

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



TEAM ARMY
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

01 December 2017

Friday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 1, 2017 | FRIDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

**NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
(As of 4:00 PM - November 30, 2017)**

SUNRISE 6:05 AM	SUNSET 6:25 PM
MOONRISE 3:29 PM	MOONSET 3:18 AM
FIRST QUARTER NOV 27 1:03 AM	FULL MOON DEC 3 11:47 PM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 1:24 PM 0.24 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 8:25 PM 0.87 Meter

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

	DEC 2	DEC 3	DEC 2	DEC 3	DEC 2	DEC 3		
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY	19 - 29 °C	19 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LADAG	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 23 °C	17 - 23 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

WEEKDAYS
6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM
WEEKENDS
6 AM

01 December 2017

PHILIPPINE ARMY
INQUIRER

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Duterte shoot-to-kill order illegal – Robredo

**By Vince F. Nonato,
Philip C. Tubeza
and Nikko Dizon**
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte's shoot-to-kill order, even if aimed at suspected armed rebels, is not in accordance with the Constitution, Vice President Leni Robredo said on Thursday.

"If we say we can kill just because we are accusing someone of a crime, what will happen to all of us, right?" Robredo said when asked by reporters in Caloocan City about Mr. Duterte's order.

The President on Wednesday said soldiers should shoot armed members of the New People's Army (NPA) right away and disregard human rights.

"Shoot them! They will kill you anyway. If there is an armed NPA there or terrorist holding any firearms, shoot ... I'll answer for you," he said in a speech at Sual town in Pangasinan province.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which has been waging a rebellion for nearly 50 years.

Mr. Duterte, a lawyer, said he would answer for the soldiers accused of human rights violations.

He also said he would take up the cudgels for soldiers and police officers if they killed someone mistaken for an NPA member.

Mistaken identity

The President noted that a "mistaken identity" was "an exempting circumstance."

His shoot-to-kill order came a day after government forces killed 15 suspected NPA members, including five women, in separate encounters in Nasugbu, Batangas. The fatalities were in a jeepney and a van.

Mr. Duterte terminated peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political arm of the CPP, last week through Proclamation No. 360. He cited the rebels' "insincerity" in the talks, saying that they continued to attack and kill soldiers and civilians.

A day after signing the proclamation, the President told soldiers to be prepared for "virulent confrontations" with the rebels.

Eroding rule of law

Robredo, who is also a lawyer, said the President's shoot-to-kill order did not seem to be stated in the Constitution and the laws.

"What our laws say is, if someone erred, there is a process to know if the charges are true and there are appropriate penal-



UNCONSTITUTIONAL Vice President Leni Robredo, who attended the commemoration rites at the Bonifacio Monument with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday, says President Duterte's order to shoot and kill armed rebels is not in accordance with the Constitution. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

ties for the charges," the Vice President told reporters in an interview, a transcript of which was e-mailed by her office.

She said the rule of law would be eroded if people were allowed to take the law into their own hands. "[T]hat would lead us to a lot of mess."

Robredo was attending the Bonifacio Day celebration in Caloocan City, where Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana represented the President who skipped the event to tend to the Mindanao conflict.

Malacañang defended the President's order for soldiers to shoot and kill armed members of the NPA.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said on Thursday

that communists who took up arms against the government were legitimate military targets since they were committing a crime.

Crime of rebellion

"The crime of rebellion is a crime of taking arms against the government," Roque told reporters. "When you are bearing arms against the government, you are engaged in crime."

A legal consultant to the NDFP said Mr. Duterte's shoot-to-kill order was a violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (Carhrihl), which was signed by both the government and the NDFP in 1998.

"There are rules of war aka international humanitarian law. One who is not in a position to fight or doing an overt hostile act should not be killed summarily," said lawyer Edre Olalia, an NDFP consultant.

Carhrihl is a 2-decade-old agreement between the Philippine government and the NDFP, signed in The Hague, that ensures that, despite the armed conflict, human rights are upheld by both sides and abuses would not go unpunished.

The military spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., assured the public that the Armed Forces of the Philippines would continue its "strict implementation" of its rules of engagement, pointing out that the communist rebels have committed more human rights violations.

Focused operations

Padilla said the military was implementing focused operations "against the NPAs and their economic sabotage activities."

CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison said human rights groups should investigate the gun battle in Batangas to determine if there was an actual fire-fight.

Also on Tuesday, two members of a human rights group were killed and another was wounded while on a fact-finding mission in Negros Oriental. (See story in *Regions*, Page A20.) INQ

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Rody to troops: Shoot armed NPA terrorists

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

After scuttling peace talks with the communists, President Duterte has ordered security forces to shoot armed rebels even as an executive order is being prepared to declare them as terrorists.

Duterte also ordered the military and police to re-arrest the top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) earlier released as consultants of the moribund peace talks.

"So if there is an armed NPA there or terrorist, if he's holding a firearm – shoot," Duterte said during a ceremony at the Sual wharf in Pangasinan on Wednesday.

Duterte said he is prepared to defend his men against allegations of human rights violations in killing NPA rebels.

"Do not answer that issue of human rights. You say, 'Go to Duterte. It is and was his order'," he said.

Duterte said his team is now preparing the executive order declaring the CPP-NPA and the National Democratic Front (NDF) as terrorists. He said the executive order will effectively treat the communist rebels as criminals.

"I am preparing now. They are preparing the executive order declaring them to be terrorists and they will be afforded the treatment of being criminals," Duterte said.

"There will be no filing of cases under public security like rebellion because rebellion is considered sometimes a noble undertaking, it's only because you want your country to do better," he added.

In the same speech, Duterte talked about his decision to cancel the peace talks with the communists.

"Because I think that they are not really serious... (they are) just biding their time, they do not have the second echelons to carry the fight and they just want to be comfortable," he said.

Duterte criticized the CPP-NPA over deadly attacks against soldiers and police in the countryside while the NDF is holding peace talks with the government.

Duterte had already shelved a round of negotiations in May and informal talks last July, citing treacherous attacks on security forces.

"I have given too much, too soon and I know that the military were complaining. But I said, 'You know my job is to seek peace with everybody, to attain peace for my country.' You have to understand that," Duterte narrated.

"There will be no talks with the NPAs now, and I told them, 'We have been fighting this war 50 years ago,' and they want another 50 years," he added.

"I said, I have pleaded even to go down on bended knees to ask everybody at the start of my presidency. We should talk peace not war... that is not my job as President to promote wars, it's not my job to encourage violence."

On his orders to re-arrest the freed NPA consultants, Duterte said there are "conditionalities," explaining that some rebel leaders cannot be arrested because of old age and humanitarian considerations.

"Also out of humane reasons. For one, those who were above 70 like me, I'm getting tired of going out to find them. Anyway, they cannot go far... they cannot climb those mountains there. You will find them in a hospital or in a room just resting their tired old bodies," he said.

While he has ordered an all-out war against the NPA, Duterte said he still hopes that the conflict will not get out hand.

"I do not want to start a real violent war. But if the NPAs, just like the terrorists would do it, then we will give them the favor," he said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte acted within legal bounds when he directed security forces to kill any armed NPA rebel.

Roque pointed out it is prohibited under the law to take up arms against the government.

"So naturally, when you are bearing arms against the government... you are supposed to implement the law and then again the President had the power to implement the law," he said.

Under international law on armed conflict, any armed rebel is a legitimate target.

Roque said Malacañang has not issued the executive order declaring the CPP-NPA-NDF as terrorists.

There is no timetable for the declaration, "but the President said he will do that," the spokesman said.

Still open

Chief government peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III said the President's plan to declare the CPP-NPA-NDF as terrorist groups would dash all hopes of getting the stalled peace negotiations back on track.

"That would end everything. That is because we cannot negotiate with terrorists," Bello said.

He said the door is still open despite Duterte's order to terminate the peace talks with the communists.

Rody From Page 6

"The negotiations are terminated right now on orders of the President, but he is open to resuming them once the environment for their resumption becomes conducive," Bello told reporters yesterday.

"That means no more ambush, like the one they conducted in Bukidnon in which civilians, including a child, were killed. No more hostilities. That is the environment that could lead to the resumption," he said.

Bello said he or presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza would soon formally communicate to the NDF the President's decision to end the peace talks.

The NDF has said it needed a formal notice of such decision.

The military, for its part, said the President has already ordered a full offensive against the NPA even without formal notice to end the peace talks.

"We are hoping that with our heightened operations we will have more accomplishments in the days ahead because we will not rest on what we have al-

ready started, fighting these NPA terrorists as ordered by our commander-in-chief," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the AFP is currently monitoring the movements of the freed NDF consultants upon orders of the President to re-arrest them.

"We are still awaiting any specific guidance. While doing so, the military is now conducting intelligence monitoring," Arevalo said.

A total of 21 NDF consultants were freed to allow them to participate in the peace talks with the government. Among them are top NPA leaders Benito Tiamzon and his wife Wilma. – With Jaime Laude, Jess Diaz

December 2017

The Manila Times

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Manhunt on for 21 NDF leaders

BY DEMPSEY REYES

THE Armed Forces have begun tracking the whereabouts of 21 consultants of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in preparation for their arrests.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, military public affairs chief, however, said there was still no specific guidance on the arrest of the NDF men who were freed last year to join the peace talks with the government. Arevalo made the announcement a week after President Rodrigo Duterte

Leaders A2

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signed Proclamation 360, which officially terminated peace negotiations with the NDF, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza had confirmed that 21 consultants were released for the peace talks last year, including Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, the couple leading the communist rebellion.

Arevalo clarified that the cancellation of the peace negotiations with the communist movement did not mean the immediate arrest of the 21 consultants.

"The Presidential Proclamation 360 is enough as a signal for them to take heed or take the cue that the peace talks have officially been canceled," Arevalo told reporters.

He cited the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees between the government and the NDF, which provides protection to NDF consultants given safe conduct passes.

