

Army Vision: 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

05 April 2017

Wednesday

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

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

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05 APRIL 2017

DUTERTE FIRES DILG CHIEF OVER FIRETRUCKS DEAL

Ceasefire in the works

Justices differ on Duterte's actions on Tamar in Marikina

Gov't, Reds agree on joint interim ceasefire

P 40,000,000.00

P 105,000,000.00

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DILG CHIEF DISMISSED OVER FIRETRUCKS DEAL

CPP SUPPORTS TALKS, ASSAILS PEACE SPOILERS

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Gov't, Reds agree on joint interim ceasefire

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Rody to Sueno: You're fired

Embattled official denies corruption allegations

Gov't, NDI optimistic on bilateral ceasefire

PH satisfied with China's response to Benigno Rino issue

MANILA BULLETIN

Duterte dismisses Sueno

Embattled official denies corruption allegations

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PH satisfied with China's response to Benigno Rino issue

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SALANCED NEWS + FEAPLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST APRIL 5, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING THE VISAYAS
(As of 5:00 PM - Apr. 4, 2017)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:49 AM	6:09 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:03 PM	1:15 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
APR 4 3:36 AM	APR 11 2:08 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
12:24 PM	4:18 PM
-0.11 Meter	0.94 Meter

☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
 ☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
 ☁ Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN
23 - 33 °C	21 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO
23 - 30 °C	26 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C
LAOAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO
23 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA
15 - 25 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	METRO CEBU	
25 - 34 °C	25 - 32 °C	

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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DILG CHIEF DISMISSED OVER FIRETRUCKS DEAL

STORY BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA, CARLA P. GOMEZ AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

■ Malacañang says Ismael Sueno was fired for losing the President's trust

■ Sacked DILG chief insists he is not corrupt, blames his firing on underlings

■ President Duterte says he will not appoint Bongbong Marcos to top DILG post

A2

FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza,
Carla P. Gomez and
Leila B. Salaverria
@Team_Inquirer

Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno lost his job because of a row with his three undersecretaries in the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) over the right to sign contracts and promotions, according to a spokesperson for the agency.

But according to one of those officials, Sueno was fired because of irregularity in the purchase of firetrucks from Austria.

Interior Undersecretary for Public Safety Jesus Hinlo said Sueno was sacked because of his involvement in the purchase of the firetrucks without a competitive public bidding.

"There is a [case pending in] the Supreme Court involving the firetrucks but Sueno still proceeded with the transaction," Hinlo said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

"There should be due diligence, that's the issue that I think weighed heavily in the decision of the President," he said.

Legal opinion

Hinlo could be right, as Mr. Duterte, in a speech at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Tuesday night, referred to a legal opinion that Sueno had told him he knew nothing about.

"If you answer me with that kind of statement, that you never read the legal opinion of the legal officer of your own office, it's either you're taking me for stupid, an idiot, or you are lying through your teeth," Mr. Duterte said.

"That's why I said son of a bitch. So I said, 'You're fired. I simply said, 'You're fired,'" he said.

Malacañang said earlier on Tuesday that Mr. Duterte sacked Sueno for "loss of trust and confidence."

Sueno had a reported rift with his three undersecretaries, who accused him of corruption, shielding a politician

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

linked to illegal drugs and other wrongdoings.

Mr. Duterte questioned Sueno about his activities before sacking him on Monday, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on Tuesday.

Warning to others

He said Sueno's dismissal should serve as a warning to other government officials that Mr. Duterte would not tolerate any wrongdoing even in his Cabinet.

Sueno's dismissal took effect right after Mr. Duterte's pronouncement on Monday, according to Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

An officer in charge of the DILG will be announced soonest, he added.

At the Philippine Army headquarters, Mr. Duterte told reporters that he was looking for a replacement for Sueno but he would not name former Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to the top DILG post because Marcos had a pending electoral protest concerning his loss in last year's vice presidential election to Leni Robredo.

"No, I don't think so. He would abandon his appeal. He would have to let go of it. When you are appointed to a position, it would be lost for all intents and purposes," Mr. Duterte said.

Sueno was fired at the end of the Cabinet meeting in Malacañang late on Monday, the same day he parried calls from his underlings in the DILG for his investigation for the purchase of firetrucks from Austria worth P20 million even though there were alternatives available for just P7 million.

Abella declined to provide details of what Mr. Duterte had found about Sueno.

He said, however, that Mr. Duterte had checked the activities of Sueno. Among the questions that Mr. Duterte asked Sueno, Abella said, was whether he had traveled to a certain country and whether he knew the background of a certain situation.

"The President was quite open and frank in questioning the secretary, initially, in fact, at the beginning of the meet-

ing," Abella said.

After questioning Sueno, Mr. Duterte moved on to other topics and the Cabinet meeting went on for several hours.

When Mr. Duterte made a closing statement, he announced that he was letting Sueno go.

A "short exchange" followed, Abella said, but gave no details.

He said the reason for Sueno's dismissal went beyond the complaints of DILG officials.

It wasn't clear whether Sueno would be formally investigated and possibly prosecuted.

'I'm not corrupt'

In a statement, Sueno insisted on his innocence, but said he respected Mr. Duterte's decision.

"I wholeheartedly accept the decision of the President. It is his call if he wants me in his Cabinet or not. But for the record, Mr. President, and I can say this with all honesty and sincerity, I am not corrupt," Sueno said.

He said Mr. Duterte was given "wrong information by those salivating" for his post from the start.

"I just wished the information was validated. If only the President asked DILG personnel from the central down to the regional and field offices, he would have known who among us are more credible and trustworthy," he said.

Sueno said he was ready to face any investigation to clear his name.

Assistant Secretary Rico-judge Janvier Echiverri early on Tuesday said the row between Sueno and his three undersecretaries—Hinlo, John Castriciones and Emily Padilla—erupted after Sueno decided to retain the executive right to approve promotions and contracts.

Echiverri said that some people in the DILG felt that if Sueno had to go, then his critics should also go. INQ



WATCH THE VIDEO: Duterte pressed Sueno on corruption allegations—Paface
<http://inq.news/DuterteSacksSueno>

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5 April 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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2 junior officers cited for bravery in combat

BY VICTOR REYES

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday conferred the Distinguished Conduct Star, the second highest military medal in combat, on two junior Army officers for feats against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu.

Captains Ariel Robles and Dennis Prado received the medals during the celebration of the Army's 120th foundation anniversary at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda profusely thanked the Duterte for caring and attending

to the needs of the soldiers and reiterated the Army's commitment to make the country free from illegal drugs and crimes.

Miranda also thanked the President for his "frequent" visits to Army camps and wounded soldiers.

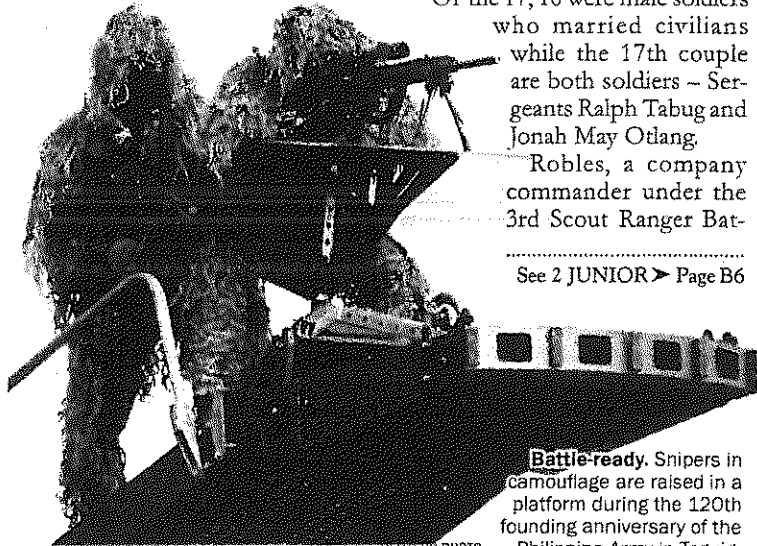
Earlier yesterday, 17 couples tied the knot in a mass wedding in Fort Bonifacio. Duterte stood as one of the principal sponsors although he was not present in the ceremony.

The other sponsors were Miranda, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, and Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

Of the 17, 16 were male soldiers who married civilians while the 17th couple are both soldiers – Sergeants Ralph Tabug and Jonah May Otiang.

Robles, a company commander under the 3rd Scout Ranger Bat-

See 2 JUNIOR ► Page B6



REUTERS PHOTO

Battle-ready. Snipers in camouflage are raised in a platform during the 120th founding anniversary of the Philippine Army in Taguig.

2 JUNIOR

tion, led the assault of an Abu Sayyaf bomb-making camp in Barangay Tuburan proper in Hadji Mohammad Ajul town in Basilan in May 14, 2015.

The operation led to the killing of three Abu Sayyaf men and one soldier, and wounding of three Abu Sayyaf members and six soldiers. Troops recovered 20 improvised explosive devices from the overrun camp.

Prado, a company commander under the 32nd Infantry Battalion, led soldiers in a 30-minute encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Tagbili in Patikul town in Sulu on Feb. 5, 2015.

The firefight resulted in the death of two Abu Sayyaf men and recovery of seven high-powered firearms. Four soldiers were also wounded in the skirmish.

The DCS is the second highest military decoration for bravery in combat. The highest military award is the Medal of Valor, which comes with perks, including P75,000 in

monthly gratuity.

Two other soldiers received the third highest military decoration in combat, the Gold Cross Medal. They are Pfc. Eddie Boy Vilar of the 26th Infantry Battalion and Pfc. Glyn Senangote of the 32nd Infantry Battalion.

Vilar, a squad leader, played a key role in foiling a plan of the New People's Army to burn heavy equipment owned by civilians, in Veruela town, Agusan del Sur, on June 27, 2015. The fighting also led to the recovery of an M653 rifle, a K47 rifle and two M16 rifles.

Senangote, a rifle man, participated in a firefight with about 200 Abu Sayyaf men in Barangay Gata, Talipao town in Sulu. The clash left nine Abu Sayyaf men and two soldiers dead and 14 Abu Sayyaf and 15 soldiers wounded.

