

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



TEAM ARMY
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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

03 December 2017

Sunday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 3, 2017 | SUNDAY

SUNRISE 6:06 AM	SUNSET 5:26 PM
MOONRISE 5:17 PM	MOONSET 5:20 AM
FIRST QUARTER NOV 27 1:09 AM	FULL MOON DEC 3 11:47 PM
LOW TIDE 2:01 AM 0:33 Meter	HIGH TIDE 9:23 PM 1.13 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

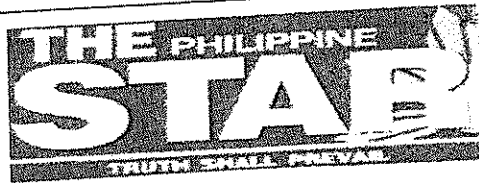
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

DEC 4		DEC 5		DEC 4		DEC 5	
METRO MANILA	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	19 - 28 °C	19 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 31 °C	23 - 30 °C	LEGAZPI	26 - 30 °C	25 - 29 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C
LAOAG	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 25 °C	15 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 34 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	<p>SAGUT KO, PADALA MO!</p>	

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

December 2017



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NPAs kill councilor, cop in new attacks

By EMMANUEL TUPAS and JAIME LAUDE

Communist rebels stepped up their offensive against the government, killing a local official and a policeman in separate attacks in Cagayan and Camarines Norte yesterday.

Police said Baggao town Councilor Angelo Luis died on the spot from multiple gunshot wounds.

Luis was taking a stroll in his garden when New People's Army (NPA) rebels, armed with M16 rifles and clad in camouflage uniforms, opened fire at close range.

Cagayan provincial police director Senior Supt. Warren Tolito said at least 20 rebels stormed the house and killed Luis before fleeing.

NPA rebels also attacked and killed a policeman and wounded six others in an ambush in Labo, Camarines Norte.

PO2 Richard Abad of the Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC) died on the spot while six of his colleagues were wounded during the attack in Sitio Binuang, Barangay Daguit.

Initial reports identified the wounded policemen as PO2s Ronald Gutierrez, Erickson de Vera, PO1s Jeffrey Tarrobago, Pedro Vale-

ros, Romar Umandap and Johnson Espana. Provincial police director Senior Supt. Cerilo Trilles Jr. said nine policemen were on two patrol vehicles on their way back to the provincial headquarters in Daet when the rebels waylaid them.

The policemen engaged the rebels in a firefight until reinforcements from the provincial police and military arrived.

The rebels fled the scene with no immediate reports if they also suffered casualties.

The police and military have launched pursuit operations against the rebels.

The NPA's Henry Abraham East Cagayan Command owned up to the killing of Luis, accusing the victim of working undercover for the military.

Luis has been critical of the NPA's extortion against local businessmen, traders and contractors in the province, police said.

Tolito said the rebels are attacking the

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construction sites in the province and burning heavy equipment used for the construction of the road going to Baggao and other government projects.

"This is the very advocacy Luis is espousing – a clean and good government for the people, that cost his life. Let us not waste it," Tolito said.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa slammed the NPA for the treacherous attacks.

Dela Rosa said they expected the NPA to resort to dirty warfare.

"They (NPA) waited for the policemen. That's deceit," he said.

Dela Rosa they would have wanted to avoid casualties in armed conflicts with the communist rebels.

"Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. That's part of the game," he said.

The communists threatened to wage "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 NPA as

terrorist groups.

Duterte has ordered security forces to shoot communist rebels bearing firearms as he revealed an executive order is being prepared to declare the NPA as a terrorist group.

Duterte also threatened to tag all "legal fronts" of the CPP-NPA as criminals and have them arrested for conspiracy.

Duterte has cancelled all future peace talks with the communist rebels, blaming the insurgents for deadly attacks against soldiers and police while the National Democratic Front (NDF), the umbrella organization representing the CPP-NPA, is holding peace negotiations

with the government.

The CPP, through the NPA, has been waging an insurgency since 1968.

Peace talks to end the conflict, which the military said has claimed 30,000 lives, have been conducted on and off for three decades.

They were revived last year after Duterte was elected president, with Norway and the Netherlands hosting the negotiations.

Duterte had shelved a round of negotiations in May and informal talks in July this year, citing treacherous NPA attacks on government forces. – With Celso Amo, Victor Martin, Raymund Catindig, Cet Dematera

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Philippine Army needs 19,176 tents

The Philippine Army (PA), through its Bids and Awards Committee, is looking for suppliers and manufacturers capable of producing 19,176 camouflage poncho tents for the use of its field units. Based on a bid bulletin posted on the PA website, the project has a budget of P17,258,660. Receipt and opening of bid envelopes is slated 9 a.m. on December 14 at the PA Bids and Awards Committee, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

PNA

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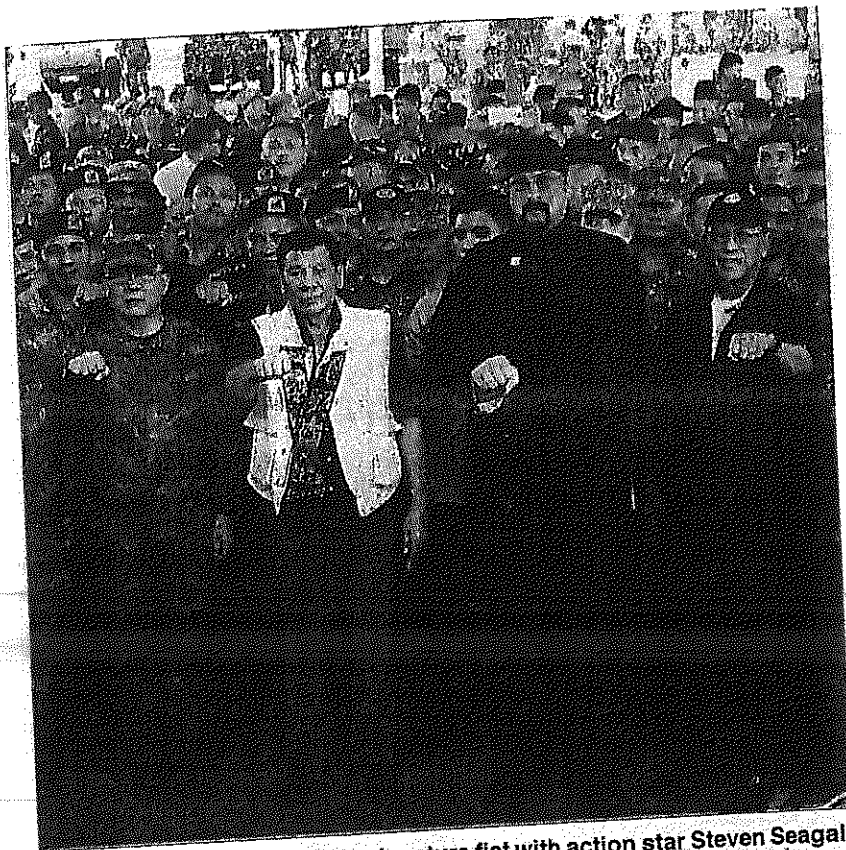


Marawi heroes honored President Duterte confers the Order of Lapu-Lapu award on one of the troops who contributed to the successful liberation of Marawi City from the terrorists during his visit at Camp General Teodulfo Bautista in Barangay Bus-Bus, Jolo, Sulu on December 1.

December 2017

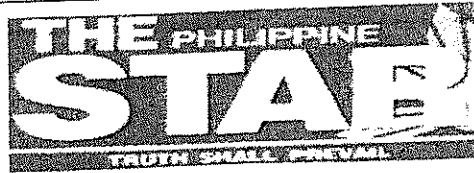


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President Duterte flashes his signature fist with action star Steven Seagal, AFP chief Gen. Rey Guerrero and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana during a visit to troops at Camp General Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu the other day.

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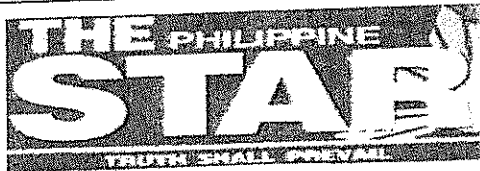
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President Duterte confers the order of Lapu-Lapu award on one of the troops who contributed to the successful liberation of Marawi City from terrorists during his visit at Camp General Teodulfo Bautista in Barangay Bus-Bus in Jolo, Sulu on Friday.

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Rody may decide on Mindanao martial law extension next week

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Whether martial law in Mindanao will be extended or not, the nation will know from President Duterte by next week or before Congress goes on Christmas recess, his spokesman said yesterday. In a press briefing, presidential

spokesman Harry Roque said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has submitted its recommendation to President Duterte after a consultation process.

He declined to give details, but said he has set a media briefing for tomorrow.

He stressed the President cannot extend martial law without Congress'

consent.

"Consultation is over. They now have a decision, and they will submit their recommendation to the President this week," Roque said in Filipino.

The presidential spokesman was here on invitation of Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar.

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President Duterte declared a 60-day martial law in Mindanao on May 23 while on a trip in Russia when Maute and Abu Sayyaf militants - both claiming links to the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) - laid siege to Marawi City. The President later extended his proclamation until Dec. 31, with the concurrence of Congress.

Roque said while the government has liberated Marawi City, threats of terrorism and violence remain.

He said world leaders in fact acknowledged the prevalence of terror threats not only in Asia but in the whole world during the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summits in Da Nang and Manila.

The leadership of Task Force Bangon Marawi said IS-linked militants have resumed recruiting members in Mindanao.

"Yes, I think martial law will help in the process of rebuilding Marawi. Everyone involved in the Bangon Marawi would feel safer if the President will exercise his power as commander-in-chief," Roque added.

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said any decision on whether to extend martial law or not

would likely be based on the assessment of the security situation by the military and the police.

"I trust the wisdom of the congressmen and the senators," he said.

"At the same time, we also wait for the recommendation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police because based on what the President said last week, he will have to wait for the recommendation of AFP and PNP," Andanar added.

