

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 April 2017

Tuesday

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

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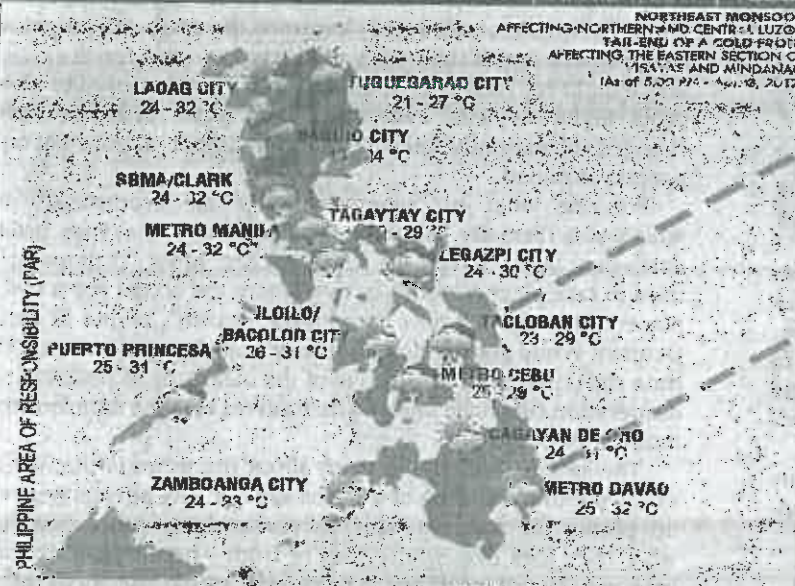
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 4, 2017 | TUESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(As of 5:00 PM - April 3, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE 5:30 AM

SUNSET 6:09 PM

MOONRISE 12:09 PM

MOONSET 12:21 AM

FIRST QUARTER APR 4 2:30 AM

FULL MOON APR 13 2:08 AM


LOW TIDE 4:59 PM
0.11 Meter

HIGH TIDE 3:05 PM
0.96 Meter




Partly cloudy at times cloudy with rainshowers
Partly cloudy to a time cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
Lighter seas with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	APR 4	APR 5	APR 6	APR 7	APR 8	APR 9
METRO MANILA	24 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C				
TAGAYTAY	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C				
TACLOBAN	24 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C				
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 30 °C	23 - 32 °C				
LEGAZPI	24 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C				
CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C				
LAOAG	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C				
PUEERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C				
METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C				
BAGUIO	15 - 25 °C	16 - 25 °C				
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C				
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C				
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C				
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C				

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BROADCASTING AND MEDIA GROUP

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04 April 2017



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NPA to blame for slow peace progress – Rody

By ALEXIS ROMERO

It's the New People's Army (NPA) that is to blame for the delays in the peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels, President Duterte said yesterday.

"We are facing so many fronts. We are facing the NPAs. We are having talks in the Netherlands. They have not made any progress because I have some conditions to impose before we go back to (the talks)," the President said in remarks before officials and selected members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines at Malacañang. "*Eh sino ba* (Who was responsible)? We did it *eh sinira naman nila 'yung usapan* (they did not comply with the agreement)," he added.

Duterte was apparently referring to his decision to terminate the peace talks last February following a series of NPA attacks against government troops.

The President agreed to resume the talks last month but insisted on the crafting of clear

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NPA From Page 1

parameters for a ceasefire. He also demanded that the rebels release the people they had kidnapped, stop the burning of farm and public works equipment, the collection of so-called revolutionary taxes and the claiming of certain territories.

Government and communist negotiators have resumed formal negotiations in the Netherlands, where they are expected to discuss a bilateral ceasefire agreement as well as social and economic reforms.

While negotiators are talking peace, Duterte stressed he is ready to use the military's air assets if the talks do not prosper. "I have new jets. My new jets are faster than sound," the President said.

"I will utilize the air assets. Before it was not really a popular, well, choice, option

But this time '*pag hindi tayo nagkaigi dito* (if we do not reach an agreement), I will not hesitate to use the full power of the state," he added.

It was earlier in Cagayan de Oro City where Duterte announced his conditions for the resumption of peace talks. He was in Cagayan de Oro City to visit and confer awards on 10 soldiers wounded in skirmishes with communist guerrillas recently.

"This fight has been going on for the last 50 years. I hate it. I do not want it," he said, adding that the death of soldiers, rebels or militiamen makes his heart bleed "*kasi pare-pareho tayong Pilipino* (because we're all Filipinos)."

"Give me other enemies, not my fellow Filipinos," he said.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is calling on "peace-loving" Filipinos to condemn the crimes and other illegal activities of the NPA.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said the rebel group continues its depredation and other violent activities, including burning of farm implements and construction equipment used for infrastructure development in the provinces.

He said the public should condemn the NPA and development operations and promptly report all extortion activities so that law enforcers and soldiers can act immediately and assist citizens in trouble.

Año said the nation is being dragged down "by the acts of masquerading ideologues who have degenerated into plain terrorists and extortionists."

Since the resumption of hostilities with the NPA, the AFP chief noted that more than 60 incidents of arson related to "communist terrorists' extortion" have been recorded.

He said AFP operations launched in response to information provided by concerned citizens totaled 104 between Feb. 4 and end of March.

Año said these were among the reasons the government could not readily agree to a unilateral ceasefire.

He said the NPA has allegedly taken advantage of the ceasefire period to undertake more extortion activities targeting legitimate business and peace-loving citizens.

"We have a mandate to follow and that is to protect our people. For the peace talks to succeed, we have to see more sincerity on their part," he added.

"We now see the concrete manifestation of the evil in our society that has been a major cause of underdevelopment, the anti-development and anti-people activities of the NPA," Año stressed. - **With Michael Punongbayan, Gerry Lee-Gorit**

04 April 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

Peace talks resume without truce deal

STORY BY KARLOS MANLUPIG AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

- Government and communist panels restart talks without a bilateral ceasefire agreement
- President Duterte has set the accord as one of four conditions for the talks to continue
- Both parties agree to discuss and possibly sign an interim truce agreement by April 6

FROM A1

By Karlos Manlupig and Christine O. Avendaño
@Team_Inquirer

The fourth round of talks opened in The Netherlands a day late on Monday without the signing of a bilateral ceasefire agreement between the government and National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panels.

The forging of a bilateral ceasefire was one of four conditions set by President Duterte for the resumption of the talks.

But both panels seemed determined to pursue the peace process as they agreed to discuss and possibly sign an interim ceasefire agreement by April 6.

At the opening ceremony of the talks in Noordwijk, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, government peace panel chair, said the discussions might prove to be difficult and exacting given the diversity of the positions taken by the parties.