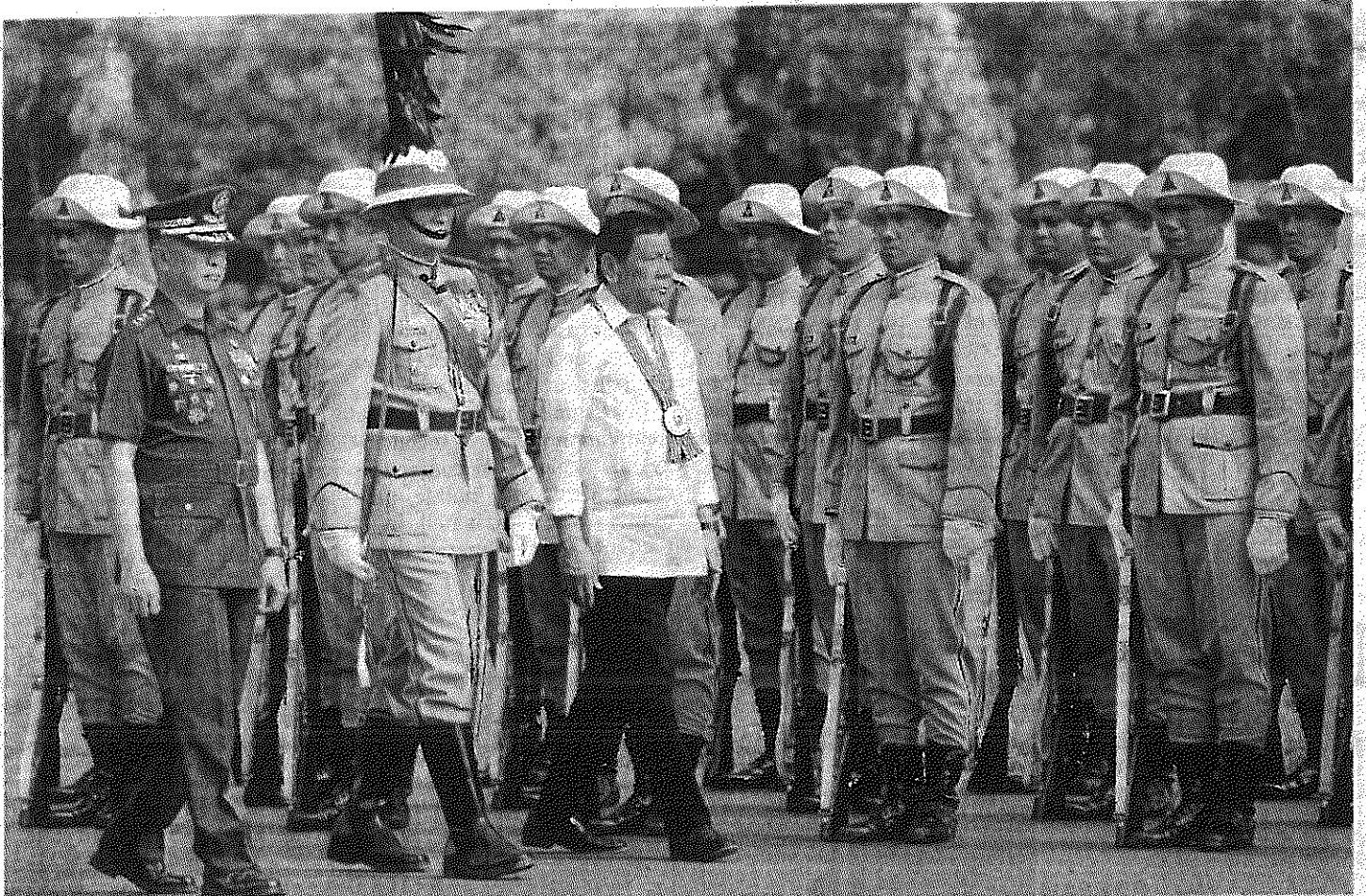
Twenty-two other soldiers, civilians, government and non-government organizations received awards from Duterte, including Major Generals Rafael Valencia and Rhoderick Parayno, com-

mander of the 9th and 2nd infantry Divisions, respectively.

Valencia got an Outstanding Achievement Medal while Parayno received the Distinguished Service Star. The awards are non-combat in nature.

The other awardees were Capt. Armando Gabia and 1Lt. Joe Mark Bitbit (Silver Cross Medal); Lt. Col. Leonardo Pagaduan (Gawad sa Kaunlaran); Lt. Col. Joel Mamon, Cpl. Lolibel Guloy, and Cpl. Adonis Sombrero (Bronze Cross Medal); Sgt. Joseph Hulibayan (Enlisted Personnel of the Year); and Roy Manlampoong (Cafgu Active Auxiliary of the year).

The others are Armi Agatea (model supervisor of the year), Dr. Blanca Bien (model employee of the year), Lt. Col. Allan Rellon (best reservist officer of the year), Sgt. Ronald Locion (best reservist enlisted personnel of the year), Cdt Col. Edmon Limbaga (best male Advanced ROTC Cadet of the year), and Cdt Col. Gea Brelia Jayson (best female Advanced ROTC of the year).

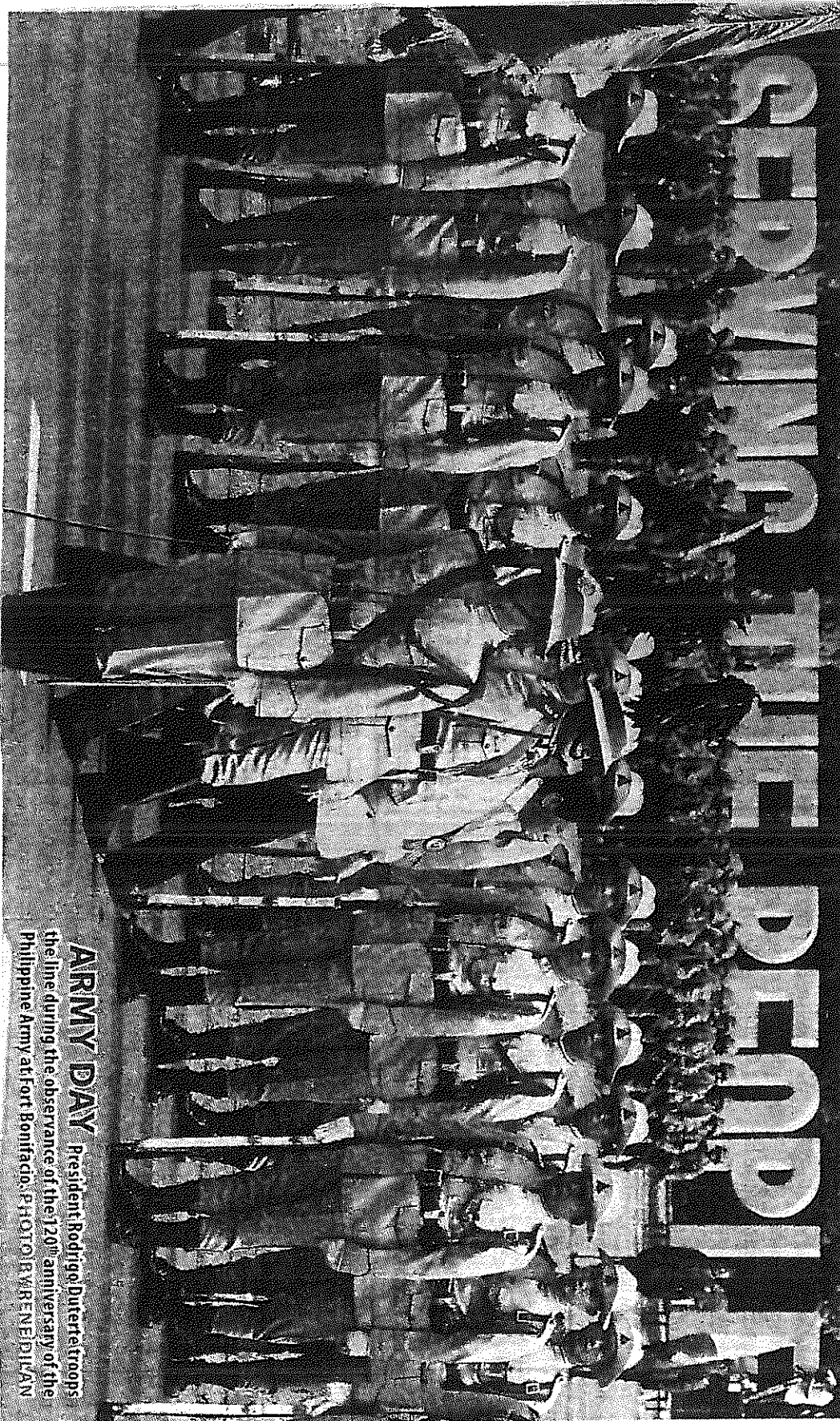


ARMY ANNIVERSARY President Duterte troops the line during the Philippine Army's 120th founding anniversary celebration held at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. In his speech, he said Kadamay members would be allowed to stay in the houses that they took over in Bulacan province and promised better houses for military and police personnel. —JOAN BONDOC

5 April 2017

The Manila Times

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ARMY DAY President Rodrigo Duterte leads troops the line during the observance of the 120th anniversary of the Philippine Army at Fort Bonifado. (PHOTO) RWARREN DUJAN

OFFICE (

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Troops and armored vehicles take part in a parade during the 120th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Army at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROSALES

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www.dwdd.com.ph

[Lui Claudio](#)

PRRD to lead Army anniversary parade and review

FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte will lead today the traditional military parade and review here for the Philippine Army's 120th anniversary as the guest of honor and speaker.

The 120th Philippine Army anniversary is celebrated every 22nd of March but this year's parade and a review were moved to this day to accommodate the availability of all stakeholders.

Secretary of National Defense Delfin C. Lorenzana, the AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año, and the Army commander, Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda, will join the President during the ceremony.

Troops from the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, 7th Infantry Division, Special Operations Command, Army Reserve Command, 51st Engineering Brigade, a company-size all-female contingent, and an Army K9 unit will compose the parading troops who will showcase the Army's various capabilities.

The Army will also showcase its wheeled- and tracked armored vehicles, Army ambulances, and Army engineering and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) equipment.

The parade will also include an HADR and an Army Transformation Roadmap floats.

The Philippine Army will also give awards to 23 individuals who rendered outstanding public service were honored and given recognition (see attached list of awardees with citations).

Three local government units and a non-government organization will also receive recognitions for their support to the Army's peace building efforts and development support activities.

Aside from the parade and review, the Army conducted various activities during its month-long celebration of its founding anniversary last month which include the Regional Annual Administrative Tactical Inspection (RAATI), Static Display and Information Caravan in Bonifacio Global City, 10th Senior Leaders Conference, Commemoration of the Tejeros Convention, and the Army Day Field Celebration in Bicol and Zamboanga.

The Philippine Army was founded on March 22, 1897, through the Tejeros convention. The Army currently has 85,000 strong men and women dedicated to serve the people and secure the land.

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Duterte sponsors 18 couples in Army mass wedding

Reported by: Lui Claudio

FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte will act as one of the principal sponsors to a total of 18 couples from the Philippine Army who will take part in a mass wedding rites here today.

Together with the President to act as sponsors during the mass wedding are Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año, Army commander Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda.

