

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

10 April 2017

Monday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 10, 2017 | MONDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON; EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTIONS OF SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO (As of 5:00 AM - Apr. 9, 2017)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
 5:46 AM	 6:09 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
 5:28 PM	 5:04 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
 APR 4 7:58 AM	 APR 11 2:08 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
 (MANILA SOUTH HARBOR) 3:41 AM 0.16 Meter	 10:17 AM 0.58 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

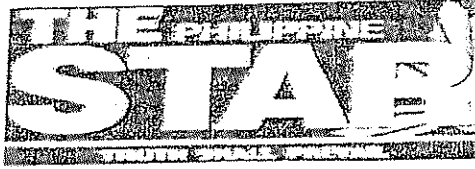
METS	APR 10	APR 11	APR 12
METRO MANILA	 24 - 34 °C	 25 - 34 °C	 20 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 24 - 35 °C	 24 - 35 °C	 24 - 31 °C
LAGOAG	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	 17 - 25 °C	 15 - 26 °C	 26 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	 26 - 36 °C	 25 - 35 °C	 25 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY	 20 - 30 °C	 20 - 30 °C	 25 - 31 °C
LEGAZPI	 24 - 31 °C	 25 - 31 °C	 24 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	 25 - 32 °C	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 33 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 31 °C	 24 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU	 25 - 30 °C	 25 - 30 °C	 24 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN	 25 - 31 °C	 25 - 30 °C	 24 - 30 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	 24 - 31 °C	 24 - 30 °C	 26 - 33 °C
METRO DAVAO	 26 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA	 24 - 33 °C	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C

AIR 21

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

Watch PanahonTV on DZRH News Television from Monday to Friday at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

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1,000 aftershocks pummel Batangas

By HELEN FLORES

An "earthquake swarm" continued to hit Batangas yesterday as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) advised people to stay calm but remain vigilant for the "Big One."

Phivolcs director Renato Solidum said an earthquake swarm has been going on since Tuesday last week, and seismologists have recorded over 1,000 aftershocks, including Saturday's four "moderately sized" tremors.

He said there was nothing to be alarmed about, as this was expected of a gradually moving fault line. Solidum said an earthquake swarm typically lasts for days or weeks.

At 11:14 a.m. yesterday, a magnitude-3.9 aftershock struck five kilometers southwest of Mabini, Batangas.

It was reportedly felt at Intensity 4 in Tingloy, Batangas; Intensity 3 in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; and Intensity 2 in San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro.

Phivolcs also appealed to the public to refrain from spreading text messages and using social media to warn about an Intensity 8 earthquake that will supposedly hit Luzon following last Saturday's tremors in Batangas and nearby areas.

"In case of another felt earthquake, do the duck/drop,

1,000 From Page 1

cover and hold and move to a safe area after the shaking," the agency said in a statement.

Phivolcs stressed there is no reliable technology in the world that can confidently predict the date, time and location of large earthquakes.

"We appeal to the public not to send or forward any information that may further cause confusion and fear among people," it said.

Traumatized residents of Mabini, Batangas spent the night on the streets fearing their houses would collapse following two major aftershocks on Saturday.

Two of the four quakes on Saturday registered magnitudes of 6 and 5.6, which struck two minutes apart. The two quakes were felt at Intensity 7 in Mabini.

Tremors were also felt in other parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila.

Reports reaching the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) as of yesterday said the earthquakes also damaged electrical lines.

"Based on the Rapid Damage Assess-

ment and Needs Analysis conducted by the Regional DRRM Council Calabarzon, some roads in Batangas City, Agoncillo and Bauan, Batangas are not passable due to minor landslides," the NDRRMC reported.

"There were schools, markets and houses reported to have partial damage. Intermittent power supply is being experienced in Tingloy, Mabini, San Luis and Batangas City," the report added.

The NDRRMC said one resident from Mabini, Batangas was injured after being hit by glass shards.

Reports said evacuation of families and individuals was reported in Mabini, Bauan, Taal, Tingloy, San Pascual, Lipa City, Agoncillo and San Luis, all in Batangas.

The NDRRMC said its members from various government agencies have convened to discuss the effects and initial assessment of the magnitude-6.0 earthquake.

The NDRRMC gave assurance it is constantly monitoring the effects and response operations on the earthquake-stricken communities.

Local disaster officials advised mountaineers and scuba divers of the adverse effects of the earthquake that struck the province.

Provincial disaster management council chief Lito Castro said the local government of Cuenca had released an advisory to all mountaineers to refrain from climbing Mt. Maculot this Lenten season.

Castro noted Mabini Mayor Bitrics Luistro had advised scuba divers planning to spend the Holy Week in the dive capital of the province.

A veteran dive master has advised against diving in the waters off Mabini, saying the seafloor is still murky following last Saturday's tremor.

The Batangas disaster officials said several roads in Agoncillo, Bauan and Batangas City were temporarily closed because of landslides but they were cleared yesterday.

On the other hand, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said the department is prepared to provide more support to affected areas in the province.

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"The DSWD remains on standby for any contingencies and emergencies connected to the earthquake and its impact. We ask Filipinos to prepare their families and communities for possible aftershocks and to remain vigilant," Taguiwalo said.

Batangas Rep. Raneo Abu, whose congressional district was severely hit by the weekend tremors, said many of his constituents are in dire need of food and other relief.

The Big One

In light of the strong tremors that hit Batangas, Solidum

advised people in Metro Manila to stay prepared and be vigilant for the "Big One," which could be generated by the 100-km West Valley Fault.

Solidum said the Big One – the quake that the public is preparing for in Metro Manila – is still possible.

