

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

05 December 2017

Tuesday

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

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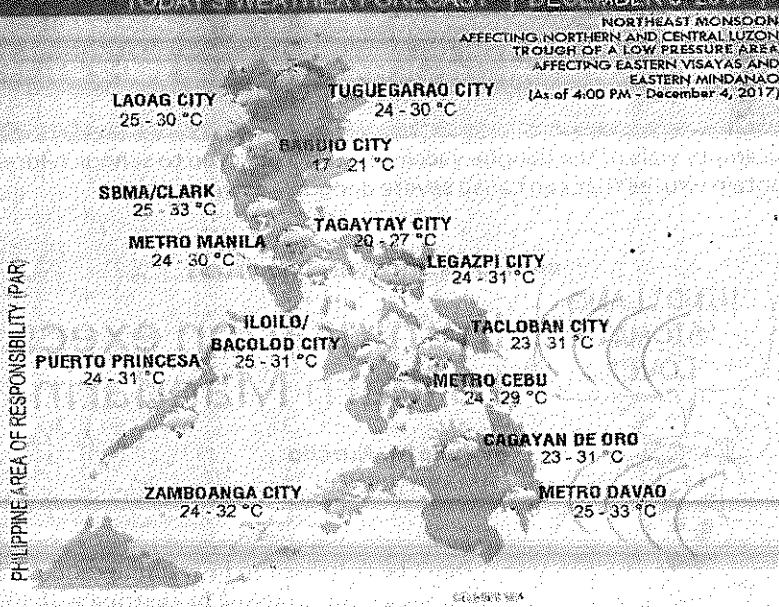




BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 5, 2017 | TUESDAY



NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON TROUGH OF A LOW PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING EASTERN VISAYAS AND EASTERN MINDANAO (As of 4:00 PM - December 4, 2017)




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:07 AM	5:26 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
7:17 PM	7:29 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
DEC 3 11:47 PM	DEC 10 3:31 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
6:12 AM -0.28 Meter	10:38 PM 1.30 Meter

- Partly cloudy at times, cloudy with rainshowers.
- Partly cloudy at times, cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.
- Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.
- Light rains.

	DEC 4	DEC 5	DEC 6	DEC 7	DEC 8	DEC 9
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	19 - 28 °C	19 - 28 °C	23 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 21 °C	17 - 22 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	 	



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM



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

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FILIPINOS NOT MADE GUINEA PIGS—SANOFI

Dengvaxia maker says the dengue immunization drive was a public health program, not a clinical trial. Vaccinated kids not at risk, according to Palace. But the DOJ orders probe.

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

The Department of Justice ordered an investigation on Monday into the immunization of more than 733,000 schoolchildren with a dengue vaccine that has since been suspended as

pharmaceutical giant Sanofi Pasteur denied that Filipinos were used as “guinea pigs” to test the vaccine Dengvaxia.

Malacañang asked the public to stay calm, saying Dengvaxia does not cause the deadly type of dengue.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque told a news briefing that only 10 percent of the 733,000 schoolchil-

dren who had been vaccinated were at risk of infection.

He added that those who would be infected would have fever and skin rashes only for “two days.”

“[P]eople should not panic about the dengue vaccine. There is no danger with the dengue vaccine,” Roque said.

Department of Health (DOH)

spokesperson Lyndon Lee Suy said there were no deaths among patients who were classified by Sanofi as having “severe dengue.”

But why did health officials during the Aquino administration procure P3.5 billion worth of Dengvaxia without being sure about its safety? Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II ordered the National

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Bureau of Investigation to find out.

“We have to know why [the DOH] ordered such a huge amount of vaccine and immediately vaccinated 733,000 schoolchildren. Is that appropriate?” Aguirre said at a news briefing.

Launched after warning

He said the DOH launched the immunization program just four months after Dengvaxia was developed and after Sanofi Pasteur “issued a warning.”

“So the next question is did the DOH heed the warning? What was the effect [of the vaccine]?” he said. “Then we have to look if there was criminal liability or graft and corruption aspect. But I don’t want to preempt the NBI.”

Asked if former President Benigno Aquino III would be investigated, Aguirre replied: “Yes. Everybody who was involved will be included in the NBI investigation.”

The DOH halted the use of the Dengvaxia vaccine on Friday after Sanofi Pasteur said it must be strictly limited due to evidence it could worsen the disease in people not previously exposed to the infection.

Not clinical trial

The pharmaceutical company’s branch in the Philippines called a news conference on Monday to say that Dengvaxia would not cause people to die



RISK ISSUES Dr. Ng Su Peing, global medical head of Sanofi Pasteur, and other officials of the pharmaceutical giant that produced the controversial dengue vaccine Dengvaxia answer queries about the drug's risk factors during a press conference. —EDWIN BACASMAS

and that Filipinos were not used as guinea pigs to test the vaccine.

"The vaccination program is a public health program of the Department of Health, not a clinical trial, so Filipinos were not used as guinea pigs," Joselito Sta. Ana, Sanofi Philippines senior director, said at the news conference.

Sanofi Philippines general manager Ching Santos said the government's vaccination program started after the company had gotten a license for the vaccine.

"It means that we have completed the phase 1, 2 and 3 studies not just in the Philippines but for other countries in Asia and Latin America. All studies were put together and submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA accepted and they licensed," Santos said.

"All of these studies are in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO played an important role in convening the regulatory bodies [that] actually have clearer understanding of these

data. So Filipinos were not made guinea pigs. The product was released commercially because clinical data at the time of licensing showed it was safe and effective," she said.

While Dengvaxia poses risks to people who have not yet been infected but already had themselves vaccinated, the vaccine has gone through rigorous tests and has been developed over 20 years, Santos said.

"The Philippines is actually one of those [involved] from phase 1, 2 and 3, which is really a

robust study. All the information, documents were shared with our FDA, and even WHO. And in fact, it's not just the Philippines. There are other countries that licensed and made it available [to their citizens]," she said.

Aguirre said, however, that only the Philippines tried the vaccine widely. Other countries wanted to know first the effects of the vaccine, he said.

Beneficial to Filipinos

Santos said the vaccine remained beneficial to Filipinos. She pointed out that nine of 10 Filipinos have been exposed to dengue by the time they reach adolescence, although only three-fourths of the cases are asymptomatic.

"For those who don't know what their status is, the data still shows that overall, in highly dengue-endemic areas, the vaccine is preventing ... there are far fewer cases, significantly fewer cases of severe dengue and dengue hospitalizations in those who've been vaccinated against those who didn't receive the vaccine," said Sanofi global medical head Ng Su Peing.

For people who have not had dengue before, Ng said "we would not recommend vaccination."

The Sanofi officials also clarified that exposure to the dengue virus, not the vaccine itself, causes the disease.

"The dengue vaccine does not contain viruses that can make people ill with dengue or severe dengue. You do not get

severe dengue from the vaccine. If you were administered with the vaccine it doesn't mean you'll get infected, that's a little misinformation," said Dr. Ruby Dizon, Sanofi Pasteur medical director.

"You get it because you had subsequent exposure to the virus, not because you were given the vaccine," she added.

Sta. Ana said potential cases of "severe dengue" would not be fatal.

"What is this severe [dengue]? When people think of 'severe,' this already includes dengue shock that could lead to death, but no," he said.

Sta. Ana said Sanofi's definition of "severe dengue" merely referred to symptoms, including two days of fever, a lower platelet count and bruising.

The Sanofi officials also played down the claim of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption that Dengvaxia caused the deaths of three schoolchildren in Central Luzon who were reportedly injected with the vaccine in April 2016.

"As far as we are made aware, there are no reported deaths that are related to dengue vaccination," Dizon said. —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ



WATCH: Palace tells public: Don't panic over antidengue vaccine

<http://inq.news/PalaceOnVaccine>

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THE PHILIPPINE
STAR

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DOH eyes refund for dengue vaccine



Top photo shows empty vials of the dengue vaccine Dengvaxia at the Manila Central Vaccine storage room in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday. Inset shows Dr. Ng Su Peing, global medical head at Sanofi Pasteur, speaking during a press conference in Taguig City.

Probes to include Noy

By MAYEN JAYMALIN

The Department of Health (DOH) is looking into the possibility of requiring the manufacturer of the world's first dengue vaccine to refund the government following reports that the treatment poses risks to people without a history of dengue.

"It is an option we are considering, but we also have to look into the legal issues," Health Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo told reporters yesterday.

The controversy on the P3.5-billion dengue immunization program broke after pharmaceutical giant Sanofi Pasteur disclosed that new clinical analysis found its Dengvaxia vaccine effective for people who have had dengue prior to immunization, but noted the risk of a "severe" case of dengue for people who have not.

Bayugo clarified that there had been no apparent irregularity in the purchase of Dengvaxia until Sanofi admitted that the vaccine only provides protection for those previously afflicted with dengue.

He explained that the DOH's decision to implement a dengue immunization program was based on the previous findings that Dengvaxia

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DOH eyes From Page 1

was safe for use, and there, Dengvaxia was no complaint before the Commission on Audit concerning its purchase

"I still believe that the DOH complied with the requirements of the law in the procurement of the dengue vaccine," he added.

Dengvaxia was duly registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) when the DOH purchased it.

The DOH also complied with the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) that only areas with high dengue prevalence shall be covered by the program.

Bayugo said the new findings were not yet available when the immunization program was started.

"Based on studies, the children died of other causes and it just so happens that they were vaccinated," he added.

Bayugo also gave assurances that the DOH will face any investigation on

Aquino liable for vaccine mess?

The Department of Justice (DOJ) yesterday said it will investigate all officials involved in the dengue vaccine mess, including the possible liability of former president Benigno Aquino III and health secretary Janette Garin.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II yesterday formally ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct a probe to determine possible criminal liabilities of officials behind the project.

"The National Bureau of Investigation, through director general Dante Gierran, is hereby directed and granted authority to conduct investigation and case buildup over the the alleged danger to public health arising from the P3.5-billion anti-dengue vaccination drive of the Department of Health and Sanofi Pasteur and if evidence so warrants to file appropriate charges," he

said in his department order issued yesterday.

Aguirre also directed Gierran to submit a report to his office on its current activities related to the implementation of the order.

The DOJ chief explained that Aquino would be covered by the probe since he also approved the vaccination project that started in April last year.

Garin, who insisted on implementing the project despite strong objections from medical experts, is also covered by the NBI probe.

Aguirre cited information that the DOH under the previous administration administered the Dengvaxia vaccine just four months after it was manufactured by pharmaceutical firm Sanofi Pasteur.

Initial information reaching the DOJ also showed that the program was approved by Aquino and Garin despite lack of certification from the WHO.

"We have to know why (the DOH) ordered such a huge amount of vaccine and immediately vaccinated 733,000 schoolchildren. Is that appro-

priate?” Aguirre said in a press conference

“Everybody who was involved will be included in the NBI investigation,” he added.

In the same press briefing, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) lawyer Ferdinand Topacio showed a photograph showing Aquino during alleged meetings with Sanofi officers in November 2014 in Beijing and December 2015 in Paris.

The VACC also claimed that there had been three children from Central Luzon who died last year after they were inoculated with the vaccine.

VACC founding chairman Dante Jimenez, who also formally requested the DOJ investigation on the controversy, said their initial information showed that all three were from Bataan.

“We are now here to request the Secretary (of Justice) to ask the NBI to conduct an exhumation (because) this is really serious,” he explained.

Senate to start probe next week

Meanwhile, the Senate will

start next week its inquiry into the P3.5-billion dengue vaccine mess.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, set the hearing on Monday that may be held jointly with the committee on health, chaired by Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito.

“Everybody from PNoy (Aquino’s nickname) down has to explain,” Gordon told reporters. “Also, the money should be returned.”

Gordon also said the controversy was “begging for a class suit” as the over 700,000 children vaccinated face risk of severe disease after their inoculation with Dengvaxia.

“They’ll (Sanofi) be liable to civil action for damages because of the negligence. They’re (vaccinated) now subjected to sleepless nights, anxiety,” he said.

Ejercito said he hopes officials from the DOH and the WHO will have something to report in the initial hearing.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said in the wake of dengue vaccine

flop, DOH officials should guarantee that Filipinos are now “inoculated” from supply-driven vaccines whose efficacy has not yet been established.