When Duterte reopened peace talks with the communists, safe conduct passes were issued to the consultants who were freed from detention, including the Tiamzons, Adelberto Silva, Alfredo Mapano, Tirso Alcantara, Pedro Codaste, Porferio Tuna, Concha Araneta Bocala, Ernesto Lorenza, Eduardo Ganelna, Ariel Arbitrario, Runel Saluta, Jaime Soledad, Kennedy Bangibang and Alan Jazmines.

Arevalo said the military did not have information on the exact whereabouts of the Tiamzon couple.

"The ones that we are monitoring and the ones we will arrest are different. We have to conduct the monitoring [to prepare for the] time [when] there will be instruction, specific order to arrest [the consultants]," he said. "We have to be proactive in our actions."

In February, the government filed a motion before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 216 seeking the re-arrest of the Tiamzon couple, but failed.

Intensified ops

The military also vowed to heighten operations against the NPA, following the encounter between government security forces and NPA rebels in separate incidents in Nasugbu, Batangas that resulted in the deaths of 15 NPA members and the wounding of two rebels and five soldiers.

"We will not stop especially now that we have started our heightened campaign against this terrorist group of the New People's Army," Arevalo said.

The Philippine Army disputed the claims made by CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison that the clashes between government troops and the NPA in Batangas were like the police's anti-illegal drug operations dubbed "Oplan Tokhang."

Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos, commander of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, said Sison's statements were "mere propaganda" against the military.

The same day when the encounter transpired, Sison called on independent human rights organizations and the Commission on Human Rights to investigate the deaths of the supposed NPA members in Batangas, which he described as "Tokhang-like."

"Jose Maria Sison's statement is a mere NPA propaganda against the government forces which are pure and simple lies with the sole intention of salvaging their eroding mass base support and projecting relevance in the region," Burgos said in a statement.

Order to shoot NPA's defended

Malacañang on Thursday defended President Duterte's order to the police and military to shoot armed communist rebels.

Palace spokesman Harry Roque maintained that the President's directive against armed rebels was within the bounds of the law.

"Of course, because anyone who bears arms is guilty of rebellion. The crime of rebellion is the crime of taking up arms against the government," Roque told Palace reporters.

"So it's natural, so when you are bearing arms against the government you are engaged in crime, you are supposed to implement the law and yes, the President has that power to implement the law. It is a domestic, not an international armed conflict, and an arms-bearing rebel is a proper military target," he added.

Duterte in a speech on Wednesday directed the police and the military to shoot armed members of NPA, saying government was on the offensive following the collapse of peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels.

So what will be my orders? Shoot them. They will kill you anyway. So if there is an armed NPA there or terrorists, if he's holding any firearms, shoot," Duterte said during the send-off of Vietnamese fishermen at the Sual Wharf in Pangasinan.

The President said state troops must not mind if their acts would be questioned by human rights groups.

"You just shut up. Do not answer if that issue of human rights [comes up], you say, 'Go to Duterte. It is and was his order,'" he said.

There are around 3,800 NPA fighters in the country, according to the military.

Roque said an executive order was in the works to formalize the declaration of communist rebels as terrorists.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd, chief government negotiator with the CPP-NPA-NDF, said that the issuance of President Duterte of a proclamation declaring the NPA as "terrorists" would be the final nail in the coffin in terms of peace negotiations.

"If the issuance [of the proclamation] happens then it will be the end of everything [in terms of the peace talks] because we cannot negotiate with terrorists," Bello said in Filipino in an interview at the House of Representatives.

However, Bello said the door was still open for peace talks despite all the tough talk from the President.

"The environment is not there, we will wait for an enabling environment, a conducive environment for the conduct of the peace talks negotiation," Bello said.

**WITH CATHERINE S. VALENTE
AND RALPH EDWIN U.
VILLANUEVA**

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01 December 2017

BusinessMirror

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Army ready to serve nation like 'great plebeian' Bonifacio

LIKE the Great Plebeian Gat Andres Bonifacio, the Philippine Army (PA) is always ready to serve the people and protect the land.

Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson said Bonifacio, who commemorated his 154th birth anniversary on Tuesday, is always a hero to the PA due to his efforts to secure nation's freedom and setting up an example on how to use it well.

"Gat Andres Bonifacio is a hero to all of us not only because he fought for our freedom but because he also taught us to use that hard-won freedom in the best interest of the country and people," he added in a message to the Philippine News Agency.

Tiongson said the PA is more than willing to emulate the example of the "great plebeian."

"We are always ready to go beyond our call of duties and responsibilities as we serve the people and secure the land," he added.

Around 8 a.m. on Thursday, as part of the commemoration rites to honor the Kataas-taasang Kagalang-galang na Kapitan na Anak ng Bayan (KKK) founder, a simple wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Bonifacio Monument in front of the Tutuban Center.

Activities were led by officials and representatives of the Tutuban Properties Inc. and National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

Bonifacio, born on November 30, 1863, in Tondo, Manila, was the founder and later supreme leader of the KKK movement, which sought to free the Philippines from Spanish colonial rule. *PNA*

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SLAIN STUDENTS IN BATANGAS CLASHES WERE ON 'IMMERSION' PROGRAM, SAYS AFP

By Maricar Cinco
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@InquirerSLB

A University of the Philippines (UP) student and other youngsters who were among the 15 suspected New People's Army (NPA) members killed at Nasugbu town in Batangas province on Tuesday were on an "immersion" program, according to a top military official.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said the program, or "tour of duty" (TOD), was meant to prepare fresh recruits for the rigors of living dangerous lives.

"TOD, normally in groups, aims to strengthen the belief of the would-be recruit that he or she is joining a just group and

that they have noble purposes," Parayno said in a phone interview.

"Our theory is they were [supposed] to conduct an offensive. They were 'dressed to kill,'" he said.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

He said a TOD member from UP "means she or he is being groomed to be a leader or cadre of the group."

UP and PUP

Among those killed in what the military said were gun battles between government forces and the NPA was Josephine Anne Lapira, 22, a former biochemistry student at UP Manila.

Also killed was Kamil Mangan, a former Polytechnic

University of the Philippines (PUP) student and spokesperson for Gabriela Youth, the women's group Gabriela said.

Authorities had yet to release the official list of those slain as of Thursday afternoon.

The military said Glen Mark Aytona, 22, of Balayan, Batangas, and Carl Espinosa Labajata, 32, of Lemery, also in Batangas, were among those killed.

Sources identified two other fatalities—Julieto Pellazar Jr. and a certain Dondon from Antipolo City, Rizal.

Lone survivor

The lone survivor is Victori- ano Almario, 47, whose home is just about 20 meters from the encounter site in the village of Aga.

Almario was taken to Medi- cal Center Western Batangas in

Balayan but was later moved to Batangas Regional Hospital in Batangas City. He is being guarded by policemen who denied the Inquirer's request to talk to his relatives on the phone.

"He is an NPA," Parayno said of Almario, who was under hospital arrest.

He said Almario drove the jeepney that ferried the rebels up to a police-military check- point in Aga.

Five people in the jeep died while nine others in a van were killed in the second clash in Barangay Kaylaway, about 2 kilometers away.

Chief Insp. Rogelio Pineda, Nasugbu police chief, said Almario would be charged with illegal possession of explosives and attempted murder.

Arnold Evangelista of the

Batangas Integrated Human Rights Advocates said Almario, quoting relatives and neighbors, was "just a jeepney driver" hired by the group.

Just a driver?

Nasugbu Mayor Antonio Barcelon confirmed that Almario was a jeepney driver and that the vehicle was owned by a family from Barangay Banilad.

"[But] he would always be seen driving the jeep hired by protesters during rallies. If anything, he could be a 'supporter,'" Barcelon said.

Families of those killed were still awaiting the release of the remains of their loved ones. As of Thursday afternoon, only Lapira's remains had been released, according to Evangelista. —WITH A REPORT

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The Manila Times

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Robredo not given chance to speak in Bonifacio rites

BY JING VILLAMENTE ON DECEMBER 1, 2017

VICE President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo led other government officials in a simple ceremony commemorating the 154th birth anniversary of revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio at the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City on Thursday.

However, many were surprised why the vice president was not given a chance to speak before the thick crowd.

Caloocan Public Information Officer Nolan Sison was quick to explain that the city government had nothing to do with the preparation and invitation of the guest of honor and speaker.

Sison said the National Historical Commission supervised and organized the Bonifacio Day programs and activities.

He spoke out after students, city residents and members of the media asked him why Robredo, the highest official of the land during the event, was not given time to speak.

Caloocan Mayor Oscar Malapitan delivered the opening remarks where he boasted of the 20-percent decrease in the crime rate in the city and various programs and projects, including the Tutuban-Clark railway and the opening of the new "Big Dome" on December 8.

It was Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who served as the guest of honor and speaker, and talked about the "untold and true story" of Andres Bonifacio.

Aside from the three officials, also present in the rites were Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, National Historical Commission Director Ludovico Badoy and Gregorio Bonifacio, a relative of Andres Bonifacio.

President Rodrigo Duterte did not attend the ceremony and opted to visit Mindanao. 'Face today's challenges'

Lorenzana called on Filipinos to draw inspiration from Bonifacio's legacy of freedom.

"In our battle against today's challenges, may we get inspiration from Andres Bonifacio, the Katipunan and the revolution that is part of [the history]of the Filipino people," Lorenzana said.

"May we also live our everyday lives with valor, patriotism and nationality left by Andres Bonifacio," he added.

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

The Defense chief said Filipinos should be reminded of Bonifacio's words "Aling pag-ibig pa ang hihigit kaya, sa pagkadalisan, sa pagkadalisa, gaya ng pag-ibig sa tinubuang lupa, aling pag-ibig pa (What love can be purer and greater than love of country? What other love)?"

'Bonifacio taught us how to use freedom'

Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commanding general of the Philippine Army, said Bonifacio was not only a fighter for the country's freedom, but also taught Filipinos how to use it.

