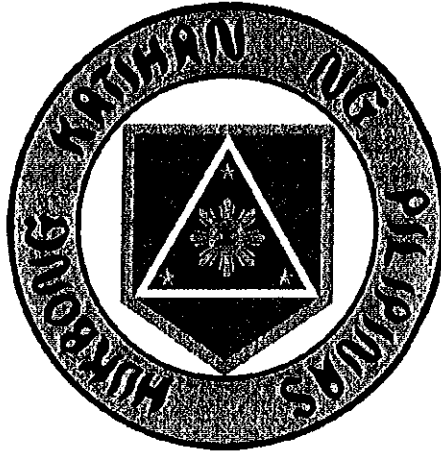


*By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.*



# **TEAM ARMY**

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**26 February 2019**

**Tuesday**

*Honor. Patriotism. Duty.*

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

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# Don't harm priests - Duterte

By EDITH REGALADO

**DAVAO CITY** - His feud with the Catholic Church is personal, and anyone who harms priests and bishops will have President Duterte himself as an enemy.

The President issued the warning after being told by the Catholic Church leadership of alleged death threats on clerics supposedly made by people close to him.

He also said Catholic priests should be allowed to marry.

Despite his well-known disdain for the Catholic Church, Duterte said priests and other religious workers should be spared from violence triggered by political disputes.

"Do not touch the priests, they have nothing to do with politics," the President said at the PDP-Laban rally in Cebu City on Sunday - a message that he reiterated yesterday.

"Either Muslims or Christians, they have nothing to do with us. Do not do it. Do not try to do it. A religious has nothing to do with the vagaries of life. Lay off! Stop threatening them or *ako ang*

Turn to Page 2

## Don't harm From Page 1

*makalaban ninyo* (you'll have to deal with me)," Duterte said.

In issuing the warning, Duterte revealed receiv-

ing a letter from Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle expressing concern over threats against clerics from an anonymous individual, supposedly close to the Dutertes.

"Oras na galawin ninyo ang mga madre o pari o imam... wag niyo silang galawin (Once you touch nuns, priests, or imams - don't harm them). Those are religious people. Kilala man ninyo yan, tayo mag-encuentro diyan. Wala silang kilalang (You know them, we'll have an encounter. They are not involved)," he added.

"Good day po, greetings from Rome. I was informed that Bishop David and some priests got death threats from someone claiming to be working for the President's family. Just to let you know, baka may naninira. Thanks, we pray," Duterte said, reading Tagle's message. "Bishop David" could be Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David, a known critic of Duterte's bloody war on drugs.

"Wala po gamin (No such thing) Cardinal. Salamat. Just to let you know that there are persons using the name of the President and his family," Duterte claimed telling Tagle.

Earlier in the day - at the distribution of grants to cash transfer beneficiaries - the President said priests, including gays,

should be allowed to marry.

"Allow them to marry. Same sex, go ahead. Live together. The Catholics... the Muslims can only have four. The

Catholics can have up to three wives. I'll add more for us because there are those who have not been married yet," the President said.

Duterte did not say what problem would be solved if priests were allowed to marry. But in his remarks, he brought up the alleged sexual misconduct of priests, including Pope Francis' recent admission that some priests had abused nuns.

"Priests should be allowed to marry. That's the only solution there. Even the gay ones, allow them to marry, same-sex marriage. I am in favor of that to put an end to the problem," he added.

"Those bishops deceive people. It's as if they are the only ones who are knowledgeable. Look at this now, pope went to Dubai. What did he say? He said that the abuses are true. The sisters are being used by the priests," Duterte said.

Again, Duterte related his allegedly being abused as a young boy by a Jesuit priest at the Ateneo de Davao.

Duterte had claimed about 90 percent of Catholic priests are gay but did not provide any proof to back his claim.

The President has been hostile to the Catholic Church because of its opposition to the war on illegal drugs, which has killed more than 5,000 people.

For Fr. Jerome Secillano, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Public Affairs Committee (PAC) executive secretary, Duterte "trivializes" the "complex problem" of sexual crimes involving priests with his proposal to just let them marry.

"Allowing priests to marry is unfor-

tunately not the solution to the problem of sexual misconduct in the Church. The issue is not merely about homosexuality. It is about having sexual deviant personality that cannot be cured simply by allowing the perpetrators to marry," Secillano said.

"Even if we speak of 'macho' priests who are engaged in 'consensual affairs,' marriage may not even guarantee faithfulness in the relationship," Secillano said.

One way of solving the problem is through "seminary formation" that requires strict standards for choosing candidates for ordination.

On alleged death threats on priests, Secillano said it's the Duterte administration that would suffer if such reports would turn out to be true.

"This will hurt the administration in the long run. It will reflect badly on the President who had previously threatened to have some bishops killed," he said.

"We need to determine if indeed there are groups out to harm members of the clergy. If there are, what can they get out of it? The least that they can do is to eliminate voices of dissent and criticism," said Secillano.

"Having made those threats before, is the President ready to take accountability for each drop of blood from our bishops who might be killed?

"Or just like the bloody 'tokhang', will he just simply wash his hands and feign ignorance for the killing of thousands that include the young and the innocent?" he added.

- With Alexis Romero, Evelyn Ma-cairan

# LABOR, SENATORS REBUKE DU30 ON CHINESE WORKERS

STORY BY MARLON RAMOS

Malacañang walks back the President's comments, saying Philippine laws will be equally applied to all foreigners who violate them. But the government, it says, will not 'act recklessly' to protect Filipinos in China.

FROM A1

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

Senators, including those who support the administration, on Monday rejected President Duterte's suggestion to allow Chinese illegally working in the Philippines to stay and keep their jobs to avoid a diplomatic controversy that could lead to the expulsion of thousands of Filipinos from China.

The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) also rejected the President's suggestion, saying if the Chinese wanted to work here, they should secure all the legal requirements like all other foreigners working in the country.

"Dura lex, sed lex," Senate President Vicente Sotto III said, using the Latin legal maxim that means "the law is harsh, but it is the law."

"Deportation is a consequence if [domestic] laws are violated by foreigners," Sotto said.

Speaking at a campaign rally of his administration's senatorial candidates in Biñan City, Laguna province, on Sunday, Mr. Duterte said: "The Chinese here, just let them work here. Just let them. Why? We have 300,000 Filipinos in China."

Mr. Duterte explained that he could not just order the deporta-

tion of Chinese illegally working in the Philippines because China might respond in kind.

Speaking in Cebu City later on Sunday, Mr. Duterte said there were 400,000 Filipinos in China.

"While there are senators who want to have the Chinese nationals deported, I said, 'Why will I do that? There are 400,000 Filipinos there in China,'" he said.

## Palace clarification

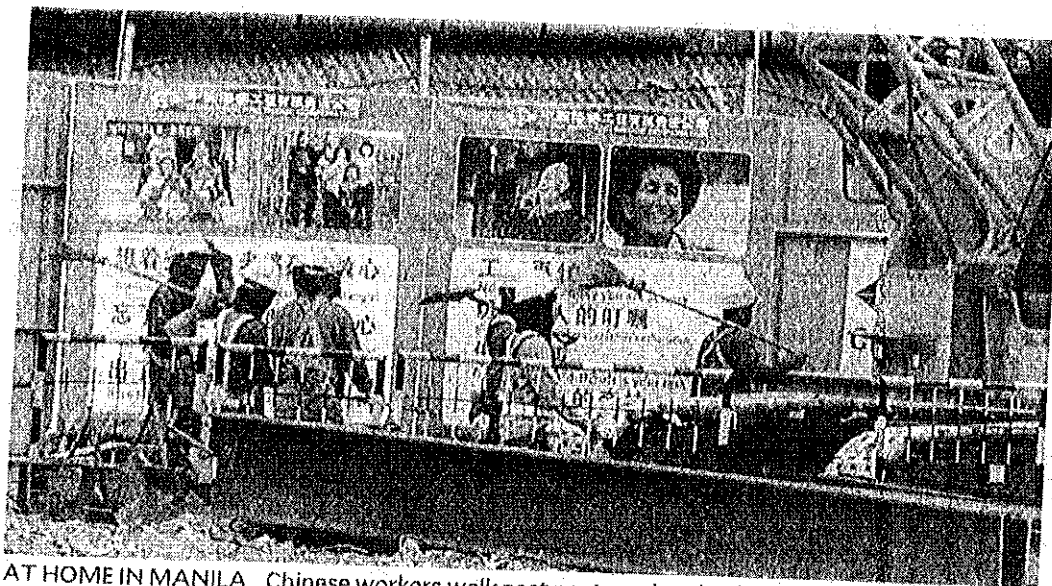
Malacañang issued a clarification on Monday night, saying Mr. Duterte would enforce immigration laws on the illegal Chinese workers.

"We wish to clarify that the President's policy on Chinese workers who are illegally staying in the country remains the same, which is the enforcement of immigration laws against violators," presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

"Our laws will be applied with full force and effect equally to all foreign nationals who violate them," he said.

Panelo added, however, that enforcement of immigration laws doesn't mean "we shall act recklessly on perceived violations of Chinese citizens."

"To do so would be a dangerous policy as we have, as the President stressed in his campaign rally speech, thousands of Filipinos in China and its government might enforce a policy of tit for tat to the detriment of our country-



**AT HOME IN MANILA** Chinese workers walk past posters showing images of home as they begin the day's work on the China-funded Binondo-Intramuros Bridge in Manila. —JOAN BONDOC

men in China," Panelo said.

Mr. Duterte's remarks came a week after the Senate committee on labor, employment and human resources, chaired by Sen. Joel Villanueva, resumed its inquiry into the influx of undocumented Chinese workers into the country.

#### **No exceptions**

During the hearing, Villanueva found that most of the Chinese tourists were unlawfully employed by Chinese-owned offshore gaming and business process outsourcing companies.

On Monday, Sen. Panfilo

Lacson said the country's immigration laws should be strictly enforced on all foreigners staying in the country.

"No exception, please—Chinese, Japanese, Americans. Even [those] from planet Mars," Lacson said.

"Whatever the President says, I would rather that we give premium to Filipino workers by deporting foreign nationals illegally working here, and, worse, taking away scarce job opportunities from our own countrymen," he added.

For Villanueva, Mr. Duterte may have been given "wrong da-

ta" about the number of Filipinos illegally working in China.

While it is true that many Filipinos are illegally working in other countries, he said, the issue should be centered on the proper implementation of domestic immigration policies.

"[This is] not just for the protection of jobs for Filipinos, but also [for] the protection of the rights of the workers regardless of nationality," Villanueva said.

#### **Sack officials involved**

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said unscrupulous officials of the Dole and the Bureau of Immi-

gration should be sacked for consenting to the entry of undocumented Chinese workers.

"File criminal cases against them. Uphold the rule of law and without fanfare. Deport these illegals," Pangilinan said in a statement.

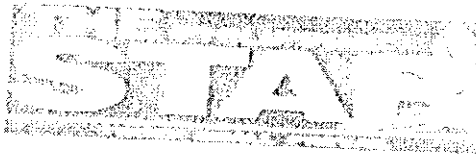
According to Dominique Tutay, head of the Dole's Bureau of Local Employment, it is important that Chinese nationals legally enter the Philippines as workers if they intend to work here.

"What we are seeing are those who come in as tourists but eventually become workers. The emphasis here is you have to really be documented [as a foreign worker]," Tutay told reporters on Monday.

The Nagkaisa labor coalition called Mr. Duterte's stand on the issue "dereliction of [his] duty" to protect the rights of Filipino workers.

"It is incumbent upon the President to enforce the country's laws on employing foreign nationals, be it Chinese or otherwise. If such foreigners violate our laws, they should be dealt with accordingly," Nagkaisa spokesperson Rene Magtubo said.

"Making an unfounded fear as an argument of not implementing our laws on employing foreign nationals is a dereliction of duty on the part of the President and his labor secretary," he added. —WITH REPORTS FROM JOVIC YEE AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQC



## **Army names new spokesman, chief dental surgeon**

The Philippine Army announced yesterday the appointment of Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala as new Public Affairs Office chief and spokesman.

Zagala replaced Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva, who will be reassigned at the Training and Doctrine Command.

The Army also named its new chief dental surgeon Col. Ronaldo Soriano, replacing Col. Jeffrey Belagan. <sup>JD</sup>

Zagala and Soriano assumed their posts on Friday during simple turnover rites presided over by Army chief Maj. Gen. Jesus Sarsagat at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

— Michael Punongbayan



# Comelec forms control committee to oversee poll hotspots

The Commission on Elections has created a Comelec control committee (CCC) to supervise the areas placed under its control.

Based on Resolution No. 10501 issued on Feb. 21, the CCC will be composed of representatives from the Comelec, Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the

Philippines.

The CCC will be chaired by a Comelec commissioner.

The Comelec places an area under its control to prevent election-related violence from escalating.

Only two areas have been placed under Comelec control so far: Daraga in Albay and Cotabato City.

Daraga was declared an election hotspot following the killing of Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Rodel Batocabe allegedly by his rival for the mayoralty post, reelectionist Mayor Carlwyn Baldo on Dec. 22.

The poll body said the CCC is authorized to create special task force teams, which will

act as the implementing arm with regard to the decisions, order and other issuances in relation to the enforcement of the Comelec control.

Once an area is placed under Comelec control, the poll body has the authority to relieve members of the military and the PNP.

The Comelec may

recommend the relief of any public official or employee who violates election laws or fails to comply with the poll body's orders.

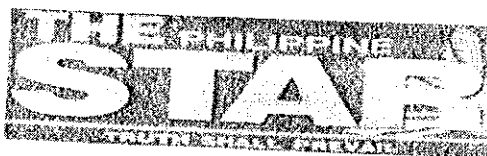
## Ballot printing

Meanwhile, the printing of official ballots to be used in the May elections is in full swing, averaging 1.1 million copies per day.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said they have reached their target of printing one million ballots daily.

He said the number of ballots printed by the National Printing Office reached 11,346,352, or 17.82 percent of the 63,662,481 ballots to be printed.

- Sheilla Crisostomo



## For 1st time, no FVR leap

For the first time, former president Fidel Ramos skipped the anniversary rites yesterday for the 1986 EDSA people power revolution in which he played a key role.

A close aide said Ramos, who is turning 91 on March 18, could not attend the 33rd EDSA anniversary rites, as he had been in pain in the past several days due to gout.

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"He's just at home. Some of the food he eats triggers his gout," the aide said.

The former leader had a heart pacemaker implanted four years ago and has had only one kidney for the past 68 years.

Ramos, then Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) vice chief of staff, along with then defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile and a group of young officers belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) led by then Army Col. Gregorio Honasan, holed up at Camp Aguinaldo after being ordered arrested by then president Ferdinand Marcos on Feb. 22.