“If there’s one lesson to be learned from the ‘Deng-goyvaxx,’ it is that Filipino children should not be made guinea pigs again,” Recto said.

Recto made the call as the government is set to buy P7.4 billion worth of vaccines next year.

He said the DOH must still go out of its way in assuring the public that next year’s vaccines meet the highest standards.

Costing P7.43 billion, the 2018 public vaccination program targets full immunization of 2.7 million infants, of which 1.4 million will be given pneumococcal vaccine.

All 2.7 million infants will also be administered Japanese encephalitis vaccine.

In addition, 2.1 million Grade 1 and 1.7 million Grade 7 pupils will benefit from anti-tetanus-diphtheria, and measles vaccines. – With Edu Punay, Paolo Romero

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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2 dead as Moro rebs attack Army base in Maguindanao

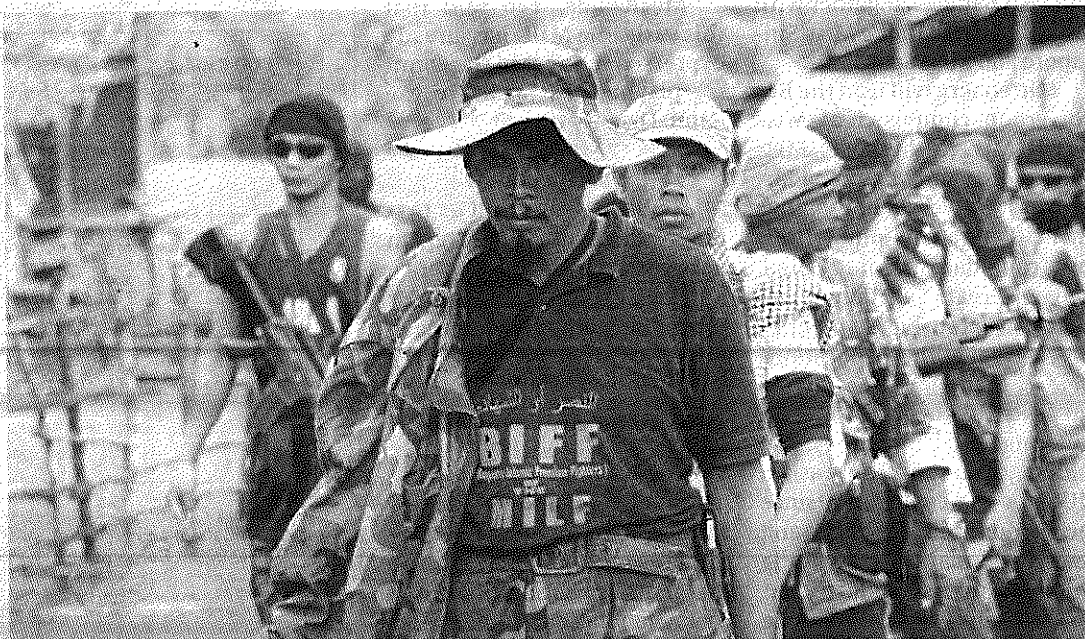
At least 7 people, 4 of them kids, wounded as BIFF gunmen fire at houses near military detachment

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—A 60-year-old man and his 13-year-old grandson were killed as members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) fired at houses and a military detachment in Barangay Timbangan here on Sunday night, police said.

Unti Kamama and his grandson, Mohammad, died from bullet and shrapnel wounds after the Islamic State (IS)-inspired BIFF under one Commander Bungos attacked a detachment of the 40th Infantry Battalion at 9 p.m. on Sunday in Timbangan, some 10 kilometers north of the town center.

Civilian casualties

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, provincial director of the Maguindanao police, said a band of BIFF militants fired at the houses near the detachment, killing the Kamamas and wounding seven others, as another group of rebels attacked the soldiers manning the base.



In this photo taken in 2015, members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, a group that splintered from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, assemble in their camp in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town in Maguindanao.—JEFFREY MAITEM

Abu Misry Mama, spokesperson for the BIFF, confirmed his group was behind the attack here on Sunday.

Of the wounded, four were

preschool children who lived near the military outpost, and a soldier, Private First Class Clinton Rigor.

The group, however, failed

to overrun the detachment.

Shariff Aguak government said at least 30 families fled their houses when the fighting ensued. These families,

however, returned home on Monday.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, said the BIFF's most recent attacks were meant to avenge the deaths of more than 30 of their members, who were killed in joint Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) operations in September.

IS flags

The MILF, which refused plans of militants to hoist IS flags in their area, had joined forces with government soldiers in a campaign to flush out IS supporters in Maguindanao.

Shariff Aguak Mayor Marop Ampatuan asked the town's social welfare office to take care of the needs of wounded civilians and ensure that families who fled their homes would be assisted.

He appealed to the BIFF to spare civilians from hostilities. He convened the town's peace and order council to discuss measures to ensure the safety of residents. —EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ INQ

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NO GOV'T CASUALTY

OR. MINDORO CLASH KILLS NPA REBEL

A suspected member of the New People's Army (NPA) was killed in a firefight with Army soldiers in Mansalay town in Oriental Mindoro province on Sunday night, military reports said.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said soldiers engaged eight communist guerrillas, who were aboard four motorcycles, in Sitio Bait in Barangay Panaytayan at 8:30 p.m.

Parayno said suspected rebel Pablito Quinunez, 57, died in the clash which lasted for five minutes. Quinunez, he said, was a resident of Barangay Don Pedro in Mansalay.

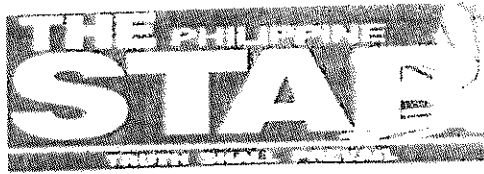
Parayno said no soldier was killed or wounded in the clash.

Soldiers recovered a .45 caliber pistol, two containers full of bullets and three motorcycles left by the fleeing rebels.

With the recent NPA attacks in different parts of the country, the Armed Forces of the Philippines on Sunday renewed its "surrender or die" warning to communist guerrillas.

But Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison on Monday said it was "absurd" for President Duterte and the military to call on the NPA to surrender. —**DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.** INQ

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2 civilians slain, 7 hurt in BIFF attacks

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – Two villagers were killed in simultaneous attacks by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Shariff Aguak on Sunday.

Unti Kamama, 60, and his grandson Mohammad, 13, suffered multiple gunshot wounds.

Pfc. Clinton Rigor of the 40th Infantry Battalion, Aila Amor, 25; Tukay Kamama, 26, children Ana, Butoh and Bai, all surnamed Tukay, and Ela Tayog were wounded.

Initial reports showed around 30 BIFF gunmen

strafed an Army detachment in Barangay Timbangan at around 8:40 p.m., triggering a shootout.

Another group of bandits fired at a nearby residential area.

Abu Misry Mama, spokesman for a BIFF faction led by a certain Bongos, confirmed that the attacks were part of their continuing offensive

against the police and military.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said the attacks were in retaliation for the death of BIFF gunmen in recent military operations aided by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas.

At least 27 BIFF bandits were slain in encounters with MILF guerrillas and government troopers from July to September.

The MILF and the government are bound by the 1997 Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities to

cooperate in neutralizing criminals and terrorists in flashpoint areas in Mindanao.

More than 10 BIFF gunmen were also killed in an operation by the Army's 57th, 19th and 40th Infantry Battalions at the border of Datu Unsay and Shariff Aguak towns last month.

The municipal government is providing assistance to the families of the victims.

Meanwhile, Shariff Aguak Mayor Marop Ampatuan appealed to the BIFF to spare innocent villagers.

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NPAs free cop in Cotabato

By JOHN UNSON

NORTH COTABATO – The New People's Army (NPA) released yesterday PO1 Bristol Catalan whom the communist rebels snatched in Kidapawan City last August.

Catalan was turned over by members of the NPA's Guerrilla Front

53 to religious leaders in Barangay Bagumbayan in Magpet, this province, said Chief Insp. Aldrin Gonzalez, spokesman for the Police Regional Office-12.

The provincial police office will give Catalan the psychosocial intervention needed to hasten his recovery from

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NPAs From Page 1

captivity, Gonzalez said.

Catalan is an intelligence agent in the Makilala municipal police office.

He was kidnapped while on his way to Makilala from Kidapawan.

The NPA rebels set Catalan free at noon through the intercession of preachers and nuns led by North Cotabato Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, confirmed Lt. Col. Harold Argamosa of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, adding that local officials also helped negotiate the release.

4 rebels, 2 soldiers killed

Four alleged NPA members and two soldiers died in the military's latest encounter with the rebel group in South Cotabato over the weekend.

Reports from the 1002nd Brigade said troops of the 27th Infantry Brigade encountered an undetermined number of armed elements in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato last Sunday afternoon.

Government forces went to the area to verify reports of the presence of armed men. As they approached, the gunfight

started.

"The firefight lasted for an hour that resulted in the killing of four NPA terrorists, and the recovery of one carbine, two homemade shot guns, and one locally made 9mm machine pistol," the report said.

On the side of the military, Privates First Class Jovanie Tagactac and Max Jay Lord Fernando were killed while three other soldiers were wounded.

"The NPAs who are terrorizing our country shall be dealt with according to the provisions of the law," Col. Roberto Ancan, commander of the 1002nd Brigade, said.

"For those wounded terrorists and for some others who are still hiding right now, it is high time for you to peacefully surrender to the folds of law and avail of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program of the government," Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, 27IB Infantry Battalion Commander, added.

Armed Forces ready

Malacañang is not surprised by the successive attacks staged by the NPA, saying it was "business as usual" for rebels to stage such atrocities.

"It's business as usual.

When we're talking peace, they were attacking. Now that we're not talking peace, they are attacking. So what else is new?" presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in a press briefing yesterday.

The military is prepared to counter the threat posed by the communist guerrillas, Roque said.

"It's continuous attacks from them. And of course, the Armed Forces is ready and able to deal with them, as shown in the recent incident in Nasugbu," he said, referring to the encounter in Batangas last week.

The military has recorded 47 atrocities involving the NPA as of November, the month President Duterte terminated peace negotiations with the communist rebels.

The incidents include harassment and ambush of soldiers and kidnapping of civilians. Meanwhile, the military has mounted 73 operations against the rebels in the same period. A total of 264 NPA members were either killed or arrested by government forces while 573 voluntarily surrendered since the peace talks were halted on Feb. 4.

– With Michael Punongbayan, Alexis Romero

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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2 civilians dead in BIFF attack in Shariff Aguak

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

COTABATO CITY – Two villagers were killed, while seven others were wounded in renewed atrocities committed Sunday night by the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao.

Unti Kamama, 60, and his 13-year-old grandson Mohammad were identified by local authorities as those who were slain after sustaining gunshot wounds in the attack.

Responding police and Army probers said a soldier, Private First Class Clinton Rigor of the 40th Infantry Battalion, was also wounded in the incident.

Wounded were pre-school Moro children Ana, Butoh and Bai, all surnamed Tukay, and their neighbor, Ela Tayog.

Some 30 BIFF gunmen first attacked at about 8:40 p.m. Sunday an Army detachment at Shariff Aguak's Barangay Timbangan, sparking a gunfight, police and civilian officials said.

They said another group of bandits also fired at nearby houses of Moro families, killing the Kamamas and wounding the four children and two adults, Aila Amor, 25, and Tukay Kamama, 26.

The BIFF, which splintered from the MILF in 2010, uses the flag of the Islamic State as revolutionary banner.

Major Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, head of the Army's Sixth Infantry Division, earlier said the BIFF rampage was obviously meant to avenge the deaths of more than 30 members killed in recent offensives by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)-backed by soldiers.

MILF forces have reportedly killed 27 combatants of one of three BIFF factions, the one under Esmael Abdulmalik, in encounters from last week of July to early September.

The MILF launched the offensive against Abdulmalik and his men after they attempted to hoist the IS flag in strategic areas in Maguindanao's Salibo and Shariff Saidona towns.

