

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



TEAM ARMY

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oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 December 2017

Monday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 4, 2017 | MONDAY

LAOAG CITY
24 - 31 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY
23 - 31 °C

BAGUIO CITY
15 - 23 °C

SBMA/CLARK
24 - 32 °C

METRO MANILA
24 - 32 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY
30 - 29 °C

LEGAZPI CITY
25 - 31 °C

ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY
26 - 32 °C

TACLOBAN CITY
25 - 31 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA
25 - 32 °C

METRO CEBU
26 - 32 °C

CAGAYAN DE ORO
24 - 32 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY
25 - 34 °C

METRO DAVAO
25 - 33 °C

SUNRISE
6:07 AM

SUNSET
5:26 PM

MOONRISE
6:15 PM

MOONSET
6:24 AM

FIRST QUARTER
NOV 27
1:03 AM

FULL MOON
DEC 3
11:47 PM

LOW TIDE
5:20 AM

HIGH TIDE
9:58 PM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
0.20 Meter / 1.23 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

Light rain

	DEC 4	DEC 5	DEC 6	DEC 7	DEC 8	DEC 9
METRO MANILA	24 - 32 °C	23 - 31 °C	19 - 28 °C	19 - 28 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 30 °C	22 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C
LAOAG	23 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	14 - 22 °C	14 - 22 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 30 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 29 °C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

LENI: PROBE BUNGLING OF VACCINE PROGRAM

STORY BY VINCE F. NONATO, PHILIP C. TUBEZA, TINA G. SANTOS AND MARLON RAMOS

The Vice President says those responsible for the error in the dengue immunization program should be held accountable as Malacañang vows to go after the people behind the 'public health scam.'

A12

FROM A1

By **Vince F. Nonato,**
Philip C. Tubeza,
Tina G. Santos
and **Marlon Ramos**
@Team_Inquirer

Vice President Leni Robredo on Sunday called on the government to look into the effects of a wrongly administered dengue vaccine on the health of hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren in the country and ensure that those who bungled the immunization program would be held liable.

Malacañang vowed to "leave no stone unturned" in the investigation of the fiasco that placed more than 733,000 schoolchildren at risk of severe dengue infection.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said he would order the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the liability of government officials who had approved the purchase of Dengvaxia vaccine from the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur.

The Department of Health (DOH) suspended the P3.5-billion immunization program on Friday, two days after Sanofi Pasteur announced that Dengvaxia could worsen the effects of dengue on people who had not been previously afflicted by the disease.

"This should be seriously studied and those who should be held accountable must be held accountable," Robredo said on her weekly radio program.

What happens to the kids?

The "most important thing," she said, was to "get the answers" to questions about the effects of Dengvaxia on the health of the schoolchildren who had received the vaccine.

"The parents of the children ... they need to know what to do. If there really is a bad effect, what can be done to save their children?" Robredo said.

According to the DOH, more than 733,000 public school children aged 9 and above from Metro Manila, Central Luzon

the NBI to investigate.

"Everybody who has some involvement will be included and appropriate charges will be filed against them if warranted," he said.

WHO guidelines followed

In a text message to the Inquirer, former Health Secretary Janette Garin said the immunization program was implemented in line with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

The dengue vaccination program was launched during Garin's term.

"Implementation was based on recommendations from both local and global experts," Garin said.

She said dengue, which was affecting 90 to 93 percent of the population in the recommended and targeted areas "was [dealt with] as our government's obligation to respond."

On Friday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque announced the suspension of the immunization program after Sanofi Pasteur said Dengvaxia was safe and effective in the long run only for people who had been infected before they were vaccinated.

"For those not previously infected by dengue virus, however, the analysis found that in the longer term, more cases of severe disease could occur following vaccination upon a subsequent dengue infection," the pharmaceutical company said in a statement.

Duque, however, was quick to ease fears of parents who were worried about their children who had been vaccinated, particularly those who had no prior infection.

He assured them that the DOH was on top of the situation.

"The vaccine has a 30-month protection period against dengue, regardless [of whether] the child had prior infection or not," he said.

Duque added that the DOH would monitor the health of all the recipients of the vaccine.

Review going on

He said a review of the program was going on, including consultation with experts

and the WHO.

The WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization will soon meet to discuss the latest development on the dengue vaccine, he said.

Concerns about the effects of Dengvaxia on people without prior infection were raised by resource persons in an inquiry called by the good government committee of the House of Representatives last year.

At a hearing on Nov. 29, 2016, Antonio Dans of the Philippine College of Physicians expressed worry that antibodies introduced by the vaccine might "enhance" the dengue virus if a person is bitten by the mosquito after immunization.

Dans told lawmakers that the immunization program should be suspended until the theory of antibody dependent enhancement was thoroughly studied.

But Sanofi Pasteur's regional dengue expert, Anh Wartel, played down the possibility, saying "the concerns expressed in the background are based upon 'what-if' conjectures."

She said the chance of the scenario unfolding would not be great because the high "seroprevalence"—the number of infected people in a given population—was rather high in the regions where the vaccine was administered.

Undue haste

Besides the vaccine's effects, the House inquiry also tackled the alleged undue haste in the DOH's procurement of Dengvaxia shortly after the May elections in 2016.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the certificate of product registration on Dec. 22, 2015; a month later, on Jan. 21, 2016, the Philippine Children's Medical Center made a purchase request.

The Formulary Executive Council issued a certification for Dengvaxia on Feb. 3, 2016. The certification is a requirement for medical items not included in the Philippine National Drug Formulary.

The immunization program started on April 4, 2016, two months before the Aquino administration ended. INQ

and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said in a statement that those responsible for the use of Dengvaxia in the government's antidengue drive would be held accountable.

"We will leave no stone unturned in making those responsible for this shameless public health scam, which puts hundreds of thousands of young lives at risk, accountable," Roque said.

He called on the public to stay calm.

"We understand the concern of our people, especially the parents and the relatives of public elementary [school] children residing in [Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Metropolitan Manila], where the dengue vaccination initiative was launched by the previous administration," he said.

"However, we call on all cit-

izens not to spread information that may cause undue alarm," he added.

DOH-DepEd monitoring

Roque noted that the DOH had not monitored any case of severe dengue infection among the children who received the vaccine last year.

