



TEAM **ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

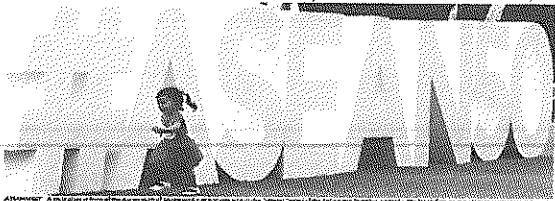
05 August 2017

Saturday

NEWS HEADLINES

05 AUGUST 2017

ASEAN TACKLES SEA ROW, NOKOR NUKES NEWS / 43



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NEWS / 43
DFA WILLING TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH TILLERSON

DUTERTE SIGNS FREE TUITION LAW

Law granting free education in state universities and colleges takes effect next year
Legislators promise to make adjustments in 2018 budget to fund the program

DO movie industry pundits see the current glut of film festivals? **WHY** is Facebook excited about the coming 'her months' in PH? **WHY** is Facebook excited about the coming 'her months' in PH? **WHY** is Facebook excited about the coming 'her months' in PH?

PETRON XCS BETTER ENGINE PROTECTION vs. Standard fuel

Asean host Phil: No compromise on human rights



Duterte signs law on free college tuition

Law granting free education in state universities and colleges takes effect next year
Legislators promise to make adjustments in 2018 budget to fund the program



SCS comments will shape if march to China



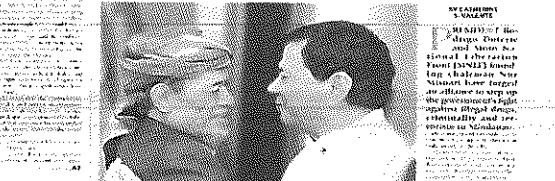
Copy 1 shows article of 21 Feb 2017 public conference

The Manila Times

Human rights commission is an Orwellian body, Gascon its front

Binay blasts Ombudsman for violating due process

Duterte, Misuari agree to fight terror, drugs



Asean told to fight 'anti-globalization' sentiment

Duterte signs free tuition law

3 govt agencies probe killing of DoF consultant

Speak in Filipino, lawmakers urged

Business Insight Malaya

PH at high risk from cyber attacks

The urges LFRAB to let INVS operate

Name names, Faeldon dared

PH may bring back 'strong' law

Engaged in his own struggle

PH may bring back 'strong' law

PH may bring back 'strong' law

PH may bring back 'strong' law

TABLE OF CONTENTS
05 AUGUST 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1-2	Weather	-	www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph
HEADLINE NEWS			
3-5	Duterte signs law on free college tuition	Chirstina Mendez	Phil Star p. 1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
6	NPA killed, more firearms recovered in Davao Clashes	Alexander Lopez	Mla Times p. A7
7	AFP chief orders commanders to stop Reds' extortion activities	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p. 16
8	AFP pushes probe on party-list's links to NPA	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p. 16
9	Isabela Military camp needs 500 soldiers	Leander Domingo	Mla Times p. A7
10	3 NPA rebels face arson raps	John Unson	Phil Star p. 12
AFP RELATED NEWS			
11	Gov't seeks arrest of 12 NDF peace consultants	Edu Punay	Phil Star p. 1
12	Gov't wants Reds rearrested	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.a A2
13	SolGen asks courts to re-arrest NDF men	-	Mla Times p. A2
14	Arrest NDF consultants, SolGen asks trial courts	Rey Requejo	Mla Standard p. A2
15	Duterte visits Marawi anew	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p. 10
16	Photo: Back in Marawi	-	Manila Times p. A2
17	FA-50 jets back in harness in Marawi	Michael Punongbayan	Phil Star p. 10
18	Rebuilding Marawi: First 1K shelter to start rising in September	Leila Salaverria	PDI p. A2
19	Rebuilding, rehab for Marawi begin	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p. 1
20-21	Duterte, Misuari to fight terror, drugs	Catherine Valente	Mla Times p. A1
22	House sponsor needed to push draft Moro Law	John Paolo Bencito	Mla Standard p. A1
23	MNLF to help gov't fight drugs, terrorism	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p. 1
24	US will rein in China in SEA, says new PH envoy to Washington	Bloomberg	Mla Bulletin p. 1
25	CPP splinter group denies terrorist plot	-	Mla Times p. A8
EDITORIAL/OPINION			
26	Team effort for the ATR	Jesus Estanislao	Mla Bulletin p. 11
27	Chavismo	Alex Magno	Phil Star p. 8

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

28-29	Peace Talks with Reds are useless	Vistor Avecilla	Mla Standard p. A4
30	Letter to the Editor recruitment of NPA	Dana Del Rosario	Abante p. 5
ONLINE NEWS			
31	AFP wants probe on suspected NPA rebel with Anakpawis ID	Frances G. Mangosing	www.inquirer.net
32-33	Calida seeks courts on arrest of NDF leaders		retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
34-37	Bidding for DND Hyperbaric Chamber Project now open	Bobby Lagsa	retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
	PH Navy delivers fresh military hardware, relief goods for Marawi		www.rappler.com
	Negosyo sa Mindanao, apektado dahil sa serye ng NPA attacks – AFP	Analy Soberano	www.bomboradyo.com
38	Nagpanggap na NPA, huli sa entrapment ops; nangikil sa brgy. kagawad sa Isabela	Bombo Radyo Cauayan	www.bomboradyo.com

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



24- HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

ISSUED AT: 4:00 PM 04 AUGUST 2017

VALID BEGINNING: 4:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 4:00 PM TOMORROW

SYNOPSIS: SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING THE WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON AND OF VISAYAS.

TROPICAL CYCLONE INFORMATION:

TYPHOON NORU (1705)

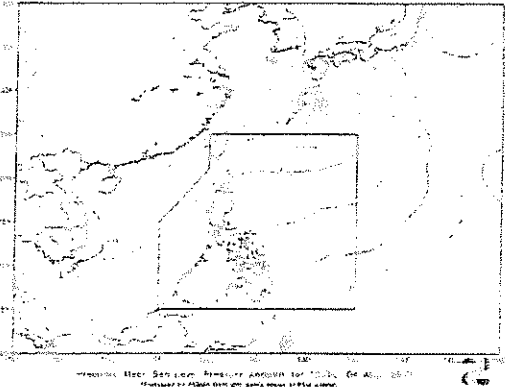
LOCATION OF EYE (3 PM): 1,290 KM NORTHEAST OF EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON [OUTSIDE PAR] (25.6°N, 131.0°E)

MAXIMUM WINDS / GUSTINESS: 150 / 185 KM/H

FORECAST MOVEMENT: ALMOST STATIONARY

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS DUE TO SOUTHWEST MONSOON AND POSSIBLE OCCASIONALLY HEAVY RAINS AND GUSTY WINDS DUE TO THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER THE REGIONS OF WESTERN VISAYAS AND NEGROS ISLAND AND THE PROVINCES OF ZAMBALES, BATAAN, CAVITE, BATANGAS, MINDORO AND PALAWAN. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS WILL PREVAIL OVER METRO MANILA AND REST OF THE COUNTRY.

MODERATE TO OCCASIONALLY STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE SOUTHWEST WILL PREVAIL OVER THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON AND THE COASTAL WATERS ALONG THESE AREAS WILL BE MODEKATE TO OCCASIONALLY ROUGH. ELSEWHERE, WINDS WILL BE LIGHT TO MODERATE COMING FROM THE SOUTH TO SOUTHWEST WITH SLIGHT TO MODERATE SEAS.



PAGTAYA: MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN DULOT NG HABAGAT AT MAAARING PAMINSAN-MINSAN NA MALAKAS NA PAG-ULAN AT PAGBUGSO NG HANGIN DULOT NG MGA PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA SA MSA REHIYON NG KANLURANG KABISAYAAN AT ISLA NG NEGROS AT SA MGA LALAWIGAN NG ZAMBALES, BATAAN, CAVITE, BATANGAS, MINDORO AT PALAWAN. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MGA PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG IIRAL SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA HALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA.

KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA KUNG MINSAN AY MALAKAS NA HANGIN MULA SA TIMOG-KANLURAN ANG IIRAL SA HILAGA AT KANLURANG BAHAGI NG LUZON AT ANG MGA BAYBAYING DAGAT SA MGA LUGAR NA ITO AY MAGIGING KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA KUNG MINSAN AY MAALON. SA IBANG DAKO, ANG HANGIN AY MAGIGING MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN MULA SA TIMOG HANGGANG TIMOG-KANLURAN NA MAY BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG PAG-ALON NG MGA KARAGATAN.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 4:00 PM TODAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 1:50 PM TODAY 32.9 °C	MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 6:00 AM TODAY 52 %
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 6:50 AM TODAY 25.8 °C	MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 11:00 AM TODAY 67 %
TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)	ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION OVER METRO MANILA
LOW TIDE TODAY: 4:13 PM 1.17 METER	SUNSET SUNRISE
HIGH TIDE TOMORROW: 8:01 AM 1.10 METERS	MOONRISE MOONSET & ILLUMINATION
	SUNSET TODAY: 1:24 PM
	MOONSET TOMORROW: 5:25 AM
	SUNRISE TOMORROW: 5:00 AM
	MOONRISE TOMORROW: 4:25 PM
	SUNSET TOMORROW: 6:24 PM
	ILLUMINATION TOMORROW: 51%

For more information and updates, please call our telephone number 827-4235 or visit our website www.pagasa.diliman.gov.ph

PREPARED BY: SJI

CHECKED BY: JFP



24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:

ISSUED AT : 4:00 PM 04 AUGUST 2017
 VALID BEGINNING : 4:00 PM TODAY

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast <i>from 4PM today until 4PM tomorrow</i>		Extended Weather Outlook <i>Duration: 4PM until 4 PM of the following day</i>			
	04 AUG		5 AUG	6 AUG	7 AUG	8 AUG
Metro Manila	26 °C 31 °C	Moderate, Southwest Manila Bay: Moderate	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
Tuguegarao City	24 °C 34 °C	Moderate, Southwest	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C
Laang City	25 °C 31 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong, Southwest Coastal Waters: Mod to Occ. Rough	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
Baguio City	17 °C 22 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong, Southwest	16 °C 23 °C	16 °C 24 °C	16 °C 23 °C	16 °C 24 °C
SBMA(Olongapo); Clark Zone Angeles City)	24 °C 31 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong, Southwest Subic Bay: Mod to Occ. Rough	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
Tagaytay City	22 °C 28 °C	Moderate, Southwest	22 °C 28 °C	22 °C 28 °C	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C
Lipa City	25 °C 29 °C	Moderate, Southwest	26 °C 30 °C	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 30 °C	26 °C 31 °C
Legazpi City	26 °C 32 °C	Moderate, Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	26 °C 31 °C	27 °C 31 °C	26 °C 32 °C	27 °C 31 °C
Puerto Princesa City	26 °C 30 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong, Southwest Coastal Waters: Mod to Occ. Rough	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
Iloilo City - Bacolod City	26 °C 30 °C	Moderate, Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 31 °C
Micor Cebu	26 °C 33 °C	Light to Moderate, Southwest Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C
Tacloban City	26 °C 31 °C	Moderate, Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 31 °C
Cagayan de Oro City	24 °C 33 °C	Light to Moderate, Southwest Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
Valencia City	20 °C 25 °C	Light to Moderate, Southwest	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 27 °C	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C
Metro Davao	25 °C 32 °C	Moderate, Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
Zamboanga City	25 °C 32 °C	Moderate, South Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C

LEGEND:

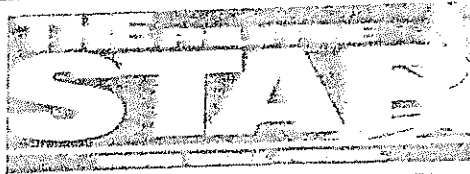
	Clear Skies		Partly Cloudy to at times, Cloudy with Rainshower and/or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rain		Rain with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy Skies with Rainshower and/or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rain - rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower		Light Rain				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: SJH

CHECKED BY: JPP

05 August 2017



Page: 1

Duterte signs law on free college tuition

Congress assures funding for 2018 implementation

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Free education in state colleges and universities edged closer to reality after President Duterte signed into law the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.

Duterte signed Republic Act 10931 on Thursday night or hours before it would have lapsed into law today, despite concerns raised by his economic team about funding for the program.

The President asked Congress to make the necessary appropriations for the law, which guarantees free tuition and other miscellaneous fees for students in 112 state universities and colleges (SUCs) across the country.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno stressed the law would take

Rody OKs stiffer penalties vs hospitals demanding deposits. See Page 6

effect next school year.

Citing figures posted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), senior deputy executive secretary Menardo Guevarra said the initial P16 billion allotted for the program would be "manageable" to cover tuition and miscellaneous fees.

Turn to Page 6

"I don't know if there is budget allocated for 2017. But hopefully, this will be in place in the next enrollment period," Guevarra said.

Speaking at the Mindanao Hour held jointly with the Bangon Marawi forum yesterday, Guevarra said the free tuition law was part of the President's social development agenda.

"Under the law, Congress is supposed to make the necessary appropriations to fund the free SUC education project," Guevarra said.

He said the President signed the measure amid concerns raised by his economic team that it would have serious effects on the government's budget.

"But free tuition in tertiary education in SUCs is a pillar of the President's social development policy," Guevarra said.

"Before signing the measure, the President had to weigh the issues raised by his advisers and arrived at the conclusion that the long-term benefits of the free tuition will outweigh the short-term budgetary challenges," he added.

Approved by Congress in May, the bill was transmitted to the Office of the President on July 5 for Duterte's signature.

The measure aims to provide subsidies to students in SUCs, local tertiary schools, as well as institutions accredited with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Diokno earlier said the government would need at least P100 billion annually to cover the free tuition for SUCs.

Next school year

In a text message to The STAR, Diokno said the law will take effect next school year. "The law will be prospective, not retroactive, since academic year 2017 to 2018 is already ongoing," Diokno said.

"Hence, in the immediate term, we're talking of academic year 2018 to 2019, strictly speaking, the first semester," he added.

He also stressed the government has yet to come up with an estimate on how much the program would cost.

"The estimate has to be preceded by the number of pre-determined students who are chosen, say X, on the basis of a nationwide test administered by CHED. Unless we know X, we can't give an estimate," he said.

Asked where the budget for the free tuition bill would come from, Diokno said the DBM would have to estimate the cost first and assess if there is enough space in the 2018 budget for the program.

"First, I'll estimate the half year total costs of program, first semester 2018 to 2019, then determine how much can be funded from the 2018 budget. If worse comes to worst, we may consider asking for supplemental budget," the budget chief said.

He said there may also be changes in the provisions of the 2018 national budget.

"There will be changes in the President's 2018 budget which has some P16 billion in various types of scholarship," he said.

As head of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), Diokno said he will lead the group that will prepare the implementing rules and regulations of the new law.

Earlier, the country's economic managers voiced opposition to the enactment of the law, citing the large amount of funds required for the measure.

Initial estimates of the DBM put the required budget for the program at P100 billion.

"The budget for free tuition is really quite large. It's not pittance. It's going to be unsustainable over time," Socio-economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia had said.

Congress' assurance

Amid funding worries, the House of Representatives assured college students yesterday that it would allot the necessary funds for the law on free education in SUCs.

Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles, appropriations committee chairman, said his panel would "tweak and adjust the proposed P3.767-trillion national budget for 2018 so that the free college education program will be fully implemented."

"Education is a great equalizer. It gives the poor an opportunity to change his way of life. We have reviewed the possible financial implications of this proposal and I can say that there is enough money to jumpstart this and sustain it in the long term," he said.

Nograles said Congress had allocated P8 billion for free education in SUCs this year.

He said among the sources

of funds for free education in SUCs are the allocations for underperforming agencies, as well as unused and unnecessary appropriations like those for travel and training and seminars.

Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. of Ang Edukasyon party-list proposed the issuance of bonds to fund the free college education.

"For the next five years of the Duterte administration until 2022, we will need at least P500 billion, assuming that calculations of the Department of Budget and Management are correct," he said.

Former president and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, one of the authors of the free education law, said the law "is laudable because it does not only address the needs of students in public colleges and universities, but also the needs of underprivileged

students who would fail to make the cut in SUCs."

During her nine-year term, Arroyo launched a student loan project that extended interest-free loans to poor college students.

"The President's signing into law of the free SUCs tuition bill will go a long way in helping the government achieve economic inclusion for all, given that education is the great social equalizer," Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte said.

"Giving youths access to college education will enable them to eventually get quality and better-paying jobs, which, in turn will spell better living standards for them. Hence, this measure is crucial to the President's agenda for high and inclusive growth," he said.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said the law is one of

the best anti-poverty measures taken by the Duterte administration.

"It will help a lot of poor students in state-owned tertiary schools realize their dream of a better life for them and their families," he said.

Militant groups also lauded the enactment of the law.

"There should be adequate appropriations in the General Appropriations Act," Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said in a statement.

"For so long, public college education suffered from lack of government subsidy and excessive school fees," it said.

"The new measure should correct this by providing adequate funding and by scrapping the unjust income-generating schemes imposed on students and parents," Bayan added.

Pivotal moment

Senate President Aquilino

Pimentel III said Duterte's enactment of the law was "a pivotal moment in the war against poverty."

"I have always believed that education is the great equalizer. I am where I am today because of my education," Pimentel said in a statement.

"A college diploma is the most decisive tool a Filipino can carry in the struggle to give his or her family a better life, and President Duterte has just given every Filipino the means to have it," he said.

Sen. Francis Escudero, chairman of the Senate committee on education and sponsor of the law in the chamber, said the law "will be one of the lasting legacies" of Duterte and "will go a long way for the Filipino youth."

"I am very grateful that he signed it over and above the concerns and reservations of

his economic managers," Escudero said.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto expressed belief that Duterte's economic advisers inflated the amount needed to implement the measure to discourage the Chief Executive from signing it.

Recto, one of the co-authors of the law, said the cost of free tuition was nowhere near P100 billion.

"By signing the law, he is in effect lecturing the nation that we should not just build, build, build for the sake of our future, but also teach, teach, teach our youth," Recto said.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito, one of the principal authors of the bill, also thanked Duterte.

"This is an investment to further equip our most precious resource — the human resource," Ejercito said.

Sen. Joel Villanueva said the law would greatly help develop the country's human capital.

"Our people are our greatest asset, that's why the biggest investment of the government should go to them," Villanueva said.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri said college education is not only a "way out of poverty" but also "the country's passport to become a true tiger economy" with a well-educated citizenry.

Recto said the "hard work" awaiting Congress is appropriating funds to ensure smooth implementation of the law.

"The challenge now is how to fund the measure, effective next year, because budget delayed is education denied," he said.

Escudero explained the law did not specify the amount in the appropriation clause "in order to give the Department of Budget and Management enough leeway in programming the implementation."

He pointed out the amount needed to fund the free tuition, miscellaneous and other fees of students in SUCs alone would only cost P20 billion, a mere 0.5 percent of the total proposed national budget for next year.

He said the full implementation of the law would only require around P43 billion, or a little over one percent of the

proposed national budget.

Victory for students

Anakbayan described the signing of the free college education law as a "victory for the present and future generations of Filipino students."

Anakbayan chairman Vencer Crisostomo lauded the President's decision to go against the recommendation of his economic managers to veto the bill.

Kabataan party-list Rep. Sarah Elago and Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor chairman and former congressman Terry Ridon also praised Duterte for the enactment of the law.

"The Duterte administration sends a message to poor households that low income should not be a burden for our children to dream of a better life," Ridon said.

Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo also joined the chorus of praise for President Duterte's signing the law on free tuition.

"We are grateful to the President for heeding the appeals of students and their parents on the matter. This is a very positive step forward in our collective efforts as a people to democratize access to education and help ease the financial burdens of so many Filipinos who want to improve the quality of their lives and their chances at a better future by gaining college degrees," Taguiwalo said.

The Associated Labor Union (ALU) also praised Duterte for "doing the right thing."

"This is very good news to poor college and vocational students who were forced to stop studying because of inadequate daily wage of their working parents and rising cost of living. Poor students now have the opportunity to help lift the family out of poverty," ALU-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesman Alan Tanjusa said.

— With Jess Diaz, Janvic Mateo, Mary Grace Padin, Paolo Romero, Marvin Sy, Ghio Ong, Rainier Allan Ronda, Sheila Crisostomo

QT August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 17

NPA killed, more firearms recovered in Davao clashes

BY ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

DAVAO CITY: A New People's Army member was killed while a soldier was wounded and scores of high-powered firearms were recovered in a series of armed encounters in Davao Occidental and Compostela Valley.

Elements of the 73rd Infantry Battalion encountered an undetermined number of NPA rebels in Sitio Malbag, Barangay Little Baguio in Malita, Davao Occidental that left one communist rebel dead on Thursday.

Fleeing rebels left behind the dead body of their comrade while government troops recovered an

M16 armalite rifle from the encounter site, said Captain Rhyan Batchar, chief information officer of the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division, in a statement sent to the media on Friday.

The troops responded to reports of civilians on the presence of NPA rebels in the area that resulted in the encounter, he added.

Similarly, he said, a series of armed clashes also happened in Montevista, Compostela Valley on Thursday morning.

A soldier was wounded when elements of the 25th Infantry Battalion clashed with about 20 NPA-rebels belonging to Guerilla Front 33 and Pulang Bagani 4 in Purok 4, Barangay Mayaon.

Batchar said that after the 15-minute firefight, four M16 armalite rifles, an M14 rifle, two M1 garand rifles, an M2 carbine rifle, a .38 caliber revolver, backpacks containing personal belongings and several subversive documents were recovered after the rebels fled.

The wounded soldier was not named pending notifica-

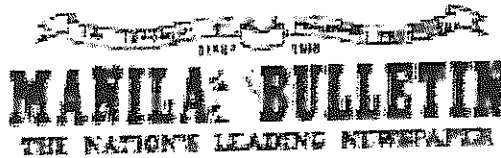
tion of his family.

Meanwhile, pursuit operations against the fleeing rebels also resulted in another encounter in the afternoon where after a 10-minute clash, troopers recovered two M16 armalite rifle, two M14 rifle, two M1 garand rifle, one AK-47 rifle, an improvised explosive device and personal belongings.

Brig. Gen. Macairog Alberto, commander of 1001st Infantry Brigade commended the government troopers in a statement on Friday.

"As long as NPA rebels continue to terrorize the people of Compostela Valley, the military will not hesitate to use legitimate force to drive them away from the community and its people," Alberto, said.

05 August 2017



Page: 16

AFP chief orders commanders to stop Reds' extortion activities

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

TAGO, Surigao del Sur — Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año has ordered all field unit commanders to stop the extortion activities of the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Año has also directed field commanders to secure vital government and private installations and rural businesses from harassment imposed by the NPAs through their extortion activities.

The AFP Chief issued the directives here when he attended the 43rd Founding Anniversary of the 36 Infantry "Valor" Battalion (36th IB), which was held at the 36th IB headquarters at Barangay Dayoan here last week.

"(The extortion activities) must be stopped," stressed the AFP chief of staff.

Año said an all-out military offensive against the remaining NPA will be launched in the province as soon as the

Marawi crisis is resolved, starting with the transfer of more battalions of Army troopers here.

"I am very proud to be a member of the Valor Battalion," Año said in his keynote message.

Año was formerly an intelligence officer of the 36th IB in 1985 and in January 1988.

During his career as a combat officer, he served as platoon leader and later as Bravo Company commander of the 36th IB.

05 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

AFP pushes probe on party-list's links to NPA

By GENALYN D. KABILING and CAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM

The military is pushing for a thorough investigation on the alleged link between the AnakPawis party-list group and suspected New People's Army (NPA) bomb experts recently captured in Bukidnon.

Authorities arrested Ruel Calolot, a suspected NPA member who is believed to be an expert in assembling improvised explosive device (IED), and his brother Ramil, in an operation conducted by the police and military.

Ruel was also found in possession an AnakPawis party-list identification card, signed by then AnakPawis national president, Rafael Mariano, now the Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Captain Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesperson of the Philippine Army's 4th Infantry Division (4ID), said the two were arrested in Purok 8, Barangay Kiburiao, in Quezon town, Bukidnon on Wednesday.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said authorities must look into concerns if it was true that one of the suspects was a bona fide member of the party-list organization.

"The individual who was caught in Bukidnon wore a party-list ID from, if I'm not mistaken, AnakPawis, so we need to ascertain whether this individual is really a part of the group," Padilla said during a press conference at a hotel in Pasay City.

"This is something we have to reach out to the party-list concerned and make sure they have not been using their resources to fund the activities of this group," he added.

Padilla assured that the military will properly coordinate with Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez about the planned inquiry into the AnakPawis group.

He said the military will provide all relevant information to Congress to aid the investigation as well as the "check and balance whether that party list is indeed putting resources to these individuals."

"Ang nakakabahala lang po doon eh 'yung isa sa mga nahuli ay nagpapanggap na isang miyembro ng party-list [The alarming thing is one of those caught was pretending to be a member of the party-list]," he said.

"Sana naman po 'yung party-list na 'yun ay tingnan mabuti kung sino 'yung kanilang kinukuha dahil iba po ang nagiging pakay at nagiging cover po 'yung kanilang pagiging miyembro ng party-list na 'yon [We hope the party-list would screen its members well because they have a different motive and use the membership of the party-list as a cover]," he said.

If the AnakPawis-NPA connection is proven, he said it would be up to the country's political leaders to decide on the next course of action.

NPA attacks foiled

Confiscated from the suspects were 24 pieces of IEDs, two caliber .38 revolver pistols, 10 meters safety fuse, 200 meters detonating cords, five blasting caps, switch boxes, three laptops, a 57 Recoilless Rifle, 51 rounds of caliber .30 ammunition, other IED paraphernalia, and documents, Martinez said.

He said a team of police officers and government troopers responded to information that NPA fighters are planning to launch attacks in the community.

The operation led to a five-minute encounter and the arrest of the suspects.

05 August 2017

The Manila Times

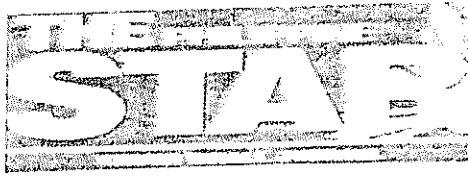
Page: A7

ISABELA MILITARY CAMP NEEDS 500 SOLDIERS

GAMU, Isabela: The Philippine Army's 5th Infantry Division (5ID) is in need of at least 500 new soldiers for deployment at the artillery unit of Camp Melchor Dela Cruz here. Lt. Col. Calixto Cadamo, 5ID artillery unit commander, however, stressed the need for military personnel is not because of death among their men in the Marawi crisis and ambushes by communist rebels but is a part of President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to strengthen the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The pre-qualifying examination for applicants is ongoing, comprising of 50 percent mathematics, 25 percent inductive reasoning and 25 percent basic English. Applicants must be natural born Filipino citizens, at least 18-23 years old, at least 5 feet in height, single and without children and of good moral character. They must pass the Philippine Army Aptitude Test Battery/ Armed Forces of the Philippines Service Aptitude Test as well as pre-qualifying fitness test and medical exam and must be physically and mentally fit for military training.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO

DS August 2017



Page: 12

3 NPA rebels face arson raps

SARANGANI – Three suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels have been charged with arson for burning more than a dozen passenger buses plying the Sarangani-South Cotabato route last year.

Jojo Calis Bulahing, Bangdrang Yasmin and Damo Raymund were arrested in Maasin, Sarangani on July 30, Superintendent Romeo Galgo Jr., Soccsksargen police spokesman, said yesterday.

The rebels admitted to the crime and yielded fragmentation grenades, a .45-caliber pistol and pieces of paper containing a list of construction companies, police said.

Bulahing, an alleged NPA commander, is wanted for various crimes, including robbery, murder and frustrated murder. He reportedly told investigators that their planned attacks on companies that refuse to pay so-called revolutionary tax were put on hold after martial law was declared in Mindanao.

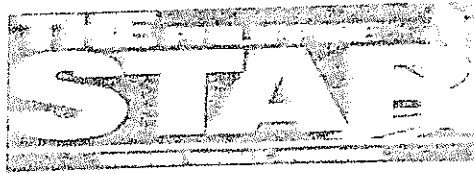
Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander of the 27th Infantry Battalion thanked residents in Barangay Kablacan for helping locate the hideout of the rebels.

President Duterte cited extortion activities of NPA rebels in scrapping peace talks with the communists.

– John Unson

05

August 2017



Page: 1

Gov't seeks arrest of 21 NDF peace consultants

By **EDU PUNAY**

The government yesterday formally filed in various courts petitions to have leaders and members of the communist National Democratic Front (NDF) re-arrested and jailed following President Duterte's decision to cancel the peace talks.

Solicitor General Jose Calida filed before different regional trial courts (RTCs) a manifestation seeking the issuance of recommitment orders against 21 NDF members

who were allowed to post bail last year to participate in the peace talks in Norway.

"Due to the eventual termination of the peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway and the cancellation of the backchannel talks in

the Netherlands, the NDF consultants who were granted conditional release should be recommitted and their respective bonds should likewise be cancelled," Calida explained yesterday.

The solicitor general argued that President Duterte's declaration of the NDF and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) as "enemy of the State signified that any peace negotiations with them have been rendered inutile

and therefore must officially end."