"Gat Andres Bonifacio is a hero to all of us not only because he fought for our freedom, but because he also taught us how to use the hard-won freedom in the best interests of our country and people," Bautista said in a statement.

"As we pay tribute to Gat Andres Bonifacio, let us instill this culture of heroism and go beyond our call of duty as we serve the people and secure the land," he added.

Bautista was among the major military service commanders who attended the wreath-laying ceremony and commemorative program in Caloocan City.

In Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, the headquarters of the Philippine Army, a wreath-laying ceremony was also held and attended by Nerizza Distrito-Gaco, a descendant of Bonifacio.

"As protectors of the people and the state, the army personnel once again rekindled the heroism that Gat Andres Bonifacio displayed during the Philippine Revolution, an ordinary Filipino who is ready to respond to the call of duty," Bautista said.**with DEMPSEY REYES**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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PREVENTING ANOTHER MARAWI

ARMY FORMS UNIT IN MINDANAO TO FIGHT URBAN TERROR

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, MAGUINDANAO—The military's 6th Infantry Division (ID) based here has activated a new Army battalion to combat urban terrorism and prevent a siege, similar to what happened in Marawi City, in areas under its watch, an Army official said.

The 6th ID has jurisdiction over Maguindanao province, portions of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces, and some towns in the second congressional district of Lanao del Sur province, including communities near Butig town, where the Maute terror group started building its forces.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, chief of the 6th ID's civil military operations, said the new 90th Infantry Battalion (IB) was undergoing a monthlong organizational process and would be based in Cotabato City.

Besana said the new unit, which would "act as deterrent to a Marawi City-like siege," was among 10 antiterror battalions that the Army had started to organize across the country.

Besana said veteran soldiers who would make up the new unit, which he would

head, would undergo refresher courses.

He said some unit members were attending a special skills and capability refresher course at the Division Training School here.

"All personnel who compose the unit are actually battle-tested and experienced in countering violent extremism in Central Mindanao," Besana said.

"Equipment is not a big problem because the Army has enough but ... there is still a need to procure or acquire new and essential equipment," he added.

He said the military would ensure that the new battalion was ready to take on terror threats before deployment.

"Hence, our people should also expect that the 90th IB, in particular, is ready to serve them and protect them based on our constitutional mandate," he said.

Besana asked residents of Central Mindanao for support.

"As I have said before, peace is everybody's concern. Therefore, we should all work together for the [sake] of Central Mindanao. We have to have unity amid diversity," he said. —EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ INQ

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FOCUSED MILITARY OPS

NOLCOM WATCHES NPA ATTACK SITES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— The chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) said government forces and resources had been concentrated in areas where communist rebels had intensified attacks before President Duterte canceled the peace talks last week.

In a statement on Tuesday, Nolcom commander, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat, said "focused military operations" were being undertaken against the New People's Army (NPA).

"Our intent is to concentrate our attention in areas where we have identified these criminal groups have been operating," Salamat said.

On Monday night, Army soldiers clashed with suspect-

ed communist rebels in Sallapadan town in Abra province. Pfc. Jeffrey Siron of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion was hit in the leg and was treated at a local hospital.

The NPA has yet to react to a report from the overseas security and intelligence firm, Pacific Strategies and Assessment, about a rise since January of rebel attacks in Batangas province and Cordillera, Cagayan Valley and Ilocos regions.

Salamat said Nolcom would carry out a "more proactive campaign" against the NPA to counter rebel activities such as coercion and extortion on business owners. —TONETTE OREJAS WITH A REPORT FROM KIMBERLIE QUITASOL INQ

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'GPH-MILF ceasefire mechanism still intact'

By Bill Casas

THE International Monitoring, GPH-MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (GPH-MILF CCCH) and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process has vowed to continue proactive approaches in ensuring that the ceasefire mechanism is still intact despite the existence of peace spoilers.

In a press conference on Nov. 28, 2017 at the International Monitoring Team Headquarters in Cotabato City, Asec. Dickson Hermoso of OPAPP reiterates that the MILF helped the government in rescuing the trapped civilians in Marawi City and helped secure the humanitarian aid entering the Malabang—Marawi road through the peace corridor which was operationalized by the Joint Coordination, Monitoring and Assistance Center.

"The MILF helped us in rescuing the civilians in Marawi City. The peace corridor through the JC-MAC were able to recover 55 trapped civilians and we were able to facilitate 167 humanitarian aid passing the corridor of Malabang to Marawi along the communities surrounding the Lake Lanao," he said.

BGen. Earl Baliao, chairman of the GPH CCCH and the current Assistant Division Commander of the 6th Infantry Division said that the GPH and MILF CCCH are coordinating closely to help the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the MILF in driving away the ISIS-inspired group in Maguindanao.

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ ₱8.00

AFP todo-dependensa sa NPA encounter

Dahil sa naging pahayag ni Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison, naging kaduda-duda ang engkuwentro sa Nasugbu, Batangas nitong Martes ng gabi, na ikinamatay ng 15 New People's Army (NPA), ayon sa isang opisyal ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni Brig. General Arnulfo Marcelo B. Burgos, Jr., ang commander ng 202nd Infantry Brigade na namamahala sa mga operasyon sa Batangas, na ang pahayag ni Sison ay pawang kasinungalingan-upang ipahiya ang puwersa ng pamahalaan.

"The encounter resulted to 14 dead NPA terrorists and one wounded NPA terrorist," sabi ni Burgos. "Jose Sison's statement is a mere NPA propaganda against the government forces which are pure and simple lies with the sole intention of salvaging their eroding mass base support and projecting relevance in the region."

Sa kanyang panayam sa ABS-CBN News Channel o ANC nitong Miyerkules, sinabi ni Sison na hindi dapat pagkatiwalaan ng mga tao ang "claims of false news of the psywar officers of Duterte's army, the same you cannot trust the false news of his troll army."

Sinabi rin ni Sison na dapat ding imbestigahan ng human rights organizations ang insidente.

EO VS NPA

Kaugnay nito, inihayag ni Pangulong Duterte na inihahanda na ang Executive Order (EO) na magdedeklara sa NPA bilang teroristang grupo.

"I am preparing now... they are preparing the executive order declaring them to be terrorists and they will be afforded the treatment of being criminals," sabi ni Duterte sa kanyang talumpati sa Saul, Pangasinan nitong Miyerkules.

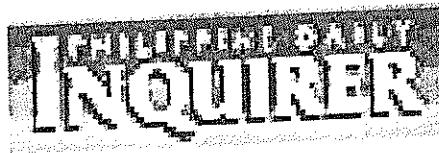
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Duterte to AFP: Sink terrorists' boats

By **Leila B. Salaverria**
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte wants no mercy for terrorists at sea, saying that the military should sink their vessels and let the fish take care of them.

Speaking at the send-off for Vietnamese fishermen in Sual town in Pangasinan province on Wednesday, the President said Southeast Asian countries had committed that they would treat poor fishermen, who had wandered into their waters, with understanding and love.

But terrorists are a different matter, Mr. Duterte said.

He noted that there had been an agreement for different countries to hold joint maritime



President Duterte

patrols to protect their security.

"I said, if it is confirmed terrorist vessel, sink it. Sink it. Never mind about the terrorists, the fish will consume them. Sink it and end the problem," he said.

These terrorists, he said,

abduct people to make them slaves and their beheading captured on video.

The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia earlier launched joint naval patrols in the Sulu Sea as part of efforts to thwart the movement of Islamic State (IS)-allied terrorists.

This was at the height of the extremists' siege of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur province, which began on May 23 and lasted for five months. They took control of Marawi with the intention of putting up an IS province, or "wilayah," in the city.

The fighting reduced most of the city to rubble and displaced more than 200,000 residents. INQ

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NDF calls for more frequent attacks

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

Communist rebels warned yesterday of "more frequent and more intensified attacks" against the government once President Duterte formally tags the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) as terrorist groups.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), the umbrella

organization representing the CPP-NPA in peace negotiations with the government, threatened to wage war if Duterte continues to ignore the peace efforts and officially classifies the rebels as terrorists.

NDF-Mindanao spokesman Joaquin Jacinto said yesterday that 50 years of struggle against the government have shown the CPP-NPA-NDF

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as an advocate and defender of the interests of exploited and oppressed Filipinos.

He said the CPP-NPA-NDF is essentially a revolutionary organization seeking to establish a society unshackled from imperialist domination.

"Thus, under whatever circumstance, the CPP-NPA-NDF can never ever be terrorists. Thus, the NDF-Mindanao calls on the New People's Army to launch more frequent and more intensified tactical offensives to frustrate military operations that only bring more death, destruction and misery to the people of Mindanao," Joaquin said.

Duterte on Wednesday said he has ordered security forces to shoot communist rebels bearing firearms.

He revealed an executive order is being prepared to declare the NPA as a terrorist group.

Jacinto said Duterte is "greatly mistaken" in thinking the communist rebels and their supporters "will cower in fear in the face of his boasts and threats."

He said Duterte is daydreaming in his objective to wipe out the CPP-NPA-NDF by the end of 2018.

Jacinto mentioned Presidential Decree 360, the supposed executive order to be signed declaring the CPP-NPA-NDF as a terrorist group.

He said PD 360 only reveals the Duterte administration's "utter contempt for attaining just and lasting peace and its propensity towards a reign of death, destruction and tyranny."

"Thus, it is only just and correct that the revolutionary movement in Mindanao and the entire nation, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, respond through the New People's Army by way of launching widespread and more frequent tactical offensives against the AFP, PNP (Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police) and paramilitary troops that seek to ravage numerous hinterland communities in the entire island," Jacinto said.

In Negros Island, the NPA has warned quarry operators of destruction of their equipment, as they owned up to the bombing of heavy equipment on Sunday in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Police said they are looking into extortion as the possible motive for the raid of a quarry site and the bombing in Kabankalan.

The police also dismissed the spate of attacks staged by the NPA in the Visayas as diversionary tactics by the rebel group.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said the series of NPA attacks in the region form part of a bigger plan in Mindanao.

