Trillanes was still in the AFP.

As a Lieutenant Senior Grade of the Philippine Navy, Trillanes launched a coup attempt against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that was called the Oakwood mutiny when he and some 300 junior officers and enlisted men of the AFP took over the Oakwood towers in Makati City.

"As the court martial already acquired jurisdiction over him, it was not lost just because he's already separated from the service," AFP Internal Audit Service head Ronald Patrick Rubin said.

"So the military proceedings would continue as these were acts that he committed while he was in active service and that the charges were instituted while he was still (a member of the AFP)," he added.

Rubin said the AFP said it is now checking the status of the cases against Trillanes before the court martial.

"They may have been dismissed on the grounds of amnesty, so if these were dismissed because of the amnesty, then the charges remain," he said.

No immunity

Guevarra said the offenses of Trillanes are not covered by his congressional immunity from arrest.

"The immunity only applies to charges punishable by not more than six years and not on heavier accusations such as *coup d'etat* and mutiny," he said.

"*Coup d'etat* is punishable with life imprisonment. The member of Congress involved is not immune from arrest even while Congress is in session," Guevarra said.

President Duterte has issued Proclamation 572 that revoked the amnesty granted to him by former President Aquino in 2010.

The DoJ had sought an alias arrest warrant and hold departure order against Trillanes before Branch 148 of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The amnesty on Trillanes was voided due to his alleged failure to apply for it and for not admitting his guilt for the failed coup attempts in 2003 and 2007.

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) agents have been in the Senate grounds since Tuesday to "pre-position" themselves in case a warrant of arrest is issued against Trillanes, Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman Senior Supt. Benigno Durana Jr. said.

Full battle gear

Aside from the CIDG, other police and military teams were in the Senate premises in Pasay City since Tuesday – apparently to keep track of Trillanes, a former Navy officer and one of the core leaders of the Magdalo Group.

Yesterday, soldiers and members of police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), in full battle gear, were very visible roaming around the Senate premises.

About 50 policemen and soldiers had been dispatched to the Senate since Tuesday.

Police mobile patrols were also on watch on all entry and exit gates of the Senate.

Among the personalities who visited Trillanes at his office yesterday were Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto who dismissed the proclamation as illegal and supporters and partymates from Magdalo Group.

In hiding

Trillanes who continued to take refuge at the Senate is considering to challenge Mr. Duterte's proclamation at the Supreme Court.

"This proclamation is a trash, we will file a petition for TRO (temporary restraining order) before the Supreme Court," Trillanes said.

"We will be questioning the proclamation and its validity," he added.

The senator said that, upon the advice of his legal team, he would be staying at the Senate until they can seek legal remedy on the issue. He has not gone outside the Senate building since Tuesday.

No sight of Trillanes papers

The DND said it has not located the documents of Trillanes' application for amnesty.

"We do not have any copy of that (application of amnesty), and even a blank copy of that form, because this was a unique case that was applied to their group, I was told that it was a note of allegiance and showed only a video, picture. Unfortunately, it seems that he was the only one who has the original copy because we can't locate it," Andolong said.

Andolong added that "if he physically submitted it to the committee or Malacañang, we do not know, only he can answer that."

***Coup d'etat* is punishable with life imprisonment.**

DND said there's still hope the amnesty application can be retrieved even if this was executed eight years ago.

"There have been renovations of the office so there's a possibility that it was lost, but you will never know, there might be someone who has a copy," Andolong said.

Rubin said they are trying to contact the staff of the DND committee who received and granted Trillanes' amnesty.

Trillanes turned the tables on the DND and the AFP for supposedly losing the amnesty application he filed in January 2011.

Coordination vital, Sotto tells PNP, AFP

SENATE President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III told the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to always coordinate with the Senate sergeant-at-arms before entering their premises to avoid possible conflict.

"Bago pumasok ang armed component ng any institution of the government, kailangan magpaalam sa amin either magsabi sa sergeant at arms para ipaalam sa amin, yun ang usapan namin ngayon," Sotto said.

Sotto said that some senators expressed alarm after some armed men in uniform tried to enter the Senate premises last Tuesday supposedly to arrest Senator Antonio Trillanes IV on orders of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The armed men were barred by the Senate security personnel and were forced to stay outside the building.

Following this, Sotto said that the Senate leadership will issue a memorandum that will limit the entry of armed government personnel inside the building to ensure the safety of all people working inside it.

The memorandum's purpose is also to make sure that armed criminals will not be able to slip past Senate security by disguising as government agents of law.

"For all you know baka mamaya mayroong mga dumating dyan nakapintura ang sasakyan kunwari pulis mga armado sila yun pala masasamang loob at pinasok tayong bigla dito nagsesession tayo," Sotto reasoned out.

The Senate president however sees no problem with members of the military and police guarding the vicinity of the Senate.

Marlon Purificacion

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Drug lords magiging kakosa

Selda ni Trillanes sa Camp Aguinaldo redi na

Nakahanda na ang AFP Custodial Center sa Camp Aguinaldo para pagkulungan kay Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV na ipinasasalang muli sa general court martial matapos ipawalang bisa ni Pangulong Duterte ang amnestiya at ipag-utos ang pag-aresto laban sa senador.

Kapag nagkataon magiging kakosa ni Trillanes ang 8 sa mga binansagang Bilibid 19 na mga drug lords na sina Herbert Colangco, Robert Durano, Jerry Pipino, Noel Martinez, German Agojo, Jaime Patio, Thomas Donina at Rodolfo Maglec.

Sinabi ni Defense spokesman Arsenio Andolong na hindi na kailangan ng warrant of arrest ng korte para ipatupad nila ang pag-aresto kay Trillanes dahil sa ilalim ng military justice system ay kailangan lang mag-isyu ng arrest order ang Provost Marshal ng AFP para sa sinumang opisyal na isasalang sa court martial.

"So in essence what we're doing now with our Military Police (MPs) and legal officer in the Senate, they are awaiting to acquire his custody for the purpose of returning him to military control and for the purpose of him facing a court martial," dagdag nito.

Una nang sinabi ni AFP spokesman Edgard Arevalo, na balik sa serbisyo militar si Trillanes dahil sa pagpapawalang bisa sa amnestiya nito.

Si Trillanes ay iplinalilitis muli sa court martial kaugnay ng paglabag sa Articles of War (AW) 96 conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) at AW 97 conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. *(Joy Cantos)*

Pagbuhay sa mga kaso ni Trillanes 'di double jeopardy-Malacañang

Hindi maituturing na double jeopardy ang muling pagbuhay sa mga kaso ni Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV na may kaugnayan sa mutiny matapos na pawalang-bisa ang ipinagkaloob na amnesty dito ng nakaraang administrasyon.

Ito ang siniguro ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, kasunod ng inisyung Proclamation No. 572 na magpapawalang-bisa sa amnesty ni Trillanes dahilan upang isalang ito sa court martial.

Ayon kay Sec. Roque, malayong magkaroon ng double jeopardy gayung wala pa namang pagdinig sa merito ng kaso at wala pa rin namang desisyon sa kung guilty o inosente sa akusasyon ang mambabatas.

"In due course, because the case will have to be revived. There is no double jeopardy, dahil wala pa naman trial on the merits and there was no decision on guilt or innocence. So, the information has to be re-filed and the whole thing has to proceed again. There has to be a determination na tuloy na naman ang kaso and a warrant of arrest will have to be issued again by a court," dagdag pa ni Roque.

Anya, ang kailangan ngayon ay determination upang ituloy ang kaso at makapaglabas ng warrant of arrest ang korte.-*Rudy Andal*-

6 September 2018 PTV Page: 1

Magiging kakosa ang drug lords.

SELDA NI TRILLANES HANDA NA

Ni JOY CANTOS

Matapos na ipawalang bisa ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang amnestiya at pag-aresto kay Senador Antonio Trillanes IV ay nakahanda na ang selda na pagkukulungan nito sa AFP Custodial Center sa Camp Aguinaldo.

Kung mangyayari ito ay magiging kakosa ni Trillanes ang 8 sa mga binansagang Bilibid 19 na mga drug lords na sina Herbert Colangco, Robert Durano, Jerry Pipino, Noel Martinez, German Agojo, Jaime Patio, Thomas Donina at Rodolfo Magleo.

Ayon naman kay Defense Spokesman Arsenio Andolong na hindi na kailangan ng warrant of arrest ng korte para ipatupad nila ang pag-aresto kay Trillanes dahil sa ilalim ng military justice system ay kailangan lang mag-isyu ng arrest order ang Provost Marshal ng AFP para sa sinumang opisyal na isasalang sa court martial.

"Actually there are certain principles na obtaining to that. We have to understand that Article of War violations, they cannot be tried in a civilian court. And a court martial is the only venue wherein such offenses can be tried", anang opisyal

Ayon kay Andolong, bantay sarado na ang Military Police kasama ang ilan nilang opisyal upang makipagkoordinasyon sa mga kinatatakutang opisyal sa Senado para kunin ang kustodya kay Trillanes.

Inihayag naman ni Atty. Patrick Ronald Rubin, Chief ng Internal Affairs Service ng Department of National Defense na dahilan sa pagpapawalang bisa ni Pangulong Duterte sa amnestiya at aktibo pa sa serbisyo si Trillanes kahit sibilyan na ito ay tuloy ang hindi natapos na court martial laban dito.

Una nang sinabi ni AFP Spokesman Edgard Arevalo na balik sa serbisyo militar si Trillanes dahilan sa pagpapawalang bisa sa amnestiya nito.

Si Trillanes ay ipinalilitis muli sa court martial kaugnay ng paglabag sa Articles of War (AW) 96 conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) at AW 97 conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Ang court martial na sisimulan sa lalong madaling panahon ay bubuuin naman ng limang opisyal ng AFP.

Magugunita na si Trillanes ay nasangkot sa Oakwood mutinyo bigong coup de etat laban sa administrasyon ni dating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo noong Hulyo 27, 2003 at Manila Peninsula siege sa Makati City noon namang Nobyembre 29, 2007.

Duterte defends war on drugs before Israelis

By ALEXIS ROMERO

JERUSALEM – President Duterte made a lengthy and impassioned defense of his bloody war on illegal drugs before business groups here, saying there is nothing wrong with killing those who place one's life in danger.

The President said human rights advocates have sued him before the International Criminal Court (ICC) but he insisted that the tribunal has no jurisdiction over him.

He argued that the Rome Statute, which created the ICC, is not binding in the Philippines because it was not published in the *Official Gazette*, the official publication of the government.

"You know you idiots there, you can never acquire jurisdiction over my person. Not in a million years," Duterte said.

"I am now being charged of violating human rights. Now there is no such crime in the Revised Penal Code about what is extrajudicial killing. There is murder, homicide, everything... but extrajudicial killing is very foreign to us," he added.

While claiming to believe in the sanctity of life, Duterte said he could not tolerate the atrocities of criminals and terrorists.

"You know I am a lawyer. I was baptized. I am a Christian and I believe in the value and sanctity of life. But for the life of me, I can never tolerate banditry, the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) thing of just killing people, children and all. I only kill criminals. And if you ask me now – yes, I do," the President said during a business forum here last Tuesday.

"They said the criminals are being killed. But I have not, for the life of me, ordered the killing of a particular person. If you happened to be there, sorry. If you are into drugs, sorry. That's your fault, you asked for it. So my guarantee really is my word," he added.

Duterte said he ordered policemen and soldiers to destroy the drug apparatus in the Philippines even if it means killing those who they think pose threats to their lives.

"If you have to kill, by all means kill. And there is only one everywhere the same philosophy is that you can only kill if your life is also in danger. So if the enemy wants to kill you, then feel free to kill him first," the President said.

Duterte went on to lambast critics of his drug crackdown

in his more-than-hour long speech, which only made a few references to business matters.

Some of the guests of the business forum were seen chatting with each other while Duterte was delivering the lengthy speech.

Duterte assured the Israeli business community that he would not tolerate corruption in government. He promised to cut red tape and to humiliate government personnel who are extorting money from investors.

"If you are into business in the Philippines, there are rules to be followed. But I'm going to make it simpler and simpler – the rules when I go back. And I want it really to be graft-free," the President said.

"And if there is anyone of you here now, and I give you my guarantee, if anyone of you here would do business in the Philippines and you are given a hard time, especially if you are being milked or extorted... Tell me. I will grant you an audience even in the middle of the night and hear you out," he added.

Duterte reiterated his call for businessmen to report corrupt officials who are embarrassing the country.

"You name him, I will call him and in front of me I will say to you, 'Slap him. Slap him twice on both cheeks,' because he is insulting you, he is insulting your character and for me, he puts my country into shame," he said.

"There will be no corruption. There will be no harassment, no nothing... We would be happy (to have) somebody like you, gentlemen and ladies doing business in my city, contributing to the nation-building of the Republic of the Philippines."

While Duterte does not care about the criticisms against his war on illegal drugs, he admitted being disappointed with "problematic" Filipinos who always find fault in him.