Calida explained that when the Supreme Court (SC) granted bail to them in its resolution in August last year, which was adopted by the RTCs, the SC had set specific conditions.

"One of the conditions is that once their participation ceases or the peace negotiations are terminated, their respective bonds shall be deemed automatically can-

celed," he stressed.

It was the Office of the Solicitor General that sought temporary liberty for the 21 NDF consultants, including Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, last year for their participation in the peace process between the communist rebels and the government.

Apart from the Tiamzon couple, covered by the immigration lookout bulletin order (LBO) are Tirso Alcantara, Ma. Concepcion Bocala, Pedro Codaste, Renante Gamara, Alan Jazmines, Ernesto Lorenzo, Ma. Loida Magpa-

toc, Alfredo Mapano, Ruben Saluta, Adelberto Silva, Ariel Arbitrario, Renato Baleros Sr., Kennedy Bangibang, Jaime Soledad, Rafael Baylosis, Alex Birondo, Winona Birondo and Porferio Tuna.

Last February, the Department of Justice issued the LBO against the other NDF leaders.

The government called off the peace talks after recent attacks by the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army, on government troops.

It has also cancelled back-channel talks set later this

month in Europe following the attack of suspected NPA rebels in North Cotabato last Wednesday that wounded five members of the Presidential Security Group.

Last May, President Duterte suspended formal peace talks after both sides failed to resolve a dispute over the CPP's order for the NPA to step up attacks against the government.

Calida explained earlier that the communist leaders could not invoke the 1995 Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee (JASIG) in

invoking their right to remain outside of detention as it provided for their immunity from arrest.

"SC decisions form part of the law of the land. Hence, the resolution dated Aug. 2, 2016 supersedes the defunct 1995 JASIG agreement between the parties, which has become moot and academic," he explained.

Meanwhile, the CPP tagged President Duterte as a lackey of the US yesterday for denouncing North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. – With Artemio Dumlao

05 August 2017



Page: A2

Gov't wants Reds rearrested

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

The government on Friday asked several courts to order the rearrest of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultants who were previously freed to take part in the failed peace negotiations with the Duterte administration.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said lawyers from the Office of

the Solicitor General filed the petitions weeks after President Duterte declared that forging a peace deal with the communist rebels was no longer viable.

21 consultants

Calida said 21 peace consultants to the NDFP, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, who were detained for different criminal charges were temporarily released from detention to partic-

ipate in peace talks with the government in Oslo, Norway.

"Due to the eventual termination of the peace negotiations ... and the cancellation of the back-channel talks in the Netherlands, the NDFP consultants who were granted conditional release should be recommitted and their respective bonds should likewise be canceled," Calida said in a statement.

He argued that the order of

the Supreme Court regarding the release of NDFP peace consultants Randall Echanis and Vicente Ladlad was only conditional.

"One of the conditions provide that once the peace negotiations are terminated, their bonds are deemed automatically canceled," he said, adding: "Since all judicial decisions form part of the law of the land, the courts can now issue recommitment orders as these NDFP

consultants are similarly situated to Echanis and Ladlad."

Immigration watch

Earlier, the Department of Justice ordered an immigration watch against the NDFP consultants after the termination of the safe-conduct granted to them for the peace negotiations.

Among them were Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, Tirso Lagoras Alcantara, Maria Concepcion Araneta Bocaia, Pedro

Heyrona Codaste, Renante Macatangay Gamara, Alan Valera Jazmines, Ernesto Epino Lorenzo, Maria Loida Tuzon Magpatoc, Alfredo Amparo Mapano, Ruben Abenir Saluta and Adelberto Albayulde Silva.

Also also ordered watched were Ariel Mancao Arbitrario, Renato Maranga Baleros Sr., Kennedy Lao-ing Bangibang, Rafael Baylosis, Alex and Winona Birondo and Porferio Dianco Tuna. INQ

05

August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A2

SolGen asks courts to re-arrest NDF men

THE government's top lawyer has asked the courts to cancel the provisional liberty granted to the National Democratic Front's consultants who were involved in the peace process, and order their recommitment to jail.

"Due to the eventual termination of the peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway and the cancellation of the backchannel talks in the Netherlands, the NDF consultants who were granted

conditional release should be recommitted and their respective bonds should likewise be cancelled," said Solicitor General Jose Calida.

"The Supreme Court, in several

Resolutions, laid down the conditions for the provisional liberty of NDF personalities Satur Ocampo, Randall Echanis and Vicente Ladlad. One of the conditions provide that once the peace negotiations are terminated, their bonds are deemed automatically cancelled," Calida said.

"Since all judicial decisions form part of the law of the land, the courts can now issue recommitment orders as these NDF consultants are similarly situated to Echanis and Ladlad," he added.

According to Calida, President Duterte's declaration that the CPP/NPA/NDF is an enemy of the State signifies that any peace negotiations with them have been rendered inutile and therefore must officially end.

Twenty-one NDF personalities, accused of various criminal cases pending before different trial courts in the country, were granted conditional release by the trial courts to enable them to participate in the peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway.

05 August 2017



Page: A2

Arrest NDF consultants, SolGen asks trial courts

By Rey E. Requejo

THE government has asked various courts to cancel the bail bonds and instead order the arrest of consultants of the National Democratic Front facing criminal cases following the termination of the backchannel talks with communist insurgents.

Solicitor General Jose Calida on Friday revealed that they asked several courts to order the arrest of NDF consultants who were conditionally released to allow them to join in peace talks between the government and the NDF.

Calida said that the conditional release granted them by the courts was for the sole purpose of the peace negotiations, including backchannel talks that the Duterte administration had canceled after the New People's Army attacked government troops in several provinces.

The chief state lawyer cited the Supreme Court resolution dated Aug. 2, 2016, which allowed the provisional liberty of NDF personalities Satur Ocampo, Randall Echanis and Vicente Ladlad.

“One of the conditions provide that once the peace negotiations are terminated, their bonds are deemed automatically canceled,” Calida said.

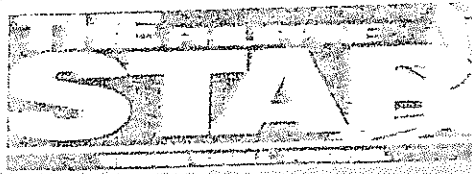
“Since all judicial decisions form part of the law of the land, the courts can now issue recommitment orders as these NDF consultants are similarly situated to Echanis and Ladlad,” he said.

Calida said President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration that the CPP-NPA rebels are enemies of the state “signifies that any peace negotiations with them... must officially end.”

Twenty-one NDFP consultants, accused of various criminal cases pending before different trial courts in the country, were granted conditional release by the trial courts to enable them to participate in the peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway.

Records showed that among the NDF consultants who have been released on bail were CP New People's Army leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, who are both facing multiple murder and kidnapping charges before the Manila and Quezon City regional trial courts.

05
August 2017



Page: 10

Duterte visits Marawi anew

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte yesterday visited Marawi City anew to boost the morale of hundreds of soldiers assigned in the area, more than two months since the siege by the Islamic State-linked Maute militant group started.

Duterte, who first went to the city on July 21, visited sol-

diers at Camp Ranaw as the death toll in the siege rose to over 700.

The President's visit to Marawi was again unannounced for security reasons. Details of his trip to Marawi were reportedly compartmentalized so that no one would know where he would be.

He left Davao early yesterday afternoon and proceeded

to Cagayan de Oro City where he took the presidential helicopter to Marawi.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Presidential Military Adviser retired general Arthur Tabaquero were among those who accompanied him.

Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong"

Go also joined the group in meeting the troops.

Duterte left Marawi after a 45-minute visit to the camp, during which he posed for selfies with the troops.

He arrived here Thursday night to attend the reunion of his Ateneo de Davao University High School 1961 at a Chinese restaurant in Barangay Lanang. – With John Unson



President Duterte is surrounded by soldiers taking selfies during his visit to a military camp in Marawi City yesterday. Story on Page 10.

QT August 2017

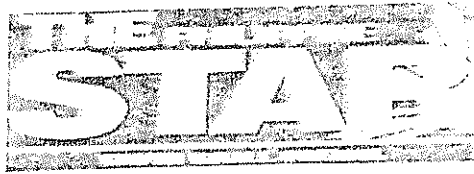
The Manila Times

Page: 12



BACK IN MARAWI President Rodrigo Duterte is surrounded by government troops in Marawi on Friday, on his second visit to the war-torn city. Duterte visited the Joint Special Operation Task Force Trident in Camp Kilala, where he reiterated his pledge to put up a P50-billion trust fund for soldiers. Duterte also lashed out at his predecessor, Benigno Aquino 3rd, for claiming nothing happened in the ongoing drug war, pointing out that it had claimed the lives of uniformed men. MALACANANG PHOTO

05 August 2017



Page: 10

FA-50 jets back in harness in Marawi

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The Philippine Air Force's FA-50 fighter jets, which had been grounded following a "friendly fire" incident that killed two soldiers on the ground in Marawi, are now back in action conducting new air strikes against members of the Maute terror group in the war-torn city.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the planes are back in harness again by the military.

Last month, the military stopped FA-50 flights after two soldiers were killed in an air strike accident that also wounded some government troops.

As part of standard operating procedure, the fighter jets were grounded to give way to the investigation to determine the cause of the friendly fire incident.

"Based on initial investigation, no fault was found on the part of the aircraft and pilots," Arevalo said.

He noted that there would be adjustments in some of the techniques, tactics and procedures concerning air strikes to prevent similar accidents.

Arevalo, however, stressed that he cannot reveal what changes or adjustments will be made but gave assurance that the FA-50s are safe.

"It's high time for us to put to use once more this FA-50 after having gone through the initial investigation and, like what we said before there was no defect in the plane or pilots," he said.

Meanwhile, a member of the Anakpawis party-list group was among the persons who were caught manufacturing improvised explosives device (IEDs), believed to be part of the plan to further sow violence in Marawi City and nearby areas.

