

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

06 December 2017

Wednesday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

06 DECEMBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A14
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-3	CPP-NPA now terrorist	John Paolo Bencito	Mla Standard p.A1
4-5	Duterte declares NPA terrorist organization	Christina Mendez	Phil Star p.9
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
6	Military exhume 2 dead NPAs from shallow graves	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.12
7	7 NPA Terrorist Napatay	Joy Cantos	PM p.2
8	Army report 2 clashes with NPA	Mar Suplana	Mla Bulletin p.8
9	11 battalion to hunt Sayyaf men in Sulu	Jaime Laude	PhilStar p.14
10-11	Pastor slain as NPA Rebels, soldiers clash in Mindoro	Maricar Cinco	PDI p.A6
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12	No Xmas truce with Reds- Lorenzana	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.1
13	Guerrero's term at AFP to be extended	John Paolo Bencito	Mla Standard p.A2
14	'Military ops not a crackdown on NPAs, but a response to atrocities'	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.4
15	Sir Apol,PNP's No.2 man replacing Bato	Cecille Suerte Felipe	Phil Star p.1
16	Hunt on for Maute leader Abu Dar	Edwin O. Fernandez	PDI p.A8
17	President Declare CPP, NPA Terrorist Organizations	Leila Salavaria	PDI p.A1
18-19	Duterte attaches Terrorist tag to CPP-NPA	Elijah Felice Rosales	B.Mirror p.3
20	CPP-NPA idineklara nang terrorist group	Kris Jose	Remate p.1
21	Rody official declares commies terrorist	Ted Tuvera	D Tribune p.17
22	Activist priest killed in Ecija gun attack	Ding Cervantes	PhilStar p.1
23	Activist priest slaine in N. Ecija	Sheen Crisologo	Mla Bulletin p.8
24	Retire priest gunned down in Nueva Ecija	Raymond Africa	Malaya p.B2
25	Pastor na NPA todas sa engkwentro	Joy Cantos	PM p.2
26	SC upholds decision validating ML edict	Benjamin Pulta	D'Tribune p.17
27	Suprem Court declares final its ruling upholding martial law in Mindanao	Rey Panaligan	Mla Bulletin p.1
28	It's Final: SC upholds legality of ML in Mindanao	Edu Punay	Phil Star p.3
29	Couple killed, burned in feud with 'Mautes'	Bonita Ermac	Mla Bulletin p.12
30	7 Maute brothers confirmd dead	Julmunir Jannaral	Mla Times p.17
31	Noche Buena package sa Marawi Soldier	Crison Heramis	Remate p.2
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
32	Teroristang grupo na ang NPA	Ronnie Halos	PM p.3
33	Duterte hindi kayang paikutin ng kaliwa	Alvin Feliciano	Remate p.4
34	Tigil – Putukan sa pako- IMEE	Nelson Badilla	Remate p.5

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


35	Susuporta sa PDEA.. PNP Balik- Drug War	Rudy Andal	PM p.2
ONLINE NEWS			
36	500 Marawi families to get new homes before Christmas: DPWH	Ferdinand Patinio	www.pna.gov.ph
37	Duterte formally declares CPP-NPA as terror group	Jose Cielito Reganit	www.pna.gov.ph
38	NPA not really interested in peace: AFP	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
39	Lorenzana mum on martial law, Guerrero extension	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

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06 December 2017


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: A14



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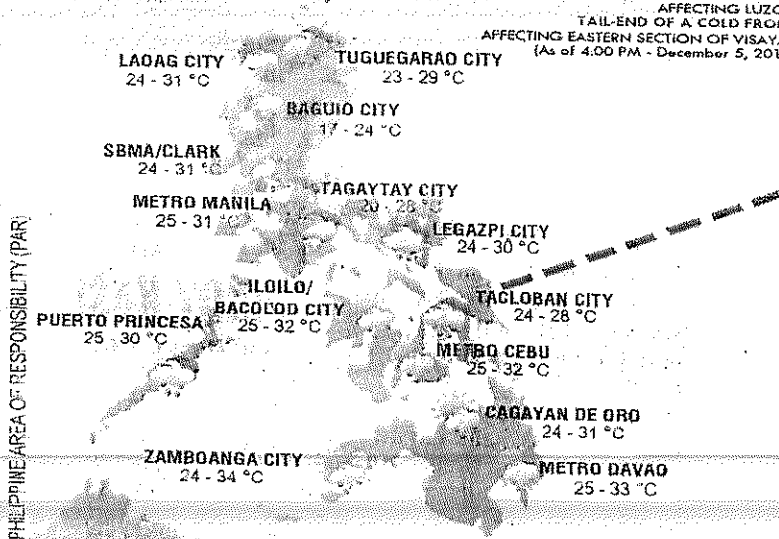




BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 6, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF VISAYAS
(As of 4:00 PM - December 5, 2017)




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:08 AM	5:26 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
8:20 PM	6:32 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
DEC 3 11:47 PM	DEC 10 3:51 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
7:05 AM	11:21 PM
-0.32 Meter	1.31 Meter

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

	DEC 5	DEC 6	DEC 7	DEC 8	DEC 9	DEC 10
METRO MANILA	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	19 - 27 °C	19 - 27 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 28 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 28 °C	23 - 27 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	24 - 30 °C	25 - 28 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 24 °C	16 - 22 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C		
TAGAYTAY			19 - 27 °C	19 - 27 °C		
LEGAZPI			24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C		
PUERTO PRINCESA			25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C		
ILOILO/BACDLOD			24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C		
METRO CEBU			25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C		
TACLOBAN			24 - 28 °C	24 - 28 °C		
CAGAYAN DE ORO			23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C		
METRO DAVAO			25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C		
ZAMBOANGA			25 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C		



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM



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

4 December 2017

Manila Standard

Page. A1

CPP-NPA now terrorist

Palace cites Human Security Act, fierce clashes mark proclamation

By John Paolo Bencito and Francisco Tuyay

THE government has officially declared the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army a terrorist organization following the collapse of peace talks between the government and the rebels.

The declaration, via a Presidential Proclamation, coincided with reports on intensified anti-insurgency operations by the military against the NPA which sparked renewed fierce clashes leaving at least eight rebels, including a pastor and two soldiers dead in Luzon and Mindanao Sunday and Monday, security authorities said.

A Malacañang statement said President Rodrigo Duterte had declared the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's

Army a terrorist organization following the collapse of peace talks between the government and the communist rebels.

According to Secretary Jesus Dureza of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, the next step is for Secretary of Justice Vitaliano Aguirre II to file a petition for "proscription" in court under the provisions of the Human Security Act for a judicial affirmation.