Responding to calls from Jaime Cardinal Sin, civilians began marching to EDSA to surround Camp Aguinaldo to protect Ramos, Enrile and the mutinous soldiers and policemen.

The standoff ended on Feb. 25 after Marcos and his family and a number of his cronies fled the country.

President Corazon Aquino took over after Marcos' ouster.

Part of the celebration each year was the reenactment of Ramos' famous jump after being wrongly informed that Marcos and his family had fled the country on Feb. 24.

Last Friday, Ramos launched his latest book, "Silver Linings: The Continuing Saga of the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution."

Honasan, meanwhile, said he continues to "remember with pride and continuing faith and hope when the RAM broke away from the chain of command to become part of People Power, the crucial component, tipping point and accelerator of historical events."

- Jose Rodel Clapano

## TMT TV runs test broadcast of EDSA forum with Enrile, Pimentel

THE Manila Times TV (TMT TV) ran a formal, live test broadcast of its whole-day news coverage and panel discussions on the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolt from its studio in its main office in Intramuros, Manila on Monday.

► Broadcast A2

### BROADCAST FROM A1

## TMT TV

Tackling the issue, "33 Years after EDSA Revolution: *May Ipinagbago Ba?* (Has there been any meaningful change?)," the panel of guest speakers and analysts included two main characters of the political drama that unfolded on the highway between the police headquarters called Camp Crame and the military's Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City — Juan Ponce Enrile, then Department of National Defense minister, and Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who later became part of President Corazon Aquino's Cabinet as Department of Local Government minister.

Other guest panelists talked about how the Philippine political landscape has changed since the first popular uprising in the country that led to the collapse of the 20-year rule of then strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

They included political analyst Clarita Carlos, former ambassador and press attaché Alejandro del Rosario, Radio Veritas manager Fr. Larry Faraon, Capt. Proceso "Boy" Maligalig of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), 1987 Constitution framer and former Commission on Elections

chairman Christian Monsod, former Tawi-Tawi governor Al Tilib, journalist Belinda Olivares Cunanan, artist Cecile Guidote Alvarez, former Sen. Helmerson "Sonny" Alvarez, Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, Efren Vilaseñor, former University of the East College of Law dean Amado Valdez, former Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan 3rd, Ret. Gen. Victor Corpus, philosophy professor Rene Tadle, former Pasig City Rep. and Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association National Chairman Noel "Toti" Cariño, former Palawan governor Abraham "Baham" Mitra, former senator and broadcaster Edgardo "Eddie" Ilarde, broadcaster and *Times* columnist Ramon "Mon" Tulfo, journalist Ninez Cacho Olivares, and Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar.

Moderating the whole-day panel discussions were *Times* publisher-editor Nerilyn Tenorio and guest co-hosts, broadcaster Mario Garcia, actress-producer Jackie Aquino, broadcaster and *Times* columnist Tulfo, and *Tribune* founder and columnist Ninez Cacho Olivares.

TMT TV had its first live test broadcast of the 2018 State of the Nation Address of President Rodrigo Duterte, involving panel discussions before and after the speech.

ARIC JOHN SY CUA

## Opposition bets hail Duterte's health care law, support for military, Boracay rehab

By RAYMUND F. ANTONIO  
and BEN R. ROSARIO

**O**pposition senatorial candidates who have been critical of President Duterte also appreciate some of the good policies of his administration.

During the second "Harapan 2019: The ABS-CBN Senatorial Town Hall Debate" held on Sunday, four senatorial bets from the "Otso Diretso" opposition slate said Duterte's support for the military and free health care are good policies.

In the "Fast Talk" segment of the debate backed by the leading network's media partner Manila Bulletin, Magdalo Representative Gary Alejano said Duterte's "support for the military" was something good that he could say about the President.

But Alejano was quick to warn that it should not result in "personal loyalty"

to Duterte.

Alejano, a former mutineer who is aspiring to be a senator, is a staunch critic of the President, especially his policy towards China.

For Duterte administration arch-critic Mar Roxas, President Duterte deserves praise for funding free health care services to Filipinos, saying that pit is a personal priority he wanted to be carried out by government.

Roxas, who lost the 2016 presidential election to Duterte, said the medical care program is the best accomplishment the Duterte administration achieved.

The former secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government was among the eight senatorial candidates who participated in the senatorial debate held Sunday night.

But Roxas, who is seeking a political comeback in the 2019 senatorial bid, remained furious against the TRAIN Law and the proposal to lower the age

of criminal responsibility.

He said it is common sense to reject the reduction of criminal responsibility, pointing out that even movie houses reject minors from entering R-18 rated films.

"Tyung paglinis ng Boracay (The Boracay cleanup)," election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said.

For former House deputy speaker Erin Tañada, Duterte did something right after he signed the Free Irrigation Service Act, a landmark law that provides free irrigation to farmers.

The President signed the free irrigation law or Republic Act No. 10969 in February, 2018.

Just last week, he also signed into law the Universal Health Care Act that seeks to improve access of Filipinos to health services through a national health program and the availability of medicines and health facilities.

Alejano and former Bayan Muna

representative Neli Cohmenares were asked if they would accept a Cabinet post in the Duterte administration. They answered "No."

Tañada, a longtime Liberal Party stalwart, was also asked a question about the President. If he has a piece of advice to him, what would it be?

"Kailangan na ipasa coco levy fund bill para sa ating magsasaka (The coco levy fund bill needs to be passed for our farmers)," he said.

On China, Alejano's advice to Duterte was: 'Wag ibenta ang WPS. 'Di dapat kapalit sa pangungutang ng China. (Don't sell the West Philippine Sea in exchange for loans from China.)

Former Pagsanjan Mayor Abner Afuang said that if there is indeed a state-sponsored killing, it should target "corrupt" elective officials in Congress.

"Kung uunahin ang mga corrupt sa Congress, pabor ako," he said when asked if he favors the "tokhang" police operations against persons involved in drugs.

Afuang, a former journalist and member of the Makati City police force, also thumbed down the lowering of the

age of criminality, saying that this will make children mere "collateral damage" in government's bid to end criminality.

Asked to react to the proposal to change the country's name, senatorial candidate Agnes Escudero said that if this will be approved, Philippines should be named "Rizal Republic", after national hero Jose Rizal.

Also in the fast talk segment of the public discourse, Macalintal defended former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's victory over the actor Fernando Poe Jr. during the 2004 elections.

"Walang katibayan na siya ay nandaya," said Macalintal (There is no evidence that she cheated).

On the proposal to change Philippines to Maharlika, Macalintal said government leaders should no longer tinker with the proposal and address the many problems affecting the country.

Macalintal also elided senatorial rivals enjoying the support of President Duterte for failing to show up for the debate.

"Sa mga hindi sumipot sa debate, ang nais nila ay kumapit lamang sa kanilang pangulo," he stated. 4

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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• **Army's social services caravan**

BUTUAN CITY - More than 1,200 villagers of the far-flung Barangay Anticala in this city benefited from the social services caravan initiated by the Army's 29th Infantry (Matatag) Battalion (29th IB) on Saturday, February 23. The villagers benefited from the free medical and dental services, including distribution of medicines, haircut, massage and feeding program. The villagers also received 750 packs of goods, 500 pairs of slippers and 300 vegetable seedlings. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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### **Navy seeks fastcraft acquisition**

Philippine Navy (PN) Chief Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad said acquiring 12 fastcrafts for its inventory will help secure the vast waters of Western Mindanao to fight smuggling, piracy and even terrorism. Empedrad said the fastcrafts are needed considering that their present inventory is already aging and can only stay at sea for a short period of time. He added that if they could acquire new fastcrafts with pinpoint accuracy and weapons system, the Navy can immediately engage the enemy. Empedrad said the fastcrafts they have recommended can stay at sea from seven to 10 days. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has approved the proposal which will be presented with the complete requirements by the chairman of the technical working group, the vice admiral said. Empedrad said he is confident that President Duterte will approve the proposal. (Francis T. Wakefield)

## 'Military will not stage a coup' — Duterte

By GENALYN D. KABILING

President Duterte is optimistic the military is unlikely to stage a coup attempt against his administration due to apparent concern on who would take over the reins of government.

The President said while he recognized the soldiers' love for country, they seemed to worry if he would be replaced by his opponents.

"The military will not hold a coup d'etat against me. Well, maybe they'll say they'll worry about who will be the one to replace me because they are afraid about the situation of the Philippines," he said in Bisaya during

the administration's campaign rally in Cebu City Sunday night.

Duterte said he has advised the military against allowing opposition figures to take over in case they decide to overthrow his government.

He argued that it was foolish to give power to the enemies of the leaders the military deposed, citing the past military-backed revolutions against former presidents.

"I already told them: the thing about you is that you will hold a revolution. The police. And after you win, you give way for the opposing party. What kind of foolishness is that?" he said.

"Just like with Cory and Estrada.

What's the point of... What kind of party are you to hold a coup d'etat only to give way for the opposition? It would be the same situation because everyone involved are foolish. It's politics," he added.

Early this month, the President urged the military to drop politicians and instead choose young leaders to run the government if the soldiers revolt against the government. He said the young leaders should be given good salary and be rewarded for their efforts.

Duterte previously said the military was free to overthrow him if they were no longer satisfied with his performance. 2



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The National Newsmagazine

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## 'Be prepared to fight oppression anew'

**BY WENDELL VIGILIA  
and JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

FILIPINOS should learn from the lessons of the 1986 EDSA "people power revolution" and be prepared to fight tyranny and oppression now like they did 33 years ago, an opposition senatorial candidate said yesterday.

"We have to take a stand for our rights and freedom. When we're oppressed, let's not let it pass. Let's not allow the dark past to return once again," Rep. Gary Alejano (PL, Magdalo) said in a statement as the country celebrated the 33rd anniversary of EDSA 1 that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

Referring to the Duterte administration, he said the people still fall victim "to what seems to be a dictatorial style of governance."

"The human right violations are left and right — silencing the administration's critics, suppressing the freedom of the press and the never-ending martial law in Mindanao. The government is trying desperately to plunge the country back to its dark past," Alejano said.

President Duterte, in a message for the anniversary, urged Filipinos to value the freedoms and liberties Filipinos enjoyed because of

the people power revolution 33 years ago.

He said he joins the nation in commemorating the peaceful revolution that brought together Filipinos from all walks of life and gave rise to a "Philippines that was reborn from the ashes of its tumultuous past."

Duterte skipped the EDSA rites like in the past two years.

Key figures in people power revolt — former President Fidel Ramos, former senator Juan Ponce Enrile, and Sen. Gregorio Honasan — were also absent.

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, commissioner of the EDSA People Power Commission, said Ramos skipped the event for health reasons while Enrile and Honasan "celebrate only February 22, the day of their breakaway from Marcos."

"They ask to be excused from the other activities without prejudice to the millions of Filipinos who defended them in (Camp) Aguinaldo ultimately in (Camp) Crame. We in the commission on EDSA respect this position of Senator Enrile and Senator Honasan," he also said.

About a thousand people, most-

See BE PREPARED ► Page B2

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## BE PREPARED

ly government employees, attended the rites at the People Power Monument in Quezon City, according to the Quezon City Police District (QCPD).

The QCPD said the event, which started past 8 a.m. and ended at around 9:35 a.m., went generally peaceful. There was no protest monitored near the People Power Monument and other key areas.

This was a sharp contrast to the situation last year when about 1,000 protesters marched from the People Power Monument to the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame to voice out their dissent to government.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) led the commemorative program at the People Power Monument.

The program included the flag-raising ceremony, ecumenical prayer, wreath-laying rite, and conferment of Freedom Awards and Spirit of EDSA and Good Citizenship Movement Awards.

Most of the attendees wore white and very few wore yellow, which is the color of the opposition Liberal Party.

Education undersecretary Lorna Dig-Dino and NHCP chair Rene Escalante led the flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremony in front of the People Power Monument.

Dig-Dino, the event's guest of honor, said the lesson of the peaceful revolution "is that every

one of us has a chance to do something for the country."

She said the EDSA revolution promoted "communication, understanding and care" at that time.

Joey Concepcion III, presidential adviser for entrepreneurship and EDSA People Power Commission vice president, said the revolution instilled in the youth back then the kind of courage that pushes them to rise up and fulfill their dreams.

He also said real democracy has to be translated into real economic democracy "where the country is not controlled by the rich and where those at the bottom of the pyramid and the middle-class are aspiring to be wealthy."

### 'DEMOCRACY ALIVE'

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said democracy is alive and functioning with vibrancy 33 years after the 1986 EDSA uprising.

Guevarra was reacting to comments that the Duterte administration is undermining the freedoms won by Filipinos in EDSA 1.

"We Filipinos continue to enjoy the liberties that we regained after the People Power revolution in 1986. Our government institutions function with vibrancy under a democratic regime," he said, adding that there is freedom of the press and expression despite the recent arrest of Rappler CEO Maria Ressa on a cyber libel case.

Ressa, who is also facing tax evasion charges, is out on bail.

"We continue to enjoy the freedom of the press and most especially with the advent of social media, people are free to express their grievances," Guevarra said.

The Armed Forces, which also played a key role in toppling the Marcos dictatorship, vowed to continue observing the lessons from the EDSA revolt.

Col. Noel Deloyato, chief of the AFP's public affairs office, said the commemoration of the revolt reminds the military "that whatever challenges we face, despite the differences in our organizations and groups, we remain united and loyal to our country and to our Constitution."

### SUBSERVIENCE

Alejano scored the administration's alleged subservience to China, especially in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) where the country has lost parts of its territory to China.

"While there are other nations that want to abuse Filipinos, it's also true that there are Filipinos who are working with imperialists," he said. "It's lamentable and revolting that our government is prepared to violate the human rights of Filipinos and destroy our democratic institutions in the name of 'good relations' with China."

Alejano dared rival senatorial bet Christopher "Bong" Go of the administration's Hugpong ng Pagbabago (HNP) party "to explain to the people the track taken

by the administration on the West Philippine Sea."

"Bong Go is the face of this administration. They (administration senatorial bets) have to explain why they allowed China to seize our islands," he said.

Alejano waited for Hugpong candidates to debate with him at the Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila yesterday afternoon but no one came.

He said Hugpong candidates "missed a golden opportunity to speak to the nation when its bets snubbed the debate challenge."

"What are they afraid of?" asked the lawmaker who was accompanied by fellow Otso Diretso candidates, election lawyer Romy Macalintal, human rights lawyer Chel Diokno, former solicitor general Florin Hilbay, and former Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III.

The opposition bets last week challenged Hugpong bets to a no-holds-barred debate on various issues, a dare that presidential daughter Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio said Hugpong candidates were ready to accept.

