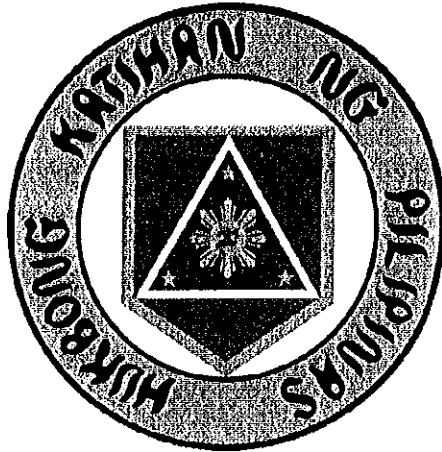


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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**17 February 2019**

**Sunday**

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# Rody urges public: Get kids vaccinated

**DAVAO CITY** – President Duterte has appealed to parents to have their children vaccinated against measles following outbreaks of the disease in several parts of the country.

Data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed 70 persons, mostly children, have died in Metro Manila alone.

*"Mga kababayan ko, duma-dami ang kaso ng tigdas at ang komplikasyon nito ay nakamamatay (My countrymen, the number of measles cases has increased and its complication results in death),"* Duterte said in a televised statement on Friday night.

Duterte said the only way to fight the measles outbreak is to have children, especially those from six months to two-years old, vaccinated against measles.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III made Duterte's call for vaccination as a battle cry to encourage more parents to have their children immunized.

The DOH has so far achieved about a quarter of its measles vaccination target to combat the outbreak in Metro Manila.

Duque said they were able

Turn to Page 7

## Rody

From Page 1

to vaccinate more than 100,000 recipients in the National Capital Region in the past four weeks.

This accounts for about 23 percent of the 450,000 target that they aim to complete in the next few months.

Duque appealed to the public to take their children to the free vaccination service of the national and local governments.

He said a person affected with measles could infect 18 others.

The DOH is prioritizing the immunization of children aged six to 59 months, as well as kinder and grade school children, who account for a total of around 10 million.

Some two-million adults are also being eyed by the DOH for immunization.

### 40 deaths in 45 days

Health officials said Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Que-

zon) recorded 45 deaths from measles within just 45 days.

Calabarzon is among regions hardest hit by the outbreak, with 1,645 cases including 40 deaths from Jan. 1 to Feb. 14, according to the DOH-Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU).

During the same period in 2018, the region posted only 66 measles cases with two deaths.

The city of Antipolo in Rizal remains to have the highest number of measles cases in the region with 441, followed by Biñan in Laguna with 126 cases.

The municipalities of Rodriguez and Taytay in Rizal have 105 and 95 cases, respectively. Lipa City, Batangas has 91 cases.

Calabarzon health director Eduardo Janairo is hopeful that the outbreak can be controlled sooner, before several more individuals get infected as the disease is highly contagious.

Janairo on Friday led an emergency response meeting with various concerned government offices, including the provincial and municipal health officers, to address the rising measles cases in the region.

He outlined the latest directives and key strategies in the ongoing mass immunization against measles.

"We will be implementing key strategies on measles outbreak response including surveillance, public awareness and education, vaccination and taking care of measles patients in health care facilities," Janairo told the health officers.

He said they are targeting to vaccinate a total of 430,292 children in Calabarzon from a projected population of almost 16 million.

In Cavite, the DOH aims to immunize 113,064 children -- 90,160 in Laguna, 79,839 in Batangas, 87,019 in Rizal and 60,210 in Quezon.

The DOH is also collaborating with other government agencies and departments such as social welfare and development, and education

for the vaccination of children in day care and elementary schools; Armed Forces in far-flung and conflict areas; Philippine National Police and Bureau of Fire Protection for additional logistic support and interior and local government to extend the vaccination schedule beyond regular hours.

"With everything in place, we are expecting cases to decrease next month," Janairo said.

### **Dengue cases up**

While the country is battling the measles outbreak, health officials urged the public to step up anti-dengue efforts as cases of the mosquito-borne disease also increased this year.

DOH Undersecretary Eric Domingo said it's not yet rainy season but rising dengue cases have been reported in some parts of the country.

"Several parts of the country experienced rains during the months of January and February and this contributes to the early dengue cases," Domingo said.

He said the rising trend

could be reversed if the public and community leaders would intensify efforts to eliminate breeding places of *Aedes aegypti*, the dengue carrying mosquito.

While dengue is now considered a year-round disease, cases usually peak during the rainy season when clean and stagnant water is abundant.

The DOH said dengue outbreaks could also occur during summer, especially when households store water in containers that are not covered.

Data from the DOH showed there were 17,801 dengue cases

with 75 deaths documented from Jan. 1. to Feb. 2.

The figure is 20 percent higher than the 14,825 cases recorded, including 66 deaths, during the same period in 2018.

The regions that have "exceeded the alert threshold" during this period are Ilocos, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) and Northern Mindanao.

The report showed that Bicol region and Zamboanga Peninsula have "exceeded the epidemic threshold."

- With Sheila Crisostomo, Romina Cabrera

# RICE FARMERS WORRY; LAWMAKERS WARY

STORY BY MELVIN GASCON AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

Proadministration lawmakers say a new law they had passed to ease rice imports would help ensure supply and lower the price of the staple while raising funds to modernize Philippine agriculture. But farmers fear the law would kill the rice industry on which the livelihood of millions depend.

A11



## FROM A1

By Melvin Gascon  
and Leila B. Salaverria  
@Team\_Inquirer

Lawmakers expressed a mix of guarded optimism and skepticism over the future of the local rice industry following the enactment of the rice tariffication law, which the Duterte administration and its congressional allies said would help lower the price of the staple and ensure supply.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate agriculture committee and one of the proponents of the law, on Saturday said the measure would help farmers "improve their profitability and competitiveness."

The law replaces the quantitative restrictions on imported rice with a tariff on the imports.

The tariff is 35 percent for rice from members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and 50 percent for imports from non-Asean countries. The revenue would be used to build up the P10-billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, or Rice Fund.

### Reducing costs

The Rice Fund would be used to purchase farm machinery to bring down farmers' labor costs, provide them seeds to increase their harvest, develop and modernize postharvest facilities, promote rice research and inbred rice seeds, provide credit and extension, and skills development services.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), however, disputed the government's claims about the benefits from the law.