An existing law—Sec 17 of RA 9372, or "Proscription of Terrorist Organizations,

Association, or Group of Persons"—says "any organization, association, or group of persons organized for the purpose of engaging in terrorism, or which, although not organized for that purpose, actually uses the acts to terrorize mentioned in this Act or to sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand shall, upon application of the Department of Justice before a competent Regional Trial Court, with due notice and opportunity to be heard given to the organization, association, or group of persons concerned, be declared as a terrorist and outlawed organization, association, or group of persons by the said Regional Trial Court."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana welcomed

Next page

CPP-NPA...

From A1

Duterte's signing of the proclamation declaring the rebels a terrorist group in accordance with the Human Security Act and international laws.

In a statement, Lorenzana said: "We have long since maintained that the CPP-NPA is a blight to the Filipino people, with its members engaging in constant criminal activities and wanton acts of terror.

"The government has walked the extra mile to accommodate them by resuming the talks. But they have imposed unreasonable conditions and continued their criminal acts such as kidnappings, attacks on the military and the police, destruction of property, and extortion.

"Clearly their aim is not the welfare of the Filipino but the pursuit of their selfish agenda. Henceforth, they will be called Communist Terrorists."

Lorenzana added: "We enjoin the Filipino people to work closely with the military, police and local officials to safeguard our communities from the violence, treachery, and opportunism that the CPP-NPA are known for."

AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla also issued a statement: "The

Commander-in-Chief's proclamation declaring the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization is a consequence of the end of formal peace talks.

"The government has done all it could to attain a much sought after just and sustainable peace throughout our country. Despite the numerous show of sincerity and compromises of the Government, it is apparent that the CPP-NPA-NDF never aspired for peace but merely used it as an opportunity to fulfill its selfish ends.

"This proclamation clearly classifies and labels the group for what they really are and will simplify military and law enforcement operations as efforts against lawless elements and enemies of the state. This will certainly ensure that the AFP can now fully execute and perform its mandate without reservation and restrictions.

"Having said that, the AFP's Focused Military Operations will now become even more precise, simple and effective. We can now address without any hesitation and with all the means and resources available to us the increasing criminal and economic sabotage activities of these terrorists."

The heavy death toll incurred by the NPA occurred at the tri-boundary of

Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato after army troops seized a large guerrilla base, killing seven rebels and wounding two others.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion, said among the rebels killed who were confirmed by Datu Dandee Denian, a tribal leader from Tulale village, were Datu Victor Denian and two of the latter's sons while the wounded were Jeffrey Denian, 18.

At the height of the intense fighting, 10 rebels of Platoon Arado of Guerrillas Front 73, who were a kilometer away from the seized NPA camp and scene of fighting, forced to surrender to the military.

Cabunoc said the fighting erupted after NPA terrorists engaged the troops of the 27th Infantry Battalion near a rebel enclave in Sitio Datal Bonglangon, Ned village, Lake Sebu in South Cotabato, resulting in two soldiers dead and seven rebels dead.

Recovered at the scene of fighting were two firearms and subversive documents, while the military arranged a tribal burial rite for the dead rebels who were from the Dulangan Monobo tribe.

In Oriental Mindoro, a member of the Kings Glory Ministry in Brig. Don

Pedro, Mansalay, whom the military claimed was a member of the NPA, was killed in an encounter with army troops at Sitio Bait, Panaytayan town.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, Commander of the 203rd Infantry Brigade, identified the slain pastor as Jovelito Quinones, 57.

Quinones was in the company of seven motorcycle-riding comrades traversing the national highway of Panaytayan town when chanced upon by troops conducting combat patrol at about 1:55 p.m.

An exchange of gunfire ensued between the group of Quinones and the troops, killing the pastor on the spot while his companions escaped.

"It's a legitimate encounter—based on our intelligence operations. He is an active NPA member," Parlade said.

Clashes also erupted in Ilocos Sur and Abra between NPA rebels and army troops wounding undetermined insurgents.

So far, the series of an intensified military operations against the NPAs in two weeks of fighting across the country bring to 25 rebels dead and dozens of wounded after Duterte terminated peace talks with the communist party.

04 December 2017



Page: 1

Duterte declares NPA terrorist organization

Mindanao clashes leave 7 rebels, 2 soldiers dead

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte yesterday signed a proclamation classifying the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) as terrorist groups following the cancellation of peace talks.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the declaration was made "in view of the violent acts of the CPP-NPA, which sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace."

"As the President has stated before, he has finally classified the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization within the purview of the Human Security Act," Roque said.

The President's order also allows the state to go after groups or individuals who are wittingly or unwittingly supporting the CPP-NPA.

Roque explained that under the Human Security Act, any

Turn to Page 5

Duterte blames CPP

Duterte blamed the communists anew for the collapse of the peace talks, saying they want him to "share" the Philippines' sovereignty.

"They want to have a coalition government. I told them, 'I cannot give you that which I do not own.' That is sovereignty, exercise of sovereignty," Duterte told overseas Filipino workers yesterday in Malacañang.

Duterte said under the Constitution, only people who are elected by the people can handle sovereignty.

"So I cannot share with you any of the powers of the presidency because it is not mine to give," he said.

Duterte also ordered Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II to file the necessary application for the proscription or declaration of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group with the appropriate regional trial court (RTC).

"They have been proclaimed by the President and that has effect already because, of course, we don't talk peace with terrorists now. But for the purposes of Human Security Act, the RTC must rule

Duterte From Page 1

person or entity is designated as terrorist if they finance terrorism or a terrorist group under an applicable resolution of the United Nations Security Council or jurisdiction or supranational jurisdiction.

"Take note that the domestic statute and the UN Security Council prohibit the giving of funds to terrorist organizations," Roque said. "This will enable law enforcement agencies to run after individuals who will, in any way, provide financial support to the NPA now that it has been described as a terrorist organization."

that pursuant to the government petition that the CPP-NPA is in fact a terrorist organization,” Roque said.

Duterte also directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to publish the designation of CPP-NPA in accordance with the Human Security Act.

The US designated the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization on Aug. 9, 2002.

Military to be ‘relentless’

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) supports the proclamation classifying the CPP-NPA as terrorists.

“This will certainly ensure that the AFP can now fully execute and perform its mandate without reservation and restrictions,” said Maj. Gen. Restituto Paidlla, AFP spokesman.

“The chief of staff, Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, has reiterated his guidance to the troops to never let their guard down and be relentless in pursuing the enemy that has been the source of so much suffering of our marginal citizens in the countryside.

“This proclamation clearly clarifies and labels the group for what they really are and will simplify military and law enforcement operations in our efforts against lawless elements and enemies of the state,” he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also expressed support for the proclamation.

“We have long since maintained that the CPP-NPA is a blight to the Filipino people, with its members engaging in constant criminal activities and wanton acts of terror,” he said.