He said the fault that triggered strong earthquakes in Batangas in the past days is different from the West Valley Fault, which is capable of generating a magnitude-7.2 quake that could kill up to 34,000 people and injure 100,000 others due to collapsed buildings.

Phivolcs had been warning that the West Valley Fault, which runs from Marikina to Laguna, cutting through parts of eastern and southern Metro Manila, is "ripe" for movement.

He said the magnitude 6 quake in Batangas on Saturday could be the Big One only for Mabini, Batangas.

The earthquake swarm happening in Batangas would not lessen the danger of a big quake in Metro Manila, Solidum stressed.

Sen. Loren Legarda said this is the best time for everyone to prepare for the Big One.

Following the series of earthquakes that struck Batangas within a month, Legarda said this highlights the need for heightened preparedness in the event of another quake.

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"We never know when an earthquake will occur. But we should know what to do before, during and after the occurrence of such events. Regular safety drills should be done to familiarize citizens with safety and disaster preparedness measures," Legarda said.

"The key to effective disaster prevention is planning. It is important to know if our location is near an active fault and prone to liquefaction or landslide, which may cause damage to houses or buildings. We have to ensure that buildings are not standing on active faults. Evaluation and retrofitting of public and private infrastructure is crucial in ensuring that buildings, bridges and other similar structures can withstand strong quakes," she added.

Legarda said all sectors should be involved in preparing for the Big One or the projected 7.2-magnitude earthquake in Metro Manila.

She said disaster management agencies, local government units, community leaders and regular citizens should all take part in preparing for a major earthquake.

Starting with infrastructure, Legarda said the efforts to make buildings and other structures safe should be strengthened.

She said no expense should be spared when it comes to make structures safe from earthquakes.

"The additional expense required for making structures safe

from earthquakes is worth it especially if it would save thousands of lives," Legarda said.

According to Legarda, ensuring the structural integrity of buildings and preparedness measures for earthquakes can significantly reduce the impacts projected in the 2004 Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS).

Based on the MMEIRS, without the necessary interventions, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in Metro Manila could destroy 40 percent of residential buildings, damage 35 percent of all public buildings, kill 34,000 people, injure 114,000 individuals, and the ensuing fires will also result in 18,000 additional fatalities.

One concrete but simple measure that Legarda said should be done in all communities is the installation of an early warning system to alert residents during emergency situations.

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She cited the Municipal Disaster Management Radio Communication Network of Minato City in Japan where every 5 p.m., the instrumental version of the Japanese folk song "Yuyaku Koyake" is heard in speakers all around the city.

Legarda stressed the daily alert is a way to ensure that the broadcast system and speakers are working correctly because the speaker network is used to warn people of emergency situations, especially disaster warnings.

"We also need to have this kind of early warning system in the country, so that wherever people are they are informed of important announcements especially in emergency situations such as before, during and after disasters, thereby reducing risks, casualties and damage," Legarda said.

1-Ang Edukasyon party-list Rep Salvador Belaro Jr said he will seek an investigation into possible violations in the building code for structures that have been affected by the recent earthquake.

He claimed some of the structures damaged in recent earthquakes in Batangas are relatively new.

"If the National Building Code and its implementing rules were followed faithfully, such damage should not have happened," Belaro said.

Some of the structures were old churches in Batangas.

Belaro said he would initiate a probe in the House of Representatives on whether these structures have complied with the building code.

"I will shortly file a resolution seeking an immediate investigation into how those damaged buildings were built and whether they obeyed the law," Belaro said. - With Michael Punongbayan, Marvin Sy, Arnell Ozaeta, Rainier Allan Ronda, Delon Porcalla

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DDS HIT MAN FLEES

STORY BY NIKKO DIZON

Fearing killers were coming after him, confessed Davao Death Squad (DDS) assassin Arturo Lascañas quietly left the country on Saturday night to seek safe haven abroad

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FROM A1

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

SINGAPORE—Retired police officer Arturo Lascañas, the confessed leader of the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS) who implicated President Duterte in extrajudicial killings during his stint as Davao City mayor, slipped out of the Philippines on Saturday night.

“I have received information that a lawsuit will be filed against me, and some people are looking for me,” Lascañas told the Inquirer.

He decided it was better to leave the country—“for the time being.”

For security, he asked the Inquirer not to disclose his destination, although he knew it would be easy for the government to trace him because he filled out his immigration form properly.

Just telling the truth

Was he running away from Mr. Duterte?

“I’m not confronting him. I am just telling the truth, the whole truth about the killings in Davao, [and about] my involvement, because I want to have a clean conscience,” Lascañas replied.

His world suddenly shrank in February when he retracted a testimony he gave to a Senate inquiry into extrajudicial killings in the President’s war on drugs last year that the Davao Death Squad and the killings it carried out allegedly on orders from Mayor Duterte were all lies.

Speaking at a news conference in the Senate on Feb. 20, Lascañas confirmed the existence of the DDS, disclosed the killings ordered by Mr. Duterte, and admitted to taking part in many of them, including agreeing to the murder of his two brothers.

His confession corroborated the Senate testimony last year of another confessed DDS hit man, Edgar Matobato, who claimed that Mr. Duterte was the founder and financier of the squad and the brains behind the killings of suspected criminals in the city.

Matobato also admitted to taking part in many of the

killings and claimed to have witnessed Mr. Duterte shoot dead a Department of Justice employee with an Uzi submachine gun.

Both Matobato and Lascañas said they saw signatures of the Davao killings in the extrajudicial killings in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs, but the President's allies in the Senate said they found no evidence of extrajudicial killings in the thousands of deaths in the hands of police and unknown assailants in the anti-narcotics crackdown.

Lascañas admitted to lying when he first testified to the Senate inquiry into the extrajudicial killings, saying he did so out of fear for his family's safety.