Dela Rosa did not go into details on the NPA's purported plans for Mindanao but stressed security forces are not pulling out from the Visayas.

"We will add forces here to prevent NPAs from doing more atrocities," he said.

The military in Mindanao revealed the NPA is becoming more aggressive in attacking government troops. - Ben Serrano, Jennifer Rendon, Gilbert Bayoran, Ed Amoroso

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AFP locating communist consultants

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it is locating the 21 consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, who were freed by the Duterte administration so they can participate in peace negotiations between government and the communist group.

President Duterte formally terminated the peace negotiations last week because of what he said was the communists' lack of sincerity and commitment to the peace process. Following the termination, he asked the consultants to surrender or "face punitive actions." Duterte said the consultants should "go back to where you belong," referring to jail.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military has yet to get specific orders from higher authorities to arrest the consultants but is now determining their whereabouts in preparation for the arrest.

Among the consultants are

.....
See AFP > Page B6

AFP

Benito Tiamzon, chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and his wife, CPP secretary general Wilma Austria.

Tiamzon and Austria were arrested by military intelligence operatives in 2014 in Cebu for various crimes. The two and 19 other NDF consultants were freed last year so they can participate in the peace talks.

“As of now, we have no information on their location but we are awaiting specific guidance if we should arrest them, based on order from our courts,” Arevalo told a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

Arevalo said Proclamation 360 on the termination of the talks should be “enough signal for them (communists) to take heed or take cue that the formal talks are already over.”

“We are going to await further instruction about this (arrest of the consultants) but we are already monitoring them,” said Arevalo.

“Monitoring is different from arrest. We have to monitor them

so that we’re already aware of their whereabouts when there is already an instruction, specific order to arrest them. We have to be proactive in our actions,” said Arevalo.

Asked if the Tiamzons and the other NDF consultants are in the country, Arevalo said: “I cannot answer that question right now but what I am sure about is we have efforts to locate them.”

Four rounds of formal talks were held in Norway and Rome. A fifth round was supposed to be held also in Norway before Duterte suspended the talks in July because of, among others, continued attacks by the New People’s Army, the CPP’s armed wing, on government forces.

The military has stepped up its campaign against the NPA which Duterte is planning to declare a terrorist organization.

FOCUS

Arevalo said the military would take more actions against the NPA,

similar to that in Nasugbu, Batangas last Tuesday, where 14 NPA members were killed in clashes with government forces.

The Nasugbu incident is the biggest feat so far since President Duterte issued Proclamation 360 on Thursday last week.

“We are going to be relentless in our intensified campaign against the terrorist New People’s Army, especially so that our combat operations in Marawi are now over,” Arevalo said.

He was referring to the attack by the Maute Group in Marawi City. The conflict that started on May 23 lasted five months.

SISON’S PROPAGANDA

Brig. Gen. Marcelo Burgos, commander of the Army’s 202nd Brigade, accused communist party founder Jose Maria Sison of resorting to propaganda and misinformation to undermine the military success in Nasugbu.

The Netherlands-based Sison

earlier insinuated that those killed in the fighting were civilians and not NPA members.

Burgos said Sison’s statement is aimed at “salvaging their eroding mass base support and projecting relevance in the region.”

Burgos maintained that the fatalities, including UP student Josephine Anne Lapira, are all NPA members. Four other female rebels died in the fighting.

“They are all armed. They are all NPAs. And they are there to conduct tactical offensive. They’re wearing bandoliers and they have arms. How can you explain the number of firearms they were carrying?” said Burgos.

Burgos said the rebels were planning to attack a police detachment in Nasugbu.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno acknowledged that Lapira is a UP student but stressed she is an NPA member. “Her status in the NPA is full-timer, meaning that she is really an NPA (rebel),” said Parayno.

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Rody's shoot-to-kill order vs Reds 'normal' – Palace

By Ted Tuvera

Malacañang sees nothing wrong with President Duterte's shoot-to-kill order against any armed communist rebel.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said yesterday that it is a natural mandate for state security forces to hunt down any armed member of the New People's Army (NPA).

Duterte on Wednesday urged soldiers to shoot any spotted NPA, claiming full responsibility of such punitive actions.

"Anyone who bears arms is fusing rebellion. The crime of rebellion is a crime of taking up arms against the government," Roque told reporters in a phone-patched interview.

"So it's natural. When you are bearing arms against the government you are engaged in crime you are supposed to implement the law and yes, the President has that power to implement the law," he added.

In a speech in Sual, Pangasinan, the Commander in Chief said he wants the military to boost its communist crackdown.

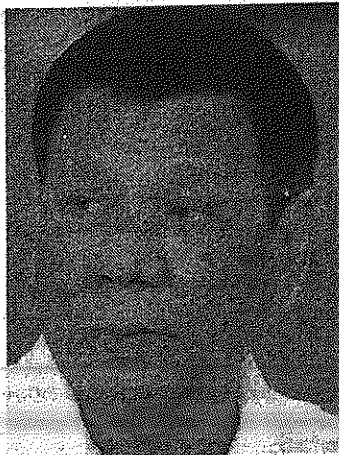
"If there is an armed NPA there or terrorist who is holding firearms, shoot and tell them I will answer for it," Duterte said.

The President's pronouncement came over the military's recent maneuver that killed 16 NPA rebels in Batangas.

Among those killed were formerly known Manila-based student activists belonging to legal left-leaning groups.

...but Leni says

Vice President Leni Robredo



DUTERTE

lamented Duterte's kill-order on NPAs, saying such pronouncements undermine the rule of law.

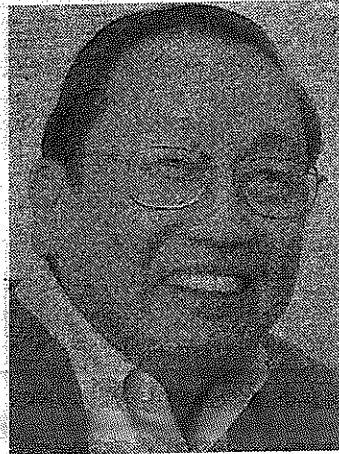
Talking to reporters at the sidelines of the Bonifacio Day celebration in Caloocan City, the Vice President said that killing any suspected criminals without legal due procedures is against the law.

"It appears that is not what our Constitution states," Robredo said of Duterte's threat on communist insurgents.

"The laws say that if one commits crime, there should be due process to investigate if the allegations are true, and there are corresponding penalties to those crimes committed," she added.

The Vice President opined that Duterte's proposed bloody crackdown on communists somewhat undermine the state's legal institutions.

"If we would put the law into our hands, it's like we're undermining democracy, invalidating the rule of



SISON

law. It would be the start of our disarray," Robredo said.

"That's why we have institutions because these institutions ensure that we live our lives decently everyday. If we kill because we are merely accusing people of crimes, what would happen to us?" she added.

Joma's propaganda

The claim of Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison that no real encounter took place in Nasugbu, Batangas that left 14 NPA rebels dead and another wounded and captured is just a propaganda.

This, according to Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Burgos, in an interview yesterday.

"Joma Sison's statement is a mere NPA propaganda against the government forces which are pure and simple lies with the sole intention of salvaging their eroding mass base support and projecting relevance in the

region," he added.

Burgos said what the CPP founder cannot contradict is that troops applied first-aid and evacuated the wounded rebels to the nearest hospital for appropriate medical treatment which is more than enough proof that the military highly values the rights and lives of the people.

"This blatant attempt to weaken our resolve through misinformation and harassment only shows that we are hitting, hurting and disrupting their terroristic plans which inspire us to remain steadfast in pursuing our mandate of protecting the people of Region IV and securing this part of our land," the military official added.

In a series of encounters in Barangays Aga and Kaylaway that started 8:20 p.m. Tuesday, an initial 13 rebels were killed and three security troops were wounded in the gun battles that lasted for 20 to 40 minutes.

Also wounded were two NPA rebels whom troops provided with first aid and brought to the nearest hospital.

One of the wounded rebels later died, bringing the death toll of the NPAs to 14.

The encounter was "intelligence driven" and stemmed from the November 20 operation in Barangay Utod that earlier resulted in the capture of a NPA base and undetermined rebel casualties.

The seized NPA encampment is capable of housing and training a significant number of rebels.

Nine of the slain rebels were male while five were female. **With PNA**

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Palace justifies shoot-kill order on armed Reds

By John Paolo Bencito

MALACAÑANG on Thursday insisted that President Rodrigo Duterte was justified when he ordered security forces to “shoot” and

“kill” any member of the communist New People’s Army, saying they deserved to take a bullet for “destroying the country.”

“An arms-bearing rebel is a proper military target,” Presidential Spokes-

man Harry Roque said in a phone-patch interview.

“When you are bearing arms against the government you are engaged in crime, you are supposed to implement the law and yes, the

Next page

President has that power to implement the law.”

But Vice President Leni Robredo warned that the government should observe rules and procedures in penalizing rebels, saying Duterte’s shoot-and-kill order “would undermine the rule of law and democracy.”

“It appears that is not what our

Constitution states. The laws say that if one commits a crime, there should be due process to investigate if the allegations are true, and there are corresponding penalties to those crimes committed,” Robredo said in an interview at the sidelines of the Bonifacio Day commemoration in Caloocan City.

“If we would put the law into our hands, it’s like we’re undermining democracy, invalidating the rule of law. It would be the

start of our [disarray].”

Despite Duterte’s pronouncements, the military insisted it had not received any instructions with regard to communist rebels.

“We should just be prudent and decisive in our actions versus the NPA,” AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in an ANC television interview.

“Our commanders on the ground are prudent and well-trained. They know the rules

of engagement.”

In a speech in Sual, Pangasinan, on Wednesday, Duterte said government troops should “shoot” and “kill” members of the Communist Party of the Philippines’ armed wing, the New People’s Army, whom he earlier tagged as “terrorists.”

He said he didn’t mind if there would be condemnation from human rights groups, saying he would claim responsibility for their actions.