Members of the Senate minority bloc, however, rejected calls for an extension of martial law in Mindanao.

In a statement, the Senate minority bloc said that martial law in Mindanao should be lifted as soon as possible "so that we can all focus on the rehabilitation of the devastated lives and livelihoods of the people of Marawi City and nearby areas."

Comprising the Senate opposition bloc were Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Sens. Francis Pangilinan, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Risa Hontiveros, Antonio Trillanes IV and Leila de Lima.

"The military itself has declared that Marawi City is already free from the clutches of the terrorist Maute Group so there is no more reason to extend military rule in the region. The reported threat on peace and order could already be addressed by the police," they said.

"Instead of focusing on extending

martial law, the government should train its sights on the quick rehabilitation of Marawi City so our Maranao brothers and sisters can resume their normal lives at the soonest possible time," they added.

OF They stressed they would support whatever rehabilitation plans the government would unveil for Marawi.

Sen. Sonny Angara said he would like to be briefed by the AFP and Department of National Defense on the actual situation in Marawi and in Mindanao as a whole.

"We know that the threat to replicate this (Marawi siege) is serious so we should be very cautious about this," he said.

- With Marvin Sy

5, 5295

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Commanders back martial law extension in Mindanao

By Julie Alipala,
Jigger Jerusalem
and Leila B. Salaverria
@Team_Inquirer

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Because the threat posed by Islamic State-inspired terror groups still hangs like the sword of Damocles over Mindanao, President Duterte is relying on the word of the military to help him decide whether to extend or lift martial law on the island.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Saturday said Mr. Duterte was only waiting for the recommendation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines so he could make a decision as early as next week.

"I have had prior consultations with the AFP and the recommendation will be submitted (to Malacañang) next week," Roque told reporters in Zamboanga City.

He said the President would base his decision on the military's take on the situation, particularly in Marawi City, which was liberated from Maute and Abu Sayaff terrorists in October, and nearby towns and provinces.

"The President will make a decision next week or the week after because Congress will go on recess on the 15th (of December)," Roque said. "And as you know we cannot have an extension of martial law without the consent of Congress."

A military commander, who spoke to the Inquirer on condition of anonymity, said he and fellow ranking officers in Mindanao backed the extension as it would help them quell rising terror threats in the region.

"It is really up to our [superiors] if they will push for an extension," said the officer. "Many military commanders on the ground are in favor of it."

He said extending martial law would help hasten the rebuilding of Marawi "as the military has full control of the area."

Another officer, Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao, said a "higher office" would make the recommendation to the President.

"As far as TF Ranao is concerned, we do not make one," he told the Inquirer by phone.

Brawner, however, said he would support the extension of martial law.

"I support it because it's already working in Marawi. It will be to the advantage of residents because they already feel safe. We have talked to them and they told us that they would feel less safe without martial law."

Task Force Bangon Marawi chair Eduardo del Rosario also backed continued military rule in Mindanao.

"I would like martial law to continue," said Del Rosario, former commander of the Western Mindanao Command who now heads the Housing and Urban Development Council.

"As [task force] chairperson, my main concern is the security of the whole rehabilitation effort," he added during a press briefing in Malacañang last Wednesday.

Roque said the military's recommendation was crucial despite the fact that Marawi had been cleared of terrorists.

"To me, let the AFP decide because they are on the ground," he said.

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said "most, if not the majority" of ordinary people in Mindanao preferred martial law's second extension.

Andanar said many residents were still worried about peace and order in Mindanao, where martial law remains in effect until Dec. 31.

"If you will, as the ordinary people in Mindanao, I can bet that for most, if not the majority, martial law is OK for the improvement of trade," Andanar said over state-run Radyo Pilipinas.

Andanar, who said he is from Cagayan-de Oro City and Surigao de Sur province, also preferred the extension of martial law.

"It's because you really can't say what will happen," he said.

Certain groups, however, insist that the threat has passed and are calling on the President to lift martial law.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Drieza Lininding of the Moro Consensus Group said the lifting of martial law, specifically in Marawi, will hasten the return of affected residents to their homes.

"Martial law was the reason why many civilians fled Marawi in the early days aside from airstrikes, and it is still the reason why many (people), even in cleared areas, are afraid to return. There will be no true homecoming unless martial law is lifted," Lininding said.

He said martial rule has "deprived many of us [of the chance] to visit our homes or what remains of it in the MBA [main battle area], while we see VIP and powerful persons being toured around the area. Our [homes have become] a tourist spot for VIP of influential people, including celebrities."

Lininding also blamed many cases of abuse allegedly suffered by civilians on martial law.

In its postinvestigation report, the nongovernment organization Kalinaw Mindanao said it documented more than 300 cases of human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by soldiers in Marawi at the height of the conflict and even after Mr. Duterte declared the city liberated from the extremists.

Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña said he was against the imposition of martial law on the island from the start.

"I also did not favor the extension of martial law and was vocal about it," Dela Peña said.

—WITH A REPORT FROM TITO FIEL INQ

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No public bidding for Marawi projects

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

The government will not hold a public bidding for the reconstruction of war-torn Marawi City and will instead accept pro-

posals from developers that would be subjected to a Swiss challenge, according to Task Force Bangon Marawi chair Eduardo del Rosario.

Del Rosario said accepting proposals that would undergo a

Swiss challenge was a faster process than conducting a public bidding.

"This seems to be a much better and faster process instead of bidding. But instead we will go to the mode of Swiss

challenge. It will be like bidding but faster and better," Del Rosario said in a briefing.

Del Rosario said the total comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction plan would be crafted by the National Eco-

nomics and Development Authority.

The plan would be ready by the last week of March, he said.

Earlier estimates put the cost of reconstruction as high as P90 billion.

According to Del Rosario, what the government has done regarding Marawi was to call on big-time developers, both foreign and national, to submit unsolicited proposals for rebuilding the city. INQ

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INQUIRER

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Solon: NPA attacks part of plot for RevGov

By DJ Yap
@deejayapINQ

The supposed antagonism between President Duterte and communist leaders could be part of a "grand scheme" to use insurgent attacks as an excuse to declare a revolutionary government (RevGov), a lawmaker said on Saturday.

"Wittingly or unwittingly, the communists could be part of this scheme," said Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano, a former rebel Marine captain, in a statement.

Alejano suggested there might be a connection between Mr. Duterte's increasingly hostility to communist leaders he previously called friends and moves to declare a revolutionary government. Alejano said Mr. Duterte's seeming antagonism with the communists could result in more



New People's Army guerrillas stand in formation inside a rebel camp deep in the Sierra Madre mountains in this 2016 file photo.

—BOY BAGWIS/CONTRIBUTOR

and intensified militant attacks, which would justify a revolutionary government.

"Communist groups have long been waging acts to bring down the democratic government regardless of who the sit-

ting president is, yet President Duterte immediately and comfortably appointed communist high-ranking government posts," he said.

Though former Social Wel-

fare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo and Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano have been rejected by the Commission on Appointments, some leftists remain in government.

Among them are Labor Undersecretary Joel Maglunsod, National Anti-Poverty Commission Secretary Liza Maza and Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor Chair Terry Ridon.

Peace talks

Moreover, Alejano said Mr. Duterte's public pronouncements against the leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army (NPA) and National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) did not jibe with his actions.

"The repeated threats of declaring a revolutionary government by the President, his

continuing relationship with the CPP-NPA-NDFP, and the disjointed and disparate policy against communist rebels are something to be wary about," Alejano said.

"Based on the information I received, backdoor negotiations between the peace panels have continued even after President Duterte discredited the importance of pursuing peace talks with the communist groups," he said.

"In fact, as a result of these backdoor negotiations, a proposed simultaneous signing of agreements this December between the peace-negotiating panels is being prepared," Alejano said.

He said these agreements include the contentious Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms, a general amnesty to political prisoners, and an Agreement on Coor-

dated Unilateral Ceasefire.

"Specifically contained in the ceasefire agreement would be a stand-down order to (the Armed Forces of the Philippines) while NPA units remain in their designated zones," Alejano said.

'Puzzling'

"Further, Duterte has not yet transmitted a formal notice of termination of peace talks to the negotiating panels," he added.

Alejano said: "It is puzzling that while President Duterte is lambasting the CPP-NPA in public, backdoor negotiations with the NDFP continue."

"The people and other government institutions, particularly the military, should remain vigilant and critical [of] such machinations meant to violate the Constitution and destroy our democratic government," he said. INQ

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NPA REBELS KILL COP, WOUND 7 IN BICOL AMBUSH

By Juan Escandor Jr.
and Mar S. Arguelles
@Team_Inquirer

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspected rebels killed a police officer and wounded seven others in an ambush in Labo town in Camarines Norte before dawn on Saturday after the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ordered the New People's Army (NPA) to intensify attacks against state forces.

The attack came days after the rebels suffered at least 15 dead in a clash with Air Force troops and police in Batangas province in the biggest single-day casualty for the NPA since President Duterte ordered the termination of peace talks with the insurgents last month.