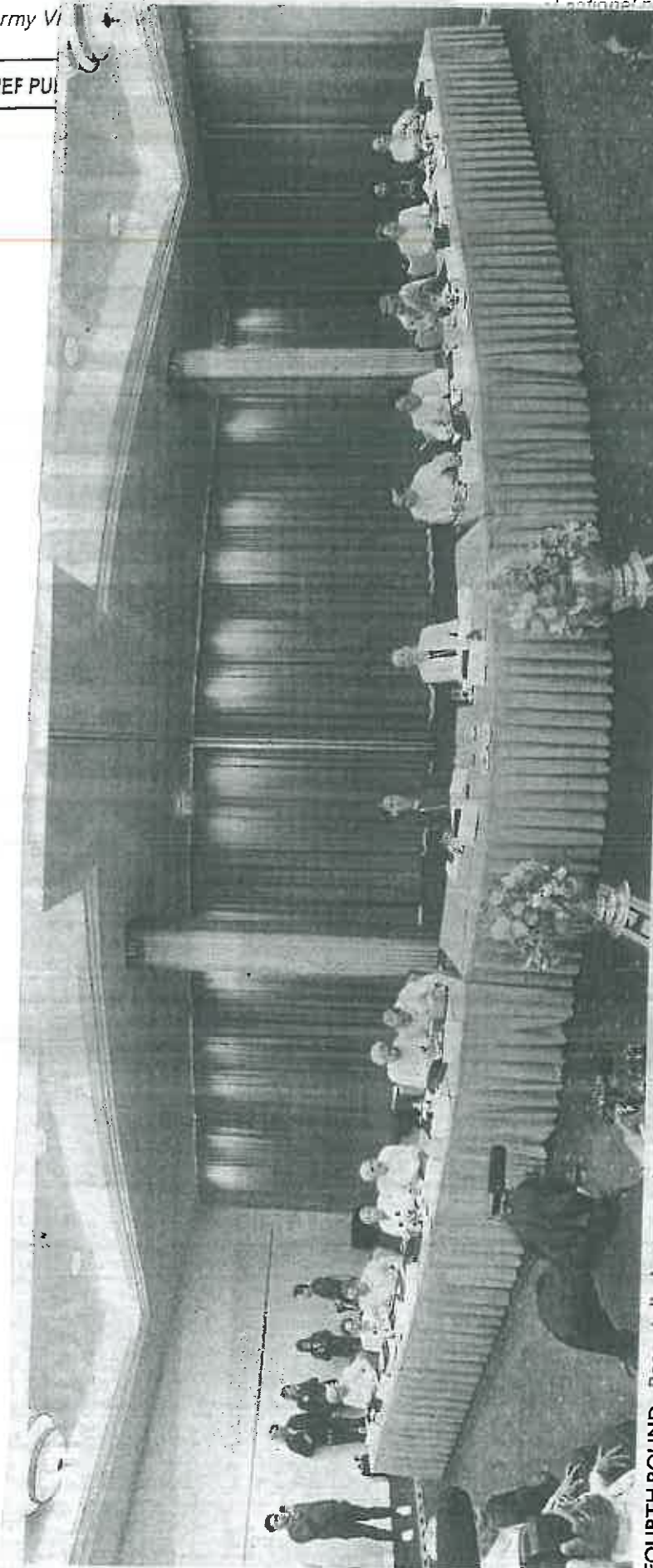
"But we will not waiver from the task we embraced when we decided to restore in August last year the peace talks from its five-year impasse. We shall not fall into indifference that beset the past negotiations. After all, the negotiations, as in other peace processes elsewhere, are all about finding common ground in diversity," Bello said.

For his part, Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza hoped the two sides could work out a more stable bilateral or joint ceasefire agreement.

"We have already agreed on the final outcome of the talks—lasting peace and sustainable development. This is not a

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Local: 5285, 5295



FOURTH ROUND : Peace talks between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines formally open at Radisson Blu Palace Hotel in Noordwijk, The Netherlands. - CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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case of one party giving in or giving up. It is about finding an acceptable common ground that the bigger panel—the public—will accept and support. The road to peace is never a paved one. It will be full of bumps and bends. Let us stay the course," Dureza said in his opening statement.

NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison expressed the willingness of the NDFP to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

But for now, both parties can reinstate the unilateral ceasefire as an interim ceasefire accord, according to Sison.

NDFP peace panel chair Fidel Agcaoili said the memorandum of understanding for the interim ceasefire could be signed at the end of the fourth round of talks.

Agcaoili said the main purpose of a ceasefire, regardless of its form, was to create conditions for parties to reach agreements satisfactory to both sides.

For Sison, the bilateral ceasefire agreement can be signed after the inking of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (Caser), considered the heart and soul of the peace process.

The draft Caser prepared by the NDFP, political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), calls for, among other things, free land distribution, rural industrialization and a ban on open-pit mines.

Founded in 1968, the CPP has unsuccessfully tried to ne-

gotiate with five Presidents before Mr. Duterte. The rebellion, one of Asia's longest, has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead and stunted economic development.

Four preconditions

In his speech at the military's Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City on Sunday, Mr. Duterte set four preconditions before the fourth round of talks could proceed. These include the release of soldiers and policemen captured by the New People's Army, armed wing of the CPP, an end on the collection of revolutionary tax, and for the NDFP to quit claiming territories.

But the weightiest among his demands was for both parties to

sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement before they could proceed in the fourth round of talks.

The bilateral ceasefire was part of the agenda earlier agreed by both parties for the fourth round of talks, which should have started on Sunday morning but was moved to Monday after the President phoned government negotiators for his final directives.

The opening ceremony was pushed to a later schedule on the morning of April 3 after the parties asked for back-channel discussions, including separate meetings of both panels.

In Malacañang, speaking before the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Mr. Duterte said on Monday that he would not hesitate to use the "full power of the

State" in the event peace talks between the government and communist rebels fail.

The President noted that the talks "have not made any progress because I have some conditions to impose before we go back to [the negotiating table]."

Asked whether the talks could proceed without the NDFP adhering first to the conditions set by Mr. Duterte, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said: "As far as I know they are taking each parameter, one at a time."

Sources said that had there been no termination of the peace process in February, the issues raised by Mr. Duterte, especially the bilateral ceasefire, could have been addressed or discussed by now. INQ

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NPA leader captured in Ilocos Sur

A New People's Army (NPA) leader in Ilocos Sur province was captured by combined police and military troops during an operation in nearby La Union over the weekend, the Army announced yesterday. Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio Osias IV, commanding officer of the Army's 81st Infantry Battalion (IB), identified the arrested NPA leader as one Johnny Obena, alias Ka Rod, logistic officer and a member of the NPA's Squad Dos, Platoon South operating in Ilocos Sur. Obena was nabbed by combined elements of the 81st IB, Ilocos Sur Provincial Public Safety Company and Sto. Tomas Municipal Police Station in Barangay Casantaan, Sto. Tomas, La Union at around 4 p.m. Sunday. "Upon apprehension, he was initially brought to the Municipal Police Station of Sto. Tomas, La Union for investigation prior to his turn over to Ilocos Sur Police Public Safety Company (ISPPSC)," Osias said. Military report listed Obena as number seven of Squad Dos, Platoon South Ilocos Sur that operates in the Triple S complex of the second district of Ilocos Sur. Obena has five standing warrants of arrest for frustrated murders and attempted murders issued by Judge Policarpio P Martinez of Branch 71 of Regional Trial Court, First Judicial Region in Candon City on 2013.