Macalintal said the administration bets can choose the date, time and place for the debate and the opposition bets will surely come.

"We're still challenging them. They can set the date, time and place wherever they want and we'll come to them so we can explain the issues to each other," he said. — *With Angela Lopez de Leon, Ashzel Hachero and Victor Reyes*

## 12 fastcraft bibilhin vs smuggling, terorismo

Lalo pang pinaigting ng militar ang pagsugpo sa smuggling, terorismo at pamimirata sa bansa, partikular na sa karagatan ng Western Mindanao.

Ayon kay Philippine Navy (PN) Chief Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad, bumibili na silang 12 na sasakyang-pandagat upang lumawak pa ang mababantayan nilang bahagi ng baybaying-dagat sa rehiyon.

Aniya, masyado ng luma ang kasalukuyan nilang ginagamit na mga high speed craft, kaya't kinakailangan nang palitan ang mga ito.

"Yun ang kailangan kasi 'yun ngang

nangyayari sa Mindanao, maraming baril ang nakakapasok, smuggling, piracy, and all these things sa laki kasi ng dagat sa Mindanao [That's what is needed because of what is happening in Mindanao, lots of guns entering], smuggling, piracy, and all these things [because of the vastness of the waters of Mindanao]," anito.

Hindi na aniya masyadong napapakinabangan ang mga fastcraft na dating nabili ng pamahalaan sa Korea.

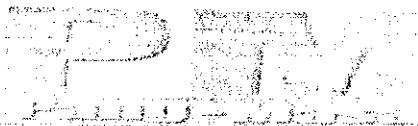
"So ang nire-request ng navy [So what the navy is requesting] if we can acquire 12 fastcraft, we can secure the vast waters

of Mindanao, Sulu, Sulu Sea and all the waters there at," sabi nito.

Kung mabibili aniya ng gobyerno ang mga ito ay maaari nilang palubugin sa karagatan ang kanilang mga kalaban.

"Meron pa namang guidance si president [There is a guidance from the president] that if you see these people plying these areas palulubugin namin [we sink it] pero kung mabili namin 'yung capability na 'yan eh palulubugin namin lahat ng mga kalaban na gumagamit ng dagat," pahayag pa ng opisyal.

Francis T. Wakefield



## SUNDALO, TANOD DEDO SA B-DAY PARTY

Naging madugo ang isang birthday party nang magkainitan habang nag-iinuman ang grupo ng sundalo at mga barangay tanod sa Brgy. Pandanan, Laua-an, Antique kamakalawa ng gabi.

Ang mga nasawi ay kinilalang sina Pfc. Jerson Cordero at baran-

gay tanod na si George Lavega. Habang nasugatan sina Corporal Miguelito Perez at Pfc. Jason Respiel.

Batay sa imbestigasyon ng pulisya, bago nangyari ang krimen dakong alas-8:45 ng gabi ay magkasamang nag-iinuman ang mga sundalo at tanod

sa kanilang bunkhouse bilang selebrasyon ng isa sa mga sundalo.

Habang nag-iinuman at nasa impluwensya na ng alak ay napikon sa bituan ang tanod na si Lavega at pinagbabaril ang mga biktima kasama ang tatlong pinsan na sina Gilbert Necor; Christopher Lavega at

Jeoffrey Legaspi.

Nasakote naman ng mga nagrespondeng operatiba ng pulisya si Necor na nakumiskahan din ng isang .357 revolver habang nakatakas ang iba pang suspek. - Joy Cantos -

B...

## ***Barilan sa b-day party: Sundalo, tanod utas!***

Nauwi sa trahedya ang isang masayang birthday party makaraang magkainitan ang nag-inumang mga sundalo at barangay tanod na humantong sa pamamail na ikinasawi ng dalawa habang dalawa pa ang malubhang nasugatan sa Brgy. Pandanan, Laua-an, Antique kamakalawa ng gabi.

Kinilala ang mga nasawi na sina Pfc. Jason Cordero at Brgy. Tanod George Lavega; pawang ng nasabing bayan, samantalang isinugod sa pagamutan ang mga sugatang sina Cpl. Miguelito Perez at Pfc. Jason Respiel.

Sa ulat ng Antique Police, dakong alas-

8:45 ng gabi habang nag-inuman sa kanilang bunkhouse ang magkakaibigang sundalo at ilang tanod dahil selebrasyon ng kaarawan ng isa sa mga kawal nang mangyari ang insidente.

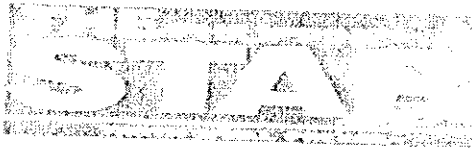
Ang sugatang si Lavega ang tinukoy na isa sa apat na suspek na namaril sa mga sundalo kasama ang tatlo nitong pinsan na sina Gilbert Necor, Christopher Lavega at Jeffrey Legaspi.

Pinayagan ng mga sundalo na makisali sa kanilang inuman ang mga tanod dahil kinalala naman nila ang mga ito. Gayunman, habang nasa impluwensya na ng alak ay napikon sa

biruan ang mga suspek at pinagbabaril ang mga biktima.

Nasakote ng mga nagrespondeng pulis

si Necor na nakumpis- kahan ng isang .357 revolver habang nakatakas ang iba pang suspek. *(Joy Cantos) CJ*



## 'Gay rebels molesting Baste a fake story'

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

President Duterte just invented the story that members of the New People's Army kissed his son Baste during the turnover of policemen who were captured by the NPA, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair-

man Jose Ma. Sison said yesterday.

In a statement posted on the National Democratic Front (NDF) website, Sison said the NPA has a strict rule on discipline against sexual molestation.

"In making a joke, Duterte has obviously invented the story that gays in the

Turn to Page 6

## Gay rebels From Page 1

NPA brought his son Baste to the woods to be subjected to kissing, mashing and other acts amounting to molestation," Sison said.

He added that, if true, the rebels who kissed Baste would be subjected to disciplinary action.

"There is a strict NPA rule of discipline against sexual molestation and taking sexual liberties against the will of others. It is up to the NPA command concerned to inform us how Baste was treated," the communist leader said.

Aside from disciplinary action, those rebels who did it might have experienced discomfort upon discovering the truth of what Duterte had earlier said that he and Baste are "congenital stinkers because the sewage system of

their bodies cannot dispose of the waste of their food intake and they suffer long periods of constipation."

Sison said the most unbelievable part of the Duterte joke is the claim that 40 percent of NPA fighters are gay.

"How can he make such a survey finding when his military and police minions cannot even locate the thousands of Red commanders and fighters in more than 110 guerrilla fronts? These armed revolutionaries reveal their momentary location only when they are already ambushing or raiding his armed minions," he claimed.

For him, Duterte is again exposing his misogynist and anti-gay character with machismo humor.

- With Artemio Dumlaog

# Duterte son 'harassed' by gay Reds

By Nat Mariano

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday claimed that his son, Sebastian "Baste" Duterte, was harassed by gay New People's Army rebels—something that Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Maria Sison immediately rejected.

In his speech in Biñan, Laguna, over the weekend, Duterte said his son was "abused" by gay NPA rebels during the turnover of the two captured soldiers and six militiamen in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.

He said Sebastian was "kissed" by four NPA rebels during their stay in the rebel group's hideout last Tuesday.

With nothing to back his claim but his son's narrative, Duterte surmised that 40 percent of NPA soldiers were gay.

"Did you know that 40 percent of NPA fighters are gay?" He told the attendees of

the PDP-Laban campaign sortie in Laguna last Saturday.

Sebastian, together with former presidential top aide Christopher "Bong" Go, went into the wilds of San Juan village to conduct a formal ceremony for the turnover of the prisoners.

Asked how the turnover went, the presidential son told his father that he was smooched on the cheeks by the communist rebels.

"Four NPA rebels brought me to an area filled with coconut trees. All of them kissed

me," the President quoted his son as saying.

"So you were abused? He said, 'Yes, everyone kissed me.' That's okay. You now know how it feels to be kissed by gays. It feels better. That flirt!" Duterte said.

According to Duterte, he was really wondering why the communist rebels wanted Baste to lead the turnover of the captured soldiers.

"I was wondering why they wanted to turn over the captured soldiers to Baste... It turned out, those fools were after Baste," he said without providing any details about the release.

Sison, however, found the President's narrative difficult to believe.

"In making a joke, Duterte has obviously invented the story that gays in the NPA brought his son Baste to the woods to be subjected to kissing, mashing and other acts amounting to molestation," Sison said in a statement.

He said the NPA observes a "strict rule of discipline" against sexual molestation and taking sexual liberties against the will of

others.

He, however, noted that if the armed rebels had indeed molested or took liberties with Duterte's son, then "they would face disciplinary action."

"It is up to the NPA command concerned to inform us how Baste was treated," he said.

Sison also slammed Duterte for claiming that four out of 10 communist rebels were gay, emphasizing that it was the "most unbelievable part of the joke."

"How can he make such a survey finding when his military and police minions cannot locate the thousands of Red commanders and fighters in more than 110 guerrilla fronts? These armed revolutionaries reveal their momentary location only when they are already ambushing or raiding his armed minions," Sison said.

"At any rate, Duterte is again exposing his misogynist and anti-gay character with his macho kind of joke."

Sison then admitted that the revolutionary forces accept LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgenders) into their ranks.

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# Stiffer penalties eyed vs rights abuses

Senatorial bets oppose lifting of politician's  
term limits, federalism, death penalty

By **BEN R. ROSARIO** and **RAYMUND F. ANTONIO**

**I**mposing stiffer penalties was one of the solutions proposed to put an end to human rights abuses committed by government law enforcement agents.

Human rights lawyer Neri Colme-

nares and indigenous people's rights advocate Agnes Escudero raised the proposals at the second "Harapan 2019: The ABS-CBN Senatorial Town Hall Debate" last Sunday.

The two senatorial candi- ▶4



# Stiffer penalties eyed...

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dates also proposed the recruitment of more chaplains to offer spiritual and moral guidance to policemen is another antidote to human rights abuses.

Colmenares and Escudero are among eight senatorial candidates who showed up at the ABS-CBN Senatorial Town Hall Debate, supported by the Manila Bulletin as the network's media partner.

But former Senator Mar Roxas and former Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada of Otso Diretso senatorial slate, said body and dash board cameras may do the trick.

Eight senatorial candidates who made good their promise to appear at the televised debate aired various responses to Marissa Lazaro, whose son was killed following an alleged shootout with policemen.

In tears, Lazaro recounted how police claimed that her 22-year-old son was involved in robbery and had fired at them. But during investigation, she noted that her son had been handcuffed, indicating that he was already under police custody when shot.

Reacting to Lazaro's tale, Colmenares said stiff penalties and new laws that would stop state-sponsored killings are among the effective antidotes to abusive police force.

Escudero sympathized with Lazaro, but pointed out the need for policemen to have spiritual and moral guidance.

"Kailangan ng kapulisan ng mga chaplain para magbigay ng moral, spiritual na pagtatag sa kanilang pagkatao (Policemen need chaplains to keep them morally and spiritually strong)," she said.

As his senatorial rivals took turns in condemning alleged extrajudicial killings committed by the police, independent senatorial bet Abner Afuang, a former Makati City policeman, protested the failure of human rights advocates to take cognizance of the killing of policemen.

"Mayroon infrastructure of impunity sa paglabag sa katarungan pantao sa gobyerno. Suportado ng gobyerno ang mga pulis na involved sa pagpatay," said Colmenares.

The human rights activist stressed that human rights abuses can be fought

before three arenas -- by passing a law punishing state-sponsored killing, court action, and by protesting on the street.

Roxas, who had served as Interior and Local Government secretary, said mandatory installation of body and dashboard cameras can be effective deterrents of police abuse.

"Naka-record kung ano talaga ang nangyari at hindi na na mauulit ang paglabag sa mga batas," he said.

Tañada backed Roxas' proposal for the installation of cameras that would stand witness against abuses.

"Mahusay na training ng police officers, kung hindi ito gagawin tiyak na marami pa rin bad eggs sa pulisya," the former Quezon congressman added.

Magdalo senatorial candidate Gary Alejano batted for reforms in the police recruitment procedure, saying this should put an end to corruption.

Alejano recommended the creation of a strong Philippine National Police Internal Affairs Service and firing abusive policemen, instead of transferring them to other assignments.

Federalism advocate Conrado "Ding" Generoso said the draft federal constitution submitted by the 22-man Consultative Commission contains provisions that will guarantee that justice will be given to victims of human rights.

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal noted that there has been no victim of human rights among the rich.

## Term limit, federalism, death penalty opposed

Meanwhile, the senatorial candidates oppose the removal of politicians' term limits in office, the shift to a federal form of government, and the re-imposition of the death penalty.

At the "Fast Talk" segment of the debate, Generoso, spokesman of President Duterte's Consultative Commission (Con-Com), acknowledged that lifting of the term limit was the "stumbling block" for federalism.

Generoso said that in the draft federal charter proposed by the Con-Com, only two terms are allowed for politicians.

"Hindi. Dapat may term limits (No. There should be term limit)," Alejano,\*a

former Marine captain, said when asked about the removal of politicians' term limits in office.

Alejano, Macalintal, Tañada, and Afuang said they were not in favor of federalism.

Alejano: Hindi. Hindi pa tayo handa. Ang mayaman lalong yayaman, ang mahirap lalong hihirap. (No, we are not ready for federalism. The rich will become richer, the poor will become poorer.)

Tañada: Hindi ako pabor. Dahil hindi pa napag-uusapan husto 'yung negative effects nito. (I'm not in favor. Because its negative effects have not been discussed thoroughly.)

Macalintal: Hindi ako pabor kasi hindi pa tayo handa sa ganyang uri ng gobyerno. (I'm not in favor because we are not yet ready for that kind of government.)

Afuang: Hindi. (No.)

The Senate bets attending the second debate were also asked where they stood on peace talks, legalizing the use of medical marijuana, and same sex marriage.

Colmenares, Alejano, and Tañada agreed on the resumption of peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

Colmenares: Dapat ang pagkapayapaan, Iginilit natin 'yun. (We have to push for peace.)

Alejano: Sa akin, gusto ko ng kapayapaan. Dapat may peace talks tayo. (For me, I want peace. Let us have peace talks.)

Tañada: Kailangan muling buksan. Naniniwala ako sa kapayapaan. (It needs to be reopened. I believe on peace.)

On medical marijuana:

Alejano: Hindi. (No.)

Tañada: Pabor ako dahil iyan ay nagpapagaan sa epekto ng ibang sakit. (I'm in favor because it lessens the effects of other sickness.)

Agnes Escudero: No.