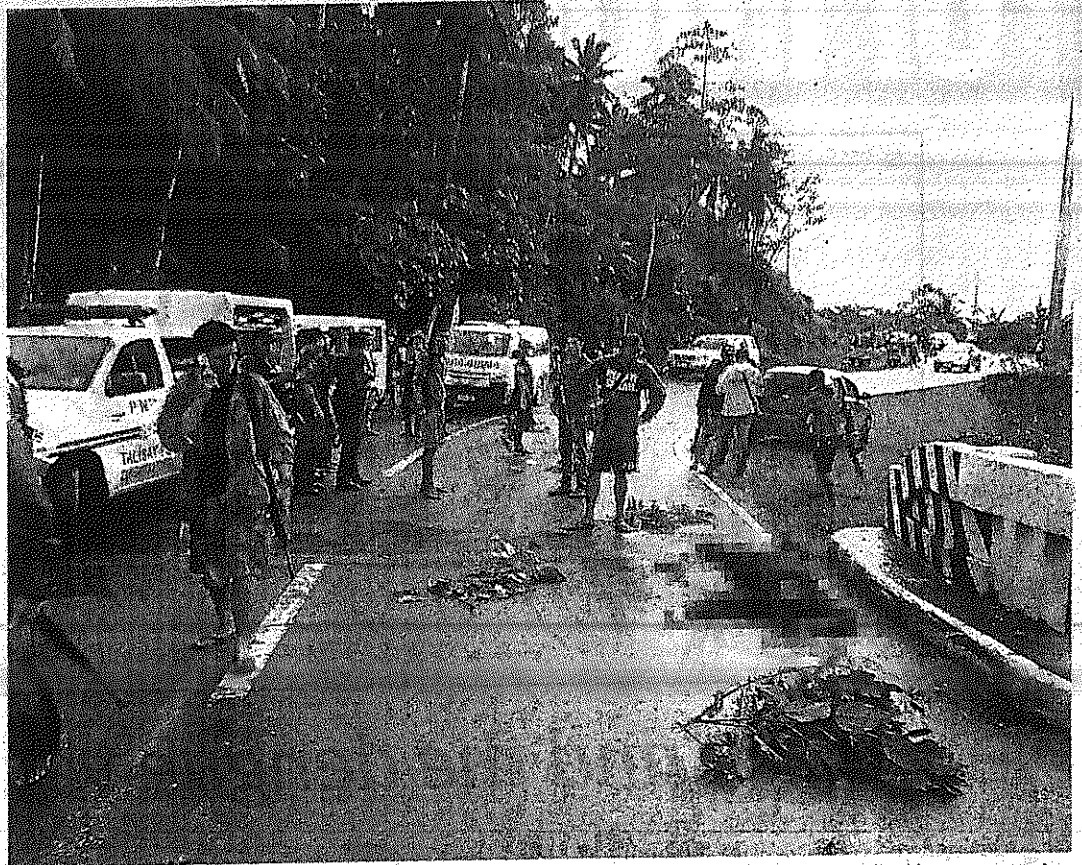
The rebels waylaid two police patrol cars traveling through Barangay Daguit on their way from Labo town to Camarines Norte provincial police headquarters in Camp Wenceslao Vinzons in Daet town, said Bicol police spokesperson Senior Insp. Maria Luisa Calubaquib.

PO2 Richard Abad, a member of Camarines Norte Police Mobile Force, was killed in the attack at around 1 a.m.

Wounded were Ronald Gutierrez and Ericson De Vera, both with rank of PO2, and Jeffrey Tarrobag, Pedro Valeros, Romar Umandap, Johnson España, and a certain Aguilar all with the rank of PO1.

Communist party founder Jose Maria Sison said in an online interview on Saturday that the intensified attacks against government forces were in retaliation to Mr. Duterte's recent moves against the rebels.

"He [Duterte] has arrogantly announced that he continues on the path of all-out war. The NPA has no choice but to take the initiative and do its best to defeat its enemy in as many



DEADLY COST OF WAR Government troopers view the body of a policeman killed by communist rebels in Labo, Camarines Norte, on Saturday. —REY KENNETH ONING/CONTRIBUTOR

places as possible," Sison said.

In a statement last week, the CPP ordered the NPA to "continue to wage and intensify guerrilla warfare nationwide in order to inflict powerful blows against Duterte's fascist machinery."

Calubaquib said that Chief Supt. Antonio Gardiola Jr., Bicol police chief, ordered all police stations across the region to be on round-the-clock "high alert" after the President declared the cancellation of peace negotiations.

Senior Supt. Cerilo Trilles, acting police provincial director in Camarines Norte, said the police, backed by soldiers, were pursuing the rebels that attacked the police convoy.

In Albay, Col. Alden Juan Masagca, commander of the

Army's 901st Infantry Brigade, said the military would also conduct more counteroffensives against the NPAs.

In Saturday's interview from Utrecht, the Netherlands, where he has lived in exile since 1987, Sison said, "It is impossible for Duterte to wipe out the CPP, NPA and NDFP (National Democratic Front of the Philippines) by using methods of mass murder."

He said more than 90 percent of CPP members were "secret," adding that to kill one "he [Duterte] will have to kill 100 or even 1,000 suspects."

Sison also claimed that many legal activists were preparing to join the underground revolutionary movement following Duterte's threat of tagging them as terrorists,


opening them to attacks.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Saturday said the President's earlier shoot-to-kill order were for armed rebels, not for noncombatants like members of civil society and religious groups.

Roque also belittled the threat by the NPA to intensify attacks, citing the government's victory over the pro-Islamic State militants in Marawi City.

"If we have defeated the Isis, how much more [the NPA]? I am not bragging but if the government managed to defeat a [global] terrorist group as Isis, wouldn't they (get defeated too)?" he said. —WITH REPORTS FROM DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., MICHAEL B. JAUCIAN AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

3 December 2017


MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Seagal exhorts, lauds PH troops, backs Rody's battles

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

Hollywood actor Steven Seagal reiterated his support for President Duterte as he expressed that the Chief Executive's battles are winnable, even if the victories may take a long time.

Seagal joined Duterte who visited soldiers stationed at Camp General Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu Friday.

When asked by Duterte to speak to the troops, Seagal commended the soldiers for being able to overcome the five-month war against the Daesh-inspired terrorists in Marawi

City, Lanao del Sur.

"I think the main thing we all have to keep in our hearts is we don't win this battle today. We don't win this battle tomorrow. It's gonna be a long fight, but the idea is to annihilate the enemy through attrition," Seagal told the soldiers.

"It's gonna be a long battle, but slowly, day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year, the enemy will get smaller and finally they will be gone to the point where it is absolutely and positively controllable," he added.

He also commended the troops for their commitment to the country, the President, and for their commitment "to do the things you have to do to make the Philippines safe."

Seagal said Duterte's battles are winnable and he hopes that he could somehow be a part of it.

"We have a problem. We have kidnapping, narco-trafficking, human trafficking, organ trafficking and terrorism. I know you guys put your life on the line everyday. I, myself, have done and will do the same thing so I understand this is serious business," Seagal said.

"I believe there is a formula that can help the armed forces, the police, the intelligence network to combat this very, very well. I am looking forward to discussing these things with President Duterte at a later time," he added.

"I hope I can be involved with all of you in this war against all of these evil things," he continued.

Seagal has always expressed his admiration for the President, saying

Duterte is a good president and is instrumental in making the Philippines a safer place to live in.

Last October, Duterte met with Seagal in Malacañang as the actor scouted for a location in the country for his upcoming movie.

Upon learning that Seagal's movie is about illegal drugs and other crimes, Duterte reportedly told the 65-year-old celebrity that movies are a reflection of life.

He also reiterated to Seagal his strong stance against illegal drugs as it enslaves people to a form of synthetic chemical.

Seagal, who is in the country for the third time, said he is interested in casting Filipino talents for the show.

The filming will reportedly take place in various parts of the country, including in Vigan City.

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P20 M allotted for construction of Marawi cop station

At least P20 million has been allotted for the construction of the Marawi City police station and other offices of the Philippine National Policen (PNP) that were destroyed during the five-month battle between government security forces and pro-Islamic State terrorists.

The PNP engineering service bids and awards committee set a pre-bid conference for the project on Dec. 5 at Camp Crame.

Bids will be opened on Dec. 10 in the same venue.

Of the amount, P14.5 million was allocated for the construction of the police

station, P1.2 million for the station's fence and guard house, and P1.5 million for improvement of its surroundings.

Another P2.7 million was earmarked for the construction of two community police action centers in the city.

The police station located

on Perez street in Barangay West Marinaut was torched by the Maute terrorists.

It was not clear yet if the new police station will be built at the same site.

Government security forces regained control of the police station in August.

– Emmanuel Tupas

December 2017



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Gov't still negotiating with NDF – lawmaker

By JESS DIAZ

The Duterte administration is still negotiating with the communist-led Europe-based National Democratic Front (NDF) despite the President's decision to cancel the peace talks,

"In fact, as a result of these negotiations, a proposed simultaneous signing of agreements this December is being prepared. The agreements include the comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms, a general amnesty for political prisoners and an agree-

ment on coordinated ceasefire," he said.

He said the military would be ordered to "stand down, while New People's Army (NPA) units would remain in their designated zones."

Alejandro did not indicate where he got his information. In October, he revealed that Chinese ships were massing near Pag-asa Island, which is occupied by Filipino soldiers and civilians.

A few days later, administration officials confirmed some Chinese vessels passed by the island, which Palawan considers one of its towns.

Alejandro said it is difficult to believe the "sudden and extreme shift of tune" of President Duterte in relation to the NDF-NPA-Communist Party of the Philippines.

"The seemingly antagonistic public pronouncements of Duterte and the sudden termination of peace talks and even going to the extent of tagging the CPP-NPA-NDF as terrorist organizations are difficult to reconcile with the fact that Duterte is closest to them, compared to other past presidents and with what is happening beyond the public eye," he said.

He said the President continues to harbor "communist allies" in his government, allowing them "to have control over policy decisions and budgets of agencies."

"Initially, the appointments could be seen as confidence-building measure. However, if the President really abhors the CPP-NPA-NDF now, whom he wants to be tagged as terrorists, shouldn't they be removed from the government at once? It's as if you allow to stay in your own house individuals you call terrorists," he said.

The former Marine officer urged the people and the military to "remain vigilant and critical against machinations meant to violate the Constitution and destroy our democratic government."

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The Manila Times

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NPA owns up to killing of Cagayan town councilor

A MUNICIPAL councilor of Baggao town in Cagayan province was killed by alleged members of the New People's Army (NPA) who barged into his house on Saturday morning at Barangay Awallan.

Based on a statement released to Bombo Radyo in Tuguegarao City, the NPA's Henry Abraham East Cagayan Command claimed responsibility for the killing of Baggao town councilor Angelo Luis for "being unfriendly to the movement."

In the statement, the NPA said

Luis has been an "undercover agent" who feeds information to the Military Intelligence Group in Cagayan Valley.

Cagayan police said at least 20 NPA rebels wearing Philippine Army uniform entered the house of the victim and shot him dead.