"We have the NPAs (New People's Army), we have the Muslim insurgency and the drugs, but the most problematic also is the Filipinos itself," the President said.

"You cannot do good. It's always wrong. And so we will just have to navigate where democracy allows us a space to work and produce results," he added.

Duterte chided the communist rebels, whom he said are the "loudest in shouting violation of human rights."

– With Elizabeth Marcelo

6 September 2018 The Manila Times Page: A12

Duterte seeks Israel's help

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has asked Israel to help improve the Philippines' disaster response.

The President made the appeal following his visit to Israel's emergency response organization on Tuesday.

In his speech, Duterte acknowledged the "very efficient" rescue operation displayed by Israel's disaster response team.

"You got it right. The rescue was punctual and precise, the way you handled it. Of course it could have been a product of several practices, but it shows that you are very efficient," Duterte said.

The Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's equivalent of the Philippine Red Cross, is the national ambulance service that also runs the national blood bank.

Duterte said advanced technological devices for disaster response and rehabilitation similar to the MDA's would be beneficial for the Philippines, especially in times of disaster.

"There's a lot of terror attacks going on, not only here but all over the world and my country is no exception. We just had about two explosions in one of the provinces in Mindanao. One day and the day after there was also these two explosions, and we expect more," he said, referring to the bombings that occurred within a week in Isulan town, Sultan Kudarat A13

"And I'm sure that your government, Israel government would only be willing to help us," the President added.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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Israeli support for anti-terror drive sought

By Nat Mariano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said Wednesday he anticipates more terrorist attacks in the south following the two deadly bombing incidents in Isulan town, Sultan Kudarat.

"There's a lot of terror attacks going on, not only here but all over the world and my country is not an exception," Duterte said as he and Philippine Red Cross chairman Senator Richard Gordon witnessed Magen David Adom's response demonstration to a terror attack.

"We just had about two explosions in one of the provinces in Mindanao, and we expect more," Duterte told Israel's national emergency service.

"I'm sure your government would be willing to help us."

Duterte highlighted the importance of developing the country's emergency response to calamities and attacks.

On Sunday, a bomb was detonated inside an Internet shop in Barangay Kalawag 2, in the town of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, at past seven in the evening, leaving two people dead and several others wounded.

On Aug. 28, an improvised explosive device was also detonated during the Isulan's Hamungaya Festival, killing three people and injuring more than 30 others.

Following the recent bombings in the south, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said there was a possibility martial law would be extended in Mindanao. He said the extension was an option.

Malacañang has already assured the local government of Isulan that it is in control of the situation, saying the government will defend democracy and the public.

Following the back-to-back incident of bombing under their watch, Philippine National Police chief Oscar Albayalde has already ordered the relief of the provincial police officials.

DU30 prefers Israel's military equipment

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has expressed preference to source military equipment from Israel, one of the world's top arms exporters, days after he expressed coolness toward the sales pitch of treaty ally, the United States.

Duterte made the statement during his meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at the presidential compound in Jerusalem in a visit that was marked by protest against possible arms deal.

"My orders to my military is that in terms of military equipment particularly intelligence gathering, we only have one country to buy it from them. That is my order specifically, Israel," Duterte told Rivlin, noting intelligence gadgets from Israel helped the Philippine military win against Islamic State-inspired rebels who laid siege to Marawi City last year.

The President called the US a "good friend," but said "if he would sell you something, he would also be listening."

"And so with China and everybody else, Germany. So you can be very sure that they are also amply connected with you," he said.

Duterte had repeatedly accused the US Central Intelligence Agency of plotting to kill him and eavesdropping on his phone conversations. He said the relations between the Philippines and its former colonizer, the US, have never been of "mutuality and respect."

He also appeared to have rejected on August 23 the proposal of three of US President Donald Trump's Cabinet members to sell weapons and defense equipment after one US government official warned the Philippines against buying submarines from Washington's rival, Russia.

As for Israel, Duterte said: "I do not see any reason that there would be a problem in our relationship. We are too far away. We do not belong to the sphere of geopolitics here. But we side on what is morally right."

"And you can be sure that the Philippines will remain loyal to the tenets of democracy and the right of a nation to exist peacefully."

He also called for cooperation between Israel and the Philippines in fighting terrorism. **Efren Montano**

6 September 2018 MALAYA Page: 10

AFP bibili ng military equipment sa Israel

Inatasan ni Pangulong Duterte ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na bumili lamang ng kinakailangang mga military equipment sa Israel.

"You have extended us critical assistance during the Marawi siege against the extremists. And the equipment that you lent us helped us a lot to win the war and shortened the period of fighting," sabi ni Pangulong Duerte kay Israeli President Reuven Rivlin sa kanyang pagbisita sa official residence nito kamakalawa.

Siniguro rin ng Pangulo na palalakasin nito ang kooperasyon nito sa Israel sa larangan ng trade at investment.

Nagpasalamat naman si Israel President Rivlin sa Pilipinas dahil sa pagtulong sa mga Jews sa panahon ng Holocaust.

"I must say that all those people who have found safe haven in your place are very much appreciated by us," sabi naman ni President Rivlin.

Si Pangulong Duterte ang kauna-unahang Filipino leader na bumisita sa Israel.

Kahapon ay tinapos na rin ng Pangulo ang kanyang 4-day state visit at nagtungo naman ito sa Jordan. *(Rudy Andal)*

Duterte bibili ng mga armas sa Israel

Nakatakdang bumili ng mga military equipment ang Pilipinas sa Israel kaya't inatasan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na bumili lamang ng kinakailangang mga kagamitan.

Ito ang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte kay Israeli President Reuven Rivlin sa kanyang pagbisita sa official residence nito kamakalawa at nagpasalamat din sa ginawa nitong pagtulong sa pamamagitan nang pagpapahiram ng mga gamit noong Marawi siege na agad napagwagian at natapos ng maaga ang giyera.

"And there are a lot of opportunities. Israel can help us on this. And of course, to set up investments…business in my country," sabi pa ni Duterte.

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Robredo condemns 'persecution' of opposition

By MARVIN SY
and HELEN FLORES

Citing glaring legal infirmities of the proclamation issued to revoke the amnesty of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and cause his arrest, Vice President Leni Robredo, several senators and lawyers rallied behind the embattled lawmaker in seeking justice.

Robredo said she stands by Trillanes, being an appparent victim of political persecution due to his unwavering criticisms against the administration.

She vowed to join those who are not afraid to express grievances against the government of Duterte.

"We told Senator Trillanes that we are aware that this is not correct. We are one with him in this fight. We'll do everything to stop this kind of persecution to silence our voices," Robredo told the media during a visit in Zamboanga City yesterday.

The persecution is also perceived, given the lack of basis and infirmities of the proclamation.

For one, Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano, who was amnestied like Trillanes after the uprisings they staged against the Arroyo administration, said the military no longer has jurisdiction over Trillanes because he is now a civilian and thus could no longer be court-martialed.

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said the same thing – Trillanes was "automatically resigned from the military service when he first filed his (certificate of candidacy) for senator."

Robredo strongly condemned Trillanes' "persecution," warning that these acts of silencing critics will all the more unite the opposition against the Duterte government.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said the premise for the issuance of Proclamation No. 572 revoking the amnesty granted to Trillanes was erroneous because he did file an application for it, contrary to what was written in President Duterte's order.

Also, Macalintal and Rowena Daroy-Morales, director of the Office Legal Aid of the University of the Philippines College of Law, said Duterte cannot order the arrest of Trillanes without a warrant of arrest from a "competent court" having jurisdiction over any criminal cases filed against the senator.

Macalintal likewise agreed with other law experts that the amnesty that had congressional concurrence could not be revoked by Duterte alone. The issue also went through the lower courts and all the way to the Supreme Court before it became final.

The Department of Justice has filed an urgent motion before the Makati City regional trial court seeking issuance of an alias warrant of arrest against Trillanes, to update the previous warrant issued against him. – With Roel Pareño, Jess Diaz

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Robredo: Silencing critics will not work

BY ANGELA LOPEZ DE LEON

VICE President Leni Robredo yesterday warned that tactics being employed by the Duterte administration to silence its critics will embolden the opposition and amplify critical voices.

"Silencing those who oppose (the administration) is not effective because this will only amplify our voices. The more we will unite to make sure that (opposing) voices, not only ours but also the voice of ordinary Filipinos, will be heard," Robredo told reporters during her visit to Zambanga City with Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV.

"It is wrong that they seem to be killing all dissent. It is not right to silence these voices. Because the reason we are opposing, not for anything, is to correct the wrongdoings," Robredo added.

Robredo made her statements as she reiterated her support for Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, whose amnesty was nullified by Malacañang through Proclamation Order 572.

"We strongly condemn the persecution being done against the opposition. I attended the coalition meeting (on Tuesday) and I was seated beside Sen. Trillanes. It was during this meeting that he received the news that his amnesty was revoked," she said.

"We told Senator Trillanes that we know this is not right. We are one with him. We always show our support as long as it is the right thing to do and will do everything

See ROBREDO ➤ Page B5

to prevent this kind of suppression from happening," added Robredo, who is the chairperson of the Liberal Party.

The Vice President also underscored the importance of healthy discourse in a democratic country, stressing the opposition is meant to keep leaders and institutions in check.

"For example, the rice crisis now, we really need to continue voicing out (on the issue) because we believe that the government did not do its job well, thus, resulting to this," Robredo said.

Robredo and Aquino were in Zamboanga City to hold a dialogue with members of urban poor communities and businessmen on the rice shortage problem that had prompted the local government to declare a state of calamity.

They also visited a public market in the city to check on the prices of rice and other basic commodities.

Malacanang officials insisted the voiding of Trillanes' amnesty was not meant to divert the public's attention from the problems of the country.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque Jr. and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo in separate and several radio interviews said President Duterte was just implementing the law when he signed the proclamation order.

"Ang aming sinasabi lang po, hindi naman pupuwede gagawa ng krimen at hindi mapapanagot. Siyempre po darating ang panahon na ang lahat po ay kinakailangan mapanagot kung sila po ay lumabag sa batas (What we are saying is, you cannot commit a crime and not be accountable for it. The time will come when those who violate the law will be held accountable)," Roque said.

He said Trillanes should be made accountable for breaking the law when he led several soldiers during the Oakwood Mutiny and the Fort Bonifacio and the Peninsula Manila sieges.

Roque also denied that the administration was trying to get back at people who had been critical or who had opposed the Duterte administration like detained Sen. Leila de Lima, former chief justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and now Trillanes.

"Wala pong ganoong nais si Presidente na tumahimik ang oposisyon. Naniniwala po ang Presidente sa kalayaan ng malayang pagsasalita. Si Presidente lamang pag ikaw ay lumabag sa batas pananagutin ka dahil iyan naman po ang katungkulan ni Presidente, na ipatupad ang ating mga batas (There is no such desire for the President to silence the opposition. The President believes in freedom of speech. But the President also believes that if you broke the law you will be held accountable because that is the mandate of the President, to implement the law)," he added.

Roque said that should a warrant of arrest be issued against Trillanes, it will not be the first time that a sitting senator is arrested and jailed as he cited the case of De Lima.

Panelo said the law applies to all regardless if you are poor or rich, influential or not, a politician or an ordinary citizen.

He said Trillanes is not being singled out as the cases of the other beneficiaries of the amnesty program are also being reviewed.

"Hindi naman pupuwedeng isa lang ang pupuntiryahin mo, dalawa o tatlo. Dapat lahat iyan, pantay-pantay ang pagtingin sa lahat (It is not right to just focus on one or two or three. It should be all. There should be equal treatment for all)," he said.

Panelo also said that just because the amnesty granted to

Trillanes had been voided, it does not immediately mean that the amnesty granted to others like Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano and Civil Defense deputy administrator Nicanor Faeldon are also void.

He stressed that if they complied with the requirements like an application for amnesty and admission of guilt, there should be no problem.

Meanwhile, Sen. Francis Escudero described as "overkill" the deployment of armed soldiers and policemen around the Senate premises, including the GSIS grounds.

Escudero questioned the "militarization" of the Senate despite the assurance of Trillanes that he will surrender once a court issues an arrest warrant.

"It's a cause for concern because the institution is being militarized... which should not be the case because first, Sen. Trillanes assured that he would submit himself and he would not resist if an arrest warrant is issued against him. Second, they were not able to present a warrant so, I don't know what and why are they here," Escudero said.

"It's not good in eyesight, what they were doing is overkill without justification, that's my view," he added.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto also wondered why the police and military, who numbered around 40 on Tuesday, continue to linger in the Senate compound.

"From what I know, there is no warrant of arrest issued by any court, so what are they doing there? There's no warrant of arrest," Recto stressed.

Trillanes has been placed under the custody of Senate President Vicente Sotto III. He has been holed up in his office since Tuesday and has vowed to stay within the Senate premises until the issue has been threshed out.