On same sex marriage:

Alejano: Hindi. (No.)

Tañada: Hindi ako pabor dahil mas pabor ako sa civil union partnerships. (I'm not in favor because I'm in favor of civil union partnerships.)

Macalintal: Hindi dapat 'yan pero gimagalang ko ang karapatan ng bawat isa. (That should not be allowed but I respect the rights of everyone.)

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## Nation in briefs

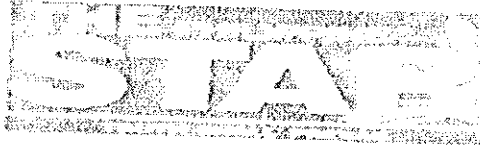
### TOP NPA LEADER, 3 OTHERS KILLED IN MISOR ENCOUNTER

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY:** A top commander of the New People's Army (NPA) and three other rebels were killed in a firefight on Saturday with state forces in the hinterlands of Macopa in Talsayan, Misamis Oriental, the military reported on Monday. Lt. Col. Roy Derilo, commander of the army's 58th Infantry Battalion, identified the rebel as Almonte Lindayao, 36, of Claveria, Misamis Oriental. The military encountered about 30 NPA rebels, who were reportedly distributing "permit to win" campaign for candidates in the May midterm elections, Derilo said. Lindayao's remains were turned over to his family, while remains of the other casualties were turned over to the Talsayan local government for their relatives to claim. He did not identify the other casualties. The military recovered five firearms, several backpacks, subversive documents and personal belongings from the scene of the encounter. Derilo appealed to the NPA rebels to bring down the wounded so that they could undergo adequate medical treatment. "There is nothing to fear because saving lives is very important," he said. *AF*

CRIS DIAZ

### Hataman: ARMM prepared for 'turning point'

The last governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which will be abolished to give way to a new autonomous government, said his administration has been getting ready for the transition. "We congratulate the incoming members of the BTA as they take over the new regional government," said Mujiv Hataman, ARMM's last governor. "The ARMM has been preparing for this turning point," he said. Hataman was referring to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority which would serve as interim government of the newly established Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. "We put all the documents in order, ensuring that everything was complete to ensure a smooth transition whoever will sit next," Hataman said. —SHEILA MAE DELA CRUZ AND BONG SARMIENTO



## 'MNLF has equitable representation in BTA'

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO  
and ROEL PAREÑO

Members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) have equitable representation in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), presidential adviser on the peace process Carlito Galvez Jr. said yesterday.

"As I have always emphasized, bringing about necessary reforms to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) depends not on the number of representatives per sector or grouping, but on the effectiveness, efficiency and sincerity of each member of the BTA," Galvez said.

Galvez issued his statement following reported complaints from representatives that only 12 MNLF and affiliates have made it to the 80-member BTA sworn into office by President Duterte last Friday.

An official of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unification (PAPRU) clarified that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), as the lead front in the previous negotiation, was allotted 41 slots with chairman Alhadj Murad Ebrahim chosen as BTA chair, while the remaining 39 slots will be distributed among the MNLF, indigenous people, women, youth and local government.

The official said the 39 remaining slots do not mean they would be occupied solely by MNLF representatives. He also dismissed the issuance

that the 39 slots to be fielded by the MNLF were not based on agreement but mere request.

Galvez said the BTA would face the gargantuan task of shaping the formal structure of the new Bangsamoro region.

He added that these include the crafting of the electoral, local government, education, administrative, revenue and civil service codes as well as the new Bangsamoro Development Plan.

"This requires the expertise of lawyers, technocrats, professionals and other specialists in the interim government. The BTA represents not just the MILF and MNLF but the entirety of the Moro and non-Moro people," the presidential adviser said.

The 80-member transition body, according to Galvez, will see to it that by 2022, a strong institution will have been laid down and the people of the BARMM will be ready to exercise their right of suffrage and install their government officials.

Galvez also reminded the public that it is also the sole prerogative of the President to choose who he wants to be included in the BTA.

"We recognize that there are many more who want to serve the Bangsamoro through the BTA, but let us not forget that there is a multitude of ways to render our service for the people," he said.

"At this point, it is essential that we work together to nurture the gains of our journey to peace," he added.

# Palace slams MNLF poseurs

*Peace adviser clarifies  
representation in BTA*

By Joyce Pangco Pañares and Nat Mariano

**P**RESIDENTIAL peace adviser Carlito Galvez on Monday dismissed claims by persons passing themselves off as representatives of the Moro National Liberation Front that the group was left out in the formation of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority.

"There are many people who want to be part of the BTA because it is very historic. They [Emmanuel Fontanilla and Montaha Babao] also applied but were not included. I believe they are making these statements for selfish and personal reasons. More importantly, they are not authorized to speak for the MNLF," Galvez told *Manila Standard*.

Galvez was reacting to a claim by Fontanilla, reported by CNN Philippines, that the MNLF would not recognize the BTA because it was not a part of it.

But Galvez told the *Manila Standard* that 14 members of the 80-man BTA represent the MNLF, of which nine were nominated by the group headed by Nur Misuari. The government also named three people who have worked very closely with the MNLF. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front also allotted two out of its 41 seats in the BTA to the MNLF.

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## Palace...

From A1

"It is incorrect to say that the MNLF was left out. Originally, they wanted 19 seats, but we had a meeting with Yusoph Jikiri [an MNLF leader under Misuari] in January before the start of the plebiscite and explained to them that it is very unfair to ask for parity because it was really the MILF that worked hard for this agreement. There is a great difference between parity and equity," he said.

Galvez said President Rodrigo Duterte has already given the green light to start talks with Misuari.

"Undersecretary Nabil Tan spoke with Misuari today [Monday] and he was receptive to the suggestion. We just have to schedule a date for the dialogue," he said.

On Friday, the President formalized the creation of the BTA, composed of 80 members, which will serve as the interim government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao until elections are held in 2022.

Babao, speaker of the Bangsamoro People's National Congress of the MNLF, had also expressed dissatisfaction with the apportioning of seats, saying the MNLF expected more of the 39 positions that remained after 41 were allotted to the MILF.

He said while the MNLF nominated 22 members, only five were chosen—a far different number than the 14 that Galvez mentioned on Monday.

Babao then called on the government to provide a bigger representation of MNLF in the BTA, saying that "those who had prepared the food were not allowed to eat."

Galvez said MNLF members will have "equitable representation" in the BTA.

"As I have always emphasized, bringing about necessary reforms to the BARMM depends not on the number of representatives per sector or grouping but on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sincerity of each member of the BTA," Galvez said in a statement.

He said the BTA faces the "gargantuan task" of establishing the formal structure of the new Bangsamoro region.

He also emphasized the need to have lawyers, technocrats, professionals, and other specialists in the interim government. These experts are then expected to craft the region's electoral, local government, education, administrative, revenue, and civil service codes as well as the new Bangsamoro Development Plan.

"The BTA represents not just the MILF and MNLF but the entirety of the Moro and non-Moro people.

The 80-member transition body will see to it that by 2022, a strong institution shall have been laid down and the people of BARMM will be ready to exercise their right of suffrage and install their government officials," he said.

"We recognize that there are many more who want to serve the Bangsamoro through the BTA, but let us not forget that there is a multitude of ways to render our service for the people," he added.

Last month, the President noted that he needs to hear the suggestions raised by Misuari on the peace process in Mindanao and consider the sentiment of the people of Sulu who rejected the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

## Federalism, not BARMM

We don't have a problem with that and I hope that will be clear to anybody

By Kristina Maralit and Elmer N. Manuel

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) yesterday said it is banking on President Rodrigo Duterte's promised shift to a Federal form of government and will not meddle in the recently-formed Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) that will govern the new Bangsamoro region until 2022.

Only a small faction of the MNLF which are no longer connected with former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) governor Nur Misuari is interested in having a role in the BTA, MNLF spokesman Emmanuel Fontanilla claimed in a statement.

But Fontanilla said Misuari is more concerned with the President's vow to shift to a Federal form of government, which the MNLF leader said will give the people of Mindanao a stronger voice in governance.

Fontanilla also clarified they have nothing against the creation of the BTA.

He added MNLF members who are reportedly protesting their "exclusion" from the BTA are MNLF splinter groups expelled by the main Misuari-led group.

"We do not have anything against the BTA, because the ones who are complaining are from the MNLF splinter groups," Fontanilla said. "They are former MNLF members who just wanted to join the bandwagon."

"We are not asking for any participation in the Bangsamoro Organic Law," he stressed, adding that Misuari has instructed them "never to participate with the BOL."

The BOL enables the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to replace the ARMM.

"We don't have a problem with that and I hope that will be clear to anybody," he added.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chairman Murad Ebrahim and other members of the BTA recently took their oaths of office before Duterte in Malacañang. The 80-member group will govern the BARMM until the 2022 elections.

Duterte appointed Murad as chief minister of the interim body. He also named Abdullah Macapaar, also known as Commander Bravo, to the BTA.

The incumbent officials of the ARMM, on the other hand, will serve as members of the BTA until their terms expire on 30 June 2019. The ARMM is led by Gov. Mujiv Hataman.

In his speech during the oath-taking rites, Duterte urged the BTA to work for the best interest and welfare, not only of the Bangsamoro people, but of every Filipino who lives in the region.

"I trust that you will oversee the transition period to the best of your abilities, especially in the decommissioning of firearms and former combatants," Duterte said, adding that the administration will use all its resources "to ensure better governance and inclusive political empowerment in this new Bangsamoro region."

## Ballot printing on track

BY GERARD NAVAL

ELEVEN million ballots to be used in the May 13 polls have been printed by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Ballot printing started last Feb. 9.

In a statement, Comelec spokesman James Jimenez disclosed that a total of 11,346,352 out of the 63,662,481 ballots to be printed (17.82 percent) have been printed.

"The printing of ballots for the 2019 elections at the National Printing Office is now averaging 1.1 million per day," said Jimenez.

"We are on track to hit the target of finishing the printing by April 25, 2019," he added.

He said the first batch to have been completed was the 1.7 million ballots for overseas absentee voting, which were finished last Feb. 16.

He said ballots for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Region XIII (Caraga), and Region XII (Soccsksargen) have also been printed.

Jimenez said after the printing of the ballots in other regions in Mindanao, those for the Visayas

and Luzon, and the National Capital Region (NCR), shall follow in order.

Comelec, based on Resolution No. 10501, is forming a Control Committee that shall oversee the areas that have been and will be placed under its control.

Comprising the Committee shall be two Comelec Commissioners, who shall serve as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

Other members of the Committee are representatives of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Comelec's Project Management Office.

One of the foremost mandates of the Comelec Control Committee, the resolution said, is the creation of a special task force.

The task force shall serve as its implementing arm regarding decisions and orders relative to the enforcement of the Comelec control.

The Special Task Force, in turn, shall be composed of representatives of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Office of the City/

Municipal Election Officer.

Also joining the task force are the concerned PNP Regional Director, AFP Division or Brigade Commander, and Regional Election Director (RED).

Finally, the Comelec en banc designated the Comelec Law Department as the Committee's Secretariat.

In the past, the poll body simply designates a Commissioner In-Charge to oversee the political division placed under Comelec control.

Under the law, the Commission may place an area under Comelec control if there is a history or current intense political rivalry among contending parties; if it is previously placed under Comelec control; if there are incidents of politically-motivated violence involving candidates; violence facilitated by private armed groups; use of loose firearms by unqualified individuals; and serious armed threats posed by NPA, ASG, BIFF, MNLF, and/or MILF. B2

Currently, already placed under Comelec control are Daraga in Albay and Cotabato City.



EDITORIAL

## Dangerous doctrine

**F**or the second year running, and while the midterm elections are about to be held, Mindanao will continue to be under military rule after the Supreme Court voted 9-4 to uphold the third extension of martial law until the end of 2019.

In greenlighting the extension, the highest court of the land has shown how little it regards its power under the Constitution to "review... the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus."

A full week since the announcement of the ruling on Feb. 19, the text of the decision has yet to be released. But Chief Justice Lucas Bersamin provided a glimpse of the majority thinking in the tribunal when he declared in a public function that government reports on violence in Mindanao, as basis for the new extension, need not be accurate.

You heard that right: "Whether that information is true or not is irrelevant... accuracy is not the question here," said Bersamin. "The question is, what is the information that the President acted upon... When you note some inconsistencies or weaknesses, that is not sufficient to undo the determination of the President."

The inaccuracies Bersamin couldn't be troubled with were unearthed by Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, who diligently dug into the military reports Malacañang had submitted. During the oral arguments on four petitions challenging the martial law extension, Caguioa questioned the many inconsistencies in the records, such as several violent incidents with no perpetrators but which were later attributed to the Abu Sayyaf; other incidents attributed to both communist rebels and the Abu Sayyaf; and at least three instances when Abu Sayyaf members killed each other. "How does that support the contention that rebellion persists?" Caguioa asked.

The petitioners, led by former election commissioner Christian Monsod and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, pointed out that there was no actual rebellion happening in Mindanao, contrary to government assertions. The situation has in fact improved, said Monsod, after the Marawi siege ended in October 2017, and barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections were even held in May 2018.

Former Senate president Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a Mindanaoan and ally of the President, also called for the lifting of martial law in parts of Mindanao, such as Cagayan de Oro, Davao and the Caraga region. How can investors come, Pimentel said, when there is supposed to be chaos in all of the island?

In Bersamin's view, however, Malacañang's reports can be lies for all they're worth—but all that matters is whether the President believed them, and acted on that basis. In which case, the chief executive's action is then rendered essentially above scrutiny, reproach or review.

Wait a minute: Isn't that stance basically an abandonment of the constitutional duty of the Court precisely to look into "the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law..."—in other words, to check whether the rationale the administration cited was true or not? And how could the Court ascertain such factual basis if the supporting evidence presented before it is inaccurate—but it then refuses to call into question that inaccuracy? If the Court shirks its duty to look at the facts independently and just take the President's word for them, isn't that giving the President unprecedented leeway to lie his way through governance, while the Supreme Court stands aside and gives him the thumbs-up? (A historical example: Juan Ponce Enrile's fake ambush, stage-managed by Marcos to highlight supposed lawlessness and justify his power grab via martial law.)

Checking the chief executive's hand is precisely the duty of the other branches of government. But the Court's blithe imprimatur on baseless martial law extensions risks an "undue expansion and possible abuse of the vital presidential power," warned Monsod, one of the very framers of the 1987 Constitution. "It sets a dangerous precedent of normalizing an emergency power that is only brought about by the law of absolute necessity."