9 killed in new clash

Before Duterte signed the proclamation declaring the NPA as terrorists, seven

communist rebels and two soldiers were killed in gunfights at the border of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces on Monday.

The series of encounters involved NPA guerrillas and combined personnel of the Army’s 33rd and 27th Infantry Battalion under the 6th and 10th Infantry Divisions, respectively.

Two soldiers of the 27th IB were killed in the hostilities.

The running gunfights at the boundary of Lake Sebu in South Cotabato and Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat also resulted in the capture of wounded rebel Jeffrey Denian.

Three other NPAs carrying the injured Denian from the scene – Armando Barot, Jack Tatao and Bert Lawud – were cornered by soldiers and detained by the Bagumbayan municipal police.

Sources from the Bagumbayan and Lake Sebu municipal peace and order councils said seven NPA rebels perished in the skirmishes, two of them adolescents.

Villagers also reported seeing three wounded NPA members, identified only as Lito, Roman and Eddie, being carried away by their fleeing comrades.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc of the 33rd IB said they treated the gunshot wounds of Denian before he was turned over to the Bagumbayan municipal police.

The rebels scampered away when they ran out of ammunition, leaving behind a .30 caliber Carbine, a 9-millimeter Ingram machine pistol and four 12 gauge shotguns.

Local officials in Bagumbayan said 10 NPA rebels yielded peacefully to the 33rd IB about three hours after the skirmishes.

The 10 rebels, who belong to the NPA’s Guerilla Front 73, surrendered to Cabunoc in the presence of a Manobo tribal elder,

datu Tony Paan, and barangay officials.

Senior Supt. Raul Supiter, director of the Sultan Kudarat provincial police, said 87 families residing around the scene of the NPA-Army encounter evacuated to safer barangays in Bagumbayan.

Supiter said government relief workers from South Cotabato province are now attending to the displaced villagers.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said it is investigating the deadly clash between the military and members of the NPA in Nasugbu, Batangas on Nov. 28.

Fifteen people, including University of the Philippines student Josephine Lapira, were killed in the encounter.

CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said their regional office in Southern Tagalog has started an investigation on the encounter even before groups called for the human rights body to look into the incident.

“Even prior to calls for investigation, the CHR Region 4A has taken cognizance of the case *motu proprio* or through its own initiative,” De Guia said.

“We shall determine if the rules of engagement have been strictly followed,” she added.

Women’s group Gabriela called for an independent investigation of the incident noting the supposed haphazard handling of the crime scene investigation and the possible use of excessive force by government forces.

“Results of the investigation can be instrumental in filing cases of violation of human rights and international humanitarian law against culpable Philippine National Police and Armed Force of the Philippines units,” the group said.

– With Jaime Laude, Alexis Romer, John Unson, Janvic Mateo

04 December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 12

Military exhume 2 dead NPAs from shallow graves

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Two bodies, believed to have been hastily buried just three feet below ground by their New People's Army (NPA) comrades, have been exhumed by the military with the help of local residents in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte, it was reported on Tuesday.

Capt. Al Anthony B. Pueblas, Civil-Military Operations (CMO) officer of the Army's 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade told The Manila Bulletin that the remains of Reynel Jhon Agoncillo of Barangay Lower Olave, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, and a Jemar A. Martinez of Barangay Marbon, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur were dug up in Kilometer 9, Sitio Hinandayan, Barangay Camagong, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

"The NPAs hurriedly left their dead comrades and buried them like animals along a creek in Barangay Camagong, Nasipit town," Pueblas said.

According to him, one of the

local residents said NPA rebels informed them that they had already buried their comrades along the creek.

Last November 19, 2017, a 15-minute gun battle broke out between forces of the 23rd Infantry Battallion (23rd IB) and the insurgents that resulted in the death of the two rebels, he said.

Agoncillo and Martinez, both 22, were said to be regular members of the guerilla-Front Committee 4-A of the CPP-NPA North Central Mindanao Regional Committee.

The remains were positively identified by their parents and relatives who immediately sought the assistance of the local government for the exhumation last Nov. 30, 2017, Pueblas added.

Brig. Gen. Franco Nemesio M. Gacal, commanding general of the 402nd Brigade was sad about what happened. "It is very unfortunate that the NPAs left their comrades hurriedly and buried them unceremoniously," he said.

CC December 2017

Pahina. 2

7 NPA TERRORIST NAPATAY

Nakubkob ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang isang malaking kampo ng New People's Army (NPA) terrorist at dito ay napatay ang 7 miyembro sa umaatikabong bakbakan sa hangganan ng Sultan Kudarat at South Cotabato sa gitna na rin ng milunsad na Focused Military Operations (FMO).

Batay sa ulat, bandang alas-12:00 ng tanghali nang makasagupa ng tropa ng Army's 27th Infantry Battalion at Army's 33rd

Infantry Battalion (IB) ang grupo ng mga terorista sa pinagkukutaan ng mga ito kamakalawa sa Sitio Datal Bonglangon, Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu na nasa hangganan ng South Cotabato at Sultan Kudarat na ikinasawi ng 7 rebelde kabilang ang lider ng tribo na si Datu Victor Damian at dalawa nitong anak na lalaki at dalawang sundalo rin ang nasawi.

Sinabi ni Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion (IB)

Commander Col. Harold Cabunoc, na nasa 30 NPA terrorists ang nakasagupa ng tropa ng militar na inokupa ang mga bunkers kung saan ang palitan ng putok ay tumagal nang hanggang alas-2:45 ng hapon.

Napilitan namang magsitakas ang mga terorista, matapos na magresponde ang Charlie Company, 7th Field Artillery Battalion (IB) na inabandona ang mga napaslang nilang kasa-

mahan.

Ang bakbakan ay nagresulta sa pagkakubkob ng nasabing kampo at pagkakasamsam ng mga armas na kinabibilangan ng tatlong shotgun, isang Ingram, isang carbine at mga subersibong dokumento.

Bandang alas-3:00 naman ng hapon nitong Lunes ay nagsisuko ang 10 NPA terrorists ng Platoon Arabo ng Guerilla Front 73, may isang kilometro mula sa pinangyarihan ng bakbakan - *Joy Cantos, Rhoderick Beñez*.