### 'Death sentence'

KMP said the law would open the country to "unbridled rice importation and increasing rice prices" and its implementation was "equivalent to a death sentence for the local rice industry and rice farmers."

The group said the law would directly affect the livelihood of 13.5 million rice farmers and 17.5 million farmworkers and their families.

More than 10 million Filipinos dependent on cheap National Food Authority (NFA) rice and about 20,000 rice retailers and 55,000 rice mill workers also would be affected, KMP added.

"It's the beginning of the end of the local rice industry. Even with the rice industry enhancement fund, the local rice industry does not stand a chance with massive rice imports," KMP chair Danilo Ramos said in a statement.

### Remember TRAIN promises

"Rice tariffication will only push the country to unprecedented hunger," Ramos said, citing decades of rice importations that he said did not guarantee sufficient supply and lower prices.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan also said the rice tariffication law might be the "death knell" for the local rice industry.

Pangilinan, a former presidential adviser on food security, advised vigilance over its implementation to make sure the law was properly followed, espe-

cially its safeguards "to ensure that they will benefit the farmers and the industry, which will bear the brunt of the influx of imported rice."

He noted that the government had promised that the additional revenue from the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law would ease people's lives, but it led to higher fuel prices that drove up the prices of basic goods. It also led to extra transportation costs for farmers.

#### **Eyes on LandBank**

House Deputy Majority Leader and Kabayan Rep. Ron Salo, one of the authors of the law, also urged the government to implement safety nets and support to rice farmers "fast and substantially."

Leyte Rep. Henry Ong said he would keep a close watch

over the Land Bank of the Philippines on its specific mandate to manage the credit facility component of the law.

#### **Grants and loans**

Ong said the bank must make sure all rice farming families were covered by grants and loans from the Rice Fund, especially those who did not have bank accounts, and those who were victims of natural and man-made calamities.

Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao, who opposed the rice tariffication measure, said he would seek its repeal.

He said Filipinos could not rely on rice shipped from thousands of kilometers away because that would be "tally contrary to food security."

"Relying (on) other countries for food is not food security, and will threaten improved

quality life for all, the basic human right to food, a self-reliant and independent economy, comprehensive rural development, agrarian reform, and rights of farmers and farmworkers, all said in the Constitution to be promoted and protected," Casilao said.

#### **Cartels**

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said that with tariffication, rice cartels could tighten their hold on price and supply.

"What is likely to happen with this rice tariffication law would be similar to the pricing of oil which is highly dependent on the international market. This will further increase prices of commodities already made very high by the (TRAIN) law," he said.

#### **Strengthen the NFA**

The government should instead strengthen the NFA to allow it to purchase more rice produced by local farmers at prices profitable for them, he said.

The research group Ibon had warned that global rice prices would likely pull local prices up and importation costs could be affected by the depreciation of the peso.

It noted that global rice supply also was unsteady. Exporting countries could occasionally impose restrictions on their production for the world market to ensure their own local supplies and their governments could decide not to export rice to the Philippines.

INQ



# Phl not afraid of Chinese 'debt trap' — Locsin

By JANVIC MATEO

The Philippines is not afraid of the so-called debt trap strategy of the Chinese government, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Speaking at the Hungarian Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade during his official visit to Hungary on Thursday, Locsin said the Philippines has experienced worse in the past under the Western financial system.

"The West went into paroxysms of ecstasy over our people power revolution, which was a rebuke to communism as a way forward,"

he said, referring to the 1986 People Power Revolt that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

"Still the West threatened our new democracy with financial destruction if it did not pay back every dollar lent by Western banks to the dictatorship which stole every cent of it. Democratic victory was good for a pat on the back, but not good enough for debt forgiveness," he added.

Billions of loans were made by the Marcos government during the 21-year regime, with think tank Ibon Foundation saying that the country would continue to pay for

these debts until 2025.

Several groups earlier warned the Duterte administration against accepting loans from China, noting the experience of countries such as Sri Lanka which had fallen into the so-called "debt-trap" strategy of Beijing.

In his lecture, Locsin also said the Philippines under the Duterte administration was able to manage its disagreements with China over territories in the South China Sea.

He said the government was able to do so "without retreating an inch from our rightful and inalienable ownership of everything within

the widest extent of our sovereign reach in history and international law."

Locsin did not discuss recent activities of China in the disputed region, including the construction of various facilities in features within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The secretary, however, recognized that there are continuing disputes and differences in the region, not only with China but with other claimant states such as Vietnam and Taiwan.

"Hungary experienced the same losses of its historical territorial extent. But, as I said standing beside the Chinese

foreign minister, 'these differences need not stand in the way of mutually beneficial cooperation in other areas of common endeavor,'" added Locsin.

## Enemy to enemies

Locsin said he has discarded the "friend to all, enemy to none" policy pursued by his predecessors in the Duterte administration.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs has moved on from the "trusting attitude" exhibited in the past to adapt to changing realities of international affairs.

"So in my watch I refined our foreign policy to 'friend to friends, enemy to enemies, and a worse enemy to false friends,'" he added, without indicating who these "false friends" are.

Locsin, however, reiterated the so-called "independent foreign policy" pursued

by President Duterte since assuming office in 2016.

"When I first addressed our foreign ministry on my assumption of office, I told them how a truly independent foreign policy should be pursued," recalled the foreign affairs secretary, the third to serve under the present administration.

"It is not independent foreign policy if you simply switch the master before whom you are kneeling. You are still on your knees before another master. An independent foreign policy means getting off your knees and on your feet — and standing up for your country. That is true independence," he noted.

And while the Philippine Constitution renounces war as an instrument of national policy, Locsin said it only refers to offensive war and never to national defense.

## Esperon pushes 'opening' of WPS

**BAGUIO CITY:** National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. on Saturday proposed that the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) be "internationalized," or opened to all Southeast Asian nations and China.

Esperon said he supports the idea of allowing foreign experts to visit Philippine-occupied islands in the Kalayaan Island Group (Spratly Group of Islands) in the West Philippine Sea.