Bersamin's disturbing doctrine of uncritical deference to the so-called wisdom of the President amounts to dangerously normalizing not only perpetual martial law, but also the notion of strong-man rule. Mr. Duterte could resort to the same Marcosian reign of abuse and duplicity, but, as things stand, the court of last resort has decided it will not inconvenience him in any way with questions about truth and fact.

# With military ranks but still civilian policemen

**I**N so many ways, the 1987 Constitution that was drawn up by a Constitutional Commission during the Cory Aquino administration of 1986 sought to avoid the excesses of the previous administration made possible by the martial law provisions of the previous 1935 Constitution.

Thus the 1987 Constitution, which is what we have today, placed many limitations on the use of martial law, so no succeeding president could use it as President Marcos did. While the new Constitution kept the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as "a regular force necessary for the security of the State," it also provided for a police force "national in scope and civilian in character."

To stress the civilian character of this police force, RA 6975 which established the Philippine National Police (PNP) provided for civilian -- rather than military -- ranks. Thus the top PNP chief had the rank of Director General -- on the same level as the top AFP rank of full General.

Next in the list of new PNP ranks were Deputy Director General (on the same level as AFP Lieutenant General), followed by Director (as the AFP Major General), Chief Superintendent (as the AFP Brigadier General), Senior Superintendent (as the AFP Colonel), Superintendent (as the AFP Major), Chief Inspector (as the AFP Captain), and Inspector (as the AFP Lieutenant).

The general public, however, never got used to the new PNP ranks. President Duterte said he

was confused by the new terminology. The police officials themselves preferred the old military ranks; they certainly sounded more impressive. Thus they continued to refer to themselves as generals, colonels, majors, etc.

It was for this reason that Congress recently enacted RA 11200, amending Section 28 of RA 6975. It adopted the AFP designations for the various ranks of the PNP but with the word Police. Thus Police General, Police Major, Police Captain, etc., all the way down to Police Corporal.

In the interest of greater public understanding, we welcome the new designations. We hope, however, that the military ranks will not influence some police officers and men into thinking like military men in the field of battle. For they remain, as provided in the Constitution, "a police force national in scope and civilian in character."

We have our Armed Forces trained to fight the nation's enemies in battlefields, whether they be invaders from other countries or Filipino rebels out to topple our democratic government and replace it with their own system, such as Communist or Islamist. But we also have our police forces to maintain peace and order in our towns and cities against criminals such as thieves and robbers.

Our police officers and men, despite their new military ranks, should never lose sight of this fact that they are members of a civilian agency enforcing law and maintaining peace and order.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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#MINDANAO

## The new political stage is set

By JOHN TRIA

**A**S the race in the midterm elections heats up, the opposition seems to be unable to launch its campaign with the bang its supporters hoped for.

Their efforts have left them sidelined despite all the best efforts to put them front and center of the arena.

Their fundamental flaw was to start off by framing the elections as a referendum on the Duterte administration's performance, thereby shifting focus away from them, and back to him and his senatorial lineup.

Unfortunately, this framing only emphasized the administration's achievements, quickly answered with the 20 new laws signed by the President, including universal health coverage, and amendments to the Corporation Code.

Likewise, the victory of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and the swearing in of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission and the latest SWS surveys affirming a diminished illegal drug prevalence, apart from the very good trust and satisfaction ratings at the start of the campaign period all serve

as a backdrop that may fill in the frame with more achievements.

Moreover, visual evidence in the cleaner Manila Bay and the new public transport systems and expanded infrastructure in many cities makes the case that government can fulfill promises, something voters have demanded for a long time.

On the other hand, in the minds of many, these achievements are what this opposition failed to achieve in their six years in power.

Some of the legislative wins, in particular, could have been gained by the past administration if it worked harder to consolidate a majority in Congress, and push a clear legislative agenda that braved political capital.

Some of the game-changing laws would not have been easy to obtain, like rice tariffication that challenges entrenched cartels and smuggling rings.

The opposition thus represents the old Manila-based political order that still likes to play politics with symbols and nostalgia that no longer resonates with the majority of Filipinos. While their friends and classmates may agree with and support them, these

networks do not carry the vote.

Their sparsely attended gathering at the EDSA shrine last February 22 only reveals what little clout they retain, the symbolism of the rally venue doing little to draw a larger crowd many hoped would attend on a Saturday. Right when they needed the crowd, they could not muster it.

Even the launching "rallies" in Naga and Caloocan looked like gatherings of allies that did little to put forward the image of a campaign gaining steam.

Sadly, for almost 30 years the EDSA event was used to push political agendas and candidacies based on symbols with little substance needed to inspire a majority by fulfilling the hopes of change. These failures tarnished its promise.

EDSA is used as the hollow battle-cry of this old order; the significance of the event lost in the maelstrom of their

politicking. The sparse crowds may reflect this loss of confidence.

Instead, the bigger story emerging with the crowds is that for the first time, political forces based in Mindanao are now able to command national attention.

Political rallies of the Hugpong ng Pagbabago, a political party founded in Southern Mindanao, pulled crowds by the thousands in Central and Northern Luzon is something unheard of.

Images of "fans" taking selfies with candidates like Bato de la Rosa and Bong Go, once dismissed as non-contenders for Senate seats, now seem to inspire others in many areas.

Even the selection of the 12th senatorial candidate Rafael Alunan got more mainstream and social me-

dia coverage. The "selfie" seems to have evolved as a powerful tool.

Prior to this, no regional political party has obtained such influence to set the stage, and command greater attention than the Manila-based politicians. They all functioned like extensions of the then Manila-based political parties.

There being no precedent for this, the prognosis over the next three months is that the Hugpong may find itself on the cusp of a political game change. X

Whether you like it or not, it, along with another Mindanao-founded political party the PDP Laban, may continue to set the stage, and push the agenda.

For reactions, [facebook.com/johntriapage](https://www.facebook.com/johntriapage)

## China: Has the red carpet replaced the kowtow?

**D**URING the heyday of the Chinese empire, representatives of vassal states had to go through elaborate rituals, including the infamous kowtow procedure known as "three kneelings and nine prostrations" before being allowed into the imperial presence. The idea that there were other nations that were China's equal was inconceivable because, outside of China, civilization itself was believed not to exist. What China offered was its civilization.

Nowadays, China accepts, at least notionally, that countries, big or small, should be equal. However, China doesn't behave as if it is just one of almost 200 countries in the world today.

After it joined the United Nations in 1971, China questioned the universality of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This wasn't without reason. Being one of the world's poorest countries at the time, China — like



**FRANK CHING**

other Asian countries — felt that the right to development had been overlooked.

In 1993, Asian countries meeting in Bangkok issued a declaration in which they supported the right to development as a universal right. A few months later, the World Conference on Human Rights adopted the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action in which all member states reaffirmed the right to development as "a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights." So, due in part to China's actions, the concept of universal human rights was amended.

After China adopted the reform

and opening-up policy four decades ago, many people assumed that it would become westernized because modern countries almost by definition were Western countries. But China insisted, and has now proved, that modernization is different from westernization.

Even where they use the same words, the Chinese don't necessarily mean the same things. For example, on international law, which is meant to be binding on all nations, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi declared as early as 2014 that China is not only a "staunch defender" but is in fact a "builder of the international rule of law."

And yet, two years later when a United Nations tribunal issued a ruling against China on its South China Sea claims in a case brought by the Philippines, China refused to abide by that decision and insisted that the Philippines engage in bilateral negotiations with

China. Where Foreign Minister Wang took the moral high road in 2014 and railed against a situation where "the strong do what they want and the weak suffer what they must," in 2016 he insisted that the weak Philippine government must negotiate bilaterally with the much stronger Chinese government.

A contemporary example is China's insistence that Canada has violated the law through its arrest of the Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou because Meng has not broken any Canadian law. This charge seems to negate the entire international system of bilateral extradition agreements, of which China is part.

China today is admired by many for its successful transformation into the ranks of advanced countries in the short period of 40 years. It dazzles visitors with the world's most developed network

By **Ching A5**

## China: Has the red carpet replaced the kowtow?

of high-speed trains, which it exports to developed and developing countries alike.

China also loudly proclaims its support for globalization in the face of a Trump administration that is disengaging itself from many of America's global com-

mitments. But, as professor Grzegorz Ekiert of Harvard University pointed out last week in a talk at the University of Hong Kong, China is not speaking of Western globalization but of Chinese globalization. Also, the internet, which it was originally thought

would bind people with limitless free information, now divides the world, with China insisting on its own internet, separate from that of the rest of the world.

The old feudalist Chinese empire may be gone but in its place has emerged a newly energized

5,000-year-old civilization which is guided by "socialism with Chinese characteristics," a new philosophy developed by China.

Xi Jinping, the leader of China, while addressing a Communist Party congress in October 2017, told the world what this means.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi said, "offers a new option for other countries and nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence; and it offers Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing mankind."

The days of kneelings and prostrations are gone. Today, China offers the world not a unique civilization

but a unique philosophy to solve its problems. Foreign leaders seeking Chinese wisdom walk down a long red carpet at the end of which stands the Chinese president, ready to extend his hand in welcome. China may no longer have an emperor, but its president still receives guests in imperial splendor.

*Frank.ching@gmail.com*

*Twitter: @FrankChing1*

26 February 2019

# The Manila Times

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## Celebrating a day of infamy

YESTER-  
DAY,  
Febru-  
ary 25,  
was the



IN MY LINE  
OF SIGHT

**RAMON  
T. TULFO**

33rd anniversary of the so-called  
EDSA Revolution.

The words of my colleague, Teddy  
Africa of the defunct *Times Journal*,  
still ring in my ears as if they were  
uttered only yesterday: "Mon, today's  
oppressed will be tomorrow's op-  
pressors."

►TulfoA5



## Celebrating a day of infamy

He said those words after news of the departure of President Marcos and his family was greeted with jubilation by the EDSA multitude.

Teddy and I, who was then with the *Manila Bulletin*, covered the EDSA Revolution from beginning to end.

True enough, the minute Corazon C. Aquino took over the reins of government, the former housewife and her minions started persecuting officials of the old regime.

Instead of being magnanimous in victory, Cory became a vindictive bitch.

She wanted all vestiges of the former regime eradicated.

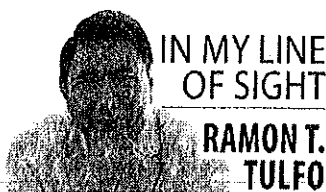
The houses of the Marcoses in Leyte and other parts of the country were ransacked; the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Film Center, Folk Arts Theater, Coconut Palace, Nayong Pilipino were left to run to seed.

So were the Philippine Heart Center, GSIS Hospital, Lung Center, Kidney Center, which were all built under the auspices of Imelda Marcos, were practically abandoned. They have been revived, though.

The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant was scrapped. It could have addressed much of the country's energy woes and lowered electrical bills. But rather than find ways to properly fix the plant's issues, it was mothballed.

All the companies belonging to the friends of the Marcoses were placed under sequestration by the Presidential Commission for Good Government (PCGG).

For example, the *Manila Bulletin*, owned by Marcos' aide-de-camp Gen. Ians Menzi and turned over to Chinese-Filipino



Emilio Yap, would have been sequestered. At the last minute, the Cory government changed its mind after Yap bootlicked Peping Cojuangco, Cory's brother.

Puerto Azul in Cavite, considered the "Golf Capital of the World" and "Asia's Paradise Resort," was closed down because it was owned by the Tantocos, who were friends of Imelda.

The paramilitary Philippine Constabulary (PC), founded in 1901, was abolished and replaced by the civilian Philippine National Police, an ill-disciplined organization, all because Cory's husband, Ninoy, was arrested by PC troopers when Marcos declared Martial Law in 1972.

The Cory government was so vindictive toward its former enemies that some sectors in the military rose in revolt against it.

There were many coup attempts and rebellions during her time, namely, the Manila Hotel coup, the "God save the Queen" plot, GMA-7 incident, Black Saturday incident, Manila International Airport plot, 1987 and 1989 coup attempts, and the Hotel Delfino siege in Cagayan and the October 1990 mutiny in Mindanao.

The EDSA Revolution is celebrated yearly with a holiday.

Cory Aquino was an incompetent and vindictive president and so was her son, Noynoy, who became the country's chief executive 18 years after she stepped down.

The nation commemorates yearly the day an incompetent and vindictive leader took over power.

\*\*\*

The Universal Health Care law, which gives every Filipino access to quality and affordable health services from the government, is a significant milestone.

In short, poor patients can now avail themselves of the same care given to well-off patients in all hospitals or health centers.

The funds will come from the "sin" taxes on cigarettes and liquor, Pagcor, PCSO, the Department of Health's annual budget, and premium contributions of employed Filipinos in the government and private sector.

Now, let's give credit where credit is due: Former presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. introduced the Universal Health Care bill when he was a congressman, and Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito sponsored the counterpart bill in the Senate.

People should remember JV Ejercito when they choose their senators in the May election out of gratitude.

Roque has backed out of the congressional race (party list) due to health reasons.

\*\*\*

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) says 55 mayors, 21 vice mayors and 41 councilors are supporting the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The DILG should not hold the people in suspense; it should come out with the identities of the local officials who sympathize with the enemy of the state.

It's fair to the officials concerned as they will be given their day in court.

They probably can explain the reasons why they're supporting the communist insurgents.

You see, the military is not always there to protect those local officials in the DILG list as their towns are probably vulnerable to NPA attacks.

\*\*\*

British national Raymond Edward Smith, who was detained at the immigration jail pending deportation, has been temporarily released on my recognizance.

Smith is facing charges of concubinage by his Filipino wife, Jinky, with whom he has two good-looking children.

Smith doesn't want to be deported because of his children, aged 8 and 10.

I learned about Smith's plight from a friend who thought I could sympathize and help since, he said, I am also an adulterer. Hehehe!

Smith will be reporting regularly to immigration and the courts while his case is being heard. I will see to that.

I'm helping him since I am also a father.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to my friend, Sammy Po, who owns the Marco Polo Hotel at the Ortigas Center in Pasig.

Marco Polo-Ortigas bagged this year's Forbes Travel Guide Star Awards, five-star rating.

Marco Polo-Ortigas has won the prestigious award three years in a row since 2017.

The other awardees are Sky Tower at Solaire, The Peninsula Manila and Nuwa Manila.

Marco Polo-Ortigas is a Johnny-come-lately among five-star hotels in the Philippines.

## What really happened at EDSA 1?



**ABOUT  
TOWN**  
**ERNESTO M.  
HILARIO**

MOMENTOUS events such as the People Power Revolt that took place in February 1986 and put an end to the Marcos regime's more than two decades years in power have tended to be viewed from differing perspectives, depending on one's ideological moorings and political inclinations.