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Sayyaf man with bounty on his head falls in Basilan

A SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf member wanted for bombing a public terminal in Kidapawan City in 2007 was arrested in a joint military and police operation in Basilan Tuesday, the military said Thursday.

Rahim Abdul alias Aman Kabalu was nabbed in Kampurnah village in Isabela City around 3:40 p.m. on Nov. 28, and a grenade was seized from him.

Abdul is listed under the Department of National Defense/Department of the Interior and Local Govern-

ment joint order of rewards with a bounty of P1.3 million.

Brigadier General Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan commander, said Abdul was identified by a civilian and that led to his arrest.

He was brought to the Basilan Provincial Police Office.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command, commended Joint Task Force Basilan for Abdul's arrest. *Next page*

"Rest assured that our Joint Task Forces will continue to keep guard as they sustain the conduct of combat and intelligence operations in their joint area of operations," Galvez said.

In February 2013, police intelligence units of Zamboanga arrested one Mujeeener Dagam

Cabalo whom they claimed to be Kabalu.

Cabalo had just been discharged from a private hospital, where he had been confined due to a heart ailment, when he was arrested.

He was detained at the Special Intensive Care Area of Camp Bagong Diwa but was released in December 2013 after a Taguig judge said he was a victim of mistaken identity.

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VP Robredo, DND chief lead commemoration of Bonifacio's 154th birth anniversary

Vice President Leni Robredo and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday led the commemoration of the 154th birth anniversary of revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio at the Monument Circle in Caloocan City.

Earlier reported to lead the ceremony with his spokesman, Harry Roque, President Duterte failed to attend yesterday's event. The Chief Executive reportedly visited a conflict-ridden area in Mindanao.

Also present at the ceremonial rites were Caloocan Mayor Oscar Malapitan, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, National Historical Commission Director Ludovico Badoy and Atty. Gregorio Bonifacio, a relative of the national hero.

Malapitan delivered the opening remarks where he emphasized the 20 percent decrease in crime rates in the city and the programs and projects of the city government which are now lined up for implementation, including the Tutuban-Clark Railways and the opening of the new Big Dome on December 8.

The event ended with Lorenzana, who served as the guest of honor and speaker, talked about the untold and true story of Andres Bonifacio.

As this developed, Malapitan's Public Information Officer Nolan Sison explained the city

government has nothing to do with the preparation and invitation of the guest of honor and speaker.

Sison said the National Historical Commission (NHC) was the lone agency that supervised the events, including the programs and sets of activities.

He made the pronouncement after students, city residents and members of the media asked him why Robredo, who was supposed to be the highest official of the land during the event, was not given a time to speak during the rites.

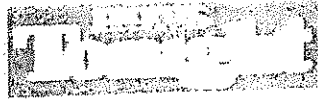
Arlie O. Calalo



Bonifacio 154th birthday Vice President Ma. Leonor "Leni" Robredo (2nd from left), Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (left), Dr. Rene Escalante (3rd from left), Mayor Oscar Malapitan, AFP chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero and other government officials lead the flag raising ceremony during the 154th birth anniversary of Gat Andres Bonifacio held at the Caloocan Monument yesterday.

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Benifacio Day sa Caloocan ipinagdiwang

SIMPLE pero naging makabuluhan ang paggunita at selebrasyon ng 154th birthday ng Ama ng Katipunan na si Gat Andres Bonifacio na idinaos kahapon ng umaga sa Bonifacio Shrine o kilala rin sa tawag na Monumento Circle sa Caloocan City.

Base sa orihinal na pl-

ano ay si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte mismo ang magiging panauhing pandangal pero biglang nagkansela ang palasyo ng Malakanyang kaya naging panauhing pandangal ay si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Vice President Leny Robredo at National Historical Commission of

the Philippines President Dr. Rene Escalante.

Samantala ipinagmalaki at ikinatwa ni Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitan ang deklarasyon ng National Historical Commission na isa ng ganap na National Shrine ang monumento ni Bonifacio na nasa lungsod na kanyang nasasakupan.

Sabay-sabay silang nag-alay ng bulaklak sa bantayog ni Gat Andres Bonifacio habang isinasagawa ang 21 gun salute.

"Ipagpatuloy natin ang laban ni Bonifacio upang ang kadena ng kahirapan ay matalagot, tungo sa pag-unlad ng ating buhay," pagdiin ni Mayor Oca Malapitan.

Aniya pa, "Ang ating modernong Supremo ng Katipunan ngayon sa katauhan ng ating Pangulong Duterte na siyang patuloy na Magsusulong ng mga Programa laban sa kahirapan.

Pinasalamatan din ng alkalde ang lahat ng nagsidal sa lungsod na gaya nang laging hangad, Ang Tao ang Laging UNA.

(Beth Samson)

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Abu Sayyaf member nabbed in Basilan

AN Abu Sayyaf member with a P1.3-million reward for his neutralization was arrested by joint military and police operatives in Isabela City in Basilan on Tuesday.

Capt. Jo-an Petinglay, spokeswoman of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, identified the suspect as Rahim Abdul alias Aman Kabalu.

Petinglay said Abdul was nabbed

by troops of the military's Joint Task Force Basilan, aided by local policemen, in Zone 1 in Barangay Kampurhan at around 3:40 p.m. Tuesday. Abdul yielded a fragmentation grenade.

JTF Basilan commander Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy said a civilian provided information to the military, leading to the arrest of Abdul. He said the suspect did not resist arrest when cornered by the troops.

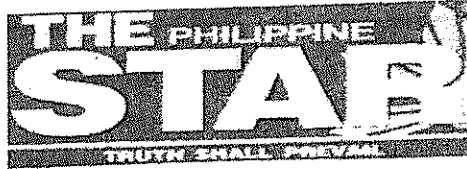
Petinglay said Abdul is listed in the DND-DILG's Joint Order of Rewards, a list of wanted personalities.

She could not provide details on Abdul's activities or cases he has participated in.

The Abu Sayyaf is notorious for kidnapping-for-ransom activities and for beheading hostages. It operates mainly in Sulu and Basilan, and is holding several hostages. – *Victor Reyes*

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'Abu bomb expert' nabbed in Basilan

By **ROEL PAREÑO**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A suspected bomb expert of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group has been arrested in Isabela City, Basilan, military officials said yesterday.

Rahim Abdul, alias Aman Kabalu, was captured

by a joint military and police team in Barangay Kaumpurnah on Tuesday afternoon.

Abdul had a P1.3-million bounty on his head at the time of his arrest, according to Joint Task Force Basilan chief Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy.

A fragmentation grenade was seized from the suspect, the arresting team said.

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Soon to be released EO declares NPA as a 'terror' group

PRESIDENT Duterte is nearing to issue an executive order (EO) branding the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) as "terrorists," his spokesman revealed on Thursday.

According to Presidential Spokesman Harry L. Roque Jr., Malacañang is now crafting an EO placing the NPA under the terror watch. "[There is] no date, but the President will do that," Roque said in a phone interview.

This came a day after the President announced he will be preparing an EO, declaring the NPA as terrorists. Peace talks with the National Democratic Front, the negotiating arm of the communists, has been terminated by the government, saying it had enough of attacks from communist rebels.

"I am preparing now. They are preparing the executive order declaring them to be terrorists, and they will be afforded the treatment of being criminals," Duterte said on Wednesday.

The President added he already cut ties with the NPA, which he formerly considered bringing into the government. He said the communist rebels "are not really serious" in talking peace with the government, and are "just biding their time" to destabilize the Duterte administration. "They do not have the second echelons to carry the fight, and they just want to be comfortable," Duterte added.

The government also intends to arrest activists alleged of conniving with the communists rebels, such as members of left-leaning groups. This, however, has drawn flak from human-rights groups, saying it might lead to a brutal crackdown, like the war on drugs.

Elijah Felice E. Rosales

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AFP bracing for more skirmishes with NPA

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday said it is expecting more encounters with the New People's Army (NPA) following a skirmish in Nasugbu, Batangas, that resulted in the death of 15 rebels.

"Well, we are expecting that because intensified operations will lead to similar accomplishments like this (Batangas) in the near future. We will not stop especially

now that we have started our operations against the terrorist group New People's Army now that combat operations in Marawi is done," AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the recent operations of the AFP should send a strong signal that the government is determined to end the armed conflict which has long been a problem not only on the economy but also to the people who have been thirsting for lasting peace.

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Abu Sayyaf bomber nabbed in Basilan

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

A sought after member of the dreaded Abu Sayyaf terror group was collared by authorities in Basilan, Tuesday.

The suspect, identified as Rahim Abdul, alias Aman Kabalu, was arrested by elements of Joint Task Force Basilan and the police at Zone 1, Barangay Kampurnah, Isabela City in Basilan at around 3:40 p.m.

Abdul is said to have been carrying a fragmentation grenade

when grabbed by lawmen.

"Abdul was positively identified by a civilian, leading to his arrest," said Brigadier General Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan head.

Abdul is now detained at the Basilan Provincial Police Office.

A primary suspect in several bombing incidents in Basilan, Zamboanga and North Cotabato, Abdul is said to have been a noted Mullah in a Madrasah in Isabela City.

He is in the Department of National Defense's most wanted person's list with a bounty on his

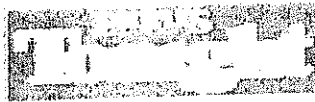
head amounting to ₱1.3 million.

"My commendations to the Joint Task Force Basilan for the successful operation which led to the arrest of a notorious bomber," said Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief.

"Rest assured that our Joint Task Forces will continue to keep guard as they sustain the conduct of combat and intelligence operations in their joint area of operations in order to ensure peace and security in respective areas," he added.

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ASG bomber arrested

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

COMBINED police and military troops arrested a known bomber of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) during their operation the other day in Basilan.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)-Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay identified the suspect as Rahim Abdul, alias Aman Kabalu.

Petinglay said the suspect was arrested at around 3:40 p.m. at Zone 1, Bgy. Kampurnah, Isabela City, Basilan.