Initial investigation showed that Luis was fatally shot three times in the head, resulting in his immediate death.

The victim's family was still in shock and refused to comment on the allegation made by the

NPA rebels in their statement.

In 2012, Luis filed a case against Vice Mayor Joan Cabildo Dunuan, then an administrative assistant of Baggao local government, for falsifying her daily time record (DTR). Dunuan was removed from the service when the Civil Service Commission (CSC) ordered her dismissed after finding her guilty of serious dishonesty.

Dunuan relinquished her post only on October 30, 2017 when the Department of the Interior and Local Gov-

ernment (DILG) enforced the CSC order.

She said the complaint against her was politically motivated.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) Cagayan Chapter has condemned the murder of Luis.

"We call on the concerned authorities to conduct a thorough investigation on the circumstances surrounding the death of the honorable councilor," PCL head Maila Ting Que said in her Facebook post.

Also an ex-officio member

of Cagayan provincial board and Tuguegarao City councilor, Que said there is a need for the investigation "to eliminate all possible angles amid speculations and pronouncements made by certain groups claiming responsibility."

The provincial government also expressed in the strongest terms its condemnation and called for authorities to conduct a thorough and speedy investigation and bring to the bar of justice those responsible.

Governor Manuel Mamba said

the killing is "disguised as an act of patriotism pursuant to communist ideologies is nothing but plain and simple terrorism."

"Our leaders should not cower in fear or be coerced to submit to the whimsical and capricious demands of these insurgent groups," Mamba added.

"This is also an earnest call on the members of the Cagayan community to support the government's efforts to fight insurgency, especially in our province," he said.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO

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The Manila Times

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1 killed, 6 wounded in Camarines 'Reds' attack

BY RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

LEGAZPI CITY: Suspected communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels killed a police officer and wounded six others during an ambush of a Philippine National Police (PNP) convoy at about 1 a.m. on Saturday in Labo, Camarines Norte.

Killed was Police Officer (PO)2 Richard Abad. Wounded were PO2 Ronald Gutierrez, PO2 Ericson De Vera, PO1 Jeffrey Tarobago, PO1 Pedro Valeros, PO1 Romar Umandap and PO1 Johnson

Espa a, all members of provincial mobile force company assigned in Camarines Norte.

Senior Insp. Maria Luisa Calubaquib, PNP regional spokesman, said the wounded policemen

were brought to Camarines Norte provincial hospital for treatment.

She said the policemen were conducting three-day combat operations when an undetermined number of communist rebels attacked the two convoys of law enforcers along Sitio Binuang, Barangay Daguit in Labo.

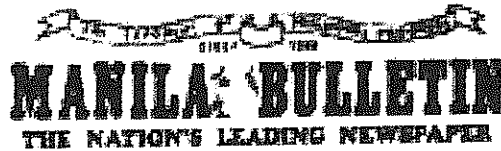
"The nine-man team of Camarines Norte Police Mobile Force Company, led by PO2 Rommel Orante, on board two patrol vehicles were fired upon by an undetermined number of local communist terrorists during the conduct of the

three-day internal security operation," Calubaquib said.

Police Senior Supt. Gerardo Trilles, Jr, acting provincial director, immediately proceeded to the ambush site to help in the rescue effort and pursue the fleeing communist rebels.

The rebels resumed their attack on government troops in Bicol after President Rodrigo Duterte terminated peace talks with leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front and said the rebels are to be classified as terrorists.

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Senate minority opposes martial law extension

The five-member Senate opposition bloc opposed yesterday any move to extend military rule in Mindanao beyond the Dec. 31, 2017 deadline granted by Congress.

"We propose that the martial law in Mindanao be lifted as soon as possible so that we can all focus on the rehabilitation of the devastated lives and livelihoods of the people of Marawi City and nearby areas," the minority bloc members said.

Members of the opposition group in the Upper Chamber are Senate Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon and Senators Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Risa Hontiveros, Francis Pangilinan and Antonio F. Trillanes IV.

The minority senators pointed out that even military leaders have declared that Marawi city is no longer under the stranglehold of the terrorist Maute gang.

So there is no reason to extend military rule in Mindanao and that peace and order problems could be addressed by the Philippine National Police (PNP), they said.

"Instead of focusing on extending martial law, the government should train its sights on the quick rehabilitation of Marawi City so our Maranao brothers and sisters can resume their normal lives at the soonest possible time," they stressed. (Mario B. Casayuran)

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'Rody set to decide on Mindanao martial law'

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte will submit his decision on the fate of the martial law in Mindanao to Congress before the legislative branch goes on Christmas break on December 15.

According to Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, this is because the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has already issued a statement whether to lift or extend the martial law in Mindanao.

Roque, in a press briefing in Zamboanga City Saturday, said he already has a copy of AFP's statement which he will read verbatim during the regular Palace press briefing on Monday.

"I didn't want to say it now because mape-preempt yung aking (it would preempt my) press briefing sa Lunes (on Monday)," Roque said.

"I'm going to read verbatim what was given to me by the AFP. Mayroon na pong binigay sa aking statement, Monday ko na po babasahin yan (They already gave me a copy of the statement and I would read it on Monday)," he added.

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Palace set to reveal AFP proposal on martial law

By Ted Tuvera

The Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) recommendation on the fate of martial law in Mindanao will be made public on Monday, presidential spokesman Harry Roque yesterday said.

In a media interview in Zamboanga City, the Palace official revealed that the military has already submitted to President Rodrigo Duterte its recommendation on whether military rule in the island region will be lifted or not.

Roque did not openly said what the AFP's proposal is, but previous hints from officials on the ground point out the need to extend martial law in Mindanao for security reasons on the rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City.

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"On Monday I will read verbatim the AFP's recommendation on the lifting or extension of martial law in Mindanao," he added.

"All those involved in Bangon Marawi have said that they will feel safer if the President will exercise his power as Commander-in-Chief," Roque stressed.

According to him, Mr. Duterte will immediately act upon the AFP's call before

before Congress goes on Christmas break on December 15.

"The President will make a decision if not next week, then the week after because Congress will go on recess on the 15th and as

you know we cannot have the extension of martial law without the consent of Congress," he said.

Duterte declared a 60-day martial law in Mindanao on May 23 to quell Islamic State (IS)-inspired bandits' attempt to occupy Marawi City which ended in a nearly five-month bloody siege.

The first proclamation lapsed its two-month period prompting the Commander-in-Chief to seek an extension from Congress which, on July 22, voted to extend martial law in Mindanao by the end of 2017.

Members of the opposition in the Senate, for their part, opposed any plan to extend the imposition of martial law in Mindanao.

"We oppose any move to extend

military rule in Mindanao beyond the December 31 deadline granted by Congress," Senators Bam Aquino, Francis Pangilinan, Franklin Drilon, Risa Hontiveros and Antonio Trillanes IV, in a statement, said.

According to them, lifting martial law, as scheduled, would allow authorities to "focus on rehabilitation" in Marawi City and neighboring areas.

"There is no reason to extend military rule in the region. The alleged threats to order and crime can be addressed by police," they added.

Last month, the President declared Marawi City "liberated from terrorists' influence" but the military said the five-month battle against militants loyal to the Islamic State group was not yet over.

Pro-IS gunmen occupied parts of Marawi on May 23 following a foiled attempt by security forces to arrest the head of the Islamic State group in Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon.

Mr. Duterte had said Hapilon, who was killed in an offensive alongside Omar Maute, one of two brothers who allied with Hapilon to plot the takeover of the city.

The senators stressed the government should instead focus its efforts on implementing rehabilitation and reconstruction programs.

"Instead of focusing on extending martial law, the government should train its sights on the quick rehabilitation of Marawi City so our Maranao brothers and sisters can resume their normal lives at the soonest possible time," they said.

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Action star Seagal rallies troops for Duterte

President Duterte brought in a special guest on Friday to rally troops battling Islamic State followers in the south – US action hero Steven Seagal.

The star of 80s and 90s hits like *Hard to Kill* and *Under Siege* joined Duterte in a visit to an army camp on the island of Jolo.

He was there to impart martial wisdom to soldiers fighting the feared Abu Sayyaf, a band of Muslim extremists, some of whose members have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

"I know you guys put your life on the line every day. I myself have done and will do the same thing so I understand this is serious business," he told the soldiers, who have been battling Abu Sayyaf for decades.

The extremist group has been blamed for some of the worst terror attacks in the country's history including mass kidnappings and deadly bombings.

Some of its members took part in the five-month battle that devastated the southern city of Marawi this year.

"I believe there is a formula that can help the armed forces, the police, the intelligence network to combat this very, very well," Seagal said.

"I am looking forward to

discussing these things with President Duterte at a later time," he added.

Although his military background outside Hollywood is questionable, Seagal lectured the troops on how they would have to steel themselves for a lengthy war of attrition.

"I hope I can be involved with all of you in this war against all of these evil things," he said.

A beaming Duterte praised Seagal, telling the troops "he is a soldier so he is on the same wavelength with you when he talks."

Seagal, whose recent career has largely consisted of direct-to-

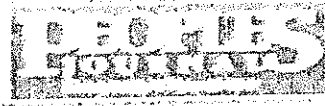
video movies, apparently bonded with fellow tough-guy Duterte when they met in Manila in October.

He has previously praised Duterte for making the Philippines safer despite widespread criticism that Duterte is resorting to brutal, strong-arm tactics that have claimed hundreds of lives.

AFP

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AFP LOOKING FOR FREED REDS

By Alfred Dalizon

SECURITY forces are now tracking down 21 consultants of the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front and other identified supporters of the underground New People's Army following President Duterte's decision to scrap peace talks with the rebels amid their continuing atrocities in the countryside.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo said military intelligence agents are now locating the 21 NDF consultants who were ordered released by the court last year so that they can participate in the peace talks with the Duterte administration.

Arevalo confirmed "ongoing efforts to locate the 21 NDF consultants" although he said that they still have no information on their whereabouts as

of last Friday.

Among the NDF consultants are captured CPP leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon who are both facing multiple murder and kidnapping charges before the Manila and Quezon City Regional Trial Courts at the time of their release last year.