"We are making a study now on what would it bring about if we internationalize the features [in the West Philippine Sea], meaning there could be access by others especially China and Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)," he told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Military Academy's alumni homecoming.

Esperon said foreign visitors at the Philippine-occupied islands, such as the Pag-asa (Thitu) Island, would include marine biological researchers or anyone interested to study the environment.

Reducing the military presence in the area might also pave the way for the demilitarization of the South China Sea, which he said was the "overall objective."

The Asean and China are finalizing discussions on the Code of Conduct that would lay down guidelines on the peaceful resolu-

tion of territorial disputes.

"I hope non military matters like safety of life at sea, research and the like [would be discussed], and again, the overall objective, the ultimate objective is to demilitarize the area," Esperon said.

But he stressed that opening the West Philippine Sea did not mean that the Philippines was giving up its claims over islands and reefs.

His suggestion for the internationalization of the sea would be a symbolic act "welcoming everyone for the good of humanity."

"We may not, at this time, talk about sovereignty. We simply should talk on what would benefit humanity," Esperon said.

Meanwhile, the official welcomed the proposal of the United States to conduct freedom of navigational operations at the West Philippine Sea.

Last week, US Indo-Pacific Command chief Admiral Phil Davidson told the US Senate that there might be a collaboration with the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Australia, New Zealand and Canada in stepping up patrols in the South China Sea.

"That is alright with us," Esperon said. "But if their intent is to go to near the contested areas, it can become a source of more tension."

**DEMPSEY REYES**



### **Army has 167 new Scout Rangers, snipers**

The Philippine Army has welcomed a new batch of soldiers with enhanced combat skills.

Brig. Gen. William Gonzales, First Scout Ranger Regiment commander, said 146 soldiers finished their Scout Ranger course while 21 completed sniper training.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Macairog Alberto led the recognition of the soldiers, who also received their badges in ceremonies held at Camp Tecson on Wednesday.

The Army said both courses are considered among the toughest military training, which aims to develop personnel capability, cohesiveness and combat efficiency.

— Michael Punongbayan



# Albayalde leads 2019 PMA Cavalier awardees

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

**P**hilippine National Police (PNP) Chief Director General Oscar Albayalde led 11 awardees who were recognized during the annual Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alumni Homecoming held at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City on Saturday.

A product of PMA Sinagtala Class of 1986, Albayalde was hailed the Cavalier Awardee for Command and Administration. His accomplishments as a seasoned police official were highlighted by the PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

Albayalde was the recipient of a total of 58 awards and decorations which "bore witness to his outstanding performance in his assignments including a Gold Cross Medal, a PNP Outstanding Achievement Award and three PNP Heroism Medals among others."

As the director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) in 2016, Albayalde implemented "practical" programs for crime prevention and suppression, an intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs, and a sustained internal cleansing of Metro Manila police's ranks.

As a result, 81 percent of respondents in Metro Manila in a survey conducted by the Pulse Asia agreed they felt safer because of the campaign against criminality.

He eventually took over the reign of PNP in April, 2018, focusing on a program anchored in instilling to the cops discipline and respect for themselves and the public.

"Ilong Cavalier Award ay ang pinakamataas na award na makakamtan ng isang PMA alumni. This is actually the most coveted award dahil hindi lahat ng graduate ng PMA ay nagkakaroon nito," Albayalde told reporters.

"Kapag ikaw ay nabigyan nito, ang pride sa sarili mo at sa organization is there," he added.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is a former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a member of PMA Class of 1970, graced this year's alumni homecoming as guest of honor and speaker.

Cimatu, also a Cavalier awardee, thanked the Cavalier awardees for their courage, integrity and loyalty which are the founding principles of every PMAers.

As a PMA alumni, he cited the learning he gained as a military man in effecting changes in the DENR, especially in leading the rehabilitation of Boracay Island.

He then asked the Cavaliers and members of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) to help him in the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

He also emphasized how "political will," which also mirrors President Duterte's campaign slogan in the 2016 national elections, led him to where he is right now past the life of being a military man.

"The character building of every cadet is ingrained in the values of the academy which has not changed over the years," Cimatu said.

## Recognized

Aside from Albayalde, 10 other PMA alumni were cited as Cavalier awardees by the PMAAAI.

They were Cavalier for Coast Guard Operations Ronnie Gil Gavan, of PMA Maalab Class of 1993; Cavalier for Special Operations Harold Nemeño, of PMA Masikhay Class of 1999; Cavalier for Naval Operations Gilbert Villareal Jr., of PMA Masinag Class of 1998; Cavalier for Police Operations Guillermo Eleazar, of PMA Hinirang Class of 1987; Cavalier for Army Operations Ramon Flores, of PMA Bantay Laya Class of 1994;

Cavalier for Air Operations Rolando Conrad Peña III, of PMA Kalasag Lahi Class of 1997; Cavalier for Alumni Affairs Leo Angelo Diel Leuterio, of PMA Maringal Class of 1988; Cavalier for Special Field Jesus Lomeda Jr., of PMA Mapitagan Class of 1980; Cavalier for Public Administration Fernando Mesa, of PMA Makabayan Class of 1975; and Cavalier for Private Enterprise Louie Ticman, of PMA Magilas Class of 1976.

Among the notable awardees was Cavalier Flores of Class 1984.

Flores has the distinction of being the only battalion commander who was given the responsibility of leading two commanding battalions in two major military operations in a span of two years.

He was assigned as the commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 32nd Infantry (DAREDEVIL) Battalion, 11th Infantry Division (63IB, 11ID) tasked to operate against the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu; and the 63rd Infantry (INNOVATOR) Battalion, 8ID in the liberation of Marawi City against Maute terror group.

During the battle of Marawi in 2017, Flores was critically wounded while leading his unit in a fierce firefight while extricating troops in the last enemy stronghold.

For this feat, he was awarded the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Kampilan) by President Duterte.

Another distinct awardee was Eleazar, the Cavalier for Police Operations, whose career as a policeman turned a major eleva-

tion when he was appointed the director of the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) in January 2016.

In July, 2016, Eleazar was appointed as the district director of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) where he pushed a relentless campaign against illegal drugs and criminality.

By late 2017, a National Police Commission (Napolecom) survey showed QCPD was chosen as the Most Trusted Police District.