Government forces recovered a fragmentation grenade from the suspect.

According to Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy, commander of Joint Task Force Basilan, the suspect was positively identified by a civilian as a member of the terrorist group.

The suspect has a P1.3-million prize for his immediate arrest under the Joint Order of Rewards of Department of National Defense (DND) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Westmincom commander Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr. commended the troops behind the arrest of the suspect.

"My commendations to the Joint Task Force Basilan for the successful operation which led to the arrest of a notorious bomber," Galvez said.

With Aubrey Joyce Bajo (OJT)

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Abu bomber nabbed in Basilan

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

JOINT police and military operatives on Wednesday arrested a notorious bomber of the Abu Sayyaf Group during an operation in Basilan.

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) spokesperson Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay identified the suspect as Rahim Abdul alias "Aman Kabalu," a resident of the province.

Petinglay said a P1.3 million reward was offered by the Department of National Defense and the Department of Interior and Local Government for Abdul's immediate arrest.

Abdul was arrested at Zone 1, Bgy. Kampurnah, Isabela City, Basilan.

Seized from him was a fragmentation grenade.

Joint Task Force Basilan commander Brig. General Juvymax Uy said the suspect was positively identified by a civilian as member of the ASG.

WestMinCom commander Lt. General Carlito Galvez Jr. commended the troops behind the arrest of Abdul.

"My commendations to the Joint Task Force Basilan for the successful operation, which led to the arrest of a notorious bomber," Galvez said.

"Rest assured that our Joint Task Force will continue to keep guard as they sustain the conduct of combat and intelligence operations in their joint area of operations in order to ensure peace and security," he added.

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Pahina. 5

Laban ni Bonifacio, ituloy natin – Duterte

Hinimok ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang sambayanan na ituloy ang labang sinimulan ni Gat Andres Bonifacio para makawala ang bansa sa kuko ng katiwalian, kriminalidad at iligal na droga.

Sa kanyang mensahe sa selebrasyon ng Bonifacio Day, binigyang-diin ng Pangulo na si Andres Bonifacio ang nagpasiklab ng himagsikang naging daan para makalaya ang mamamayan sa kamay ng mga mananakop.

Tungkulin, aniya ng bawat Filipino na isabuhay ang nasimulan ni Bonifacio at isaisip ang pagmamahal sa bayan.

Mahalaga rin aniya ng makalaya sa mga nakaambang takot at karahasan para makamit ang minimithing pag-unlad at isang Progresibong Pilipinas.

“Sa araw na ito, binibigyang pugay natin si Gat Andres Bonifacio,

ang ama ng himagsikan.

“Si Andres Bonifacio ang nagpasiklab ng himagsikang nagbigay daan sa pagkakatatag ng ating bayan at pagpapalaya sa ating mamamayan. Bilang mga tagapagmana ng kanyang rebolusyon, tungkulin natin na bigyang buhay ang kanyang mga adhikain at himukin ang pagsibol ng pangkalahatang kamalayan at pagmamahal sa bayan.” ayon sa mensahe ng Pangulo.

“Sa panahong nakataya ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa, tayong lahat ay inaasahang maging masigasig sa pagpapatag ng ating bansa. Ituloy natin ang laban upang makawala tayo sa kuko ng katiwalian, kriminalidad at iligal na droga; makalaya sa banta ng takot at karahasan; at mapangalagaan ang ating mga mithiin, kaugalian at pamumuhay,” diin ni Pangulong Duterte. (Aileen Taliping)

Shoot to kill sa NPA

Inirutos na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga awtoridad partikular sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na barilin ang mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) kapag naispatan ang mga ito na may dalang armas.

Sa harap na rin ito ng serye ng opensiba ng mga NPA matapos tuldukan ng Pangulo ang peace talks sa kilusang komunista.

Ayon sa Pangulo, mas mabuting unahan ang mga NPA kaysa ang mga sundalo ang mapatay ng mga ito sa engkuwentro.

Wala aniya ng dapat na ikatakot ang mga awtoridad dahil sagot niya ang mga ito sakaling may mapatay na mga rebelde.

“So what will be my orders to the? Eh di shoot them. Eh they will kill you anyway. So if there is an armed NPA there or terrorists, is he is holding any firearms, shoot! Ako na ang magsagot, you just shut up.” matigas na bilin ng Presidente.

Sinabihan din ng

Pangulo ang mga sundalo na huwag sumagot kapag ipinasok ang isyung human rights at ituro aniya siya na nag-utos sa kanila.

Hindi aniya nito pagsasabihan ang mga rebelde na magdahan-dahan habang sinisira ang bansa kaya dapat lamang gawin ang nararapat sa mga ito.

“Do not answer if that issue of human rights. You say 'go to Duterte. It is and was his order' pero tumahimik ka,” ang dagdag pa ng Pangulo.

Kasabay nito, inatasan din ng Pangulo ang AFP na huwag bigyan ng pagkakataon na makalapit sa Mindanao ang mga dayuhang terorista na magtatangkang pumasok sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng backdoor entry.

Sinabi ni Duterte na bagama't may napagkasunduang joint patrol sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Malaysia at Indonesia sa karagatang bahagi ng Sulu at Malacca Strait, mas gugustuhin nitong palubugin sa dagat ang sasakyan ng mga terorista. (Aileen Taliping)

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THE REDS' 'TRUE COLORS'

I find it absurd when some uninformed Filipinos find President Duterte's Proclamation No. 360, "Declaring the termination of peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army" a disappointment while caring nothing about the attacks, extortion and other atrocities these Maoist rebels commit.

If they find the termination of peace negotiations with the NDF-CPP-NPA horrendous, then I don't know how they are supposed to make sense of the deaths and destruction of properties and communities brought forth by them.

Most Filipinos don't have any idea how hard it is to thrive in far-flung provinces and communities like ours while facing threats of violence and attacks made by these communist rebels. They don't know how painful a struggle it is not to enjoy one's life to its fullest potential as we are compelled to periodically relocate just because some Maoist rebels and bandits are destroying and plundering barangays and other innocent lives.

But then, I can't blame the uninformed majority for having misplaced confidence toward the NDF-CPP-NPA and its organizational units. I find this "blinded belief" owing to the communists'

success in making a fool out of all of us when they conducted and disguised themselves in a manner that would make them appear as the "champion" and "hero" of the oppressed and the poor. In previous decades, both thriving and struggling "Juan dela Cruz" believed that they had been fighting only for magnanimous causes such as the so-called "liberation of the masses," "equality," and "progress." Consequently, most Filipinos fail to see the NDF-CPP-NPA's true colors and the deceit it continuously employs in order to justify the attainment of its selfish objectives, which obviously never really included Filipinos' welfare in the first place.

As someone who has witnessed the NDF-CPP-NPA's atrocities despite decades of peace talks spearheaded by the government, I do believe it is high time to put an end to these communists' existence.

The NDF-CPP-NPA is but a mere scintilla of this peace-loving and progressive country. We should not let this amalgamate of unscrupulous criminals ruin the aspirations of our present and future generations and hamper the peace and development, which our far-flung communities equally deserve.

RAYMUNDO CUNTAPAY,
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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PUNCHLINE

Who controls the NPA? – DU30; apply anti-terror law – PNP



By **FRED LORO**

“WHO controls the New Peoples’ Army (NPA)?” Pres. Duterte asked.

The situation is “confusing,” the Punisher said as he issued a proclamation terminating peace talks with the Reds.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it will be applying soon the anti-terrorism law in dealing with communist rebels amid anticipated escalation of attacks.

The law is harsher but it is the law, the PNP said.

“Who controls the NPA? Sino ang dapat kausapin?” presidential spokesman Harry Roque asked, quoting the President.

While the government and communist leaders were holding peace talks, the NPAs were attacking, Malacanang complained.

Roque said this shows that Com-

munist Party leaders have no direct control over their cadres or soldiers.

So whom should we talk with? he said.

Roque added that the branding of Duterte as “political swindler” by NDF leader Jose Maria Sison was “foul.”

The President has been good to them and even pushed for “social justice” for the poor, he said.

Meanwhile, PNP spokesman Senior Superintendent Dionardo Carlos said that they are just waiting for a formal declaration by the Philippine government that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing are “terrorists.”

“If they are (formally) tagged as a terror group, their actions will now be under the Human Security Act,” Carlos said.

He explained that the Human Security Act of 2007, the anti-terror law, carries harsher penalties compared to the regular penalties under the

Revised Penal Code which is being used now in filing charges of rebellion, arson, murder, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Harsher charges and penalties for “terrorists,” he said.

Carlos said Presidential Proclamation 360 terminates all peace talks with the Communist rebels but a formal declaration that they are “terrorists” is still needed.

Proclamation issued, declaration awaited.

Carlos added that elite forces of the PNP were alerted to secure police stations and other vital installations in NPA infested areas.

Alert, alert, alert!

“We are in constant coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Our operations are intelligence-based... We will continue with our normal counter-insurgency operations,” said Carlos.

Better watch out. Vigilance is the antidote to disaster.

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Pahina. 4

PIMENTEL BINASTOS NA NAMAN SI DUTERTE

HINDI porke pangulo na ng Senado si Aquilino Pimentel III ay maaari na nitong bastusin ang Pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas at ang Senado na kapareho naman niyang binoto ng mayorya ng mga bontante.

Huwag kalimutan ni Pimentel na siya ay nag-iisang kasapi ng PDP – Laban sa Senado.

Kaya lamang siya naging presidente ng Senado dahil sa solidong pagkilala at pag-suporta ng mayorya ng mga senador kay Pangulong Rodrigo

Duterte na siya ring tagapangulo ng PDP – Laban.

Ngunit sa ikalawang pagkakataon, binastos na naman ni Pimentel si Pangulong Duterte.

Noong una, nag-annunsiyo sa media si Pimentel ng unang anim na kandidato ng PDP – Laban sa pagkasenador sa eleksiyong 2019 kung saan kasama siya nang hindi man lang kinokonsulta ang Pangulo at pamunuan ng PDP – Laban.