One point of view looks at the event as the culmination of a long struggle against tyranny and corruption. But

**“It depends on  
one’s ideological  
moorings and political  
inclinations.”**

there are also those who are convinced that the end of the Marcos era cannot simply be ascribed to people and events that we Filipinos have been told were responsible for the four-day popular upris-

ing that marked a watershed in contemporary Philippine history.

Of those who belong to the latter category, there's a colleague in journalism and among the top officials during the Arroyo administration, Rigoberto Tiglao, who now writes a column for another daily broadsheet and has sought to shatter what he considers the myths surrounding People Power.

I distinctly remember that last year, he wrote a column on EDSA 1 that's been included in a collection of his essays entitled "Debunked." Let me quote at length what he said in this particular column, to make sure that the reader would know exactly what he said:

1) "Cory Aquino had little to do with

Turn to A5

## What really...

From A4

EDSA I. Ironically, it was Marcos' legal and military pillar, his longtime defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile who—in a last stand to defend himself and his "RAM boys" from certain doom—was mainly responsible for EDSA I. The events that led to it were triggered by the botched coup attempt by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) cabal of colonels under Enrile's aegis. It was to have been a classic coup by colonels as happened in Latin America and other parts of the world... As revealed more recently in Juan Ponce Enrile's biography published last year and articles written by the colonels since 1986, the conspirators after months of planning, decided to attack—boldly or foolishly—Malacañan Palace at 2 a.m. of February 23, 1986, and capture Marcos and his family, for its coup d'état to take over government.

2) "Only a small faction of the military supported the mutineers. Enrile's RAM boys consisted mostly of the colonels he had taken under his wing as defense minister. Air Force Commander Vicente Piccio, Army Commander Josephus Ramos and Marine Commandant Tadiar were all loyal to the chain of command. The Philippine Constabulary, surprisingly though, as it was headed for more than a decade by Ramos who was

succeeded by his protégé Renato de Villa, was divided in its loyalties. The Marcos military succumbed to the EDSA forces because they realized that they were helpless facing the huge crowds in EDSA. Marcos had given them the categorical order which was impossible to implement: "Disperse the crowds but do not shoot them."

3) "Marcos had negotiated with the US to evacuate him and his family by helicopter from Malacañang to Laoag City, the capital of his home province of Ilocos Norte. We'll never know what Marcos—who even his archenemies concede was a brilliant strategist—intended to do in the North: To rally his army to defend him and re-take Malacañang, or to negotiate a peaceful retirement?

4) "Under both the 1935 and 1973 Constitution, Corazon Aquino was not qualified to run for president in the 1986 "snap elections". Both the 1935 and 1973 constitutions specified that a president must be a "resident of the Philippines for at least 10 years immediately preceding the election." Cory had left the Philippines together with her husband—voluntarily—to live in Boston in 1980... So why didn't Marcos, a lawyer, and his stable of the country's brightest legal minds raise this objection to Cory's candidacy? Perhaps he was confident that there was no way for Cory to win the snap elections. Or perhaps the

Americans demanded that he prove his legitimacy in an electoral contest with Aquino's widow.

5) "Cory's 1986 electoral campaign was a PR job. Sawyer Miller, an American public-relations and political-strategist firm that would be in the 1980s and 1990s the most expensive and most sought-after outfit in the world after EDSA I, handled almost in its entirety Cory Aquino's public performance in the 1986 snap elections. This is confirmed by US documents that Sawyer Miller submitted in compliance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act."

At a time when facts and "alternative facts" compete for public attention, it's not easy to tell which is which. But things are getting more interesting from where we sit. Vice President Leni Robredo pointed out during the commemoration of the People Power Revolt in Naga City last Saturday (February 23) that it was not the "Yellows" that made EDSA I happen but the unity and the will of the people: "*Laging natatatakan ng kulay ang celebration ng* (They always mark with color the) EDSA People Power Revolution, but we know this celebration is not about the "Yellows" and other groups but to remember the Filipinos who sacrificed during that time for the freedom that we are enjoying now."

What do you think?

ernhil@yahoo.com

## Dalisay



THE current campaign is proving once again how the extremes on both sides of the political divide can always find common ground in their shared looniness.

Come now two "Otso Deretso" candidates—Neri Colmenares from the far left of the CPP-NPA-NDF, and Gary Alejano from the far right of the Magdalo recidivist mutineers—who, for lack of anything better to say, are beating the deadest of dead horses by trying to resurrect the old GMA bogeyman.

At the ABS-CBN senatorial debate, Alejano said the former president should be jailed "for destroying the country's institutions." Colmenares chimed in that Mrs Arroyo had been "the most corrupt president."

Thankfully, the ABS-CBN news piece included some helpful reminders of how the various charges against Mrs. Arroyo have actually fared in the courts:

One, the Supreme Court in July 2016 voted 11-4 to junk the PCSO-related plunder case that had allowed her successor, the autist PNoy, to jail her for five years.

Two, she was cleared in December 2018 of electoral sabotage charges in connection with the 2007 senatorial elections.

Three, the "Hello Garci" case in connection with the 2004 elections simply lapsed in 2009. Colmenares and Alejano should talk to their team-mate Romy Macalintal, an election lawyer, who asserts that there was no proof Mrs. Arroyo cheated in 2004.

Four, the office of former Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales—no friend of Arroyo—cleared her in all of the major cases filed against her: OWWA/PhilHealth; fertilizer fund scandal; and NBN/ZTE. These were all, by the Ombudsman's own reckoning, "very, very complicated" cases—thus, easily milked for all their yellow propaganda value by the godfathers of Otso Deretso.

Should it matter that due process has repeatedly vindicated Mrs. Arroyo? Of course it should, at least to us law-abiding citizens. But obviously not to Colmenares and Alejano, whose very DNA seems to be imprinted with an abiding disregard for the law.

Should these two now be voted into the Senate? Any repercussions from that will be squarely on those among you who choose to do so.

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*“Always and ever a blessing from the Lifegiver”*

I'm among those on either side of the political divide who share in what must be the unalloyed happiness of senatorial aspirant Mar Roxas and his news-media star wife Korina over the birth of their twins.

With Korina well north of 50 years old, the birth was obviously technology-assisted, using the services of a surrogate mother. But the process of creating new life in vitro is long, risky, expensive and often painful, and whenever the results are successful, nothing short of unqualified applause is called for.

The problem, of course, is that there is no nine-month buildup to the blessed event, if the couple chooses to keep it quiet. Which is why the most virulent of Mar's critics are calling him out for timing the twins' arrival so fortuitously at the start of his campaign.

The candidate may rightfully be excoriated for "kaplastikan," a criticism that has never had trouble sticking to him. But that is certainly no excuse for his critics to drag his new babies into the messy picture. The process of creating those babies would have been too complicated to include any additional considerations of political expediency.

Mar may also rightfully be criticized for a wide range of performance shortcomings, from the multiple increase in drugs, smuggling, and other major crimes during his watch at DILG, to the MRT corruption scandals during his earlier tenure at the Department of Transportation, to all the skeletons he must have buried in his closet during his years as a key factotum of the autist PNoy.

Unfortunately for his critics, between the storied Roxas name, the star power of his TV celebrity wife, the name recall left over from two failed presidential bids, and a campaign war chest that must be bulging from six years of LP ascendancy, Mar now finds himself very much within the "Magic 12."

His new babies can only solidify his position there. But that shouldn't be laid on the babies. No matter what the political fall-out, at the end of the day they are nothing more, nothing less than the latest additions to a family like any other—devoutly to be wished for, always and ever a blessing from the Lifegiver.

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I'd like to close this column by asking the reader's prayers for my aunt, the late Dalisay Bocobo-Balunsat, who passed away over the week-end in San Francisco.

Tita Daly made her way to the United States a long time ago, before I was even born, where she became a fixture in the cultural, literary, journalistic, and educational circles of the Fil-Am community in San Francisco.

She was the last to go of the Bocobo siblings—children of Jorge and Felisa Bocobo—whose very different names betrayed the principal influences on the thinking and character of their father: the classics (Elvira, Florante, my mother Celia, Ariel), the Protestant tradition (Israel), and Filipino culture and history (Dalisay, Malaya).

Today she's back in their company, together with her husband Uncle Tony who left year earlier to prepare her welcome mat. It's the passage of an entire generation. May the eternal light illuminate them, may they rest in peace.

Readers can write me at [gbolivar1952@yahoo.com](mailto:gbolivar1952@yahoo.com).

# An unending quest

“But while we hope for a lasting peace, the agreement with the old fighters from Mindanao was just a closure to one chapter.”

Twice, foreign terror groups, by way of our Southeast Asian neighbors, sent volunteers willing to blow themselves up in the name of political Islam to sway Filipinos away from peace offered through the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL).

The design was to make Filipinos believe the sacrifices have been made by their own. They failed.

On 31 July last year, a white van loaded with bombs rammed through a checkpoint manned by the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit in the boundaries of Bulanting, Colonia and Maganda in Lamitan, Basilan – a flashpoint of Moro rebellion all our lives.

The terrorist killed 11 people, including women and children who were relatives of the auxiliary force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Sensing the importance of putting the attack in the right perspective, Lt. Col. Montano Almodovar, commander of the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion, quickly issued a statement to describe the van's driver as “a foreign looking man.”

The description was more than de rigueur. It was loaded with political implications that somehow installed what could be inevitable to the local terror watch that is not detached from the international trend that saw the murder of thousands of innocent people in the name of militant religious extremism.

On 27 January this year, at the height of the plebiscite for the BOL in major parts of Mindanao, what was feared to happen struck at the Roman Catholic cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo, Sulu.

Two bombs were detonated by a pair of suicide bombers, resulting in the death of 20 and injuries to more than a hundred. They were attending the Mass when attacked.

It was feared that the couple were Filipinos. They could have been the first locals to offer themselves to the terror cause.

After an initial confusion, however, President Rodrigo Duterte came out to verify that the attack was indeed carried out by two suicide bombers.

There was no confirmation about the identities of the pair, however. The President's statement raised the possibility of Filipinos who have offered themselves to Islamic martyrdom as the Daesh – or IS/ ISIS – have swayed towards Southeast Asia, where its followers are constantly increasing.

The region is ripe for detonation and the Daesh is on top of this.

The landmark establishment of the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) that was hailed by the United Nations (UN), is a step towards peace.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres hailed last week's ceremonies at Malacañang, attended no less by Abdullah Macapaar.

Macapaar was the rock star of the Muslim revolution. He uses the nom de guerre Commander Bravo, the famous camo-clad Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) leader who claimed to have trained in guerrilla tactics in Afghanistan under Osama bin Laden in 1981.

He still commanded that air of leadership with his presence in Malacañang. But he aged a lot.

We commend the efforts to forge a “lasting peace in Mindanao.” The presence of the leaders of that revolution at the Palace is a sign that the country is finally closing another chapter of division and violence in the region.

To cite the report of *Daily Tribune* on that momentous occasion: “About 150,000 people have died in the conflict over several decades and stunted development in the resource-rich region that is the country's poorest. Duterte promised adequate resources, a daunting problem in the past.”

“About 12,000 combatants with thousands of firearms are to be demobilized starting this year under the peace deal.”

This, as “an interim government of the

BARMM, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority will exercise governance in the region for three years, coinciding with the remainder of the President's term."

We can anchor our hopes for peace on that.

But somewhere else, threats of breaking this peace persist.

While the Mindanao independence movement has long been active in its call to secede from the Philippines on the premise of Mindanao not being largely part of the Luzviminda that was clamped together by the imperialist nations which invaded our shores, the birth of modern Mindanao warriors traces roots from 1972 with the establishment of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

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Mindanao.

But Nur Misuari envisioned the MNLF as a secular movement when he founded it in 1972. His MNLF preceded the birth of religious extremism that was still to come with the fall of Iran in February 1979.

The Tripoli peace agreement brokered by the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 1976 created a rift among the MNLF leaders, however.

The following year, a serious rift created a chasm between the old MNLF leaders (Misuari) and the young breed of fighters who have actually experienced battles against government forces, led by Hashim Salamat.

Together with 57 MNLF officers who joined him in breaking away from Misuari, Salamat was to establish the MILF. But it was not to come until 1984.

By then, Salamat represented the "new MNLF leadership" and moved his group to Cairo, Egypt in 1977. In 1980, they moved to Lahore, Pakistan, which was then simmering with Taliban activities as a safe haven for armies fighting against the Soviets in neighboring Afghanistan.

The MILF formed an armed group called the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces; it received support from Bin Laden and the Taliban. Salamat's breakaway was timely as religious extremism was also then percolating in Iran.

Two years after Salamat broke away with Misuari, the Shah leadership was ousted by a religious revolution led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979.

Khomeini's ouster of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was not without significance in the Philippine Muslim revolution.

Khomeini had changed order in the Middle East and it reverberated through the Philippines.

The MILF took leadership of the Mindanao rebellion from Misuari. But the MILF leaders aged, too, and various splinter groups have emerged since then.

The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, the Abu Sayyaf and the other smaller but deadlier splinter groups have taken the Mindanao wars to new levels. They are no longer secular and have infused religious extremism not designed by Filipinos, but is aimed at establishing a world caliphate order which the world was first unfamiliar with.

Then 9-11 came and various other terror attacks that seem endless.

We have gotten our tastes of that war. And we are just waiting for the bigger explosion after several tries by foreign groups with still a few Filipino operatives have been foiled by Philippine authorities in the last few decades. These included aborted and foiled attacks on former Philippine visitors Pope John Paul II and former US President Bill Clinton.

Iran's Islamic revolution happened 40 years ago and it is still being felt all over the world, including the Philippines. It had fired up political Islam that represented a major threat to governments, monarchies and the ruling elites. It remains a source of inspiration for the new religious warriors.

Silently, that revolution was still felt in Malacañang last week.

But government is no longer alone fighting new threats. The war on terror has become an international undertaking as it is an international concern.

Information is shared among governments, including that confirmation to President Duterte that the Jolo suicide bombers were Indonesians, according to communications from Jakarta.

But while we hope for a lasting peace, the agreement with the old fighters from Mindanao was just a closure to one chapter.

Because like the terror brought about by extreme religious zeal, peace is a process that is still going on.

## Time to ditch the MDT

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will reportedly visit Manila this Friday, Feb. 28. The timing of his visit couldn't be more opportune.

Hopefully, the concerned Cabinet members of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte aka Digong are ready to discuss with Pompeo what the President publicly said recently about his desire to have no more military alliances with any country, to wit:

*"Ayaw kong matali maski kanino, maski sa Amerikano. Kasi kung may magtali sa iyo, pwede ka na sabihan kung ano'ng gusto nila."*

He was referring to the 1951 PH-US Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT).

As Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana put it, the MDT "was done in 1951. It's 67 years old. We are reviewing it because perhaps, we no longer need it."