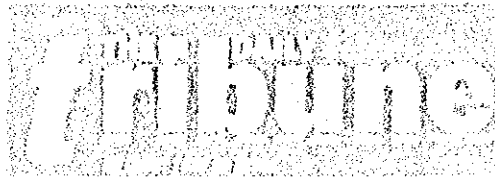
Eleazar then became the regional director of the Calabarzon Police Regional Office (PRO-4A) in April, 2018.

Two months later, he was promoted

as the regional director of the NCRPO, replacing Albayalde, who then became the PNP chief with the retirement of Ronald dela Rosa.

Since leading the NCRPO, the region experienced a 54 percent decrease in the index crime volume.

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa bumubuo ng PMA Alumni Association, Inc. for bestowing me this prestigious award. Alam mo, itong Cavalier Award eh pinapangarap ng lahat ng graduate ng PMA so ito ay magsisilbi sa aking inspirasyon na on my remaining years in the service ay lalo ko pang papaigtingin at papagandahin 'yong serbisyo," Eleazar said. 7



# PMA extols top cops

He focused his leadership on achieving a truly disciplined organization

By Elmer N. Manuel

The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) on Saturday conferred the Cavalier Award on Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Albayalde and National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Guillermo Eleazar during the PMA's annual alumni gathering.

Albayalde and Eleazar were among the 11 alumni of the PMA who received the award — the highest recognition given to a PMA alumnus or alumna with outstanding achievements in their respective fields.

The PMA cited Albayalde (PMA Class 1986) for his command and administration as head of the NCRPO and for his drive to cleanse the ranks of the PNP as its head.

"As Metro Manila's Top Cop, PDG Albayalde strictly implemented practical programs for crime prevention and suppression, an intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs, and a sustained internal cleansing of NCRPO's



ALBAYALDE

ranks which proved to be an answer to the worsening crime situation in Metro Manila," the PMA said.

"As PNP Chief, he focused his leadership on achieving a truly disciplined organization while implementing a massive internal cleansing program anchored on firm discipline and respect for oneself and the public," the PMA added.

The *Daily Tribune* had earlier cited Albayalde as "Peace and Order Personality of 2018" for performing his duties effectively

with a single-minded determination and without fanfare.

Meanwhile, Eleazar was recognized for his efforts against illegal drugs and organized crime as then district director of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD).

"He pushed a relentless drive against illegal drugs and other forms of criminality in Quezon City, getting big criminal groups along the way. By late 2017, QCPD was chosen as the Most Trusted Police District per Napolcom surveys," the PMA said.

Nine other PMA alumni also each received the Cavalier Award: Ronnie Gil Gavan (PMA Class 1993, for Coast Guard Operations); Philippine Army Sniper Task Group Commander Harold Nemeño (PMA Class 1998, for Special Operations); SEAL Unit Commander Gilbert Villareal (PMA Class 1998, for Naval Operations); Ramon Flores (PMA Class 1994, for Army Operations); Director for Operations of 5th Fighter Wing Rolando Peña III (PMA Class 1997, for Air Operations); Leo Angelo Lieuterio (PMA Class 1998, for Alumni Affairs); Jesus Lomeda Jr. (PMA Class 1980, for Special Field); Fernando Mesa (PMA Class 1976, for Public Administration) and Louie Ticman (PMA Class 1976, for Private Enterprise).

# Albayalde, Eleazar top PMA awardees

BY ALBERT  
DABRON

**PHILIPPINE** National Police chief, Director General Oscar D. Albayalde and National Capital Region Police Office chief, Director Guillermo Lorenzo T. Eleazar yesterday were honored at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City by their fellow Cavaliers after they were adjudged as among the Top 11 Philippine Military Academy awardees during their annual alumni homecoming.

Albayalde, a member of PMA 'Sinagtala' Class of 1986 and Eleazar of PMA 'Hinirang' Class of 1987 received the top PMA Cavalier Award for police command and administration and police operations. Albayalde, a true-blue son of Pampanga was cited for his outstanding accomplishment as head of the Na-

tional Capital Region Police Office and later the PNP where he became known for his major anti-crime and anti-terror accomplishments as well as his no-nonsense internal cleansing program. Albayalde replaced his mistah, now senatorial candidate Ronald 'Bato' M. dela Rosa as PNP chief on April 19 last year.

Eleazar got the award as head of the Quezon City Police District where he steered the Q.C.'s Finest into being the top police district in Metro Manila with its outstanding drive against criminality specifically illegal drug trafficking and abuse, rogues in uniform, terrorism and other criminals in the streets.

The Cavalier Award is the highest recognition given to Peemayers or PMA graduates who have distinguished themselves with their outstanding achievements in their respective fields.

"As Metro Manila's Top Cop, PDG Albayalde strictly implemented practical programs for crime prevention and suppression, an intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs, and a sustained internal cleansing of NCRPO's ranks which proved to be an answer to the worsening crime situation in Metro Manila," the PMA said.

Eleazar, a native of Tagkawayan, Quezon was conferred the Cavalier Award for his unrelenting campaign against illegal drugs and organized crime when he was still the QCPD director.

"He pushed a relentless drive against illegal drugs and other forms of criminality in Quezon City, getting big criminal groups along the way. By late 2017, QCPD was chosen as the Most Trusted Police District per Napolcom surveys," the PMA said.

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Air Force 5th Fighter Wing Director for Operations Rolando Peña III of PMA Class 1997 for Air Operations; Director Leo Angelo Leuterio of PMA 'Marinang' Class of 1988 for Alumni Affairs; Jesus Lomeda Jr. of PMA Class 1980 for Special Field; Fernando Mesa of PMA Class for Public Administration and retired Police Director Luizo Tieman of PMA Class 1976 for Private Enterprise.



### **Albayaalde leads PMA Cavalier 2019 awardees**

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As a result, 81 percent of re-

spondents in Metro Manila in a survey conducted by the Pulse Asia agreed they felt safer because of the campaign against criminality.

He eventually took over the reins of the 190,000-strong PNP in April 2018, focusing on a program anchored in instilling to the cops discipline and respect for themselves and the public.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is a former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a member of the PMA Class of 1970, graced this year's alumni homecoming as guest of honor and speaker.