Ang pinakabago at pangalawa ay ang pagbalewala ni Pi-

mentel sa desisyon ni Duterte na tapusin na ang pakikipag-usap ng Gobyerno ng Republika ng Pilipinas sa National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

Isinarado na ng Pangulo ang pintuan ng GRP para sa NDFP, sapagkat kumbinsido itong wala nang katuturan na makipag-usap pa sa NDFP na binubuo ng Communist Party of the Philippines at ng New People's Army.

Ang pagkadismaya ng Pangulo ay nakabatay sa patuloy na pag-atake at pagpatay ng NPA sa mga pulis at sundalo at ang paggigilit ng

pangkat ni Jose Ma. Sison na maging bahagi ng GRP ang NDFP.

Kung bahagi na ng GRP ang NDFP-CPP-NPA, kailangang kasama ang maliit na pangkat sa pamunuan nito na magpasya sa iba't ibang responsibilidad at aspeto ng pamahalaan, bukod kay Pang. Duterte.

Opisyal ang ginawang pagsasara ni Duterte sa pag-uusap ng pamahalaan at ng komunistang kampo ni Sison.

Ngunit, itong si Senate President Pimentel ay inalok pa sa NDFP-CPP-NPA ang Senado upang magiging 'tulay' ng komunistang pangkat ni Si-

son kay Duterte sa pag-aakalang mababago ang pasya ng Pangulo.

Ano ang layunin ng inaalok ni Pimentel? Ano ang mapapala niya sa kanyang pambabastos sa ating Pangulo?

Kung nagsara na ang pinuno ng GRP, bakit gusto pang buksan ni Pimentel ang pakikipag-usap sa mga komunistang kampon ni Sison, gayong alam na alam naman nito na malabo nang mabaliktad ang posisyon ni Pangulong Duterte, sapagkat saksakan ng tigas ng ulo ang pangkat ni Joma Sison?

(ITUTULOY)

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ P8.00

Pagdanak ng dugo ng kapwa Pinoy



HINDI pumaltos ang aking labanan na lalong iiging ang mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA), lalo na nga nang putulin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang peace talks sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at ng CPP/NDF/NPA; lalo na nang bansagang mga terorista ang naturang grupo.

Nakasisindak, halimbawa, ang sagupaan ng mga sundalo at pulis

ng pamahalaan at ng mga rebelde sa Batangas; 15 pinaghihirapang NPA rebels at isang UP student ang napatay. Nauna rito, siyam pang rebelde ang napaslang sa nasabi ring lalawigan. Sa isang lugar sa Surigao, dalawa pang hinihinalang NPA rebels ang napatay. Maaaring mayroon pang malagim na bakbakan ang nagaganap sa iba't ibang sulok ng kapuluan. Hindi maliwanag kung may napatay ding tropa ng gobyerno.

Naniniwala ako na ang maiging na pakikipagbakbakan ng ating mga alagad ng batas at ng sinasabing mga terorista ay may kumpas ng Pangulo.

Katunayan, inihayag niya sa isang pagtitipon na dodoblehin niya ang mga sundalo at pulis sa paglipol ng mga terorista na naghahásik ng karahasan sa mga komunidad.

Kaakibat ng naturang pahayag, tila nagbiro pa ang Pangulo sa mga kawal. Tatlo ang dala ninyong magasin ng baril; ang dalawa ay para sa mga kalaban at ang pangatlo ay para sa inyong bunganga. Marahil, nais lamang niyang bigyang-diin, sa aking pananaw, na huwag silang susuko sa labanan. Nahiwatigan kona masyado nang nasagad ang kanyang pasensiya sa mga NPA rebels at sa mismong pamunuan ng Communist

Party of the Philippines (CPP) at National Democratic Front (NDF). Dahilan ito kung bakit tinuldukan niya ang usapang pangkapayapaan na ginaganap sa The Netherlands at sa iba pang lugar sa Europa.

Sakabila ng gayong paninindigan ng Pangulo, hindi pa rin humuhupa ang paniniwala na marapat pa rin ang puspusan at matapat na peace talks hindi lamang sa mga rebeldeng komunistang kundi maging sa iba pang grupo na naghahasik din ng pagkakawatak-watak. Ang Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Moro Islamic Liberation Front...

Sundan sa pahina 11

Mula sa pahina 7

(MILF), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) at iba pa ay marapat na magkaunawaan alang-alang sa pagtatamo ng pangmatagalang kapayapaan.

Totoo na dapat ding malipol ang mapanganib na elemento na gumugulo sa mga komunidad, lalo na ng mga grupo na nagpapabagsak sa gobyerno. Subalit totoo rin na masyadong nakapanlulumong masaksihan na ang mga naglalabanan ay mga Pilipino at nagiging dahilan ng pagdanak ng dugo ng kapwa mga Pilipino.

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Army always ready to serve nation like Bonifacio

By Priam Nepomuceno November 30, 2017, 4:11 pm

MANILA -- Like Gat Andres Bonifacio, who is celebrating his 154th birthday Thursday, the Philippine Army (PA) is always ready to serve the people and protect the land.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson said Bonifacio is always a hero to the PA due to his efforts to secure nation's freedom and setting up an example on how to use it well.

"Gat Andres Bonifacio is a hero to all of us not only because he fought for our freedom, but because he also taught us to use that hard-won freedom in the best interest of the country and people," he added in a message to the Philippine News Agency.

Tiongson said the PA is more than willing to emulate the example of the 'Great Plebeian'.

"We are always ready to go beyond our call of duties and responsibilities as we serve the people and secure the land," he added.

Around 8 a.m. Thursday, as part of the commemoration rites to honor Kataas-taasang "Kagalang-galang na Kapitan na Anak ng Bayan" (KKK) founder, a simple wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Bonifacio Monument in front of the Tutuban Center.

Activities were led by officials and representatives of the Tutuban Properties, Inc. and National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

Bonifacio, born on Nov. 30, 1863 in Tondo, Manila, was the founder and later supreme leader of the KKK movement which sought to free the Philippines from Spanish colonial rule.

Bonifacio and his brother Procopio were executed in Maragondon, Cavite, after being found guilty of treason by the Katipunan Magdalo faction supporting Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in May 10, 1897. **(PNA)**

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

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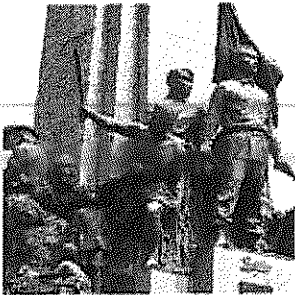
CALL F DUTY | PA Emboldens Culture of Heroism on Bonifacio day

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 30, 2017 at 8:51 PM



FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – The Philippine Army emboldened the culture of heroism in all its personnel as the Filipino nation commemorates the 154th birth anniversary of Gat Andres Bonifacio, the founder of Katipunan, here and in other historic places on November 30, 2017.

A wreath-laying ceremony and commemorative program was held at the Andres Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City which was attended by Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito D Bauista, Commanding General of the Philippine Army.



Likewise, wreath-laying and commemoration ceremonies were also held in the monument of Andres Bonifacio at the Headquarters Philippine Army which was attended by Ms. Nerizza Distrito-Gaco, a descendant of Gat Andres Bonifacio.

As protectors of the people and the state, the army personnel once again rekindled the heroism that Gat Andres Bonifacio displayed during the Philippine Revolution, an ordinary Filipino who is ready to respond to the call of duty.



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

“Gat Andres Bonifacio is a hero to all of us not only because he fought for our freedom, but because he also taught us how to use the hard-won freedom in the best interests of our country and people,” said Lt. Gen. Bautista.

The Philippine Army also recalled the heroism of its soldiers in Marawi City in rescuing the hostages and liberating the city from the hands of the Daesh-inspired Maute terrorist group during the five-month siege, and in protecting the local communities from the communist terrorists.

“As we pay tribute to Gat Andres Bonifacio, let us instill this culture of heroism and go beyond our call of duties as we serve the people and secure the land,” Bautista added. **OACPA/MCAG**

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

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HONORING A HERO | PMAP Awards Gawad Kagitingan to Cpt Jeffrey Buada

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on November 30, 2017 at 11:58 AM

DUSIT THANI HOTEL, Makati City (DWDD) – The prestigious People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), founded in 1956, awarded the Gawad Kagitingan (Makatao Special award) to Cpt Jeffrey N. Buada, commanding officer of the 15th Scout Ranger Company.



The awarding by the premiere human resource management association in the country was held during the annual PMAP Gawad Makatao Awards at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City.

A PMAP award, usually reserved for media organizations and personalities, was given to Cpt Buada for his selfless act and willingness to die for the freedom of hostages held captive by the Daesh-inspired Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups in Marawi City.

Cpt Buada was purposely chosen by PMAP for the award for his extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor. He has distinguished not only himself but the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines. He has also been recommended for the Medal of Valor Award. **AFP / MCAG**

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

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FOCUSED OPERATIONS | NOLCOM Troops clashes with NPA terror group in Abra

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 30, 2017 at 11:53 AM

CAMP SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – Troops from the 24th Infantry Battalion of the 5th Infantry Star Division, encountered the terrorist group New People's Army (NPA) at in the afternoon of November 27, 2017, in Sitio Nagas-asan, Brgy Ud-udiao, Sallapadan, Abra.



The Northern Luzon Command troopers were on security patrol, when they chanced upon the NPA criminal/terror group and eventually engaged in a firefight. The said terrorist group were members of the Agustin Begnalín Command, Kilusang Larangang Gerilya (KLG) North Abra of the Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Party Committee (ICRC) being led by Abdon Siddayao @CHICO/ABDUL/RIM.

There was an undetermined number of casualties on the NPA side while one (1) personnel from the said army unit was wounded in his leg as a result of the encounter.