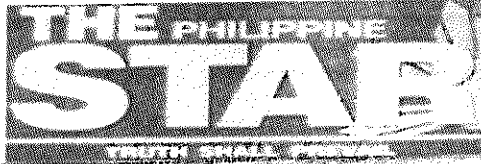
He said the DOH was working with the Department of Education (DepEd) to monitor the health of the thousands of schoolchildren who had received Dengvaxia.

Aguirre said he had received a complaint from a parent whose son became ill after receiving the vaccine.

"One [parent] complained to me that his son, who was inoculated [with] that antidengue vaccine in April 2016, is now sick [with] baby TB (tuberculosis) and his immune system is now very weak," Aguirre said in a text message to reporters.

He said he would order

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AFP to NPA: Surrender or die

No Christmas truce – AFP

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

With communist rebels intensifying their attacks on government forces, the military yesterday called anew on the New People's Army (NPA) to "surrender or suffer the same fate as their cohorts killed in the latest military operations."

"While we are hopeful that more NPAs will surrender in the coming days, our troops on the ground will continue with our relentless operations against them who remain active in their violent and destructive criminal activities against our people in the communities," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

Arevalo said the military is gaining the upper hand with a total of 264 rebels either killed or apprehended by government forces from February to November.

A total of 573 rebels surrendered after President Duterte terminated the peace talks with the communists under Proclamation 360.

Arevalo said the AFP will continue to open its doors for the rebels to surrender amid the intensified military offensive.

He said the AFP will likely not observe a holiday truce with the rebels.

Arevalo said Proclamation 360 effectively ruled out a ceasefire with the communist rebels since the peace talks had been cancelled.

Turn to Page 14

AFP

From Page 1

Instead of a truce, Arevalo said the military will continue its "relentless conduct of operation" against the communist rebels, who are expected to also intensify their offensive.

The NPA has stepped up its offensive over the weekend with attacks in Misamis Oriental, Camarines Norte and Cagayan.

The rebels attacked the police station of Binuangan in Misamis Oriental yesterday wounding four police officers.

Baggao, Cagayan town Councilor Angelo Luis was shot dead by NPA rebels on Saturday while PO2 Richard Abad was killed and six of his colleagues were wounded in an ambush in Labo, Camarines

Norte.

Elsewhere, gun battles between government troops and communist rebels broke out in Sallapadan town in Abra since early Saturday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or injuries.

The NPA suffered a setback after 14 rebels were killed in a firefight with government forces in Batangas.

The AFP said the military's latest operational success came days after Duterte signed Proclamation 360 terminating the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

"Prior to the President's

proclamation, we have been actively conducting counter-insurgency operations against the NPA since the peace negotiations broke down in Feb. 4," Arevalo said.

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

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

Duterte also threatened to tag all "legal fronts" of the CPP-NPA-NDF as criminals

and have them arrested for conspiracy.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque justified Duterte's order to shoot down any armed rebel.

"There is nothing wrong with what the President said if there is existing hostility which is called the international humanitarian law. That's an ancient legal system," Roque said.

Roque said what the President means to shoot and kill are valid military targets.

Roque said the communists are already dwindling and getting out of tune.

He said the communists have to move on considering they have been fighting the government for almost 50 years with no gain in sight. -

With Roel Pareño, Artemio Dumlao, Ben Serrano

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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NPA: 15 dead in Batangas were ours

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
and Jodee A. Agoncillo**
@Team_Inquirer

The communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the New People's Army (NPA) in Southern Tagalog hailed the heroism of their 15 comrades who were killed on Tuesday in clashes with government forces in Nasugbu, Batangas province.

"The revolutionary movement in Southern Tagalog salutes the 15 Red fighters and the commander of the New People's Army who were slain by the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines," Patnubay de Guia, NDFP-Southern Tagalog spokesperson, said in a statement.

The NDFP is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), while the NPA is the armed wing of the CPP.

On Nov. 28, military and police forces engaged NPA members in two vehicles in a fire-fight in the adjacent villages of Aga and Kaylaway, along the dimly lit part of the Tagaytay-Nasugbu highway.

The military tagged the slain rebels, including student activists, as "full-time" guerrillas.

Call for probe

The Gabriela Women's Party, meanwhile, has called on the Commission on Human Rights to conduct a "thorough and immediate" probe of the firefight that killed 15 people, including two female university students.

Killed in the ambush in Nasugbu, Batangas, were University of the Philippines-Manila biochemistry student

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DEAD IN NASUGBU A jeep with bullet holes, which carried the slain communist rebels, is cordoned off along the Tagaytay-Nasugbu highway hours after the fighting. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Josephine Anne Lapira, also an officer of the Gabriela Youth-Manila; and former Polytechnic University of the Philippines student Kamil Manangan.

UP student buried

Lapira was buried at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Sunday afternoon. The burial was private and off limits to journalists.

Gabriela denounced the AFP and the Philippine National Police for disclosing the names of those killed without their families' consent, and for releasing Lapira's photo

through the Legal Army Wives Facebook page.

Gabriela also condemned the brutal manner of their deaths and the ill treatment of their bodies. "All their belongings, even the clothes on their bodies, were taken away by the military," it said.

The photos, which showed Lapira's body wrapped in blankets, were contrary to the Army's claim that Lapira had been rushed to the hospital, Gabriela said.

Overkill

"The haphazard handling of the crime scene investigation

points to a whitewash, amid initial reports that also point to excessive use of force and overkill on the part of AFP and PNP operatives," the women's group added.

De Guia considered the killing of the NPA members, claimed by state forces as their "latest big score" against communist insurgents, a temporary setback.

Losing support

"Soon, the revolutionaries of Batangas will gain strength again to take up arms and take the places of our martyred comrades in Nasugbu," De Guia said.

But Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said the NPA was losing support.

"Those valuable reports on the NPA location and activities were often provided by unknown ordinary civilians through phone calls or text messages," Parayno said.

He said civilian communities even in remote areas, the traditional mass base of communist rebels, had been providing vital information to the police and the military.

"This trend indicates that the NPA is now losing the support [of] their so-called mass base," Parayno said.

'Grand scheme'

On Saturday, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano expressed suspicion that 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.

The former rebel Marine captain and ardent Duterte critic said the communist rebels could be a witting or unwitting partner in the President's scheme.

CPP founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison in an interview from Utrecht, The Netherlands, belied the observation that the conflict between the communist movement and the Duterte regime was part of the President's plan to proclaim a revolutionary government.