Cimatu, also a Cavalier awardee, thanked the Cavalier awardees for their courage, integrity, and loyalty which are the founding principles of every PMAer.

As a PMA alumni, he cited the learnings he gained as a military man in effecting changes in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, especially in leading the rehabilitation of Boracay Island. **(Martin Sadongdong)**

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# Albayalde, Eleazar top PMA awardees

By Alfred Dalizon

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Director General Oscar D. Albayalde and National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Guillermo Lorenzo T. Eleazar yesterday were honored at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City by their fellow Cavaliers as among the Top 11 Philippine Military Academy awardees during their annual alumni homecoming.

Albayalde, a member of PMA 'Sinagtala' Class of 1986, and Eleazar of PMA 'Hinirang' Class of 1987 received the top PMA Cavalier Award for police command and administration and police operations. Albayalde, a true-blue son of Pampanga was cited for his outstanding accomplishment as head of the National Capital Region Police Office and later the PNP where he became known for his major anti-crime and anti-terror accomplishments as well as his no-nonsense internal cleansing program. Albayalde replaced his mistah, now senatorial candidate Ronald 'Bato' M. dela Rosa as PNP Chief on April 19 last year.

Eleazar got the award as head of the Quezon City Police District where he steered Q.C.'s Finest into being the top police district in Metro Manila with its outstanding drive against criminality specifically illegal drug trafficking and abuse, rogues in uniform, terrorism and other criminals on the street.

The Cavalier Award is the highest recognition given to Peemayers or PMA graduates who have distinguished themselves with their outstanding achieve-



**ALBAYALDE**

ments in their respective fields bringing pride and honor to the country's top military institution.

The winners are selected by a PMAAAT board of judges which screens the candidates before they are finally given the highest recognition that can be given by the Academy to its graduates worthy of emulation by others.

"As Metro Manila's Top Cop, PDG Albayalde strictly implemented practical programs for crime prevention and suppression, an intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs, and a sustained internal cleansing of NCRPO's ranks which proved to be an answer to the worsening crime situation in Metro Manila," the PMA said.

"As PNP Chief, he focused his leadership on achieving a truly disciplined organization while implementing a massive internal cleansing program anchored on firm discipline and respect for oneself and the public," the PMA added.

Eleazar, a native of Tagkawayan, Quezon was conferred the Cavalier Award for his unrelenting campaign against illegal drugs and organized crime when he was still the QCPD director.

"He pushed a relentless drive against illegal drugs and other forms of crimi-



**ELEAZAR**

nality in Quezon City, getting big criminal groups along the way. By late 2017, QCPD was chosen as the Most Trusted Police District per Napolcom surveys," the PMA said.

Nine other PMA alumni also received the PMA Cavalier Award yesterday. They are Ronnie Gil Gavan of PMA Class 1993 for Coast Guard Operations; Philippine Army Sniper Task Group Commander Harold Nemeño of PMA Class 1998 for Special Operations; SEAL Unit commander Gilbert Villarreal of PMA Class 1998 for Naval Operations; Ramon Flores of PMA Class 1994 for Army Operations;

Air Force 5th Fighter Wing Director for Operations Rolando Peña III of PMA Class 1997 or Air Operations; Director Leo Angelo Leuterio of PMA 'Maringal' Class of 1988 for Alumni Affairs; Jesus Lomeda Jr. of PMA Class 1980 for Special Field; Fernando Mesa of PMA Class for Public Administration and retired Police Director Luizo Ticman of PMA Class 1976 for Private Enterprise.

Leuterio is currently the deputy head of the PNP Internal Affairs Service while Ticman used to be a former PNP Director for Logistics. His classmates include former PNP chief Jesus A. Verzosa.

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## Peace covenant for honest polls signed in Bataan

**BALANGA City, Bataan:** Municipal, provincial and congressional candidates on Saturday signed a peace covenant at the Saint Joseph Cathedral here for honest and peaceful mid-term elections in Bataan.

The Bataan police, the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion, the Commission on Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting sponsored the covenant.

Candidates in each of Bataan's 11 towns and a city signed Integrity Pledge Boards where they pledged to abide by tenets of the Constitution, election laws, rules and regulations and respect the sanctity of the electoral exercise.

Bishop Ruperto Santos of the Diocese of Balanga advised the electorate not to vote for candidates based merely on names but on what they have accomplished.

The Bataan prelate said the candidates to be chosen should be honest, industrious and helpful.

"They should help not themselves but others, not their families but the community. They should be ready to make sacrifices to serve," Santos added.

Senior Supt. Marcelo Dayag, Bataan police director, said he was hopeful that like in past elections in Bataan, the May 13 electoral exercise would be peaceful.

"There is no recorded election hotspot in Bataan," he said.

The signing of the covenant saw Santos leading a Catholic prayer, Iman Hassan Macacua reciting the Muslim prayer and Pastor Jhonny Tomboc leading a Christian prayer.

Doves were later released.

**ERNIE B. ESCONDE**

## Madrigal seeks dialogue on recruitment of students

**BAGUIO CITY:** Armed Forces chief Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. wants a dialogue with officials of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Education (DepEd) and members of the academe to tackle the recruitment of students by the communist movement.

Madrigal said he was saddened by the death of a veterinary medicine student from the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños, one of those killed in an encounter between soldiers and communist rebels at the boundary of Quezon and Laguna last week.

"It is right for students to exercise their academic freedom but let us remind them there is a limit to being a revolutionary and of course, having sense of nationalism," he told reporters.

A member of the New People's Army was also killed in the firefight.

The Southern Luzon Command confirmed that a student, identified as John Carlo Capistrano Alberto, was killed. He allegedly joined the NPA

in January.

It was not the first time that a student was killed in an encounter between communist rebels and soldiers.

In 2017, Josephine Lapira, an alleged member of the Gabriela party-list, was killed in an encounter with troops in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, military spokesman, appealed to parents and school officials to prevent students from joining rebel organizations.

He said parents and school officials should be aware of the students' whereabouts, and what groups they had joined.

"The CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)-NPA terrorists continue to lurk in our schools and communities spying for new recruits to fill the dwindling number of their cadres," Arevalo said in a statement.