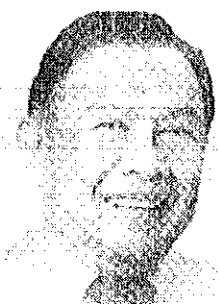
The MDT has as its adjuncts the constitutionally infirm Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). Needless to say, once the MDT is junked, they will have to go, too.

During and after his campaign for the presidency, Digong promised to rid the country of foreign troops. As I have said time and again, this will be his greatest legacy — to make the country free at last from dictation by a former colonial ruler.

"I really hate it. I don't want it. We don't need it. The US should not treat the Philippines like a 'dog with a leash,'" he said.

Now is the most opportune time for him to begin giving substance and meaning to his promise. He cannot afford to wait any longer. I'm sure he knows that the longer he waits, the more difficult it will be to accomplish his goal.

He must also be aware of the current overtures of the US to



*'Ayaw kong matali maski kanino, maski sa Amerikano. Kasi kung may magtali sa iyo, pwede ka na sabihan kung ano'ng gusto nila.' — Duterte*

### CROSSHAIRS

REY O. ARCILLA

soften his apparent desire to be free of US influence — from the offer to sell us more military equipment which they won't let us buy elsewhere, cheaper at that, especially from China and Russia, at the risk of suffering sanctions; the recent statement of US Ambassador Sung Kim that his government continues (?) to support our war against illegal drugs; and the promise of more aid and investments, among others.

The US is now doing all these and more, hoping that Digong would change his mind about the presence of US troops in the country. Failing that, she would most likely resort to encouraging and helping his detractors here and abroad to make him lose the support of the majority of Filipinos. The minute he loses that support, watch the US intensify overt moves to topple him.

Digong only has to look at historical precedents where the US engineered the fall of leaders of countries, both rich and poor, who were considered unfriendly to her, through means fair or foul, including "termination with extreme prejudice." And it will not be

without the help and connivance of the "Yankeeophiles" around him, both in the civilian and military establishments, some in the private sector and others who stand to gain by getting rid of him. As they say, "walang sumisira sa bakal kundi ang sariling kalawang."

(Didn't he in fact once say categorically that if he is killed, if his helicopter goes down, that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) would be behind it? The US naturally denied this.)

In truth, Digong doesn't even have to look back at past precedents. He only has to look at what the US is doing now to Venezuela where the current leader is considered unfriendly to her. That is why he should not rely on US President Donald Trump's profession of friendship with him. Trump is the president of the US, first and last.

We should thank our lucky stars that Digong still has the support of the majority of our people. The minute he loses that, as Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro has, the US will help install another leader she likes, thus enabling her once again to hold sway in everything that we do. Note that Trump had just told

the Venezuelan military to back opposition leader and self-proclaimed "acting president" Juan Guaido or "lose everything."

Worse yet, we will be back to where we were before Digong came along — where the oligarchs, the Yankeeophiles in our midst, the crooked politicians and government officials, the criminal syndicates, the drug lords, among others, made life miserable to the average and law-abiding Filipinos.

### "TWEETER" LOCSIN AT IT AGAIN

In a recent TV interview in Germany, Foreign Secretary Teodoro "Tweeter" Locsin, Jr. reportedly "embraced" a statement made previously by Digong about "Hitler and slaughtering 3 million drug addicts." He obviously didn't mention the fact that Digong had already apologized for his statement.

As a consequence of his indiscretion, the German government summoned our Charge d'Affaires in Berlin to register its strong objection to Locsin's "totally unacceptable" statement.

After the uproar, "Tweeter" Locsin bragged that "I'd rather finish my own fights than have others do it."

Okay. So what does he do? He said he instructed our embassy in Berlin "to tell the German Foreign Ministry to send the German ambassador to me."

WTF?! He is the foreign secretary! He should simply summon the German ambassador here to see him in his office!

I feel sorry for CDA Lilibeth Pono. Can you imagine her telling the German Foreign Ministry, verbally or in writing, to instruct their ambassador here to see Locsin?

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## TIME

How embarrassing! I repeat, WTF!

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Still on Locsin, he tweeted that he would kill anyone who says a birth certificate is required to renew a passport.

A netizen tweeted him: "Sir @teddyboylocsin kailangan pa rin po ba ng birth certificate pag nagpaparenew ng passport? Salamat po."

"I hindi. Pu---. Not for passport renewal. If anyone asks you, tell me who and I will fuc---g kill him/her," Locsin tweeted back.

Following is a reaction from a reader:

"Isn't he a big embarrassment, a huge disappointment? And he will probably end up as the most foul-mouthed foreign secretary we've ever had. Meron bang diplomat na ganiyan? He is obviously aping Trump and Duterte, pero halatang peke, hindi bagay. Today, one applicant for passport renewal called his bluff -- pinatulan talaga siya nang husto. He tweeted Teddyboy (I think the word "boy" fits him to a tee!) at ipinapapatay niya ang offender sa window #(?) sa Consular who required him to

get a birth certificate! Tingnan nga natin kung may ibubuga ang kayabangan niya!"

Some reactions from netizens published in another daily:

Eddy Khong: Very vulgar, probably try to imitate the President.

Paul: What a pathetic little boy

Cubano: Locsin, ikaw ang may sabi nito noong nalaman ninyong "dinala" daw ng contractor ang mga birth certificates at kailangang mag-submit uli kung magrenew...dapat pala patayin ka....

espi69: wow! atapang ni teddy boy! me p---ina pa para mas magmukhang sobrang tapang!

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### REMINDERS

This segment is intended to remind the Duterte administration of some of its yet unfulfilled promises and matters that need attention and/or follow-up action. More importantly, the people are entitled to know what's being done about them.

1. Digong's promise to rid the country of foreign troops. This, of course, necessitates abrogating the MDT and the lopsided and constitutionally infirm VFA and

the EDCA.

2. Reciprocal visa arrangements with the US and other countries. What is "Tweeter" Locsin doing about this? Our embassy in Washington? No less than President Digong and former Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez advocate this.

3. The return of the Canadian waste. I wonder why "Tweeter" Locsin hasn't tweeted on this issue till now. He tweets on almost anything that strikes his fancy (pati ba naman taho-throwing by a Chinese which he dismissed as trivial), but nothing on a very important and stinking matter like the Canadian garbage, especially after the South Korean government took back their waste.

Recently, ten Canadian environmental groups urged Prime Minister Justin "Trashy" Trudeau in a letter to take back 103 containers of garbage illegally dumped on our shores more than five years ago which "is a violation of Canada's obligations under the UN Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal."

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Today is the 304th day of the

twelfth year of the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos, son of the late press icon and founder of this newspaper, Joe Burgos.

After the acquittal of Major Harry Baliaga, Jr., the only person formally charged with Jonas' kidnapping, I guess what happens next is now up to Divine Providence.

In this regard, the government may or may not succeed in asking the UN Working Group on Enforced and Voluntary Disappearances in Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital of Sarajevo to delist from its records some 625 cases of involuntary disappearances in the country. As far as I am concerned, however, mention of Jonas' disappearance will stay in this space as long as I have it or until such time as his abductors are caught and punished.

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From an internet friend:

Q: Why couldn't the blonde add 10 and seven on a calculator?

A: She couldn't find the 10 key.

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<https://www.facebook.com/reynaldo.arcilla.9847>



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## EDITORIAL

### With military ranks but still civilian policemen

**I**n so many ways, the 1987 Constitution that was drawn up by a Constitutional Commission during the Cory Aquino administration of 1986 sought to avoid the excesses of the previous administration made possible by the martial law provisions of the previous 1935 Constitution.

Thus the 1987 Constitution, which is what we have today, placed many limitations on the use of martial law, so no succeeding president could use it as President Marcos did. While the new Constitution kept the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as "a regular force necessary for the security of the State," it also provided for a police force "national in scope and civilian in character."

To stress the civilian character of this police force, RA 6975 which established the Philippine National Police (PNP) provided for civilian — rather than military — ranks. Thus the top PNP chief had the rank of Director General — on the same level as the top AFP rank of full General.

Next in the list of new PNP ranks were Deputy Director General (on the same level as AFP Lieutenant General), followed by Director (as the AFP Major General), Chief Superintendent (as the AFP Brigadier General), Senior Superintendent (as the AFP Colonel), Superintendent (as the AFP Major), Chief Inspector (as the AFP Captain), and Inspector (as the AFP Lieutenant).

The general public, however, never got used to the new PNP ranks. President Duterte said he was confused by the new terminology. The police officials themselves preferred the old military ranks; they certainly sounded more impressive. Thus they continued to refer to themselves as generals, colonels, majors, etc.

It was for this reason that Congress recently enacted RA 11200, amending Section 28 of RA 6975. It adopted the AFP designations for the various ranks of the PNP but with the word Police. Thus Police General, Police Major, Police Captain, etc., all the way down to Police Corporal.

In the interest of greater public understanding, we welcome the new designations. We hope, however, that the military ranks will not influence some police officers and men into thinking like military men in the field of battle. For they remain, as provided in the Constitution, "a police force national in scope and civilian in character."

We have our Armed Forces trained to fight the nation's enemies in battlefields, whether they be invaders from other countries or Filipino rebels out to topple our democratic government and replace it with their own system, such as Communist or Islamist. But we also have our police forces to maintain peace and order in our towns and cities against criminals such as thieves and robbers.

Our police officers and men, despite their new military ranks, should never lose sight of this fact that they are members of a civilian agency enforcing law and maintaining peace and order.

Yes

**Editorial****Kamangmangan  
sa Constitution**

**N**AGPAKITA ng kamangmangan o kawalan ng kaalaman sa Constitution ng Pilipinas si National Youth Commission (NYC) chairman Ronald Cardema nang i-proposed niya noong nakaraang linggo na alisin ang state scholarships sa mga estudyanteng aktibista na sumasali sa anti-government protests at New People's Army (NPA). Aniya, nilikha ng taumbayan ang pamahalaan para mamahala, mangalaga, dumisiplina, kumulekta ng buwis at ipamahagi ang pondo para sa scholarships at mga programa. Ang paglaban aniya sa pamahalaan ay paglaban sa nakararaming Pilipino.

Pero maraming umalma sa kanyang proposal at maski si President Duterte ay nagsabing walang masama kung magpahayag ng kanilang saloobin ang mga estudyante. Sabi ng Presidente ay wala namang masama kung dissent lang dahil expression lang yun. Sabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na ang pagsali ng mga estudyante sa grupo na naka-aligned sa Left ay hindi ground para alisin sa kanila ang scholarships. Aniya, hindi reckless ang pamahalaan para gantihan ang mga estudyanteng nagpapahayag lamang ng kanilang kahilingan at mga saloobin.

Maraming nagpahayag na dapat magbitiw sa puwesto si Cardema sapagkat nagpapakita lamang ito ng kanyang kamangmangan sa tinatadhana ng Constitution at maski sa mandate ng NYC na ang mga kabataan ay dapat hayaang magsalita ng kanilang saloobin. Lahat ng kabataan o estudyante ay may karapatang magsalita at magpahayag ng kanilang saloobin kabilang ang pagprotesta sa kalsada. Pero sabi ni Cardema, hindi siya magbibitiw sa puwesto at lalong hindi magso-sorry. Ayon pa kay Cardema ang kanyang proposal na pag-aalis ng scholarships sa militants ay inspired sa sinabi ng Presidente na ibibigay na lamang ito sa mga lumad o indigenous people na gustong mag-aral sa unibersidad.

Sa pahayag niyang ito, nagpapakita nga na mangmang ang pinuno ng NYC.

# Sapol

NINARIUS BONDOC



## Sibak na pulis, sundalo nagiging guns-for-hire

SA pitong nagplano ng pagpatay kay Rep. Rodol Batocabe, dalawa ang dating rebeldeng komunista, isa ang dating militia man, at apat ang dating sarhento sa Army. Kasali umano sila ng private army ni Mayor Carlwyn Baldo ng Daraga, Albay. Matapos ang "hit" dalawa sa kanila ay kinanlong ng isang politiko sa Masbate na may private army rin.

May private army rin umano ang mag-amang kongre-sista at mayor Garin na nambugbog ng pulis sa plaza ng bayan nila ng Guimbal, Iloilo, kamakailan. Hindi lang mga dating pulis ang kasapi, kundi mga dating gerilya ng New People's Army. Pinagbantaan nila ang biktima na ipapa-palay sa NPA.

Imbestigahan daw ng National Police ang koneksiyon na 'yan ng isang pinunong bayan sa mga nagpapabagsak sa gobyerno. Sana ay suriin na rin ng pulisya kung bakit nag-sasanib at dumarami ang mga sinibak na pulis, sundalo, at rebeldeng sa mga private armies at murder syndicates.

Pinaka-kanimal-dumal ang 105 na tauhan ng angkang Ampatuan na nagmasaker ng 58 katunggali sa pulitika at media men sa Maguindanao nu'ng 2009. Mga dati silang sundalo, pulis, militia ng Citizens Armed Force Geographic Unit (Cafgu), at rebeldeng ng separatistang Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Narayan din ang Pentagon Gang ng mga bandido sa Central Mindanao, mga dating alagad ng batas at rebeldeng. Dagdag pa nila dating Cafgu Edgar Matobato at pulis Anhur Lascañas, na umaming pumatay ng dose-dosena para sa Davao Death Squad.

Sinibak sila dahil sa pag-abuso, katiwalian, kawalan ng disiplina. Para kumita, ginagamit nila ang kanilang espesyal na kaalaman -- pumatay -- at kagamitan -- na mala-mang pang ninakaw sa arsenal ng gobyerno.

Sana ay ilista silang lahat ng pulis at militar, at alamin kung nasaan at ano ang ginagawa. Hindi kataka-taka kung marami sa kanila ay murderers-for-hire at bank robbers, na aalagwa ngayong Halalan 2019.

**EDITORIAL**

## May ranggong militar ngunit nananatiling silbilyang pulis

Sa maraming paraan, ang pagbuo ng Constitutional Commission sa Konstitusyon ng 1987 sa panahon ng administrasyon ni Cory Aquino noong 1986, ay layuning maiwasan ang mga pagmamalabis ng pinalitan nitong administrasyon, na naisakatuuparan dahil sa mga probisyon ng batas militar ng Konstitusyon noong 1935.

Sa gayon, ang Konstitusyon ng 1987, na mayroon tayo ngayon, ay nagsasaad ng maraming limitasyon sa paggamit sa batas militar, kaya naman walang mga sumunod na pangulo ang gumamit nito gaya ng ginawa ni Pangulong Marcos. Bagamat pinananatili ng bagong Konstitusyon ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), bilang "regular force necessary for the security of the State," isinasaad din nito ang puwersa ng pulisya na "national in scope and civilian in character."