Recto said the police and military cannot arrest Trillanes even if he steps outside of the Senate premises since "there is no warrant of arrest. The Makati RTC (Regional Trial Court) did not issue a warrant."

Sotto said the Senate will issue a memorandum regulating the entry of armed personnel at the premises.

"(The memorandum will regulate) the flow of armed men in the Senate premises or the entry of armed men in the Senate premises," Sotto said, adding the issuance of the memorandum was agreed by the senators during their caucus last Tuesday.

He said the PNP and the AFP will be given a copy of the memorandum once it is released, adding that the crowding of armed men inside the Senate will also be regulated since other armed groups might enter the building posing as back-ups of officials who will attend Senate hearings.

Sotto said the PNP and AFP personnel can still enter the Senate premises as long as there is coordination.

PNP spokesman Benigno Durana Jr. said members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) at the Senate grounds were deployed to assist their counterparts in the AFP once a warrant of arrest is issued against Trillanes.

"Our role is just to assist and at the same time preposition our personnel. It is a tactical move of the CIDG to be there so they can smoothly carry out the arrest if the warrant of arrest is issued," Durana said.

He said they will also provide legal advices to the AFP regarding the present situation considering that some of the CIDG men are lawyers.

Durana said the CIDG ground commander assigned at the Senate grounds was given discretion by CIDG chief Director Roel Obusan on how long they will stay at the Senate. – ***With JP Lopez and Raymond Africa***

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Peace camp

BUTUAN CITY – The three-day 2018 Youth Cluster Peace Camp was a huge success where the Army was able to produce 143 youth peace builders in Southern Mindanao, according to First Lt. Jhocell D. Asis, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the 71st Infantry (Kaibigan) Battalion (71st IB). In a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin late Tuesday afternoon, the 71st CMO officer said the new youth peace builders came from the entire Masara Lines in Maco, Compostela Valley (ComVal) province. With this year's theme "Pakiglambigit sa Kabatan-onan: Enrooting Peacebuilding for an Empowered and Participative Youth in the Grassroots", the Peace Camp successfully concluded, with a pledge of commitment from the participants to spread peace in their respective communities. One of the highlighted parts of the camp was the "Kultura Night" wherein participants showed their artistic and creative style in dancing, singing, and drama. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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RICMC 13 reconvened

BUTUAN CITY – The Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee (RICMC) - Caraga Region 13 reconvened on Tuesday, in an effort to continue explore the region's industrial peace. The RICMC meeting was attended by representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), National Mediation and Conciliation Board (NCMB), Office of Civil Defense- Department of National Defense (OCD-DND), Department of Justice (DOJ), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP). Among the objectives of the RICMC is to take the lead in job preservation, to explore all remedies/avenues necessary and feasible to peaceful settlement of a potential or actual strike, picket, or lock-out, or any labor dispute especially those considered as high profile cases and imbued with national interest and to undertake coordinative efforts thru information sharing and data gathering, DOLE 13 Regional Director Chona M. Mantilla told The Manila Bulletin on Wednesday. (Mike U. Crismundo) 12

Go assures soldiers of govt support

SPECIAL Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go assured the Candidate Soldier Class 532-2018 of government support, saying the Duterte administration will continue to modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In his speech at the closing ceremony at Camp General Mateo Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, Go said the aspiring soldiers would be eligible for increased base pay once they are deployed. Some 240 candidates soldiers, consisting of 234 males and six females, finished 16 weeks of physical, mental, and emotional training.

"The increase I was referring to is in their base pay. It used to be around P14,000, but now it is P29,000. Their entry position salary has been doubled effective January 2018," he said.

The candidate soldiers aspire to be members of the Army. After graduation, they will be deployed to Mindanao, Region IV-A (Calabarzon), or Region IV-B (Mimaropa).

Go said the "third horizon" of military modernization is ongoing, under which the AFP would acquire equipment "for the external defense of the Armed Forces, Air Force, Navy, and Army."

He said one of President Rodrigo Duterte's agenda in his official visit to Israel was to look for military equipment that could be purchased for the military.

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NPA commander, 3 others yield in Southern Mindanao

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY – An alleged Communist New People's Army (NPA) commander and three other rebels surrendered to troops of the 60th Infantry Battalion (60th IB) in Southern Mindanao, Capt. Jerry S. Lamosao, chief of Public Affairs Office (CMO) of the Army's Southern Mindanao 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID) yesterday said.

In a phone interview with The Manila Bulletin, the 10th "Agila" Division PAO officer said the NPA commander and his three men belonged to the Sub-Regional Committee 4 (SRC 4) of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC).

The identities of the surrenderers were temporarily withheld for their safety and security, but Lamosao said two of them belonged to the Ata-Manobo tribe in highland communities in Davao del Norte province.

During the initial interview the former rebels revealed that they were left abandoned by their comrades-in-arms in the highland Kilangkog area, Barangay Kauswagan, Loreto, Agusan del Sur province, the 10th ID PAO officer said. 12

"Fearful for their safety, they decided to surrender upon hearing from their former supporters that 10th ID still accept surrenderers," Lamosao said.

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Poll on Bangsamoro region set for Jan. 21

By Tina G. Santos
@santostinaINQ

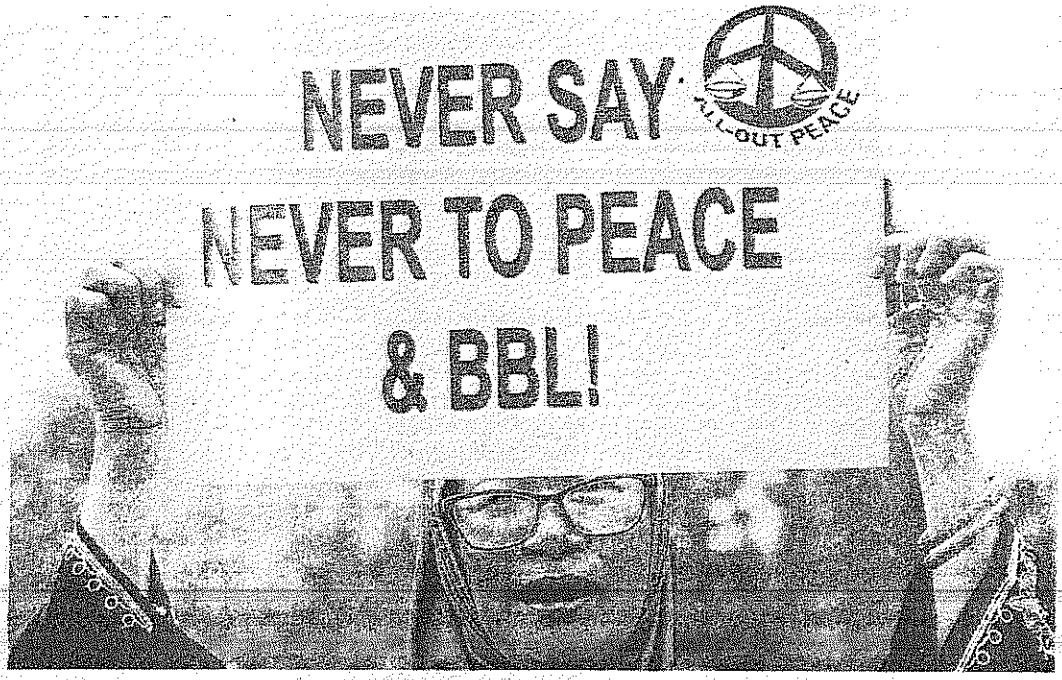
The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has set the plebiscite for the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law on Jan. 21 next year.

In a statement, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said special registration activities in the Bangsamoro "core territories" would be conducted from Sept. 11 to 13.

The campaign period will begin on Dec. 7 and end on Jan. 19, 2019, he said.

The plebiscite period runs from Dec. 7, 2018, to Feb. 5, 2019.

On July 27 this year, President Duterte signed Republic Act No. 11054, or the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which creates the Bangsamoro autonomous region to replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).



SUPPORTING PEACE A Muslim woman joins a gathering in Metro Manila in July to show support for the passage of the law creating the Bangsamoro autonomous region, which various groups say will lead to peace in several areas in Mindanao.—LYN RILLON

The law, which grants self-rule and autonomy for the Muslim south, has for years been a crucial missing element to a languishing peace pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which, along with other groups, has waged a rebellion that has claimed about 150,000 lives since the 1970s.

The BARMM would be composed of the current provinces of ARMM, six towns in Lanao del Norte province, 39 barangay in North Cotabato province, Cotabato City as well as Isabela City in Basilan province.

But the six towns in Lanao del Norte and 39 barangay in North Cotabato will be allowed to join the BARMM only if their "mother units"—cities or provinces—also agree to it in a plebiscite.

Among the powers given to the Bangsamoro government are the budget, education, fisheries, health, housing, labor and land reform and use.

Ballot printing

In Marawi City, the Comelec on Wednesday assured it was ready to hold the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in the Lanao del Sur provincial capital on Sept. 22.

"Percentage-wise, we are already 95 percent prepared. So, all preparations are already in place," Teopisto Elnas, Comelec project director for Marawi elections, said in a press conference at the National Printing Office (NPO).

The Comelec on Wednesday began printing the 76,384 official ballots at the NPO.

Also up for printing are 354 sets of election returns or 177 sets each for barangay and SK votes.

The village and youth council elections in Marawi was rescheduled as the city had yet to recover from the devastation as a result of the five-month fighting between government troops and Islamic State-inspired fighters led by the Maute terror group last year.

Security preparation

Elnas said the Comelec was closely coordinating with the police and the military for security preparations in the village and youth polls.

"So far, we have not received any intelligence reports of threat as far as Marawi is concerned. But we will still beef up our security to the point of saturating every voting center," he said.

Comelec spokesperson Jimenez said 234 filed their certificates of candidacy (COC) for barangay chair while another 862 were running for barangay *kagawad* (council member).

He said 162 COCs were filed for SK chair while 193 for SK kagawad.

"We had our concerns that only a few will file COCs. But we do not have any barangay with zero candidates," said Jimenez.

The Comelec has also identified the alternative voting centers, where voters from villages within ground zero, or the area most affected by the fighting last year, will cast their votes.

These include the Multi-Purpose Hall in Area 4, Barangay Sagonsongan; Marawi Central Elementary Pilot School and Dansalan Integrated School in Area 2, Barangay Sagonsongan; Bito Elementary School in Barangay Bito Buadi Parba; Rorogagus Elementary School in Barangay Rorogagus Proper; and Calocan Elementary School East District in Barangay Calocan East.

According to the Comelec, 15,096 registered voters in 27 villages are set to vote in 51 clustered precincts in the alternative voting centers. —WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

Plebiscite for Bangsamoro region set Jan. 21

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is set to hold the plebiscite for the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region on Jan. 21 in areas in Mindanao that are being considered for inclusion.

Based on a memorandum signed by Comelec deputy executive director for operations Bartolome Sinocruz Jr., the poll body has set the date of the plebiscite on the third Monday of January next year.

"During the Comelec en banc meeting held on Aug. 29, it was resolved that the date of the conduct of the plebiscite to ratify the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) shall be on Jan. 21, 2019," Sinocruz said.

According to Comelec spokesman James Jimenez, the plebiscite period runs from Dec. 7, 2018 to Feb. 5, 2019.

Jimenez added the campaign period will be from Dec. 7, 2018 to Jan. 19, 2019.

"The public is further reminded that special registration activities in the Bangsamoro Core Territories will be conducted from Sept. 11 to 13, 2018," Jimenez said.

He gave assurance the preparation and conduct of the plebiscite will not affect the May 2019 midterm polls.

"Note that the elections will be happening just after many of the major preparations for 2019 have been completed, around December, and just before the projected start of the campaign," he said.

Jimenez said the timing of the plebiscite is "actually good" even if there will be midterm elections four months later.

Being eyed for inclusion are the current provinces under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao – Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Also being eyed for inclusion are 39 barangays in North Cotabato, six municipalities in Lanao del Norte and the cities of Cotabato in Maguindanao and Isabela in Basilan. – With **John Unson, Michael Punongbayan**

6 September 2018 Malaya The National Newspaper Page: B2

New Bangsamoro region plebiscite set Jan. 21

BY GERARD NAVAL

THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) has set the plebiscite for the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on January 21, 2019 in Mindanao areas being eyed for inclusion in the new political entity.

"During the Comelec en banc meeting held on August 29, it was resolved that the date of the conduct of the plebiscite to ratify the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) shall be on January 21, 2019," stated a memorandum signed by Deputy Executive Director for Operations (DEDO) Bartolome Sinocruz.

The memorandum likewise stated the plebiscite period will be from December 7 to February 5, while the campaign period will begin on December 7 and end midnight of January 19.

The poll body also set a special satellite registration for the Bangsamoro core territories will be held from September 11 to 13.

The Bangsamoro Organic Law has proposed the inclusion of the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi as core territories of the BARMM.