Sison vowed that those who doubt "will witness more fighting to come from the people's army, the mass movement and the broad united front." INQ

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POLICE FILES

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NPA member na bomb expert sumuko sa ComVal

SUMUKO sa mga operatiba ng 71st Infantry Battalion ng 7th Infantry Division ang isang bomb expert at full time member ng New Peoples Army (NPA)

Ito ang kinumpirma ni 71st Infantry Battalion, commanding officer Lt. Col. Esteveyn Ducusin.

Kinilala ni Ducusin ang sumukong bomb expert at NPA member na si Jomar Madalo Antolin a.k.a. Raffy.

Sa report na ipinaabot ni Ducusin kaniyang sinabi na pitong taon ng miyembro ng NPA si Antolin na nag-ooperate sa Compostella Valley province.

Dagdag pa ni Ducusin na isang organizer sa barangay si Antolin sa bayan ng Maco.

Napag-alaman na sangkot din ito sa ilang mga naganap na enkwentro, harassment at pagpapasabog ng improvised explosive device laban sa mga sundalo.

Miyembro din si Antolin ng Guerrilla Front 2 ng Southern Regional Committee na nag-ooperate buong probinsiya ng Compostella Valley.

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GUERRILLAS ATTACK POLICE STATION; 4 OFFICERS HURT

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels attacked a police station in Binuangan, Misamis Oriental province, on Sunday, wounding four police officers.

A report from the regional police office in Cagayan de Oro City said around 60 armed men belonging to the New People's Army (NPA) assaulted the police station, wounding SPO1 Ramonito Zambas, PO3 Alberto Bernadas, PO1 Joshua Satur and Senior Insp. Dante Hallazgo. The place is 72 kilometers from Cagayan de Oro.

The officers were hit by shrapnel from a 40-millimeter grenade launched from an M203 by the rebels.

The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has been waging an insurgency for five decades.

The policemen were able to fight back, repelling the rebels and preventing them from getting the firearms in the police station.

Chief Supt. Timoteo Pacleb, police director for Northern Mindanao, lauded the policemen for successfully defending their station.

NPA warning

In a text message to journalists, the NPA said the attack should serve as a reminder to the police, military and the Duterte administration that the communist movement did not fear President Duterte's threat of an all-out war and martial law.

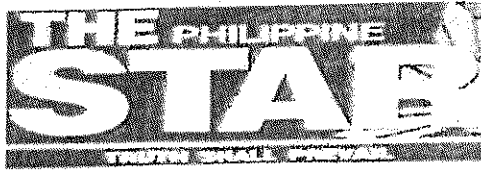
The NPA said the unit responsible for the attack was the East Misamis Oriental North-eastern Bukidnon Subregional Command. It added that the NPA did not suffer any casualties.

Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, in a statement said the policemen were able to stand their ground because of the timely report from the civilians in the area.

Villanueva said government forces expected more attacks from the NPA after the Duterte administration canceled peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, political arm of the CPP.

"That is why we have further fortified and alerted all our units," he said. —REPORTS FROM JIGGER J. JERUSALEM AND DIVINA M. SUSON INQ

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Abus free 6 Pinoy hostages

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Six Filipino captives including two minors have been released by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Patikul, Sulu, the military said yesterday.

The hostages were freed an hour after President Duterte visited Jolo along with American actor and martial arts ex-

pert Steven Seagal on Friday. Released were Jessie, 53, Marissa, 54, and Jimmy, 21, all surnamed Trinidad; and Lucy,

21, Marciano, 14, and Nelson, 7, all surnamed Hapole.

The six, who were seized from their homes in Barangay Latih, Patikul on Nov. 14, were set free at around 2 p.m. in Sitio Buhawan.

The victims were brought to a hospital for a medical checkup. They will undergo

debriefing before they are allowed to go home, according to Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, chief of the Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS).

The military condemned the kidnapping, noting the victims were poor and cannot afford to pay ransom.

Their release brought

down the number of remaining Abu Sayyaf hostages to four Filipinos and seven foreigners.

Meanwhile, a suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit surrendered to the military in Banguingui, Sulu on Friday.

Hussin Aranain, alias Friend, yielded to the Army's

54th Engineering Brigade in Barangay Bacaan, Sobejana said.

Aranain, said to be a follower of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Asbi Misuari, alias Imbo, also surrendered his rifle, magazines and ammunition.

Imbo earlier surrendered to the JTFS.

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Abu Sayyaf releases 6 hostages

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Relentless military operations reportedly forced members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu to release six people they abducted 16 days ago in the village of Anuling, Patikul, Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said yesterday intense military patrol in the forested areas of Sulu led to the release

of the victims “unconditionally,” or that no ransom payment was made. The hostages were set free 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Sobejana identified the victims as Jessie M. Trinidad, 53; Marissa V. Trinidad, 54; Jimmy V. D. Trinidad, 21; Lucy Hapole, 21; Marciano D. Hapole, 14; and Nelson T. Hapole, 7.

According to Sobejana the victims were released in sitio Buhawan-Buhawan, Barangay Latih, Patikul, Sulu.

Last November 14, the six were forc-

ibly taken by seven armed men wearing bonnet and equipped with high-powered firearms at about 8 p.m. from their respective residences located in Barangay Anuling.

Sobejana said that members of the ASG-Ajang-Ajang group under Roger Samlahon were responsible for their abduction.

The military immediately brought the six released kidnapped victims to JTF-Sulu Hospital in Jolo, Sulu for medical and custodial debriefing.

As this developed, another ASG fighter surrendered to JTF-Sulu Friday night in the village of Bacaan in Banguingui, Sulu.

Sobejana identified the surrenderer as Hussin Arain. He also turned over an Armalite rifle with magazines and ammunitions.

Arain surrendered to the JTF-Sulu through the joint efforts of the 54th Engineering Brigade, Philippine Coast Guard district southwestern Mindanao.

December 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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6 Abu Sayyaf captives freed after paying ransom

BY VICTOR REYES

SIX civilians, including two children, were released by the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul town in Sulu on Friday, two weeks after they were abducted.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, said the victims gave the Abu Sayyaf P100,000 "for board and lodging," which means ransom.

Released were Nelson Hapole, 7; Marciano Hapole, 14; Lucy Hapole,

21; Jimmy Trinidad, 21; Jessie Trinidad, 53; and Marissa Trinidad, 54.

Sobejana said the six were released at around 2 p.m. Friday in Sitio Buhawan-Buhawan, Barangay Latih in Patikul town.