Agents want to keep an eye on the NDF consultants since there is still no official court order to place them under arrest.

"Mino-monitor natin, kailangan natin gawin, so that at that time na mayroon nang instruction, may specific order to arrest them, hindi natin saka sila hahanapin, we have to be proactive in our actions," Arevalo explained.

Solicitor General Jose Calida last August had said that they have asked concerned courts to cancel the bail bonds posted by the accused and issue warrants for their arrest.

Calida maintained that

the conditional release granted to the jailed NDF consultants by the courts are for the sole purpose of the peace negotiations including backchannel talks.

However, the conditional release is expected to be rendered moot and academic with the presidential decision to end the peace talks with the leftist movement as the government cited "recent tragic and violent incidents all over the country" committed by the NPA.

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Page. 1

Tempo

Seagal rallies troops battling ASG in Sulu

President Duterte on Friday brought in a special guest to rally troops battling Islamic State followers in the South – US action hero Steven Seagal.

The star of 80s and 90s hits like "Hard to Kill" and "Under Siege" joined Duterte in a visit to Camp Gen. Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu.

He was there to impart martial wisdom to soldiers fighting the feared Abu Sayyaf Group, a band of Muslim extremists, some of whose members have pledged allegiance to the IS.

"I know you guys put your life on the line every day. I myself have done and will do the same thing so I understand this is serious business," he told the soldiers, who have been battling the ASG for decades.

The extremist group has been blamed for some of the worst terror attacks in the country's history, including mass kidnappings and deadly bombings.

Some of its members took part in the five-month battle that devastated Marawi City this year.

"I believe there is a formula that can help the Armed Forces, the police, the intelligence network to combat this: very, very well," Seagal said. "I am looking forward to discussing these things with Presi-

dent Duterte at a later time," he added.

Although his military background outside Hollywood is questionable, Seagal lectured the troops on how they would have to steel themselves for a lengthy war of attrition. "I hope I can be involved with all of you in this war against all of these evil things," he said.

A beaming Duterte praised Seagal, telling the troops "he is a soldier so he is on the same wavelength with you when he talks."

Seagal, whose recent career has largely consisted of direct-to-video movies, apparently bonded with fellow tough guy Duterte when they met in Manila in October.

He has previously praised Duterte for making the Philippines safer despite widespread criticism that the Chief Executive is resorting to brutal, strong-arm tactics that have claimed hundreds of lives.

Seagal is in the country scouting possible locations for an upcoming movie. The 65-year-old Hollywood celebrity said he wants to cast Filipino actors for the film.

Authorities say almost 4,000 "drug personalities" have been killed since Duterte launched a bloody war on drugs after taking office last year. **(AFP and Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**

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Palace sees victory over communists

Malacañang is confident that government troops can prevail over the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front after they conquered the Maute Group, a much larger threat, earlier this year.

"Kung ang ISIS natalo natin, NPA pa kaya?" presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said.

According to Roque, the communists are traitors for launching attacks while their leaders were holding peace talks with the government. He also called them out-of-date and asked them to move on.

"Traydor at laos ang CPP-NPA-NDF. Kailangan mag-move on na sila. Imagine, longest insurgency

in the world," he said.

Duterte is planning to issue a proclamation declaring communists as terrorists and has ordered the military and the police to shoot any armed NPA.

Roque defended Duterte's order to the military and the police to shoot any armed NPA anew. "Kung may NPA na armado, hindi labag sa batas na patayin 'yan. He's a valid military target," he said.

The Palace official said that an armed NPA member is a valid military target as they are engaged in a non-international armed conflict with the government. "Humanitarian law will not prohibit the killing as long as it's pursuant with the law," Roque said. **(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**

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Dahil sa patuloy na recruitment ng mga terorista **MARTIAL LAW SA MINDANAO PALALAWIGIN PA!**

NAG-AALOK umano ng hanggang P100,000 ang ISIS-inspired na mga teroristang grupo sa mga residente sa Mindanao upang mahikayat ang mga ito na umapit sa kanilang pwersa.

Sinabi ni Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman Eduardo del Rosario na hindi lang ito sa Marawi City nangyayari kundi maging sa mga kalapit na bayan.

Ayon kay Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong, nakata-tanggap sila ng mga ilang ulat mula sa ibang mga lugar tungkol sa malawakang recruitment na isinasagawa ng extremist groups.

Dahil dito, iminungkahi ni Del Rosario na palawigin pa ang martial law na idineklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa buong Mindanao.

Paliwanag ni Del Rosario, mahalagang matiyak nila ang kaligtasan ng buong Mindanao at hindi lang sa Marawi City mula sa banta ng terorismo.

Naniniwala rin siya na kailangan ang seguridad mula sa pwersa ng pamahalaan lalo na sa kasagsagan ng rehabilitasyon ng

Marawi.

Oras kasi aniya na sumiklab na haman ang gulo, tiyakin magsisi-alisan lahat ng contractors at mga trabahader.

Iginiit naman ni Adiong na ilang beses na nilang binanggit na ang totoong krisis ay nararamdaman hindi sa kasagsagan ng dig-

maan kundi kapag ito ay natapos na.

Samantala, ana naring iminungkahi ni House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez ang pagpapalawig ng martial law dahil sa dami ng banta ng terorismo at kidnapping sa Mindanao.

Mas kampante at ligtas aniya ang pakiramdam ng mga tao kung may mga sundalong rumoronda para tiyakin ang kaligtasan ng mga residente.



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Pahina. 1

Martial Law ni FM 'di mauulit sa Mindanao

MALABONG matulad ang umiral na Martial law sa Mindanao sa Martial law na umiral noong panahon ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos.

Ayon kay Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Martin Andanan na sa ilang buwan nang umiral ang batas militar sa Mindanao ay wala namang naitatalang mga human rights violation.

Aniya, wala rin naman ang mga pinangangambahang pag-abuso sa kapangyarihan ng mga miyembro ng Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Binigyang-diin din ni Sec. Andanan na layon naman ng Martial law na banatayan ang bayan, ang mga mamamayan para masigurong payapa at tahimik ang buhay ng taumbayan.

Iginilit pa ni Sec. Andanan na hindi dapat bigyan ng ibang kahulugan ang sinabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte dahil sadya lang talagang mapagmahal ito sa mga sundalo at pulis ng bansa.

KRIS JOSE

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Extention ng martial law malalaman sa Diyembre 15

Nina ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS at MARIO CASAYURAN

Nakatakdang malaman ang kahahantungan ng martial law sa Mindanao sa pagsisiwalat ng Palasyo na isusumites ni Pangulong Duterte ang kanyang desisyon sa Kongreso bago mag-Christmas break ang lehislatura sa Disyembre 15.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, ito ay dahil nagbigay na ng pahayag ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kung ititigil o palalawigin ang batas militar sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Roque, sa isang press briefing sa Zamboanga City nitong Sabado, mayroon na siyang kopya ng pahayag ng AFP na kanyang babasahin sa regular Palace press briefing sa Lunes.

"I didn't want to say it now because mape-preempt yung aking press briefing sa Lunes," sabi ni Roque.

"I'm going to read verbatim

already what was given to me by the AFP. Mayroon na pong binigay sa aking statement, Monday ko na po babasahin 'yan," dagdag niya.

Ayon kay Roque, isusumite ng Pangulo ang kanyang desisyon sa Kongreso sa susunod na dalawang linggo.

"The President will make a decision, if not next week, then the week after because [the] Congress will go on recess on the 15th. As you know, we cannot have [an] extension [of] martial law without [the] consent of Congress," ayon sa Palace official.

Sinabini Roquena habang wala pang pinal na desisyon sa martial law, siniguro niya na tiritiyak ng Pangulo ang kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan sa Marawi City at sa mga kalapit bayan.

Kaugnay nito, limang miyembro ng Senate bloc ang

tumutol kahapon na palawigin ang martial law sa Mindanao.

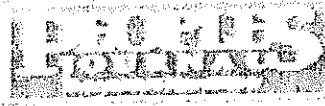
"We propose that the martial law in Mindanao be lifted as soon as possible so that we can all focus on the rehabilitation of the devastated lives and livelihoods of the people of Marawi City and nearby areas," ayon sa minority bloc members.

Ang mga miyembro sa opposition group sa Mataas na Kapulungan ay sina Senate Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon at Senators Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Risa Hontiveros, Francis Pangilinan at Antonio F. Trillanes IV.

"Instead of focusing on extending martial law, the government should train its sights on the quick rehabilitation of Marawi City so our Maranao brothers and sisters can resume their normal lives at the soonest possible time," diin nila.

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President has power to set up revolutionary gov't – Palace counsel

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is empowered under the Constitution to declare a revolutionary government, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said amid persistent calls for a revolutionary government and growing opposition to it.

Panelo explained that the Constitution states that it is the duty of a sitting President to serve and protect the people.

"He further explained that if there is any move that will bring down the government, then the Constitution directs him, instructs him...to do something about it. Declaring a revolutionary government would be one of them," Panelo said.

Panelo also believes that such possible move by the President will be widely supported because he had raised the idea during the May 2016 election period.

"Moreover, when he

By Efren Montano

campaigning during the last stretch, he said that he would declare a revolutionary government, in other words, we voters factored that into (electing him president)," he said.

Panelo also said Duterte is receiving information from intelligence agencies that terrorists and communist rebels are conspiring against the administration.

He however clarified that there is no need for a revolutionary government owing to the relatively peaceful situation prevailing in the country.

Earlier, Duterte said that putting up a revolutionary government (RevGov) was a "very extreme measure" that he would resort to only if the government was in imminent danger of being toppled.

"If you overstay...I become a dictator? The mil-

itary will do me in same with what happened in the past," the President said in a speech before an anti-corruption summit in Pasay City.

"You overstay and you abuse...there will always be (coup) attempts that will be done. Or mutiny for that matter," he added.

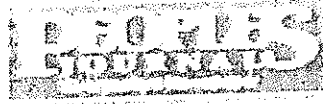
The President said that establishing a revolutionary government at this time was like "looking for a headache."