Speaking at the regular Mindanao Hour, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said a large cache of explosives was seized from two suspected rebels in Bukidnon.

Padilla said one of the two individuals caught in Bukidnon "bore a party-list ID from - if I'm not mistaken - Anakpawis."

He said the NPA is out to conduct more offensive operations against government forces and disrupt the peace and order situation in Mindanao as a result of President Duterte's decision to abandon peace talks with the Reds.

The AFP is conducting a through investigation on the background of the two arrested rebels - who are brothers - before they will forward a report to the House of Representatives for necessary action from Congress.

- With Christina Mendez

05 August 2017



Page: A2

CLASHES NOW LIMITED TO 1-SQ-KM AREA

REBUILDING MARAWI: FIRST 1K SHELTERS TO START RISING IN SEPTEMBER

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

The government will start building next month the first batch of temporary shelters for displaced residents of war-torn Marawi City, the interagency Task Force Bangon Marawi said on Friday.

"The construction of the initial 1,100 temporary shelter units shall begin by the first

week of September," task force spokesperson Kristoffer Purisima said in a media briefing.

The shelters will be built on an 11-hectare private property in Barangay Sagunsungan that was lent to the government for the housing of residents displaced by the fighting.

"The provincial government of Lanao del Sur has expressed strong support [for] the development of temporary shelters

for the affected communities," Purisima said.

The design for the homes was chosen by barangay leaders but will have to be approved by the National Housing Authority (NHA), Purisima said.

"In choosing the design, they cited the need for privacy, cultural and religious sensitivity and a place they could consider their home," he said.

The homes will be built af-

ter the NHA approves the steel wall sandwich panel designs, he said.

Once completed, displaced residents can avail themselves of the shelters after securing clearances from the military and local officials who have been asked to help identify and classify beneficiaries.

Aside from shelters, Purisima said component infrastructure, such as markets and

schools, would also be built near the temporary shelters.

Purisima said livelihood starter kits have also been distributed, containing materials that could be used for businesses, like clothing production and food processing.

According to him, the affected families have already received P290 million worth of assistance from the government.

The fighting between gov-

ernment forces and jihadis in Marawi has been reduced to an area less than 1 square kilometer, but there are still security concerns.

"So as we go through the military operations, it is becoming a very close fight and the complexities on the ground are really becoming much more challenging," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, military spokesperson. INQ

Q+

August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Rebuilding, rehab for Marawi begin

The government is scheduled to start building an initial 1,100 temporary houses for displaced families in conflict-torn Marawi next month.

Task Force Bangon Marawi spokesman Kristoffer Purisima said the government would ensure the transitional shelters, which would be built on the 11-hectare area in Barangay Sagonsongan,

Marawi, would have basic necessities such as electricity and water utilities and livelihood opportunities.

"The construction of the initial 1,100 temporary shelter units shall begin by the first week of September," Purisima, Assistant Secretary of the Office Civil Defense, said during the "Mindanao Hour" briefing at a hotel in Pasay City. ▶6

"The provincial government of Lanao del Sur has expressed strong support on the development of temporary shelters for the affected communities," he added.

Purisima said model transitional shelters are currently being built on the area while power lines are installed and road networks are being built.

The construction of vital component infrastructure such as markets and schools has also been scheduled.

"The Department of Education is gearing up with the establishment of the temporary learning spaces adjacent to these temporary shelters," he said.

He said a group of barangay officials from affected areas has chosen the design of a single-detached tran-

sitional shelter with individual toilets. "In choosing the design, they cited the need for privacy, cultural and religious sensitivity and a place to stay which they could consider as their home," he said.

Once the design is approved by the National Housing Authority, Purisima said temporary shelters shall be developed using the "steel wall sandwich panel technology."

He said the Marawi local government unit will lead a technical working group to identify the families who will avail themselves of the temporary houses, permanent shelters and those who will return to their homes once the military clearance has been secured. (Genalyn D. Kabling)

02 August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Duterte, Misuari to fight terror, drugs

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chairman Nur Misuari have forged an alliance to step up the government's fight against illegal drugs, criminality and terrorism in Mindanao.

The commitment was made during Duterte's meeting with Misuari in Malacañang on Thursday.

"[In the] latest in a series of meetings with the MNLF leader, the President continues to forge a strong alliance with Chairman Misuari for their cooperation in the administration's war against illegal drugs, criminality and terrorism in Mindanao," the Presidential Communications Operations Office said.

Political analyst Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, said the government's newly forged alliance with the MNLF displays growing cooperation with Moro rebel groups, including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which had broken away from the MNLF.

►FightA2

"This is a positive view of MNLF influence in the Muslim areas and an affirmation of the peace agreement," Casiple told *The Manila Times*.

The President has transmitted to Congress the new draft of the Bangsamoro Basic Law, a legal framework for the establishment of a Bangsamoro region under a 2014 peace agreement with the MILF.

It widens the scope and powers of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that came out of a 1996 final peace deal with the MNLF during the Ramos administration.

Duterte was able to bring the MILF and MNLF together in the transition to the Bangsamoro region, which the latter previously rejected. The MNLF had claimed it was shut out of consultations for the planned Bangsamoro region in the previous Aquino administration.

Offer accepted, then rejected

The meeting came as government forces continue to battle the Islamic State-linked Maute terrorists who attacked Marawi City on May 23. The attacks in the city prompted Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao.

Duterte earlier said he had accepted the offer of Misuari for 2,000 of his men to join the fight against the Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

But he later said it would not be good to pit Moros against fellow Moros.

"Nur and I talked once... He offered to send 2,000 of his men. I said 'Wait, not now. Not now, Nur,'" Duterte earlier said. "It's not good to be fighting if they do not

realize what it's all about. A Moro against the Moro. Let us make them understand first what this is all about."

During the "Mindanao Hour" news briefing at Conrad Hotel in Pasay City on Friday, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra said casualties in the battle between the government forces and Islamist gunmen stood at 686, as of August 3. These included 522 terrorists, 119 government troops, and 45 civilians.

Government security forces have rescued 1,724 civilians, cleared 13 buildings, and recovered 600 firearms.

Marawi troops in 'high spirits'

In the same news conference, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Res-

tituto Padilla Jr. admitted that fighting the Maute terrorists had become more challenging.

"As we go through the military operations, it becomes a very close fight and the complexities on the ground are really becoming much more challenging," Padilla told reporters.

He said government forces continued to beef up operations against Maute group in two villages of Marawi City, which remained "problematic" areas.

"Our troops are in high spirits following [the President's visit on July 20] and are all raring to execute the succeeding operations on the ground to complete the liberation of Marawi," Padilla said.

"We have not set any deadline. We're giving the troops and the ground commanders all the leeway to execute their plans," he added.



HONORED GUEST President Rodrigo Duterte embraces Moro National Liberation Front founder Nur Misuari in Malacañang on Thursday. MALACANANG PHOTO

05 August 2017



Page: A1

House sponsor needed to push draft Moro law

THE draft Bangsamoro Basic Law crafted by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front-led Bangsamoro Transition Commission, which is pending in Congress, is in need of a sponsor to push for its enactment, Malacañang said Friday.

The Palace made the statement even as Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari reiterated his commitment to further participate in the peace process.

“The draft bill has been submitted to Congress [but it needs] congressional sponsorship,” Senior Deputy Executive Secretary

Menardo Guevarra told reporters in a chance interview.

Misuari, who met with Duterte Thursday night, “reiterated the commitment of the MNLF to participate in very peaceful means in the determination of the Bangsamoro,” Guevarra said.

Misuari likewise vowed to “cooperate with the administration’s campaign against illegal drugs, criminality and terrorism in Mindanao,” the Palace said in a statement.

While the MILF-led BTC had

submitted its version of the bill in July, Misuari’s MNLF has yet to prepare its draft and submit it to Duterte.

Duterte had earlier vowed to support the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law as long as it remained faithful to the Constitution.

The submission of the new BBL to President Rodrigo Duterte will be the end of the MILF’s active role in its formulation of the new bill, as all stakeholders would have to wait for the discussions in Congress, which the MILF expects to be finished around the first quarter of 2018. **John Paolo Bencito**

Next page



FRIENDSHIP FISTS. President Rodrigo Duterte does his signature pose during a photo opportunity with Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari on the sidelines of their meeting in Malacañang on Thursday—a similar pose handed out by the Presidential Photo Office every time the two meet. Malacañang Photo

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

05 August 2017



Page: 1

MNLF to help gov't fight drugs, terrorism

By GENALYN D. KABILING

President Duterte has obtained the support of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chair Nur Misuari in the government's battle against illegal drugs, criminality, and terrorism in Mindanao.

Misuari also pledged to peacefully participate in efforts to bring lasting peace in conflict-torn Mindanao during a closed-door meeting with the President in Malacañang last Thursday.

"The latest in a series of meetings with the MNLF leader, the President continues to forge a strong al-

liance with Chairman Misuari for their cooperation in the administration's war against illegal drugs, criminality and terrorism in Mindanao," a statement from the Presidential Communications Operations Office read.

The meeting between Duterte and Misuari came amid government efforts to crush a rebellion by Islamic State-linked militants in Marawi City. Martial law is in place in Mindanao until the end of the year to completely quell the threat of rebellion.

A short video of the President's meeting with Misuari, his wife Tarhata, son Abdulkarim, and other MNLF officials was released by Malacañang on Friday. Duterte was seen embracing Misuari like a brother at the start of the meeting.

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra later disclosed that the President's meeting with Misuari also tackled the Mindanao peace process.

"He reiterated his commitment, the commitment of the MNLF to participate in very peaceful means with the process of self-determination of the Bangsamoro," Guevarra said in a media interview in Pasay City.

Misuari's commitment came following the President's endorsement of the passage of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law to Congress. Duterte earlier said he would certify as urgent the BBL bill, saying he would not object to provisions consistent with the Constitution.