The marriage of the 16 Catholic couples will be officiated by Military Bishop Leopoldo S. Tumalak at the St. Michael Chapel while the two Evangelical/Christian couples will be officiated by Rev. Lt. Col. Daneck E. Dang-awan and Lt. Col. Pablito F. Melchor in Fort Andres Bonifacio Evangelical Church.

The couples are:

Catholic

TSg. Roweden B. Bleza and Marilyn D. Tasi
SSg. Junmar M. Polles and Madelyn P. Cator
SSg. Richard B. Ballesta and Arceili T. Edon
SSg. Efren P. Tibuyen and Caridad F. Cacho
Sgt. Abelardo B. Tulio and Ruth A Villa
Cpl. Val T. Amper and Pamela A. Dueñas
Pfc. Udran Steve A. Landazabal and Jessie N. Montero
Pfc. Neil Owen Justice W. Mendoza and Danice A. Arce
Pfc. Anthony V. Arzaga and Clarita M. Doneda
Pfc. Rainan L. Tapiador and Izagani V. Guiron
Pfc. Arnold M. Tacadena and Ma Gregoria Manette M. Matusalem
Pfc. Louie R. Requizo and Ione R. Corpuz
Pfc. Johnday T. Jumao-as and Crist L. Omambac
Pfc. Jefry O. Cagandahan and Annagirly S. Cador
Pfc. Virgil A. Maneja and Jennibeth P. Mabbayad

Evangelical/Christian

SSg. Ralph B. Tabug and SSg. Jonah May L. Otlang
Cpl. Michael T. Abapo and Mely L. Blaza

The 18 couples will hold their wedding reception altogether at the Luna Hall, Philippine Army Officer Clubhouse here.

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Soldier shot dead by BIFFs

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

A SOLDIER was killed by unidentified armed men believed to be members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) yesterday morning in Ma-

masapano, Maguindanao.

The victim was identified as Cpl. Tamano Macadatar, member of the Army's 524th Engineer Battalion, 52nd Engineer Brigade.

Reports said the incident occurred at around

7:40 a.m. in Hadji Salik Elementary School at Bgy. Tukanalipao, Mamasapano.

Accordingly, the victim, together with other soldiers were building the learning center of Teach Peace, Build Peace Foundation in the

area when armed suspects arrived and for unknown reason shot the victim repeatedly.

After the incident, the suspects fled while the victim died due to multiple gunshot wounds in the body.

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Top NPA commander in Caraga yields

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP MAKAPANDONG, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur – An alleged top commander of the New People's Army (NPA) who is facing a string of warrants of arrest for murder and other crimes voluntarily surrendered to the 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade at Camp Makapandong here, a ground Army commander yesterday said.

Col. Cristobal N. Zaragoza, commanding officer of the 401st Brigade based here, identified the alleged top NPA commander as Estelito Camino Jr., alias "Commander Puma", the alleged commanding officer of the Sub-Region Sentro de Grabidad of the CPP-NPA North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee operating in the tri-boundaries of Surigao del Sur and Agusan provinces.

The 401st Brigade commander cited hardship and disillusionment with the underground movement as reasons for his surrender.

"He surrendered to the 401st Brigade headquarters here on Sunday (April 2) and pledged to support the Army's peace and development program," Col. Zaragoza said.

Camino said he wants to be an example to his sub-commanders to pursue their surrender plan after he has proven that no maltreatment is committed by government forces to those who surrendered contrary to the stories told to them by their older cadres, the

ground Army commander said.

Col. Zaragoza said the guerilla commander was with the NPA for 14 years where he earned several warrants of arrest for the atrocities he allegedly committed.

He revealed that his being with the NPA left him no chance of being with his wife and three children who are also hard-up after the NPAs failed to give their promised monthly support to his family, the 401st Brigade commander said.

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, he said.

Col. Zaragoza also credited the surrender of Commander Puma to the relentless pressure exerted by the 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade and PNP in Surigao and Agusan.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr. congratulated yesterday the two Army Brigades, the Police Regional Office 13 and the Intelligence Units of the Army for the surrender of the alleged top NPA commander in Caraga region.

He instructed them to prepare for the influx of surrenderers as Puma has a following in the NPAs in Caraga region.

The surrender happens in the midst of the ongoing peace talks between the Philippine government and CPP-NPA-NDF in The Netherlands.

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NPA official sumuko sa matinding kurapsiyon

Dahil sa kurapsiyon, sumuko ang isang kumander ng North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee ng New People's Army (NPA) sa bayan ng Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, kahapon.

Kasabay nito handa si Estelito Camino, Jr. alyas "Ka Puma", kumander ng North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee ng NPA, na harapin ang mga kasong kriminal na ihahain laban sa kanya makaraan siyang sumuko sa 401st Infantry Brigade ng Philippine Army.

Pinamunuan ni Camino ang NPA na kumikilos sa Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte at Agusan del Sur, na nakasasakop sa buong

North Eastern Mindanao.

Nakaramdam na ng sobrang hirap sa buhay sa kabundukan bukod pa sa kawalan ng oras para sa pamilya, sinabi ni Camino na sumuko siya makaraang hindi tumupad ang NPA sa ipinangako nitong susuportahan ang kanyang pamilya.

Nakita rin umano ni Camino ang kurapsiyon sa kilusan na kinasasangkutan ng matataas na opisyal ng NPA, at iginiit na malaking pera mula sa pangingikil umano nila sa mga negosyante at mga magsasaka ang napupunta sa balsa ng ilang opisyal.

DELIVERY VAN SINILABAN

Samantala, Lunes ng gabi nang hinarang at sinunog ng

NPA ang isang container van na may kargang saging sa Barangay Batasan, Makilala, North Cotabato.

Nabatid sa imbestigasyon ng Makilala Municipal Police na dakong 8:17 ng gabi nitong Lunes nang harangin ng mga rebelde sa Sitio Flortam, Bgy. Batasan sa Makilala ang van ng Paglas Banana Plantation.

Sinabi ni Senior Supt. Emmanuel Peralta, director ng North Cotabato Police Provincial Office, na tinutukan ng mga rebelde ng baril ang driver ng van at ang kasama nitong pahinante bago binuhusan ng gasolina at sinilaban ang sasakyan.

Fer Taboy

05 April 2017



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NPA leader nabbed, 10 surrender

A leader of the New People's Army (NPA) was arrested in Barangay Casantaan in Sto. Tomas, La Union on Sunday

while 10 others surrendered on Monday.

Johnny Obena, alias Rodat, a logistics officer of an NPA platoon operating in Ilocos Sur and Abra, was collared based on five warrants for frustrated murder and attempted murder issued by Candon City Regional Trial Court Judge Policarpio Martinez.

In Ifugao, 10 NPA rebels surrendered to Grace Tabayan, chairwoman of Barangay Namal and Vice Mayor Tomas Pullupul in Asipulo, Ifugao.

The rebels, who are members of the Nona del Rosario Command, turned over their firearms to the 54th Infantry Battalion – **Jun Elias, Artemio Dumlao, Raymund Catindig, Victor Martin**

05 April 2017



Pahina. 3

10 hinihinalang rebeldeng NPA sumuko sa Ifugao

Sumuko sa mga militar ang sampung mga hinihinalang elemento ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) mula sa bayan ng Asipulo sa lalawigang ito, kamakalawa

Ayon kay Lieutenant Colonel Nicolas Quemado Jr. commanding officer ng 54th Infantry Battalion, dakong alas 11:30 ng umaga kamakalawa nang personal na magtungo sa kanilang kampo

sa Tiger Hill, Kiangan, Ifugao ang mga pinaghinatalang mga rebelde kasama ang ilang opisyal ng pamahalaan at Barangay ng Asipulo para sumuko.

Nauna rito ay lumapit ang mga rebelde kay Barangay Captain Grace Tayaban ng Barangay Namal, Asipulo para humingi ng tulong sa kanilang pagsuko.

Dahil dito ay agad naman na sinamahan

ni Tayaban kabilang narin si Vice Mayor Tomas Pullupul at PSI Leo Guay, hepe ng Asipulo PNP ang mga pinaghinatalang rebelde sa kampo ng militar.

Ayon kay Quemado, ang pagsuko ng mga rebelde ay matapos na mallantad nila sa publiko ang katauhan ng mga NPA nang makuha nila sa nabawing kampo ng kalaban noong Pebrero ang kumpletong pangalan ng mga rebeldeng grupo maging ang kanilang mga tirahan at trabaho

Ayon naman sa panig ng mga sumuko, inamin nilang may lumapit sa kanilang mga rebelde kung saan nakikain pa umano sa kanilang mga tahanan, subalit, iginiit ng mga ito na hindi naman daw umano sila NPA kung kaya't nagtatataka umano sila kung bakit maging sila ay may

mga pangalan sa listahang nabawi ng mga militar.

Dakong alas 3:00 ng hapon kamakalawa nang pauwiin din ang mga pinaghinatalang mga rebelde matapos manumpa at magbigay ng suporta sa pamahalaan. (Victor Martin Lagawe)

AI April 2017

INQUIRER

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Du30 allows settlers to occupy gov't houses

By **Leila B. Salaverria,**
Jhesset O. Enano
and **Carmela Reyes-Estropo**
@Team_Inquirer

Thousands of homeless families who faced eviction for occupying idle units in six government housing projects in Bulacan province last month are going to keep the houses after all.

President Duterte on Tuesday said he would give members of the urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Maralita (Kadamay) the government houses in Bulacan, and asked military and police personnel, supposed to be the original beneficiaries, to let go of the units.

In turn, Mr. Duterte promised to build better houses for members of the police and the military by December, as he sought understanding for the poor.

As of March 20, 5,262 houses had been occupied by Kadamay members in housing projects in Pandi town and San Jose del Monte City, said the National Housing Authority (NHA), which administers the housing projects.

"Let's not trouble the people there because they're fighting back. Their only sin is really, they are poor like us," Mr. Duterte said at the 120th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Army in Fort Bonifa-

cio on Tuesday.

"I will give you better houses, more expensive, more comfortable and more spacious," he added.

The President said he would supervise the new housing project for the police and soldiers himself and make sure these had running water and electricity.

Change of tune, 'big triumph'

The tone of the President's statements on Tuesday was a departure from that of his statements last month, when he said the homeless families that occupied the Bulacan houses must follow the law or he would be forced to remove them from the area.

Kadamay members welcomed the President's decision.

"That's good. But it should be written down. They have to issue that document because that statement could be taken back anytime," Kadamay chair Gloria Arellano said.

"We will not celebrate yet. We will not yet offer our gratitude [until we are given the rights to the houses]," she said.