Marlo J. Mallari

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8 wounded in S. Kudarat bomb blast

TACURONG CITY – Eight persons were wounded in an explosion in this city yesterday morning.

Janice Alcanado, Janno Buendicho, Kenneth John Carumba, Larry Daniel, Arnold Pamplona, Edison Escoltero, Rommel Calnazo and Jonel Aiya were standing in front of the Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative when the improvised explosive device (IED) went off. They were taken to various hospitals for treatment.

Probers have yet to identify the motorcycle-riding men who planted the IED.

Members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters are believed to be responsible for the attack.

The explosion was the eighth in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao since last week.

Sgt. Abraham Aduh, Pvt. First Class Ernie Cabrera and Cpl. Michael Madazza were wounded in an explosion in Mamasapano, Maguindanao on Friday. – John Unson

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The Manila Times

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Military personnel's retirement pay may be garnished for spousal support

Dear PAO,

I filed for a protection order against my husband, who recently retired from the Army, because he was physically abusing me. The court decided in my favor, directing him, among others, to stop committing further acts of physical violence against me, to refrain from harassing, annoying, intimidating and contacting me, and to provide reasonable financial spousal support. He, however, did not comply, so the court issued a permanent protection order, and directed the Army finance center to automatically deduct 50 percent of his retirement benefits and claims and give them directly to me. The center argued that it cannot deduct his retirement benefits automatically because such benefits of military personnel are exempt from execution. Is this correct?

Sincerely yours,
Emily

Dear Emily,

Your situation is similar to the



DEAR PAO

PERSIDA
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case of Republic of the Philippines represented by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Finance Center (AFPFC) v. Daisy R. Yahn (G.R. No. 201043, 16 June 2014), penned by former Associate Justice Martin Villarama Jr., wherein the Supreme Court held that under Republic Act (RA) 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, even retirement benefits of military personnel are not exempt from execution. According to the Supreme Court:

"We hold that Section 8(g) of RA 9262, being a later enactment, should be construed as laying down an exception to the general rule above-stated that retirement benefits are exempt from execution. The law itself declares that the court shall order the withholding of a percentage of the

income or salary of the respondent by the employer, which shall be automatically remitted directly to the woman [n]otwithstanding other laws to the contrary.

xxx xxx xxx

"Section 8(g) of RA 9262 used the general term 'employer' which includes in its coverage the military institution, S/Sgt. Yahn's employer. Where the law does not distinguish, courts should not distinguish. Thus, Section 8(g) applies to all employers, whether private or government.

"It bears stressing that Section 8(g) providing for spousal and child support, is a support enforcement legislation. In the United States, provisions of the Child Support Enforcement Act allow garnishment of certain federal funds where the intended recipient has failed to satisfy a legal obligation of child support. As these provisions were designed "to avoid sovereign immunity problems" and provide that "moneys payable by the government to any individual are subject to child support enforcement proceedings," the

law is clearly intended to 'create a limited waiver of sovereign immunity so that state courts could issue valid orders directed against government agencies attaching funds in their possession."

In your situation, your husband's retirement benefits are not exempt from execution. Even if his retirement pay is payable by the government, his money may be garnished or executed upon to pay for spousal or child support. Thus, the court's order to grant 50 percent of his retirement benefits to you still stands.

Again, we find it necessary to mention that this opinion is solely based on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. The opinion may vary when the facts are changed or elaborated.

We hope that we were able to enlighten you on the matter.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to deafpao@manilatimes.net

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

Top CARAGA NPA surrenders to Army

Lui Claudio



Camp Makapandong, Prosperidad – CARAGA NPA's Estelito Camino Jr @ Ka PUMA surrendered to the 401st Brigade on Sunday, April 2, 2017. He cited hardship and disillusionment with the NPA as reasons for his surrender.

KA PUMA was the CO of the Sub-Region Sentro de Grabidad of the North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee of the NPA operating on the tri-boundaries of Surigao del Sur and Agusan provinces. He wants to be an example to his sub-commanders to pursue with their surrender plan after he has proven that no maltreatment is committed by government forces to those who surrender contrary to the stories told them by their older cadres.

He was with the NPA for 14 years where he earned several Warrants of Arrest including those for Murder Cases for the atrocities they committed. He revealed that his being with the NPAs left him no chance of being with his wife and 3 kids who are also hard-up after the NPAs failed to give their promised monthly support to his family. He also bared that "most of his comrades are already thinking of laying down their arms at an opportune time as they accordingly believe that the Duterte administration is their best chance to have a peaceful life. As top ranking NPA, he accordingly saw how corruption is in the NPA by citing top ranking leaders pocketing extorted money from the businesses and farmers.

Meanwhile, COL CRISTOBAL N ZARAGOZA of the 401st Infantry Brigade also credited the surrender of Ka Puma to the relentless pressure exerted by the 402nd Brigade and PNP in Surigao and Agusan to arrest Ka Puma. He revealed that Ka Puma is willing to face his criminal cases and hopes that his surrender will mitigate his legal cases.

MAJOR GENERAL MADRIGAL of the 4th ID congratulated the two Brigades, the CARAGA PNP and the Intelligence Units of the Army. He instructed them to prepare for the influx of surrenders as Ka Puma has a following in the NPAs in CARAGA.

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TUESDAY | APRIL 4, 2017



President Duterte salutes Pvt. First Class Jeffrey Mallorca, who was wounded in a recent encounter with communist rebels, at the Camp Evangelista Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City on Sunday in this photo provided by Malacañang.

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PDI

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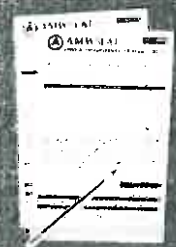
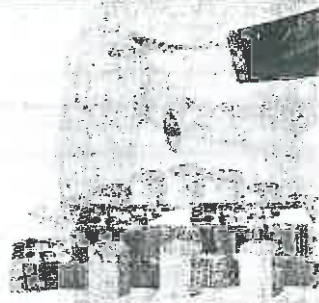
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Mind Museum: Ranks E4 and below may avail of discounts on March 27 and all Sundays of 2017.
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THE MIND MUSEUM, BCDA GIVE SPECIAL TREATS TO SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Soldiers can look forward to spending a special day with their families at Bonifacio Global City (BGC) with an exclusive treat from The Mind Museum and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)

First offered last March 22, 2017, in celebration of the 120th Anniversary of the Philippine Army, Mind Museum is offering the treat on the succeeding Sundays of 2017. Children of Filipino Soldiers with the rank of E4 (Sergeants) and down can enjoy a day in the Mind Museum for free while accompanying adults who are members of the military ranked E4 down will also get a special rate of P190 for their entrance tickets.