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2 soldiers, 4 NPAs killed in S. Cotabato clash

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY – Government forces clashed with members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on Sunday that left six people dead, and three others wounded.

In a report released to the media on Monday, Capt. Mc. Gary Dida, civil military operations officer of the military's 1002nd Brigade, said the troops of the 27th Infantry Battalion went to check Barangay Ned upon receiving a report from the public regarding NPA presence in the area.

It was then that they engaged the rebels in a gunbattle that lasted for an hour.

He said two soldiers – PFCs Jovanic P. Tagactac and Max Jay Lord Fernando – were killed, while four NPAs

were slain. Three other soldiers were wounded.

He said military operations have been intensified to thwart more NPA attacks.

The 27th IB commander LTC Benjamin Leander urged the NPA to surrender and avail of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP), which is spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte recently branded the NPA as a terrorist group, and later terminated the peace talks with National Democratic Front (NDF) with Proclamation No. 360 for failing to show "sincerity and commitment in pursuing genuine and meaningful peace negotiations as it engaged on acts of violence and hostilities, endangering the lives and properties of innocent people."

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• **'Don't leave,'
AFP tells residents**

BUTUAN CITY – The Army commander of the 401st Infantry (Unit) Brigade on Monday asked villagers from two municipalities of Surigao del Sur not to evacuate and just stay in their homes and farmlands. Col. Andres Centino, commanding officer of the 401st Brigade which has the jurisdictions over the Army's battalions in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur, also asked leaders of Barangay Diatagon in Lianga town and Barangay Buhisan in San Agustin to keep their respective constituents from leaving because military operations against the New People's Army (NPA) terrorists were far from these places. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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AFP, PNP hot on trail of foiled police station attackers

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY – Military and police forces are hot on the trail of about 200 New People's Army (NPA) terrorists, whose attack on a police station in a Misamis Oriental was foiled by 20 policemen.

According to regional Army spokesman Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, troops from the 58th Infantry Battalion (58th IB) are now assisting elements of

the Northern Mindanao Police Regional Police Office (PRO 10) in pursuing the fighters belonging to the guerilla-Front Committee 4-B led by Commanders Jakem, Amboy and Makong Mansigayaw of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA East Misamis Oriental North Eastern Bukidnon Sub-Regional Command.

The joint forces of the fleeing NPA terrorists were responsible in the foiled

attack of Binuangan Municipal Police Station (MPS) in Binuangan town, Misamis Oriental province on Sunday dawn where four policemen, including the station commander, were slightly wounded, a police report said.

Immediately after the foiled attack, PRO 10 Regional Director Chief Supt. Timoteo G. Pacleb issued a directive to all police personnel in Northern Mindanao to strengthen their target-harden-

ing security measures to prevent such an attack from happening again.

The command group of PRO 10 also utilized its operational control (Opcon) units in the field to assist in the pursuit operations against the fleeing rebels.

PRO 10 believed that an undetermined number of NPA terrorists was wounded due to the blood stains found in the gunbattle area and escape route of the fleeing rebels.

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Hitman known as 'Army major' falls

By **AARON B. RECUENCO**

Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) have arrested a suspected hitman who has been using the surname of an Army major recommended for a Medal of Valor award for a higher price on his 'job' which usually targets local politicians.

Suspect George Ginabay was presented yesterday in a press conference at Camp Crame in Quezon City—ironically hours after the Philippine National Police-Human Rights Affairs Office (PHRAO) launched a mobile application to remind the policemen

of the rights of the accused.

The mobile app includes a provision that presentation of a suspect is prohibited as he is still presumed innocent unless convicted by a court.

Director Roel Obusan, CIDG chief, said Ginabay was arrested on Saturday in Diadi town of Nueva Vizcaya while meeting a prospective client supposedly for another job.

Police sources said that Ginabay was then meeting a politician.

Obusan said the latest victim of Ginabay was Mayor Avelino Amanyen of Paracelis town of Mountain Province whom he allegedly stabbed several times last month.

The mayor, however, survived the attack and positively identified Ginabay as the one who stabbed him.

In an interview, Amanyen said the motive could be the filling up of two positions at the Paracelis municipal hall. He did not elaborate further.

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NPA killed in clash with soldiers in Or. Mindoro

By **DANNY J. ESTACIO**

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City — A 15-minute gunbattle between army troopers and a band of New People's Army (NPA) fighters in the hinterlands of Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, resulted in the killing of one of the "communist terrorists" last Sunday.

Major General Rhoderick Parayno, commander of the army's 2nd Infantry Division, said elements of the 4th Infantry Battalion led by Captain Russel Lucena encountered eight armed fighters from the NPA's Platoon Emily of the Sub-Regional Military Area-Guerrilla Unit 4 (SRMA-GU4) in Sitio Bait, Barangay Panaytayan, Mansalay.

After the heavy exchange of fire, the rebels retreated and left behind their slain comrade, said Parayno.

The slain rebel was later identified by Senior Superintendent Christopher

Birung, Police Provincial Office (PPO) director, as Pablito Quiñones, 57, a resident of Sitio Cagancan, Barangay Don Pedro, also in Mansalay.

Parayno said the guerrillas were riding in four motorcycles when the military was tipped off about their presence in the area.

In clearing operation, soldiers collected a .45-caliber pistol, two gallon containers of ammunition and the three motorcycles used by the communist terrorists.

Meanwhile, the NPA's Armando Catapia Command (ACC) admitted responsibility in the ambush that killed policeman and six member of the Camarines Norte Public Safety Company (CNPSC) in Sitio Binuang, Barangay Daguit, Labo, Camarines Norte last Saturday.

In a statement given to local media, Carlito Cada, spokesman of NPA Bicol, said that action of the NPA was in response to the call of Communist Party

of the Philippines (CPP) to intensify tactical offensives against government forces and Duterte's regime.

Cada added that it was a well-planned operation against the police with the use of a command-detonated

explosive (CDX) – a kind of explosive in compliance with the Geneva Conventions – and the help of the masses.

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Page. 1

Moro outlaws kill 2 civilians, hurt 3 others

By Francisco Tuyay

TWO civilians were killed and three others wounded after the government-described terrorist group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters attacked a community in Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao Sunday.

Capt Arvin Encinas, Information Officer of the 6th

Infantry Division, said the two civilian fatalities were fired at by BIFF rebels after failing to inflict casualties on army troopers who responded to protect beleaguered residents of Sitio Bagong of Barangay Timbangan.

Encinas said the identities of the slain two residents were not immediately available.

Next page

Moro...

From A1

The wounded civilians were brought to the nearest hospital for treatment.

The killing occurred after a still-undetermined numbers of BIFF rebel band attacked the civilian community, prompting army soldiers stationed in the vicinity to respond.

The BIFF attack sparked a firefight between troops of the 40th Infantry Battalion lasting for about 25 minutes.

As the fighting went on, the BIFF fired at the residential areas, killing the two civilians and wounding three more.

Security forces stationed in Maguindanao have launched a series of artillery fires against suspected BIFF encampment and prevent the outlawed group from harming civilian communities.

"We are [in] close contact with the affected families of the civilians to provide necessary assistance for them," said Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Commander of the 6th Infantry Division. With PNA

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The Manila Times

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6 dead as troops, NPA clash in Cotabato

BY DEMPSEY REYES

FOUR New People's Army (NPA) rebels and two soldiers were killed after an encounter between military troops and the communist rebels in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on Sunday afternoon.

The gunfight happened at about 1 p.m. when members of the Philippine Army's 27th Infantry Battalion were verifying the

reported sighting of armed men in Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu.

Capt. Mc Gary Dida, civil-military operations officer of the

Army's 1002nd Infantry Brigade, said soldiers chanced upon some 25 NPA members in the area but the rebels opened fire at the soldiers triggering a firefight that lasted for about an hour.

The fierce fighting resulted in the death of four unidentified NPA gunmen.

The slain soldiers were identified as Private First Class Jovanie Tagactac and PFC Max Jay Lord Fernando. Three other soldiers were wounded

Dida said pursuit operations against the communist rebels are ongoing.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, 27th Infantry Battalion commander, called on the wounded NPA members and those who have escaped to surrender to security forces.

"For those wounded terrorists and for some others who are still hiding now, it is high time for you to peacefully surrender to the fold of law and avail yourself of the

Comprehensive Local Integration Program of the Local Government," Leander said.

Meanwhile, the Armado Catapia Command (ACC-New People's Army-Camarines Norte) took responsibility for the ambush of a Provincial Public Safety Company convoy in Labo, Camarines Norte on Saturday where a policeman was killed while six others were wounded.

In a statement it released on Mon-

day, the ACC said the attack was in response to the "call for intensified tactical offensive from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to topple the Duterte administration as well as to neutralize the military abuses and extra-judicial killings" in Labo town.

The rebels intercepted the police mobiles traversing Maharlika Highway and lobbed command-detonated explosives.

WITH BELLY M. OTORDOZ

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The Manila Times

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Police dispute NPA charges vs slain Cagayan official

THE Cagayan Provincial Police Office (CPPO) in Tuguegarao City disputed the land grabbing and murder accusations the communist New People's Army (NPA) made against slain Baggao town councilor Angelo Figueras Luis.

Senior Supt. Warren Gaspar Tolito, CPPO director, said he does not agree with the NPA Henry Abraham Front's claim that Luis was a land grabber and a murderer.

In a statement sent to *The Manila Times* on Monday, Fernan Cagayan, media liaison officer of the NPA Henry Abraham Front, said the movement ordered the arrest of Luis because "he had a score to settle with the people."

"The people's revolutionary government ordered the arrest of Luis so he can face charges of land grabbing and murder filed against him at the people's court," Cagayan said in the statement.

Fernan also accused Luis of aiding military operations in October 2011 in Barangay (village) San Miguel in Baggao town which led to the "murder of four NPA fighters" including commander Dominador Javier alias "Ka Martin."

Tolito said it was Luis who offered help to the peasant group called Kagimungan by allowing them to use his land for free in Baggao town.

"But when Luis asked them to vacate his land to convert it into a fishpond, Kagimungan members refused and instead filed a case against him for land grabbing. The court decided in favor of Luis," Tolito said.

At about 7 p.m. on Saturday some 20 fully armed men barged into the house of Luis in Barangay Awallan, killed him and took away four firearms he owned.

In the statement, Cagayan also confirmed that the NPA is taking responsibility for killing Luis after "he attempted to escape from the 'NPA revolutionary government's arresting officers' and even fired at them."

Meanwhile, the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) condemned the "treacherous act of killing [the Baggao town councilor] in his very own home."

"[This] only reflects the real intention of the NPA criminal group to sow terror and instill fear in society to attain their inhumane and unlawful agenda. This

further manifests the NPA terrorists' total disregard for human rights," Nolcom said in a statement.

Nolcom said Allawan village residents saw about 17 NPA rebels, four of whom were deployed in front of the councilor's house while six others were at Zone 5 in the village manning a checkpoint.

The rebels arrived in the area and waited for the councilor who was in his farm in Barangay Lasilat. Upon Luis' arrival from the farm, four armed NPA rebels forcibly entered his house, fired at him several times, killing him on the spot.

After the killing, the source said, the rebels fled to the far-flung sub-village of Kagurongan in Awallan and scattered leaflets saying "The people's war, a response to Duterte's martial law" in the vernacular and inviting young people to join the Henry Abraham Command.

"Ironically, the NPA insists on justifying their criminal act by sentencing people with 'capital punishment' for committing grave offenses against the people through extra judicial killing," Nolcom said.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO

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The Manila Times

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2 killed, 7 wounded in latest BIFF rampage

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Two residents were killed while seven others were wounded, including four minors, in separate attacks by the Islamic State-inspired Bangsamoro Moro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) bandits here on Sunday night.

Killed were Unti Kamama, 60, and his grandson, Mohammad Kamama, 13, who both died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Responding police said the wounded include four pre-schoolers Moro children – Ana, Butoh and Bai – all surnamed Tukay, their neighbor, Ela Tayog and Private First Class Clinton Rigor of the Philippine Army's 40th Infantry Battalion.

About 30 gunmen from the outlawed BIFF first attacked an Army detachment in Barangay Timbangan in Shariff Aguak at about 8:40 p.m. on Sunday.