Also being eyed for inclusion are 39 barangays in North Cotabato, six municipalities in Lanao del Norte, and the cities of Cotabato in Maguindanao, and Isabela in Basilan.

The Comelec has said it will need P854 million for the conduct of the Bangsamoro region plebiscite. B2

Under the law, only a favorable result of the plebiscite, both for the areas proposed for inclusion as well as their mother units, shall result to their inclusion to the new region.

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Cotabato mayor convenes peace council, calls for public vigilance

COTABATO CITY – The mayor here convened the City Peace and Order Council (CPOC) for an emergency meeting on Tuesday, to design steps that would strengthen security measures following the recent twin bombings in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

"I am requesting our authorities to impose strictly the No I.D (identification document), No Entry policy in all our checkpoints," Mayor Frances Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi said during the CPOC meeting at the South Seas Complex attended by police and military officials, local officials, the private sector and other city elected officials.

"We should not loosen our guard because terrorism is everywhere," she stressed. "We need to work together to ensure our people are safe from terrorism."

Sayadi also called on her constituents to be calm and watchful, especially when in public places.

"Again, I urge our people to remain calm but vigilant against the threat of terrorism, immediately report to authorities all suspicious persons or packages left unattended," she said.

"I ask for your understanding, we need to strictly impose curfew hours," Sayadi said, adding that village officials have vital roles in ensuring anyone coming into the village are known to them.

She asked people in populated public places like churches, mosques, markets, terminals, and plazas to remain watchful of people around them. "Terrorism will not succeed when all of us are working together against it," the mayor said.

In the past, lawless elements from nearby Maguindanao province had repeatedly tried to set off improvised bombs in the city but alert police and military personnel operating under Task Force Kutawato foiled most of them.

The mayor also ordered the posting on social media of police and military hotline numbers that the public can use to report any suspicious persons or things in their midst.

Barely an hour after the Sept. 3 bombing of an Isulan Internet café, Sayadi ordered a lockdown of Cotabato City to thwart any possible diversionary bomb attacks. 12

6 September 2015 The Manila Times Page: A7

SECURITY TIGHTENED IN AREAS PRONE TO BIFF BOMB ATTACKS

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Security has been tightened in public places in Central Mindanao that are vulnerable to bomb attacks by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), according to a military official on Wednesday.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the 6th Infantry Division (6th ID), said both police and the military have tightened security after BIFF militants executed two Teduray farmers and wounded two soldiers in separate attacks hours before a fatal bombing in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Sunday.

Encinas said the BIFF attacks earlier on Sunday in Maguindanao began with the abduction and execution of Teduray farmers Nestor Daingan and Rene Usman, in a remote part of Datu Hoffer Ampatuan town of Maguindanao.

He said the two farmers were on their way to their farms when BIFF bandits led by Jai Abubakar and Boy Sarong flagged them down, hogtied and shot them dead.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Army's 6th ID, said military intelligence agents are now helping the police build corresponding criminal cases against the killers.

Abubakar and Sarong are wanted for leading attacks on Teduray villages last year. The two BIFF commanders and their followers then burned more than a dozen houses belonging to the Teduray indigenous people and carted away farm animals after the owners fled to safer areas.

The BIFF, who claim allegiance to the Islamic State, are having mostly radical clerics who teach hatred of non-Muslims.

The brutal murder of helpless civilians like Daingan and Usman preceded the BIFF's harassment of three detachments in nearby Datu Unsay town.

Two Army soldiers, 1Lt. Rey-Jay Ramos and Sgt. Jerry Nicor, were wounded while preventing the gunmen from encroaching into the perimeter of their detachment.

Residents said four BIFF bandits, identified only as Kemzar, Norodin, Bansil and Uruk, were wounded in the ensuing firefight.

The group has a reputation for launching retaliatory attacks against civilians.

Units of the 6th ID have killed more than 30 BIFF bandits in encounters in far-flung Maguindanao towns in the last four months.

The bombing on Sunday night was carried out five days after BIFF members set off an improvised explosive device (IED) in Barangay Kalawag also in Isulan, killing three and wounding more than 30 others.

Both the 6th ID and the Police Regional Office-12 said the BIFF is responsible for the two IED attacks. A7

But Abu Misry Mama, BIFF spokesman, in an interview over a local radio station based in Cotabato City, vehemently denied that their group was responsible for setting up the two IEDs in Isulan.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

5 September 2018 Malaya The National Newspaper Page: B2

Comelec all set for barangay, SK polls in Marawi

ALL is set for the conduct of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections in Marawi City on September 22, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said.

In a press conference, Comelec Project Director for Marawi Elections Teopisto Elnas said preparations for the local polls are already 95 percent complete.

Elnas said the local Comelec office is closely coordinating with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the security preparations for the village and youth polls.

"So far, we have not received any intelligence reports of threat as far as Marawi is concerned. But we will still beef up our security to the point of saturating every voting center," he said.

The police and military in the Mindanao region are on heightened alert following the recent twin bombings in the town of Isulan in Sultan Kudarat.

Elnas said the poll body has not received any reports of teachers refusing to serve as Board of Election Tellers (BETs).

He also said the local electric cooperative in Marawi has given assurance there will be no power outages in the city in the days prior, during, and after the elections.

He added they are likewise coordinating with the Department of Health and the Philippine Red Cross for the establishment of emergency health stations in poll precincts to address any health-related problems that might happen during the elections.

The Comelec has identified alternative voting centers where voters from barangays within "ground zero" can cast their votes.

These centers are the multi-purpose hall in Area 4 in Barangay Sagonsongan; Marawi Central Elementary Pilot School and Dansalan Integrated School in Area 2, Barangay Sagonsongan; Bito Elementary School in Barangay Bito Buadi Parba; Rorogagus Elementary School in Barangay Rorogagus Proper; and Calocan Elementary School East District in Barangay Calocan East.

A total of 27 affected barangays with 15,096 registered voters are set to vote in the 51 clustered precincts in the five alternative voting centers.

Comelec Spokesman James Jimenez said a total of 234 individuals have filed their Certificates of Candidacy (COC) for barangay chairman, while another 862 are running for barangay kagawad.

There are also 162 COCs filed for SK chairman and 193 youth leaders are gunning for SK kagawad.

"We had our concerns that only a few will file COCs. But we do not have any barangay with zero candidates," Jimenez said.

The Comelec on Wednesday started printing the 76,384 official ballots -including 50,893 for barangay and 25,491 for SK - at the National Printing Office (NPO) in Quezon City. B2

Also up for printing are 354 sets of election returns or 177 sets each for barangay and SK votes.

Jimenez, quoting the NPO, said the printing of the official ballots will only run for more than an hour. – *Gerard Naval*

SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

Only in the Philippines is this happening

Finally, the Duterte administration has done something to keep that noisy Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV looking back at what he has done or should I say that he has undone for this country. Yes, I'm referring to the big news that Pres. Rodrigo Duterte recently invalidated the grant of amnesty to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for failure to comply with its minimum requirements. Come now, was Sen. Trillanes so reckless that a simple compliance of the minimum requirements for his amnesty he failed to act on, more so that his political patron, P-Noy Aquino was no longer president?

It's time to bring ourselves back to July 2003 when Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV began the infamous Oakwood Mutiny supposedly protesting the "corruption" of the Arroyo administration. Included with Trillanes was Nicanor Faeldon who joined the Peninsula Hotel siege four years later, still protesting the presidency of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Also involved was retired Col. Ariel Querubin.

So when you go back to how then President Benigno Aquino III gave an amnesty to Sen. Trillanes and then later how he mistreated then president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during his six-year term only to hear that the Supreme Court (SC) acquitted the former president of the plunder charge that allowed Pres. Aquino to incarcerate her, then you can now see that what the soldiers of the Magdalo Group had against PGMA was nothing but hearsay. Yet, they did their military misadventure taking over the Oakwood Hotel and years later the Peninsula Hotel and justice did not prevail in their cases. Political issues badly intervened!

So now let's get back to the present. The million peso question people would like to know is whether or not Pres. Duterte has the power to revoke the amnesty given to Sen. Trillanes and the soldiers who joined his mutinous misadventure. This is something that we would like to see. But then, Solicitor General Jose Calida was accused by Sen. Trillanes of corruption in having the government hire his security guards in an agency, which he owns and controls. But then, the case of Calida is his own look out and if he is guilty with that kind of corruption, then Pres. Duterte should cut him out of his administration.

Now we gathered that the Department of Justice and the Armed Forces' court martial were instructed to "pursue all criminal and administrative cases" against Trillanes over military uprisings in 2003 and 2007, according to a copy of Duterte's proclamation, which was confirmed by Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra. The military and the police were also ordered to "employ all lawful means to apprehend Trillanes" so that he could be detained.

To be totally honest about this issue... I strongly believe that Sen. Trillanes should be jailed for the Oakwood Mutiny. But then this is the Philippines where he did not only get an amnesty from Pres. Aquino, he was also elected senator of this land. This is how bad the Philippines has become. Senators should have great reputation coupled with great patriotism. But thanks to our very flawed election system, a rogue military man could become a senator of the land. Only in the Philippines as pundits would say.

* * *

Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of a book entitled, "The Quest for Federal Republic: The PDP Laban Model of Philippine Federalism" edited by Jonathan Malaya which was sent to me by the PDP Laban Federalism Institute. This book is available at the following bookstores: Rex Bookstore, Fullybooked and Solidaridad Bookshop. You can find articles on federalism by Prof. Edmund Tayao, Dr. Julio Teehankee, Ramon Casiple, and Dr. Alex Brillantes,

Turn to page 12

AVILA From page 9

former Senate president Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

I have been asked to be a reactor in many federalism conferences, but so far I have refused them until I get to read the draft constitution made by the Consultative Committee (ConCom). I hope that this book would be a healthy reading for me who truly believes in federalism even long before then Mayor Rodrigo Duterte started talking about federalism.

To those who believe that the Philippines is not ready for federalism, I ask them to read the story of West Germany right after the end of World War II where from a single nation called the Third Reich, Germany broke into East and West Germany. But thanks to West Germany, which adopted federalism, it did not take too long for East Germany to rejoin the West and once again, Germany became a single nation under the Federal State of Germany. I don't have to remind you that the most stable nations on this earth have a federal system of governance... so why shouldn't the Philippines not adopt a federal state? Because several politicians do not want our nation to change with the times? *Abangan!*

* * *

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6 September 2018 THE STAR Page: 9

FROM THE STANDS

DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

Starry day for STAR Group

The Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility has recognized philstar.com, the online arm of the STAR Group of Publications, for its reportage on issues during President Rodrigo Duterte's second year in office.

This is more than good news, as CMFR, a non-government organization that promotes responsible journalism and press freedom, annually recognizes and selects "the best, and best practices in Philippine journalism."

The citation comes heart-warming, as it recognizes philstar.com "for coverage that helped Filipinos understand issues that confront them as citizens, and in doing so, fulfilled the role of (the) free press in the Philippines at a time when it is under attack and severely challenged."

Philstar.com's editor Camille Diola was chosen as one of the panelists of this year's Jaime V. Ongpin Journalism Seminar held last week at the AIM conference center in Makati City. News editor Jonathan de Santos represented philstar.com at the seminar.

Other panelists at the seminar were Nestor Burgos (Philippine Daily Inquirer), Gerg Cahiles (CNN Philippines), Natashya Gutierrez (Rappler), Karol Ilagan (Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism) and Jeff Canoy (ABS-CBN Integrated News and Current Affairs), who was also named as this year's Marshall McLuhan fellow.

The panelists were selected by the editors of the Philippine Journalism Review Reports and the CMFR board of trustees.

"We are happy to have found journalists who are a class apart, reporters who have pushed the limits of narrowing space and time to check abuse of power, counter false narratives and correct fake news," CMFR executive director Melinda Quintos de Jesus said.

She added: "[They are] exemplars of best practice and provide the public with news that has gone through a process of fact checking and verification and more important, they work on news that matters."

* * *

The President's nullification of Sen. Sonny Trillanes' amnesty is the hot topic of the day. One of the supportive remarks comes from his colleague in the Senate, Ralph Recto. In his statement to the press, he said that when he (Recto) lost his 2007 re-election bid, one of the first congratulatory calls he made was to the detained Sonny Trillanes." In my mind, here was a guy who, without setting one foot out of prison, was granted amnesty, not by one person but by 11,189,671 people.

"When he won reelection in 2013, more people – 14,127,722 million this time – affirmed that the absolution earlier bestowed on him was right, Recto said.

"We should honor the mandate and the trust millions of our countrymen had reposed on Senator Trillanes. If he had committed offenses after Peninsula, if he had broken any law since, then the right course is to charge him, and not to nullify an amnesty that he applied for, recommended by the military, granted to him by the President, and concurred

in by Congress. He should be granted every opportunity to challenge the revocation of the amnesty in complete freedom."