Arellano said Mr. Duterte's openness was a "big triumph" for the urban poor. But she also expressed hope that the President would look at the overall problem of homelessness in the country.

"So many houses that are built by the government remain unoccupied," she said. "We hope that they just distribute it to the homeless poor."

Huge housing backlog

The Kadamay occupation of the government housing project in Bulacan highlights the country's severe housing backlog, estimated at 5.56 million.

The NHA is the sole government agency tasked with building shelters for 1.5 million homeless families, which grow at a rate of 3.4 percent annually.

Addressing Kadamay members, Mr. Duterte said they should not trouble the police or soldiers who were already living in the government housing units.

"Eventually, they will be removed and transferred to a new unit that is better than the one you took from them," he added.

'Understand the poor'

Mr. Duterte sought understanding from the soldiers as he defended his decision to give the houses to Kadamay members.

"Well, anyway, I said I'm asking you, if possible, do not be offended. Take it with an open mind, I myself, your President, am pleading with you: 'Let us not wage a fight against our own people. Since they are

poor, try to understand them," he said.

Mr. Duterte said he did not want to use force because it would just result in violence.

"Do not pick a fight. It would be useless. And then the police have guns, and you know, something could go awfully wrong. Let us let it be," he said.

Mr. Duterte said he had asked the NHA, which had the money to build the new houses, to look for a suitable land for these.

He said he could even give the houses furnished with a bed.

Last week, the NHA lifted the eviction orders it issued against the families after Kadamay members agreed to submit to a validation as housing applicants.

Arellano hoped that the President's pronouncement would cover other abandoned housing units that they occupied in Bulacan, not only those intended for policemen and military personnel.

"The houses should be directly awarded to those who occupy them," said Kadamay spokesperson Michael Beltran.

Beltran said the question remained whether the urban poor beneficiaries would be made to pay for the houses, as with other relocation programs.

Many of the occupied houses have no doors, windows and toilets. INQ

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Duterte gives Kadamay illegally-occupied houses

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he is awarding 100 housing units in several resettlement zones in Butuan to members of the urban poor Kampunan ng Damang Mabuhay (Kadamay) who illegally occupied the government housing projects.

The President made the announcement during the 120th anniversary of the Army in Taguig and said he is awarding 100 housing units to members of the urban poor

let go of the housing units and give them to the urban poor members of Kadamay.

Duterte said he would not look for another site which is nearer to Metro Manila and provide better, bigger, more comfortable and furnished housing units to the soldiers and policemen.

The President, who earlier said he would not tolerate the forced occupation of government housing units by the Kadamay members because their "poor and no-income" wants to push for their

eviction as attempts to do so have resulted in violence, "and to think our sin is just we are poor."

He warned Kadamay against creating chaos or any problem as he said he would be forced to evict them then.

"Yung mga Kadamay andyan, hating mga gawain mga sundalo at police kurah-palitan sa kayalanan."

"For the Kadamay more, do not touch the soldiers and the police or I will evict all of you. Do not create trouble, avoid chaos, and we will be looking after all the country," he said.

In an ambush interview, the President dismissed the possibility that the awarding of the houses to Kadamay would embolden others to do the same.

"No, nag-warnang na ako sa kanila. I warned them already. A warning is a warning... Alam mo ang mga mapagbigay pero hawag mo pa rin ang sobrang. You know people are generous, but do not take too much," he said.

Duterte said he is directing the National Housing Authority to look for a suitable land for the soldiers and policemen and he hopes

to complete these housing in and distribute them by December this year.

He also directed the GSIS to study the possibility of loan housing program that complement the soldier's ability to pay.

"I will look into the matter soon and I will ask you sol and the policemen, buwan na ninyo rin, buwan na lang dar kanila ng damang mabuhay. Just award just give it to them, since

See DUTERTE > P

DUTERTE

are poor.) But I promise you, I will look for another land nearby or adjacent or maybe contiguous to that area there and gagawa ako ng mas maganda. May tubig na at may electric na pagpasok ninyo (I will build a more beautiful house. One with water and electricity when you move in),” he said.

He assured the soldiers that they would have their own houses; that their compensation and other benefits are provided; and their equipment will be modernized.

Kadamay members last month started occupying low-cost housing units of the National Housing Authority in Pandi, San Jose del Monte, and Bustos, all in Bulacan, which were meant for the personnel of Philippine National Police and Armed Forces.

Kadamay members claimed that the police and soldiers do not want the houses which are small, without power and water, and far from Metro Manila. The houses measure about 22 square meters but has a provision for an expansion for a second level.

The NHA said more than 5,000 low-cost housing units in Bulacan located in Pandi Heights 1, Pandi

Village 2 and Pandi Residence 3 have been occupied by Kadamay.

Attempts to evict them had been futile after Kadamay blocked and tried fighting the authorities.

Duterte said he would give the houses to Kadamay provided they not occupy or create problem for the policemen, soldiers and their families who are already living in some of the houses.

He said he intends to transfer the soldiers, policemen and their families who are already occupying units to another location once the new housing units are already completed.

Reports said more than 500 policemen and soldiers have been awarded the housing units.

The Army said it supports President Duterte’s appeal to soldiers to leave alone Kadamay members who occupied their housing units.

“We will adhere to the President’s appeal. We will talk to our troops and explain to them the position of our President,” said Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao.

Told that President’s stance may encourage similar incidents in the future, Hao just said: “We are going to wait for the right authorities to issue the rules and regulations on this.”

The previous administration

built around 20,000 housing units for soldiers and policemen, through the National Housing Authority, in various parts of the country, including Bulacan.

Hao could not immediately say how many soldiers availed of the housing units in Bulacan.

Last year, Magdalo party list Rep. Gary Alejano disclosed that the housing units were substandard and small for a soldier with children. The military confirmed that the units were indeed “too small and substandard.”

Military sources said many soldiers have signified their intention to avail of the units when the Aquino administration announced their construction. However, they backed out when they saw the actual units.

The PNP said it will not object to Duterte’s plan to give the housing units to Kadamay members as it will not be a loss for them since policemen will still be awarded decent homes.

“The President said he will replace the housing units occupied by Kadamay with bigger, better and more comfortable houses for the soldiers and police,” said PNP spokesman Dionardo Carlos. – *With Victor Reyes and Raymond Africa*

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Better housing program for soldiers, police vowed

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte has promised soldiers and policemen that he will move them to a better housing project by December, urging them to just let go of the houses that was originally

intended for them.

He made the vow in the wake of the failure of authorities to evict members of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahirap (Kadamay) who occupied six housing units in Pandi, Bulacan, supposedly for personnel of the Armed

Better housing program... ◀1

Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), and for informal settlers in Metro Manila.

"I will look into the matter seriously and I will ask 'yung (the) soldiers and the policeman, bitawan na lang ninyo 'yan. Ibigay na lang natin sa kanila tatal mahirap lang sila (to just let go of it and give the houses to the Kadamay because they're just poor)," he said in his almost nine-minute speech at the 120th founding anniversary of the Philippine Army in Taguig.

"But I promise you, I will look for another land nearby and gagawa ako ng mas maganda – may tubig na at may

electricity na pagpasok niyo (I will have a housing project for you complete with water and electricity)," he added, comparing it to the current disputed project which has none of the two basic necessities.

Duterte, however, hopes that the soldiers and the police will take his plans with an open mind as he said the only sin of the members of the Kadamay is they are poor.

"I'm asking you, kung maaari lang (if possible), do not be offended. Take it with an open mind. Ako na mismo nakikiusap sa inyo (I ask you), let us not wage a fight against our own people," he said, asking the soldiers and police

to just understand the situation of the Kadamay.

Duterte said he has asked the National Housing Authority (NHA) to look for a suitable land nearby and he will try to finish the housing project there by December.

"I will build another housing project for you [At the] soonest, I intend to build it by December. In the fullness of God's time, maybe by December," he said.

"I am making you the commitment, and I guarantee, you will have your [houses] – mas maganda, walang problema (better and problem-free)," he added.

Duterte also assured the soldiers and the police that he will personally go to location of the new housing project to

supervise and ensure the transfer be done by December.

"Magdasal lang tayong lahat (Let us just pray) that everything goes well," he said.

"Wag na lang natin guluhin yung mga tao diyan kasi lumalaban (Let's not touch them because they fight back). Their only sin is just really mahirap din sila kagaya natin (they are poor just like us)," he said.

Kadamay warned

About 24,000 Kadamay members have occupied around 5,740 vacant units in six project sites in Pandi since March 8. They have put up barricades in front of the units to hold off the authorities who would reclaim the units.

However, Duterte warned the Kadamay members to not try to ward off the police and the soldiers who are already settled in the housing units.

"Yung mga Kadamay nandiyan. 'Wag ninyong galawin ang mga sundalo at pulis kasi paalisin ko kayong lahat diyan (To the Kadamay members there: Do not touch the soldiers and the police or I will drive you out)," he added.

He added that he will transfer the police and the soldiers who have already settled there to avoid conflict and any untoward incident.

"But eventually they will be removed and transferred into – na mas maganda pa sa inyong inagaw (a place that is better than the ones you have taken over)," he said.

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The Manila Times

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Kadamay members get Bulacan houses

They won in the end.

Members of urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) can have the housing units in Pandi, Bulacan that they illegally occupied.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday said he was giving the government housing units in Bulacan to members of the group who took over the units in March.

In his speech during the 120th anniversary of the Philippine Army in Taguig City, the President asked the police and military personnel to give

➤ **HousesA2**

■ HOUSES FROM A1

Kadamay

up the housing units. Duterte promised to give them better homes that they can occupy by December.

"I will look into the matter seriously and I will ask you soldiers and the policemen, *bitawan na lang ninyo 'yan, ibigay na lang natin sa kanila tutai mahirap sila* [just let the units go, let's give it to them because they are poor]," Duterte said.

The President said he will ask the National Housing Authority (NHA) to look for a "suitable land" where bigger houses for po-

licemen and soldiers can be built.

"I promise you, I will look for another land nearby or adjacent or maybe contiguous to that area there and *gagawa ako ng mas maganda. May tubig na at may electricity na pagpasok ninyo* [I will build better homes with water and electricity when you move in]," he said.

The NHA had given the assurance that it has the money to build another housing project.

"I am making you the commitment and I guarantee that you will have yours, *mas maganda* (it will be more beautiful.) There will be no problems because I will personally go there to supervise your housing project. And

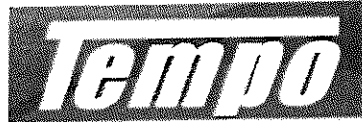
hopefully by December, *mag-dasal lang tayong lahat* (let's all pray) that everything goes well and you can transfer to the new house," Duterte said.