The initiative is Mind Mu-



seum's contribution to BCDA's *Sundalo Ko, Bayani Ko* program, which enables our soldiers to enjoy special benefits in the form of discounts, and privileges courtesy of participating merchants within Fort Bonifacio—a former army camp. The program is a simple way of recognizing the service and sacri-

fice of our country's brave soldiers in protecting our country.

Mind Museum is a project of the non-profit organization Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc. It is dedicated to providing an extraordinary educational experience that inspires the public understanding of science.

Sundalo Ko, Bayani Ko is a joint CSR program of BCDA with its development partners in the Bonifacio Global City-Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC), the Ayala Malls, Station Square East Commercial Corporation (Market! Market!) and Serendra.

The Mind Museum is open on Tuesdays to Sundays from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn, 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm; and, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

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Gallantry rewarded. President Duterte awards the Wounded Personnel Medal to Private First Class Renan Bertillo at the Camp Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City. Bertillo was among the soldiers wounded in a series of encounters with the New People's Army last week.

MALACANANG PHOTO

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Leni: Redesign housing units for cops, soldiers

By HELEN FLORES

Housing units intended for personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) should be redesigned, Vice President Leni Robredo has said.

Robredo, former chairperson of the Housing and Urban

Development Coordinating Council, made the proposal in view of the takeover by militant urban poor groups of vacant units at government housing projects in Bulacan.

Robredo said some PNP and AFP personnel did not occupy the housing projects because the units are too small

“When I was still a part of the Cabinet, my suggestion was to redesign the houses because some of them are for PNP and AFP personnel,” Robredo said in a recent interview. “I proposed the merger of two or three housing units.” Robredo said units that would not be occupied by soldiers and policemen should be

awarded to informal settlers.

“It doesn’t make sense that you have a housing backlog of 5.6 million, but you have unoccupied houses,” she said.

Robredo said many units remain vacant not only in housing projects in Bulacan, but also in Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Cavite.

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Chief scout Rody tells kids: Serve country as soldiers

As members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) living by the dictum *laging handa*, they have pledged readiness to serve the country – but not necessarily as soldiers as President

Duterte would want them to be.

Not everyone raised his hand when the President asked a gathering of young scouts yesterday who among them would want to be a soldier.

They were at the Palace to attend his formal installation as Chief Scout, a title automatically given to the Philippine president.

After Duterte had asked the ques-

tion, there was a brief silence in the hall followed by chatting among the young scouts.

"I need soldiers. Pssst, look at me."
Turn to Page 2

I need Boy Scouts. I need soldiers. Not all of you will become soldiers but maybe you are interested. I have lots of airplanes but I have no pilots. I have many ships but no one is joining the Navy," the President told his audience, which included kid scouts as young as four years old.

Duterte then went on to blame the abolition of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) for the lack of interest in the military and discipline among the youth. The program was abolished in 2002 following the murder of a University of Santo Tomas cadet who exposed alleged anomalies in his unit.

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"Kung pasukin tayo ng mga dayo, walang alam itong mga lito. Hindi mag-inom, mag-droga. Kaya kayo ang inasahan ko. Ready kayo? Ay sagot anak ng Ready ba kayong mag-sundolo? (If our country is invaded, they cannot do anything but drink or take drugs. I am counting on you. Are you ready? Answer, son of. Are you ready to become soldiers?)" the President said.

A few scouts answered "yee" but most remained silent.

"Ah ready kayong mag-ROTC ha? Sinong gusto mag-PMA? Philippine Military Academy (You are ready to take ROTC? Who wants to go to PMA)" Again, only a few scouts raised their hands.

"Who wants to marry but remain jobless? They are worthless

Filipinos. Again, who wants to become a soldier? Who wants to die for the country?"

He said he wanted his guests to either join the military or take the ROTC. "Always love your country. You know why you should? We only have one country, we can't replace it even if we want to," he said in Filipino.

When Duterte mingled with the scouts, a kid scout was heard saying that he would become a soldier to kill rebels.

In his 28-minute speech that did not contain profanities, Duterte discussed his war on illegal drugs, a campaign that he said was intended to protect the next generation.

And while he did not curse anyone during his speech, he still

threatened to kill drug lords and even taunted human rights advocates critical of him to jump off a building.

"We will take care of you. We protect you from the scourge of drugs. We protect you from exploitation. I am angry and I will kill those who prey on our youth," Duterte said.

"I am really strict. If you prey on our children, I will really kill you," he said, apparently referring to drug offenders.

To human rights advocates, he said, "I do not care about you. My problem is the Filipino nation and the Filipino youth. And I will do everything even at the cost of my life, my honor and my presidency."

– Alexis Romero

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AFP to beef up Noy security, 'if asked'

From page 1

So far, as of yesterday, Padilla said there has been no official request from Aquino for additional security.

"It could be requested on the part of the former President or it could be a request that can be initiated by the police," he explained.

As former President and Commander in Chief, Aquino is entitled to security detail from the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

NPA hit list

Aside from Aquino, the communist group also ordered the arrest of North Cotabato Gov. Emmyleou Talifio-Mendoza, Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph Evangelista, North Cotabato Representative Nancy Catamco and several military and police officials.

The NDF Southern Mindanao said the personalities were indicted by the 'People's Court' for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

For three days from March 30 to April 1 last year, thousands of farmers and their supporters blockaded the Davao-Cotabato Highway in Kidapawan City.

Hunger drove the farmers' protest.

A day before prior to the road blockade, 500 farmers protested in front of the National Food Authority (NFA) office in Kidapawan to air

their grievances such as lack of food to eat as a result of a drought that affected farms in the region.

The communist group said that the mere fact that nobody has been indicted for the bloody dispersal of protesting farmers that blockaded the Davao-Cotabato Highway in Kidapawan, North Cotabato for three days compels them to issue the judgment order to avenge those killed and injured.

"It is the responsibility of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP), as well as all law-abiding citizens of this country, to protect former President Aquino and all those placed under the CPP-NPA-NLF that, by any definition, are enemies of the state," Larson said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella earlier said there is only one government and one justice system in the Philippines and only the appropriate body could rule on the issue.

He also assured that security measures will be in place to protect the former President and other individuals mentioned by the NDF.

"Be that as it may, security measures are in place to guarantee the protection of the former President and other personalities mentioned by the announcement of the National Democratic Front," Abella added.

President Duterte also said in Cagayan de Oro City he will let the courts decide whether Aquino can be held liable over the Kidapawan

massacre last year.

Mr. Duterte added the government will only go after Aquino if the courts find probable cause to prosecute the former President.

Duterte, nonetheless, said had the allegations been leveled against him, he would take responsibility similar to his assuming responsibility on deaths caused by his war on drugs.