Another group of bandits also fired at nearby houses of Moro families, killing the Kamamas and wounding the four children and two adults, Aila Amor, 25, and Tukay Kamama, 26.

Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commanding general of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said the latest BIFF rampage was meant to avenge the deaths of more than 30 members killed in recent offensives by the joint forces of Army units of 6th ID and Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

MILF forces have killed 27 militants in one of three BIFF factions, the one under Esmael Abdulmalik, in encounters from

July to September.

The MILF launched the offensive against Abdulmalik and his men after they attempted to hoist the Islamic State flag in strategic areas in Maguindanao's Salibo and Shariff Saidona municipalities.

More than 10 BIFF gunmen under Imam Bongos were reportedly killed in an operation last month by the Army's 57th, 19th and 40th Infantry Battalions at the border of the adjoining Datu Unsay and Shariff Aguak towns in Maguindanao.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said community leaders in Shariff Aguak have confirmed that followers of Imam Bongos were behind the harassment of the Army detachment in Barangay Timbangan on Sunday night.

Abu Misry Mama, spokesman of BIFF's Bongos faction, said the attack was part of their continuing offensive against the police and the military.

Shariff Aguak Mayor Marop Ampatuan said they have allocated funds for the medical needs of the innocent civilians wounded in the attack.

"I'm appealing to these armed groups not to roam in populated areas to spare the innocent villagers," Ampatuan said.

Ampatuan said their municipal peace and order council will initiate measures meant to prevent another incident resulting in collateral damage of the innocent civilians.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: BC

4 NPAs, 2 soldiers dead in Sarangani clash

BY VICTOR REYES

FOUR New People's Army rebels and two government soldiers were killed and three other soldiers were wounded in a firefight in Lake Sebu town in Sarangani on Sunday afternoon.

Capt. Mc Gary Dida, civil military operations officer of the Army's 1002nd Brigade based in Sarangani, said the operation also resulted in the capture of a rebel camp and recovery of four

firearms.

Dida said troops from the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion were ordered to go to Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu after receiving reports from residents about the presence of a rebel camp in their community.

While approaching the rebel lair at around 1:30 p.m., the soldiers encountered about 25 rebels. A one-hour firefight ensued, leaving Pfc. Jovanie Tagactac and Pfc. Max Lord Fernando dead. The three

injured soldiers were brought to a hospital.

During clearing operations, soldiers recovered the bodies of four male rebels, a carbine, two home-made shotguns, and a 9-mm machine pistol.

Dida said some of the fleeing rebels were wounded. "There were traces of blood in their route of withdrawal and soldiers saw the rebels dragging their wounded comrades while escaping"

Dida said the soldiers also seized

a "very large" NPA camp near the encounter area.

Government forces intensified focused military operations against the NPA in response to increased rebel attacks since President Duterte officially terminated the peace talks on November 23.

On Tuesday last week, 14 NPA rebels, including a University of the Philippines student, were killed and another was captured following a firefight with soldiers in Nasugbu town in Batangas.

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2 dead in BIFF attack in Maguindanao

BY VICTOR REYES

TWO civilians were killed while three other civilians and a soldier were injured in an attack staged by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters on a community in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao on Sunday night.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in the province, said yesterday BIFF members arrived in Sitio Bagong, Barangay Timban-

gan around 8:20 p.m. and fired at the residents, killing two of them and wounding three others.

Responding troops from the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion, assigned at a detachment in the barangay, clashed with the BIFF men for about 25 minutes.

The fighting wounded a soldier. The BIFF suffered an undetermined number of casualties, Encinas said.

A military report named the fa-

talities as 13-year-old Mohammad Kamama, and Unti Kamama, 60, and the wounded soldier as Pvt. Clinton Vigor, 22.

Encinas said the BIFF wants to make it appear that the attack was due to military presence in the community.

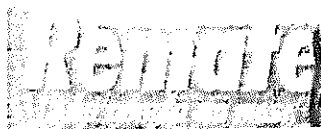
"The detachment was established to protect the community. But the BIFF wants the military blamed for the attack... The encounter site was near the detach-

ment," he also said.

Government forces stepped operations against the BIFF last August, in collaboration with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which signed a peace accord with government in March 2014.

The BIFF has about 200 to 300 members, mostly former MILF members. The BIFF is among several armed groups in Mindanao that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

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Pahina. 3

BIFF vs militar: 2 sibilyan patay, 7 sugatan

DEDO ang dalawang sibilyan habang pitong iba pa ang nasugatan sa bakbakan sa pagitan ng militar at mga hinihinalang miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao kamakalawa ng gabi.

Natukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga nasawi sa labanan na sina Unti Kamama, 60-anyos at Mohammad Kamama, 13-anyos. Sugatan naman sina Alla Amor, 25-an-

yos; Tukay Kamama, 26-anyos at mga bata na edad 2, 3, 4 at 6 na pawang residente ng Sitio Bacong sa Brgy. Tinambangan.

Isa ring reservist na nakilalang si Reserve Army Private Clinton Vigor ang sugatan sa insidente.

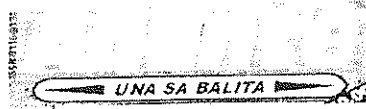
Batay sa impormasyon mula kay 6th Civil Military

Operations chief Col. Gerry Besana, sinalakay ng mga tauhan ng BIFF ang detachment ng Philippine Army sa Sitio Bacong.

Tumagal ng ilang minuto ang labanan bago naitaboy ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang mga bandido. Hindi naman natukoy kung nasawi sa panig ng mga ito.

JEFF GALLOS

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Pahina. 2

BIFF lumusob sa Maguindanao

Inatake ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang bayan ng Shariff Aguak sa Lalawigan ng Maguindanao at dalawang katao ang napatay habang pitong iba pa ang nasugatan.

Tinatayang nasa tatlong dosenang armado ang pumasok sa Barangay Timbangan at niratrat ang isang army detachment doon na ikinasugat ng isang sundalo. Pinaulanan rin ng bala ng mga jihadists ang kabahayan doon at nasawi si Unti Kamama, 61, at ang kanyang apo na si Mohama, 13.

Apat pang mga bata ang sugatan sa paglusob ng BIFF kamakalawa ng gabi. Hindi naman mabatid kung paanong nakalusot sa militar at pulisya ang mga jihadists at nakatakas pa.

Kaalyado ng Islamic State ang BIFF matapos na manumpa ang mga lider nito sa IS nitong taon lamang. Karamihan ng mga lider at miyembro nito ay dating rebelde ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) na kumalas sa grupo sa pagnanais na maitatag ang sariling estado sa Mindanao. (Al Jacinto/Betchai Julian)

15 December 2017



Pahina. 3

2 sundalo, 4 NPA patay rin sa encounter

NASAWI ang dalawang sundalo gayundin ang apat na hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) kasunod ng engkwentro sa Lake Sebu, South Cotabato kamakalawa.

Tinukoy ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga napaslang na sina Private First Class Jovanie Tagactac at Private First Class Max Jay Lord Fernando. Sugatan din sa bak-

bakan ang tatlo pang sundalo.

Nauna rito, nakatanggap ng impormasyon ang mga elemento ng 27th Infantry Battalion patungkol sa presensya ng armadong grupo sa Barangay Ned. Nang puntahan ng militar ay sinalubong umano sila ng mga bala kaya't rumesbak.

Tumagal ng isang oras ang labanan bago bumulagta ang dalawang sundalo at ang mga rebelde.

JEFF GALLOS

05 December 2017



Pahina. 7

Army vs BIFF: 2 dedo, 7 sugatan

Dalawang sibilyan ang napatay habang pito naman ang nasugatan makaraang maipit sa bakbakan ng tropa ng Philippine Army at ng lokal na teroristang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao kamakalawa ng gabi. Kinilala ang dalawang napaslang na sina Unti Kamama, 60, at Mohammad Kamama, 13. Naisugod naman sa pagamutan ang mga sugatang sina Tukay Kamama, 26; Aila Amor, 25; Bai Ela Tayog, 6; Bai Tukay, 4; Buto Tukay, 3; Ana Tukay, 2; at si Private Clinton Vigor. Bandang alas-8 ng gabi nang umatake ang mga grupo BIFF na hinaras ang detachment ng Philippine Army sa Barangay Bacong. Sumiklab ang bakbakan ng magkabilang panig hanggang sa magsi-atras ang mga kalaban bitbit ang mga sugatang kasamahan. Nagpapatuloy naman ang opensiba ng militar laban sa BIFF na sinasabing ISIS inspired na lokal na teroristang grupo na namumugad sa Central Mindanao. **Joy Cantos**

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2 patay, 7 sugatan sa BIFF encounter

Patay ang isang binatilyo at isang senior citizen, habang pitong iba pa ang nasugatan, na kinabibilangan ng mga bata, sa engkuwentro ng militar at ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao.

Ayon sa report ng Shariff Aguak Municipal Police, Linggo ng gabi nang mangyari ang insidente makaraang

makasagupa ng 40th Infantry Battalion (IB) ang BIFF sa Barangay Tinambangan sa Shariff Aguak.

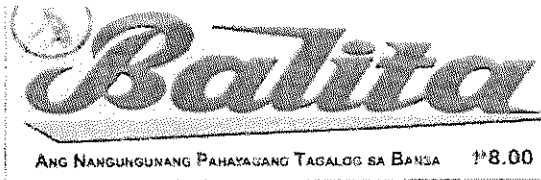
Nakilala ang mga nasawi na sina Unti Kamama, 61, at Mohammad Kamama, 13, habang sugatan naman sina Private Clinton Vigor, Aila Amor, 25; Tukay Kamama, 26; at limang bata na edad dalawa, tatlo, apat, at arim, na

pawang residente ng Sitio Bacong sa Bgy. Tinambangan, Shariff Aguak.

Ayon kay Col. Gerry Besana, ng 6th Civil Military Operations, inatake ng mga miyembro ng BIFF ang detachment ng Philippine Army sa Sitio Bacong sa nasabing barangay – na kinumpirma naman umano ng bandidong grupo.

Fer Taboy

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Page. 5

Omar Maute buhay pa raw at nagtatago?

COTABATO CITY - Iginiiit ng ilang source mula sa government intelligence at sa komunidad ng mga Maranao na buhay pa rin umano at "at large" ang isa sa mga pasimuno ng pagsalakay sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, si Omar Maute.

Pinabulaarian nila na si Omar ang terorista na kasamang napatay ng Abu Sayyaf leader na si Isnilon Hapilon sa bakbakan sa Marawi noong Oktubre 15, at sinabing kamukha lamang ito ni Omar.

Matatandaang kinumpirma ng mga awtoridad, sa pamamagitan ng DNA test, na si Hapilon nga ang napatay sa Marawi, subalit ang sinasabing pagkakapaslang kay Omar ay "never been validated", ayon sa mga source.

"He (Omar Maute) has a prominent bullet wound scar in left leg he sustained in a firefight with soldiers in Pantar, Lanao del Norte in August 2015. The slain person suspected to be that of Maute had no scar in the leg," sinabi ng military intelligence official.

Sinabing siya "thoroughly cased and profiled" Omar Maute, kasama ng iba pang terorista, iginiit ng intel official na ang kanyang grupo "is still hunting him (Omar) even more vigorously with or without bounty."

Naninuwala ang opisyal na ang pabuyang inilaan ni Pangulong Duterte para sa pagdakip, patay man o buhay, kina Omar (P5 milyon) at Hapilon (P10 milyon) "had been released already."

Kinumpirma naman ng Maranao

sources – na malapit o maaaring kaanak ng magkapatid na Omar at Abdullah Maute – ang nasabing pahayag ng intelligence official.

Bagamat kinumpirmang may peklat nga sa kaliwang binti si Omar, sinabi ng tatlong kaanak ng terorista na mas mainam na ito ay "dead as reported"

Nang-piliting sumagot sa katanungan, sinabi ng tatlong kaanak ng mga Maute na si Omar ay "still alive but nowhere to be found"

Ang balitang napatay si Omar noong Oktubre 15 ay ikalawa na, makaraan siyang unang mapaulat na napaslang sa pakikipagbakbakan sa militar sa Marawi noong Hunyo

Ali G. Macabalang

05 December 2017



Page. 2

AFP bares gains vs NPA

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has said that 264 New People's Army rebels were either killed or apprehended by government forces since peace talks were cancelled last Feb. 4.