In March, around 4,000 urban poor residents took over the vacant housing units in resettlement sites in Pandi, Bulacan and refused to leave despite threats of physical eviction. Kadamay called on the government to give them the units, which they said were unoccupied to begin with.

The housing units in Bulacan occupied by Kadamay were meant for the personnel of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

5 April 2017



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Duterte counts on AFP's help vs drugs

President Duterte yesterday said he is hoping that the military will continue their support in his administration's war against illegal drugs.

In his speech during the 120th founding anniversary of the Philippine Army, Duterte said the Army is vital in solving the country's problems – chaos, terrorism, and drugs.

"It is not only the acts of chaos and terror that you must end. I trust that the Philippine Army and all branches of the military will continue to help us in our drive against illegal drugs," he said.

"This is a serious call not only to you, but to all Filipinos, including your loved ones, whose lives may be affected or lost, if you will not help resolve it," he added.

According to Duterte, without the Army, the government will not be able to eradicate the "ills of society that have been crippling" its development for a long time.

"The Philippines will truly be a harmonious and a progressive nation with you – our soldiers – as our country's vanguards of peace, freedom and justice," he said.

Duterte then assured the army that his administration will sure that they will be at comfort while doing their duties to protect the country.

"As we continue to face both perennial and fresh security challenges, this administration guarantees that our soldiers are well provided with the necessary training, equipment and benefits before they go into war," he said.

The President added that in line with the modernization program on the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the government has been providing telecommunication apparatus and fire power and infantry fighting vehicles to the army.

"This was among the priority initiatives we im-

mediately undertook when I assumed the presidency in July last year," he said.

Duterte then said they have allocated P6.5 billion for Philippine Army projects under the Revised AFP Modernization Plan. This will be used to procure individual equipment such as rifles, pistols, grenade launchers and force protection armors.

He also said he signed an Executive Order last September, 2016 which increases the combat pay for all members of the AFP from P500 to P3,000 per month and their combat incentive pay from P150 to P300 per day. **(Argyll Geducos)**

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BI, NAIA manpower woes worsen

By RUDY SANTOS

The crisis over unpaid overtime work rendered by Bureau of Immigration officers is getting worse, as more BI personnel assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) have resigned or filed leaves ranging from six months to a year.

Red Mariñas, BI Port Operations Division chief at NAIA, said that since January this year, 35 immigration officers (IOs) have resigned and more are planning to quit. "They have applied for certificates of employment from our personnel section

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BI From Page 1

to be used for job applications," he said.

He said at least 17 to 18 IOs are absent almost daily at the four NAIA terminals.

The IOs are those assigned at the immigration counters to process the travel documents of departing and arriving passengers.

Mariñas said that he asked members of the Travel Control and Enforcement Unit (TCEU) and the supervisors to man the vacant counters.

Mariñas is also planning to recruit immigration officers from the Clark and Subic international airports in time for the Holy Week rush next week when thousands of passengers are expected to arrive or leave the country.

Passengers of Philippine Airlines (PAL) taking international flights were advised to check in at NAIA Terminal 2 at least four to five hours before their flight's estimated time of departure due to insufficient staffing at the immigration counters.

The queues become longer during peak hours from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Before the issue on overtime pay, at least two to three IOs were absent in the four terminals due to illness or emergency matters but about 17 to 18 officers are absent daily.

Mariñas added that some of the regular employees who quit are lawyers fed up with the overtime pay issue.

Mariñas said that an Immigration Officer 1 has salary grade 11 with basic pay of P16,000 a month

but take-home is only P13,000 after deductions if the employee has no loans.

There are 900 contractual workers who have ceased receiving salaries and overtime pay since January this year while overtime pay for some 1,600 organic personnel was also stopped.

Mariñas said Budget and Management Secretary Benjamin Diokno assured the BI that P224.835 million has been appropriated in the 2017 budget specifically for overtime pay of its employees.

Diokno said since there is a specific funding for the overtime pay of BI employees in the 2017 budget, there is no need to tap into the express lane funds.

The BI charges express lane fees from foreigners to expedite the processing of their permits.

Collections from the express lane

fees were previously placed in a trust fund, which was used to pay additional benefits for BI personnel who rendered overtime until President Duterte vetoed it because "there is already funding in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for this purpose."

"We hope Duterte would hear the wishes of the employees and take action," Mariñas added in Filipino.

Mariñas added that the manpower shortage due to the resignation of IOs might adversely affect their operations, especially during peak months, amid the plan that the bureau will add 700 IOs who will undergo months of training.

BI spokesperson Ma. Antonette Mangrobang said the bureau would deploy starting April 9 some 150 newly hired IOs at the NAIA terminals to augment the shortage of personnel during the

Holy Week.

Mangrobang said that Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente called for a management committee meeting last Monday where they crafted a contingency plan.

She said that 21 other new immigration personnel would be assigned at the international airports in Cebu, Clark, Davao and Iloilo.

Mangrobang explained that even without the reports of BI airport personnel going on leave, the bureau has long been experiencing manpower shortage. There are currently about 1,700 BI regular personnel plus around 300 contractual employees and they hope to raise the number of workers to 4,000.

Malacañang expressed hope that the DBM and BI would reach a compromise to resolve the problem at the NAIA.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the budget department has agreed to create additional posts to address the concerns of the BI regarding the salaries of confidential agents related to job orders and overtime pay.

Abella said the BI has not responded to the budget department's proposals.

"According to the explanation of Secretary Diokno, they have made a proposal and they're waiting for the BI to make the proper response. It's as simple as that. In a sense, it's almost a household accounting job," Abella said.

Abella said Malacañang is hoping that a compromise would be reached to spare the public from inconvenience.

"Somebody should be able to accommodate. There should be some form of compromise and find a way to resolve the situation," Abella said.

"They cannot hijack the government into giving them all their demands through threats of work stoppage and thereby endanger public safety. We recognize their right to overtime allowances, but this must be compliant with pertinent laws and rules that apply equally to all government agencies," he added.

Diokno said the funds for the overtime pay would be released as soon as the BI submits a special request with the budget department.

Soldiers as immigration officers

Army Vision B

Diokno said the government would deploy soldiers to temporarily replace immigration officers at the NAIA *of national pride*

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFF

"We are training 200 soldiers to replace them," he said in a television interview. He was commenting on reports of numerous complaints from arriving and departing passengers about long queues at immigration counters.

Tel no. (02) 645-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

According to one television report, there were only three counters with immigration officers at NAIA Terminal 3 last weekend. Normally, there should be more than 20 immigration personnel on duty.

Diokno did not say if soldiers would be ready to man the counters in time for Holy Week.

The NAIA officers are protesting President Duterte's decision to disallow the use of the express lane fees for their allowances, which Diokno said amounted to an average of 250 percent of their basic salary in 2016.

He said compensation rules allow the payment of allowances amounting to a maximum of 50 percent of basic pay.

He said the President ordered the express lane fees to be remitted to the national treasury and the BI should just request the DBM for funds for the payment of overtime work.

However, he added that Morente has made no such request.

Diokno pointed out that there is P245 million in this year's budget for BI personnel doing overtime.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II apparently does not share the policy of Duterte and Diokno for immigration fees collected at the airport and seaports to be turned over to the treasury.

He said he would talk to the President so that the "old practice" would be restored.

In the past, investigations by lawmakers showed that such practice was a source of corruption.

Aguirre had warned the government that the lack of BI officers could affect national security since the agency is in charge of regulating entry of foreigners in the country, adding that there is already a shortage in the bureau's personnel to begin with.

The BI used to collect express lane fees from airlines and ships arriving after office hours. Many flights arrive at night and the early morning hours. The bureau was not required to turn over the money to the treasury, kept it and distributed it among immigration officers. Its officials, including the commissioner, his two deputies and intelligence chief, were given their share.

Some officials of the Department of Justice also partook of what was then known as a slush fund.

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- With Alexis Romero, Evelyn Macairan, Jess Diaz, Edu Punay

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05 April 2017



Pahina. 3

Salceda, nahalal na chairman ng DND advisory council

Nahalal kamakailan si Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda bilang chairman ng Department of National Defense (DND) Multi-Sector Advisory Council (MSAC), na gagabay sa DND tungo sa katuparan ng mga layunin at programa nito sa ilalim ng Philippine Defense Transformation Roadmap (PDTR) 2028.

Ang MSAC ay itinatag batay sa mga alituntunin ng Performance Government System o PGS, na naglalayong pasalungin ang "good governance, transparency and accountability" sa DND. Dati nang nahirang si Salceda bilang

adviser nito, at chairman ng Regional Advisory Committee for Philippine National Police Transformation and Development sa Bicol Region.

Bukod sa mga policy recommendations, ayon kay Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, isinulsong din ng MSAC ang aktibong pakikilahok ng iba't-ibang sector ng lipunan sa mga programa ng DND para matiyak na akma at nakakatugon ito sa pangangailangan ng mga Pilipino.

Nauna nang nangako si Salceda na tutulungan niya ang AFP sa financial programs nito.

Binigyang diin din ni Salceda na dapat magkaugnay ang pagkilos ng lahat ng ahensiya ng DND upang magkaroon ng katotohanan ang tema nilang "One Defense Team Transforming Together."

Kasama rin sa mahalagang programa ng DND ang modernisasyon ng AFP, dagdag sahod, pabahay at benepisyong para sa mga tauhan nito.

Sa kasalukuyan, may ranggo siyang Lieutenant Colonel sa AFP reserve force. Siya tin ang regional commander ng 33rd Air Force Group Reserve sa Bicol.

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Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship

Commodore Albert A. Mogol (at rostrum) of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) welcomes Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship Te Kaha (in background), the first Anzac class frigate operated by the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) and skippered by Commander Stephen John Lenik (left, beside him), upon arrival yesterday at Pier 15, South Harbor, Manila. The frigate will conclude its goodwill visit to the Philippines on April 7. Others in photo are Capt. Lued L. Lincuna (right) director, Naval Public Affairs Office, Philippine Navy, and RNZN Maritime Component commander, Commodore James Gilmour (behind Lenik).

PHA

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Tempo

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A SOLDIER lays on a stretcher and is carried away by his comrades to the nearby Camp Bautista hospital after sustaining wounds in a gunfight with Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in Talipao town, Sulu. (Reuters)

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MILITARY AIRSTRIKE

AFP WON'T YET CONFIRM DEATH OF ABU LEADER

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has yet to confirm the reported death of a top leader of the Islamic militant group Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao following an encounter in January.

AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año on Tuesday after President Duterte declared that Is-

nilon Hapilon, who is on the United States' list of "Most Wanted Terrorists," has been wounded in military airstrikes.

Hapilon was indicted in Washington for his involvement in the 2001 kidnapping of three Americans in the Philippines.