Sobejana said the victims are "the poorest of the poor in Jolo. He said they sold their properties "at a very low cost" and their neighbors contributed to raise the money demanded by the Abu Sayyaf.

The six were seized by the Abu

Sayyaf, led by one Roger Samlahon, in Barangay Anuling, Patikul town on November 14.

Sobejana said government forces conducted operations to rescue the victims "but we cannot control everything."

The Abu Sayyaf is holding 13 foreign and Filipino kidnap victims in Sulu, including Dutch wildlife photographer Elwood Horn who was abducted from Tawi-Tawi in February 2012.

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ASG releases six kidnap victims

THE Abu Sayyaf Group has released six of its hostages over the weekend in Patikul, Sulu.

Joint Task Force Sulu chief Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana identified the released victims as Jessie Trinidad, 53; Marissa Trinidad, 54; Jimmy Trinidad, 21; Lucy Hapole, 21; Marciano Hapole, 14; and Nelson Hapole, 7—all residents of Kalimayahan Village, Barangay Latih in Patikul.

Sobejana said the victims were abducted by ASG bandits led by a certain Roger Samlahon on Nov. 14.

Last week, Abu Sayyaf member wanted for bombing a public terminal in Kidapawan City in 2007 was arrested in a joint military and police operation in Basilan.

Rahim Abdul alias Aman Kabalu was nabbed in Kampurnah village in Isabela City. He is listed under the Department of National Defense/Department of the Interior and Local Government joint order of rewards with a bounty of P1.3 million.

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

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Military condemns dad's slay

By LIEZLE BASA INIGO

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City — The military's Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) condemned over the weekend the treacherous act of killing of Councilor Angelo Luis of the municipality of Baggao, Cagayan.

NOLCOM officials said the killing of Luis in his very own home only reflects the real intention of the NPA which is to sow terror and instill fear in the civilian community, which they said is a trademark of terrorists.

The 56-year-old councilor, known among townfolk as "Buridik," was resting inside his nipa hut at 7:10 a.m. when about 20 armed guerrillas arrived and shot him with M16 and M14 rifles.

According to the victim's neighbor, about 17 NPA guerrillas were seen to have entered the victim's house. Four other armed guerrillas were standing guard in front of his house while six others were on the lookout in Zone 5 of the same barangay.

After the killing, the band of gunmen headed to Sitio Kagurongan of Barangay Awallan and scattered propaganda leaflets on their path.

The NPA's Henry Abraham Command (HAC) later sent a letter to a local radio station to own up to the murder. The letter read on air, stated that the HAC "punished Luis as an enemy of the people," citing his alleged spying for the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) in Region 2.

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GUARDIAN ANGEL. An Army soldier guards a replica of the Maria Auxiliadora Delos Cristianos De Marawi that was destroyed by Maute-ISIS members at the Cathedral of Maria Auxiliadora during the siege of the city. Ninety-six images of the Mother Mary join the Marian Procession at the Intramuros on Sunday. **Norman Cruz**

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The Manila Times

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Military to NPA rebels: 'Surrender or die'

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday called on members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) to surrender or be killed.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, head

of the AFP public affairs office, said the military is giving two options for members of the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) – surrender and

be reunited with their family by enrolling in the Comprehensive Local Integration Program or suffer the fate of their cohorts who died.

► **SurrenderA2**

Last month, President Rodrigo Duterte officially terminated the peace negotiations with the communists by signing Proclamation 360.

The military immediately vowed to go "all out" against NPA members attacking civilians and government forces in the countryside.

In September, Duterte threatened to crush the communist movement but CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison downplayed the warning.

"[Duterte] cannot ground the Left to dust. The CPP is

not the PKI (Indonesian Communist Party) of [leader Dipa Nusantra Aidit], completely exposed to enemy intelligence agencies in the course of electoral politics," Sison said in an interview, the transcript of which was posted on his Facebook account.

"The advantage of the CPP is that more than 90 percent of its cadres and members are not known to the enemy. Just to kill one real communist, the enemy has to kill 100 to 1,000 non-communists," he added.

Attacks expected

Arevalo said the recent series of attacks perpetrated by the NPA in the provinces was expected because of the cancellation of the peace talks.

"Those (attacks) were meant to make up for the tactical defeats they have experienced in view of the intensified focused military operations," he said in a statement.

He cited last week's encounter in Nasugbu, Batangas between government security forces and communist fighters that

resulted in the killing of 15 NPA rebels, including a former biochemistry student from the University of the Philippines, and the wounding of one rebel and five soldiers.

Sison called on independent human rights organizations and the Commission on Human Rights to investigate the incident, claiming those killed were civilians.

Arevalo said as of November this year, at least 119 NPA members have been neutralized while a total of 62 firearms were seized from the rebels.

On Sunday, suspected NPA rebels attacked a municipal police station in Binuangan, Misamis Oriental, leaving four policemen injured.

Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said the military is bracing for more attacks.

"Again, the CPP-NPA-NDF will attract local and foreign organizations to shield their leadership from being captured by security forces," Villanueva said.

"With this prevailing situation, government forces are also monitoring all the actions of the possible conspirators who will provide aide or support to this terrorist organization," he added.

DEMPSEY REYES

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AFP to NPA rebels: Surrender or die

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) challenged New People's Army (NPA) rebels yesterday saying that their only option is to surrender or suffer the same fate of their cohorts who were recently killed in military operations.

"While we are hopeful that more NPAs will surrender in the coming days, our troops on the ground will continue with our relentless operations against them who remain active in their violent and destructive criminal

activities against our people in the communities," AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

Arevalo issued the statement in the aftermath of the death of 14 NPA members in a clash with police and troops from the Philippine Air Force's 730th Combat Group in Nasugbu, Batangas last Tuesday.

Among those killed were the secretary of NPA Guerilla Unit 3 and one platoon leader while two other fighters were wounded.

Government troops also

seized 12 high-powered firearms from the encounter site.

Five soldiers, meanwhile, suffered minor injuries but are now in stable condition.

Last November 23, President Duterte signed Proclamation 360 which ended peace negotiations between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

"Prior to the President's proclamation, we have been actively conducting

counterinsurgency operations against the NPA since the peace negotiations broke down in February 4," Arevalo said.

In November alone, the military was able to neutralize 119 NPAs. Of this, 21 were killed in operations, 29 were apprehended, and 69 voluntarily surrendered, he said.

Government troops also retrieved 62 high-powered and low-powered firearms from the rebels in the past month.