No trace, no halt in AFP ops

Padilla also stressed that only the signing of a bilateral ceasefire agreement between the government and CPP-NPA-NDF peace panels will stop the military from operating against the communist guerrillas.

Padilla cited the weakness and ineffectiveness of unilateral ceasefire declarations in the past.

There were also instances when the communist group took advantage of the unilateral ceasefire by recruiting new members and pursuing its extortion activities.

"Unless there is a signed joint ceasefire agreement which contained the mechanisms to ensure the ceasefire will hold, we will not suspend military and police operations," said Padilla.

Padilla cited the ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which continued to hold even when no formal talks are ongoing.

Without bilateral agreement and established ceasefire mechanisms, there is no accountability, Padilla said.

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The Manila Times

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'Stop tagging IPs as NPA coddlers'

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: The military should stop tagging tribal members of Mincamansi, a hinterland village in the town of Sugbongcogon in Misamis Oriental, as alleged protectors of the communist New People's Army (NPA), Gov. Yevgeny Vincente Emano said on Monday.

The governor issued the call in reaction to the military's suspicion following the offensive operations against the communist rebels in the village.

The military offensive forced 188 indigenous peoples (IP), or

Jumad to settle at the provincial capitol compound since last week.

Emano said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) should help the IP people instead of instilling fear among them and accusing them as "protectors" of the communist rebels.

"These (IP) belonged to the poorest of the poor in the province of Misamis Oriental who have been victims of various abuses and it is the duty of the government to assist and provide them with basic government services," Emano said. **PNA**

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10 Abus killed, 32 soldiers hurt in clash

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – At least 10 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed and 32 soldiers wounded in an encounter in Talipao, Sulu on Sunday.

Lt. Col. William George Cordova, commander of the 41st Infantry Battalion, and First Lt. Joe Mari Landiche were among those wounded.

The soldiers clashed with around a hundred bandits led by Radullan Sahiron, Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan and Almu-ger Yadah in a forested area in Barangay Laos at around 9:30

a.m. The gunfight lasted for more than an hour.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Western Mindanao Command chief, said the troops launched the offensive after being tipped off that the bandits were hiding their Indonesian and Vietnamese captives in the area.

Galvez said the bandits en-

joyed the advantage of being on higher ground during the encounter, but the AFP was able to maximize the use of a 105mm howitzer.

Cordova, Ladicho and 20 others, who suffered minor injuries, were brought to Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Barangay Bus-bus, Jolo.

A soldier who was hit in the head and those seriously wounded were airlifted to the Camp Navarro General Hospital.

Galvez said the troops

found the mangled bodies of the fatalities, bloodied coconut palm and banana leaves used to retrieve the casualties as well as an M16 rifle.

Galvez said Joint Task Force Sulu led by Col. Cirilito Sobejana mobilized five battalions to prevent the bandits from escaping.

He said military operations to rescue the remaining captives of the Abu Sayyaf would continue.

– With Michael Punong-bayan

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SULU ENCOUNTER

ASG gunman killed, 32 soldiers wounded

By FRANCIS T. WAREFIELD

The military said yesterday that 32 government soldiers, including two Philippine Army officers, were wounded while at least one Abu Sayyaf Group

(ASG) gunman was killed in a clash with the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron in Sulu last Sunday.

Army Colonel Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines ▶6

ASG gunman killed...



(AFP) Joint Task Force Sulu, identified one of the two wounded Army officers as one Lt. Col. Cordova, the commanding officer of the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion (IB)

Sobejana said an Army lieutenant was also wounded in the encounter with some 100 to 150 Abu Sayyaf fighters under Sahiron operating in Sulu

Sobejana said the encounter took place in Barangay Upper Laos, Talipao, Sulu, at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. It lasted about 30 minutes after which the enemy withdrew in various directions.

Sobejana added that most of the soldiers wounded in action, including Cordova, were hit by shrapnel from M203 fired by the enemy. One soldier remained in critical condition; the rest were in stable condition.

Sobejana said the body of the Abu

Sayyaf casualty was recovered along with an M16 rifle. "We expect more casualties from their side. Clearing and scouring are continuing in the engagement area. Until now, we are doing hot pursuit operations against the bandit group," he added.

In a separate statement, the AFP's Western Mindanao Command reported skirmishes between operating troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu and about 100 Abu Sayyaf men in Sulu on Sunday.

Army Capt. Jo-Ann D. Petinglay, AFP Western Mindanao Command spokeswoman, said soldiers of the 41st Infantry Battalion were acting on intelligence information from sources to rescue Vietnamese kidnap victims. Petinglay said close air support and casualty evacuation were provided by the Philippine Air Force.

She said four soldiers who suffered

bullet wounds were airlifted yesterday afternoon to Zamboanga City for medical attention. Three of the wounded soldiers were taken to the Camp Navarro General Hospital in Camp Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City, while the fourth was brought to a private hospital in the city. The four soldiers were reported in stable condition.

Twenty-eight others suffered slight splinter wounds and were treated at the Kuta General Teodulfo Bautista Hospital in Busbus, Jolo, Sulu.

"Our Joint Task Force Sulu continues to exhaust all efforts and means to contain the Abu Sayyaf and constrict its movement. We are continuously intensifying the conduct of focused military operations, in coordination with the local government and the people of Sulu, to rescue the kidnap victims and to neutralize the terrorist group," said Major Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

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AFP, Lacson dismiss NDF's arrest order on Noy

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and a senator dismissed yesterday the National Democratic Front (NDF) indictment of former president Benigno Aquino III before a people's court for alleged human rights violations relating to the bloody dispersal of protesting farmers in Kidapawan, North Cotabato that left two dead and scores injured last year.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said only recognized Philippine trial courts could try and judge persons accused of committing a crime.

"There is only one court under the Republic of the Philippines that can rightfully render judgment on anyone brought to its sala," Padilla stressed in a news briefing in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former Philippine National Police chief, also described

as illegal the NDF order to arrest Aquino, even as he called on the military and the police to protect the former chief executive.

The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front, he added, are "by any definition, enemies of the state." The NDF is the umbrella organization of all mainstream communist groups in the country while the CPP is its political arm and the NPA its armed wing.

On Saturday, the NDF-Southern Mindanao ordered its members to arrest Aquino and try him before a "people's court" for "war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international human rights law."

It also listed North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza, Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph Evangelista, North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco and other

military and police officials for their specific roles in the dispersal of farmers who were asking for government assistance amid last year's harsh El Niño weather phenomenon.

Padilla said the NDF order is "illegal and not honored" in the country as he gave assurance that the AFP will join other government units in protecting those on the rebel target list.

He added that as a former commander-in-chief and president, Aquino is entitled to protection by policemen and soldiers for as long as he lives. The security escorts, he also said, could be increased if requested, and depending on the level of threat.