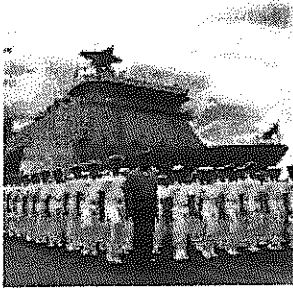
The Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) continuously conducts focused military operations (FMO) in selected areas of Northern Luzon frequently visited by the remnants of the NPA criminal group, preventing them from sowing terror to the populace and hinder development and progress in the area. **5DPAO/MCAG**

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

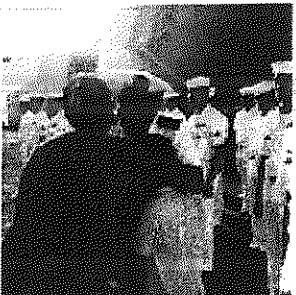
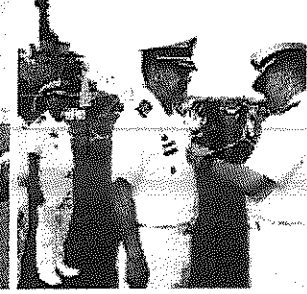
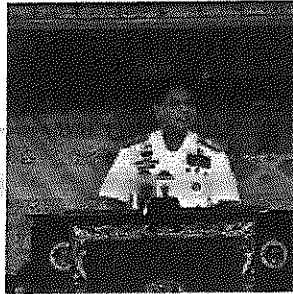
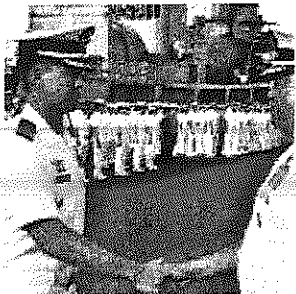
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WELCOME CEREMONY | PN accords Arrival Honors for Navy contingent to AMNEX 2017

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on November 29, 2017 at 11:11 AM



PIER 13, South Harbor, Manila (DWDD) – The Philippine Navy accorded a fitting arrival and welcome ceremony on November 29, 2017 for the returning more or less 600-man contingent onboard two of the PN's modern and recently acquired vessels, BRP Tarlac (LD601) and BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (FF15) after the successful participation in the inaugural ASEAN Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX) on Nov. 13 to 22, 2017 at Pattaya and Sattahip Bay, Thailand. **NPAO/MCAG**



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

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Pursuit operations were launched by joint forces of the PNP and the AFP. 2DPAO/MCAGAJEX 2017 | AFP NOLCOM Joint Exercise

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on November 30, 2017 at 10:51 AM



CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – The Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) forces has participated in the 1st AFP Joint Exercise (AJEX) on November 27, 2017 conducted in Fort Ramon Magsaysay, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

This event is a capability demonstration on Joint military exercise participated by the three branches of service of the AFP namely: the Philippine Army, Navy and Air Force.

This is to ensure the AFP's joint operational readiness of in addressing the different threats that may evolve in the contemporary operational environment. It will be highlighted by the Joint force Operation applied in a complex archipelagic environment.



Among the activities during the event are the Table Top Exercise for the Planning and Command and Control, Execution of plans that involves fly-by of Philippine Air Force and Navy air assets dropping bombs on pre-designated targets and conduct close air support, while live firing of howitzers, maneuver of tanks and Airborne Demonstration for the Philippine Army contingent.

The Deputy Chief of Staff AFP, Lt Gen Salvador Melchor Mison, acted as the Guest of Honor gracing the event, together with Defense Undersecretary for Finance Ammunition Installations and Materials Raymundo DV Elefante, Lt Gen Emmanuel Salamat, the Commander of NOLCOM, Commanders of TRADOC and 7th ID and other field commanders within NOLCOM Area of Responsibility.

The NOLCOM forces operating in Central and Northern Luzon, having a professional, well-trained and well-equipped force, will always be ready to address in any situation all threats to national security, that includes both external and insurgency threats and terrorism. **NOLCOM PIO / MCAG**

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ENCOUNTER WITH PROFESSIONALS | NAVFORSOL visit by students of St Agnes Academy

Posted by **Alvin Santiago** on November 8, 2017 at 10:45 AM



RAWIS, Legazpi City (DWDD) – Eight personnel from Naval Forces Southern Luzon (NAVFORSOL) visited the Grade 3 pupils of St. Agnes Academy during the school-initiated Career Day Activity dubbed as Encounter with the Professionals at St. Agnes Academy, Legazpi City.

The children were in awe upon seeing their “real life superheroes” in different navy uniforms.

They actively participated and were truly inspired in the discussion about the mission of the Philippine Navy and the heroism of all military personnel. **NAVFORSOL/MCAG**



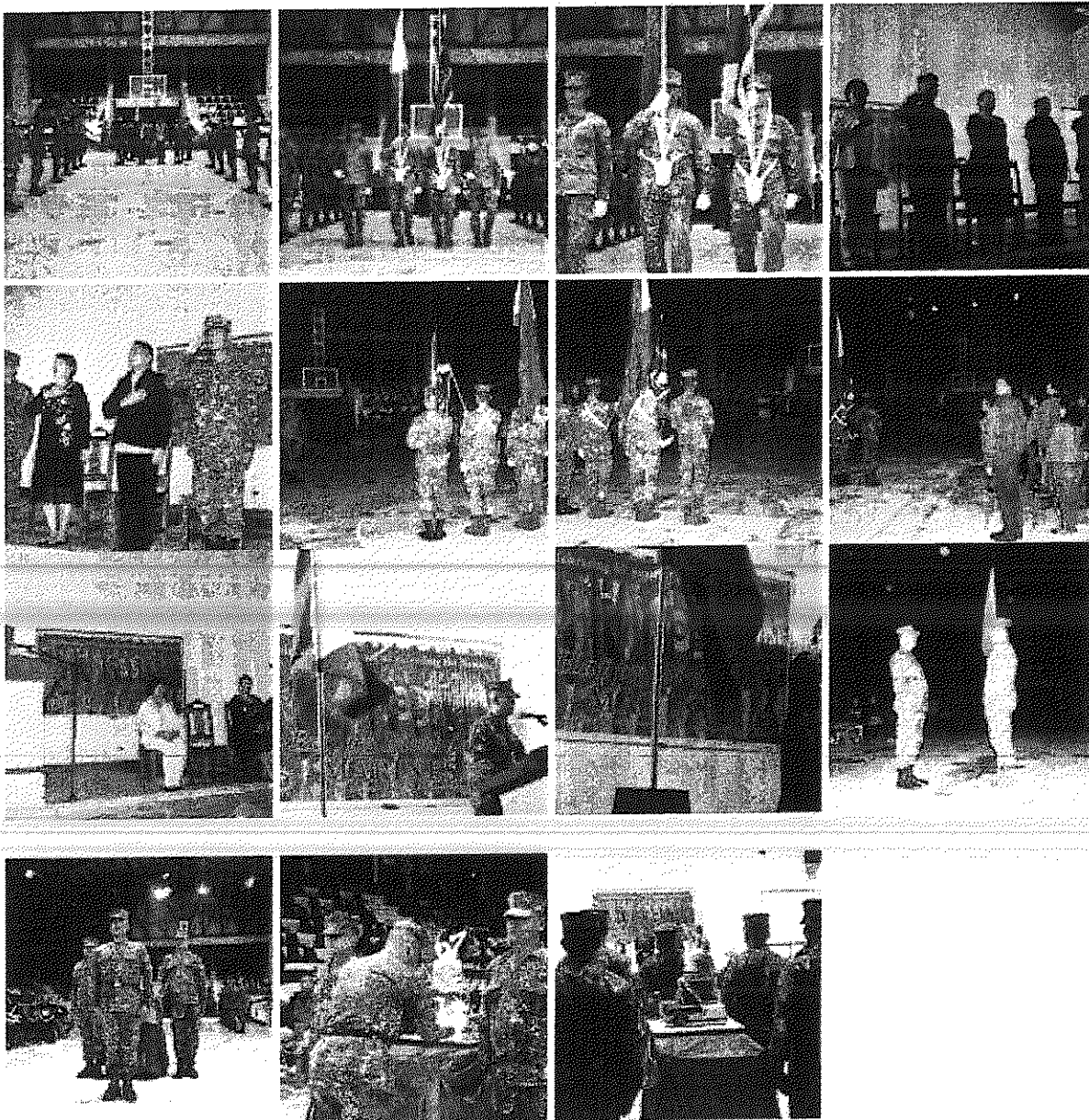
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THE FEW, THE PROUD | 67th Marine Day Celebration in Batanes

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 30, 2017 at 10:26 AM

BASCO, Batanes (DWDD) – The 67th Marine Day Celebration was commemorated in Basco, Batanes November 25, 2017. NOLCOM PIO / MCAG



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New Army battalion eyed to fight NPA in Panay

From the Philippine News Agency (Nov 29): **New Army battalion eyed to fight NPA in Panay**

Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Eduardo Año on Tuesday talked of a plan to activate a new battalion in Panay to continuously go after the New People's Army in the island.

"We need the unity of different sectors. Once and for all, let us end this," he stressed in a media interview after his visit to the wake of slain Police Officer I Joeffel Odon who died in a recent NPA ambush in Maasin, Iloilo.

Currently, they are working to fast track the pull out of the Philippine Army's 82nd Infantry Battalions (IB) deployed to Marawi City during the conflict. The battalion is based in Miagao, Iloilo.

Colonel Pio Diñoso, commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 301st Infantry Brigade (3rd Infantry Division) based in Dingle, Iloilo, said that they are currently expediting the activation of the new battalion.

"We have a lot of candidate soldiers who will undergo training so we could create the additional battalion," he said in a media interview.

Diñoso expressed hope that the new battalion will be organized early next year.

Año said that they would also provide additional training and equipment to the troops of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) of the Police Regional Office (PRO-6) to improve their skills and perform better.

He added that they would also review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), tactics, procedures and techniques of the Philippine National Police personnel in Western Visayas to improve their skills in dealing with incidents like NPA ambush and clash.