With this, the AFP said it is bracing for more NPA atrocities,

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From page 1

primarily in the nature of economic sabotage.

"These violent activities by the NPA seek to falsely project that they are still a force to reckon. There is an ostensible leadership vacuum caused by the death of ranking NPA members in the past months resulting to the decreasing capability of the rebel group," Arevalo said.

As of November, the AFP recorded 47 NPA-initiated atrocities that include harassment and ambush of military troops, and kidnapping of civilians.

Reds launch offensives

The NPA is believed to be on a desperate rampage after it attacked a police station in Misamis Oriental that wounded four policemen, including an officer, and liquidated a town councilor in Cagayan last Saturday.

Reports reaching Camp Crame showed that about 100 NPA rebels attacked the Binaungan Municipal Police Station (MPS) at around 3:15 a.m. by firing rifle grenades.

The attack resulted in the wounding of Senior Ins. Dante Hallazgo, SPO1 Ramonito Zambas, PO3 Alberto Bernadas and PO1 Joshua Satur. They sustained shrapnel wounds.

Reports showed that only 10 policemen were at the station during the attack but held their ground and prevented the NPAs from overrunning the police post.

Chief Supt. Timoteo Pacleb, director of Police Regional Office-10 (PRO-10), commended the

Binaungan MPS personnel for defending their station despite being outnumbered.

Pacleb directed all police units under PRO-10 to continue intensifying security measures and target hardening efforts to thwart any attempt by the communists to launch atrocities.

In Cagayan, a councilor in Baggao town was killed by NPA rebels on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Isagani Nato, public information officer of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), said that Angelo Luis, 56, was murdered by the communists right inside his residence in Barangay Awallan.

The NPAs also carted away four firearms from the councilor's home.

Nato said that the victim's neighbors reported that around 17 NPA rebels swooped down at Luis' residence while the others acted as look out from the outside and some even established checkpoint leading to the house.

The witnesses claimed that the rebels even waited for Luis to arrive at his residence from his farm in nearby Barangay Lasilat.

"Upon the victim's arrival, four armed NPAs forcibly entered his house, fired at him several times causing his instantaneous death," Nato said, citing witnesses' accounts.

"After the killing, the NPA criminal group immediately headed towards Sitio Kagurongan of Barangay Awallan. The terrorists also scattered leaflets along their route of withdrawal," he added.

The latest NPA atrocities came a week after President Duterte

ordered the cancellation of the peace negotiations between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF), the political wing of the NPA.

Duterte also announced he intends to declare NPA as a terrorist group.

Bomb expert cedes

An NPA bomb expert also surrendered to the Army in Compostela Valley province.

Lt. Col. Esteveyn Ducusin, commander of the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion (IB), identified the surrenderee as Jomar Madalo Antolin, alias Raffy, an active member of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 2, Southern Mindanao Regional Party Committee.

Ducusin said that Antolin operated in Compostela Valley province, particularly in Maco town.

"He is an organizer in Maco for seven years and a known bomb expert," said Ducusin.

Antolin was tagged in several encounters between NPA rebels and government forces in Compostela Valley.

The military is urging other NPA rebels to just lay down their arms and surrender after President Duterte cancelled the peace talks.

In the month of November alone, the AFP was able to neutralize 119 NPAs.

Of this, 21 were killed in operations, 29 were apprehended, and 69 voluntarily surrendered.

Government troops also gained 62 high-powered and low-powered firearms from the rebels in the past month.

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AFP SAYS 300 REBELS KILLED, ARRESTED SINCE SUSPENSION OF PEACE TALKS

Nearly 300 New People's Army (NPA) members have either been killed or arrested by government forces since the Duterte administration suspended peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Sunday.

The NDFP is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), while the NPA is the CPP's armed wing.

The military called on communist rebels to lay down their arms or be killed.

"While we are hopeful that more NPAs will surrender in

the coming days, our troops on the ground will continue with our relentless operations against those who remain active in their violent and destructive criminal activities," the AFP Public Affairs chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said in a statement.

The military's counterinsurgency operations have been going on since Feb. 4, when peace negotiations with the NDFP stalled, according to Arevalo.

He said that since February, 264 NPA rebels had either been killed or arrested, while 573 had voluntarily surrendered. A total

of 622 firearms were recovered from the NPA rebels.

Stepped-up fighting

Fighting, however, has escalated soon after President Duterte unilaterally ended peace talks with the NDFP last month through Presidential Proclamation No. 360.

Major Gen. Ronald Villanueva, 4th ID commander, said the military believed that "important" CPP-NPA-NDFP personalities are being withdrawn to safer areas."

Villanueva added that the government expected the communist rebels and their sympa-

thizers to use evacuees to divert the public's attention from the conflict.

"Again, the CPP-NPA-NDFP will attract local and foreign organizations to shield their leadership from being captured by security forces," Villanueva said.

'Soft targets'

Arevalo said the military was expecting more NPA attacks on "soft targets ... to make up for their tactical defeats."

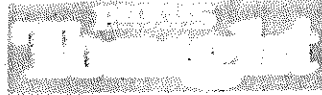
In November alone, the military counted 21 rebels dead, 29 arrested and 69 who surren-

dered. A total of 62 high-powered and low-powered firearms were seized.

Lawyer Edre Olalia, a legal consultant to the NDFP negotiating panel, insisted that the government should continue to adhere to "universally accepted rules of armed conflict," as embodied in the Geneva Conventions upholding international humanitarian law.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions in which "both combatants and especially civilians have rights to be protected in the context of war," Olalia said. —NIKKO DIZON INQ

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Page. 3

AFP neutralizes 119 NPA in November

A TOTAL of 119 New People's Army (NPA) rebels were neutralized by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) last November alone.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said 21 of the NPA rebels were killed, 29 arrested and 69 surrendered while 62 high-pow-

ered guns were recovered.

The rebel group initiated 47 atrocities, including harassments, ambush of military troops and kidnaping of civilians. On the other hand, the AFP successfully conducted 73 operations against the rebels.

Since the termination of peace talks between the government and the CPP-

NPA-NDF on Feb. 4, 2017, the AFP recorded 264 NPA members killed or apprehended by government forces while 573 surrendered and 622 firearms seized from the rebel group.

In line with this, the AFP called on the rebel group to lay down their arms or suffer the same fate as their cohorts.