Mr. Duterte's allies have threatened to bring perjury charges against Lascañas, with Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II saying he is gathering evidence, including a copy of Lascañas' affidavit submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman, to back up a case against the former police officer.

Lascañas came forward with help from the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) and with support from opposition Sen Antonio Trillanes IV.

He had since been provided safe haven by a number of supporters, some of whom helped him flee the country on Saturday.

Lascañas had said he was ready to testify against Mr. Duterte in the International Criminal Court, which warned administration officials last year that they could be called to account for possible crimes against humanity.

Malacañang has denied the allegations of Lascañas, saying these are part of a plan to "destroy the President and topple his administration."

For a while on Saturday, Lascañas thought he would not be able to get out.

He waited for around 15 minutes at the airport immigration counter before his passport was stamped.

"They didn't talk to me. They just told me to take a seat. They didn't tell me why," Lascañas said, referring to the immigration officers.

One of them told the Inquirer that they had no reason to stop Lascañas from leaving.

But they said they informed the Bureau of Immigration headquarters that an Arturo Lascañas

was at one of the immigration counters at the airport.

"The immigration staff were actually polite and even apologetic," Lascañas said, adding the immigration officer at the counter took note of his full itinerary.

Through it all, however, he said he was confident that he should be allowed to leave because there was no hold-departure order for him. He said he was not on the immigration watch list.

This Inquirer reporter took the same flight as Lascañas'.

'I love our country'

On Sunday morning, at a rented place, which for now he would call home, Lascañas looked well rested and relaxed.

With his companions and this Inquirer reporter, Lascañas went out to walk around his new neighborhood and to have brunch.

This was the first time in two months that he was able to walk some distance and without tight security, he said.

Lascañas and his companions navigated their way through the neighborhood gayly, apparently exhilarated by the absence of fear.

This was Lascañas' first time to travel out of the Philippines, and he said he had mixed feelings about it.

"Of course, I'm happy that I have been able to get out. But I'm also sad because this is my first time to leave. I love our country," he said.

Then the man who admitted to killing hundreds of people allegedly on Mr. Duterte's orders reached for a handkerchief and wiped away the tears that rolled down his cheeks.

He knew it would take a long time before he could return to the Philippines.

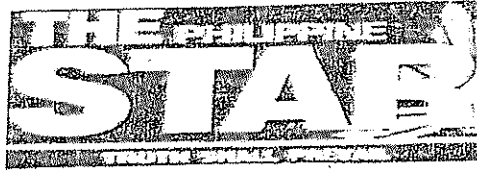
"I am sure, I will either be jailed or killed. It's just one of the two possibilities. But for me, I know God has a plan and that would be my destiny for telling the truth. I have accepted that," Lascañas said. INQ



WATCH THE VIDEO

<http://inq.news/LascañasLeavesPH>

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War games dropped from Balikpapan

By LALAINA JIMENEA

ORMOC CITY – War games have been dropped from the Balikpapan exercises scheduled next month here and in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, according to the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (PCVFA).

Instead, the visiting United States forces would partner with the Philippine Army in constructing classrooms in two schools in Ormoc and one in Guiuan. They will also conduct community relations activities like health education and veterinary services.

In an orientation here last Thursday, Undersecretary

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War games

From Page 1

Pedro Cesar Ramboanga of the PCVFA, who headed the orientation, identified Gaas, Don Carlos Rivilla, Margen and Nueva Vista in Ormoc City, Barangay Surok and the Felipe Abrigo Memorial Hospital in Guiuan as the barangays and institution that the troops would be working on.

The soldiers will construct a two-classroom building each in Gaas, Don Carlos Rivilla and Surok and conduct health education in Margen and Nueva Vista. They will also hold a medical seminar at the Felipe Abrigo Memorial Hospital. It was emphasized that the Balikpapan would be an "exchange of skills and technology."

The US soldiers will be restricted to their quarters to avoid a "Pemberton-like" incident from happening again, referring to the conviction of US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton for the killing of transgender woman Jennifer Laude.

In the event that they are allowed to go out, they would be escorted by the Philippine Army.

Local: 5285, 5295

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POLICE FILES

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Brgy. kapitan, 11 tauhan tinangay ng NPA sa Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY – Sapilitan umanong dinala ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang isang barangay opisyal sa probinsya ng Cotabato dakong 9:05 ng umaga kahapon.

Nakilala ang biktima na si Kapitan Michael Lingaro ng Barangay Mahongkog sa bayan ng Magpet, Cotabato.

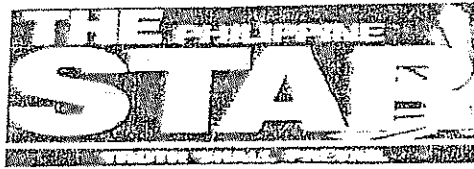
Ayon kay 602nd Brigade Spokesman, Major Calvin Macatangay, tinatayang 100 mga rebelde sa ilalim ng Guerilla Front Committee 53 ang pumasok sa tahanan ng biktima at kinuha ang 15 matataas nitong armas, cellphone, mga handheld radio at mga personal na kagamitan.

Tinangay ng mga rebelde ang nasabing kapitan at 11 tauhan nito patungo sa bulubundukin sa Magpet.

Ngunit pagsapit ng alas-12:00 ng tanghali ay pinakawalan din ng rebeldeng NPA si Kapitan Michael Lingaro at mga tauhan nito.

Malaki ang paniniwala ni Cotabato Police Provincial Director S/ Supt. Emmanuel Peralta na posibleng ginawang humanshield lang ng NPA ang mga biktima para hindi makalapit ang mga otoridad. Patuloy ang imbestigasyon ng pulisya at militar sa pangyayari.