In a statement, AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said 573 NPA rebels also voluntarily surrendered to government forces since the cancellation of peace talks. Arevalo said 622 firearms were seized from them.

Arevalo said the AFP was able to neutralize 119 NPA last month. Twenty-one were killed in operations, 29 were apprehended, and 69 voluntarily surrendered while 62 high-powered and low-powered firearms were seized from them. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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6 dead in South Cotabato clash

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Four suspected New People's Army rebels and two soldiers were killed in an encounter in South Cotabato Sunday, the military said yesterday.

Reports from the Army 1002nd Brigade disclosed that the encounter occurred in Sitio Celtix, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato at about 1:30 p.m.

Troops from the 27th Infantry Battalion were conducting field military operations in the area when it encountered an estimated 25 fully armed men believed to be members of Platoon Arabo, Guerrilla Front 73, Front Southern Mindanao Regional Committee.

A fire fight ensued that lasted for about 30 minutes to one hour after which the NPA withdrew to different directions.

Four NPA fighters were killed and a carbine rifle, two home-made shot guns, and one locally

made 9mm machine pistol were recovered from them.

Two government troops were also killed in the encounter and were identified as Private First Class Jovanie Tagactac and Max Jay Lord Fernando.

Three other soldiers were wounded in the firefight.

Col. Roberto Ancan, Army 1002nd Brigade commander, said the NPA terrorizing the country shall be dealt with according to the provisions of the law.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, 27th Infantry Battalion commander, asked the rebels to surrender and go back to mainstream society.

"For those wounded terrorist and for some others who are still hiding right now, it is high time for you to peacefully surrender to the folds of law and avail the Comprehensive Local Integration Program of the local government," he said.

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AFP wary of retaliatory attacks from NPA rebels

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that recent attacks perpetrated by the New People's Army (NPA) is meant to make up for their recent defeats at the hands of the military.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo made the comment during an interview.

"We are expecting the attacks perpetrated by the NPA especially against soft targets," Arevalo said.

"Those were meant to make up for the tactical defeats they have experienced in view of the intensified focused military operations. Chief of which is the successful operations in Nasugbu, Batangas that led to the neutralization of 14 members of the communist terrorists and

seizure of 12 high-powered firearms," Arevalo said.

Arevalo reiterated that just for the month of November of 2017, a total of 119 New People's Army rebels were neutralized: 21 of which were killed, 29 arrested while 69 surrendered. A total of 62 high powered and low powered firearms were seized.

Arevalo, at the same time, said that the NPA should just surrender or suffer the same consequences of the 14 NPAs who were killed in Nasugbu, Batangas.

"We urge the members of this communist terrorist group to consider the two options available to them: To take advantage of the opportunity for them to surface and be reunited with their family; join mainstream society; and be productive members of the community by availing of the Comprehensive Local Integration

Program," Arevalo said.

Meantime, communist guerrillas finally released Police Officer 1 Bristol Catalan of the Makilala PNP after 110 days of captivity.

Kidapawan City councilor Ruby Padilla-Sison, member of the Sangguniang Panglungsod here, confirmed the release.

Sison, along with some members of the city council, were among those who witnessed the release of Catalan to his family.

Catalan, a member of the Philippine National Police based in Makilala, North Cotabato, was abducted last Aug. 17, by members of the New People's Army (NPA) while driving a motorcycle with his two sons at Purok 3, Barangay Katipunan in Kidapawan City.

Sison said the NPA released Catalan after they found no reason to continue holding him longer as prisoner of war.

The family of Catalan, in a press conference, expressed gratitude to people who have facilitated the release. **(With a report from Malu Cadelina Manar)**

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POLICE FILES

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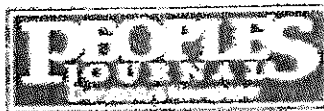
14 NPA nagutom sa bundok sumuko

LABING-APAT namimembro ng CPP-NPA-NDF ang sumuko sa 26th Infantry Battalion sa Talacogon, Agusan Del Sur kahapon. Ang naturang mga mimembro ng rebeldeng komunastang New People's Army (NPA) ay sumuko dala ang kanilang 16 mga

baril. Isa sa mga sumuko ay si alias "Jim" na nagsabing pagod na sila, gutom at natatakot matatay sa kabundukan tulad ng nangyari sa kanilang mga kasamahan na napatay at nasugatan sa pakikipaglaban sa

mga sundato. Nawawalan narin umano ng tiwala ang mga tao sa kanila at hindi na sila pinagbibigayan sa kanilang mga kahilingan, mire-report pa sila sa mga otoridad sa pamamagitan ng text kung saan sila naroroon.

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14 NPA rebels surrender in Agusan del Sur

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

FOURTEEN members of the New People's Army (NPA) yesterday surrendered in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur.

Civil Military Operations officer 2Lt Romel Arnado of the Philippine Army's 26th Infantry Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, the insurgents yielded to the Army's 26th IB in Talacogon town.

The rebel returnees also surrendered a total of 16 firearms.

The NPA in the area suffered setbacks, with the recent armed encounters with government forces, and the successful implementation of Community Support Programs.

Rebel returnee identified as alias "Jim" said they were confused and anxious for their lives because of military offensives and following the killing and wounding of their comrades in clashes with the Army.

Lt. Col. Rommel Pagayon, commanding officer of the 26th IB, said they are hoping that more rebels will realize futility of their distorted ideology and soon decide to surrender.

"We are hopeful that more of them (NPAs) will realize futility of their distorted ideology. The 26IB is committed to prevent the NPA terrorists' criminal activities against our people and the communities," Pagayon said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines called on members of the CPP-NPA-NDF to surrender because the government is serious in putting an end to their harassment of the people.

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6 patay sa NPA-military clash sa South Cotabato

KORONADAL CITY – Tinutugis ngayon ng pinag-isang puwersa ng 27th Infantry Battalion (IB) at 33rd IB Philippine Army ang mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos sumiklab ang panibagong engkwentro sa Sitio Saltek, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato kahapon.

Ang nasabing lugar ay boundary lang ng Sultan Kudarat at Sarangani Province.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng Bombo Radyo Koronadal kay 2/Lt. Col Ranjan Palacio, tagapagsalita ng 27th IB, grupo ni "Ka Yoyo" Braganza mula sa Platoon Arabo ang kanilang nakasagupa habang nagsasagawa ng clearing operation.

Nakapagtala aniya ng dalawang casualties sa hanay ng militar at apat sa masabing mga miyembro ng NPA.

Tumanggi manang pangalanan ng militar ang mga namatay. Samantala, unambestugahan ang impormasyon na hindi NPA ang apat sa mga namatay kundi isang pamilya umano ito ng lumad na kinabibilangan ng isang Dan Victor at ang kanyang mga anak na sina Tantan Jr at Artemio at ang manulang na si Dodoy.

Sa ipinaabot na impormasyon sa Bombo Radyo Koronadal, binomba umano ng militar ang bahay nito kung saan nagtatago si Kumander Yoyo.

Sa ngayon wala pang pahavag ang pangit ng militar kaugnay sa mga lumad na namatay umano sa bakbakan.

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Pahina. 2

NPA VS SUNDALO: 6 PATAY

Patay ang apat na miyembro ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) at dalawang sundalo nang magkasagupa kamakalawa sa Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

Ang mga nasawing sundalo ay kimulalang sina Pfc Jovanie Tagactac at Pfc Max Jay Lord. Habang patuloy na inaalam ang pagkakakilanlan ng 4

napatay na rebelde.

Ayon kay Captain Mc Gary Dida, Civil Military Operations Officer ng Army's 1002nd Infantry Bngade (IB) na nagresponde sa lugar ang tropa ng Army's 27th Infantry Battalion (IB) matapos na makatanggap ng report hinggil sa pangha-harass ng rebeldeng komunista na na nasa 25-30 na nango-

ngotong sa mga residente sa lugar.

Agad na nagkaroon nang bakbakan ang magkabilang panig na ikina-sawi ng apat na NPA terrorists.

Narekober sa pinang-yarihan ng bakbakan ang isang carbine, dalawang homemade shotgun at isang 9 MM machine pistol. -Joy Cantos-

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Pahina. 2

NPA VS. SUNDALO, 6 UTAS

DALAWANG sundalo habang apat na hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang napatay sa engkuwentro sa Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, karnakalawa.

Kinilala ang mga napaslang na sina Private First Class Jovanie Tagactac at Private First Class Max Jay Lord Fernando.

Sugatan din sa bakbakan ang tatlo pang sundalo.

Nauna rito, nakatanggap ng impormasyon ang 27th Infantry Battalion tungkol sa

presensiya ng armadong grupo sa Bgy. Ned.

Nang puntahan ng militar ay sinalubong umano sila ng mga bala kaya rumesbak. Tumagal ng isang oras ang labanan bago bumulagta ang dalawang sundalo at ang mga rebelde.

Narekober sa lugar ang isang carbine, dalawang homemade shotguns at isang 9mm machine pistol.

(Vyne Reyes)

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BusinessMirror

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AFP orders field units to brace for NPA attacks on 'soft targets'

FOLLOWING their tactical defeat in Nasugbu, Batangas, last week, the remaining New People's Army (NPA) bandits are expected to intensify their attacks against "soft targets."

This was disclosed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo late Sunday, when asked on the sudden increase of rebel attacks against police outposts and civilians nationwide in Bicol, Cagayan

and Misamis Oriental.

"Those were meant to make up for the tactical defeats they have experienced in view of the intensified focused military operations, chief of which is the successful operations in Nasugbu, Batangas,

that led to the neutralization of 14 members of the communist terrorists and seizure of 12 high-powered firearms," he said.

Aside from the deaths of rebels in Batangas, one was also wounded and captured by the military.

"We may add that just for the month of November, 119 New People's Army were neutralized: 21 died, 29 were arrested, 69 surrendered. A total of 62 high-powered and low-powered firearms were seized," Arevalo added.

As government forces intensified their campaign against the NPA, the military official urged the rebels to consider the only options

left available to them.

"Take advantage of the opportunity for them to surface and be reunited with their family; join mainstream society; and be productive members of the community by availing themselves of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program. Or suffer the same fate of their cohorts, who died refusing to see the better alternative offered by the government," Arevalo said.

For the sake of their families and loved ones, the AFP public affairs office chief hopes that the communist rebels choose to surrender and return to the fold of the law. *PNA*

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Duterte awaits military recommendation to extend martial law in Mindanao

By ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES [@alyasjah](#)

PRESIDENT Duterte is expected to decide soon on whether or not to extend martial law in Mindanao, as he is scheduled to receive the military's recommendation this week.

Presidential Spokesman Harry L. Roque Jr. said Malacañang has received word from the military it is ready to submit its recommendation this week, as martial law in the southern island is set to lapse on December 31.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is mindful that the extension of martial-law implementation ends on December 31," Roque said.

"It is currently in the process of assessment and deliberation as to the recommendation. The AFP is looking at the possibility of submitting its recommendation to the President and Commander in Chief through the Department of National Defense by the first week of December," he added.

The President in May placed the whole of Mindanao under military rule following the eruption of violence in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. Daesh-inspired Maute Group terrorists, led by Isnilon Hapilon, a self-styled Islamic State leader in Southeast Asia, laid siege on the Islamic town in an attempt to establish a caliphate in the Philippines.

Fighting between government troops and terrorists lasted for almost five months, and it was only in October when Marawi City was liberated from the clutches of extremism. The conflict left more than 1,000 people dead and approximately 300,000 displaced.

Roque said Duterte will also look into the recommendation of Chairman Eduardo D. del Rosario of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council to implement military rule only in parts of Mindanao, where there remain threats of terrorism, such as in the Lanao provinces.

Del Rosario, as the housing czar, is in charge of the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"I'm sure the President will consider that recommendation of General del Rosario. After all, he is in charge of rebuilding Marawi," Roque said.