"Prior to the President's proclamation, we have been actively conducting counter-insurgency operations against the NPA since the

peace negotiations broke down on Feb. 4," Arevalo said. **Zaida de los Reyes-Palanca with Aubrey Joyce Bajo (OJT)**

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Page. 2

Military urges NPA to yield

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has called on members of the New People's Army to surrender or be killed in military operations nationwide.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said they are hopeful that more NPAs will surrender in the coming days.

However, he said, troops on the ground will continue their relentless operations against them to curtail their violent and destructive criminal activities.

Late last month, the Philippine Air Force 730th Combat Group and the police killed 14 NPA members, including the secretary of the NPA Guerilla Unit 3 and a platoon leader, in an encounter in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Two communists were wounded in the encounter and government troops recovered 12 high-powered firearms from the NPA. Five soldiers on the other hand suffered minor injuries but are now in stable condition.

The encounter occurred days after President Duterte signed Presidential Proclamation No. 360 terminating the peace negotiations between the government and the

Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-National Democratic Front.

"Prior to the President's proclamation, we have been actively conducting counterinsurgency operations against the NPA since the peace negotiations broke down in Feb. 4," Arevalo said.

Also last month, the AFP was able to neutralize 119 NPA. Twenty-one of them were killed in operations, 29 were apprehended, 69 voluntarily surrendered, and 62 high-powered and low-powered were recovered.

The AFP expects more violent activities from the NPA following the issuance of Proclamation No. 360. "These violent activities by the NPA seek to falsely project that they are still a force to reckon. There is an ostensible leadership vacuum caused by the death of ranking NPA members in the past months resulting to the decreasing capability of the rebel group," Arevalo said.

The AFP recorded 47 NPA-initiated atrocities that include harassment and ambush of military troops and kidnapping of civilians last November. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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Pahina. 2

AFP walang planong magdeklara ng ceasefire sa NPA ngayong Christmas

Walang balak ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na magdeklara ng tigil putukan ngayong Christmas season sa New People's Army (NPA)

Ayon kay AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Col. Edgard Arevalo na wala ng silbi pa kung magdeklara sila ng ceasefire dahil nag-issue ng Proclamation No. 360 si Pangulong Duterte na siyang nag-terminate ng peace negotiations sa CPP-NPA-NDF

Imbes na tigil putukan ay walang humpay na military operations laban sa mga rebeldeng komunista ang kanilang gagawin dahil inaasahan na rin nila ang opensiba laban sa kanila.

Patunay umano rito ang sunod-sunod na pag-atake ng mga NPA sa Misamis Oriental, Camarines Norte at Cagayan.

Ayon pa kay Arevalo ang nasabing mga pag-atake ay bilang ganti sa AFP dahil sa kanilang matagumpay na operayon simula noong i-terminate ang peace talks gayundin ang pagkakapatay sa may 14 miyembro ng NPA sa Nasugbu, Batangas noong nakaraang linggo.

Bukod dito, ngayong buwan lamang umano, ang AFP ay nakapag-neutralize ng 119 miyembro ng NPA kung saan 21 dito ang napatay, 29 ang naaresto at 69 ang sumuko.

Base rin umano sa huling impormasyong nakuha ng militar, mayroon na lamang 2,000 ang mga miyembro ng NPA at karamihan sa kanila ay nasa Eastern Mindanao habang patuloy ang kanilang isinasagawang recruitment sa buong bansa partikular na sa mga unibersidad at kolehiyo.

Dahil dito kaya pinaalalahanan ni Arevalo ang mga magulang na bantayan ang mga aktibidad ng kanilang mga anak na nag-aaral sa mga kolehiyo at unibersidad habang patuloy din ang pakikipag-kordinasyon ng militar sa mga paaralan para maiwasang ma-recruit ang mga estudyante dito. (Gemma Garcia)

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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AFP studying lease of Camp Aguinaldo

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has ordered a study on the possible lease out of Camp Aguinaldo, the military's general headquarters in Quezon City, and other military camps to raise funds for soldiers.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the study would consider the strategic value of these camps.

The lease was broached by President Duterte last month.

The deed of donation for Camp Aguinaldo and the adjacent Camp Crame, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police, states that the property should be returned to original owners if the government will sell or use it for other purposes. The land of the two camps was donated by the Ortigas family during the Commonwealth, solely for military use.

Duterte, during a visit to the Army's Special Operations Command in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija on November 22, said leasing out Camp Aguinaldo would

raise billions of pesos for the soldiers. He also earlier raised the idea of leasing out the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City, and idle lands inside military camps throughout the country.

"We understand what the President said and his intention why he mentioned that recommendation. That's why the chief of staff has ordered to study this particular proposal or idea of the President," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said the AFP chief ordered the study so that the military can "strike a good balance between commercial value and strategic value" of these camps.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said leasing Camp Aguinaldo is a "thorny issue," noting that a large part of the camp was donated by the Ortigas family solely for the use of the Armed Forces.

"It's a complicated issue. That's a thorny issue because there is a clause in the (donation) contract that it shall be for the use of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," the source said.

"So it might not be possible to sell or lease. It is of my opinion that if it is not going to be used by the Armed Forces, we have to return the donated land to them. Leasing the camp will have some legal implications," he also said.

The previous administration also considered leasing part of the 178-hectare Camp Aguinaldo to raise funds for the modernization of the Armed Forces. The plan was, however, overtaken by events.

In 2011, then Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said technical working groups were looking into legal issues that may arise from leasing out the military installations.

The Ramos administration has sold military lands, also supposedly for the benefit of soldiers and policemen. Republic Act 7227, or the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, paved the way for the privatization of Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base and military installations in Subic and Clark. Questions have been raised as to whether government has followed the allotment scheme for proceeds of the sale.

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New AFP leadership

Credibility and competence are highly important in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in selecting the best of its men not to exclude even the highest post in the highly acclaimed defense/military institution. The former Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año retired last Oct. 27 when he turned 56 years old (the mandatory retirement age in AFP). But I am very happy that in the persona of the new Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero as the new AFP chief that I can sense continuity of the tradition, the embodiment of excellence and patriotism. Both chiefs have excelled and I know leadership is the most important element to consistently win the peace.

Now, what I can say with the current chief of staff? A friend of mine whose father was a soldier has fond memories of him. Accordingly, he has been a man of service and has a good reputation. In fact, Gen. Guerrero heads the Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command, the hometown of President Rodrigo Duterte. He was a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1984. He was known for his service reputation and as a mission oriented leader in Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC), wherein majority of hotspots were declared cleared from enemies' influence, and, of course, the

decrease of NPA's violent-related activities.