"I'd go to RevGov only if the ship of state is about to sink...maybe I'd be forced. That is a very extreme measure," Duterte said.

The President has on multiple occasions said he would declare a revolutionary government, beginning from the campaign trail to the presidential seat in 2016. Last week, Duterte said he will declare a revolutionary government if his critics, particularly the left, continue their acts of "destabilization."

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PH, US hold defense talks

OFFICIALS of the Philippines and the United States convened on Friday to develop action plans for expanding joint partnership on defense and security, economics, development and prosperity, regional and global diplomatic engagement, and rule of law and law enforcement.

The United States Republic of the Philippines seventh Bilateral Strategic Dialogue was held from November 30 to December 1 in Washington, D.C.

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Harrison and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs David Halsey co-lead the U.S. delegation while Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Enrique Manalo and National Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David co-lead the Philippine delegation.

The Bilateral Strategic Dialogue is a key mechanism for discussing the full range of political, security, and economic cooperation between the United States and the Philippines.

On Nov. 13, a Joint Statement was issued after the meeting in Manila of President Donald J. Trump and President Rodrigo R. Duterte that provided the guidance for the Dialogue.

During the Dialogue, senior officials discussed a wide variety of issues of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration in areas including maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, cybersecurity, countering transnational drug trafficking, countering terrorism, and improving drug prevention and treatment services, as well as combating wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The senior officials further pledged to continue working together to effectively eliminate human trafficking. The U.S. and Philippine delegations emphasized the importance of the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms.

The United States congratulated the Philippines on defeating ISIS-supported terrorism in Mindanao and vowed to continue to support the fight against terrorism and the rehabilitation of Marawi.

Delegations from both the Philippines and US reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the extensive economic relationship between the two countries.

Both sides noted the substantive discussions on cooperating in areas such as science & technology, agriculture and fisheries, and health and environment.

They welcomed the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) discussions held on November 29, and look forward to more robust discussions on ways to expand free, fair and reciprocal bilateral trade, including through exploring a potential Free Trade Agreement.

The United States and the Philippines discussed their shared concerns about security challenges in the region and pledged to work together to end North Korea's unlawful ballistic missile and nuclear programs, and the United States welcomed the Philippines' compliance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to uphold freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea in the South China Sea, and stressed the importance of peacefully resolving disputes in accordance with international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention.

Cristina Lee-Pisco

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Palace checking reports Australia aid fund went to Maute

By Efen Montano

MALACAÑANG is set to probe reports that aid money from the now-defunct Australian Aid (AusAID) agency was channeled to the Maute terror group.

"We'll look into this allegation that AusAID fund was sent to Maute. This shows that we really need to implement anti-money laundering act because ang nangyari dito, this is a form of laundering na aid money (was used for terrorism," Presidential spokesperson

Harry Roque said in a press briefing in Zamboanga City yesterday.

In a November 11 report *The Weekend Australian* said the Australian government may have had unwittingly channeled money to the Maute terror group.

Roque said the government would coordinate with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to investigate the matter.

"I find it hard to believe because Australians are very tough on terrorism too. So I do not know how this can happen to AusAID," Roque said.

Terror leader Mohammadkhayam Maute was reportedly contracted to build classrooms, science laboratories and school libraries across the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in a AU\$12.7-million (P485 million) project funded by the AusAID that ran from 2012 to 2017.

The report said Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop had confirmed that the Australian government discovered the Maute link in a project audit in 2015.

It stated that a subcontractor, Habitat for Humanity, had contracted a local firm associated with the Maute family.

The aid agency has folded up and is now under Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Before the Marawi siege, the wealthy Maute family was known to be engaged in construction and property development in Mindanao, it was learned.

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Page. 7

Magdalo solon backs pay hike for AFP, PNP personnel

By
Jester
Manalastas

A SOLDIER-TURNED-POLITICIAN yesterday expressed full backing to the increase in the base pay of military, police and other uniformed personnel.

Magdalo Representative Gary Alejano, who belongs to the opposition bloc at the House of Representatives, said soldiers, policemen and those rendering services for the peace and order deserve adjustment in their pay.

However, Alejano is proposing that the indexation of the retirees' pension should also be adjusted.

"I very much welcome and support this development. However, I hope that the provision which suspends the indexation of retirees' pension be amended," Alejano said.

"I strongly believe that our retirees and veterans deserve no less but to be included in the said measure," he added.

The solon said failure to consider the retirees' pension would undermine existing laws which provide that retired military and uniformed personnel receive the same increase in benefits whenever the salaries of those in active duty are upgraded.

The House Committee on Appropriations has ap-

proved a joint resolution which seeks to increase the base pay of military and uniformed personnel (MUP) in the government.

The House panel approved House Joint Resolution No. 18, authorizing the increase in the base pay of military and police personnel, as well as other uniformed government personnel.

The resolution underscored the need to adjust the salary package of the MUP to provide better compensation for the soldiers and policemen in performing their role in maintaining national security and peace and order.

The modified Base Pay Schedule will apply to all military personnel under the Department of National Defense and uniformed personnel under the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Philippine Coast Guard, and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

Military and uniformed personnel will also be entitled to a fixed hazard pay of P540 per month.

If approved, the modified Base Pay Schedule will be implemented starting January 1, 2018.

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POLICE FILES

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DUTERTE: AKO AT SI MARCOS LANG ANG PRESIDENTE NA NAGMAMALASAKIT SA SUNDALO

IPINAGMALAKI ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na siya at si late dictator Ferdinand Marcos lamang ang ingit na nagmamalasakit sa mga sundalo ng bansa, habang nangako siya ng komportableng buhay sa tropa na frontline ng gobyerno sa giyera laban sa mga terorista at komunistas.

“Walang ibang presidente, dalawa lang, ang nakapagbigay ng atensyon na kinakailangan para

sa isang sundalo. Ako lang pati si Marcos. Marcos was also a lover of soldiers,” sabi ni Duterte sa kanyang talumpati sa Camp Teodulfo Bautista sa Jolo, Sulu nitong Biyernes ng hapon.

Si Duterte ay kilalang kaibigan ng pamilya Marcos, pinayagang mailibing ang dating pangulong diktador sa Libingan ng mga Bayani nitong nakaraang taon. Ang kanyang yumaong ama, Vicente, ay nagsilbing gabinete ni Marcos

bago ang deklarasyon ng martial law.

Si Marcos ay may malakas noon na supporta ng military hanggang sa ang kanyang gobyerno ay mapabagsak ng people's power noong 1986. Sa kanyang martial rule ay maraming aktibista ang mga napatay at nakulong. Ang military nung panahon na iyon ay inakusahan din ng korupsiyon.

Maraming beses nang pinangakuan ni Duterte ng magandang kondisyon ng pamumuhay ang mga sundalo sa pamamagitan ng pagtaas sa sahod at pagkaloob ng

tamang healthcare para sa mga sundalo na nabalda sa pakikipaglaban.

“I have told you, if you have a problem, I give you my number. If you cannot solve your problem here or hindi kaya solbahin, just call me,” sabi niya sa tropa sa Sulu.

“Maybe, just maybe, kaya kong solbahin. Kasi ako bilib ako sa serbisyo ninyo. Saludo ako.”

Ginawa ni Duterte ang remarks na ito habang may pangamba at kritisismo mula sa political opposition sa posibleng pagdeklara ng revolutionary government, kungsaan malaki ang gagampanan ng military.

Pero ibinasura na ni Duterte ang ideyang revolutionary government, kungsaan kailangan dito ng pagbago sa Konstitusyon at pagdeklarang bakante sa lahat ng puwesto sa gobyerno.

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POLICE FILES

Page. 3

Militar at pulis mag-ingat, mag-ingat, mag-ingat...

NAGDEKLARA narin ng all-out offensive ang CPP-NPA laban sa tropa ng gobyerno.

Sagot nila ito sa pagkansela ni Pangulong Rody Duterte sa peacetalks, pagpapahuli sa pinalayang 21 National Democratic Front (NDF) consultants na tutulong sana sa pagbalangkas sa nautsiyaring peacetalks sa pagitan ng gobyerno at rebeldeng komunista.

Dagdag parito ang pahayag ni Pangulong Duterte na pagdeklarang terorista ang CPP-NPA.

Kasabay ng order ng NDF sa all-out offensive vs tropa ng pamahalaan ang pag-ambush sa dalawang patrol cars ng PNP sa Brgy. Daguit, Labo, Camarines Norte kahapon ng madaling araw. Dalawang pulis ang patay at 5 ang nasugatan sa insidenteng ito.

Asahang marami pang mangyayaring pang-a-ambush na gagawin ang mga komunistang NPA laban sa ating mga sundalo at pulis.

Kaya... mga Sir!!! mag-ingat, mag-ingat, mag-ingat... This is war!

Alam nyo na siguro kung sino sino ang mga dapat sisihin dito... Sila nanga!

JOEY G. VENANCIO

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Pahina. 2

NPA BANTA SA SEGURIDAD NGAYONG PASKO

Ni Betchai Julian

Itinuturing ng Philippine National Police (PNP) na banta sa seguridad ngayong Pasko ang mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA).

Ayon kay Sr. Supt. Rudolph Dimas, hepe ng public safety division ng PNP-Directorate for Operations, kabilang ang NPA sa mga grupong kanilang tinututukan dahil matuturing na banta sa seguridad.

Sinabi ni Dimas na ang pagbabantay sa mga NPA ay bilang paghahanda dahil hindi malayong magsagawa muli ang mga ito ng pag-atake

para maiparamdam ang kanilang presensiya at maipagmalaki na malakas pa ang kanilang puwersa ngayong kinansela na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang peace talks.

Bukod sa NPA, mananatili ring banta sa seguridad ang mga grupong Maute at Abu Sayyaf gayundin ang kanilang mga tagasuporta.

Kaugnay nito, mahigpit naman ang bilin ni PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa sa mga pulis na pag-ibayuhin ang pagpapatrolya at higitan pa ang pagbabantay sa mga matataong lugar gaya ng mga simbahan, palengke, pantalan, bus ter-

minals, paliparan, at shopping malls lalo na ngayong nalalapit na kapaskuhan.