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Duterte: Expedite release of P6.4-B pension for war vets

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ
and EDITH REGALADO

Knowing that nothing can compensate for the sacrifices of World War II veterans, President Duterte yesterday ordered budget and defense officials to speed up the release of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) retirees' pension.

"I am supposed to say *'Maraming salamat po* (Thank you)," but I have something here for you. . . I am directing the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of National Defense to expedite the early release of the AFP's retirees pension credentials for fiscal years 2008 to 2013 in the amount of (P6.4 billion)," the President

said before ending his speech yesterday during ceremonies commemorating the 75th Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) and Veteran's Week held at the Mt. Samat National Shrine in Pilar, Bataan.

"We have settled the backlog in disability pensions. We (have) also made the management of almost 200,000 pension accounts more efficient," Duterte announced to the cheering veterans and their families who attended the event.

He assured the veterans and their families that the government is prioritizing the release of their benefits.

"Let us take this moment to honor our veterans, the ones who passed away and the ones who are with us today. No mat-

ter what we do, we can never do enough to repay you. But I would like for you to know that your government is doing much, much more," he said.

The surviving veterans, according to the Chief Executive, have suffered much and that they should not suffer more. "In the twilight of their years, they deserve a better life," he said.

Duterte likewise announced that he is giving out instructions to improve the services and accessibility for veterans and that their dependents can be assured free healthcare at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and 152 veterans-accredited hospitals.

"As a legacy to the next generation, we have subsidized the education of more than

2,500 of our veterans' dependents under the Iskolar ng Bayan program. With education, we hope they can secure a better future," the President added.

Duterte stressed that the entitlements do not compare to the sacrifices that the veterans have made for the country.

"But we want you to know, our nation (and) our people are grateful to you for what you have done and we will do better," he said. "We must never forget that we owe them a deep debt of gratitude. We owe them our lives and, for a time, our nation."

Duterte also called on today's youths to recognize the veterans' role in history. "Take the time to recognize them because what I

say is not trite. It is the truth: without them, we would not be here," he said.

"Let 'Araw ng Kagitingan' remind us all that Filipinos are capable of tremendous feats of heroism. Let this monument be a beacon for all, to be brave in the midst of challenges and uncertainties," Duterte added.

The President also challenged every Filipino to "reaffirm our vow: we will never waver in our efforts to secure

what's best for the greatest common good for our nation."

"We are drawn together each year on this sacred ground to honor the gallant men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice - for our nation, for our people and for our future. These are words uttered in utmost respect and gratitude for those who faced the biggest challenges and proved that they had much bigger hearts of courage," he said.

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Cash reward awaits Abu tipsters

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The provincial government of Sulu will give a cash reward in exchange for information on the Abu Sayyaf bandits, a security official said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Western Mindanao Command, said infor-

mation provided by local officials and villagers resulted in the rescue of hostages and encounters with the bandit group.

"Some local officials reward their constituents who can pinpoint the hideout of the Abu Sayyaf and their captives," Galvez said.

He did not give details on the reward system. He said the effort has been yielding results with the series of encounters and rescue of hostages in the past weeks.

"Local government units are heeding the request of President Duterte to help the

military quell attacks by the Abu Sayyaf, especially in Sulu," Galvez said.

Last week the military, following tips from villagers, clashed with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Talipao town, killing 10 militants and wounding several others.

– **Roel Pareño**

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Año to troops: Go full speed in fight against Abu Sayyaf

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año has urged troops to increase the “operational tempo” in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf group which he wants defeated within the first six months of the year, the military said yesterday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said Año told the soldiers to “double time or speed up” the operations when he visited the Joint Task Force Sulu, based in Jolo town in Sulu, on Thursday last week.

“The AFP is midway in its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. General Año inspired them to operate at full speed, double or increase the operational tempo some more. The AFP has proven its capacity to inflict heavy casualties against the terrorist group,” said Arevalo.

Arevalo said Año remains confident that the six-month deadline that he imposed for defeating the Abu Sayyaf will be met.

The Abu Sayyaf has some 300

to 400 men, mostly in Sulu, its bailiwick.

The military said 47 Abu Sayyaf men have been killed since January and 20 others were either captured or arrested, or have surrendered. The figure does not include fatalities based on intelligence reports.

The military also reported that 12 kidnap victims have been rescued from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf since January. The Abu Sayyaf is still holding around 30 foreign and Filipino hostages in Sulu.

Incidentally, German kidnap victim Jurgean Kantner was beheaded by his Abu Sayyaf captors in Sulu on February 26 after authorities failed to heed the demand of the group to pay a P30-million ransom.

Kantner and his wife, Sabine Merz, were seized by the Abu Sayyaf after the group intercepted their yacht off Sabah last November. Their boat was later found off Sulu with Merz’ body.

Año, in a statement, said: “They (the ASG) are no match to us... We shall continue with our momentum

and finish our mission to defeat and incapacitate the terrorist Abu Sayyaf to finally pave the way for further development and progress here in Mindanao.”

“We have actually perfected the art of combined and joint operations. We saw the interplay among major services and the interplay of each ground troop to deliver in different lines of operation, the maneuvers, the fire support and the combat leadership,” he added.

Año praised the soldiers for their sacrifices and for doing their work without any complaint.

“The AFP leadership we did not hear a single complain; everyone did his and her best in the job. We are very proud of all the soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines who continue to perform their tasks in line with our thrust against the Abu Sayyaf and other local terrorist groups,” he said.

The AFP chief also paid tribute to soldiers who died in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf whose activity is mainly kidnapping for ransom.