Sen. Trillanes attracts controversy when he dabbles in politics, said Recto. But what is not well known is his immense contribution in policymaking which he conducts without fanfare."

Recto served in the Cabinet of President Arroyo and he thinks Senator Trillanes had done time for the mischief he had created during her incumbency.

* * *

From the 2nd district of Leyte, Rep. Henry Ong proposes that tariff on bottled products should be reduced by the NEDA, the Department of Finance, and Department of Trade and Industry. chair of committee on banks & financial intermediaries, Rep. Ong said prices of commodities would be reduced if the tax on imported glass bottles, glass products and raw materials used for manufacturing glass bottles is reduced. This would mean cheaper glass bottled products as soy sauce, vinegar, patis, sardines, fruit juices, milk, coffee, cooking oil and catsup.

Another effect is the reduction of the piles of plastic containers which contribute to the destruction of the environment.

He calls on the NEDA, DoF and DTI to make a study of the proposal, and have an executive order signed by the President as soon as possible.

* * *

Overseas Filipino workers may be earning dollars now, but do they have enough to tide them over when they've reached retirement age? Not so, says Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. of the Senior Citizen Party-list, and member of the committee on population and family relations.

"Millions of OFWs will be reaching retirement age in the coming years in batches of hundreds of thousands," he says. "Chances are most of them have no social security coverage and have made little or no provisions for retirement and emergency health care."

According to Datol, Philippine Statistics Authority figures show that 17.4 percent of the 2.3 million OFWs worldwide are age 45 and above, meaning in a matter of more or less one decade they will retire.

Retiring OFWs are those who are turning 56 or older and have been working overseas since 1987 or any of the years thereafter. In other words, the OFWs who were deployed when they were young in the 80s and 90s but will be reaching retirement age in the coming years.

He is asking the Overseas Filipino Bank, Social Security System, PhilHealth, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to devise a program that will give a reasonable modicum of basic and upgradeable retirement care to our retiring OFWs.

The program should cover both documented and undocumented OFWs. These three institutions can put together a program that can be sustained by a combination of direct and indirect premiums. Turn to page 12

TORREVILLAS From page 9

He suggests indirect premiums because, "considering future costs of health and retirement care, direct premium contributions may not be enough to make the OFW Retirement Care Program sustainable and viable."

"The indirect premiums can come from percentages of taxes, proceeds from the sale of state assets, shares in administrative fee collections, which can incrementally build up the fund backing the retirement care program.

For the OFWs who are more financially able, he suggests that private insurance firms, pre-need companies, and health maintenance organizations should create new products specifically designed for retiring and returning OFWs.

* * *

Tony Boy Dela Rea sent us an email about how successful his 61st birthday celebration turned out. Cipriano Dela Rea de Saulog-Reyes and Francisca Dela Rea were happy about the natal day celebration of their only son Tony Boy. Well-wishers flew in from all parts of the world just to celebrate with him. Among them were the 1975 Mutya ng Pilipinas Tourism, San Juan City councilor Leonardo Celles, former PRC commissioner Nete Dela Rea, film director Elwood Perez, top mannequin Goldie Burns, Star Olympics organizer Nita Trofeo, film director Cloyd Robinson, movie actress Deborah Sun, film producer / movie actress Liz Alindogan, Ej and Prince San Juan, former Marinduque governor Leandro Palma and the New Capitol Estates officers, Cosmopolitan Agency's Bong Bolivar, Raul and Cora Pablo, beauty queens Joy Conde, Jane Umali, Maridel Coching and Joyce Ann Burton, Congressman Winston Castelo and councilor Precious Hipolito-Castelo and 100 more distinguished personalities.

Lia Marie Guerrero hosted the event. Jan Visuals did the lights and sounds.

* * *

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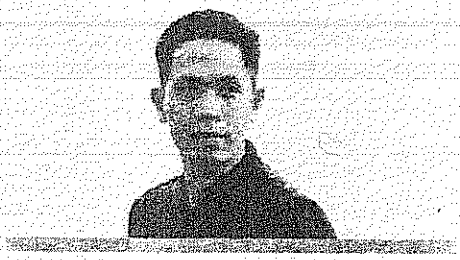
6 September 2018 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Page: A6

Weaponizing the law



SECOND OPINION

GIDEON LASCO

It is not the law that reigns supreme in our land, but those who can choose when to invoke it, how to interpret it, and for (or against) whom. "Dura lex, sed lex"—the law is hard, but it is the law—but this dictum seemingly applies only if the powers that be see you as an enemy. The law, in this case, is an unforgiving sword, sanctioned by those who uncritically accept its a priori righteousness. Meanwhile, enabled by the same blind faith in its letter, others use the law as a shield.

This sad reality is as old as our political history. Andres Bonifacio himself was executed upon the orders of a military court, whose members—and even his own prosecutor—were under the influence of the president at the time, Emilio Aguinaldo. It was, as far as the revolutionary government was concerned, a lawful act—even though historians now recognize it as a grave injustice.

Ferdinand Marcos, a lawyer, likewise saw the need to legalize his authoritarian ways. The 1973 Constitution which legalized his dictatorship was sanctioned by the Supreme Court, affirmed by justices whose names we must always remember: Querube Makalintal, Fred Ruiz Castro, Antonio Barredo, Felix Makasiar, Felix Antonio and Salavador Esguerra.

After Edsa, there was some hope that things would be different, but a truly independent judiciary has remained a pipe dream. President Duterte promised change, but under his administration, we have seen a further weaponization of the law, ironically, alongside its wanton disregard: Young people like Kian delos Santos and Joshua Laxamana are mercilessly killed, while the policemen implicated in their killings demand "due process." People and places alike are baselessly linked to drugs, while Polong Duterte, asked simply to his show (or disprove) the drug triad tattoo on his back, invokes his "right to privacy."

With only the unreliable, uncorroborated testimony of convicts, antidrug laws are invoked against Sen. Leila de Lima. With only the most liberal interpretation of "political activities," immigration laws are mobilized against Sister Patricia Fox. Suddenly, an obscure provision of the law is used against Rappler—and such a technicality is suddenly more important than the principle of press freedom.

Then we have the ouster of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno by quo warranto, on the flimsy basis of some allegedly missing documents. The clarity of the Constitution itself notwithstanding, eight Supreme Court justices found a way to justify the removal of one of their colleagues. Once more, the law—or a twisted interpretation thereof—has been used to legitimize what will doubtless be remembered as a "legal abomination."

Most recently, we have the attempted revocation of Sen. Antonio Trillanes' amnesty. Despite the fact that, in former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay's words, President Duterte "has no unilateral constitutional authority to nullify an amnesty," he brazenly tests the limits of the law, confident that the PNP, AFP and the courts will do his bidding. Despite extensive documentation of the fact that Trillanes actually admitted guilt (a precondition of amnesty), he is accused of not doing so; despite the fact that the amnesty covered many others—including Danilo Lim and Nicanor Faeldon—Trillanes is inexplicably singled out.

Faced with all these travesties of justice, the challenge for all concerned Filipinos is to find and fight for our common ground, which is democracy and rule of law. Sadly, many people are refusing to rally behind De Lima or Trillanes because of their respective pasts, even when they are clearly victims of present injustice.

Until we recognize that the fight against tyranny is bigger than all of us, we will always be divided and conquered.

As for our public officials, I ask: Can you stomach the abuse of power that's happening before your eyes? And to our uniformed personnel: Will you really keep allowing yourselves to be instruments of greed and vindictiveness? When the day of reckoning comes, you will be held to account for your actions—or inaction. Silence is not a option in the face of a regime that pretends to follow the rule of law, when it is actually fomenting one-man rule.

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EDITORIAL

Targeting Trillanes

Proclamation No. 572, issued by the President on Aug. 31 but published only on Sept. 4, when he was already on his official visit to Israel, seeks to revoke the grant of amnesty given to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV in 2011 as "void ab initio" and orders his immediate arrest. This act of the Executive is not only a grievous mistake, an unwise policy that will undermine confidence in the government's amnesty programs; it is also, and above all, a gross violation of the Constitution and an attack on the very rule of law.

The attempt to put Trillanes, a former Navy officer and mutineer, behind bars again was an orchestrated, multipart legal and bureaucratic offensive. Many elements were involved: the drafting of the presidential proclamation and its unannounced publication on the day Solicitor General Jose Calida's controversial security agency was the subject of a committee inquiry led by Trillanes; the eager participation of comparatively low-ranking officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense (no generals or former generals) in a coordinated news conference; the timely filing of a motion for a hold departure order and a warrant of arrest against Trillanes with the Makati Regional Trial Court.

And the Duterte administration would have pulled off a political coup if the Senate had not insisted on the prerogatives of one of its members, and thus of the dignity of the institution. Whatever may be said about Senate President Vicente Sotto III, in the initial hours of the crisis he cut a clear contrast with the way the Senate conducted itself when Sen. Leila de Lima was the target of an orchestrated legal and bureaucratic offensive. And the decision of Makati Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Andres Soriano, first not to be stampeded into issuing a ruling by insisting on reading the case files and second by scheduling a hearing on the merits of the motion for next week, may have provided only temporary relief to Trillanes, but it was still a welcome display of a court's independence.

Stripped of legal gobbledygook, the President's order asserts that Trillanes failed to meet two conditions of his amnesty. First, that Trillanes "did not file an Official Amnesty Application Form as per the Certification dated Aug. 30, 2018, issued by Lt. Col. Thea Joan N. Andrade... stating that 'there is no available copy of his application for amnesty in the records.'" And second, that Trillanes "never expressed his guilt for the crimes that were committed on occasion of the Oakwood Mutiny and Peninsula Manila Hotel Siege."

As TV reports and newspaper stories from 2011 show, Trillanes and other ex-mutineers said that "they were not admitting guilt to the mutiny and coup d'etat charges." (This and another quote are included in the presidential proclamation.) But the same reports and stories also show, first, that Trillanes (like others) did file his application form, and second, that he (like others) made a "general admission of guilt" in his application, which he swore to. Between this sworn statement and his boastful statements before the media, which one carries legal weight?

And if the same TV reports and newspaper stories show that he had filed his application, then the issue of liability reverts to the military office in charge of the documents. The application form, complete with ID photos and signatures, was seen by many witnesses and, by extension, by tens of thousands of TV viewers. That it was valid is proven by the amnesty the Armed Forces processed and Trillanes received. If his application is missing now, then the officials in charge of that document must answer for it.

Trillanes himself gives the best analogy for the Duterte administration's "case" against him. To acquire a passport, a citizen needs to meet certain requirements. A passport is issued only if all the requirements are met. If one of those required documents happens to go missing in the archives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the passport does NOT become invalid.

The "case" against him now is exactly the same; the grant of amnesty is itself proof that all the requirements were met. If, after the grant, one of the required documents goes missing, the amnesty remains valid.

It does not become invalid, or void from the start, on mere presidential say-so. Indeed, an amnesty should not be revoked, because it imperils trust in the government as a negotiating party. And if an amnesty can be revoked, revocation must be at the same hands of those who granted it: the President and Congress, together.

A President cannot order anyone's arrest, without a court order. A civilian cannot be reclassified as military, on the President's whim. And no one, not even the President, can change the rule of law to fit political objectives—or hit political targets.

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Trillanes got a wink-wink amnesty; he should get his day in court, civil and military

OBSERVER

YEN MAKABENTA

First word

THIS is where our Antonio Trillanes 4th vexation started: President Benigno Aquino 3rd could not wait for a court, civil or military, to render a verdict on Trillanes' acts of rebellion and mutiny against the government of President

➢MakabentaA4

MAKABENTA FROM A1

Trillanes got a wink-wink amnesty; he should get his day in court, civil and military

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. On October 12, 2010, Aquino issued a proclamation granting amnesty to Trillanes and his fellow mutineers.

In hindsight, Aquino's decision to grant amnesty to Trillanes and his co-conspirators in the three incidents was mistaken on three major counts:

1. It was totally misguided in not weighing the gravity of the offenses and waving away any punishment;

2. It was completely partisan and motivated by Aquino's obsession to shame President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo by suggesting that Trillanes' acts against her government were completely justified; and

3. It was a travesty of Philippine laws to grant a blanket dismissal of the offenses without regard to the injury that they inflicted on the Philippine state and the Filipino people.

The amnesty, if it is proved to be genuine and legal, will obliterate the crimes. It will be as if they never happened. Or no one was offended or harmed. In the words of one observer, an amnesty casts the wrongdoing into "oblivion."

Difference between amnesty and pardon

Amnesty and pardon are powers bestowed on the supreme authority of a nation to give forgiveness to individuals or group of individuals who have been found guilty of some act.

When looking at the two, amnesty is absolution and forgetfulness of an offense whereas a pardon is termed as pity and forgiveness.

While a pardon is given only to individuals, amnesty is given to a group of individuals. A pardon is only given after a judgment has been pronounced whereas amnesty is given even before the final judgment.