Meanwhile, prior to his appointment, the former Chief of Staff, Gen. Año mentioned in one of the media interviews "Gen. Guerrero is one of the most qualified contenders." In connection therewith, I have read several news about this man. Both his junior and senior officers have been saying that all his missions were outstandingly accomplished. Well, his merits speak for himself beyond his laudable laurels since he started with his military career. Back in his younger years, his record

as cum laude in PMA proved his meritorious leadership and perseverance and he even topped most of his schoolings. At best, through his leadership, the EastMinCom was awarded the Gold Governance Trailblazer Certification Award Proficiency Stage by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia.

Indeed, I know with all the genuine and good things about the incumbent chief of staff, the Armed Forces will be in good hands under Gen. Guerrero. – KRISTINA E. GABILLAN, San Mateo, Rizal

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ML extension necessary – for now

Martial law will have to be extended in Mindanao and will be likely approved by Congress, even as the Palace appears to be keeping the nation guessing on whether or not martial law in Mindanao will be extended, saying that the nation will know from President Duterte by next week or before Congress goes on Christmas recess.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has submitted its recommendation to President Duterte after a consultation process, although he declined to provide details.

Despite the lack of details, however, it is evident that the military will be recommending the extension of martial law, not only in Marawi City during the rehabilitation period, but also in the entire Mindanao, as it is just as evident that despite the military's success at killing the Islamic State-influenced Maute leaders, others have taken up the mantle and recruitment and training of IS members continue in other areas in Mindanao – and even in Marawi City itself.

The Duterte government is rushing the rehabilitation of Marawi, which is a big enough job and more delays will embolden the IS recruiters to convince some frustrated and desperate residents of Marawi City to join their cause, with even reports of IS recruiters offering P100,000 to each recruit as a sweetener.

Even before Congress extends martial law in Mindanao, the usual Rody critics, along with the underground and aboveground communists who pass themselves off as "human rights" advocates, will be using this extension of martial rule as a concrete step being made by Rody to install himself as a dictator and, since the issue they have been



fanning these days of Rody declaring a revolutionary government, such will be the used against Rody.

Yet the nation saw just how the local IS group caused the destruction of Marawi City. The irony of it all, however, was that these critics blamed the military for the destruction of the city, even saying that there should not have been any aerial bombing by the military.

It was almost as if these critics favored the IS rebels, just to bring down Rody and his government.

Despite the government having succeeded in liberating Marawi City, threats of terrorism and violence remain.

Congress is likely to grant Rody an extension, which the critics will denounce for certain.

However, it can hardly be denied by the critics that the Rody-type martial law has been proved to be very different from the martial rule that was imposed by the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled with an iron hand for 14 years. But of course, knowing the way these critics, especially the communists – underground and aboveground – with their propaganda against the Duterte government marked by venom after Duterte canceled the peace talks –

will continue to deny this and will continue to come up with false allegations.

There went a communist group Karapatan that quickly issued a statement, saying that martial law extension in Mindanao will result in more rights violations. "With martial law still in full effect in Mindanao, the human rights situation has already worsened due to the continuing implementation of Duterte's counter-insurgency program Oplan Kapayapaan, but this is all the more compounded by Duterte's termination of the GRP peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the recent verbal threats by the President...

Karapatan claimed that "the Duterte regime seem to be concocting more and more maneuvers to further curtail people's rights. From the use of the Human Security Act of 2007, the formation of the Inter-Agency Committee on Legal Action (IACLA), the threats to crackdown on progressive groups, to possible extension of martial law, Duterte is hell-bent on finding ways to usurp power, destroying all mechanism for checks and balance and thus laying the pretext for a fullblown dictatorship. He is relentless, just as all dictators are."

It is being proven worldwide, that the IS followers, acting like lone wolves, have been creating a lot of damage and causing the deaths of so many innocent civilians. Despite the IS leaders and followers having lost their controlled territories in Iraq and Syria,

IS is still alive and well and worse, expanding its base in Southeast Asia.

And if IS is allowed to succeed by Rody by ignoring the problem, even the commies will be targets of the IS. They should stop wailing. They had their chance at peace and blew it.

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The Manila Times

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The relevance of the Communist Party of the Philippines

THE government's renewed offensive against the New People's Army is a welcome development and an appropriate response to the latter's numerous attacks across the country, but 15 killed on the enemy side in a single operation is still shocking. The clash was obviously unusually fierce and desperate.

In my own experience – limited as it may be – with the Philippine Army, capturing the enemy alive, including making sure that medical assistance is extended to the wounded, seems to be preferable to killing the enemy. Not only isn't there much glory in killing some poor farmer or *lumad*, however armed and dangerous he may be, death leaves scars that may never heal. A killed enemy might also become a martyr, in whom the family takes pride.

President Rodrigo Duterte re-



RESURGENCE

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cently canceled the peace talks with the communists, thus, officially completing his turnaround from having given them a seat at the high table after the elections. A few are still holding out, with former Gabriela Representative Liza Masa, head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the most prominent. However, she is reportedly marginalized in the Cabinet and not being invited to meetings. This is such a different situation from last year when the communists headed the Departments of Agrarian Reform and Social Welfare and Development, and with other comrades

appointed as undersecretaries and commissioners.

It was the accidental killing of an infant by the NPA during an ambush in Talalak, Bukidnon that triggered Mr. Duterte's tagging of the NPA as terrorists and calling off the peace talks officially. The NPA took responsibility for the death of the infant and apologized. On October 3, an NPA ambush on a police patrol car in Cauayan, Negros Occidental, resulted in the wounding of three civilians, whose vehicle just happened to be traversing the same road as the police vehicle.

Is this sufficient reason why the NPAs should be labeled as terrorists? Personally, I see nothing new in what the NPA is doing. Yes, they have stepped up their attacks across the country. But the attacks themselves – ambushing police, liquidating soldiers, military assets and

former NPA members, extorting and raiding companies, destroying property – are old news. That is what the NPAs have been doing for decades. The modus operandi of the NPA has not changed fundamentally over the years – neither has the overall goal of the Communist Party of the Philippines: The communist revolution, the seizing of political power and the advent of a socialist Philippines remain the goals of the CPP. If the NPA is a terrorist organization today, so it was yesterday and last year.