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POLICE FILES

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AFP target na mapulbos ang Abu Sayyaf sa loob ng 3 buwan

KUMPIYANSA ang pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na kanilang makamit ang kanilang deadline para pulbusin ang teroristang Abu Sayyaf sa Mindanao sa loob ng tatlong buwan.

Ayon kay AFP Spokesperson BGen. Restituto Padilla, ito ay patunay sa mga inilulunsad na operasyon ng militar lalo na sa mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf na naka-base sa

probinsiya ng Sulu.

Sinabi ni Padilla na umaasa rin ang militar na buhos ang maginging suporta ng komunidad at ng mga local government officials sa kanilang giyera laban sa mga bandidong grupo.

Una rito, ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na tapusin ang problema sa bandidong grupo sa loob ng anim na buwan.

Noong Huwebes, muling pina-alaala ng

pangulo kay AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Ano ang patuloy na opensiba laban sa ASG at ipinag-utos sa heneral na gamitin ang lahat ng available military assets para buwagin ang teroristang grupo.

Sa ngayon higit pang dalawang dosenang mga bihag ang hawak ngayon ng teroristang Abu Sayyaf sa probinsiya ng Sulu na siyang target ng militar na ma-rescue.

16 April 2017



Pahina. 3

Mag-asawang ISIS inilipal sa AFP

Hawak na ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang mag-asawang miyembro ng ISIS na naaresto kamakailan sa Taguig City

Ito ay matapos ilipal ng Bureau of Immigration at ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang kustodiya ng mag-asawang Husayn al-Dhafiri at Rahaf Zina sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Intelligence Service Group sa Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Dahil dito, mas pinaghigpit pa ng AFP ang seguridad sa kinalalagyan ng mag-asawang ISIS upang matiyak na hindi makakikilos ang

mga ito sa masamang balakin habang iprinoproceso ang kanilang deportation.

Napag-alaman sa imbestigasyon, lumalabas na sangkot si Al-Dhafiri na mula sa bansang Kuwait sa paggawa ng mga pampasabog at tinukoy na isang Islamic State middle-level leader at kapatid ng isang dating lider ng Islamic State na ngayon ay patay na

Si Zina naman namula sa Syria, ay inulat na dating asawa ng isang dating second-in-command leader ng nasabing grupo at nasa apat o limang buwang buntis ito. (**Betchai Julian**)

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AFP, PNP strengthen civil military operations

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) activated a joint committee to strengthen the uniformed servicemen's civil military operations (CMO).

Maj. Gen. Melquiades Feliciano, AFP deputy chief of staff for CMO (J7), and Chief Supt. Noel Constantino, acting director of the PNP Directorate for Police Community Relations, signed the letter directive with key officials from the AFP and PNP in attendance.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año cited the need for the AFP and the PNP to have coordinated efforts to ensure the government's victory in addressing any threat to national peace and security.

"It is imperative that the AFP and PNP work closely and support each other in addressing all threats to national peace and security and, at the same time, it is necessary for both organizations to maintain their legitimacy among the people they serve," Año said.

The closer CMO ties between the AFP and the PNP were formalized last Friday with the signing of a Joint Letter Directive creating the Joint AFP-PNP Civil Relations Committee

(JAPCRC) at Camp Agunaldo.

"Through the creation of the JAPCRC, we hope to further establish a stronger and more active relationship with our people and stakeholders in building a better and peaceful nation," Año said.

Under JAPCRC, Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP-Public Affairs Office chief, said the AFP and PNP shall coordinate and synchronize their respective CMOs to better implement our peace and development programs, particularly in conflict-affected communities.

The JAPCRC was patterned after the existing Joint AFP-PNP Intelligence Committee and will support the proposed Revised National Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Center Organization.

"This serves as a venue for us to strengthen mechanisms for the integration and collaboration of our efforts for joint civil relations operations; with the end in view of realizing the Filipino's aspirations for peace, security, stability and progress," Constantino said.

The JAPCRC aims to ensure efficient, responsive, and coordinated civil relations efforts in support of national security and development objectives. It will also recommend

areas where the AFP or the PNP shall take the lead or support role in the conduct of joint civil relations activities.

Another function of the JAPCRC is to coordinate civil relations aspect of all AFP-PNP law-enforcement, internal security and counter-terrorism efforts. The functions will be replicated in the area, regional, and provincial levels.

Among the activities to be conducted under the joint effort are strategic crisis communications; creation of joint quick response teams during emergencies; conduct of joint training activities, medical, dental, veterinary and engineering civic action projects, and joint humanitarian civic assistance.

Arevalo urged the public to support the committee to ensure its success.

"Public support and good community relations are crucial to the successful performance of military and police functions," Arevalo said.

"Both the AFP and the PNP acknowledge this and have long sought the support and assistance of the civilian populace in the performance of their different but interrelated mandates," he added.

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The National Newspaper

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AFP, PNP, MMDA join forces for Holy Week

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

THE PNP, Armed Forces and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will join forces to ensure safe and peaceful celebration of Holy Week.

PNP spokesman Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos said 35,222 cops composed of 3,318 police commissioned officers and 31,904 non-commissioned officers will man 3,251 police assistance desks/centers nationwide. The cops will come from 18 regional offices of the Aviation Security Group, Maritime Group and the Highway Patrol Group.

Carlos said the cops will be deployed in transport terminals, malls, resorts, churches, and other areas of convergence. Other police personnel not involved in giving assistance to police assistance desks/centers have been tasked to secure vital installations and other soft targets, Carlos added.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said soldiers will be deployed in public areas, including transport terminals, in Metro Manila and other parts of

the country.

“Definitely, we will be supporting our PNP counterparts, especially in places of convergence and terminals. We have allocated personnel for that,” Arevalo said, although he could not immediately say the number of soldiers who will be deployed in public areas or when the deployment will start.