—CYNTHIA D. BALANA INQ

5 April 2017

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AFP verifying info on Hapilon's death

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said the military received raw information that senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon died in an air strike in Butig town, Lanao del Sur last January.

Año's statement came after President Duterte said Monday that Hapilon, who was said to be organizing a caliphate of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Mindanao, may have been killed in the operation.

"The President said he believes Hapilon might be dead because the latter was seriously wounded and no word from him was heard since then," Año said.

"There are raw reports but we still have no confirmation that Hapilon is really dead. Operations against his group will continue in the Lanao provinces (Lanao del Sur

and Lanao del Norte) and Basilan," the military chief added.

The US government is offering \$5 million for information that will bring Hapilon to justice. This is on top of the P10-million bounty from the Philippine government for information leading to his arrest or death.

The air strike was conducted on January 25. It involved the Air Force's FA-50 fighter jets which targeted Hapilon's lair and members of the Maute Group which is also linking itself to the ISIS.

Hapilon was said to have left his bailiwick in Basilan last December to organize the ISIS caliphate in Lanao del Sur.

The military said 15 terrorists died in the air strike, including an Indonesian identified only as Mohisen. Many others were reportedly injured, including Hapilon.

Año said the military's last infor-

mation on Hapilon was last February when Hapilon "was being carried by four ASG members, transferring from one temporary base to another in the hinterlands of Butig."

Hapilon had been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged role in terrorist acts against Americans and other foreigners in the Philippines, according to the US Rewards for Justice.

Hapilon is involved in the kidnapping of 20 tourists from the posh Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001. The victims included American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and American-Peruvian Guillermo Sobero.

Sobero was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf a month later in Basilan. Martin Burnham died in a rescue operation in Zamboanga del Norte launched by soldiers while his wife was rescued, though injured, in the same operation.

5 April 2017

The Manila Times

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Military yet to confirm if ASG's Hapilon is dead

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is verifying if Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), is already dead, as President Rodrigo Duterte wanted when he ordered the bombing of the jihadist's lair three months ago.

On Monday, Duterte said he hopes that Hapilon was killed when the AFP conducted air strikes on his hideout.

"The President said he believes Hapilon might be dead because the latter was seriously wounded and no word from him was heard since then. There are raw reports but we still have no confirmation that Hapilon is really dead. Operations against his group will continue in Lanao provinces and Basilan," in southern Mindanao,

said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año when asked on the pronouncement of the President.

According to the AFP chief, the last report that he heard about the ASG leader was in February when he was reportedly seen being carried by four jihadists as they transfer from one temporary base to another in the hinterlands of Butig in Lanao del Sur.

In late January, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana disclosed that Hapilon had moved to Central Mindanao on orders from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria or ISIS to find out if the region is conducive to the establishment of an ISIS group.

Citing intelligence reports, the Defense chief bared that the ASG had communication with ISIS, which instructed

the local terrorist group to look for a bigger place to establish an ISIS group because their current strongholds—ulu and Basilan—are too small and they could be easily crushed by security forces.

Hapilon was monitored to have brought a small group of his men.

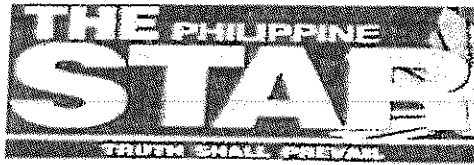
The bulk of ASG members are still in Basilan, according to Lorenzana.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said as of Tuesday, the military had no information on the fate of Hapilon after the January air strikes.

"We will continue ongoing efforts to ascertain this," he added.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

05 April 2017



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Sayyaf divides 19 captives into 5 groups

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Abu Sayyaf has separated its Indonesian and Vietnamese hostages to better elude government troops conducting rescue operations, an official said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said the bandits divided their seven Indonesian captives into three

groups and 12 Vietnamese into two.

Galvez said information provided by civilians helped them locate an area

in Barangay Laos in Talipao, Sulu, where the bandits are believed to be hiding their Indonesian hostages. An encounter in the area on Sunday left 10 bandits dead and 32 soldiers wounded.

“We are happy that civilians and local government units provided us with good information. We’re happy they heeded the advice of the

President,” Galvez said.

However, he said they do not know where the bandits are hiding the Vietnamese captives.

“We are trying to determine their location either in Tawi-Tawi or Basilan,” he said.

A Dutch man and eight Filipinos are among the 28 remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf

April 2017



Pahina. 3

Newly-renovated Scout Rangers health facility pinasinayaan ng SM Foundation

Tapos na ang pag-sasaayos ng medical at dental dispensary ng First Scout Ranger Regiment ng Philippine Army sa kaniyang school at headquarters sa Camp Tecson, San Miguel, Bulacan. Ito ay bilang proyekto ng SM Foundation Inc. (SMFI) sa pamamagitan ng kaniyang Health and Wellness program. Ito ang ika-127 wellness center at ika-22 military health facility na mayon ng SM Foundation.

"We have extended our program to benefit the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the police, and now, the Scout Rangers. We are deeply honored to be able to contribute in our own little way, to those who serve the country,

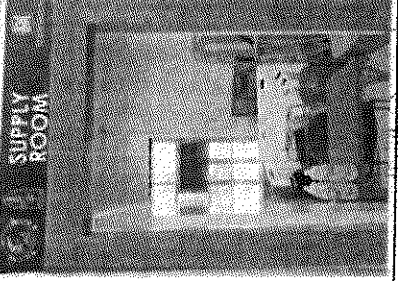


specifically with this Regiment ay isang Special Operations Command Unit na, bihasa sa anti-guerrilla jungle warfare, raids, ambushes, at sabotage. Kilala ito sa mundo na 'best anti-guerrilla combat units' at ang mga nuyembro nito ay frontliners ng pamahalaan kontra sa mga banda ng Muslim extremists sa Mindanao.

Ang Scout Ranger Regiment ay isang Special Operations Command Unit na, bihasa sa anti-guerrilla jungle warfare, raids, ambushes, at sabotage. Kilala ito sa mundo na 'best anti-guerrilla combat units' at ang mga nuyembro nito ay frontliners ng pamahalaan kontra sa mga banda ng Muslim extremists sa Mindanao.

Ang naturang dispensary ay malaking bagay sa military personnel na nabasa sa kampo, mula sa mga opisyal hanggang sa mahigit 500 trainees upang magaling at kwalipikadong Scout Rangers. Malaking tulong din ito sa mga pamilya ng military personnel at qualified civilians at iba pang civilians.

In the past several years, the SM Foundation has been renovating and refurbishing military health facilities with the intention to make them more responsive and conducive to the recuperation of the country's uniformed men and women who dedicate their lives for the defense and security of our nation. Pahayag ni Angeles kung saan nangako ni-ang SMFI na patuloy silang susunod sa naturang dispensary.



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Gov't, Reds agree on joint interim ceasefire

By **JOSE RODEL CLAPANO**

The government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) yesterday agreed on a joint interim ceasefire.

In the fourth round of talks held in the Netherlands, the government peace panel led

by its chairman Silvestre Bello III and the NDF represented by Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison agreed on a joint interim ceasefire as they discuss the conditions that will be included in the bilateral ceasefire

agreement

"We welcome the openness of NDF to undertake a forging of this round of talks of an agreement on joint interim ceasefire that will accompany our peace negotiations throughout," Bello said.

Under the bilateral ceasefire agreement, the government and the NDF are expected to discuss the revolutionary tax collection of the CPP's New People's Army, hostile acts, strength of military forces and the NPA, and the release of political prisoners.

NDF peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaoili said the ceasefire agreement should not be pursued as an end in itself because "ceasefires, whether unilateral or bilateral or joint, are just a means to an end."

Meanwhile, presidential

adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza said that any agreements reached by the two panels will be reflected on the ground.

"It will move us forward. It's difficult when we sign an agreement and no one is following it," Dureza said.

28 April 2017



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Gov't, NDF optimistic on bilateral ceasefire

By ROCKY NAZARENO

NOORDWIJK, The Netherlands — The ceasefire committees of the Philippine government (GRP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF) immediately plunged into negotiations for a bilateral ceasefire agreement (BCA), with the chairpersons of both peace panels expressing confidence that a more lasting truce may soon be signed.

Emerging from a two-hour conference at the Radisson Blu Palace Hotel here Monday afternoon, the ceasefire committees were able to exchange proposals on the BCA.

The GPH, as per President Duterte's directive, is proposing for a BCA that will be accompanied by assurances from the NDF that communist rebels will stop collect- ▶ 4

Gov't, NDF optimistic...

◀ 1

ing revolutionary tax, free prisoners, not claim any part of the Philippines as their territory, and put a stop to all hostile actions like kidnappings, burning of private and public assets, and armed attacks.

"(The NDF) asked for some time to go over (the GRP proposal) and study it, and hopefully, tomorrow will have open discussions already," said GPH peace panel chairman Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who also stressed that the conditions set by the President were "not for the peace talks, but only for the BCA."

And while the four conditions set by Duterte may appear too onerous for the communist side to agree to, Bello said these have actually been discussed before and that the NDF panel was "open to the idea."

"Because under the proposal, there will be signing, but it will be dependent on the convergence of the four annexes that will be the parameters of the BCA,"

Bello averred.

NDF peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaoili said their proposal would consist of declarations of unilateral ceasefire by each party, with these orders being merged together to form a BCA.

Agcaoili contended that the NDF proposal had proven its viability since the unilateral ceasefires imposed by both sides in August, 2016, had held with nary a report of any armed hostilities.

"The rules of engagement were clear, there were no armed hostilities," he maintained.

He was referring to the unilateral ceasefire orders implemented by the GPH and NDF last August when the formal talks started in Oslo, Norway.

Only an encounter in Makilala, North Cotabato, in January broke that truce and eventually led to the withdrawal of the unilateral ceasefires in early February.

at April 2017



Page. ←

AFP pushes for joint ceasefire

Air Force Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), called on leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) to agree to signing a joint ceasefire with the government if it is really sincere in achieving lasting peace in the country.

Speaking at a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, General Padilla said, "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. "For as long as there is no joint ceasefire agreement signed, with mechanisms laid out in order to maintain and ensure that the ceasefire period will reign, we will not suspend our military and police operations."

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

On the Communist Party statement stating that stopping the "revolutionary tax" in NPA-controlled areas, is not acceptable, Padilla said the NPA cannot claim control of any part of the country.

"Nobody has control of any part of the Republic of the Philippines. Anytime, soldiers and policemen can go to any place because we only have one country, the Republic of the Philippines, and there is no group here that can control any part of the country. That is why we will not recognize that," Padilla said. **(Francis Wakefield)**

April 2017



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CPP supports peace talks, warns against 'peace-spoilers'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@dtmallarijrINQ

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Tuesday called on its political wing, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), and the government to speed up negotiations to end nearly 50 years of rebellion but warned that "peace-spoilers" and preconditions set by President Duterte could derail the talks.