In our laws, amnesty is described as an act of the sovereign power granting oblivion or general pardon for a past offense, and is rarely, if ever, exercised in favor of a single individual, and is usually extended in behalf of certain classes of persons who are subject to trial but have not yet been convicted.

Pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws, which exempts the individual on whom it is bestowed from the punishment the law inflicts for the crime he has committed. Pardon must be given after final judgment, otherwise, there will be violation of the doctrine of separation of powers.

Duterte voids Aquino proclamation

With Proclamation 982, signed on August 31, 2018, before his departure for Israel and Jordan, President Duterte declares and proclaims:

1. The grant of amnesty to former Ltsg Antonio Trillanes IV under Proclamation No. 75 is declared void *ab initio* because he did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Proclamation.

2. The Department of Justice and court martial of the Armed forces of the Philippines are ordered to pursue all criminal and administrative cases filed against Trillanes in relation to the Oakwood mutiny and the Manila Peninsula Hotel incident.

3. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are ordered to employ all lawful means to apprehend Trillanes so that he can be recommitted to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated for him to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with.

Wink-wink amnesty

I can now understand why Trillanes felt perfectly at liberty to mount mayhem and division in our society, immediately after he got the amnesty. He believed that his record was totally wiped clean, and that his acts against the Arroyo administration had been justified by the authorities.

The amnesty from Aquino is best described as a "wink- wink amnesty," because it treated the acts of rebellion without seriousness.

With the Aquino government officials in the defense and justice departments, Trillanes was able to circumvent the law, and escape trial for his crimes.

Duterte's Proclamation 952 has turned Aquino's proclamation on its head. He has expressed the position that the trials must continue in the national interest until the courts can reach a verdict.

Can President Duterte revoke the Aquino amnesty for Trillanes? Yes, he can.

In a situation close to war, where members of the military take up arms against the Philippine Republic, the ultimate authority is the president and commander in chief.

The Justice department must make the case for the revocation of the amnesty. No amount of opposition statements can change the rightness of this presidential action.

The argument of Trillanes that Aquino's amnesty proclamation impelled the dismissal of his cases is questionable. Likewise, his argument that the Makati court's dismissal of the cases is proof that he complied with the amnesty requirements is nonsense. Let's see his lawyers raise these arguments in court, or in the Supreme Court, if necessary.

It was Trillanes and his fellow mutineers and co-conspirators who decided to mount the Oakwood mutiny, perpetrate the Marine standoff, and lay siege to the Manila Peninsula Hotel. What choice does this country really have other than to carry the fight to them?

It is fitting and sound that the trial and court martial of Trillanes should continue until the bitter end. It is right that this mutineer and coup plotter should be stopped from strutting in public.

The people will understand the imperative for this.

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com

6 September 2018 The Manila Times Page: A4

Trillanes as political theater

ON THE CONTRARY

ANTONIO CONTRERAS

SEN. Antonio Trillanes 4th has been annoying the President for a long time. It would have been easier for the President to ignore him. After all, he talks to an echo chamber of fellow Duterte haters, and has on several occasions embarrassed himself, most notably during his disastrous encounter with the BBC's Stephen Sackur.

Unfortunately, when President Duterte voided the amnesty granted to Trillanes by former President Noynoy Aquino, he may have inadvertently provided Trillanes with a new venue to keep on doing his annoying antics. There is no doubt that there must be a reason behind the action of the President. But whatever the reason was, there are now speculations that he is just providing a sideshow to distract people away from the more pressing gut issues of rising prices of fuel and basic commodities.

Whether this is true or not, the effect is still that the Trillanes affair has once again acquired the character of political theater, another episode in the reality TV that our politics has become and is now taking over the national discourse. And the scenario of Trillanes being given a new platform to perform his politics has emerged. And enabling the theatrical optics is a Senate under a siege mentality, bent on protecting its own and taking into custody a member who has not even been arrested yet. But you can't blame the senators if they feel besieged. After all, 40 armed personnel of the state surrounded the Senate building, ready to arrest Trillanes when an arrest warrant has yet to be issued. As the street-smart would say, "advanced *mag-isip*."

And partisans are once again at each other's throats. Trillanes defenders cry persecution and the death of the rule of law, while Duterte loyalists are rejoicing over the possibility of seeing once again the self-appointed presidential tormentor behind bars.

Objectively, there are just too many legal questions raised by the President's revocation of Trillanes' amnesty. And these questions are in fact valid. Is it even a revocation when the ground used is that it is invalid, or void *ab initio*? Can the President unilaterally revoke an amnesty that has already been granted, and to which Congress has concurred? What is the nature of the court decision that was the consequence of the granting of amnesty? Was it an outright dismissal of the cases filed against Trillanes and his fellow Magdalo members with prejudice to any future legal action, or that it was an effective bar and hence double jeopardy would necessarily set in? Would Trillanes still be subjected to a court martial even if he already effectively resigned from military service when he became a senator? Can a court martial lose jurisdiction over a case which it has already taken cognizance of?

The President argues that Trillanes did not in fact qualify for the amnesty because there is no record that he filed a formal application. There is evidence that Trillanes publicly declared in media interviews that he was not willing to admit guilt to the specific charge of coup d'etat, even as there are also available media footages where he claims he had filed an application. It is a rule that in order to qualify for amnesty, a formal application should be filed and a formal admission of guilt should be made. Hence, the question of admissibility of media footages submitted as evidence becomes crucial in the issue.

But more fundamentally, the question is whether infirmities in the application, even if present, are now effectively negated by the acts of President Aquino, and by Congress by application of the doctrine of operative fact. There is some sense in the opinion of Father Ranhilio Callangan-Aquino, Dean of the San Beda Graduate School of Law and a noted legal scholar, on this matter. It is reasonable to argue that amnesties are granted to seal the reconciliation between the state and its prodigal citizens. As such, when granted uncondi-

A4 ➤ContrerasA5

CONTRERAS FROM A4

Trillanes

tionally, they should no longer be disturbed. Otherwise, the very nature of an amnesty, if subjected to revocation on the ground of being imperfectly executed, will render it a useless instrument for peace-making and moving on. Rebels will now think twice about availing of amnesties if there is always the possibility that it will be revoked and they will be charged the same offense for which they were already pardoned. Besides, any imperfection would naturally entail the participation of the state itself, whether knowingly or unknowingly, which in this case was perfected through the acts of President Aquino and Congress.

A sober and cerebral take on this issue is to treat the revocation of the amnesty granted to Trillanes as a learning opportunity for all of us to push further the boundaries of the law, in order to explore new questions that may be useful in enriching our jurisprudence. However, the landscape is so politically charged that partisans will not allow this to be a teaching-learning moment. The Trillanes affair unfolds in a politicized terrain inhabited by irrational loyalties, blind partisanships, feigned ignorance by some lawyers and journalists who keep on asking not the right questions but only those that advance their political biases, and of people who only see either a hateful Duterte or a hateful Trillanes.

In the end, and much to the chagrin of his critics, it looks like Trillanes emerges here with an invigorated sense of self-importance. He keeps his narrative of being the President's tormentor, and he is given another lease in his political life that earlier would have faced an end-of-term sunset next year.

And by all indications, and despite the social media noise created by Duterte partisans singing praises of what they perceive as evidence of his political genius in executing a brilliant move of political chess, the President may just have allowed Trillanes another venue to keep on annoying him. In the parlance of political theater, the President has given Trillanes another season to play his antics as a persecuted critic.

One should, however, take note of the fact that Trillanes is not alone when he was granted amnesty. Other members of Magdalo were granted the same, including not only people like Gary Alejano who is a critic of the President, but also others like Nicanor Faeldon, Milo Maestrecampo and Gerardo Gambala who are now working with the Duterte administration.

It behooves us all to ask if the amnesty granted to them also suffer the same infirmities that are now found in Trillanes', and what would the President do if this is the case.

6 September 2018 Malaya Page: B4
The National Newspaper

Cases haunt Trillanes

SEN. Antonio Trillanes IV is in a peculiar situation.

President Duterte has issued Presidential Proclamation 572 asserting as void from the beginning the government amnesty given to Trillanes by former President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, and instructing the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resume the court martial proceedings against the former Navy officer.

The proclamation claimed that Trillanes "did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Proclamation" and ordered the Department of Justice and the court martial of the AFP to pursue all criminal and administrative cases filed against the senator in connection with the Oakwood Mutiny in 2003 and the Manila Peninsula siege in 2007.

'If Trillanes is jailed for these offenses, what will be the effect on the permanence and stability of our laws especially those concerning coups and mutinies?'

Specifically, the Duterte proclamation said Trillanes did not apply for amnesty and never expressed his guilt for the crimes that were committed during these mutinies.

Net effect of this proclamation is that the opposition senator is in danger of arrest and detention, very much like his colleague, Sen. Leila de Lima who is now detained at Camp Crame's custodial center, facing criminal charges.

In issuing this proclamation, President Duterte is treading on ice-thin legal ground as media reports confirmed that on Jan. 5, 2011, Trillanes and 18 other Magdalo officers submitted their application forms to the Department of National Defense ad hoc amnesty committee in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The DND spokesman said they could not find the original copy of the application. In the same breath, the defense department admitted that the Office of the Solicitor General initially asked for details about Trillanes' amnesty.

Caught by surprise by the order which was published as an advertisement in a major broadsheet and was not even announced officially in Malacañang, Senator Trillanes called the directive "stupid and a clear case of political persecution." He added that the Duterte administration was not able to dig up any charge against him so that it had to invent something foolish and reprehensible.

There are a number of questions and implications this situation has created.

First, will Senate President Vicente Sotto III agree to have another member of the chamber arrested on an order from the executive department and not the courts? Apparently, the Senate stood pat on its independence, providing Trillanes an overnight sanctuary.

Second, if the amnesty proclamation for Trillanes is void, will this also invalidate the amnesty given to other military officers who participated in the Oakwood and Manila Peninsula mutinies, some of whom are elected lawmakers and pro-Duterte officials?

If Trillanes is jailed for these offenses, what will be the effect on the permanence and stability of our laws especially those concerning coups and mutinies? B4

These are just some of the pressing questions that may well be answered by the Supreme Court.

6 September 2018 Standard TODAY Page: A4

The trash fire that's this administration

YOU'VE probably seen that meme of a dog wearing a hat, seated at a table while around him a fierce conflagration rages. He is unperturbed by the flames. The caption goes, "This is fine."

That seems to be the zeitgeist of the moment as the Filipino people slump into apathetic stupor as more instances of government incompetence and impunity are revealed. One after another in quick succession, they are sucker punches to the gut, and the winded community reels in disbelief and anger.

Punch One: "Eat the *bukbok* rice." What? Really? As far as I know Manny Piñol is the first Agriculture secretary who's ever told fellow Filipinos to eat rice infested with weevils. I know when I was a child there was the occasional *bukbok* in the bilao—that's why rice was picked over before being cooked—but that was during the Marcos dictatorship when he didn't care much either what people ate or whether they had anything to eat (remember the famine in Negros?).

Rice got better in quality after that, and now we can cook rice straight from the sack. But with the weevils and all, we are back to the old days of, yes, the French revolution, when Marie Antoinette lost her exquisite but clueless head for saying of the peasants, "Let them eat cake," or rather, fine bread (Quils mangent de la brioche).

We are still primarily an agricultural country. We have centuries of expertise in growing rice. We have rice terraces that are a global marvel. But why can't we feed ourselves?

Punch Two: "Eat the imported *galunggong*." What fresh hell is this?! The last time I looked, the Philippines is still surrounded by water on all sides. We are an archipelago. Why do we have to buy fish from China or whoever, fish that could possibly be tainted with formalin and quite likely comes from our own West Philippine Sea? If our fisheries are incapable of ensuring adequate supplies, then government should support and strengthen them.

Our goal should always be food security. We should have more than enough so that we're exporting rather than importing, particularly when it comes to basic commodities. We should be able by now to feed ourselves.

> *"We are not trees, rooted and immovable.*

Punch Three: "Davao has a lot of rape cases because the women there are beautiful." President Duterte is sexist and misogynist. An attitude such as this stems from toxic masculinity, the belief that women are objects to be used by men. Rapists rape because they are evil assholes; what women look like or wear has nothing to do with it.

Duterte's language, his so-called "jokes" (that are nowhere near funny, someone please tell him already) only serve to reinforce and normalize the patriarchal culture which has oppressed Filipinas for decades.

Punch Four: "Revoke Trillanes's amnesty and arrest him!" These are murky waters and frankly I do not see how this has a legal leg to stand on. There is video documentation of the filing of the amnesty application; there was an

Turn to A5

The trash...

From A4

amnesty certificate issued; the whole matter was laid before the public years ago.

For the Armed Forces of the Philippines to say that the documents are lost point to their incompetence in keeping records. This is very hard to believe. Perhaps the papers were lost on purpose? The President considers Senator Trillanes an enemy because the latter is an outspoken and feisty critic of this administration. This entire ploy is fishy and it stinks. I hope the courts remember their independent nature and rule properly on this matter.