Opposition senators have urged the President to no longer extend martial law in Mindanao, saying the government should instead focus on rehabilitating Marawi City. They said any remaining threat on peace and order can now be entrusted to the police.

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BusinessMirror

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Navy rescues 67 crew members, passengers of ship off Basilan

By RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)

THE Navy has rescued 67 crewmen and passengers of a commercial vessel in the waters of Basilan after the seacraft encountered trouble, a belated report reaching Camp Aguinaldo said on Monday.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, said prompt response by members of the Naval Station Romulo Espaldon in Zamboanga City resulted in the rescue of all the crewmembers and passengers of *M/L Fatima Devie*.

The commercial vessel, steered by Cisar Abdul with seven crew members and 59 passengers, was en route to Zamboanga City from Taganak Island when it suffered derangement at the vicinity of Baluk Baluk Island in Basilan on the night of December 1.

Medina said as soon as they received the distress call, Naval Task Force 61 dispatched *BRP Iwak (LC 289)* to locate *M/L Fatima Devie*.

Comanded by Cmdr. Homer

Gonzales, the *NTF 61* established contact with the distressed vessel and proceeded to rescue its crewmen and passengers.

The troubled vessel, with its crew and passengers, was towed by *LC 289* from Malamau Island in Basilan to Baliwasan, Zamboanga City where it arrived at around 1:38 a.m. on December 2.

Medina commended the Navy personnel involved in the successful rescue mission.

In August a similar incident occurred when Navy landing craft *BRP Ivatan (LC 298)* rescued distressed vessel *M/L Moonlight Sheera* that suffered from a machinery derangement due to a broken propeller shaft.

The crew members of the vessel were safely and successfully ferried back to Zamboanga City pier.

Last month the Navy also apprehended an Abu Sayaf Group (ASG) vessel at Tonquil Island in Sulu. The ASG was believed to be behind the conduct of harassment and piracy against commercial fishing vessels transiting in the area.

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INQUIRER

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COP SLAIN IN AMBUSH IS HERO TO KIN, PNP

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

CABATUAN, ILOILO—When a colleague boarded the packed six-wheel truck, PO1 Joeffel Odon stood up from where he sat somewhere in the middle, offered his seat and settled himself at the rear portion of the vehicle.

This act of courtesy to a colleague probably saved another policeman's life, but it ended Odon's own, his mother Evelyn said.

Odon, 31, was the lone fatality in an ambush by New People's Army (NPA) rebels on a convoy of policemen in Barangay Bolo in Maasin town in Iloilo on Nov. 24.

He died from shrapnel and bullet wounds in the head and back after the rebels, under the NPA's Jose Percival Estocada Command, detonated two improvised explosive devices before firing at the policemen. Ten other policemen in the two-vehicle convoy were wounded.

The policemen belonged to the 42-member unit of the Regional Public Safety Battalion on their way home after conducting an operation in Maasin.

More than a week after the ambush, Odon's family was still trying to accept his death.

"He was a good-natured and simple person," Evelyn said in an interview with the Inquirer during her son's wake in Barangay Poblacion Ilawod here. "His only preoccupations were cockfighting and computer games."

Odon's aunt, Arlene Mainar, raised him when his

parents were working in Manila. She said her nephew was respectful, especially to elders.

"He was always cracking jokes," she said. "Our relatives and his friends loved to have him around." He was also fond of giving each of his younger cousins P20 whenever he was in town, she said.

She knew her son's work was dangerous but still, she was pained by his death.

"I used to tease him about getting married and having children," Odon's mother said.

The third of four siblings, Odon earned his criminology degree at University of Iloilo in Iloilo City. As a boy, Odon had expressed his wish to become a policeman, probably inspired by relatives who were also in the police service, his mother said.

"I respected his decision even if I knew it was dangerous," Evelyn said.

The Philippine National Police has posthumously awarded Odon the "Medalya ng Kadakilaan (Heroism Medal)." The Regional Special Promotions, Awards and Decorations Board of the PNP in Western Visayas also passed a resolution recommending the awarding of the "Medalya ng Kabayanihan (Distinguished Conduct Medal)," the PNP's second highest award, to Odon who was promoted to Police Officer 2 after his death.

Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Año and PNP chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, separately visited Odon's wake and handed over financial and other assistance, including those coming from President Duterte, to his family. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPAs release cop after 110 days

By MALU CADELINA MANAR

KIDAPAWAN CITY – After 110 days of captivity, Police Officer 1 Bristol Catalan of the Makilala PNP force in North Cotabato, was released ▶6

NPAs release cop...

◀1

on Monday by the New People's Army (NPA) somewhere in the hinterlands of North Cotabato province.

The release was confirmed by Kidapawan City councilor Ruby Padilla-Sison, member of the Sangguniang Panglungsod. Sison, with members of the city council, witnessed the release of Catalan to his family by the New Peoples' Army (NPA) at an undisclosed place.

Catalan, member of the Philippine National Police based in Makilala, North Cotabato, was abducted on Aug. 17, 2017. He was driving his motorcycle with his two sons as passengers when he was abducted at Purok 3, Barangay Katipunan in

Kidapawan City.

Sison said the release was ordered by top ranking members of the NPA after they found no reason to continue holding him as a prisoner of war.

In a press conference, the family of Catalan expressed gratitude to the people who helped convince the NPAs to release the police officer.

They said they have waited for that day, after the NPAs released on Sept. 25 a video showing Catalan looking well while in captivity.

Catalan told media he was so happy after being told that he would soon be released. "Finally, I would be with my family," he said when hearing the news.

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The Manila Times

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AFP to submit recommendation on martial law this week – Palace

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will likely submit this week its recommendation to President Rodrigo Duterte on whether to lift or extend the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, a Palace official said on Monday.

Quoting AFP public affairs chief Edgard Arevalo, Palace spokesman Harry Roque said the military's assessment of the situation in Mindanao was ongoing.

"The AFP is mindful that the extension of martial law implementation ends on 31 December 2017. It is currently in the process of assessment and deliberation as to the recommenda-

tion," Roque said in news conference.

"The AFP is looking at the possibility of submitting its recommendation to the President and Commander in Chief through the National – through the Department of National Defense by the first week of December," he added.

On May 23, Duterte placed the entire region of Mindanao under martial law after Marawi City was stormed by heavily armed homegrown militants who had pledged allegiance to the dreaded Islamic State.

Congress overwhelmingly voted to

► **SubmitA8**

Palace: AFP to submit

extend martial law in Mindanao until yearend after the proclamation reached its 60-day constitutional limit in July, giving the military more time to stabilize the strife-torn region.

On Saturday, Roque hinted at another extension of martial law in Mindanao, saying such an environment was needed for the recovery of Marawi City.

"For me, let us allow the armed forces to decide because they know what's happening on the ground. While Marawi has been liberated, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism still persists," Roque told a news conference in Zamboanga City.

"Can you imagine if [there is no martial law while rehabilitation efforts are ongoing]? Well, anyway, I do not want to preempt the recommendation of the armed forces and I do not want to preempt any decision made by the government," he added.

Roque said the President might announce his decision concerning martial law before Congress goes on recess on December 15.

"The recommendation will be submitted by next week. 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 an extension of martial law, without consent of Congress," he said.

If Duterte decides to extend martial law in Mindanao, the Senate and the House of Representatives will hold a special joint session to discuss and vote on the President's proposal.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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The Manila Times

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NAVY RESCUES 66 BOAT PASSENGERS OFF BASILAN

A DISTRESSED vessel carrying about 66 passengers en route to Zamboanga City was rescued by a Philippine Navy ship off Baluk-Baluk Island in Basilan on Friday night. Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces of Western Mindanao, said the rescue of the distressed vessel was done last Friday at about 10:28 p.m. Medina said the vessel, *M/L Fatimah Devie*, was on its way to Zamboanga City from Taganak Port when the rudder broke resulting in a "major steering casualty." The boat was carrying eight crew, including skipper Capt. Cesar Abdul, and 59 passengers. The Navy's *BRP Iwak* (LC289) towed the sea vessel from Malamau Island in Basilan and arrived at Baliwasan in Zamboanga City at about 1:32 a.m. on Saturday.

DEMPSEY REYES

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COMMUNIST INSURGENTS MULL UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF CHRISTMAS CEASEFIRE

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is studying plans to observe the traditional Christmas truce despite the recent clashes between communist rebels and government forces.

Both the party's founding chair, Jose Maria Sison, and the former chief peace negotiator of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), Luis Jalandoni, said the insurgents might declare the ceasefire unilaterally.

"The CPP may decide to issue the ceasefire order to the [New People's Army (NPA), the movement's armed wing] to show [its] magnanimity and generosity because, after all, Duterte's troops and the police are already over-

stretched, tired and ineffective ... the NPA can, at will, give them rest and time to visit their families," Sison said from The Hague in the Netherlands where he is based.

Jalandoni said the NDFP's "prime concern" was "the good,

welfare and cultural concerns of the people."

But Sison said the decision to declare a Christmas ceasefire would depend on the wishes of the CPP leadership.

Earlier, President Duterte

canceled the peace talks with the NDFP following recent NPA attacks on government troops and police. Mr. Duterte had also threatened to declare the NPA as a terrorist group. —DELFIN T.

MALLARI JR. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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MILF removed from UN list of armed groups using children

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has formally been removed from a United Nations (UN) list of armed groups recruiting and using children.

This was disclosed in a press statement issued by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), which disclosed that UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba and UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines Ola Almgren have congratulated the MILF for promoting and protecting the rights of children.

"Today, we mark an important milestone for the boys and girls of the Philippines. The Joint Action Plan between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the United Nations on the issue of recruitment and use of children has now been fully implemented. As a

result I am very happy to announce that the MILF has been delisted from the annexes of the Secretary General Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict," said Gamba.

Gamba noted that the MILF was able to complete the action plan with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting.

"This achievement is the result of a sustained commitment by the MILF with United Nations support," she added.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict serves as the leading UN advocate for the protection and well-being of children affected by armed conflict.

An action plan was signed by the UN and MILF in 2009 that sought to disengage children from the ranks of

the Moro group.

In early 2017, after a six-point road-map was complied with, 1,869 children were reported to have been disengaged from the MILF, thereby facilitating their access to appropriate support and services from government and development partners to enjoy all their rights to health, education and protection.

"The UN country team in the Philippines welcomes this important milestone achieved by the MILF in demonstrating its commitment to the protection and welfare of children," Almgren said in a message.

"In line with the UN package of existing programs to support the normalization track of the peace negotiations between the Government and the MILF, the UN stands ready to support the relevant plans for the disengaged children and their communities,"

Almgren added.

UNICEF facilitated the completion of the UN-MILF Action Plan which involved training programs, systematic sensitization and awareness raising initiatives for the MILF and its communities.

"We congratulate the MILF as they reach this important milestone. Children are zones of peace and their rights must be promoted and protected at all times. UNICEF's support to the MILF continues to ensure that disengaged children and their communities live in safe environments, by facilitating access to psychosocial support and other protection, social welfare, education and health services. In addition, UNICEF supports parents in providing family based guidance and care," UNICEF Philippines Representative, Officer-in-Charge, Julia Rees said.

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The Manila Times

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Nationinbrief

MAUTE MEMBERS KILL, BURN MARANAO COUPLE

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Police investigators are still determining the identities of the gunmen who killed and burned a Maranao couple in Marantao, a municipality near Marawi City. The charred remains of Khalid Ditingki and his wife, Santalia, were immediately buried by relatives in accordance with Islamic tradition of burying the dead within 24 hours from the time of death. Khalid is an Imam of a mosque in Barangay Matampay in Marantao. Senior Insp. Jemar delos Santos, information officer of the Police Regional Office-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said investigators are still trying to identify the perpetrators and the motive for the killings. Delos Santos said Ditingki, also a barangay (village) councilor, and his wife were inside their house in Barangay Matampay on Friday night when the gunmen barged in and opened fire, killing them both on the spot. The suspects set on fire the cadavers using kerosene that razed the victims' house as well before fleeing. Meanwhile, Marawi City police chief, Supt. Ebra Moxsit, told *The Manila Times* that while gunmen were believed to be members or sympathizers of Maute brothers, but the information that he got the killing was attributed to a long standing feud over a land conflict. He added that the Lanao Provincial Police Office is assisting the Marantao police to maintain law and order and avoid another clan conflict or *rido* between the families of the victims and the suspects.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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**PAGTANAW
AT
PANANAW
Bert de Guzman**

MABAGSIK ang banta ng komunistang kilusan sa Pilipinas na pangtingin ng New People's Army ang mga pag-atake laban sa gobyerno kapag pormal na idineklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Communist Party of the Philippines at NPA bilang terrorists groups.