“We always have units, whether in Metro Manila or in the field, that augment our PNP counterparts. Our objective is to ensure the safe travel of the people who are intending to observe the Lenten season or the Lenten break in their respective provinces,” said Arevalo.

MMDA spokeswoman Celine Pialago said 1,739 personnel will be deployed starting today in different areas in Metro Manila to assist motorists and commuters who will go to the provinces for the Holy Week.

Pialago said the team will come from the Traffic Discipline Office, Road Emergency Group, Public Safety Division, Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group, and the Metro

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AFP

Parkway Clearing Group.

Bong Nebrija, MMDA operations supervisor, said the MMDA personnel will also tow illegally-parked vehicles, particularly in bus terminals.

Nebrija also said the agency will strictly implement the "nose-in, nose-out" policy, which prohibits buses from maneuvering on EDSA.

NORMAL ALERT

Arevalo said the military's alert status as of yesterday remained at normal.

"In due time, we will know, probably tomorrow. But so far, our alert status is normal alert," said Arevalo, who declined to give a categorical answer if a terrorist threat has been monitored.

"Let us not think if there is a threat or none because the people's tendency is to be complacent if there is no threat. If we say there is, some will panic and may call off their plans which we do not want to happen," said Arevalo.

"What we would like to happen is for them to be always vigilant and cautious. They should always assume that someone is out to do something bad and they should be cautious and help our security to help them achieve a peaceful and meaningful Lenten break," he said.

Arevalo said people should report to the nearby military or police units if they see suspicious people or items.

"We expect them to be vigilant, to be actively looking around them. If they see suspicious baggage or people, immediately report this to the nearby police or military in the area," he said.

Nebrija said the number coding scheme will be lifted from Holy Wednesday to Good Friday.

In Makati City, J.P. Rizal St., Estrella St., Kalayaan Ave., Reposo St., Valdez St., and Makati Ave. will be closed on Holy Wednesday and Good Friday starting 5 p.m. onwards, Black Saturday, starting 11 p.m. onwards and Easter Sunday, starting 2 p.m. onwards for a procession.

The MMDA said heavy traffic is expected on R. Jabson St., Plaza Rizal intersection, Caruncho Ave., Dr. Sixto Ave., A. Mabini St., Dr. Pilapil St., M.H. Del Pilar St., Lopez Jaena St., Dr. Garcia St., E. Santos St., Sta. Rosa de Lima bridge., F. Manalo St., E. Manalo St., Dr. Maldo St. due to Holy Week activities.

The MMDA advised motorists to take alternate routes.

Senior Insp. Jem Dellantes, HPG spokesman, also reminded motorists who will travel to the provinces to have their vehicles checked before their trip.

Dellantes said negligence on the part of the vehicle owners often leads to trouble especially during long road trips.

He said HPG personnel will be deployed along major thoroughfares so they can extend help to motorists.

The Eastern Police District will hold a "Bisekleta Iglesia" and "Pabasa" during the Holy Week.

Chief Supt. Romulo Sapitula, EPD director, said Pabasa for catholic members of the PNP will be held at the EPD Chapel on April 12 starting at 8 a.m.

EPD personnel will also conduct bike patrol on several churches in Pasig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Marikina to ensure the safety and protection of the public.

As the Catholic faithful observe the Holy Week, Manila Archbishop Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle is urging everyone to deepen their understanding of Jesus and his message.

In his homily during the Palm Sunday mass at the Manila Cathedral, Tagle said: "I hope those who will attend the different activities here at the Cathedral this week will focus on that. Who is Jesus? Who is He that we follow?" said Tagle.

He said understanding Jesus is more than just carrying palm branches during Palm Sunday and observing the Visita Iglesia. -With Victor Reyes, Evan Orias, Gerard Naval and Christian Oinezga

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The loooong road to peace

By IGNACIO R. BUNYE

AT the start of his administration, President Rody Duterte was confident of signing a peace agreement with the CPP-NDF in three to six months.

He was counting on his rapport with former UP professor Joma Sison and the de facto truce he had forged on the ground, while mayor of Davao City, to end almost 50 years of fighting.

As a unilateral peace offering, Duterte even invited personalities identified with the left into his cabinet. Some 20 top political prisoners were also released to serve as consultants of the CPP-NDF negotiating panel.

Subsequent events convinced Duterte that peace would not come as easy as that. At least in so far as the CPP-NDF is concerned, Duterte now realistically believes that peace will not come in this generation.

Even as he gave the go-signal last week for the government panel to resume formal peace talks in The Netherlands, observers greeted the news with guarded optimism.

And it was not difficult to understand why.

While both groups from opposite sites of the table profess to pursue a lasting and just peace, they are poles apart in terms of bargaining position.

While the government panel has been instructed to negotiate a bilateral ceasefire, the CPP-NDF insists first on the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) before any bilateral ceasefire agreement.

There are other side issues being raised by the CPP-NDF, among them, alleged human rights violations during the war on drugs, and the return of the Marcos family to politics.

President Rody calls certain demands of the CPP-NDF "impossible," such as the release of all remaining political prisoners, numbering about

400.

The CPP-NDF on the other hand, has tagged certain government officials as "spoilers" of the peace process.

Still, negotiators find occasion to agree on baby-step confidence-building measures. An example is the proposed exchange of prisoners. The CPP-NDF proposes to release four prisoners in NPA custody in exchange for 23 prisoners detained by the government.

But even the implementation of such prisoner exchange can be very complicated. The CPP-NDF demands that the government impose a ten-day suspension of military and police operations in areas where the exchanges are to take place.

These areas cover parts of Bukidnon, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Norte, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and South Cotabato.