In The Netherlands, where the fourth round of formal talks opened on Monday, CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, chief political consultant of the NDFP in the talks, said the rebels would reject preconditions that could undermine their position.

"NDFP will resist any attempt of the [government] at making it submit to capitulation, mere pacification or self-destruction," Sison said in an online interview late on Monday.

The President on Sunday set four preconditions for the fourth round of talks, including the forging of bilateral truce and the release of soldiers and policemen held by the New People's Army. He also demanded an end to the rebels' revolutionary tax collection and territorial claims.

Military establishment

In a separate statement on Tuesday, the CPP congratulated the NDFP and the government negotiating panels for pushing through with the fourth round of talks "despite the peace-spoiling by stooges of US imperialism in the military establishment," referring to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año.

Lorenzana tagged the rebels as "terrorists" and he and senior officers of the AFP also insisted on a bilateral ceasefire agreement before resuming the talks, the CPP said.

The President set other conditions that had pushed the talks "to the brink," but to the credit of the flexibility of the two peace panels the negotiations moved ahead despite the preconditions, it said.

"For peace talks to continue moving forward ... President Duterte must reject the insistence of the militarists to prematurely push a bilateral ceasefire agreement even before agreements on substantive issues are forged," the CPP said. "Discussions on the more crucial socioeconomic issues, which the GRP panel also considers the meat of the negotiations, should not be preempted."

"The CPP and all revolutionary forces call for acceleration of negotiations to forge an agreement on comprehensive socioeconomic reforms, which are at the root of the armed conflict," it added.

Discussions on a bilateral ceasefire could come "as a consequence" of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social



There must be flexibility in determining what kind of ceasefire can be accepted by the negotiating parties

Jose Maria Sison
CPP founder

and Economic Reforms (Caser) and the Comprehensive Agreement on Political and Constitutional Reforms (CAPCR), it said.

Sison said both parties "should (move) ahead of the issue of ceasefire, the social, economic, political and constitutional reforms demanded by the people and needed to address the roots of the civil war."

By setting the preconditions for the talks, Mr. Duterte and the government were "just maximizing their demands in the press," he said.

Sison said the specific policy issues that were important to both sides would determine the "concrete content" of the range of their respective minimum and a maximum negotiating stance.

For instance, ceasefire is a policy issue," Sison said. "There must be flexibility in determining what kind of ceasefire can be accepted by the negotiating parties. What are circumstances and requirements for that ceasefire?"

Release of political prisoners

In his opening remarks at the opening of the talks in The Netherlands on Monday, Sison said the immediate forging of a bilateral truce would depend "if President Duterte can put forward the amnesty and release of all political prisoners listed by the NDFP."

Despite all the challenges and hurdles to the talks, Sison expressed hope that the government and NDFP would agree and sign two major agreements in the latest round of negotiations—the Caser and the bilateral ceasefire.

He indicated that after reading and studying the draft proposals, both sides could reach an agreement. "I observe that there are enough concurrences and similar positions as common ground for forging the agreements," he said in his speech.

He said, however, that "as a matter of principle" Caser should come ahead of the ceasefire agreement "unless these agreements can be signed at the same time by the panels and then by the principals." INQ

5 April 2017

The Manila Times

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Military peace spoiler – analyst

THE commitment of the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) to forge a fair deal and their determination not to be affected by acrimonious issues are crucial in keeping the momentum of the peace negotiations, a political analyst said on Tuesday.

Professor Bobby Tuazon, director for Policy Studies

■ SPOILER FROM A1

Military

of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG) said President Rodrigo Duterte's commitment to finish the peace talks within his term is a positive step on the part of the government.

However, Tuazon stressed that if the President wants to have accurate information on the ground, he should stop listening to the military which he described as a "peace spoiler."

"Mr. Duterte should listen to his own panel as well as to independent reports from the tri-media and human rights groups," he said.

According to Tuazon, at least 30 activ-

ists and farmers have been killed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and paramilitary units since July last year. This is aside from the bombing of communities in Mindanao, Abra, and other provinces following the president's directive to the military to launch an "all-out war" against the New People's Army.

"The AFP has not been candid in admitting that military operations also continue in the provinces. Unfortunately, many accounts reveal that government forces have been suffering some setbacks," he added.

The government and NDFP resumed peace negotiations on Tuesday in the Netherlands, a process seen by both sides as "difficult."

Asked if the negotiations will prosper despite obstinate refusal of the President

to release political prisoners, one of the demands of the communist group, Tuazon said the government panel and NDFP on March 11 issued a joint communique in Utrecht clearly stating that the Duterte government will release a number of political prisoners on humanitarian grounds before the resumption of talks in April.

"President Duterte has not acted on this commitment," he added.

Tuazon believes that the forging of a bilateral ceasefire is possible since both panels have agreed to discuss a truce which is necessary so that both parties can tackle with less hindrance the substantive agenda, especially the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER).

JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA

05 April 2017



Pahina. 5



Kalaban ng bansa

ANO ang karapatan ng NDF para maglabas ng "arrest order" kay dating President Aquino, ilang opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan, pati ilang opisyal ng militar at pulis dahil sa insidente sa Kidapawan. Mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao umano ang kanilang krimen, kaya dapat arestuhin at kasuhan sa "people's court" Sino ang NDF para maglabas ng ganyang akusasyon at utos? Ano ang kanilang kapangyarihan kung sila ay itinuturing na kalaban ng bansa?

Ang NDF ba ay wala ring pananagutan pagdating sa karapatang pantao? Ang pagpatay nila sa mga sundalo, ang pagsunog ng mga kagamitan at pagkolekta ng buwis sa mga kompanya ay hindi labag sa batas? Sila ang dapat arestuhin. Tanging ang gobyerno, partikular ang hudikatura ang may tanging kapangyarihan na mangasiwa sa mga batas, pati na ang mga hatol para sa mga lumalabag nito.

Napakalaki na talaga ng ulo ng NDF. Kung magsalita ay tila lehitimong organisasyon na may kapangyarihan sa batas. Ilang beses ko nang pinuna ang kanilang dahilan kung bakit kinailangang makipagsapalaran sa mga sundalo ay dahil pumasok sa kanilang teritoryo. Wala silang karapatan sa anumang teritoryo. Kung may kontrol man sila sa anumang lugar ay dahil dinadaan lang sa dahas.

Nananawagan ang AFP sa publiko na isumpa ang NDF at NPA, para sa lahat nang krimen na ginawa nila. Mga terorista at mangingikil sila na balakid sa kaunlaran. Tama ang walang tigil-putukan, hangga't magkaroon nang maayos na kasunduan para sa kapayapaan. Sa ngayon, hindi pa maganap iyan dahil sa mga hinihingi ng NDF. Sinabi na ni President Duterte na tigil na nila ang pagkolekta ng buwis, pero ayaw pumayag. Hangga't walang maayos na kasunduan para sa kapayapaan, ang NDF, CPP at NPA ay mananatiling kalaban ng bansa. Hindi sila ang masusunod.

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INQUIRER

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Peace train

The once seemingly unstoppable train to peace with the longest running communist insurgency in the world is limping out of its fourth station on the new route—delayed by a day, dragged down by issues of bad faith and unkept promises, disturbed by new questions about ultimate direction.

But the important thing—to borrow a metaphor close to President Duterte's railway-obsessed heart—is that it is back on track. It is still not picking up pace as it should, the rail line ahead needs to be tested for signs of strain, the list of stations to stop at remains dauntingly long. But at least the fourth round of negotiations in Europe, hosted by the Dutch government, is finally underway.

Several weeks ago President Duterte threw a spanner into the works, causing the train to sputter to a halt. The scale and surprising swiftness of the change almost caused a derailing of the peace talks, the negotiators of the National Democratic Front were disoriented and—the candid truth—the government's own negotiators were also caught by surprise. Can the peace negotiations survive what appears to be President Duterte's change of heart?

The answer depends in part on whether what has happened since was merely a change of tactics on the part of the government, but not of strategy. In this view, the President has had to reconsider and recalibrate his public approach to the negotiations because of increasing resistance from within the defense department and the military. Still smarting from the decision to release Benito and Wilma Tiamzon to allow them to serve in their role as NDF peace consultants, the security establishment had grown wary of the many concessions the Duterte administration has granted the communist movement.

CAN THE PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS SURVIVE
WHAT APPEARS TO BE
PRESIDENT DUTERTE'S
CHANGE OF HEART?

Candid as always, the President admitted that he could no longer follow through on his promise to release hundreds of political prisoners because it would mean he would have fewer cards left to play with, in the protracted negotiation. Last Sunday, he outlined a set of four conditions—what he called his "barest conditionalities"—which he said needed to be met before the peace talks can resume. These include a signed bilateral declaration of a permanent ceasefire ("a signed official document"), the end of the NPA practice of collecting so-called revolutionary taxes ("no extortion or revolutionary tax"), the recognition by the communist movement that it cannot in fact claim any territory in the country as its own ("That's crazy"), and the release by the NPA of all its prisoners. "This fight has been going on for the last 50 years. I hate it."

Are these barest conditionalities meant, not to deny the communist movement the space in which to move, but rather to enable the Duterte administration to find the elbow room for negotiation? It is negotiating with the views of the security establishment in mind. Instead of concessions, it would come back to the peace table with these conditions, confident that the aging leaders of the communist movement will also return to the table. That is one view.

But the answer also depends in part on whether President Duterte has come to a different realization about the true nature of the communist insurgency. In this view, the increasingly audacious excursions by the New People's Army into non-conflict zones led to the decisive moment when Mr. Duterte, who describes himself as a socialist and a longtime friend of the NPA rebels in his area, finally saw the insurgency for what it is—as antithetical to the government he now heads. As city mayor, he could afford to allow a massive funeral march for an NPA leader. As president and commander in chief, he would be courting possible impeachment.

But whether the new realities that have transformed the most optimistic cycle of the on-again, off-again peace negotiations into what chief government peace negotiator Silvestre Bello now calls "very difficult and exacting" talks were triggered by a change in the President's tactics, or a change in his overall strategy, the fact remains that negotiations are the most certain road to a lasting peace. We should support the ongoing round of talks, and hope for a successful outcome.

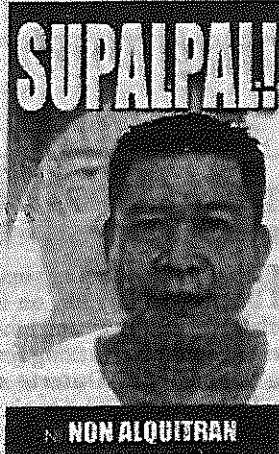
5 April 2017



Pahina. 4

Expanded STL ng PCSO nakopo ng PMA Class '82?