α December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

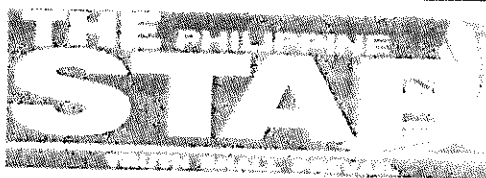
Page: 8

• **Army reports 2 clashes with NPA**

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac – The military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) reported recent clashes between government forces and armed communist terrorists in Ilocos Sur and Abra last Monday. A 30-minute gunbattle erupted between combined forces of the 71st Division Reconnaissance Company (71DRC) and 81st Infantry Battalion (81IB) and New People's Army (NPA) fighters in Barangay in Barangay Balidbid, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur at 8:30 a.m. in the remote village of Ud-udlao in Sallapadan, Abra; elements of the army's the 24th Infantry Battalion (24th IB) engaged four NPA guerrillas in a five-minute gunbattle. The Nolcom said the communist terrorists retreated in both encounters and that no casualties had been reported. (Mar T. Supnad and Lizele Basa Inigo)

8

December 2017



Page: 14

11 battalions to hunt Sayyaf men in Sulu

By JAIME LAUDE

At least 11 battalions will be deployed in Sulu to finish off Abu Sayyaf bandits and rescue their remaining hostages, an official said yesterday.

"I now have 11 battalions... Three battalions are still in Marawi and involved in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the city," Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, told reporters after attending a disaster and command briefing at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Sobejana said two Scout Ranger battalions that fought in Marawi are also back in

Sulu. "As we are gaining ground against the bandits, the more they are becoming desperate... They are now targeting the poorest of the poor in their kidnapping activities," he said.

Sobejana said 17 bandits who joined Maute militants have been killed in the fighting in Marawi.

He said the bandits are also losing the support of lo-

cal communities, citing the encounter between fighters of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu on Monday.

The military said there are around 400 remaining Abu Sayyaf bandits headed by Radullan Sahiron.

Sobejana said reports that Sahiron would surrender turned out to be "not sincere" upon verification.

No holiday break

Unless ordered, Sobejana said they would continue with their offensives against the Abu Sayyaf during Christmas

and New Year.

"I don't know yet if we will have a Christmas and New Year break," he said.

Seven foreigners and four Filipinos remain in the hands of the bandits.

"The relentless operations will not stop because we still have hostages and a number of Abu Sayyaf members to be neutralized," Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command spokesperson, said.

Petinglay said the operations also resulted in the mass surrender and restricted the movement of bandits.

– With Roel Pareño

06 December 2017

INQUIRER

Page: AG

4PS FACILITATOR

PASTOR SLAIN AS NPA REBELS, SOLDIERS CLASH IN MINDORO

By **Maricar Cinco**
@maricarcincoINQ

The lone fatality in the clash between government forces and suspected communist rebels at Mansalay town in Oriental Mindoro province on Sunday was a religious leader who was also an active facilitator of the government's antipoverty program.

Leovelito Quiñones, 57, a pastor of the Guardian of Truth Ministry, was killed, according to Willy Yasay of the Southern Mindoro Ministerial Association, a group of Christian leaders in Oriental Mindoro.

13-year-old wounded

Chief Insp. Romeo Plaida Jr., Mansalay police chief, also confirmed in a text message on Tuesday that Quiñones was a religious leader.

Quiñones (identified as Pablito Quinunez in a military report) was killed when armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) fought Army soldiers belonging to the 4th Infantry Battalion at Sitio Bait in Barangay Panaytayan at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday.

A 13-year-old boy was wounded by a stray bullet that hit his house near the battle site.

Mistaken identity?

In a telephone interview on Tuesday, Yasay said Quiñones'

death could have been a case of "mistaken identity."

"He was an active pastor. That day, he was on his way home from Bansud (town) after getting an amplifier for their church when he was killed," he said.

In a separate interview, Catherine Fos, a facilitator of the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), confirmed that Quiñones was also an active 4Ps volunteer assigned to the villages of Don Pedro and Teresita in Mansalay.

The cash aid program aims to alleviate the life of the country's poorest families with conditions that they must attend family planning sessions regularly or make sure that their children go to school.

Military report

The military, however, stood by its report that Quiñones was an NPA rebel who left a wife and five children.

He was among eight rebels traveling on four motorcycles from Bulalacao town to deliver "logistics" to guerrillas, said Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., commander of the Army's 203rd Infantry Brigade.

The other rebels reportedly escaped after the encounter.

The military said the soldiers recovered from Quiñones a .45-caliber pistol and two containers of bullets. INQ

10

Supported by artillery fire from the Charlie company of the 7th Field Artillery Battalion, the soldiers broke through the bunkers, forcing the NPA to escape.

The troops recovered two firearms and rebel documents from the seized encampment.

On Monday, Cabunoc and his men, accompanied by tribal elders, entered Datal Bonglangon to treat a wounded identified as Jeffrey Denian, 18.

Cabunoc said that Datu Dandee Denian, a tribal leader from Barangay Tulale, confirmed that among those killed were Datu Victor Denian and two of his sons who reinforced the NPA rebels.

Cabunoc and his men arranged a tribal burial rite for the dead rebels who all belonged to the Dulangan Manobo.

At around 3 p.m., also on Monday, 10 NPA members from Platoon Arabo of Guerilla Front 78 surrendered to Cabunoc in the presence of Datu Tony Paan and Barangay Sto. Nino village Chairman Julieto Ynion.

In Ilocos Sur, a firefight also occurred at around 8:30 a.m. on Monday between rebels and elements of the 71st Division Reconnaissance Company (7th DRC) and 81st Infantry Battalion at Barangay Balidbid, Salcedo town.

Military Northern Luzon Command spokesman Lt. Col. Isagani Nato said members of the 71st DRC and personnel of Mortar Platoon under the 81st IB were conducting combat operations when they chanced upon a group of fifteen rebels operating in the area.

A firefight occurred and lasted for 30 before the rebels withdrew.

Last week, 15 NPA rebels were killed in a clash with elements of the Army's 202nd Brigade in Nasugbu, Batangas – one of them a female student of the University of the Philippines Manila.

Lorenzana said the killing of the student should serve as a lesson to parents who "should be knowledgeable where their children are at all times or find out where they are and also to advise them not to be associating with armed people."

04 December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

No Xmas truce with Reds – Lorenzana

By FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

In view of the continuing attacks by communist rebels on government troops even when a ceasefire was in effect, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will not recommend a suspension of military operations (SOMO) against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) this Holiday Season.

"No, I will not. I will not," Lorenzana told reporters shortly after attending the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Year-End Council Meeting.

"Because there have been, there was an order by their commanders to intensify operations against us. So kung mag SOMO kami (if we will declare SOMO), and we will stand down then they will attack us again," the Defense chief added.

The Armed Forces in the **▶ 6**

No Xmas truce

spirit of the Christmas season has declared a truce with the communist rebels in the past. "Well that has been the tradition, so we can always break tradition," Lorenzana said.

He also denied that President Duterte ordered the military to launch orchestrated, deliberate offensives against the CPP-NPA.

"Not at all. His order is to shoot armed NPAs so we have been doing that all along even before. If they are armed and they fight we will also fight back (and) we shoot them," he said.