"Be on the lookout. Report the presence of these unscrupulous individuals to your AFP and allow us to save your children and students," he added.

**DEMPSEY REYES**



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### **Militiaman nabbed for guns, explosives**

PILAR, Bataan – A member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit was arrested in this city on

Friday for illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Senior Inspector Francis Jimenez, Pilar police chief, said a search on the house of Ronaldo Tangente, 33, yielded an unlicensed caliber .38 revolver, ammunition and a rifle grenade.

The suspect, a former New People's Army rebel, is now with the 70th Infantry Battalion based in Laur, Nueva Ecija.

Police said the raid on Tangente's house was based on a search warrant issued by a local court amid complaints from his neighbors that he fires his gun whenever he was drunk.

The suspect is also facing charges for violation of the election gun ban.

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– Raffy Viray

## Be wary of Reds' recruitment schemes, AFP tells youth

Military officials yesterday warned members of the youth sector, especially students and young professionals, against falling prey to the recruitment schemes of communist rebels.

"Another student has fallen prey to the deceitful scheme of the terrorist Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army. Under the guise of so-called immersion, idealistic young men and women - mostly students - were handed poisoned chalices by CPI-NPA cadres," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, said when asked to comment on reports that a University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) veterinary student, allegedly recruited by the rebels, was killed in a clash with military units in Laguna on Thursday morning.

"After being initially led to the countryside allegedly to experience life with the people, these young men and women were constantly brain-washed about perceived social ills, their emotions aroused, until they are ripe for the terrorist movement. They were recruited, taught to wield arms, and eventually meet their untimely and unfortunate death fighting government security forces," Arevalo said in message to the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

He said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. strongly condemns this evil design of the CPP-NPA.

The NPA is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and European Union.

"Time and again, he admonishes the youth, especially students and young professionals, to be very discerning about people who or groups that approach them. They should not allow themselves to be misled by nice sweet-talking individuals who'll lead them to perdition," he added.

"We therefore appeal to the parents, and to the schools officials who should take

full responsibility and custody over children while in schools under the doctrine of loco parentis, to guide their children/students," he said.

The doctrine of loco parentis refers to the legal responsibility of a person or organization to perform the functions and responsibilities of a parent.

### Check on your children

The AFP spokesperson also reminded all parents and school officials to be mindful of their child's whereabouts at all times aside from being aware of the organizations they are joining.

"The NPA terrorists continue to lurk in our schools and communities spying for new recruits to fill the dwindling number of their cadres. Be on the lookout. Report the presences of these unscrupulous individuals to your AFP and allow us to save your children/students," Arevalo said.

Meanwhile, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Noel Detoyato said the entire nation, not only the military and government, must condemn the efforts of the communist rebels to infiltrate the youth and student sectors as part of their initiative to recruit more members for their cause.

"We call that infiltration of the youth and student sector and exploiting their vulnerabilities. The case of the UPLB student is another proof of student sector exploitation of the CPP-NPA-NDF (National Democratic Front)," he said in a message to PNA.

Detoyato added that such actions by the NPAs should be strongly condemned by all Filipinos as the youth is the country's future.

"The schools are supposed to be places where patriotism, discipline and nation-building are being inculcated to our children but the CPP-NPA-NDF (are) exploit(ing) these places," he said. (PNA)

## Pursuit of fleeing NPA rebels stepped up by Army in Bukidnon

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City—The area command of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) on Saturday ordered a wide hot pursuit operation against the fleeing communist-New People's Army (NPA) terrorists in Green Valley area, Barangay Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon province.

Capt. Regio H. Go, Public Affairs Office (PAO) officer of the 4th ID also said Brig. Gen. Franco Nemesio M. Gacal, commanding general of the 4th ID also ordered Col. Edgardo Y. De Leon, commanding officer of the Army's 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade based in Bukidnon province, to secure the villagers who are continuously given security assistance by 1st Special Forces Battalion's Community Support Program (1st SFBn-CSP) in Malaybalay City and neighboring areas.

The area command of the 4th ID issued the directive after combat maneuvering troops of the 1st SFBn encountered Thursday evening an undetermined number of heavily armed NPA terrorists in Green Valley area, where four communist

insurgents and 2 government troopers were killed while undetermined number of other rebels were believed wounded, Capt. Go, said.

One Army soldier of the 1st SFBn was also wounded in that gunbattle, he said.

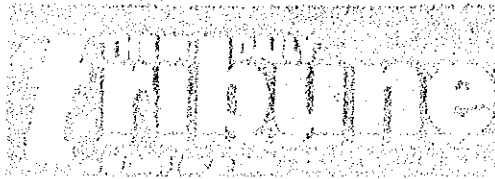
Combat maneuvering troops of the 1st SFBn also seized from the slain rebels 2 M16 Armalite rifles; 2 unexploded anti-personnel mines; 200 meter wires, ammunition, magazines for M16 rifle, bomb-making materials and personal belongings of NPA, the 4th ID PAO officer said.

Identities of the slain rebels are not immediately known.

Upon request of the villagers, Capt. Go said government troops were conducting CSP activities in Green Valley area when engaged members of CPP-NPA North-Central Mindanao Regional Committee.

"Villagers there also requested to set-up Patrol Base in the said community to assist and secure them due to the presence of the NPA terrorists that bothered their community and forced them to give money and goods from the poultry farm," claimed the 4th ID PAO officer, in a phone interview on Saturday.





## Don't get 'immersed'

By Elmor N. Manuel

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) directly addressed the youth yesterday

not to be seduced by promises of an ideal society by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army

**Turn to page 6**

## Don't get 'immersed'

Doctrine of loco parentis refers to the legal responsibility of a person or organization to perform the functions and responsibilities of a parent

*From page 1*

(CPP-NPA) following the death of a University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) student in an encounter between the rebels and military forces.

"Another student has fallen prey to the deceitful scheme of the terrorist CPP-NPA. Under the guise of a so-called immersion, idealistic young men and women, mostly students, were handed poisoned chalices by rebel cadres," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said.

A UPLB veterinary student, allegedly recruited by the rebels, was killed in the clash.

In a statement, Arevalo said the military and its chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., strongly condemned the "evil design" of the CPP-NPA, adding it only misleads the youth.