Nagbanta ang National Democratic Front, ang umbrella organization na kumakatawan sa CPP-NPA sa usapang-pangkapayapaan sa

gobyernong Pilipino, na ilulunsad nito ang totooanang gyera sa sandaling binalewala ni PRRD ang peace efforts at pormal na itinuring ang mga rebelde bilang mga terorista.

Mula sa Mindanao, sinabi ni NDF-Mindanao spokesman Joaquin Jacinto na sa may 50 taong pakikibaka ng CPP-NPA-NDF, pinatunayang ito ay advocate at defender ng interes at kagalingan ng naghihirap at pinagsasamantalahang mamamayan. Ayon kay Jacinto, ang kilusang komunista ay isang revolutionary organization na naglalayong magtatag ng isang lipunan na hindi nakatatakala sa imperialist domination.

Mabagsik na banta

Para sa mga komunistang rebelde sa Mindanao, ang CPP-NPA-NDF ay hindi kailanman magiging mga terorista. Maglulunsad ang NPA-Mindanao ng pinaigting at mas madalas na pagsalakay at pananambang upang pigilan ang military operations na naghahatid lang umano ng karnatayan, pinsala at paghihirap sa taga-Mindanao.

Samantala, matapos ipatigil ni PDU30 ang peace talks sa mga komunista, iniutos niya sa military at police na barilin ang mga armadong rebelde na kanilang makikita o makakasagupa. Inatasan din niya ang AFP at PNP na muling dakpin ang

matataa sa lider ng CPP-NPA-NDF una niyang pinalaya bilang consultant sa usapang-pangkapayapaan.

Badya ni Pres. Rody "Kaya may armadong NPA dyan o teror kapag may hawak siyang baril, bar siya agad." Nakahanda raw siya ipagtanggol ang mga kawal at p laban sa mga alegasyon ng pagla sa karapatang pantao dahil sa pagpa sa NPA rebels.

Sinabi ni Mano Dugong pinaghahanda niya ang kanyo grupo ng isang executive order magdedeclarasa CPP-NPA-NDF bil mga terorista. Para sa pangulo, Sundan sa pahina

Mabagsik...

Mula sa pahina 7

kapag meron nang EO, ang mga komunistang rebelde ay itinuring nang mga kriminal.

Inakusahan ni Jose Maria Sison si PRRD bilang isang terorista at pasista. "Siya mismo ang terorista dahil sa pagpatay sa mga drug pusher at user at mahihirap na mamamayan," sabi ni Joma Tugon ni Pres. Rody. "Huwag kang uuwi sa Pilipinas dahil ipadarakip kita. Ikaw ay may sakit kung kaya dyan ka na lang mamamatay. Kaysakit na sa ibang bansa pumanaw." Aba, bakbakan ito ng isang propesor at ng kanvane estudyante. Bakbakan na!

ONLINE NEWS

05 DECEMBER 2017

‘Propaganda,’ Palace calls Karapatan letter to UN

From Malaya Business Insight (Dec 4):

PRESIDENTIAL spokesman Harry Roque yesterday dismissed as “propaganda” the submission of a “letter of allegation” by the leftist human rights group Karapatan to United Nations special rapporteurs Agnes Callamard and Michael Forst about extrajudicial killings (EJK) in connection with President Duterte’s anti-insurgency drive.

Roque said he has yet to see the letter submitted to the rapporteurs, and he has yet to determine if Karapatan had filed complaints before local courts before going to the international body.

“It’s useless to go to go the UN without filing cases before the fiscal’s office. Filing directly with the UN is only for propaganda purposes because there are institutions in the Philippines that could address it,” Roque said.

Karapatan on Saturday said it informed Callamard, special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary execution, and Forst, special rapporteur on human rights defenders, about 47 EJKs, first last April.

In the second and latest letter, Karapatan said there were 25 cases of EJKs perpetrated by security forces in relation to the administration’s counter-insurgency program.

Karapatan said it has so far documented 104 victims of EJKs under Duterte’s counter-insurgency program from July 2016 to October 2017.

Roque said: “We find it unfortunate that human rights group advocate Karapatan wrote two separate letters to the United Nations... in connection with alleged cases of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. The State – not international bodies like the United Nations – is duty-bound to investigate alleged cases of EJKs. Karapatan knows that it can avail of all domestic remedial mechanisms.”

Roque said the criminal justice system in the Philippines remains to be effective and legal processes are well-functioning.

He also said a special body has been created by the Duterte government to specifically look into alleged extrajudicial killing cases.

“We therefore hope that they will file their complaints in the proper courts, not before the so-called human rights rapporteurs who have politicized views of the Philippines’ campaign against illegal drugs. Certainly, Karapatan knows the cases will not prosper there in the UN. It is the political mileage they are after in pursuit of their continued intent to malign this administration, through the special rapporteurs who only seem too willing to act based on fake political information,” he added.

Karapatan last week slammed Duterte for his repeated attacks against Callamard, the latest was when he said she would “slap” the rapporteur if she investigates EJKs being linked to his war against the illegal drugs trade.

<http://www.malaya.com.ph>

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PNP Bicol on heightened alert after ambush of police convoy

From the Philippine News Agency Dec 3):

A cop was killed while six others were hurt early Saturday in an attack by a group of suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels that fired at two-vehicle police convoy in Barangay Daguit, Labo town in Camarines Norte.

The first volley of gunfire killed Police Officer 2 Richard Abad, a member of Camarines Norte Police Mobile Force, according to Senior Inspector Maria Luisa Calubaquib, spokesperson for the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Bicol.

While PO2 Ronald Gutierrez, PO2 Ericson De Vera, PO1 Jeffrey Tarobago, PO1 Pedro Valeros, PO1 Romar Umandap, and PO1 Johnson España were hurt during the attack.

Calubaquib said the victims were among the nine policemen on board two police mobile service vehicles when attacked at around 1 a.m. Saturday by a band of NPAs while their vehicles were negotiating a road along Sitio Binuang, Barangay Daguit, Labo town.

The police convoy was on its way to the Police Mobile Force command station after holding internal security operation (ISO) in villages in Labo town.

Responding police and Army soldiers are now scouring the neighboring hinterland villages where the band of communist rebels is believed to have fled.

Calubaquib when asked on security measures taken with regards to the threat of Jose Marie Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, that New People's Army (NPA) rebels would launch an intensified attack against government forces, she said the PNP in Bicol had been placed on "heightened" alert status -- especially in areas considered as insurgency affected villages.

She said Chief Superintendent Antonio Gardiola, Bicol regional director, had issued a directive to all PNP stations across the region to be on "high alert" status under the agency's intensified internal security operations.

Under the directive, police units were advised to stay on guard for a possible rebel attack on a 24/7 basis.

Police checkpoints would be intensified in known rebel-infested areas and they would also step up community partnership and police patrolling in communities.

The directive also calls for a closely-coordinated operation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in securing vital installations such as roads, bridges, communication towers in key areas in Bicol.

She said the PNP is assuring the public that police and other government forces are on top of the situation.

However, Calubaquib said, "we are calling for the public to provide additional information and location of the fleeing perpetrators. Let's not allow terror to reign in our community."

<http://www.pna.gov.ph>

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Surrender or suffer the consequences, AFP urges Reds

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 3):

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.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph>

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Cagayan Governor condemns killing of Baggao councilor

From the Philippine News Agency (Dec 3):

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.

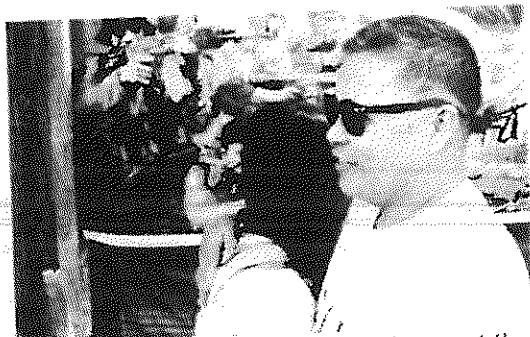
<http://www.pna.gov.ph>

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Captive cop released by NPA in North Cotabato

By News5 | InterAksyon- <http://www.interaksyon.com>
| December 4, 2017, 8:49 PM



PO1 Catalan hugs daughter Karen at the release ceremony in Magpet, North Cotabato. (Bhong del Rosario/Kilab Multimedia)

The rebel New People's Army (NPA) on Monday released a police officer whom it considered a prisoner of war in Magpet, North Cotabato.

The release comes amid intensified military operations in many parts of the archipelago following President Rodrigo Duterte's threat of an all-out war and unilateral termination of the peace talks.

Arrested in August by the NPA's Mt. Apo Sub-Regional Command, Makilala Police Station Police Officer 1 Bristol B. Catalan Jr was turned over to Rev Hipolito Parach of the Exodus for Justice and Peace, Magpet Vice Mayor Bernardo Piñol, Magpet Councilors Ruby Padilla-Sison, and Kidapawan City Councilor Francis Palmones at Barangay Bagumbayan, Magpet, Davao Today reported.

Catalan's wife Geisha, children Karen and Jasper, and cousin Ating Delgado were present at the turnover ceremony.

Catalan, who looked healthy despite his ordeal, had positive words about his captors and custodians during the ceremony.

"I enjoyed my experience. We've been to exciting places until they (NPA) built a house for me," Catalan told Davao Today.

Catalan's release order was signed by National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Southern Mindanao representative Rubi Del Mundo.

Catalan's "acts and conduct while under the detention and during the investigation and judicial proceedings have been observed as exhibiting remorse for his offenses and voluntary desistance from committing further crimes against the people and the revolutionary forces," the order read.

Catalan expressed gratitude to the NPA during the ceremony.

"I'll be with my family before Christmas," he said.

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Palace on recent NPA attacks: What else is new? It's business as usual

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated December 4, 2017 - 5:48pm



In this photo taken Nov. 23, 2016, members of the New People's Army communist rebels with face painted to conceal their identities, stand in formation during ceremonies before a news conference held at their guerrilla encampment tucked in the harsh wilderness. AP/File photo

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang is not surprised by the successive attacks staged by the New People's Army, saying it was "business as usual" for rebels to stage such atrocities.

"It's business as usual. When we're talking peace, they (NPA) were attacking. Now that we're not talking peace, they are attacking. So what else is new?" presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in a press briefing Monday.

Roque said the military is prepared to counter the threat posed by the communist guerrillas.

"It's continuous attacks from them. And of course, the armed forces is, of course, ready and able to deal with them, as shown in the recent incident in Nasugbu," he said, referring to the encounter in Batangas last week.

The military has recorded 47 atrocities involving the NPA as of November, the month Duterte terminated the peace negotiations with communist rebels.

The incidents include harassment and ambush of soldiers and kidnapping of civilians. The military has mounted 73 operations against the rebels in the same period. A total of 264 NPA members were either killed or arrested by government forces while 573 voluntarily surrendered since the peace talks were halted on February 4.

READ: [NPA freed captive cop in North Cotabato](#)

Duterte formally ended the peace talks with the communists through Proclamation No. 360 issued last November 23.

The president blamed the rebels for the collapse of the talks, saying they were pushing for a coalition government, a proposal that he said would force the government to "share" the country's sovereignty.

In the proclamation, Duterte said the Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front and the NPA "failed to show its sincerity and commitment in pursuing genuine and meaningful peace negotiation" when it engaged in acts of violence and hostilities that endangered the lives of innocent people.

READ: [AFP: 16 NPA Surrender or die](#)

The president has ordered the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the government negotiating panel to cancel all peace talks and meetings with their communist counterparts.

He has also announced plans to issue an order declaring the CPP, NPA and NDF as terrorist groups and has threatened to issue a crackdown against their legal fronts.