7 rebels, 2 soldiers

Over the weekend, joint elements of the Army's 33rd and 27th Infantry Battalions seized the largest NPA guerilla base in the boundary of Sultan Kudarat

and South Cotabato after a military engagement that led to the death of seven NPA rebels.

The government lost two soldiers in the encounter. Reports said the rebels engaged the troops of 27th IB near a cave hideout in Sitio Datal Bonglangon, Ned village, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato that resulted in a running gunbattle.

As troops of the 33rd IB maneuvered to support the engaged troops, they were met with heavy gunfire by about 30 rebels who occupied fortified bunkers at mid-afternoon Sunday.

Supported by artillery fires from the Charlie Company, 7th Field Artillery Battalion, the troops outfought the terrorists, forcing the enemy to flee with their casualties.

12

◀ 1

The troops recovered two firearms and communist documents in the seized encampment.

Datu Dandee Denian, a tribal leader from Tulale village, confirmed that among those killed in the encounter were Datu Victor Denian and two of the latter's sons who reinforced the NPA terrorists.

Cabunoc has arranged a tribal burial rite for the victims who belong to the Dulangan Manobo.

10 NPAs surrender

Also on Monday, 10 NPA rebels belonging to Platoon Arabo of Guerilla Front 73 surrendered to Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc in the presence of Datu Tony Paan and Sto. Niño village chairman Hon. Julieta Ynion.

The 'Balik Tribo' surrender rite was held in Sitio Bermuda, about a kilometer away from the seized NPA camp.

December 2017



Page. 12

Guerrero's term at AFP to be extended

THE term of Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero as chief-of-staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be "extended" despite hitting the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Dec. 17, a senior Cabinet official confirmed Tuesday.

"He will be extended but I will await the President's order to see how long the extension would be," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told the Manila Standard in a text message.

The decision follows the joint command conference of the military and the police attended by Duterte himself, held at Malacañang.

Guerrero, a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Maharlika" Class of 1984, only received his fourth star last Nov. 9.

His predecessor, now Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Año, had his term as AFP chief extended by President Rodrigo Duterte himself.

Guerrero, then commander of the Davao-based Eastern Mindanao Command, only assumed command of the 130,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines last Oct. 26.

John Paolo Bencito

(b)

December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 4

'Military ops not a crackdown on NPAs, but a response to atrocities'

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero yesterday denied that it

is cracking down on New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas around the country.

In an interview, Guerrero said that military operations against communist rebels should not be considered as a

crackdown on them because they are just responding to the atrocities being committed by NPAs.

"We cannot say it's already a crackdown. It's just part of our intensified, focused military operations in response to their atrocities," Guerrero said.

"We saw that they (NPA) have stepped up their atrocities nationwide. So this is just, it's part of our response to make sure we are able to address these concerns," Guerrero said.

The Chief of Staff said that the NPA's stepped-up attacks are already expected following the AFP's shifting some of their forces to Marawi City during the

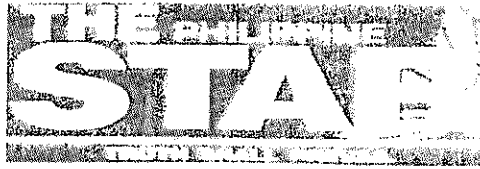
five-month war there.

"Since we have shifted our forces to Marawi to address the problem there. We created gaps in some of our deployments elsewhere. And this is the result of the gaps, they were able to move around, recruit additional members, and be able to perpetuate atrocities," he said.

Guerrero said the specific order of President Duterte to them is to address all NPA atrocities and make sure that they are able to cover all areas being bothered by the NPAs.

"We are also tasked to reduce their capability, negate the capabilities of the NPA," he said.

06 December 2017



Page: 1

Sir Apol, PNP's No. 2 man, replacing Bato



Apolinario

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

CEBU City – The No. 2 man in the Philippine National Police (PNP) is on his way to becoming No. 1.

Deputy Director General Ramon Apolinario will replace PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa who is set to retire on Jan. 21, 2018 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Supt. Ercy Nanette Tomas, legal officer of the PNP Center for Police Strategic Management, made the announcement during the 3rd PNP National Advisory Council Summit at

the Waterfront Hotel and Casino here.

“Good news, the President has announced Sir Apol will be the next PNP chief,” Tomas told

Turn to Page 2

Sir Apol From Page 1

the forum, referring to Apol that “Apol would be up next

Another police officer quoted President Duterte as saying On Monday, Apolinario was acknowledged as “the incoming

ing PNP chief” several times during the second day of the summit.

In one instance, Chief Supt. Noel Baraceros, director of the PNP CPSM, acknowledged Apolinario as the incoming PNP chief.

“Let us welcome the incoming PNP chief, Deputy Director General Ramon Apolinario,” Baraceros said as he introduced the guest of honor and speaker during the summit.

Even Col. Adriano Perez Jr., chief of the Office of Strategic Studies and Strategy Management of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), acknowledged Apolinario as the next PNP chief.

“Sir (Apolinario) you are addressed six times as the incoming PNP chief,” Perez remarked before he started his lecture on the military’s performance governance system.

Apolinario was among the three personal choices of Duterte to become the first PNP chief under his administration. The two others were Dela Rosa and Director Rene Asperas, chief of the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management.

Dela Rosa was selected, being the most senior among the candidates.

- With Non Alquitran

00 December 2017

INQUIRER

Page: AB

Hunt on for Maute leader Abu Dar

By Edwin O. Fernandez
@inquirermindanao

COTABATO CITY—While seven Maute siblings involved in the siege of Marawi City were killed in the five-month battle, the military is still seeking a senior ring leader, identified only as “Abu Dar.”

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said during a Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) meeting that Abu Dar is a Maranao who was among those

recorded on video plotting the Marawi siege.

The video, recovered by government forces during the siege, showed Abu Dar with siblings Omar and Abdullah Maute and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Rebellion charges

“He can likely assume leadership of Maute terror group,” Galvez said, adding that there were three other Mautes in government custody who have been charged with rebellion.

They are the Maute matri-

arch Farhana, Maute, who allegedly funded her sons’ illegal activities, and two other sons.

The government also had custody of patriarch, engineer Cayamora, but he died of medical complications while in government custody on Aug. 27, more than two months after he was arrested in Davao City on June 6.

The authorities arrested Farhana on June 9, while she was transporting wounded Maute fighters through a Lanao del Sur town.

Mayor Dimnatang Pansar of

Butig, Lanao del Sur, the hometown of the Maute clan, confirmed that all the Maute brothers were either dead or under government custody.

Good Mautes

But several Maranaos who are also surnamed “Maute” have been held for questioning or have gone into hiding for fear of arrest.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman, who presided over the RPOC meeting, lamented that there were also “good

Mautes” who had been ostracized by their own townmates.

“We will help them return to their communities but subject to coordination with the police and the military,” Hataman said.