"Time and again, Madrigal admonishes the youth -- especially students and young professionals -- to be very discerning about people or groups that approach them," he said.

"After being initially led to the countryside allegedly to experience life with the people, these young men and women were constantly brainwashed about perceived social ills, their emotions aroused, until they are ripe for the terrorist movement. They were recruited, taught to wield arms and eventually meet their untimely and unfortunate death fighting government security forces," he added.

The NPA is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and European Union.

**The entire nation, not only the military and government, must condemn the efforts of the communist rebels to infiltrate the youth.**

The youth should not allow themselves to be misled by nice sweet-talking individuals who'll lead them to perdition," he explained.

#### **Loco parentis**

And while commiserating with the parents of the slain student and many others led astray by the rebels, Arevalo urged school officials to take full responsibility and guide children while in schools.

"We therefore appeal to the parents and to the school officials who should take full responsibility and custody over children while in schools under the doctrine of loco parentis to guide their children or students," he said.

The doctrine of loco parentis refers to the legal responsibility of a person or organization to perform the functions and responsibilities of a parent.

The AFP spokesman also reminded parents and school officials to be mindful of their children's whereabouts at all times aside from being aware of the organizations they are joining.

#### **Favorite haunt**

"The NPA terrorists continue to lurk in our schools and communities spying for new recruits to fill the dwindling number of their cadres. Be on the lookout. Report the presences of these unscrupulous individuals to your AFP and allow us to save your children/students," Arevalo said.

Meanwhile, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Noel Detoyato said the entire nation, not only the military and government, must condemn the efforts of the communist rebels to infiltrate the youth and student sectors as part of their initiative to recruit more members to their cause.

"(They engage in) infiltration of the youth and student sector and exploiting their vulnerabilities. The case of the UPLB student is another proof of student sector exploitation of the CPP-NPA-NDF (National Democratic Front)," he said.

#### **Under the guise of so-called immersion, idealistic young men and women, mostly students, were handed poisoned chalices.**

Detoyato added such actions by the NPA should be strongly condemned by all Filipinos as the youth are the country's future.

"The schools are supposed to be places where patriotism, discipline and nation-building are being inculcated in our children but the CPP-NPA-NDF (are) exploit(ing) these places," he said.

#### **Young life sacrificed**

A social media post revealed the slain veterinary medicine student, John Carlo Capistrano Alberto, reportedly joined the NPA in January 2019, according to fellow students.

The encounter happened in Sitio Pinamintian, Barangay San Buenaventura, Luisiana, Laguna around 9 a.m., according to the blog citing Army 2nd Infantry Division information officer Capt. Patrick Jay Retumban.

Two woman NPA members were also wounded in the encounter.

The military seized from the NPA improvised explosives, detonator, tents, eight mobile phones and a computer tablet.

In November 2017, another UP student, Josephine Lapira, allegedly a member of women's left-leaning group Gabriela, was also killed in an encounter.

## Be wary of Reds' recruitment schemes: Military to youth

The military yesterday warned members of the youth sector, especially students and young professionals, against falling prey to the recruitment schemes of communist rebels.

"Another student has fallen prey to the deceitful scheme of the terrorist Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army. Under the guise of so-called immersion, idealistic young men and women – mostly students – were handed poisoned chalices by CPP-NPA cadres," Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said when asked to comment on reports claiming that a University of the Philippines-Los Baños veterinary student, allegedly recruited by the rebels, was killed in a clash with the military in Laguna Thursday.

"After being initially led to the countryside allegedly to experience life with the people, these young men and women were constantly brain-washed about perceived social ills, their emotions aroused, until they are ripe for the terrorist movement. They were recruited, taught to wield arms, and eventually meet their untimely and unfortunate death fighting government security forces," Arevalo said.

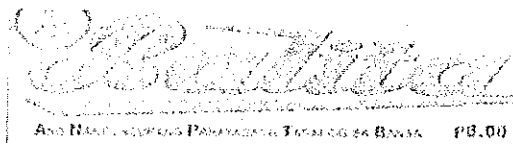
He also said that AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. strongly condemns this evil design of Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA communists.

The NPA is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and European Union.

"Time and again, he admonishes the youth, especially students and young professionals, to be very discerning about people who or groups that approach them. They should not allow themselves to be misled by nice sweet-talking individuals who'll lead them to perdition," he added.

And while commiserating with the parents of this unfortunate student and many others led astray by the rebels, Arevalo urged school officials to take full responsibility and guide children while in schools. (PNA) 12

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## 2 sa NPA, inutas ng kilusan?

Iniimbestigahan ngayon ng mga awtoridad ang posibilidad na nilikida ng kanilang kilusan ang dalawang kaanib ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, kamakailan.

Ang dalawang napatay ay kinilala ni Kidapawan City Police chief, Supt.

Ramel Hojilla, na sina Russel Sumatra, alyas "Marga", 41, may-asawa, ng 61-1 Fatima Village, Bajada, Davao City, at Oscar Nabonita, ng Purok 4, Bgy. POblacion, Magpet ng nabanggit na lalawigan.

Ayon kay Hojilla, ang dalawa ay sakay ng motorsiklo nang dikitan umano ng riding in tandem bago sila pinagbabaril sa Quezon Boulevard ng naturang lugar.

Mabilis namang tumakas ang mga suspek dala ang dalawang sling bag nina Nabonita at Sumatra na posible

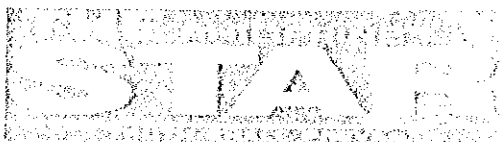
umanong naglalaman ng mga baril.

Dead on the spot ang dalawa dahil sa mga tama ng bala sa kanilang katawan.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ng mga awtoridad na inamin umano ni Ka Rebu Bonifacio na kasamahan nila sa Guerilla Front Committee 53 ang dalawang biktima.

Ayon kay Bonifacio, walang kinalaman ang kilusan sa pagpaslang sa dalawa at itinuro ang mga awtoridad na nasa likod ng insidente.