Upang igtatag ang sibilyang katangian ng pulisya, isinasaad ng RA 6975, na nagtatag sa Philippine National Police (PNP) ang mga ranggong pang-sibilyan — sa halip na ranggong pang-militar. Kaya naman ang nangungunang opisyal ng hepe ng PNP ay may ranggong Director General — na katumbas ng nangungunang ranggo sa AFP na full General.

Sunod sa listahan ng bagong mga ranggo ng PNP ang Deputy Director General (katumbas ng Lieutenant General ng AFP) kasinod ang Director (katumbas ng Major General ng AFP), Chief Superintendent (Brigadier General), Senior Superintendent (AFP Colonel), Superintendent (AFP Major), Chief Inspector (AFP Captain), at Inspector (AFP Lieutenant).

Gayunman, hindi kailanman nasanay ang publiko sa mga bagong ranggo ng PNP. Sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na nalilito siya sa mga bagong terminolohiya. Maging ang mismong mga opisyal ng pulisya ay mas pabor sa lumang ranggong pang-militar; mas kahanga-hangang pakinggan ito. Kaya naman patuloy nilang tinutukoy ang kanilang mga sarili bilang heneral, colonel, major, at iba pa.

Ito ang dahilan kaya pinaglibay kamakailan ng Kongreso ang RA 11200, na nag-aamuyenda sa Section 28 ng RA 6975. Kinikilala nito ang paggamit sa mga termino ng AFP para sa pagtatalaga ng iba't ibang ranggo ng PNP ngunit mananatili ang salitang 'Police'. Samakatuwid, ito ay Police General, Police Major, Police Captain, at iba pa hanggang sa Police Corporal.

Para sa kapakanan ng pag-unawa ng publiko, ikalulugod natin ang bagong tawag sa pagtatalaga. Gayunman, umaasa tayo na ang ranggong militar ay hindi makaiimpluwensiya sa ilang miyembro at opisyal ng pulisya sa pag-iisip ng mga militar na nasa digmaan. Dahil mananatili sila, alinsunod sa isinasaad ng Konstitusyon na "a police force national in scope and civilian in character."

Nariyan ang ating puwersang militar na sinanay upang makipaglaban sa mga kaaway ng bansa sa isang digmaan, ito man ay mananakop mula sa ibang bansa o mga Pilipinong rebelde na naghihimaksik upang pabagsakin ang demokratikong pamahalaan at palitan ng kanilang sariling sistema, tulad ng mga Komunista o Islamiko. Ngunit nariyan din ang ating pulisya upang magpanatili ng kapayapaan at kaayusan sa ating mga bayan at lungsod laban sa mga kriminal tulad ng mga magnanakaw.

Ang ating mga pulis, sa kabila ng kanilang bagong ranggong militar, ay hindi dapat na mawala sa pagtingin sa katotohanang sila ay mga miyembro ng silbilyang ahensiya na nagpapatupad ng batas at nagpapanatili ng kapayapaan at kaayusan.



**PAHINA SIYETE**  
Clemen Bautista

## Edsa People Power Revolution: Isang pagtanaw sa lumipas

**BAHAGI** na ng kasaysayan ng ating bansa na tuwing sasapit ang Pebrero 22-25, ay ginugunita at ipinagdiriwang ang makasaysayang EDSA People Power Revolution. Isang natatanging Himagsikan na nagbalik sa kalayaan at demokrasya ng sambayanang Pilipino na sinupil at sinikil ng isang diktador na si dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos. Natatangi ang EDSA People Power Revolution sapagkat ang mga Pilipino'y walang ginamit na sandata o armas. Sa pagpapalask sa diktador, naging kasangkapan ng mga Pilipino ang kanilang pagkakaisa, dasal, imahen ng

Mahal na Birhen at mga bulaklak najinapat sa bibig ng mga baril ng mga sundalo. Maging ang mga tangke ng pamahalaan ay hindi nakakilos nang pagtulongang pigilin ng mga tao, ng mga madre at iba pa nating mga kababayan. Ang iba nating kababayan noon ay humuga pa sa kalsada upang mapigil ang pag-usad ng tangke ng pamahalaan.

Kung hindi napigil ang tangke, tiyak na napsak ang mga taong humuga sa kalye. Sa pagbagsak ng diktadurya ng rehimen ng Marcos, ay malagot ang may 20 taong panunupil at paninikil. Nabalik ang kalayaan at demokrasya sa sambayanang Pilipino. Sa paggunita ng ika-33 anibersaryo ng EDSA Revolution, ang kasalukuyang Pangulo ng Pilipinas na si Presidente Rodrigo Duterte ay hindi rin dumalo pagdiriwang. Ang hindi pagdalo ng Pangulong Duterte ay ikatlong pagkakataon na ngayong 2019. Nasasabi at naitatanong tuloy ng iba nating kababayan: Kulang raw ba o walang "sense of history" ang ating Pangulo na sa pagtatalumpati ay bahagi na ang kanyang pagmumuna?

Ang EDSA ay acronym o pinaikling tawag sa Epifanio de los Santos Avenue na ipinalit sa "Highway 54" na dating pangalan ng EDSA na pinakamahalagang kalsada, mula sa Bonifacio Monument, Caloocan City hanggang sa Lungsod ng Pasay. Isang panukalang-

batas noon ni dating Rizal Congressman Francisco "Koming" Sumulong ang pinaghiyay sa Kongreso bilang pagkilala at pagdakila kay Epifanio de los Santos na isang Rizaleno.

Si Epifanio de los Santos na kilala sa tawag na "Don Panyong" ay isinilang sa Malabon, Rizal (lungsod na ngayon na bahagi ng Metro Manila) noong Abril 7, 1871. Siya'y isang abogado, journalist, historian, philosopher, pintor, makata, literary critic, librarian at antique collector. Naging direktor siya ng Pambansang Aklatan o National Library at Museum. Kinilala rin siya ng marami na isa sa limang pinakadakilang Pilipino at itinuturing na pangunahing palam na Pilipino.

Ayon sa kasaysayan, ang EDSA People Power Revolution ay nagsimula noong Pebrero 22, 1986 nang magkaisa sina vice deputy of staff ng Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP) at naging Pangulo ng Pilipinas na si Fidel V. Ramos at dating National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile (naging senador) humiwalay kay dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos. Nagkanlong sila sa Camp Crame at Camp Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo. Kasama nila ang may 200 sundalo kabilang si Col. Gringo Honasan.

Nangibabaw noon ang matinding pagamla ng taumbayan na may magaganap na hindi maganda

sa ating bansa. Sa panawagan ni Jaime Cardinal Sin sa radyo at telebisyon, dumagsa sa EDSA ang halos lahat ng sektor ng lipunang Pilipino. Walang nagawa ang mga tangke at ang mga sundalo sa batayon ng mga taong nagdarasal. Nangibabaw ang tagumpay ng sambayanang Pilipino. Naitaboy ang diktador at napalayas sa Malacanang. Naglungga sa Hawaii at doon na namatay.

Sa pananaw ng mga Pilipino, ang diwa ng EDSA Revolution ay instrumento na magiging daan sa mga pagbabago at kaunlaran ng ating bayan. At habang naghihintay ang sambayanan, nagsimula nang magkaroon ng mga balimbing at sipsip sa bagong rehimen. Unti-unti, ang pag-asa ng mga Pilipino ay 'tila liwanag na naglaho sapagkat ang kinasusuklamang mga kroni at alipores ng diktador ay napalitan ng ibang uri ng pagsasamantala - ang "Kamay-anak Incorporated" at mga alipores na matatalinong bugok.



**PAGTANAW  
AT  
PANANAW**  
Bert de Guzman

## Pepe en Pilar

**M**ULA sa pagiging supremo ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), si Al Hajj Murad Ebrahim na ngayon ang supremo (Interim head) ng Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA). Ang BTA ang mangangasiwa sa transisyon ng Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) tungo sa bagong Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Hahawakan ni Ebrahim ang BARMM sa loob ng tatlong taon.

Pinanumpa sa Malacañang ni President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) ang 80 opisyal ng BTA noong Biyernes kasama

ang may 500 tao sa Rizal Social Hall. Hinikayat niya ang mga bagong pinuno na sikaping maipagkaloob sa Bangsamoro people ang kagalingan, kabutihan, kapayapaan at kaunlaran na matagal na nilang pinapangarap.

Sinabihan din ng ating Pangulo ang BTA transition team na bilisan ang "decommissioning" ng MILF o pagsasalong ng mga armas ng libu-libong tauhan ng MILF.

"Umaasa akon pangangasiwaan ninyo ang transition period sa abot ng inyong kakayahang lalo na ang decommissioning ng mga armas at ng dating combatants," ayon kay PDU30.

Sana ay magkaroon na ng katahimikan at kaunlaran ang Mindanao sa pagkakataag ng BARMM. Kung ang ARMM ay itinuturing na isang kabiguan o failure, sana naman ay magtagumpay ang BARMM na mismong si Ebrahim ng MILF ang mamumuno bago idaos ang regular na halalan.

Papaano ngayon ang Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) ni Nur Misuari? Ito ba ay naiisa-puwersa sa pagkakaroon ng BTA? Tandaan na ang orihinal na

nagsusulong sa pagkakaroon ng awtonomiya o kaya'y pagkakaroon ng sariling Republika ng Bangsamoro people, ay si Nur Misuari na nagtatag ng MNLF kasama si Hashim Salamat noong panahon ng diktador na si Marcos.

Cayuntan, nagkaroon ng 'di pagkakaunawaan sina Misuari at Salamat kaya humiwalay ang huli at itinatag ang ngayon ay MILF na ang puno ay si Ebrahim matapos mamatay si Salamat. Ang Sulu na balwarte ni Misuari ay hindi sang-ayon sa plebisito at bumoto ng "No". Hindi kasama ang lalawigan sa BARMM. Maging ang siyudad ng Isabela sa Basilan ay "No" ang boto sa plebisito.

oOo

Kung may EML (Extended Maternity Leave) para sa mga babae, dapat dapat daw ay magkaroon din ng (EPL) o Extended Paternity Leave para sa mga tatay. Sa EML, binibigyan ang bagong panganak na empleyadong babae ng 105 araw na palunga o leave upang manumbalik ang kalusugan at maalagaan ang sanggol.

Para sa isang kongresista na taga-Mindanao, dapat ding palawigin o habaan ang paternity

leave ni tatay mula sa pitong araw at gawing 15 araw. Ayon kay Cagayan de Oro Rep. Johnny Pimentel (ama ng limang anak), dapat suportahan ang ina at ama sa panahon ng panganganak. Makabubuti sa ama ng bala na habaan ang leave o bakasyon upang tulungan ang asawa sa pag-aaruga sa sanggol.

oOo

May Pepe en Pilar na sina ex-Sen. Mar Roxas at broadcaster Korina Sanchez. Ayon sa ulat, ang kambal ay isinilang noong Pebrero 12 sa Pittsburgh hospital sa US.

Ang procedure sa pagkakaroon ng anak nina Mar at Korina ay sa pamamagitan ng tinatawag na "surrogacy" o pagsasanib ng itlog (ovum) ng babae at ng sperm ng lalaki. Pagkatapos, ito ay itatanim sa isang surrogate mother na siyang kukupkop sa kanyang sinapupunan sa loob ng siyam na buwan.

Congrats kina Mar at Korina sa pagkakaroon ng Pepe en Pilar! Baka ang kambal ang maghahatid ng tagumpay kay Mar para manalo sa 2019 midterm elections bilang kandidato ng OTSO DIRETSON!

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# 35 ex-NPA backers take oath of allegiance to gov't

By Nanette Guadalquiver

**BACOLOD CITY** -- Some 35 residents of Escalante City, Negros Occidental were the latest group of former mass base supporters of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) who expressed their loyalty to the Philippine government.

The participants, who come from the villages of Binaguiohan, Pinapugasan, Paitan, and Dian-ay, took their oath of allegiance before Pastor Morito Panadero at the headquarters of the Philippine Army's 79th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bato, Sagay City on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Emelito Thaddeus Logan, commanding officer of the 79IB, in a statement on Sunday night, welcomed the decision of the Escalante City residents to renounce their support to the communist rebels.

Logan said he is thankful for the turnout of their campaign of encouraging the Negrenses to stop supporting the rebel groups to have lasting peace and progress in Negros Occidental.

Both the United States and the European Union have declared the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group.

The group of 35 is the second from northern Negros who took their oath of allegiance in a week after the 80 former members and mass supporters of the CPP-NPA who also pledged loyalty to the government in Victorias City on Friday, also through the 79IB.

Logan earlier said the groups denouncing support to the CPP-NPA came after a series of insurgency awareness sessions conducted by their community support program teams.

The 80 participants are from Barangays Estado and Gawahon in Victorias City; Caduhaan in Cadiz City; Canlusong in EB Magalona and San Pablo in Manapla. **(PNA)**

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

## Antique shooting leaves soldier, village watchman dead

By Gail Momblan

**ILOILO CITY** – A member of the Philippine Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (61IB) and a village watchman were killed in a shooting in Laua-an, Antique on Saturday night.

Killed were Pfc. Kim Jeson Cordero, 24, of Lanao del Sur and village watchman George Lavega, 40, of Barangay Virginia, Laua-an, Antique.

Lt. Col. Sisenando Magbalot Jr., commanding officer of 61IB, said Cordero was in a drinking binge with Pfc. Jason Espiel of Surigao del Sur and two others at their bunkhouse in Barangay Pandanan to celebrate a colleague's birthday when the incident happened.

Lavega, along with his cousins Gilbert Necor, Christopher Lavega and Jeoffrey Legaspi, passed by the bunkhouse and started shooting at around 8:45 p.m.

The guard on duty, whom Magbalot failed to name, retaliated and shot Lavega to death.

Cordero, who suffered two gunshot wounds in the back, was rushed to the hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival, Magbalot said.

Meanwhile, Espiel sustained a gunshot wound in the right hip and is now in stable condition.

The Laua-an municipal police arrested Necor, who yielded a .357-caliber revolver, while Christopher Lavega and Legaspi remained at-large.

Magbalot said the victims knew the four men, who are all from Barangay Virginia, Laua-an.

"The soldiers secure an ongoing road construction in the area under the Critical Infrastructure Protection and Security Operation. They go around and transfer from one community to the other after a week or two thus, the cousins were apparently known to them," Magbalot said in a phone interview on Monday.

He said the suspects might have held grudge against soldiers since they were reprimanded for carrying firearms in December.

Although Cordero and Espiel were off duty during the incident, Magbalot clarified that the soldiers "are not supposed to be drinking or in that activity because they are in [an] operation." **(PNA)**