Lacson said the rebels could be held criminally liable "if and when they perform such criminal act" – referring to the planned trial by people's court.

– With Paolo Romero

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Duterte confirms no progress in peace talks with Reds

President Duterte revealed yesterday that there is still no progress in the relaunched peace talks between the gov-

ernment and the communist National Democratic Front (NDF).

This came after Duterte admitted that the delay in the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/NDF (CPP/NPA/

NDF) in the Netherlands is because of the four conditionalities he set for a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

Speaking before members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) yesterday, Duterte said the country is facing

many problems, including the peace talks with the CPP/NPA/NDF

"We're facing the NPAs. We're having talks in the Netherlands. They never made progress because I have conditions to impose," he said

"Sinira man nila ang usapan, may bagong jets ako, paliparin ko uli (They broke our agreement. I have jets to send off again)," he added, referring to their agreement that the rebels first have to release all of their prisoners

Duterte stressed that he first wanted to have a bilateral ceasefire signed between the government and the CPP/NPA/NDF before they can proceed with the peace talks. His four conditionalities are the following

There should be clear parameters or Terms of Reference for the Ceasefire; the government shall not recognize any territorial claims of the CPP/NPA/NDF, the rebels CPP/NPA/NDF should cease the collection of revolutionary tax and the conduct of extortion and extortion and arson; and the CPP/NPA/NDF shall release all prisoners

Last Sunday, Duterte turned down the demand of the communist to suspend military operations and instead set the conditionalities for the peace talks to prosper, among them the release of all prisoners in their captivity

"Release all prisoners whether police (officers), military (personnel) or civilians or government employees. Pag-wala 'yan, walang peace talks (if that is not included, there is no peace talks)," Duterte said during a press conference after visiting and pinning medal of honors to the 10 wounded soldiers, who are confined at the Camp Evangelista Hospital, 4th Infantry Division, Patag, here.

Delay in talks

The government and the communist rebels on Sunday had back channel talks instead of opening the fourth round of peace talks in Noordwijk, the Netherlands after the said demands caused the delay in the negotiations

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The fourth round of the peace negotiations is also the first that would take place without separate ceasefire declarations by the government and the rebels.

Duterte has scrapped the peace talks last February and lifted the unilateral ceasefire following the ambush of three soldiers in Mindanao by the rebels.

He said he will only allow the peace talks to resume if a compelling reason would surface that would affect the interest of the Filipinos.

Joint ceasefire first

Yesterday, the spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) urged communist leaders to agree in signing a joint ceasefire with the government if it is really sincere in achieving lasting peace in the country.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla made the remark following a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"If they (communist side) really intend to have lasting peace throughout the land and keep the interest of the people alive, it will go therefore, clearly in the signing of that joint ceasefire," Padilla said.

Padilla said the refusal of the communist side to sign a joint ceasefire agreement shows that they are only concerned with their vested interest.

"We can see that a unilateral ceasefire arrangement will not be effective. As what we have experienced in recent months, there are a lot of complaints but there is no one that has the power to investigate, to implement and render who is accountable on either side," Padilla said.

"So the ceasefire agreement remains fragile that's why we are pushing to have a joint ceasefire agreement which is more durable," Padilla said.

Padilla said that there won't be any ceasefire unless a bilateral agreement is signed between the government and the Reds. (With reports from Francis T. Wakefield and Camcer Ordonez Imam)

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The Manila Times

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Govt, Reds agree to discuss truce

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

THE government and communist rebels on Monday agreed to negotiate an interim ceasefire agreement as peace talks resumed in the Netherlands after a one-day delay over President Rodrigo Duterte's insistence on a clear bilateral truce.

The chief government negotiator, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd, welcomed the "openness" of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) to craft a joint interim ceasefire during the peace negotiations, in his opening remarks for the fourth round of talks between the government and the NDFP at the Radisson Blue Palace Hotel in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

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■ TERMS FROM A1

Govt, Reds

Such ceasefire, he said would march 'in step [with] the discussion of the socioeconomic reforms that will address the root causes of armed conflict,' he said.

"As you will agree with me, the forging of the ceasefire agreement is not about 'giving in' or 'giving up,' it is about 'giving all' for peace," Bello said.

Chief rebel negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said in a statement the NDFP "believes it is possible at the soonest time to have a bilateral

ceasefire agreement."

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza said the fourth round of talks would tackle the "heart and soul of the peace process," the proposed Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms.

"We shall also work out a more stable bilateral or joint ceasefire agreement," he added.

Originally due to be held in Oslo, the talks were moved to the western Dutch town of Noordwijk aan Zee, about 70 kilometers from Utrecht where several rebel leaders live in exile.

The founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Jose Maria

Sison, who lives in Utrecht, is recovering from a bout of ill health.

"The negotiations are necessary to address the roots of the armed conflict and to agree on a social economic political and constitutional reform in order to lay the basis for a just and lasting peace," he told reporters.

The conflict has left some 30,000 people dead, according to the army. But the hope is now to reach a peace deal by the end of 2017.

The conflict erupted in 1968 in the impoverished country and peace negotiations have been on and off for about 30 years. They

were kick started again by President Duterte after he took office last June.

Delayed by a day

On Monday afternoon, Duterte said the opening of the talks was delayed because of a number of conditions he had set.

Duterte himself called the government panel in the Netherlands and ordered negotiators to secure a bilateral ceasefire with the CPP, its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA), and political arm NDFP.

The conditions were clear parameters for the ceasefire: a stop

to NPA extortion activities; the release of all NPA prisoners, and non-recognition of any territorial claim made by the rebels.

Speaking during the investiture ceremony of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in Malacañang, Duterte said the country was facing many problems, including the negotiations with communist rebels.

"We are facing so many fronts. We are facing the NPAs. We are having talks in the Netherlands. They have not made any progress because I have some conditions to impose before we go back to [the negotiating table]," the President said.

"Whose fault is it? We did it, but

they ruined the agreement," he added, referring to the two sides' unilateral ceasefire declarations that were withdrawn in February following violent clashes between the military and the NPA. Duterte also refused to meet the CPP's demand to release all communist rebels in detention.

If peace talks fail, Duterte stressed that he would "not hesitate to use the full power of the state."

"I will utilize the air assets. Before it was not really a popular, well, choice option. But this time, if we don't resolve our differences, I will [use it]," he said.

WITH AFP

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The Manila Times

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Young NPA rebel yields in Zambo Sur

SHAMIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: A young member of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to Army troops of the Joint Task Force ZamPelan in Zamboanga del Sur recently.

Capt. Io-ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesman, said Jonar Alamba Proto, 19 and a regular member of the Sandatahang Yunit

Pampropaganda-KARA of the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, surrendered to Lt Col Virgilio Hamos, commanding officer of the 53rd Infantry Battalion, at the headquarters of the 53rd IB in Camp Sabido, Zamboanga del Sur.

Proto, of Barangay Matalang, Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur, underwent custodial de-

briefing conducted by the JTF ZamPelan.