Punch Five: You know what, I've run out of space. Columnists only have so much room to maneuver. But you get the gist. One after another, the blows keep landing and we are only rolling with the punches.

But we are not entirely powerless. The people need only to shake off their apathy in order to bring about change, no need to wait for 2022.

As the Twitter account Alt Team AFP said in a recent tweet: "MOVE. YOU ARE NOT A TREE."

True that. We are not trees, rooted and immovable. We don't have to be that dog just sitting in flames. We are the people, and we have the power.

Dr. Ortuoste, a writer and researcher, has a PhD in Communication. FB and Twitter: @DrJennyO

6 September 2018 Standard TODAY Page: A7

Submarines and armaments

WE ARE grappling with so many problems. Inflation has gone up to record levels jacking up prices of almost everything that we buy. And depending on who one talks to, there is a prevailing rice shortage but people in the government deny this saying that the shortage is artificial.

One thing that is undeniable, however, is that the price of a kilo of rice is up. If indeed the so-called rice shortage is artificial, the government must prove this by arresting those people hoarding the commodity and charging them in court. Unless this is done, the rice shortage will continue to be a problem to those people who eat nothing but rice every day.

Because oil prices in the world market continue to go up, pump prices of gasoline have also gone up astronomically. Yet, our callous economic managers still want to implement TRAIN 2. What they should do is make tax collection more efficient instead of imposing new taxes on the already overburdened and suffering citizenry.

As for the NFA, what is needed for the agency is a logistics person because the work is essentially a problem of logistics. What we are seeing that the NFA is doing is not encouraging. If the current problem is rice shortage, the NFA should try to see to it that rice is made available to the public and worry about debts later.

There are other problems as well. The amnesty of Senator Antonio Trillanes has just been revoked by the President which will certainly trigger another legal battle reminiscent of the Sereno case.

Our arms procurement program is also becoming a concern because we are now procuring arms from new sources aside from our traditional suppliers which will have a long-term effect on our national security. Since our country does not have an armament industry, we have to rely on other countries to provide our armed forces with the armaments that we need to defend ourselves.

For decades, we have relied on our treaty ally, the United States for all our arms requirement. Tanks, armored personnel carriers, ships, planes, helicopters, and small arms have been mostly sourced from the United States. Even our military doctrines and culture are basically patterned after the US military which is hardly surprising since we were their only colony. Even the 12 fighter jets we got from South Korea was licensed from a US company which had to give its permission in order for us to be able to purchase the planes.

> *"What should be our primary consideration?"*

All these, however, abruptly changed after July 1, 2016 when President Duterte assumed office. Since the President does not seem to like the US, the country has diversified its arms procurement. China has already transferred some small arms and crew served weapons to us. Russia has also done so. Russia has even proposed to the government the putting up of a joint manufacturing facility to make the world famous AK47 Kalashnikov assault rifle which is the favorite rifle of guerrilla fighters the world over because it is cheap and easy to maintain. Just over a week ago, our Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana went to Moscow to look at the possibility of acquiring submarines from Russia. While countries would prefer to limit their arms inventory from one or two suppliers for easy maintenance and simplicity in the procurement process, there is now the possibility that we will have a military with armaments sourced from many countries.

Our treaty ally the US, probably sensing this shift in our arms procurement, recently proposed to sell attack helicopters and the improved version of the F16 flown by many Air Forces throughout the world. But before it could get off the ground, President Duterte shot it down with the remarks that what we need are helicopters for insurgency operations and not fighter jets.

Our military establishment also came out with the statement that F16s are very expensive to operate basically in support of the statement of the President which is a little puzzling because our Air Force has always wanted F16s for our fighter requirements. Maybe things have changed and our Air Force has other and better ideas.

The President has also just issued a statement in Israel that henceforth, our military will only procure arms from Israel especially intelligence gathering equipment. What other arms that will be procured from Israel, was not mentioned by the President.

The biggest arms procurement deal that we are now working on and studying is where to buy the two submarines that the President has approved for acquisition. All the original Asean members and Vietnam have submarines. As usual, we are the only country left without any submarines. This procurement must be studied carefully as I am sure our Navy must be doing by now.

What should be our primary considerations? The price? Capability? Judging from what has already been published in the open media, it would seem to me that affordability is the primary consideration. This is probably the reason that the first countries visited were South Korea and Russia. But if we are talking of diesel submarines, the countries with the best technologies in this area are probably Japan, France, and Germany. The US is not among them anymore because it has forsaken diesel in favor of nuclear submarines.

In the end, we will almost certainly buy the submarines from the country that will give us the best deal with the money available to us which means that we will not necessarily be acquiring the best there is out there in the market. More importantly, however, we have to analyze carefully whether procuring arms from multiple sources is a wise thing to do.

6 September 2018 Tribune Page: 5

Off-guard

The public was caught off-guard this week by the proclamation President Rodrigo Duterte issued revoking the amnesty granted to opposition lawmaker Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

While the President signed Proclamation 572 on 31 August, none of the media outfits seemed to have gotten wind of the proclamation that there was barely a report on it save for a few opinion pieces.

The proclamation was published in the classified ads section of 4 September 2018 issue of a major daily. It said that the amnesty extended to Trillanes was void from the beginning.

"The grant of amnesty to former Lt. Sgt. Antonio Trillanes IV under Proclamation 75 is declared void *ab initio* because he did not comply with the minimum requirements to qualify under the Amnesty Program," the proclamation said.

Under the same proclamation, President Duterte ordered the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" against Trillanes in relation to the Oakwood mutiny and the Manila Peninsula siege, which happened in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

The Philippine National Police and the AFP were likewise instructed "to employ all lawful means to apprehend" Trillanes so that he can be recommitted to his previous detention facility, the PNP Custodial Center.

As expected the supporters of Trillanes decried the revocation of amnesty and alleged it to be an obvious political persecution and they unleashed their disgust in a flood of comments in the social media.

Trillanes himself called the proclamation "a big joke" and immediately capitalized on it for media exposure by claiming he is ready to face anything the administration may throw his way.

"I'm confident, having gone through even worse acts of persecution. These darkest moments are normally followed by light. Things will catch up with Duterte," said Trillanes at a press briefing.

He insisted that he complied with all the requirements for the grant of amnesty and even showed videos and photos that purportedly proves he personally filed an application for it—one of the steps required for the amnesty.

Notwithstanding the protestations of Trillanes, DoJ Secretary Menardo Guevarra stood firm on the legality of the proclamation, noting that it clearly states the minimum requirements for the grant of amnesty that the senator failed to meet.

Guevarra explained that based on the findings of the lawyers who reviewed the matter, Trillanes failed to comply with those requirements.

"We've got to see the document itself. That seems to be missing, the group that looked for it didn't seem to find it in the documents of the AFP," said Guevarra in an interview. "If Trillanes is planning to file an action in court to challenge Duterte's proclamation, he can very well show his proof."

The AFP certified there was no copy of Trillanes' application for amnesty in its records.

Curiously, while Trillanes has shown videos and photos in a bid to disprove the accusation that he failed to comply with the requirements of the amnesty, he has yet to actually produce the received copy of such application.

"As expected the supporters of Trillanes decried the revocation of amnesty and alleged it to be an obvious political persecution."

He must have such a copy. It is standard procedure in the bureaucracy to require several copies of documents being submitted so that the owner can keep a duly-received copy of the papers, proving the fact of filing.

Supporters of Trillanes likewise cited orders from a Makati court dismissing the rebellion cases against the senator and others involved in the Manila Peninsula caper based on the amnesty granted to them.

But if we were are to consider the government's position that the amnesty granted to Trillanes, *et al.* was void *ab initio*, then it can be strongly argued that the court order also has no effect since it was predicated on the very same amnesty.

Disputes over the legality of the proclamation can be settled by factual means. All Trillanes must do is show the right document to prove that he indeed complied with the amnesty requirements.

He could claim that he too was caught off guard by the proclamation that he still has to search for the proper documents to prove the grant of amnesty was proper and legal.

But unless he can do so all the allegations he is under political persecution are off kilter. **Concept News Central**

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Full circle

"A motion said the senator has the means and resources to flee the country and escape prosecution.

The yellow hive got a major jarring from President Rody Duterte's move to void the amnesty granted to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the king wasp is on a futile attempt to save his minions and himself.

Yellow President Noynoy Aquino vouched for the validity of the absolution he gave to his hatchetman whom he also uses as an attack dog against his opponents. Trillanes was also once his backdoor negotiator with China that only resulted in the worsening of the West Philippine Sea conflict.

In his desperate attempt to save Trillanes from returning to his detention cell, he claimed on the existence of a supposed resolution from the "ad-hoc committee" of the Department of National Defense (DND) which approved Trillanes' application for amnesty.

The Palace and its legal experts, including Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, said the amnesty to Trillanes was void from the start since the senator never admitted to the guilt of rebellion as a result of two failed mutinies.

Noynoy cited a 25 January 2011 document, signed by then Defense Chief Voltaire Gazmin, saying Trillanes' application for amnesty was in order and, as such, he is qualified for amnesty.

"So, he did apply for amnesty," according to Noynoy.

Both the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the DND said they did not have a record of the Trillanes application.

Trillanes, with all his braggadocio is hiding behind the Senate mantle to evade arrest and is expected to stay there for a long period to evade accountability for his past misdeeds.

Rody may have been talking about Trillanes when he visited on Monday Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, and said "there is always a lesson to be learned and that despots and leaders who show insanity should be – well they should be disposed of at the first instance."

The senator's travail, thus, has gone full circle and Trillanes will possibly suit up again as a soldier, a lieutenant second grade of the Philippine Navy, to face a court martial.

09.06.18 DAILY TRIBUNE

> ***Both the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the DND said they did not have a record of the Trillanes application.***

The AFP wanted Trillanes back in his military uniform and for it to reclaim jurisdiction over the senator.

An order to convene a general court martial to hear Trillanes' cases had already been handed down.

Based on military rules, a personnel facing court martial proceedings such as Trillanes should be detained at the AFP custodial center.

The senator who had shown complete arrogance during the Senate hearings involving all those whom he considered as foes will soon be restricted from flying out of the country through a hold departure order.

A motion filed at Branch 48 of the Makati City Regional Trial Court said Trillanes has the means and resources to flee the country and escape prosecution.

"It is, therefore, imperative a hold departure order be issued directing the commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration to prevent him from leaving the Philippines during the pendency of this case," the petition added.

Trillanes, the senator, has no choice but to camp it out in the premises of the Senate until the elections in May next year when his term ends.

His compatriot, detained Sen. Leila de Lima, made the mistake of going home to collect her vanity items and was arrested there on drug trafficking charges.

De Lima is in the Philippine National Police Custodial Center for the past one year and seven months.

Trillanes now has the chance to show that he meant every word he said in his frequent demand that officials should be held accountable for their actions.

The rationale behind the defective amnesty should also be looked into as Noynoy whitewashed the involvement of Trillanes in the coup plots he led in an apparent effort to boost Senate support after snatching the presidency in 2010.

Napag-iiwanan sa modernisasyon

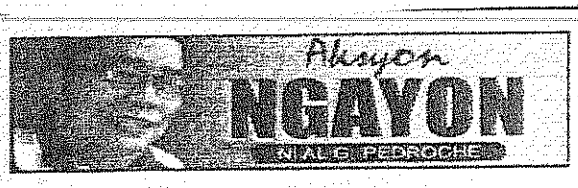
SUMADSAD ang BRP Gregorio Del Pilar sa Hasa-Hasa Shoal noong nakaraang Miyerkules. Ang Hasa-Hasa ay malapit sa Spratlys kung saan mainit ang pag-aangkin ng mga isla. Natanggal na rin ang barko noong Lunes ng hapon.

Pero bakit sumadsad ang barko? Hindi ba namalayan ng kapitan na malapit na sa isang shoal, na mababaw na nga? Mali na ba ang mga mapa ng Navy, kaya hindi nalaman na malapit na sa shoal? Kulang ba ang kagamitan ng barko para makita ang mapa ng ilalim ng karagatan o "oceanographic charts", na mababaw na nga? Gaano kalaki ang danyos sa barko? Dapat maimbestigahan ang insidenteng ito ng Philippine Navy. Kung sumasadsad ang mga barko sa ibabaw ng karagatan, paano pa kaya ang submarine na nais mabili ng Philippine Navy? Baka dapat mga malakas na barkong pandigma muna ang mabili bago ang submarine.