The military has urged communist rebels to lay down their arms or "face the consequences."

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NPA's free cop in Cotabato

By John Unson (The Philippine Star) | Updated December 5, 2017 - 12:00am



PO1 Bristol Catalan was turned over by members of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 53 to religious leaders in Barangay Bagumbayan in Magpet, this province, said Chief Insp. Aldrin Gonzalez, spokesman for the Police Regional Office-12. AP/Aaron Favila, File

NORTH COTABATO, Philippines — The New People's Army (NPA) released yesterday PO1 Bristol Catalan whom the communist rebels snatched in Kidapawan City last August. Catalan was turned over by members of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 53 to religious leaders in Barangay Bagumbayan in Magpet, this province, said Chief Insp. Aldrin Gonzalez, spokesman for the Police Regional Office-12.

The provincial police office will give Catalan the psychosocial intervention needed to hasten his recovery from captivity, Gonzalez said.

Catalan is an intelligence agent in the Makilala municipal police office. He was kidnapped while on his way to Makilala from Kidapawan.

The NPA rebels set Catalan free at noon through the intercession of preachers and nuns led by North Cotabato Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, confirmed Lt. Col. Harold Argamosa of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, adding that local officials also helped negotiate the release.

4 rebels, 2 soldiers killed

Four alleged NPA members and two soldiers died in the military's latest encounter with the rebel group in South Cotabato over the weekend.

Reports from the 1002nd Brigade said troops of the 27th Infantry Brigade encountered an undetermined number of armed elements in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato last Sunday afternoon. Government forces went to the area to verify reports of the presence of armed men. As they approached, the gunfight started.

"The firefight lasted for an hour that resulted in the killing of four NPA terrorists, and the recovery of one carbine, two homemade shot guns, and one locally made 9mm machine pistol," the report said. On the side of the military, Privates First Class Jovanie Tagactac and Max Jay Lord Fernando were killed while three other soldiers were wounded.

"The NPAs who are terrorizing our country shall be dealt with according to the provisions of the law," Col. Roberto Ancan, commander of the 1002nd Brigade, said.

"For those wounded terrorists and for some others who are still hiding right now, it is high time for you to peacefully surrender to the folds of law and avail of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program of the government," Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, 27IB Infantry Battalion Commander, added.

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Armed Forces ready

The Philippine Star | Updated December 5, 2017 - 12:00am

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The incidents include harassment and ambush of soldiers and kidnapping of civilians. Meanwhile, the military has mounted 73 operations against the rebels in the same period. A total of 264 NPA members were either killed or arrested by government forces while 573 voluntarily surrendered since the peace talks were halted on Feb. 4. — **Michael Punongbayan, Alexis Romero**

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DBM releases guidelines on grant of productivity enhancement incentive

By News5 | InterAksyon- <http://www.interaksyon.com>

| December 4, 2017, 8:27 PM

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Monday issued Budget Circular No. 2017-4 outlining the guidelines on the grant of Productivity Enhancement Incentive (PEI) to government personnel.

The PEI of PhP 5,000 shall be given to government employees not earlier than December 15, 2017, provided that they have rendered at least four months of service and were still in the service as of November 30, 2017.

The Circular covers: (1) All positions of civilian personnel, whether regular, casual, or contractual in nature, appointive or elective, full-time or part-time, now existing or hereafter created in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, the Constitutional Commissions and other Constitutional Offices, SUCs, GOCCs not covered by Republic Act (RA) No. 10149, s. 2011 which are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and LWDs; (2) officials and employees of Local Government Units (LGUs); and (3) military personnel of the AFP and the DND, and uniformed personnel of the PNP, PPSC, BFP, and BJMP under the DILG, PCG under the DOTr, and the NAMRIA under the DENR.

The PEI is among the benefits included in Executive Order 201, s. 2016. As mandated by EO 201, the PEI is meant to improve the productivity of government workers. It is granted to government workers, alongside the upward adjustment of the salary schedule in the bureaucracy, and new benefits such as mid-year bonus equivalent to one month basic salary.

For the national Government agencies, an estimated amount of PhP 7.5 billion has been set aside in the 2017 Budget to finance the PEI grant of around 1.5 million workers across the national government.

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UN officials hail MILF for completing disengagement of children from its ranks

By News5-InterAksyon- <http://www.interaksyon.com>
| December 4, 2017, 8:01 PM



From left: Andrew Morris, head of UNICEF Cotabato; Julia Rees, UNICEF Deputy Representative; Ola Almgren, UN Resident Coordinator; Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, MILF Central Committee Chairman; and USEC Ronald Flores, OPAPP Undersecretary. HANDOUT PHOTO

NEW YORK/MANILA - The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and UNICEF Philippines held a formal ceremony Monday marking the removal of the MILF from a UN list of armed groups recruiting and using children.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, and UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines Ola Almgren congratulated the MILF for promoting and protecting the rights of children.

"Today, we mark an important milestone for the boys and girls of the Philippines. The Joint Action Plan between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the United Nations on the issue of recruitment and use of children has now been fully implemented. As a result I am very happy to announce that the MILF has been delisted from the annexes of the Secretary General Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict. I would like to congratulate the MILF for completing the action plan with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting. This achievement is the result of a sustained commitment by the MILF with United Nations support", Gamba said in her congratulatory message.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict serves as the leading UN advocate for the protection and well-being of children affected by armed conflict.

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The UN-MILF began working together by signing of an Action Plan between the United Nations and the MILF in 2009. It was completed at the beginning of 2017 upon the fulfilment of a six-point roadmap, resulting in the disengagement 1,869 children from the ranks of the MILF. The disengagement of children will facilitate their access to appropriate support and services from government and development partners to enjoy all their rights to health, education and protection.

"The United Nations country team in the Philippines welcomes this important milestone achieved by the MILF, in demonstrating its commitment to the protection and welfare of children," the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines, Mr. Almgren shared in his message. "In line with the UN package of existing programmes to support the normalization track of the peace negotiations between the Government and the MILF, the UN stands ready to support the relevant plans for the disengaged children and their communities," he added.

UN children's agency UNICEF facilitated the completion of the UN-MILF Action Plan which involved training programs, systematic sensitization and awareness-raising initiatives for the MILF and its communities.

"We congratulate the MILF as they reach this important milestone. Children are zones of peace and their rights must be promoted and protected at all times. UNICEF's support to the MILF continues to ensure that disengaged children and their communities live in safe environments, by facilitating access to psychosocial support and other protection, social welfare, education and health services. In addition, UNICEF supports parents in providing family based guidance and care, " said UNICEF Philippines Representative, Officer-in-Charge, Julia Rees.

In response, the MILF reiterated its commitment to protect and promote the rights of children in their communities.

"MILF has worked for years in partnership with the UN and we are pleased at being delisted in the 2017 Secretary General's report and to be recognized here today by our UN country partners," said Eduard Guerra, former Chair of UN-MILF Action Plan Panel and currently the Co-chair of Joint Normalization Committee - MILF.

"MILF will keep up the commitment and the work to protect and promote the inherent rights of every child in our community. Together we will work toward ensuring a peaceful environment and a fair chance for children to enjoy their childhood while having access to education and other essential social services critical for their growth and wellbeing," added Mr. Guerra.

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FVR urges AFP, PNP to tighten security

(Presidential Office) [unclear]

Former President Fidel V. Ramos on Saturday urged the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to be "alert and watchful" in the government's war on terror following the spate of attacks mounted by the New People's Army (NPA) on government forces in the past few weeks in various parts of the country.

"Our troops must always be alert of any attack, especially ambushade by the NPA in any part of the country, including Metro Manila," Ramos said in an exclusive interview with the Philippine News Agency in Camp Aguinaldo.

Ramos stressed that the military and police must be ready to protect President Rodrigo Duterte as commander-in-chief.

Ramos also expressed concern for the security situation in the country, after the peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) bogged down.

The NPA's recent atrocities, including the killing of a policeman who was shot 73 times and the NPA ambush in Sitio Camansi, Barangay Bolo, Maasin town in Iloilo, dismayed Duterte.

Peace talks between the government and the communist rebels have been on-and-off for more than a decade now with no peace accord reached.

Ramos said government forces must be on guard to thwart rebel attacks, especially with the onset of the Christmas season.

Last week, Duterte told security troops to shoot armed rebels even as an executive order is being prepared to proclaim them as terrorists.

The President has signed Proclamation No. 360 terminating peace negotiations with the NPA.

He told troops of the Philippine Army that he would not allow the military to be at a disadvantage in the war against the NPA, the CPP's armed wing, which has been waging a protracted Maoist-type of revolutionary warfare for nearly five decades.

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GOLD TRAILBLAZER | 2ID awarded the Army Governance Pathway Institutionalized Status

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

RICARTE HALL, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig (DWDD) – Another feather was added to the hat of 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division under the sterling leadership of MGen Rhoderick M Parayno as it was awarded the Army Governance Pathway Institutionalized Status with Gold Trailblazer on November 29 at Ricarte Hall, Philippine Army Officers' Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio Metro Manila during the Army Governance Forum.

The award was received by no less than Commander 2ID MGen Parayno with 2ID Chief GSMO, Col Jose Augusto V Villareal. This is for demonstrating commitment to pursue genuine transformation and reform as manifested by its exemplary progress in governance and strategy management and for successfully complying with the elements under the Army Governance Pathway.



Also awarded with Army Governance Pathway Proficient Status with Gold Trailblazer were 201st Brigade under Col Elias H Escarcha and 202nd Brigade under BGen Arnulfo Marcelo B Burgos Jr.

"There is no rocket science formula in achieving the institutionalized status," remarked MGen Parayno in his message.

"What we did was just to let our jungle fighters know and appreciate their roles in our transformation roadmap," MGen Parayno added.

Congratulations to all JUNGLE FIGHTERS. 2DPAO/MCAG



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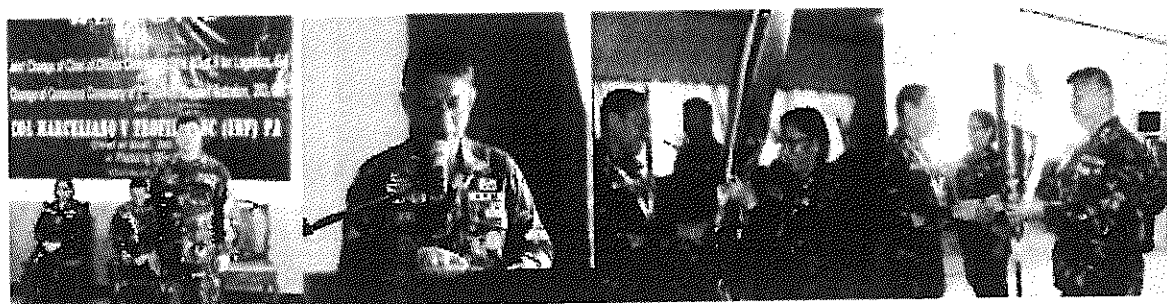
NEW LEADERSHIP | Change of Command and Chief of Office Ceremony at 2ID

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) | [View Profile](#) | [View Posts](#) | [View Photos](#) | [View Videos](#)

CAMP GEN MATEO CAPINPIN, Tanay, Rizal (DWDD) – Col Marceliano V Teofilo, Chief of Staff 2ID, presided over the Joint Change of Command and Chief of Office Ceremony of the 2nd Service Support Battalion and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, G4 at Headquarters 2nd Service Support Battalion, on November 22, 2017.

After completing two (2) years of duty as Commanding Officer of 2SSBn, Ltc Liza B Batistil relinquished her command to Ltc Joel D Aquino. Ltc Batistil replaced Ltc Aquino as the new Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, G4. Both of them were awarded with Command Plaques and Military Merit Medals by Col Teofilo for the invaluable services rendered during their stints as Commanding Officer of 2SSBn and Chief of OG4.

In their message, both Ltc Aquino and Ltc Batistil thanked the Officers and men of their respective office and unit. They assured everyone that the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, G4 and 2nd Service Support Battalion are in good hands and all improvements made will be continued. Col Teofilo, meanwhile, encouraged them to support each other in order to improve the quality of combat service support of the Jungle Fighter Division. 2DPAO/MCAG



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