DAPAT silipin ni President Digong kung bakit pinapaboran ni Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office chairman Jose Jorge Corpuz ang mga miyembro ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class '82 dito sa expanded Small Town Lottery (STL) ng PCSO. Sa ngayon kasi, nagyayabang ang mga PMA Class '82 na kokopohin nila ang operation ng expanded STL sa Metro Manila, Calabarzon at Visayas. Halos retirado na sa serbisyo itong PMA Class '82 at ang pinakahuling magretiro ay itong si Dep. Dir. Gen. Francisco Uyami nitong nakaraang buwan. Kaya't parang ginawang negosyo ng PMA Class '82 itong expanded STL at malaking bagay na classmate nila si Corpuz kaya pinapaboran sila, di ba mga kosa? Saan kaya kumuha ng pitsang pambayad nila sa Presumptive Monthly Retail Receipt (PMRR) at authorization fee ang PMA Class '82? Sa retirement pay nila? Ano bali? Hehehe! Baka naman may nakuhang kapitalista ang PMA Class '82 at ginamit lang ang relasyon nila kay Corpuz para mapasok nila ang expanded STL? Boom Panes! Anong sey n'yo mga kosa?



Sinabi ng mga kosa ko na pinagtatawagan ng miyembro ng PMA Class '82 sina NCRPO chief Dir. Oscar Albayalde, Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Mao Apiasco para ipahinto na ang bookies ng illegal gambling sa nasasakupan nila. Siyempre kasamang pinagtatawagan ng retiradong police official na kilalanin nating si Gen. Tsunami, ang mga provincial at district directors, ang mga chief's of police at precinct commander. Nagbabanta si Gen. Tsunami na ipare-relieve niya ang sinumang police official na hindi susunod sa kautusan niya. Boom Panes! Ayon sa mga kosa ko, very powerful si Gen. Tsunami dahil kahit ang classmate n'ya na si Corpuz ay takot sa kanya. Si Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Dir. Gen. Ronald dela Rosa kaya, takot din kay Gen. Tsunami? Kung sabagay senior si Gen. Tsunami at nakatrabaho rin niya si Dela Rosa kaya may pinagsamahan sila, di ba mga kosa? Hehehe! Magkatotoo kaya ang pagyayabang ni Gen. Tsunami na ang PMA Class '82 na ang mag-takeover ng illegal gambling sa Metro Manila at Visayas? Tanong lang po!

Bilang tugon sa kagustuhan ni Gen. Tsunami, miniting ni Sr. Supt. Randy Peralta, ang Batangas provincial director, ang kanyang mga police chief at binalaan silang ire-relieve kapag may bookies ng illegal gambling sa kanilang hurisdiksiyon. Sa pagkaalam ko mga kosa, nagsumite ng P124 milyon na PMRR ang isang miyembro pa ng PMA Class '82 na si Gen. Dado kay Corpuz subalit sa kasamaang palad nag-right to match itong gambling lord na si Cesar Reyes sa halagang P125 milyon kaya't nanatili sa huli ang prangkisa ng STL sa Batangas. Kaya't kahit magyabang pa itong tropa ni Gen. Tsunami, maaring mabokya rin sila sa Metro Manila at Visayas kapag nag-right to match din ang mga gambling lords doon, di ba mga kosa? Hehehe! Kanya-kanyang gimik lang 'yan!

Sa totoo lang, walang namang kapabilidad ang PMA Class '82 na patakbuhan ang expanded STL dahil maaring may kapitalista sila subalit ang mga tauhan sa baba ay wala sila. Di rin nila abot ang pagpatakbo ng illegal gambling. Kaya sa ngayon, naghahanap ng mapagkatiwalaang tao itong PMA Class '82 para patakbuhan ang expanded STL nila kaya lang walang gustong tumanggap sa mga alok nila. Bakit? Kasi ang katwiran ng mga nagpapatakbo ng illegal gambling, baka pagpagin din sila kapag natutunan na ng PMA Class '82 ang mga alituntunin kung paano patakbuhan ang STL, kasama na ang bookies nito. Hak hak hak! Akala nitong grupo ni Gen. Tsunami ay maisahan nila ang mga nagpapatakbo ng STL eh laking kalye ang mga ito, di ba mga kosa?

Kung sobrang buwenas ng PMA Class '82, aba mabulilyaso sila kapag nasilip ni Digong na ginawa nilang negosyo itong expanded STL at pati si Corpuz ay mapremyuhan tulad ni Int. Sec. Mike Sueno. Abangan!

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he land.

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

ONLINE NEWS

05 APRIL 2017

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AFP, patuloy ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon sa pagkamatay ni Hapilon

Posted by: [Lui Claudio](#)

Hindi pa makumpirma ni AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Año na patay na nga si Basilan based Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon na napabalitang nasugatan sa enkwentro nuong buwan ng Pebrero sa Maguindanao.

Batay kasi sa report ng militar na matindi ang tinamong sugat ni Hapilon sa nasabing enkwentro.

Una rito inihayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na patay na si Hapilon batay sa impormasyon na nakuha ng pangulo.

Ayon kay Año, wala pang kumpirmasyon mula sa kanilang field units na patay na ang nasabing ASG leader at patuloy nila itong bina validate.

Aminado si chief of staff na may kumakalat na report na patay na nga si Hapilon.

"There are raw reports but we still have no confirmation that Hapilon is really dead. Operations against his group will continue in Lanao provinces and Basilan," pahayag ni Año.

Inihayag ni Año na sa kanilang latest information na apat na miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf ang nababantay kay Hapilon kung saan palipat lipat ang mga ito ng lugar sa kabundukan ng Butig.

Sa kabilang dako itinanggi naman ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla ang nasabing ulat.

"We have no info as of this date this is why the President said "supposes." We will continue ongoing efforts to ascertain this," mensahe na ipinadala ni Padilla.

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Philippine soldiers kill 'more than 10' militants in bid to free captives

By: Reuters

MANILA - Philippine soldiers killed "more than 10" Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in an attempt to free Vietnamese captives held on a remote southern island as troops fired howitzer shells on rebel positions, an army general said on Monday.

The small but violent militant group, known for extortion, beheading and kidnap-for-ransom activities, is holding more than two dozen captives on Jolo island. It beheaded a German captive two months ago when no ransom was paid for his release.

Major-General Carlito Galvez, military commander of western Mindanao, said 32 soldiers were also wounded in Sunday's assault on an Abu Sayyaf hideout in Talipao town, where the militants were believed to be holding six Vietnamese captives.

"The 105mm howitzer directly hit enemy positions," Galvez told reporters, saying four rounds were fired when advancing troops were pinned down.

"More than 10 were killed. Our troops had discovered mangled bodies in the area, but we continue to pursue them."

There was no word on the fate of the captives. Four of the wounded soldiers were airlifted to a hospital while 28, among them a battalion commander, had minor shrapnel wounds from grenade blasts.

Galvez said troops had clashed for more than an hour with about 100 Abu Sayyaf rebels led by Radullan Sahiron, a one-armed militant leader who figures on the US State Department's wanted list, with a \$1-million bounty.

Last month, five Malaysians were freed on Jolo and two Filipino sailors were rescued on nearby Basilan island by soldiers chasing the Abu Sayyaf militant group.

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'Let it go': Duterte to build new housing for soldiers, cops affected by Kadamay occupation

By: Tricia Aquino, InterAksyon.com

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte has promised police and soldiers affected by the occupation of a housing project in Pandi, Bulacan by followers of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) that he will build another housing project for them by December.

He asked that the soldiers and policemen "let go" ("Bitawan na lang ninyo 'yan.") of the Pandi housing project originally meant for them, because the people who would now benefit from it were poor, anyway.

"This ruckus in Bulacan, *eh parang inagaw ng mga kapwa nating Pilipino na mahirap rin* (it's like our fellow poor Filipinos stole from us). I will look into the matter seriously, and I will ask you soldiers and the policemen, *bitawan na lang ninyo 'yan* (let it go). *Ibigay na lang natin sa kanila, tatal mahirap sila* (Let's just give it to them, since they're poor). But I promise you, I will look for another land nearby or adjacent or maybe contiguous to that area there. And *gagawa ako ng mas maganda, may tubig na at may electric na pagpasok ninyo* (And I will make a better one, with water and electricity once you get there)," Duterte said Tuesday. He was speaking at the 120th founding anniversary of the Philippine Army at its headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

"*Ako na mismo, inyong presidente, nakikiusap sa inyo* (Your president himself beseeches you). Let us not wage a fight against our own people. *Tatal mahirap lang 'yan sila* (After all, they're poor). *Intindihin na lang ninyo* (just understand them), and I will build another housing project for you soonest, and I intend to complete it by December," Duterte added.

He promised a better, bigger, more comfortable housing project for the police and the soldiers, and stressed that he would go to the area personally to supervise the new housing project.

He also addressed Kadamay in his speech, asking them not to disturb the soldiers and the police, as well as not to create trouble.

"*Ngayon 'yung Kadamay, ibigay ko na lang 'yan sa inyo* (Now as for Kadamay, I will just give it to you)... *Huwag niyong paalisin 'yung mga sundalo pati pulis na nandiyan na* (Just don't force the soldiers and police who are already there out). But eventually they will be removed and transferred to a new, *na mas maganda pa sa inyong inagaw* (nicer than what you occupied). *Para hindi na kayo mag-ano* (So that you will no longer)... *Ayoko kasing pilitin ang isyu* because it would somehow result in *bugbugan, mga paluan* (I don't want to force the issue because it would somehow result in fistfights, beatings)," Duterte said.

As of last week, about 5,000 urban poor informal settlers had been occupying the vacant units of a housing project originally meant for soldiers and police personnel in Pandi, Bulacan.

After that, another KADAMAY group tried to take over supposedly vacant units in Bocaue Hills, also in Bulacan, but

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homeowners there thwarted the takeover.

Last weekend, KADAMAY members who said they were evicted a year ago from a private lot in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, returned to the area and pitched camp once more, prompting the police and City Hall to arrest them on Monday afternoon for trespassing.

PCUP thanks Duterte

Meanwhile, Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP) Chairman Terry Ridon quickly issued a statement reacting to Duterte's apparent Solomonic solution, saying, "Thank you for your malasakit (compassion), Mayor Duterte."

Duterte's speech would compel the government to rethink its housing strategy in order to comprehensively address homelessness and urban poverty, Ridon explained.

"The President's groundbreaking pronouncement serves as a guide for all anti-poverty and housing agencies to put our poorest at the center of our development strategy," he added.

According to the PCUP chairman, the country's housing fund was worth less than one percent of the national budget, an amount that "pales in comparison" to the budget for education, health, and social welfare.

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