The draft BBL, prepared by the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, was submitted to the President last month. Copies of the draft bill were later forwarded to the Senate and House leaders.

"The matter pending is finding the congressional sponsorship for the draft bill. That's a draft bill prepared by the BTC," Guevarra said.

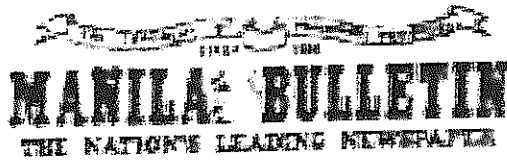
The last meeting of Duterte and Misuari was in March 27 at the presidential guest house in Davao City. The Palace said the meeting was "warm, cordial and positive" as the President and Misuari reaffirmed their resolve in securing just and lasting peace and development for Mindanao.

Misuari emerged from three years of hiding when he met with the President in Malacañang in November 2016 and promised to support the peace and development initiatives of Duterte in the troubled south.

The court earlier suspended an arrest warrant against Misuari in connection with the deadly Zamboanga siege in 2013.

05

August 2017



Page: 1

US will rein in China in SEA, says new PH envoy to Washington

By BLOOMBERG

President Duterte sees the United States (US) military as essential to reining in China in Southeast Asia (SEA), according to his new Ambassador to Washington, DC, Jose Manuel Romualdez, who will take up his

▶3

post before President Donald Trump's visit to Manila in November.

The ambassador said the Philippines will object to further Chinese efforts to strengthen its position in the South China Sea. China opposes any role for the US in resolving territorial disputes in the waters among the six claimants.

"The role they play is just to make sure that China just doesn't do what they want to do," Romualdez said Thursday in Manila, referring to the US military. "If China continues with its path of building and building, President Duterte will not agree to that."

The comments reflect a shift in rhetoric since Duterte famously announced on a trip to Beijing last year that he wanted to "cut the cord" with Washington. Over the past two months, the US has provided vital assistance to Philippine forces battling Islamic State-linked militants in Marawi City in Mindanao, including two brand-new single-engine Cessna 208B surveillance planes.

Duterte's foreign policy positions are still evolving from the US-centric stance of his predecessors, Romualdez said. The Philippine President is scheduled to meet with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson who is visiting Manila this weekend to attend a regional meeting of top diplomats, he said.

Alliance 'strong'

"Our military of course, is very much tied to the US, so that alliance remains strong and good," Romualdez said. The US has remained the Philippines' strongest partner in fighting terrorism, he added.

Since taking office last year, Duterte has advocated closer ties with China as part of a more independent foreign policy for the Philippines. He has ignored an international court ruling dashing China's regional

maritime claims in a case brought by his predecessor. He has been able to secure \$24 billion in loan and investment pledges from Beijing.

The Philippines' policy of being a "friend to all and enemy to none" allowed

it to benefit from all alliances, Romualdez said, adding that his country is only pursuing what is in its best interests.

"The main thing that we need to do is to make sure that our relationship with them is on an even keel,"

Romualdez said. "By that I mean that our relationship doesn't go too far away from where we are today or too far away to the other side."

Romualdez said he wants to engage US lawmakers in order to clarify

Duterte's bloody war on drugs, and invite American investors to participate in the Philippines' \$170-billion infrastructure program. His appointment is still awaiting confirmation by the Philippine Congress.

25 August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: AK

CPP splinter group denies terrorist plot

A SPLINTER group of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Friday issued a statement denying allegations of the National Capital Region (NCR) police directorate that they are preparing to conduct terrorist operations in the metro.

Luis Carlos of the Revolutionary People's Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade

(RPA-ABB) National Military Secretariat said, "We categorically deny the latest statement made of NCRPO Director Oscar Albayalde, alleging that RPA-ABB members were recruited by Muslim extremists and converted into Islam, and are poised to conduct terrorist operations in NCR. The RPA-ABB remains to be a revolutionary army

dedicated to defending the interests and rights of the working class and the masses, and will never resort to extremist terrorism as the latest NCRPO intelligence report suggests."

The statement added, "The RPA-ABB denounces, in the highest possible terms, the proliferation of extremist terrorism, whose main

purpose is to sow fear and terror in the hearts and minds of the masses. We call the attention of the NCRPO to refrain from issuing baseless and malicious statements against the revolutionary army. We also renew our commitment to serve the people, and shall continue to be bulwark of justice against oppression and exploitation of any form."

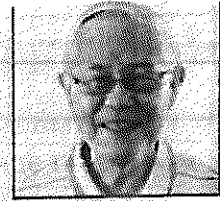
05 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

Team effort for the ATR



By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO

THE relatively small band of senior officers and middle-level officers of the Army had to work as one closely-knit team. They realized that the task was huge, the challenge enormous, and the difficulties seemingly insurmountable. Everything was not easy: Going the PGS way represented no joy ride; they had to do a lot of convincing. Reports Ruel Rombaoa: "Marketing the ATR was not easy. The Army Transformation Roadmap Technical Working Group (ATR TWG) members had to take turns visiting subordinate units to facilitate countless advocacy and capacity-building activities. Along the way, we encountered a lot of "change monsters" in all shapes and sizes. While some of them never got the hang of the ATR, a good number eventually converted and became its biggest fans and champions. Six years down the road, the usual question that used to be asked, 'WHY do we have to pursue ATR' has been replaced by a more positive and hopeful question, 'HOW can we sustain the ATR.' 'ATR-speak' became the new normal in the Philippine Army."

All that effort in getting the PGS in place in the Army demanded a lot of juggling and personal sacrifices. Above all, it asked for a change in mind-set. Ruel makes this personal account of what he had to go through: "Back at OG7, I had to juggle office and TWG work, which eventually turned out beneficial to me and the office. I had the opportunity to not only get further immersed in the dynamics of the change paradigms and frameworks, but at the end of the

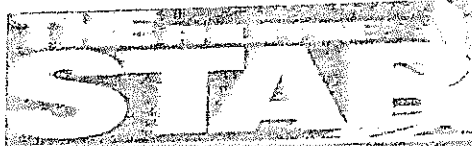
day, also meaningfully contribute to, and make a difference in, civil military operations (CMO) and Army decision-making. In keeping with OG7's new value chain, I had the operations branch dissolved and shifted its function to CMO integration and performance evaluation. At the strategic level, I concentrated on the ATR Stakeholder Engagement Program (ATRSEP) which, by the last quarter of 2011, became the first ATR Strategic Initiative ever to have a complete project management plan, work breakdown structure and budget formally approved by the Commanding General." All the above must have been personally draining, but Ruel has been one of several similarly committed Army officers who saw in the PGS as the most hopeful and effective tool for the transformation of the Army they had committed their life and their work to.

With all that team effort and joint commitment, success was bound to come. It did not take long, as Ruel testifies: "By the end of 2012, we were already reporting to the Army leadership gains from one full year of implementing our governance roadmap and scorecard. By 2013, one of our major projects, the CMO Management Information System, became operational. What started out as a personal advocacy to make the lives of tactical officers easier became a proposition to completely scrap the traditional way of submitting printed accomplishment reports periodically, in favor of a web-based data gathering tool. Today, this has drastically changed the way CMO planners collate, share, and use data, and improved planning and decision-making through-put times."

Ruel continues: "By the first semester of 2014, our office was also able to generate the Army's baseline net trust rating, net satisfaction rating and nation-building contribution index under the ATRSEP. Along with the improvement in overall operational readiness and empowerment of non-commissioned officers (NCOs) through the personal governance scorecard, the increase in net trust and net satisfaction ratings became one of the Army's breakthrough goals (BTGs) for the Islands of Good Governance (IGG) Initiative 2015." Indeed, the dramatic rise in the net trust rating of the Philippine Army, as reported by an independent survey organization, came as a most pleasant surprise to those who were initially not aware of the ATR; but those deeply involved in the ATR process saw it coming, and they are justifiably proud of this particular achievement from the Army's pursuit of its ATR.

Ruel concludes his personal narrative: "By the 4th quarter of 2016, OG7, PA achieved Proficiency Status in the Army Governance Pathway (AGP). A year earlier, in 2015, the Army as a whole earned 'Institutionalized Status' in the PGS Pathway and received the Gold Governance Trailblazer Seal. And in late 2015, the Philippine Army received the "Island of Good Governance" seal during the APEC Summit week in Manila. This is a classic example of how a small, dedicated team, with enough heart and mind, can transition from mere strategy formulation to strategy execution and help the Army achieve breakthrough results, which have proven to be genuine game-changers for the PA."

05 August 2017



Page: 8

FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

Chavismo

Let the misfortunes of Venezuela educate us about the follies of leftist populism.

Only a few years ago, with its oil deposits, Venezuela was the wealthiest country in all of Latin America. Today, after the ravages of Hugo Chavez and his clone Nicolas Maduro, the country is the continent's poorest. Worse, the country had become the newest dictatorship in the western hemisphere. It is spurned by its neighbors and faces economic sanctions after last Sunday's fake vote enabling Maduro to rewrite the constitution.



In all of Venezuela, a leftist government is fighting it own people in the streets. Its economy has the highest inflation in the world, outpacing even that of Zimbabwe, a country ruled by a leftist tyrant. Malnutrition is a plague haunting young Venezuelans. Supermarket shelves are empty. Everyone outside the ruling clique of leftist demagogues have gone hungry.

Yet Maduro's Chavismo regime is clinging to power by undermining democracy. He has called for an assembly to rewrite the Constitution and bypass the opposition-controlled legislature. This week, two leading opposition figures were dragged from their homes in the depth of night and have disappeared. A regime of economic failure is quickly becoming a reign of terror.

When the going was good, Hugo Chavez provided subsidies for everything: housing, education, transport and health care. He embraced Fidel Castro's Cuban model - itself a failing enterprise that is at least half a century behind the rest of the world.

With oil revenues declining, Venezuela has become bankrupt. It is the Latin American version of once-socialist Greece - only worse. The economy decays even further each passing day.