ARMM Vice Gov. Alrashid Alonto-Lucman told also related that one of his daughter’s medical school classmates surnamed Maute was forced to drop out after the siege.

Speaking to the Lanao town mayors, Hataman said local government executives should take steps to prevent Islamic

radicalization in their towns.

Galvez agreed and said failure “would give these violent religious extremists an issue they could use to generate hatred and entice prospective recruits to join their fold.”

Hataman also ordered the local executives to help locate Abu Dar who, according to military intelligence, is leading the regrouping of terrorists in Lanao del Sur.

“War is destructive. We have to prevent conflicts at our level first before we let the military come in,” Hataman said. INQ

16

06 December 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

NEW PROCLAMATION

PRESIDENT DECLARES CPP, NPA TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

By **Leila B. Salaverria**
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte further widened his break with communist insurgents by formally declaring as terrorist organizations the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

The declaration followed the President's decision to cut all peace negotiations with the rebels, saying he was fed up with their attacks on government forces and civilians.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political arm of the CPP, was not included in the proclamation that the President signed on Tuesday, said presidential spokesperson Harry Roque. He did not explain why the group was spared.

The Department of Justice has been directed to file the petition in the Regional Trial Court to legally declare the CPP and NPA terrorist organizations under the Human Security Act.

Roque said this was "[i]n view of the contin-

AG

PRESIDENT DECLARES CPP, NPA TERRORIST GROUPS

FROM A1



Harry Roque

ued violent acts of the CPP-NPA, which sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace."

"It is not automatic that just because the executive has classified the group as a terrorist organization, it will be considered a terrorist organization under the domestic law and under relevant security council resolutions," he said.

The President also directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to publish the designation of CPP-NPA as terrorist organizations.

While a court order is needed to legally recognize the groups as terrorists, the President's proclamation has an effect because the government does not negotiate with terrorists, Roque said.

He also said that state forces would be able to go after CPP or NPA members for terrorism if they were committing the predicate crimes listed under the Human Security Act, with the additional element that their act was intended to sow fear and panic in the minds

of the public.

The government would also go after those providing financial support to terrorist organizations, he said. These include mining firms and other businesses.

"Take note that the domestic statute and the UN Security Council prohibit the giving of funds to terrorist organizations. This will enable law enforcement agencies to run after individuals who will, in any way, provide financial support to the NPA now that it has been described as a terrorist organization," he said.

In his proclamation, Mr. Duterte declared the CPP-NPA a designated or identified terrorist organization pursuant to the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012.

It defines a terrorist financier as "any person or entity designated and/or identified

as a terrorist, one who finances terrorism, or a terrorist organization or group under the applicable United Nations Security Council resolution or by another jurisdiction or supranational jurisdiction."

Roque said the petition to declare the CPP and the NPA terrorist organizations would be subject to a hearing, with the rebel groups to be afforded the chance to argue why they should not be deemed terrorist groups.

For purposes of the Human Security Act, the CPP and the NPA would be considered terrorist organizations after the court issued a ruling saying so.

ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio said declaring the CPP and the NPA terrorist organizations would usher in more human rights abuses against critics of the Duterte administration. —WITH A REPORT FROM VINCE F. NONATO INQ

Duterte attaches 'terrorist' tag to CPP-NPA

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

PRESIDENT Duterte has placed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), under the terrorist list of the country.

In an interview with reporters on Tuesday, Presidential Spokesman Harry L. Roque Jr. said the President has signed a proclamation labeling the CPP-NPA as terrorists.

The proclamation came after Duterte terminated the peace talks with the communists in November.

Although the proclamation is yet to be officially released by Malacañang as of this writing, Roque said the President has instructed the publication of the CPP-NPA, as well as persons and organizations affiliated to them, as terrorists.

"In this regard, I hereby direct

to publish the foregoing destination of the CPP-NPA and all other designated persons and organizations in accordance with Sections 3 and 15 of RA [Republic Act] 10135 and its implementing rules and regulations," Roque said, quoting the draft proclamation.

Under RA 10168, or the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act, the financing of terror groups is prohibited and penalized. Section 15 of RA 10168 mandates the Department of Foreign Affairs to publish a list of the designated persons to which the law or the Human Security Act applies.

Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea has also issued a memorandum to Justice Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre II to immediately file for the proscription of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization in a regional trial court (RTC). “Because of the proclamation, the [justice] secretary was directed by [Medialdea] to file a petition in the RTC because it is not automatic that just because the Executive has classified the group as a terrorist organization, it will be considered as a terrorist organization under

the domestic law and under relevant security council resolutions,” Roque said.

However, the proclamation has not named the negotiating arm of the CPP-NPA, the National Democratic Front (NDF), as a terror group. Nonetheless, all those who are proven financing the CPP-NPA will face criminal charges in court.

Peace talks between the government and the NDF has collapsed due to tensions on the ground resulting from encounters between soldiers and communist rebels.

““ In this regard, I hereby direct to publish the foregoing designation of the CPP-NPA and all other designated persons and organizations in accordance with Sections 3 and 15 of RA [Republic Act] 10135 and its implementing rules and regulations.”

—DRAFT PROCLAMATION

December 2017

Pahina. _____

CPP-NPA idineklara nang terrorist group

PORMAL nang idineklara ng Malakanyang na terrorist group ang Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

Nakasaad sa proklamasyon na binasa ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque na nakabase sa Republic Act 10168 o Human Security Act ang desisyon ni Pangulong Duterte.

Inatasan ni Pangulong Duterte si Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea na kagyat na kalampagin si Justice Sec. Vitaliano Aguirre na magsumite ng report sa kinauukulang regional trial court kaugnay sa klasipikasyon ng CPP-NPA bilang terrorist organization.

Hindi naman nabanggit ang National Democratic Front sa nasabing proklamasyon.

Kasabay nito, inatasan ng Pangulo na arestuhin ang mga indibidwal o grupo na nagbibigay ng tulong pinansyal sa rebeldeng grupo.

Nakasalig aniya ang kautusan ng Pangulo sa nang inilabas na depinisyon ng United Nations Security Council na tutukoy sa isang teroristang grupo.

Binanggit din ng kalihim na hindi na dapat pang umasa ang makakaliwang grupo ng suspension of military operations para sa panahon ng kapaskuhan.

Matatandaang sinabi ng Pangulo na kanyang ipaaarresto 'di lang ang mga lider ng komunistang grupo kundi pati ang legal fronts nito.

Hindi rin umano nakikipagnegosasyon ang pamahalaan sa teroristang grupo.

KRIS JOSE

20

December 2017



Page: 17

Rody officially declares commies terrorists

By Ted Tuvera and Mario J. Mallari

It's official. Malacañang has declared that the communists are terrorists.