To the soldiers and policemen on the ground (who often found themselves on the receiving end during suspension of hostilities), that would be a hard sell.

But, as they say, a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.

Here's hoping that it will not be one step forward, two steps backward.

Unforgettable ceasefires in history

I recently came across in YouTube a very touching video clip based on a true-to-life ceasefire which occurred in 1917, almost 100 years ago, at the Western Front in Europe.

The episode has come to be known as The Christmas Truce of 1914.

The Christmas Truce of 1914 has inspired books, plays, and a super-viral commercial for UK supermarket chain Sainsburys.

It was Christmas Eve. The temperature had dropped below freezing. Weary British and German soldiers were resting in their muddy trenches, reading letters and opening gifts from home.

A British soldier started singing "Silent Night" and was soon joined by his comrades.

A couple of hundred yards across No Man's Land, the Germans responded with "Stille Nacht."

Overcome with emotion, Jim, a British soldier, came out of the trenches with arms raised and started walking toward the German lines. The German soldiers initially levelled their rifles at Jim but were prevailed upon by Otto. Otto himself came out of the trenches with arms raised to meet Jim.

Soon soldiers from both sides streamed out of their trenches and met halfway in the open field.

There they shook hands, showed each other pictures of their loved ones, and even exchanged gifts.

One brought out a football and an impromptu match followed.

Halfway through, the soldiers heard guns in the distance, reminding every one that a war was still going on. Reluctantly, they went back to their respective trenches.

Back in his trench, Jim discovered that Otto had gifted him with German toast. In return, Otto received a bar of chocolate.

During the 1960s, soccer legend Pele and his Brazilian team Santos visited civil war-torn Nigeria to play an exhibition match. The warring groups immediately agreed to a truce so they could watch the legendary Black Pearl in action.

The military even opened heavily guarded checkpoints so that people could make their way to the big game.

Fourty-eight hours later, the warring factions got back to killing each other. Nigeria eventually quelled the break-away Biafrans.

Note: You may email us at tot-ingbunye2000@gmail.com. You may also "like" us on Facebook at "Speaking Out."

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Wipe out ASG

WITH his decision to order the military to finish off the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), President Rodrigo R. Duterte has given his administration another boost in the eyes of the people.

The Mindanao-based ASG has remained one of the leading threat groups in this impoverished Southeast Asian nation, kidnapping for ransom foreigners and Filipinos alike.

Hostages whose families are unable to pay ransom are beheaded by the dreaded ASG, drawing the ire of even the international community.

The order of the Chief Executive, a lawyer by profession, is ample proof that his administration is to wipe out the ASG, which is believed to have links with international terror groups.

Various quarters have expressed support for the campaign against the ASG and hoped that people in Mindanao would help the military and the police in going after the bandits.

It's time to put an end to the terroristic activities of the ASG and other armed groups in troubled Mindanao.

Like the government's anti-illegal drugs campaign, President Duterte said "we will not let up on the war against the Abu Sayyaf (Group)."

"They would not honor their word. If they like to kill, then we will go ahead and kill them up to the last man," declared the hard-hitting 72-year-old President from Mindanao.

President Duterte has repeatedly castigated the extremist group for kidnapping foreigners and beheading their hostages.

Of course, people see dire prospects of more kidnappings and killings if the government fails to restore lasting peace in Mindanao.

Nakakalungkot naman!

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ONLINE NEWS

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

AFP, PNP form joint communication committee for peace, dev't programs

In line with its efforts to promote its peace and development programs, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police has formed its joint AFP-PNP Civil Relations Committee (JAPCRC).

AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, in a statement Sunday, said the joint letter directive calling for the creation of the JAPCRC was signed on Friday.

"The JAPCRC shall coordinate and synchronize AFP Civil-Military Operations (CMO) and PNP Community Relations (PCR) to better implement our peace and development programs particularly in conflict-affected communities," he added.

Arevalo said AFP deputy chief-of-staff for civil-military operations Major Gen. Melquiades L. Feliciano and Police Community Relations acting director Chief Supt. Noel G. Constantino signed the letter directive with key officials from the AFP and PNP in attendance.

The JAPCRC was patterned on the existing Joint AFP-PNP Intelligence Committee (JAPIC) and will support the proposed Revised National Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Center (JPSCC) Organization.

"This serves as a venue for us to strengthen mechanisms for the integration and collaboration of our efforts for joint civil relations operations; with the end view of realizing the Filipino's aspirations for peace, security, stability, and progress," Constantino stressed.

The JAPCRC aims to ensure efficient, responsive, and coordinated civil relations efforts in support of national security and development objectives.

It will also recommend areas where the AFP or the PNP shall take the lead or support role in the conduct of joint civil relations activities.

Another function of the JAPCRC is to coordinate civil relations aspect of all AFP-PNP law-enforcement, internal security, and counterterrorism efforts. The functions will be replicated at the area, regional, and provincial levels.

Among the activities to be conducted under the joint effort are strategic crisis communications; creation of joint quick response teams during emergencies; conduct of joint training activities, medical, dental, veterinary, and engineering civic action projects; and joint humanitarian civic assistance.

"Public support and good community relations are crucial to the successful performance of military and police
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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

functions. Both the AFP and the PNP acknowledge this and have long sought the support and assistance of the civilian populace in the performance of their different but interrelated mandates," Arevalo said.

"It is imperative that the AFP and PNP work closely and support each other in addressing all threats to national peace and security and at the same time, it is necessary for both organizations to maintain their legitimacy among the people they serve," AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said.

"Through the creation of the JAPCRC, we hope to further establish a stronger and more active relationship with our people and stakeholders in building a better and peaceful nation," he added.