Hugo Chavez called his program "socialism." In fact it was nothing more than populism defying all economic sense. He basically bought the support of the poor with unsustainable policies. Now the poor are even poorer.

Chavismo is basically what the CPP-NPA wants to enforce on us in a package they call "social and economic reforms." It is a program that defies all the laws of economic gravity.

Today, Maduro can hold on to power by waging a war against his own people. Venezuela has become a desolate country of disillusioned people. The ideological carnival of bread and circuses Chavismo foisted on his people has been unmasked.

The problem now is how to repair a Venezuela ruined by populism.

AS August 2017

Manila Standard



HAIL TO THE CHAIR
VICTOR AVECILLA

Peace talks with Reds are useless

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte did right when he decided against conducting any further peace talks with the communist New People's Army.

About a month ago, President Duterte had had enough of the underhanded communist attacks on troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and decided to continue the armed fight against the Reds. When the communists started feeling the onslaught of the AFP offensive, they sought a resumption of peace talks with the government. Banners and placards in pocket rallies organized by left-leaning groups in Metropolitan Manila demanded—"resume peace talks!"

When President Duterte reopened the possibility of resuming peace talks, the NPA retorted with new attacks against government soldiers. As a result, the President cancelled further negotiations with the Reds, and denounced the NPA and its leader, Jose Ma. Sison, in his recent State of the Nation Address.

The President's speech said it all. Communism in the Philippines has a failed leadership because its leader is very ill in his comfortable sanctuary in Utrecht in the Netherlands, and he survives only because of the free medical attention he gets there, courtesy of the Dutch taxpayers.

Truth to tell, pursuing any negotiations with the NPA is useless. History itself confirms this.

In 1986, right after then President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino seized power, Aquino ordered the release of Sison, who was detained back then in a military stockade during the remaining decade of the administration of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos. After that, Aquino directed a veteran Palawan politician, Ramon Mitra Jr., to spearhead peace talks with the NPA.

From what Aquino's publicists disseminated through television several weeks later, the NPA leadership agreed to talk peace with government representatives. A television news clip even showed Mitra and communist representative

Turn to A5

Satur Ocampo embracing each other in ceremonies at the Club Filipino. That was, however, all there was to it—an agreement to negotiate peace under terms to be decided upon later on.

Nothing truly fruitful happened after that. Eventually, Sison fled to Utrecht and launched his communist revolution in the Philippines from the luxurious comfort and safety of exile in the Netherlands.

With its leadership enjoying a luxurious exile abroad, and with communism fast losing adherents and supporters worldwide mainly because of the collapse of the unlamented Soviet Union and its satellites in eastern Europe in 1989, the NPA has been reduced to a countryside bandit organization that survives only from the so-called revolutionary taxes its armed thugs collect by force and intimidation in NPA strongholds. In essence, the NPA is no different from the kidnap-for-ransom Abu Sayyaf group.

Peace talks with communists, whether local or foreign, will get nowhere because of commu-

nism's Godless ideology, and its opportunistic nature.

Take a look at Russian history. Czar Nicholas II was hated by the Russian people for his weak and careless leadership. The communist Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin let the anti-communist White Russians do all the work in toppling the czar. When the czar was ousted, the communists undermined the White Russians' efforts to establish a democracy. After the communists seized power, they relegated the ailing Lenin to the wings, and installed a totalitarian government under the brutal dictator Joseph Stalin. When Stalin started butchering his own people just to remain in power, the Russian common folk realized that they were better off under the czar.

At the dawn of World War II in Europe, Stalin made a pact with Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. Together Stalin and Hitler divided Poland between themselves and triggered the war in Europe. In June 1941, Nazi Germany breached its alliance with the Soviet Union and invaded the latter. Stalin turned to the western allies for help, and joined the war against Nazi Germany.

As the tide of the war turned

against Nazi Germany, and when Soviet troops were just meters away from Poland, Stalin urged Polish resistance fighters to liberate their land from enemy troops. The Polish resistance did that, and succeeded. Days later, when Nazi soldiers returned and brutally regained the temporarily liberated territory, the same Soviet troops simply watched and waited for the Nazis to butcher the Poles, before entering the Poland to fight the Nazis.

After the war ended in 1945, Stalin installed communist governments in the eastern European countries his Red Army "liberated" from the Nazis. By agreement of the victors of war, Germany was divided into two — democratic West Germany, and communist East Germany. Although Berlin, the German capital, was located inside East Germany, it was divided into West Berlin, which belonged to West Germany, and East Berlin, which was part of East Germany.

Even after war's end, Stalin coveted West Berlin. In 1948, Soviet troops imposed a blockade around West Berlin and laid siege to the city in the hope of starving its people into submission to Soviet authority and slavery. Fortunately, the United

States and Great Britain resorted to the famous "Berlin Airlift," by which food supplies were sent by air to West Berlin, thus saving the city, its people, and its freedom.

Being a communist country, the Soviet Union had no tolerance for western-style democracy and freedom. Hungary and Poland provide examples.

In October 1956, the people of Hungary overthrew their communist government and replaced it with a democracy. At first, Moscow promised that Soviet troops stationed in Hungary will be pulled out. Instead of complying with that promise, Moscow launched a surprise attack on Hungary. Soon after Soviet tanks massacred the Hungarian freedom fighters, Moscow reinstated a communist government in the country.

After Poland experimented with "socialism with a human face" by restoring fundamental freedoms to its citizens in April 1968, the Soviet Union invaded Poland and reinstated its communist government by brutal force.

History teaches that a deal with communists is no deal at all. At best, it is pact with the devil's representatives on earth.

05 August 2017



Pahina. 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Nanawagan at nanghihikayat ang National Democratic Front of the Philippines sa mga pamilya ng mga 'Prisoners of war', mga peace advocate at church groups na umapela kay Pangulong Duterte na itigil ang operasyon ng militar. Nilinaw ng NDFP na ang ligtas na pagpapalaya sa mga POW ay possible lamang mangyari kung makikipagtulungan ang Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Tila nangangamba na ang NDFP sa patuloy na pagdami ng mga miyembro ng NPA na nagbababa ng armas at nagbabalik-loob sa pamahalaan.

Hindi natin masisi ang gobyerno sa patuloy na operasyon nito dahil na rin sa patuloy na pamiminsala at perwasyo ng NPA. Hindi na lingid sa ating kaalaman na ang CPP-NPA-NDFP ay pareparehong walang isang salita. Ang kanilang mga pahayag ay hindi mapagkakatiwalaan at alam yan ng mamamayan.

Dana Del Rosario
Camarnes Norte

ONLINE NEWS

05 AUGUST 2017

www.inquirer.net

AFP wants probe on suspected NPA rebel with Anakpawis ID

By: *Frances G. Mangosing*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is calling for an investigation on the alleged communist rebel arrested in Bukidnon for his suspected links with the Anakpawis partylist. This development came after Ruel Colot, a suspected member of the New People's Army (NPA), yielded an identification card of the Anakpawis partylist when arrested on Wednesday. "Ang nakakabahala po dun ay isa sa mga nahuli ay nagpapanggap na member ng partylist. Sana naman po yung partylist e sana naman ay tingnan ng mabuti yung kanilang mga kinukuha dahil iba po ang nagiging pakay at nagiging cover po yung pagiging member nila ng partylist na yun," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in a press briefing on Friday.

(What is truly bothering is that one of those arrested had been introducing himself as a partylist member. We are asking the partylist involved to police their ranks because it has become a cover in whatever activity they want to carry out)

Combined forces arrested two suspected members of the NPA in Bukidnon. Colot, one of the suspected rebels, was a member of Anakpawis partylist based on the identification card confiscated from him.

"This is something we should reach out to the partylist concerned to make sure they are not using (government) resources to fund the activities of the group," Padilla said.

He added that the AFP will provide the House Speaker pertinent information that may help into the investigation, as well as the check and balance of whether that partylist is indeed putting resources to these individuals.

"If indeed it is established, the subject of investigation now... then dun po papasok ang kailangang hakbang na gagawin ng political side ng ating gobyerno (the political side of the government will take it from there)," he said. ***Frances G. Mangosing / JPV***

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

Calida seeks courts on arrest of NDF leaders

Solicitor General Jose G. Calida on Friday said they already filed before the different courts a Manifestation for the Issuance of Recommitment Orders for the National Democratic Front (NDF) consultants who were granted bail to participate in peace talks with the government.

"Due to the eventual termination of the peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway and the cancellation of the backchannel talks in the Netherlands, the NDF Consultants who were granted conditional release should be recommitted and their respective bonds should likewise be cancelled," Calida said in a statement.

"The Supreme Court, in several Resolutions, laid down the conditions for the provisional liberty of NDF personalities Satur Ocampo, Randall Echanis and Vicente Ladlad. One of the conditions provide that once the peace negotiations are terminated, their bonds are deemed automatically cancelled," Calida added.

He noted that since all judicial decisions form part of the law of the land, the courts can now issue recommitment orders as these NDF consultants are similarly situated to Echanis and Ladlad.

According to Calida, President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration that the CPP/NPA/NDF is an enemy of the State signifies that any peace negotiations with them have been rendered inutile and therefore must officially end.

Twenty-one NDF personalities, accused of various criminal cases pending before different trial courts in the country, were granted conditional release by the trial courts to enable them to participate in the peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway.

The Solicitor General reminded President Rodrigo Duterte has already declared communist rebels enemies of the State.

As such, Calida said this signifies that any peace negotiations with the communist insurgents have been rendered inutile and therefore must officially end.

Last July 19, a militiaman was killed while five members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) were injured when about a hundred members of the New Peoples Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), attacked them in Barangay Katipunan, Arakan, North Cotabato.

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

Earlier, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II supported Calida seeking the courts to cancel the bail bonds of the leaders and members of communist group NDF and recommit them to their detention facilities.