The CPP and its armed wing and all their members and supporters have been consistent throughout the years. They grabbed the opportunity offered by Mr. Duterte when he invited them to be part of the government, no conditions asked. Unlike our mainstream politicians, the communists remain loyal to their

►CabugonA5

political party and its ideology. They might enjoy the perks that come with the positions, but they don't lose sight of their ultimate goal, the great communist revolution. This keeps them going.

While most of us might have focused on the end of armed conflict as the main objective and positive outcome of a peace agreement, for the communists it is the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER). It is – or was – only upon the signing by both parties of the CASER that a joint ceasefire agreement would materialize. The communists' demands under the CASER included the national – as opposed to private sector-led industrialization, and distribution of land for free to farmers, to mention some of the points.

The peace talks also involved political and constitutional reforms. What these contained in detail I do not know, but isn't it the will of the sovereign people as exercised during general elections, that would determine the nature of any political and constitutional reforms, if any? What makes the Communist Party so special that it, in exchange for stopping its armed attacks, would be granted major political concessions? In the 2016 election, while winning seats under the party-list system, the communists could not garner enough popular support to have their lone senatorial candidate elected. Obviously, a majority of the voters are not in favor of communism. Waging an armed struggle might have earned the CPP the government's attention, but not the public's approval.

Yes, there is too much poverty, injustice, corruption and violence in the Philippines, much of which is the result of structural defects of the country's socio-economic and political systems. Simply bringing in foreign investors to create more jobs and business opportunities is likely insufficient to alleviate poverty. But national industrialization? We are in the 3rd millennium, with the fates of nation states being shaped by climate change and information technology rather than steel production and national patrimony.

ONLINE NEWS

04 DECEMBER 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

Surrender or suffer the consequences, AFP urges Reds

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday urged New People's Army (NPA) rebels to surrender or suffer the same fate of their cohorts who were killed in military operations.

"While we are hopeful that more NPAs will surrender in the coming days, our troops on the ground will continue with our relentless operations against them who remain active in their violent and destructive criminal activities against our people in the communities," AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

This comes after the death of 14 NPA members in a clash with police and troops from the Philippine Air Force's 730th Combat Group in Nasugbu, Batangas on Tuesday.

Among those killed were the secretary of NPA Guerilla Unit 3 and one platoon leader while two other fighters were wounded.

Government troops also seized 12 high-powered firearms from the encounter site.

Five soldiers, meanwhile, suffered minor injuries but are now in stable condition.

Last November 23, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Proclamation No. 360 which scrapped peace negotiations between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

"Prior to the President's proclamation, we have been actively conducting counterinsurgency operations against the NPA since the peace negotiations broke down in February 4," Arevalo said.

In November alone, the military was able to neutralize 119 NPAs. Of this, 21 were killed in operations, 29 were apprehended, and 69 voluntarily surrendered.

Government troops also gained 62 high-powered and low-powered firearms from the rebels in the past month.

With this, the AFP said it is bracing for more NPA atrocities, primarily in the nature of economic sabotage.

"These violent activities by the NPA seek to falsely project that they are still a force to reckon. There is an ostensible leadership vacuum caused by the death of ranking NPA members in the past months resulting to the decreasing capability of the rebel group," Arevalo said.

As of November, the AFP recorded 47 NPA-initiated atrocities that include harassment and ambush of military troops, and kidnapping of civilians. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

Cagayan gov condemns killing of Baggao councilor

By Simeon Dilan and Priam Nepomuceno

TUGUEGARAO CITY -- Cagayan Governor Manuel N. Mamba on Sunday condemned the killing of Sangguniang Bayan (SB) member Angelo "Buridek" Luis of the municipality of Baggao by New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Mamba said the killing was disguised as an act of patriotism pursuant to communist ideologies and 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 said in a statement.

"We share the grief of the family of SB Buridik, offering them our condolences and prayers for the eternal repose of his soul and for comfort in their bereavement," he added.

The governor called on authorities to conduct a thorough and speedy investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He also urged Cagayanos to support the government's efforts to fight insurgency in the province.

Luis was killed by the NPA's Henry Abraham Command in East Cagayan in his home at Barangay Awallan, Baggao at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Investigation is still ongoing to determine the motive of the killing.

Lt. Col. Isagani Nato, Northern Luzon Command spokesperson, said the suspects, whom witnesses said are 30 in number, reportedly belong to the NPA's Abraham Command operating in Eastern Cagayan.

Reports said four of the rebels forcibly made their way inside Luis' house and shot him dead while the others positioned themselves strategically to avoid being surprised by security troops.

The NPA members also carted away four firearms belonging to the Luis family before fleeing towards the direction of Sitio Kagurongan where they scattered propaganda leaflets. (PNA)

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ATROCITIES | NPA murders Baggao Municipal Councilor

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – A municipal councilor in Baggao, Cagayan was brutally murdered by the terrorist group New People's Army at 7:00 in the morning of December 2, 2017.



About thirty (30) fully armed NPA criminals under the Henry Abraham Command, NPA unit operating in Eastern Cagayan, clad in military uniform, murdered Honorable Angelo Luis, 56 year old, married and a Municipal Councilor of Baggao, Cagayan. The killers also robbed four (4) firearms owned by the victim at his residence in Zone 1, Brgy Awallan, Baggao, Cagayan.

According to victim's neighbor, about 17 NPA terrorists were seen at the victim's house; four (4) CTs were also deployed in front of his house while six (6) others were at Zone 5 of said barangay conducting checkpoint. The source further disclosed that the NPA criminals suddenly arrived in the area and waited for the victim who was still in his farm at Brgy Lasilat. Upon the victim's arrival, four (4) armed NPAs forcibly entered his house, fired at him several times causing his instantaneous death.

After the killing, the NPA criminal group immediately headed towards Sitio Kagurongan of Brgy Awallan. The terrorists also scattered leaflets along their route of withdrawal having a propaganda line of "GUBAT TI UMILI SUNGBAT TI MARTIAL LAW NI DUTERTE" and "KABATAAN SUMAMPA SA NPA" HENRY ABRAHAM COMMAND, NPA EAST CAGAYAN. Ironically, the NPA insists to justify their criminal act by serving "capital punishment" for committing grave offenses against the people through extra judicial killing.

NOLCOM condemns this treacherous act of killing of Honorable Angelo Luis in his very own home as this is only reflects the real intention of the NPA criminal group of sowing terror and instilling fear to the society to attain their inhumane and unlawful agenda. This further manifests the NPA Terrorist's total disregard for human rights. **NOLCOM PIO/MCAG**

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