Ito nga ang opinyon ng ilang nakausap ko. Mga hindi naman militar, pero mahilig magbasa ng anumang may kinalaman sa militar. Dapat mapalakas na muna ang tinatawag na "surface ships", bago mag-isip bumili ng submarine. Mahaba ang baybayin ng bansa, at maraming karagatan sa pagitan ng mga isla na dapat din mabantayan nang mabuti kontra terorismo at kriminalidad. Kaya kasama rin dapat sa modernisasyon ang ating Coast Guard. Ngayon lang nga raw nakakahawak ang ating Navy ng malalaki at modernong barko, kaya dapat masanay na muna sila. Ang BRP Gregorio Del Pilar ay dating barko ng US Coast Guard, ang pinakamalaki sa kanilang armada. Ang dalawang frigates mula South Korea ay sa 2020 pa makukuha, kaya masinsinan din dapat ang pagsasanay ng mga tauhan nito. Ito na ang magiging pinakamodernong barkong pandigma ng Navy.

Masarap mangarap. Masarap mangarap ng magagandang kagamitan para sa ating Philippine Navy. Sino ang may ayaw ng malakas na Navy? Sa totoo lang, hindi lang ang Navy kundi pati na rin ang Army, Air Force at Marines. Matagal na ring nahuhuli sa modernisasyon sa Timog-Silangang Asya. Pero isipin nang mabuti kung ano ang tunay na kailangan ng Navy, pati na rin ang ibang sangay ng armed forces. Sigurado ako na marami sa Navy ang may gusto ng submarine. Pero masanay na muna sa mga modernong barkong pandigma, bago ang submarine. At hindi mura ang submarine pati ang mga kagamitan para mapatakbo nang maayos.

6 September 2018 NGAYON Page: 4



Palpak na payo kay Pres. Digong

NAPAKALAKING kapalpakan na maaaring magdala ng kahihiyan kay Presidente Duterte ang payo na pawalang bisa ang amnestiya ni Senador Trillanes. Sino kaya ang nagpayo nito? Posibleng si Solgen Jose Calida kahit panay ang tanggi niya na may kinalaman siya rito.

Tiyak ko na hindi ito personal na ideya ng Pangulo. May nagsubo lamang sa kanya ng ideya. Siyempre, walang magagawa ang mga legal expert na nasa kampo ng Pangulo kundi sang-ayunan ang pagpapalabas ng Pangulo ng proklamasyon na nagdedeklarang walang bisa ang amnestiyang iginawad kay Trillanes ni dating Presidente Aquino. Ngunit halos lahat ng mga indipindiyenteng legal experts ay naghayag na wala sa hulog ang desisyong buhayin ang mga kaso laban kay Trillanes.

Iyan ang masaklap na katotohanan sa politika. Palaging naghahanap ng paraan para magantihan ang mga kalabang kumakalaban sa isang pulitiko. Sabi nga ni Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice, kung sino man ang nagbigay ng palsong advice sa Pangulo ay dapat magbitiw sa tungkulin.

Mantakin mo naman na matagal nang kumalas sa militar si Trillanes at nahalal na ngang Senador. Sa kabila nito, mabilis na bumuo ang militar ng military tribunal at ibabalik daw sa military active status si Trillanes para litisin dito.

Sa tingin ko, epektibong napatunayan ni Trillanes sa unang araw pa lamang nang ipalabas ng Malacañang ang proklamasyon na nakatalima siya sa lahat ng requirements para mapagkalooban ng amnestiya. Isa pa, ang lahat ng mga kaso laban sa kanya ay idinismis na ng hukuman at ang ano mang tangkang pagbuhay sa mga kasong ito ay magiging labag sa batas. ;)

Kunsabagay, si Duterte ang Pangulo at hawak niya ang renda ng absolutong kapangyarihan. Asahan natin ang malamang na pagkatig sa kanya ng iba pang institusyon ng pamahalaan. Huwag naman sana siyang kampihan ng hudikatura dahil kung magkagayon, nasaan na ang demokrasya at hustisya?

ONLINE NEWS
06 SEPTEMBER 2018

www.inquirer.net

Military cannot re-acquire jurisdiction over Trillanes — Macalintal

By: Tetch Torres-Tupas - Reporter / @T2TupasINQ
INQUIRER.net / 06:37 PM September 05, 2018

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal. (File photo from INQUIRER.net)

The military tribunal cannot re-acquire jurisdiction over Senator Antonio Trillanes IV even after the revocation of the amnesty given to him by former President Benigno Aquino III, an election lawyer said Wednesday.

Election law expert Atty. Romulo Macalintal said Trillanes has been considered resigned from the military after he filed his certificate of candidacy (CoC) when he first ran for senator.

"Trillanes is no longer in the military since he was automatically resigned from the military service when he first filed his CoC for Senator," Macalintal said in a text message.

He said Trillanes became a civilian not by virtue of the amnesty but by the filing of his CoC.

"The resignation stands by operation of law which provides that any government official who files his CoC in an election is automatically deemed resigned," he added.

The military earlier said that after President Rodrigo Duterte revoked the amnesty given to Trillanes, the Senator's status reverted to "active military personnel."

He added that there should be a presumption of regularity on the granting of amnesty by the former President.

"Anyone who questions the same should file the required petition to declare its nullity before a court which has jurisdiction to rule whether the amnesty was indeed null and void," he said.

He said Trillanes' right to due process has been violated when the amnesty has been revoked without giving him the opportunity to be heard. /je

www.inquirer.net

Trillanes: Documents prove I'm no longer a soldier

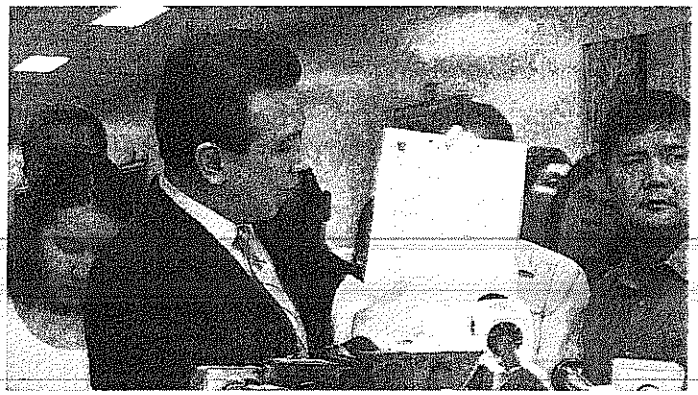
By: Gabriel Pabico Lalu - **Reporter** / @GabrielLaluINQ
INQUIRER.net / 05:56 PM September 05, 2018

Senator Antonio Trillanes IV showed Wednesday documents which he said will prove he is no longer part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) since 2007.

"These documents would prove that I am already separated from the Armed Forces of the Philippines effective August of 2007," Trillanes told reporters in a press briefing at the Senate in Pasay City.

The senator also addressed AFP Spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo, his upperclassman in the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), telling him that these are the documents that they are looking for.

"Meron pa bang malabo dyan? I hope si Col. Arevalo, Sir, ito na ang dokumentong hinahanap ninyo, I will give these documents to the members of the media," he said.



Senator Antonio Trillanes IV shows to the media at the Senate on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, a document to prove he had ceased being an active member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2007. Trillanes says this document would render the reconvening of a general court martial to try him over the 2003 and 2007 mutinies without basis. INQUIRER.NET PHOTO/CATHY MIRANDA

"So wala nang basis, walang court martial, walang kaso sa civilian court, so ano pa? Bakit niyo pa ako i-a-aresto?" he also asked.

On Tuesday, after Malacañang released a proclamation revoking the amnesty given to Trillanes in 2010, Arevalo said the AFP leadership has ordered the reconstitution of a general court martial to proceed with Trillanes' trial over the 2003 and 2007 mutinies.

Arevalo explained the repeal of the senator's amnesty would mean that Trillanes would be reverted to being an active member of the military.

But Trillanes advised the AFP to review their documents properly to avoid wasting time.

"Wag na silang mag-aksaya ng panahon para sa court martial, kasi it's really absurd to begin with," he said.

"I suggested to my upperclassman, Col. Arevalo, to step up, study your documents, research, para hindi nagkakamali-mali sa public pronouncements," he added. /kga

www.inquirer.net

LOOK: DND resolution on Trillanes' amnesty application

By: Frances Mangosing - Reporter / @FMangosingINQ
INQUIRER.net / 04:56 PM September 05, 2018

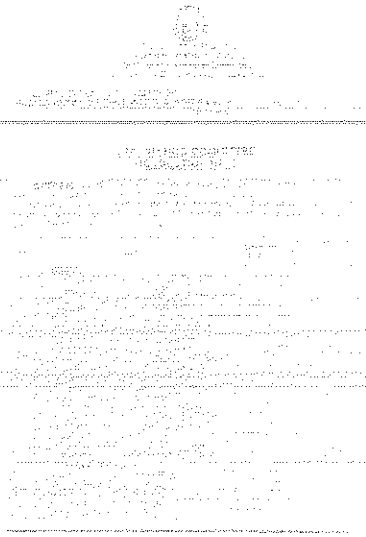


Photo from Francis Ashley Acedillo's Facebook page

A copy of the Department of National Defense resolution citing the application for amnesty of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and other junior officers and enlisted personnel in line with the Oakwood mutiny in 2003, Philippine Marines standoff in 2006, and Manila Peninsula Siege in 2007 surfaced on social media Wednesday.

Security analyst Francis Ashley Acedillo, one of the former Magdalo junior officers who filed an application for amnesty with Trillanes, posted a portion of the DND Ad Hoc Committee Resolution No. 2 on Facebook.

"Mahirap na. Baka magkalimutan eh. Or worse, magkawalaan ng papeles. Uso pa naman ngayon yun," he wrote in the caption of his post.

(It's difficult now; they could start forgetting. Or worse, the documents could disappear. That seems to be the fad nowadays.)

"Whereas on Jan. 5, 2011, the following individuals filed their applications for Amnesty, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation Nr. 75 dated Nov. 24, 2010 in connection with their involvement and/or participation in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, 2006 Philippine Marines stand off and the 2007 Peninsula Manila Hotel siege, as indicated opposite their names," the document read.

The officers were referred to as "Ex" which meant they were already separated from service.

Acedillo also posted an individual certificate of amnesty issued by DND dated Jan. 21, 2011.

"The opening 'Whereas' clause is a statement of a finding of fact and a matter of public record that is conclusive on the government. As the entity responsible for making and keeping that public record, it cannot reverse itself 8 years later and then shift the burden of proving the existence of that record to the applicant," said lawyer Jay Batongbacal.

He stressed that it was the government's responsibility and not the applicant's to keep the record intact.

"To disavow that express finding, merely on the basis of not having a copy of the application, is to disregard the integrity of the process, the institution, and the signatories that discharged the function," he added.

He said those responsible who lost, misrepresented, or concealed the documents could be liable for the crime of infidelity in the custody of public records and other administrative offenses.

As of Wednesday, the DND said it is still looking for the records of Trillanes' application for amnesty.

President Rodrigo Duterte has voided the amnesty for Trillanes, one of his fiercest critics, for his alleged failure to file an application for amnesty and failure to express admission of guilt.

The President revoked the amnesty to Trillanes by former Pres. Benigno Aquino III through Proclamation 572 signed on Aug. 31.

Part of the proclamation cited a military certification saying that there was "no available copy" of the senator's amnesty application from the records of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, J1.

Defense spokesperson Dir. Arsenio Andolong acknowledged that there was a ceremony held at Camp Aguinaldo when the Magdalo members filed for amnesty application in January 2011.

"May seremonyang ginawa dito sa Aguinaldo, nagkapirmahan ng form (There was a ceremony here in Aguinaldo, they signed the form). Unfortunately we don't have a copy of that," he said, adding that they are still trying to look for the documents. /je

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Alejano to AFP, PNP: Ignore Duterte's 'illegal order' to arrest Trillanes

By: Patricia Ann V. Roxas - **Reporter** / @PathRoxasINQ
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Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano on Wednesday rallied the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to shun the "illegal order" of President Rodrigo Duterte to arrest his critic, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV.

In a statement, the Magdalo lawmaker underscored that Duterte's Proclamation No. 572 was baseless.

"There is no warrant of arrest and there are no charges to begin with. Therefore, the order to the AFP and PNP to apprehend Senator Trillanes is an illegal one," he said.

"I call on the AFP and PNP to not follow illegal orders. Huwag nilang hayaan na gamitin ang kanilang institusyon sa isang bagay na lumalabag sa ating mga batas. I would like to remind them that they swore to uphold and protect the laws of the land," he added.

The opposition lawmaker likewise reminded the uniformed personnel that they are "not private armies of the President."

"They are the army of and for the Filipino people. Do not stain the integrity of the military and police before the Filipino people by acting as pawns to a dictator," Alejano said.

Duterte earlier ordered the arrest of his vocal critic, arguing that the former Navy officer who staged mutinies in 2003 and 2007 against then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had not applied for amnesty and had not admitted his guilt.

Trillanes countered by showing an actual video of his amnesty filing and the court documents showing that the cases against them had been dismissed.

Other lawmakers and lawyers also pointed out that the President needs the approval of Congress before voiding the amnesty given to Trillanes. /muf