President Duterte yesterday signed a memorandum classifying the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), as a terrorist group.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque made the announcement right after the Commander in Chief's joint command conference with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) at the Palace.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), the CPP-NPA's negotiating wing and propaganda arm, is not covered by the Presidential proclamation.

Roque said the proclamation is "declaring the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army as a designated, identified terrorist organization under (Republic Act) 10168 (or) the Human Security Act."

"This will enable law-enforcement agencies to run after individuals who will in any way, provide financial support to the CPP-NPA," he added.

However, the President's declaration does not necessarily brand the CPP-NPA as terrorists at once.

From page 1

Turn to page 2

The Chief Executive has "directed" Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre "to file a petition at the Regional Trial Court because it is not automatic that the CPP-NPA would be considered a terrorist organization under the domestic law."

"The reason the declaration of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization has to be brought to court is that of the need for due process," Roque said.

"The CPP-NPA has to be heard on why they shouldn't be tagged as terrorist groups," he added.

Roque stressed that CPP-NPA card-bearing members will not be arrested solely because of their membership.

According to the presidential spokesman, CPP-NPA members that have to be arrested should be charged with the conditions spelled in the Human Security Act.

"The Human Security Act can be a basis for criminal persecution of terrorism if you are found to be a member of a terrorist group, but you have to commit predicate crimes in the Act," Roque said.

Republic Act no. 10168 defines a terrorist as "any person or entity designated and/or identified as a terrorist, one who finances terrorism, or a terrorist organization or group under the applicable United Nations Security Council Resolution or by another jurisdiction or supranational jurisdiction."

The Chief Executive also eyes to punish the CPP's legal fronts.

The new Proclamation, which has not been marked with official numbers as of press time, does not cover who or what the legal fronts are but based on Mr. Duterte's previous pronouncements, he said that the CPP's legal fronts are progressive groups like Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and transport group Piston. although the arrest of the Piston's leader, it was stressed by the Palace, that the arrest has nothing to do with the terrorist branding.

The Department of National Defense (DND) also will not recommend suspension of offensive military operations (Somo) against the NPA during the Yuletide Season -citing orders from communist leaders to intensify attacks against government forces.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the government can break the tradition by not

declaring Yuletide truce with the communist group.

"No, I will not," replied Lorenzana when asked if he will recommend the Somo to President Duterte in observance of the holiday season.

"Because there was an order by their commanders to intensify operations against us. So if we declare Somo and we will stand down then they will attack us again," he added.

Traditionally, the government declares Somo and suspension of offensive police operations (Sopo) during the Christmas Season with the NPA.

"We can always break tradition," said Lorenzana.

In recent weeks, there have been a series of encounters that happened as both the government and the NPA have stepped up their

attacks against each other following Duterte's decision to permanently scuttle the talks with the NDF, the umbrella organization of democratic forces and groups in the country.

Yesterday, the military reported that elements of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion and 27th IB seized the largest NPA guerilla base in the boundary between Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato on Sunday following a series of firefights.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the 33rd IB, said a firefight erupted at past noon when rebels engaged elements of the 27th IB near an NPA cave hideout at Sitio Datal Bonglangon, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

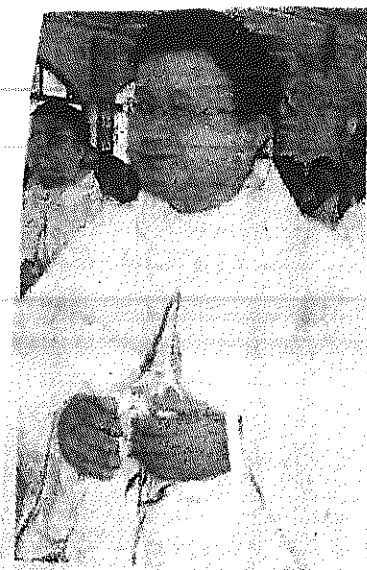
Seven rebels and two soldiers were killed in the running gunbattle that ensued.

Cabunoc said that as his troops from the 33rd IB maneuvered to support the 27th IB, they were met with heavy volume of fire by more or less 30 rebels, who have occupied fortified bunkers.

December 2017



Page: 1



Marcelito 'Fr. Tito' Paez, former parish priest in Guimba and coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in Central Luzon, was shot while driving his vehicle in Nueva Ecija the other night.

Activist priest killed in Ecija gun attack

By DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga – A retired Catholic priest was killed by unidentified gunmen in Jaen, Nueva Ecija, police said yesterday.

Marcelito Paez, 72, was driving his Toyota Innova van along the Jaen-Zaragoza Road when motorcycle-riding gunmen blocked his path and opened fire at his vehicle in Barangay Lambakin late Monday.

Turn to Page 9

Activist From Page 1

Paez succumbed to multiple gunshot wounds in the body while being treated at the Gonzales General hospital in San Leonardo town.

Provincial police director Senior Supt. Eliseo Tanding said a task force was formed to look into the murder of Paez.

Tanding said investigators are looking at the victim's profile and background which could provide clues on the people who wanted the retired priest dead.

"We have yet to establish the motive," Tanding said.

Human rights group Kaparatan condemned Paez's killing, which they claimed occurred after the victim assisted in the release of suspected communist rebel Rommel Tucay from the provincial jail in Cabanatuan City.

Tucay was arrested in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija several months ago for illegal possession of explosives and firearms and was suspected to be a New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla. He was reportedly an organizer of the militant group Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon.

Paez reportedly facilitated the release of Tucay on bail.

Paez worked as a coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines and had been active in campaigns for upholding human rights in Central Luzon, Karapatan said.

Paez belonged to the Diocese of San Jose City and served as parish priest of the towns of Sto. Domingo, Guimba, Nampicuan, Rizal and General Natividad in Nueva Ecija before retiring in 2015.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said Paez served the diocese for more than 30 years.

Even after retiring from the priesthood, Paez was involved in the Church's human rights and social justice advocacy, the CBCP said.

he said.

Malacañang promised an investigation on the killing of Paez.

"Like all killings, they will be investigated by police authorities. And if there's sufficient

evidence to charge anyone, then authorities are duty-bound to file the necessary information," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said. – With Ric Sapnu, Emmanuel Tupas, Evelyn Macairan, Alexis Romero

"We strongly condemn the unjust and brutal killing of Fr. Tito Paez," Nueva Ecija Bishop Roberto Mallari said.

"We call on the authorities to conduct investigation and give justice to his death,"

December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8

Activist priest slain in N. Ecija

By SHEEN CRISOLOGO

JAEN, Nueva Ecija — Catholic priest and known activist Fr. Marcelito “Tito” Paez, 72, was gunned down by motorcycle-riding assailants while driving his vehicle along a road in this town the other night.