Maj Gen Carlito Galvez Jr, commanding general of the Westmincom, claimed that the surrender of Proto showed that the government was not only winning the heart of the people but also that of the enemy.

"This success is a result of the combined efforts of the troops,

the local government units and the populace in the joint battle against terrorism, insurgency and any form of criminality," he added.

"The government and the soldiers will be more than willing to welcome rebels who wish to lay down their arms, join the mainstream society and live a peaceful life," Galvez said.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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The Manila Times

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IFUGAO TOWN PUTS UP P50K REWARD FOR PAF OFFICER'S KILLER

LAGAWE, Ifugao: The municipal council passed a resolution authorizing a P50,000 cash reward in exchange for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for the killing of retired Philippine Air Force officer Col. Oscar Ibarra Jr., a bilangang entablado sa Bagabag town in Nueva Vizcaya who visited Asipulo town in February 14. Ibarra was advised by police authorities to avoid going farther from the Poblacion after a

recent encounter between the New People's Army and the Philippine Army. He, however, proceeded to the clash site and was shot. "We are appealing to the public that may have any information to surface and give the needed information in the name of truth and concern for the safety and honor of the Asipulo people," members of the municipal council said in the resolution.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO

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SEIZED REBEL FIREPOWER - President Duterte inspects the arms cache seized from New People's Army rebels after visiting wounded soldiers at Camp Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City Sunday. (Presidential photo)

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Western Mindanao Command Chief Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. talks to two soldiers wounded during a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Talipao, Sulu province, on Sunday — JULIE ALIPALA

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WOUNDED Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. (right), Western Mindanao Command chief, visits wounded troops at Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City on Monday. PMA PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMINCOM

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

ONLINE NEWS

04 APRIL 2017

<http://www.update.ph>

Government protects former PNoy after inclusion in communist 'liquidation list'

Gracel Ortega

"it is the responsibility of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, as well as all law-abiding citizens of this country, to protect former President [Noy] Aquino and all those placed under the liquidation list of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF)," Senator Ping Lacson said Monday after NDF-Southern Mindanao issued an arrest order for former President Aquino in connection with the bloody dispersal of protesting farmers in Kidapawan, North Cotabato April 1, 2016.

The communists accused Aquino of "war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international human rights law." North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza, Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph Evangelista, North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco, and other military and police officials are also included in the communist's list.

Senator Lacson said the CPP-NPA-NDF "by any definition, are enemies of the state."

"There is only one duly constituted authority that can mete out any form of penalty against anybody found violating the laws of the land, and that is a court of law of the Republic of the Philippines. Anybody else is unauthorized and therefore illegal," he said.

"Hence, they should be made criminally liable if and when they perform such criminal act," he added.

Malacañang earlier assured security of former President Aquino and other personalities in communist's list.

"We only have one government and one justice system in the Philippines. Only the appropriate body can rule on the issue of the violent dispersal of farmers in Kidapawan," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"Security measures are in place to guarantee the protection of the former President and other personalities mentioned by the announcement of the National Democratic Front," Abella said.

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10 Abu Sayyaf killed, 32 soldiers hurt in Sulu encounter

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated April 3, 2017 - 5:10pm



Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, chats with two soldiers of the 41st IB inside the military hospital in Zamboanga City. ROEL D. PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines — More than 10 Abu Sayyaf militants were killed and 32 soldiers were wounded in a fierce encounter Sunday in Talipao town, Sulu.

An Army battalion commander and 31 of his troopers were injured in a clash with around 100 Abu Sayyaf followers of Radullan Sahiron, Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan and Almujer Yadah.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said the encounter erupted about 9:30 a.m. on Sunday when the 41st Infantry Battalion led by Lt. Col. William George Cordova attacked the militants in the mountain of Barangay Laos.

Galvez said Cordova and his soldiers launched the operation following tips on the presence of the Abu Sayyaf and their Indonesian and Vietnamese kidnap victims.

He said the Abu Sayyaf were on higher ground during the encounter.

Galvez said four soldiers were wounded in the firefight, which lasted for more than an hour. Another 28 soldiers were hurt by shrapnel from M203 rounds fired by the Abu Sayyaf group.

Lt. Col. Cordova and 1Lt. Joe Mari Landicho, who were among the 22 soldiers with slight injuries due to the grenade blasts, and six others who also sustained minor bullet wounds were brought to the military station hospital at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo.

Galvez said four others — Privates First Class Ryan Maymaya, Freddie Anggaco and Bobbyn Pacas and Pvt. Eugene Pagat — were airlifted to the Camp Navarro General Hospital in this city for further treatment.

PFC Pacas was hit in the head and was described as being in unstable condition.

"Considering the enemies were in a better position and the fighting was close, we were able to maximize the firing of 105mm howitzer," Galvez said.

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'Meeting engagement'

The military said the Abu Sayyaf were in position on higher ground as the troops moved in, a situation that Galvez described as a meeting engagement.

He said the soldiers managed to use trees as cover and avoid M203 grenade fire from the Abu Sayyaf positions.

"Talagang ganoon ang tactics ng mga kalaban, kaya we wanted to counter that at hindi sila basta maka-fire ng M203 because of the trees," he said.

He added fire support from a 105mm howitzer was limited to four rounds because the soldiers were too close to the Abu Sayyaf positions.

"We can assure you more than 10 were killed from the enemies based on the accounts of the ground troops," Galvez said.

During a lull in the fighting, soldiers scoured abandoned Abu Sayyaf positions and "discovered mangled bodies and scattered remains and bloodied coconut palms and banana leaves utilized by the enemies as stretchers in retrieving their casualties after they were directly hit by the 105mm howitzer," Galvez said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf group is now on the run and Joint Task Force Sulu, led by Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, has mobilized 5 battalions in the area to block the escaping militants.

He said the operations will continue to rescue the remaining 28 hostages still held by the Abu Sayyaf group.



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Duterte tells Boy Scouts: I need soldiers

By Audrey Morallo (philstar.com) | Updated April 3, 2017 - 6:00pm



President Rodrigo Duterte told cub scouts at the Scouts' Celebration Day at the Palace that he would like them to join the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for them to learn how to use guns in fighting the country's enemies. PPD/Albert Alcain, file

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday told young scouts who were at Malacañang for an event to enter the Philippine Military Academy so that the country would have soldiers who would defend it from threats.

The chief executive made the comments at the Scouts' Day Celebration in the Palace, where he also encouraged the children to join the Reserve Officers Training Corps so they would learn how to use guns against the country's enemies.

"I need soldiers. Pssst! Tingin dito. Kailangan ko ng boy scout, kailangan ko ng sundalo. Hindi naman lahat baka gusto ninyo?" Duterte said.

Duterte said that the country had already acquired a number of air and naval assets, but it does not have a sufficient number of pilots and navy officers who would man them. The president blamed this shortage on the abolition of the ROTC because of the death of a university student in 2001.