"I agree with the OSG. Their release was temporary and preconditioned on the peace talks. If the peace talks will no longer be pursued then they should go back to jail," Aguirre said.

Aguirre said the NDF leaders cannot invoke the 1995 Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee (JASIG), which provided for their immunity from arrest, because it was already superceded by the SC ruling in August last year granting their bail.

Aguirre said the DOJ will leave to the OSG the filing of necessary motion in regional trial courts handling the cases of the NDF leaders.

Apart from the Tiamzon couple, the other NDF leaders granted bail were Tirso Alcantara, Ma. Concepcion Bocala, Pedro Codaste, Renante Gamara, Alan Jazmines, Ernesto Lorenzo, Ma. Loida Magpatoc, Alfredo Mapano, Ruben Saluta, Adelberto Silva, Ariel Arbitrario, Renato Baleros Sr., Kennedy Bangibang, Jaime Soledad, Rafael Baylosis, Alex Birondo, Winona Birondo and Porferio Tuna.

The DOJ chief, however, assured that the conditional pardon granted by President Duterte on 10-convicted communist leaders and members would remain.

"That pardon cannot be recalled because of the cancellation of peace talks," he noted.

Aguirre explained that the pardon granted on NDF peace consultant Emitterio Antalan and nine other political prisoners -- Joel Ramada, Apolonio Barado, Jose Navarro, Generoso Rolid, Arnulfo Boates, Manolito Patricio, Barigueco Calara, Sonny Marbella and Ricardo Solangon -- was hinged on other conditions.

The pardon grant released by the Office of the President last July 7 came with conditions, including reporting to their chief parole and probation officer at least once a month, allowing visits from the Philippine National Police Provincial Director of their area of residence, and no change in their residence during the period of parole without obtaining consent from authorities.

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

33

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

Bidding for DND Hyperbaric Chamber Project now open

The Department of National Defense (DND) has formally opened the bidding for its Hyperbaric Chamber Project last Thursday.

This is in-line with President Rodrigo Duterte's order to procure the needed medical equipment for the AFP Medical Center within 60 days.

The latter is the facility where majority of the troops, wounded in the almost three months fighting in Marawi City, are being treated.

As of this posting, an estimated 900 soldiers were reported wounded in the ongoing efforts to contain the Maute Group terrorists.

Conflict with the lawless elements started when government troops tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS "emir" Isnilon Hapilon last May 23.

The Hyperbaric Chamber Acquisition Project is a priority of the national government, with the budget coming from the Office of the President, said DND spokesperson Arsenio Andolong.

He added the medical equipment will hasten the recovery of the sick or wounded military personnel.

"We hope to give our wounded soldier-heroes the best medical care by upgrading our military hospitals and facilities nationwide, beginning with the AFP Medical Center. Nais ng Pangulo na tiyakin ang kagalingan at kalusugan ng ating mga sundalo bilang pagkilala sa kanilang kagitingan at sakripisyo para sa bayan," Andolong stressed.

DND assistant secretary for financial management and bids and awards chair Josue Gaverza emphasized during the bid opening the need to expedite the procurement process.

"While the bids and awards committee will strictly adhere to Republic Act 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations in the spirit of transparency, accountability, and fairness, we are also duty bound to ensure expediency because this project will benefit not only the soldiers, but their families as well. We also have to abide by the President's directive to put more premium on quality rather than cost," he added.

Four proponents participated in the bid opening for the said acquisition project with an approved budget for contract of PHP94,250,000.

These are Medicare Supplies, MRL Cybertec Corporation, Deutsche Motorgerate, Inc., and a joint venture between Variance Trading Corporation and Cartal Enterprises.

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

After examination of the technical and financial proposals, MRL Cybertec Corporation and Deutsche Motorgerate, Inc., were declared ineligible to bid for the project for failure to meet the eligibility requirements.

Only MRL Cybertec Corporation signified no interest to file a motion for reconsideration. After the mandatory, non-discretionary pass-or-fail evaluation of all bidders, Medicare Supplies and the joint venture of Variance Trading Corporation and Cartal Enterprises were declared as having the lowest and second lowest calculated bids, respectively.

The Notice of Award will be given to the lowest calculated bidder if it passes the post-qualification process.

Members of the media and third party observers also attended the bid opening.

Aside from the Hyperbaric Chamber, the AFP Medical Center is also acquiring a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine and a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, and Extracorporeal Shockwave Lithotripsy (ESWL) Machine, all of which had been bid out.

The DND BAC expressed its appreciation and thanks to its proponents for the participation in the bidding of this project, and encouraged them, as well as other interested parties, to participate in future DND-AFP procurement projects.

www.rappler.com

PH Navy delivers fresh military hardware, relief goods for Marawi

Seven tons of relief goods, as well as additional military vehicles from the Philippine Marines, are delivered

By: Bobby Lagsa



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

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

MILITARY HARDWARE: Amphibious vehicles being unloaded from the BRP Davac del Sur on August 3. Photo by Bobby Lagsa/Rappler.

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines – The country's biggest navy ship, Boat of the Republic of the Philippines (BRP) Davac Del Sur, delivered military supplies and 7 tons of relief goods on Thursday, August 3, for Marawi City.

The BRP Davac del Sur docked at the Iligan City Port on Wednesday night, but the unloading of cargo began on Thursday, with fresh military supplies and hardware first.

Amphibious Assault Vehicles of the Philippine Marines were delivered to the main battle area of Marawi to help flush and clear the city of terrorists.

Commander Bonifacio Manzano, commanding officer of BRP Davac del Sur said the delivery today was their third supply since the Marawi crisis began.



RELIEF GOODS: A volunteer carries relief goods for a waiting vehicle inside the deck of the BRP Davac del Sur. Photo by Bobby Lagsa/Rappler.

The 7 tons of relief goods were for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Manzano said they brought relief goods from different government and non-government organizations. He added the relief goods came from Manila and different places from the National Capital Region.

Manzano also said that during an earlier delivery, they bought in heavy equipment meant for rehabilitation, such as bulldozers. They also transported the engineering brigades of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Richel Borres, Officer-in-Charge of Ranaw Disaster Response and Rehabilitation Assistance Center says they are grateful for the navy's help in transporting their relief goods.

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

36

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

Borres, along with other NGOs came to unload their relief goods from ERP Davao del Sur.

One of Borres' cargo is made up of boxes of mixed milk and cereal – healthy fare compared to the usual noodles and canned goods being distributed to the IDPs.

Borres said that one pack of their milk and cereal ready to cook meal can last for 3 days for a family of five.

Borres' group will distribute their food packs to the IDPs in Iligan city and in different towns in Lanao del Norte and Sur.

The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) also unloaded their relief goods. Those will be distributed to Region 10 and the Caraga region as there are also IDPs who fled there. – Rappler.com

www.bomboradyo.com

Negosyo sa Mindanao, apektado dahil sa serye ng NPA attacks – AFP

Posted By: Analy Soberano

Aminado ang pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na apektado ang negosyo sa ilang bahagi ng Mindanao kasunod ng mga pag-atake na inilulunsad ng New People's Army (NPA).

Ayon kay AFP Spokesperson B/Gen. Restituto Padilla, ang mga pag-atake ng NPA ay malaking banta sa mga business establishment na siyang biktima ng extortion activities ng rebeldeng grupo.

Sinabi ni Padilla na ito ang pinagtutuunan ng pansin ng militar upang matiyak na ligtas sa mga pag-atake ang mga sibilyan.

Dahil dito, ayon kay Padilla may go signal na mula kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na dagdagan ang personnel ng militar para tutukan ang problema sa rebeldeng NPA.

Sa ngayon naka-focus ang AFP sa Mindanao dahil sa umiiral na Martial Law at ang rebelyon sa siyudad ng Marawi.

Hindi naman sinabi ni Padilla ang bilang ng mga personnel na kanilang kakailanganin para tugunan ang isyu laban sa NPA.

Sa kabilang dako, ibinunyag ng AFP ang plano ng NPA na maglunsad ng pamomomba batay na rin sa mga narekober na mga pampasabog sa Bukidnon.

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

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

www.bomboradyo.com

Nagpanggap na NPA, huli sa entrapment ops; nangikil sa brgy. kagawad sa Isabela

Posted By: Bombo Radyo Cauayan

CAUAYAN CITY – Naaresto ang isang nagpanggap na miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa entrapment operation ng Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) at Echague Police Station.

Ang suspek ay si Ronald Francisco, 36-anyos, may asawa at residente Villa Victoria, Echague, Isabela.

Sa panayam ng *Bombo Radyo Cauayan* kay P/Chief Insp. Ruben Martinez, hepe ng Echague Police Station, sinabi niya na nahuli si Francisco matapos magsumbong sa kanilang himpilan ang biktimang si Barangay Kagawad Jun Flores, 39-anyos na negosyante at residente ng Pangal Sur, Echague, Isabela, kaugnay sa pangangikil ng suspek.

Ayon sa nasabing kagawad, siya ay nakatanggap ng mensahe mula kay Francisco at nagpapakilalang miyembro ng Reynaldo Pinion Command ng NPA.

Hinihingan umano siya ng P100,000 kapalit ng buhay ng kanyang pamilya subalit nakiusap siya na babaan sa P50,000 na sinang-ayunan naman ni Francisco.

Ayon pa kay C/Insp. Martinez, ginagamit ni Francisco ang isang grupo ng NPA na siya umanong nag-utos sa kanya upang gawin ang naturang trabaho.

Subalit kinumpirma ng militar na hindi kasapi ng Reynaldo Pinion Command si Francisco at ginagamit lamang ang grupo sa kanyang pangangikil.

Maliban sa P50,000 na marked money, nakuha rin sa pag-iingat ni Francisco ang isang xaliber 38 na baril na may limang bala at isang cellphone na ginagamit sa kanyang transaksyon.

Nasa kustodiya na ng pulisya si Francisco at isasailalim sa interogasyon para malaman kung sinu-sino ang mga kasama niya sa kanyang extortion activity.

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

38