Ang NPA ay balak ideklara ni Pangulong Duterte bilang mga terorista.

Nagbigay na rin ng shoot to kill order ang Pangulo sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at PNP laban sa mga miyembro ng NPA na armado.

Ikinagalit ni Duterte ang pagtatraydor ng rebeldeng komunista dahil habang nakikipag-usap sa gobyerno ang kanilang panel, panay naman ang banat ng NPA sa mga sundalo, sibilyan at maging sa inosenteng sanggol.

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Pahina. 1

Pakiusap ni Duterte sa mga sundalo **Ibigay ang baril, 'wag isangla!**

Nakiusap si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga sundalo na huwag isangla ang ibinigay na baril sa mga ito.

Bawat sundalo ay binigyan ng Pangulo ng side arms para mayroong armas ang mga ito sa paglabas sa kampo.

Doble naman ang baril na tinanggap ng mga sundalong nabigyan ng award sa mga ginawang paglilibot ni Pangulong Duterte sa iba't ibang kampo militar sa bansa.

"Do not be offended.

Alam ko nangyayari 'yan eh. Puwede ba kung isang-la ninyo, dito na lang sa akin. 'Wag sa ibang tao ha? Padala mo lang doon. Sabihin no sa Commanding Officer mo.. sir, iprenda ko muna ito kay.." ang pahayag ng Pangulo.

Bawat baril na ipinamigay ng Pangulo ay may kasamang cellphone at calling card kung saan nakalagay ang kanyang contact number.

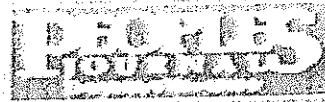
"If you have a problem, I give you my number. If you cannot solve your

problem here or hindi kayang solbarin, just call me, maybe kaya kong solbarin. Kasi ako bilib ako sa serbisyo ninyo," ang dagdag pa ng Pangulo.

Bukod sa pakiusap na huwag isangla ang ibinigay na baril, mahigpit din ang bilin ni Pangulong Duterte sa mga sundalo na laging magtira ng isang magazine ng bala at gamitin ito para barilin ang sarili kapag nasukol na ng mga kalaban partikular ang New People's Army (NPA). (Aileen Taliping)

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Mindanao martial law extension looms

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is set to decide next week on the extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte would submit his decision to Congress before the chamber goes on Christmas break starting December 15.

"Inaantay pa rin po natin ang rekomendasyon ng Hukbong Sandatahan (We are still awaiting the recommendation of the Armed Forces) and because the national media is here, I have had prior consultations with the Armed Forces (and) the recommendations (will be out) next week," Roque said in a press briefing in Zamboanga City.

"So the President will make a decision if not next week then the week after because Congress will go on recess on the 15th and as you know, we cannot have extension (of) martial law without (the) consent of Congress," Roque said.

The spokesperson said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has finished its consultation with stakeholders and would just need to submit its recommendation to the President.

"I didn't want to say it now because mape-preempt 'yung aking (it would preempt my) press briefing sa Lunes (on Monday). And I'm going to read verbatim already what was given to me by the AFP.

"Mayroon na pong binigay sa aking statement, Monday ko na po babasahin yan (I have received the statement and I will read it on Monday)," he said.

While no final decision has yet been made, Roque said that the martial law extension would ensure the safety of the citizens in Marawi City and nearby areas.

Earlier, Task Force Bangon Marawi chief Eduardo del Rosario backed the extension of martial law up to the rehabilitation phase of the war-torn Marawi City to ensure the continuous reconstruction of the city.

Del Rosario aired his stand following reports of massive recruitment of Islamic State-inspired terror groups.

Efren Montano

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Tempo

Page. 2

Tempo

Reds assassinate Cagayan councilor

By LIEZLE BASA INIGO

BAGGAO, Cagayan – Twenty suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) barged into the compound of a municipal councilor in Barangay Awallan and peppered him with bullets yesterday morning.

Angelo Luis, who sustained several bullet wounds in the head, died on the spot, according to Chief Inspector Emil Pajarillo, Baggao police chief.

Police said Luis had just arrived

from his farm at around 7 a.m. and was resting alone at his nipa hut inside the compound when the alleged NPA hitmen showed up and opened fire.

The police report did not state whether there were people inside the victim's residence at the time of the attack.

In a letter sent to a local radio station, the NPA in East Cagayan claimed responsibility, saying Luis was an "enemy of the people."

Luis was accused of being an active informer of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) in Region

2. "Ginamit niya ang kanyang katungkulan bilang board member ng Sangguniang Bayan sa munisipalidad ng Baggao para pagtakpan ang pangangalap ng impormasyon at gawaing paniktik sa rebolusonaryong kilusan at mamayan," the alleged NPA statement read.

The NPA group also linked Luis to a spate of killings as with the arrest of a leader of a farmer's organization. He was also accused of alleged human rights violations, land-grabbing and corruption.

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Pahina. 1

Rekomendasyon ng AFP sa ML isusumite next week

Sa susunod na linggo na isusumite ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang rekomendasyon tungkol sa umiiral na Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque Jr., inaasahan niya na maglalabas ng desisyon si Pangulong Duterte isang linggo matapos isumite ng AFP ang rekomendasyon. "I have had prior consultations with the Armed

Forces. The recommendation will be submitted by next week. So the President will make a decision, if not next week, then the week after," pahayag ni Roque.

Ipinunto ni Roque na ang extension ng martial law ay gagarantiya sa kaligtasan at seguridad ng publiko habang isinasagawa ang rehabilitasyon sa Marawi City.

Sabi pa ni Roque na

kahit napalaya na ang Marawi mula sa kamay ng grupong Maute, may banta pa rin ang terorismo.

Samantala, nagbabala naman si Roque sa ginagawa umanong pagsakay ng ilang miyembro ng oposisyon sa isyu ng pagtatayo ng isang revolutionary government.

"Hindi lang naman po mga kaalyado ang nagsasabi na kailangan ng RevGov. Ginagamit din

po yan ng oposisyon para takutin 'yung taumbayan," ani Roque.

Tinyak pa ni Roque na magdedekalara lamang ng RevGov ang Pangulo kapag nanghihingalo na ang Republika. (Malou Escudero)

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Balita

Page. 1

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA ₱8.00

Steven Seagal gustong sumali sa 'war'

Minsan pang inihayag ng Hollywood actor na si Steven Seagal ang kanyang suporta kay Pangulong Duterte, nang sabihin niya nitong Biyernes na laging magtatagumpay ang mga laban ng Presidente, kahit na minsan ay may katagalan ang pagkakamit nito.

Isinama ni Duterte ang kanyang 65-anyos na "good friend" na si Seagal nang bumisita siya sa mga sundalo sa Camp General Teodulfo Bautista sa Jolo, Sulu nitong Biyernes.

Nang hingan ni Duterte ng mensahe para sa mga sundalo, binigyang-pugay ni Seagal ang mga ito sa pagtatagumpay sa limang-buwang giyera laban sa Maute-ISIS sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

"I think the main thing we all have to keep in our hearts is we don't win this battle today. We don't win this battle tomorrow. It's gonna be a long fight, but the idea is to annihilate the enemy through attrition," lahad ni Seagal sa mga sundalo.

"It's gonna be a long battle, but slowly, day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year, the enemy will get smaller and

finally they will be gone to the point where it is absolutely and positively controllable," dagdag pa niya.

Pinuri niya rin ang militar sa kanilang dedikasyon sa bansa, sa Pangulo, at sa kanilang determinasyon "to do the things you have to do to make the Philippines safe."

Ayon kay Seagal, laging manaralo ang anumang laban ni Duterte at umaasa siyang magiging bahagi ng tagumpay na ito balang araw.

"We have a problem. We have kidnapping, narco-trafficking, human trafficking, organ trafficking and terrorism. I know you guys put your life on the line every day. I, myself, have done and will do the same thing so I understand this is serious business," ani Seagal.

"I believe there is a formula that can help the armed forces, the police, the intelligence network to combat this very, very well. I am looking forward to discussing these things with President Duterte at a later time," dagdag pa niya. "I hope I can be involved with all of you in this war against all of these evil things."

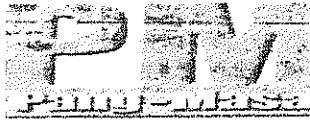
Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos



FAN MODE ON Nagpakuha ng litrato si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kasama siya (mula sa kaliwa) Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence Go, Steven Seagal, at PNP Chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa sa pagbisita ng Pangulo sa Camp General Teodulfo Bautista sa Bgy. Bus-Bus, Jolo, Sulu nitong Biyernes.

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Pahina. 1

Panibagong NPA ambush

Pulis patay, 6 pa sugatan

Utas ang isang pulis habang anim pa nitong mga kasamahan ang nasugatan makaraang paulanan ng bala ng mga teroristang New People's Army (NPA) sa naganap na ambush sa Sitio Binuang, Brgy. Daguit, Labo, Camarines Norte nitong Sabado ng madaling araw.

Kinilala ni Chief Inspector Ma. Luisa Calubaquib, Spokes-

man ng Police Regional Office (PRO) V ang nasabing biktima na si PO2 Richard Abad, na namatay noon din matapos na mapuruhian sa pananambang ng NPA terrorists.

Isinugod naman sa Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital para malapatan ng lunas ang mga sugatang sina PO2 Ronald Gutierrez, PO2 Ericson de Vera, PO1 Jeffrey Tarrobago,

PO1 Pedro Valeros, PO1 Romar Umandap at PO1 Johnson España.

Bandang ala-1 ng madaling araw, ayon sa opisyal nang mangyari ang pananambang laban sa mga biktima sa liblib na bahagi ng nasabing lugar.

Sinabi ni Calubaquib, kasalukuyang lulan ang 9 team

ng Camarines Norte Provincial Mobile Force Company (CNMFC) sa pamumuno ni PO2 Rommel Orante ng dalawang patrol vehicles nang paulanan ng bala ng mga armadong teroristang rebelde.