5 Fer Taboy



## Bomb blasts disrupt AFP medical mission in Sulu

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** — Bomb explosions hit near a school in Patikul, Sulu, where a medical mission was being held yesterday.

No one was reported hurt, but it caused panic among those who attended the activity at the Tanum Elementary School, according to Col. Gerry Besana, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesman.

Besana said the bandits fired 60mm mortar rounds.

He said personnel of the 6th Special Forces Battalion led by Lt. Col. Diosdado Pambid conducted the medical mission intended for residents of Barangays Tanum, Sandah,

Patikul Higa and Kadday Mampallam.

Besana said the explosions occurred while pursuit operations for a group of bandits that soldiers encountered in Barangay Igasan on Thursday were ongoing.

"We strongly condemn this terrorist attack, which resulted in the disruption of basic services delivery to the people. They bring nothing but destruction that... retards achievement of peace and development in Sulu," Lt. Gen Arnel dela Vega, Westmincom chief, said.

A soldier and four Abu Sayyaf bandits have been killed in the clashes since Thursday. — Roel Pareño

## Marawi demolition starts despite warning vs bombs

**MARAWI CITY, Lanao del Sur:** Despite warning from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that some 49 unexploded ordnances (UXOs) were not yet retrieved from the ground zero or the Marawi siege's most affected area (MAA), the National Housing Authority (NHA) has started demolishing structures inside the MAA.

The demolition that started on Thursday was part of an inter-agency in charge of rehabilitating the city.

UXOs are explosive weapons that did not explode when they were employed but still pose risks of detonation even decades after they were used or discarded.

This was the main reason given by the AFP on why no one was allowed to visit ground zero as the explosives pose great danger to lives.

A Luzon contractor, CJI General Services, which won the contract to clear sectors 2 to 9 of the MAA, began with the demolition of a ruined property owned by Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra on Osmeña Street in Barangay Sangkay, located inside sector 5.

Ikmat Bantuas, an NHA engineer, said Gandamra's building was one of the 409 structures whose owners consented to demolition of their property.

Bantuas added that there were guidelines for the demolition such as the owners must be present during the demolition, and that all the concerned agencies would sign for the demolition permit.

He said residents who did not consent to demolition would be respected, but they might not

be able to request government assistance should they change their mind later.

Some owners refused to allow the demolition of their property for fear that they might not get them back.

But the Task Force Bangon Marawi has repeatedly assured that all demolished property will be returned to rightful owners.

There are 6,800 structures inside the 250-hectare MAA, composed of nonhabitable, hazardous and partly destroyed houses and buildings, according to the NHA.

The affected structures will be evaluated and identified by the three government agency-members of the Inter-Agency Committee on Debris Clearing, which includes the NHA and the local government unit.

Edsel Alan Manigbas, deputy project manager of CJI, said they expect to finish the demolition works in eight months — or four months if the weather condition permits, especially if property owners cooperate in completing the demolition earlier than scheduled.

He noted that one of the challenges they were facing was time spent on waiting for the owners because they could not proceed with the demolition without the latter's presence.

It was said the demolition of structures destroyed during the five-month war between government forces and the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group in 2017 promised a fresh start for a ruined city whose majority of residents remain displaced in temporary shelters.

**MASIDING NOOR YAHYA**



# Spare children, group urges rebels, soldiers

BY NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS

**C**HILDREN'S organization Save the Children Philippines on Saturday called on rebels and government forces to ensure the safety of children in conflict-torn areas, especially in Mindanao.

Albert Muyot, chief executive officer of Save the Children Philippines, said armed conflicts put an end to children's future as thousands get killed in firefights. Many more miss out on schools and suffer hunger and sickness.

"The impact of conflict on children is deep, devastating and lifelong," Muyot said as he appealed to rebels and state forces to ensure children in conflict areas are safe from abduction, detention and displacement, and that their rights are respected.

"Schools and health centers must be treated as zones of peace and protection and every child is protected from rape and sexual violence," he added.

The group's 64-page report released on Saturday said that at least 350,000 people were displaced by the five-month long siege in Marawi City, which broke out in May 23, 2017. Of these, 45.71 percent or 160,000 were children.

With 24 of the 96 barangays in the city destroyed, at least 62,000 students had missed school.

The breakdown of essential public services such as health care, water supply and sanitation also resulted in diseases, hunger and insecurity among nursing mothers and children, the report indicated.

Muyot said the psychological effects and severe emotional distress could last beyond the end of the conflict.

In 2017, at least 30 children were recruited and were used as human shield by armed groups such as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, New People's Army and the Maute Group.

Large-scale recruitment of children was also reported at the height of the Marawi siege.

Sixty attacks on schools were recorded.

At least 33 children were killed or maimed during the siege, while three cases of rape of girls aged as young as 14 by

the Maute Group were verified by the United Nations.

"Everyday, children face the threat of being killed or maimed, recruited by armed groups, abducted, falling victim to sexual violence, seeing their school attacked or humanitarian aid denied. In many cases, children are specifically targeted," said the group.

Save the Children called on the global community to strengthen campaigns to protect children from war and armed conflict.

At least 100,000 infants worldwide die yearly due to armed conflict and its indirect effects such as hunger, displacement, lack of health care access and sanitation.

The group's report also revealed that 420 million children or 1 in 5 around the world now live in conflict areas, an increase of 30 million from 2016.



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#### **Be wary of Reds 'recruitment scheme', AFP tells youth**

By Priam Nepomuceno February 16, 2019, 2:18 pm

**MANILA** -- Military officials on Saturday warned members of the youth sector, especially students and young professionals, against falling prey to the recruitment schemes of communist rebels.

"Another student has fallen prey to the deceitful scheme of the terrorist Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army. Under the guise of so-called immersion, idealistic young men and women -- mostly students -- were handed poisoned chalices by CPP-NPA cadres," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, said when asked to comment on reports claiming that a University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) veterinary student, allegedly recruited by the rebels, was killed in a clash with military units in Laguna on Thursday morning.

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He also said that AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. strongly condemns this evil design of CPP-NPA communists.

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"Time and again, he admonishes the youth, especially students and young professionals, to be very discerning about people who or groups that approach them. They should not allow themselves to be misled by nice sweet-talking individuals who'll lead them to perdition," he added.

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