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www.interaksyon.com/national

Duterte tells DBM, DND to speed up release of P6B for soldier-retirees

MANILA - President Duterte, joined by American and Japanese officials representing countries that were protagonists in World War II, on Sunday paid tribute to Filipinos who fought alongside US forces 75 years ago.

As part of doing right by the Filipino soldiers, he directed the Departments of Budget and Management and of National Defense to "expedite the early release" of some P6 billion in funds covering AFP retirees' pensions for several years.

Duterte addressed the handful of survivors of the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor and Death March in 1942 in simple rites at the Dambana ng Kagitingan in Mount Samat, Bataan.

He stuck to his prepared speech and did not launch into any lengthy ad libs, apparently in consideration of the veterans in attendance, many in their eighties and infirm, who had made the long trip to Mount Samat and waited in the sun.

"I assure our veterans [and] their families that we are prioritizing your entitlements," Duterte said in his speech.

He then instructed the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of National Defense (DND) to expedite the release of the AFP retirees' pension credentials from 2008 to 2013 in the amount of P6,421,000,000.

The government has settled the backlog in disability pensions and made the management of almost 200,000 pension accounts more efficient, according to the President.

In addition, veterans with conditions and their dependents can be assured of free healthcare at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and 152 veterans-accredited hospitals, Duterte said, adding that he has instructed these institutions to further improve their services and accessibility.

He likewise said the government has subsidized the education of more than 2,500 dependents of war veterans under the Iskolar ng Bayan program.

"These entitlements do not compare to the sacrifices that you have made. But we want you to know, our nation [and] our people are grateful to you for what you have done and we will do better," he said.

"No matter what we do, we can never do enough to repay you. But I would like for you to know that your government is doing much, much more," he added.

The President then urged the younger generation to recognize the sacrifices of war veterans and treat them with much respect and deep sense of gratitude.

"We must never forget that we owe them a deep debt of gratitude. *Utang po natin sa kanila ang ating buhay,*" he added.

Japan, PH: Foes turned good friends

Prior to the speech, the Chief Executive, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Kazuhide Ishikawa, and Charge d' Affaires of the United States Michael Klecheski offered a wreath at the Dambana ng Kagitingan in honor of the fallen soldiers of the second world war.

Ambassador Ishikawa noted in remarks earlier before Duterte spoke that from being fierce enemies 75 years ago, Japan and the Philippines are now "new allies for peace, development and rule of law in the region," said the Japanese ambassador

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AFP confident of meeting June 30 deadline to neutralize Abu Sayyaf

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) remains confident of neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) within the six-month time frame set by President Rodrigo Duterte.

"The AFP is on the right track and is confident it can meet the timetable of six months within which the Commander-in-Chief, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the ASG defeated," military public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement Sunday.

This confidence was further bolstered by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año's visit to the officers and enlisted personnel of Joint Task Group Sulu last April 6.

He went on to urge soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen of the unit to work harder and double time so that the campaign to eliminate the bandits can meet its June 30 deadline.

"The AFP is midway in its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, General Año inspired them to operate at full speed, double or increase the operational tempo some more. The AFP has proven its capacity to inflict heavy casualties against the terrorist group," Arevalo stressed.

As this develop, Año said that the bandits are no match to the AFP due to its ability to adopt new tactics and maneuvers to defeat them.

"We have actually perfected the art of combined and joint operations. We saw the interplay among major services, and the interplay of each ground troops to deliver in different lines of operation, the maneuvers, the fire support and the combat leadership," he added.

Also on April 6, Año along with senior AFP commanders visited the officers and enlisted in Kuta Heneral Teodulfo Bautista in Sulu.

He also awarded new Glock pistols to the officers who led the successful operations against the ASG that resulted to the recovery of 77 high-powered firearms -- the biggest haul so far in the period of less than two months.

Año lauded the troops of the JTF-Sulu for their sacrifices and hard work in implementing his six-month campaign against the terrorist group.

"(In the past three months) the AFP leadership did not hear a single complain; everyone did his and her best in the job. We are very proud of all the soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines who continue to perform their tasks in line with our thrust against the Abu Sayyaf and other local terrorist groups," he added.

(PNA)

/PFN/PRIAM F. NEPOMUCENO

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Sulu officials offer reward for info on Abu Sayyaf

Westmincom believes the Abu Sayyaf is losing ground in Sulu. AFP Westmincom/File

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines — **Local officials of Sulu are giving rewards to informants with leads on the Abu Sayyaf in the island province.**

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the information provided by the local officials and the villagers have contributed to the rescue of hostages and to major engagements with the Abu Sayyaf group.

"Some of the local officials, who asked their names be kept for security reasons, are also giving rewards to their constituents just to give information on the locations of the kidnap victims and also the locations of the Abu Sayyaf group," Galvez said.

Galvez did not elaborate on the mechanics of the reward system but said the effort has been yielding results.

"So, with this, they heed the request of the president that the LGUs (local government units) should help us in thwarting the ASG menace especially in Sulu," he said.

Last week, the military, following tips from villagers, clashed with a large group of the Abu Sayyaf in the mountain of Upper Laus, Talipao town, Sulu.

The encounter left 10 militants dead but 32 soldiers were also injured in the three-hour firefight.

The military is confident of finishing the Abu Sayyaf off in the next three months following the standing orders of President Duterte, who visited Jolo on Saturday, to crush the militants and rescue all their hostages.

Galvez said the Abu Sayyaf group has split up their hostages and have been moving out of their lairs to evade troops.

"That's an indication that they are losing ground. It only means two things, either they are trying to evade massive military operations on Sulu mainland or they are seeing their area has been constricted considering the populace and the local government units are helping us in locating the group," Galvez said.

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