Sa kabila ng sorpresang pag-atake ay mabilis namang gumanti ng putok ang mga

pulis hanggang sa magsiattras ang mga kalaban na tumahak sa direksyon ng kagubatan.

Agad namang isinugod sa pagamutan ng mga sumaklolong AFP troops at Camarines Norte Provincial Police Office ang mga sugatang pulis na agad na inialis sa encounter site.

Kaugnay nito, inalerto ni Sr. Supt. Cerilo Trilles Jr., Acting Provincial Police Director ng

Camarines Norte ang kapulisan sa kaniyang hurisdikyon para paghandaan ang mga susunod pang pagatake ng NPA terrorists.

Nagpapatuloy naman ang pinalakas na opensiba ng puwersa ng pamahalaan laban sa NPA terrorists na target malipol ng administrasyon.

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tribune
Mindanao's Voice for Peace

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E D I T O R I A L

BBL gets determined push

A strong argument in favor of the Federalism move would be the removal of the vicious cycle that had tied down both the economy and the political destinies of the nation which is the election every three years.

The economic managers of Rody is now trying to solve the boom and bust cycle that is tied to the election period in which economic growth shoots up right after the polls before hitting a skid the next two years.

The more urgent political goals of Rody such as securing peace in Mindanao, unfortunately, are tied up to that routine.

While elections spending always provides stimuli to the economy, as candidates and the government opens up the financial tap during the campaign period, politicians lose their focus on legislation in every two years of three in favor of the election circus.

Rody, aware of the cycle, had sought from Congress to immediately approve a refined version of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) that is being relied on to provide lasting solutions to the rebellion problem in Mindanao.

Rody should be credited for building from the work of the previous administration of Noynoy on the BBL instead of coming up with a new proposed law.

The draft BBL of Rody removed the questionable provisions which held down the approval of the bill in the previous administration.

Despite the infirmities, the BBL of Noynoy was the product of long negotiations and consultations with mainly the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Rody's negotiating panel supplied the views of other Mindanao groups to give the BBL more representation.

The BBL version under Rody is now more comprehensive considering that it was crafted during the administration of a President who knows Mindanao well.

The five-month Marawi City siege that ended October 23 underlined the urgency of the BBL and later cementing the gains of regional autonomy through the Federalism push of Rody.

Rody said that he may call a special session during the holiday season to speed up the BBL deliberations which have to excruciatingly pass through again the scrutiny of the House and the Senate before a final fine-tuning at the bicameral conference committee.

Recent experiences on the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion and the budget bills indicate that it would be not be impossible to achieve Rody's aim to get the BBL enacted before the end of the year.

The Train and the budget measures hurdled the second and third readings within a day at the Senate as a result of Rody's endorsements.

Members of the Senate said the most pragmatic expectation is that the BBL will pass before the March recess about which Rody appears not too happy.

Rody knows that the closer the Senate and the House discussions on the crucial but highly contentious bill becomes to the election period, the chance for its enactment becomes more uncertain.

There is another practical consideration for the immediate forming of a Bangsamoro region which is the speeding up of the Marawi City rehabilitation.

A five-year timeframe has been given on the reconstruction of the center of Muslim culture in Mindanao which would put its conclusion beyond the administration of Rody who wanted to see a new Marawi City before he hands over the rein of power.

"What is at stake here is the preservation of the Filipino republic and to correct historical injustice," Rody had said about the BBL.

Duterte said that during the decades when the Philippines was under Spanish and then American colonial rule, the Christian majority had taken control of vast parts of Mindanao, leaving native Muslims and other tribes marginalized.

Rody's determination to provide genuine autonomy to the predominantly Muslim provinces in Mindanao may turn out to be his enduring legacy to the nation.

ONLINE NEWS

08 DECEMBER 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Duterte wants idle lands in military camps leased

From the Sun Star-Pampanga (Dec 2): Duterte wants idle lands in military camps leased

President Rodrigo Duterte has disclosed his desire to have idle lands in military camps and bases leased immediately to private investors for commercial purposes.

Speaking during the 67th anniversary of the Scout Ranger Regiment or FSSR in Camp Tecson, San Miguel, Bulacan recently, the President in particular pointed to Basa Air Base, home of 5th Fighter Wing of the Philippine Air Force in Floridablanca, Pampanga, and Camp Tecson in Bulacan province.

President Duterte said he wants ordinary soldiers to benefit from the rental of idle lands in camps and military installations.

He added that proceeds from such commercial operations will also be used as capital for the creation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' own insurance and pension system similar to the Government Service Insurance System.

The government is eyeing about P50-billion from the rental of idle lands in military camps and bases.

www.gmanetwork.com

Karapatan reports 25 new alleged EJK cases to UN special rapporteurs

From GMA News (Dec 2): **Karapatan reports 25 new alleged EJK cases to UN special rapporteurs**

Militant human rights group Karapatan submitted on Saturday a letter of allegation concerning 25 cases extrajudicial killings (EJK) to United Nations special rapporteurs Agnes Callamard and Michael Forst.

Karapatan said it had initially informed Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution and Forst, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, of 47 alleged EJKs last April.

The group alleged that the EJKs were perpetrated by security forces "in line with [President Rodrigo] Duterte's counter-insurgency program."

"From one counter-insurgency program to another, cases of extrajudicial killings against peasants, indigenous peoples, Moro, workers, women and youth continue to be committed with impunity under the murderous Duterte regime. Also, most, if not all, of the perpetrators of human rights violations under the administrations of former Presidents Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino III have not been brought to justice," said Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said in the group's letter to Callamard and Forst.

Karapatan said that among the victims of the new alleged EJKs was 18-year-old Obello Bay-ao, a member of the Manobo tribe and a students' organization.

It said Bay-ao was walking home one afternoon last September from a day of harvesting corn in Davao del Norte when two gunmen fired at him.

Karapatan said the gunmen were allegedly members of an auxiliary group of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The group said all alleged EJK victims were peasants, indigenous peoples, Moro, workers, women and youth.

The group said they asked Callamard and Forst to "consider, investigate, make recommendation/s or take any appropriate action/s" on the allegations.

A part of the letter reads: "We allege that state security forces are primarily responsible for these killings that are all in the context of a government program that makes no distinction between armed and unarmed civilians, thus providing a pretext for the arbitrary tagging of individuals, groups and movements as 'enemies of the state.'"

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

Karapatan sent its second letter of allegation to the UN special rapporteurs after Duterte terminated the government's peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP).

Duterte also announced that the government will launch a crackdown on supposed legal fronts of the communist group.

The government decried supposed "hostilities" and a "lack of sincerity" from the communists, who in turn blamed Duterte for allegedly botching the two parties' latest attempt at a decades-long quest for reconciliation.

The NPA's countryside revolution is said to be the world's longest-running communist insurgency.

Duterte has also said he would declare the NPA as a terror group.

The President's termination of peace talks earned a nod from the military, which has long accused communist rebels of economic sabotage through alleged destruction of agricultural and mining equipment.

The left, on the other hand, has slammed the military for alleged attacks against farmers, human rights workers, and community and Lumad leaders, among others.

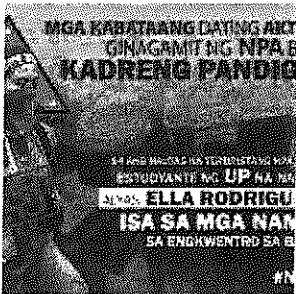
Karapatan said it has documented 104 victims of extrajudicial killings under Duterte's counterinsurgency program from July 2016 to October 2017.

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CHILD ABUSE | NPA continue recruiting youth as cadres

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on December 8, 2017 at 6:42 PM

MANILA (DWDD) – Filipinos continue to be alarmed by the continuous recruitment by the terrorist group New People’s Army and their community fronts of youths, in particular student, to join their crumbling force.



Another young life was lost recently when one of the NPA recruit, a University of the Philippines student, was killed an encounter with government troops in Nasugbu, Batangas after they were intercepted while on their way to conduct terrorist activities.

The presence of the terrorist was tipped off by concerned citizens in the area and was later confirmed by intercepting troops who were fired upon by the group while onboard a jeepney and a closed van heading toward Tagaytay City.

The NPAs and their community fronts have been actively recruiting young men and women to join their ranks, initially using them to join mass actions and violent rallies, and later sending them to their mountain/jungle lairs to train as fighters of the Bagong Hukbong Bayan, in the guise of “community immersions”.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has called on the community to help the government stop this recruitment by the NPAs and spare the youth, the future of our land, to be victims of abuse by the Communist Party of the Philippines in their desire to impose their crooked ways. **AES/MCAG**

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

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COMMUNITY IMMERSION | 33IB conducts Community Immersion in Bagumbayan

By Alvin Santiago

BAGUMBAYAN (DWDD) – Lt Col Harold M Cabunoc, accompanied by Major Ronnie Rendaje (Battalion Executive Officer) and Cpt Rogelio Agustin Jr (CO Charlie Coy), trekked the mountainous terrain of Bagumbayan town to visit the Makabayan Peace Advocacy Team led by 2Lt Anthony Berdon.

Lt Col Cabunoc personally engaged the key leaders in the area including Village chairman Hon. Frias.

The people have warmly accepted the immersion activities of the Army in the community.

The Makabayan Battalion wins the support of the people against any armed threats by helping them in solving community problems. **MCAG / Photo by Pfc Salbidin Maulana**



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PASKO SA EASTMINCOM | EASTMINCOM joins Simultaneous Christmas Lighting Activity

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on December 2, 2017 at 9:55 PM

CAMP PANACAN, Davao City (DWDD) – The Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM) has recently enjoined with the Armed Forces of the Philippines’s simultaneous Christmas Lights lighting to welcome the Christmas season in the country.

The lighting in EastMinCom was led by EMC’s Deputy Commander, BGen. Perfecto Rimando, who represented Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, Jr., Commander, EASTMINCOM.

A mass was also done by the Command, which was attended by its personnel, prior to the ceremonial lighting. **EASTMINCOM/MCAG**