"Kailangan ko ng estudyante sa PMA kasi marami na akong eroplano, wala akong piloto. Marami akong barko, wala namang mag-Navy kasi dito tinanggal nila just because there was a hazing and resulted in the death of one ROTC. Yung gobyerno abolished the ROTC," he said.

The National Service Training Program Act was passed in 2002 made ROTC optional and voluntary. This law gave students an option to choose among ROTC, Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS), and Literacy Training Service (LTS).

Cub scouts: Learn discipline, not 'libertarian' attitudes

To fill this gap, the president turned his attention to the kids in front of him.

The president told the cub scouts listening to his impromptu remarks that he wanted them to join the boy scouts, the Preparatory Military Training (also known as Citizen's Army Training or CAT), and eventually the ROTC where they would learn how to shoot a gun and fight the country's enemies.

The president said: "Kayo gusto ko lumaki kayo, mag-boy scout, mag-PMT, tapos maging ROTC kayo para may training kayo sa baril at paano makipag-away ng kalaban."

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"Now walang nag-ROTC, walang alam kung sinong maghawak ng baril. Walang aral kung paano makipag-away sa mga kaaway natin," the president said.

Duterte assailed the prevalent "libertarian" attitude in the country for the decline in the number of entrants to the ROTC program. He said that this had resulted in a very relaxed attitude among the young, leading them to drinking and even drugs.

"Ito ngayon sobra ang libertarian attitudes ayaw na mag-boy scout, ayaw na mag-PMT, ayaw na mag-ROTC, walang alam kung hindi mag-inom, mag-rumble, sirain ang bayan at pumapasok ng droga," he said.

According to Libertarianism.org, libertarianism is a philosophy that emphasizes personal and economic freedoms as well as personal autonomy.

The president said that many people were hooked on drugs because they were not able to imbibe the discipline taught in the Boy Scouts, PMT and ROTC.

Addressing the young in his audience, Duterte said: "Meron bang addict sa inyo? Nakita niyo? Yan mga yan walang ginawa kasi walang disiplina. Kung dumaan sana yang ng Boy Scout, PMT, ROTC with a sense of responsibility. Kung may pumasok na mga dayo, walang alam itong mga to kundo mag-inom, mag-droga. Kaya kayo ang inasahan ko. Ready kayo?"

Since assuming the presidency last year, Duterte and his allies have been pushing to make ROTC mandatory again among senior high school students.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

MisOr gov to military: Stop tagging tribal community as NPA 'coddlers'

Philippine News Agency

The military should stop tagging tribal members of Mincamansi, a hinterland village in the town of Sugbongcogon in Misamis Oriental, as alleged protectors of the communist New People's Army (NPA), Governor Yevgeny Vincente Emano said Monday.

The governor said the military issued the suspicion following offensive operations against the communist rebels in the village.

The military offensive forced 188 indigenous peoples (IP) or lumads to settle at the provincial capitol compound since last week.

Emano said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) should help the IP people instead of instilling fear among them and accusing them as "protectors" of the communist rebels.

"These (IP) belonged to the poorest of the poor in the province of Misamis Oriental who have been victims of various abuses and it is the duty of the government to assist and provide them with basic government services," Emano said.

Emano said the provincial social welfare office has extended food assistance to the evacuees, while the provincial health office has continued to provide medical services to them, particularly the children.

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Navy's latest asset strengthening international partnerships

Ruben Santos

Philippine Navy third Gregorio del Pilar-class frigate BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF-17) visited Port Klang in Selangor, Malaysia for a port call and goodwill mission to underscore the heightened cooperation between the Philippine and Malaysian navies. This is after her participation in Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) Exhibition 2017.

The Philippine Embassy hosted a reception for BRP Andres Bonifacio March 31 where members of the diplomatic corps, Malaysian Government officials, leading businessmen and members of the Filipino community attended.

Outgoing Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia J. Eduardo Malaya said it is with pride that we welcome the BRP Andres Bonifacio in its first international voyage as a Navy ship.

Ambassador Malaya said during the reception that the frigate's goodwill visit "highlights the deepening partnership between the Philippine and Malaysian governments and their respective armed forces, including in addressing issues of common concern such as extremism and transnational crimes."

Commodore Albert A. Mogol, the head of the visiting mission and Commander of the Philippine Navy's Fleet Marine Ready Force, described the visit as a manifestation of the Philippine Navy's "commitment to promote harmonious relations between and among countries."

BRP Andres Bonifacio is expected to be back in Philippine April 6.

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Diplomatic Reception held aboard BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF17)

Posted by Lui Claudio on April 3, 2017 at 1:07 PM



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Port Klang, Malaysia—The Office of the Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia led by His Excellency J. Eduardo Malaya hosted a diplomatic reception aboard *Barkong Republikang Pilipinas* BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF17) while docked at the National Hydrographic Center in Port Klang, Malaysia on March 31, 2017.

Ambassador Malaya was joined by his better half Madame Ren Cristina Koa-Malaya, MD. The Guest of Honor (GOH) during the reception was Malaysian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Dato' Abdul Halim bin Hadji Jalal. The Philippine Navy (PN) led by the Head of Contingent, Commo Albert A Mogol AFP, attended the reception.

There were more or less ninety (90) dignitaries from the diplomatic community present during the occasion to include the US Ambassador to Malaysia H.E. (Madam) Kamala Shirin Lakhdir and Ambassador Syed Md Hasrin Tengku Hussin, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Also present were members of the Filipino community in Kuala Lumpur.

From the words of the Lt Gen Abdul Halim, "I was informed that this is your (FF17) first international voyage. As a Malaysian, I am very proud you have chosen Malaysia as your first destination."

This reception hosted by Ambassador Malaya aimed to stimulate the sense of pride among Filipinos in Malaysia for our Armed Forces and the Filipino nation. It was also a way of soliciting appreciation and support for the PN's modernization programs.

"To the Philippine Navy delegation, we are truly proud and deeply honored of your presence here in Malaysia. You made us proud as Filipinos", said Phil Ambassador Malaya

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PH use of military assets, units in HADR unique in ASEAN

UPDATE PHILIPPINES

Defense Assistant Secretary for Assessment and International Affairs Raymund Jose Quilop told Philippine News Agency that Philippines' experience using military equipment and units in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) is being viewed as unique by other ASEAN members.

He noted that though other ASEAN countries have their own disaster response teams, it is challenging for the civilian sector to tap into their military assets to use for disasters.

"For us, it is very easy as the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), are both part of the Department of National Defense (DND)," Quilop said.

ASEAN Defense Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) will be held on April 6 to 7 in Cebu City. The use of ASEAN military assets and its capacities in HADR will be among the key topics to be discussed.

He added that "the very reason why [there is] a paper about the use of military assets because we all know that when disaster strikes, militaries are called to respond although it is the purview of civilian agencies like in our case, the Office of Civil Defense."



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