Police said Fr. Paez was attacked while driving his vehicle around 8 p.m. He was taken to a hospital in the neighboring town of San Leonardo, but expired later due to two severe bullet wounds in the body.

It will be recalled that Paez was the priest who facilitated the release of political detainee Rommel Tucay, an organizer of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon-Nueva Ecija (AMGL-NE), who was captured last March by soldiers from the Philippine Army’s 56th Infantry Battalion.

Paez served the diocese for more than 30 years since its erection in 1984 then retired from the priestly ministry in 2015.

Fr. Tito, as Novo Ecijanos call him, is known for his active stand against hu-

man rights violations and militarization in the province.

Nueva Ecija Bishop Roberto Mallari condemned his killing and called on the authorities to conduct investigation and bring forth justice.

Militant group Karapatan dispatched a fact-finding mission to investigate the killing of the priest.

Senior Superintendent Eliseo Tucay, Police Provincial Office (PPO) director, said there no suspects yet in the case (With a report from Leslie Ann G. Aquino)

73

04 December 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

Retired priest gunned down in Nueva Ecija

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

A RETIRED Catholic priest was gunned down by motorcycle-riding men in Jaen, Nueva Ecija on Monday night.

Supt. Fe Grenas, Central Luzon police regional spokesperson, identified the priest as Fr. Marcelito "Tito" Paez, 72, former parish priest of Guimba, Nueva Ecija and the coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in Central Luzon.

Police said Paez was driving his grey Toyota Innova (AAB-2391) along Jaen-Zaragoza road in Barangay Lambakin, Jaen town when he was attacked at around 7:30 p.m.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose (Nueva Ecija) yesterday condemned the killing Paez and demanded justice. It also called on the faithful to offer prayers for justice.

Responding policemen took Paez to the Gonzales General Hospital in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija where he later died.

Police have yet to establish motive for the killing.

Human rights group Karapatan said Paez assisted in facilitating the release of political prisoner Rommel Tucay who was detained at the Cabanatuan City Jail in Cabanatuan City.

The Promotion of Church Peoples' Response, Karapatan and other rights groups held an indignation rally at the Boy Scouts Circle in Timog Ave., Quezon City to decry the killing of Paez and Pastor Lovelito Quiñones in Oriental Mindoro last December 3.

Karapatan said Quiñones, of the Kings Glory Ministry, a resident of Sitio Anapla, Barangay Don Pedro, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, was shot at around 8:30 p.m. allegedly by soldiers.

Quiñones was riding his motorcycle, on his way home, when he passed by an area near an alleged encounter site of the AFP and NPA. He was near his residence when he was shot in the chest, killing him on the spot. – *With Gerard Naval*

24

06 December 2017



Pahina. 2

Pastor na NPA todas sa engkwentro

Isang Pastor na miyembro umano ng New People's Army (NPA) terorista ang napatay ng pinagsanib na elemento ng militar at pulisya sa engkwentro sa Sitio Bait, Brgy. Panaytayan, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro kamakalawa ng gabi.

Kinilala ni Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, Commander ng Army's 203rd Infantry Brigade, ang napatay na si Jovelito Quiñones, 57, Pastor ng Kings Glory Ministry na nakabase sa Brgy. Don Pedro, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

Baray sa ulat, bandang alas-8:15 ng gabi nang makasagupa ng pinagsanib na tropa ng militar at pulisya si Quiñones at pito pa nitong kasamahan na lulan ng mga motorsiklo sa kahabaan ng highway ng pasabing lugar.

Agad na nagkaroon ng palitan ng putok sa pagitan ng

magkabilang panig hanggang sa duguang bumulagta si Quiñones na agad binawian ng buhay sa insidente habang nakatakas naman ang mga kasamahan nito. -Joy Cantos-

25

04 December 2017



Page: 17

SC upholds decision validating ML edict

By Benjamin B. Pulita

The Supreme Court (SC) voted 10-3-1 to uphold the validity of President Duterte's Proclamation 216 issued last May 23 declaring martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao in response to the Islamic State (IS)-inspired armed siege of Marawi City.

SC spokesman Theodore Te said the 15-man High Tribunal voted 10 to 3 to turn down motions for reconsideration filed by petitioners with the court citing mootness and lack of merit.

Malacanang has said it may adopt a recommendation by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) this week on whether or not to lift martial law.

"In the matter of the consolidated petitions...the Court, voting 10-3-1, denied with finality for mootness and lack of merit all three motions for reconsideration filed by petitioners from the Court's decision dated July 4, 2017," the resolution stated.

Last May 23, hours after the IS-inspired Maute Group laid siege in

Turn to page 2

Marawi City, Mr. Duterte placed the whole of Mindanao, including Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, under martial law announced during a press briefing held in Moscow, where Duterte was on an official visit.

Congress supported the measure in a resolution issued last May 31. Through a special joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate, lawmakers in a 261-18 vote backed Mr. Duterte's request to extend Proclamation Order 216 until the end of this year.

Two days after the declaration, last May 25, the Communist Party of the Philippines called on its armed wing, the New People's Army, to "plan and carry out more tactical offensives across Mindanao and the entire archipelago" in response to the government's declaration of martial law.

In its original 82-page July 2017 ruling by Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo, the Court held that there was sufficient factual basis for the

declaration of martial law in Mindanao and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the region after the attacks of local terror group Maute last May in Marawi City.

11 originally in favor of ML

The 11 justices who originally voted in favor of declaring as constitutional the martial law in Mindanao were Justices del Castillo, Presbitero Velasco, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Jose Mendoza, Bienvenido Reyes, Noel Tijan, Lucas Bersamin, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Francis Jardaleza and Samuel Martires.

Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno, Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Antonio Carpio voted for the partial granting of the petitions against martial law.

Both Sereno and Caguioa want to limit martial law in the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Sulu while Carpio wanted it within Marawi only. Associate Justice Marvic Leon O. Denon opposed the proclamation.

It reiterated its finding that the power to declare martial law belongs to the President and that there is no constitutional provision that such emergency power should be implemented only in the place where actual rebellion exists.

The SC added that Congress did not gravely abuse its discretion in not convening jointly upon President Duterte's issuance of Proclamation 216, placing the entire Mindanao region under martial law and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

The Court held that Article VII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution, which allows the President to declare martial law and suspend the writ of habeas corpus only "in case of invasion or rebellion, when public safety requires it," imposes no duty on Congress to convene.

Petitioners filed motions for reconsideration, insisting that there was no sufficient factual basis to justify martial law implementation as several information cited in the proclamation were "false, inaccurate and contrived."

Two other petitioners

local Mindanao leaders led by Lumad leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad claimed in their separate appeals that a key element in act of rebellion - culpable purpose of removing allegiance from the Philippines and preventing the President and legislature from exercising their functions - was not present in the attack of local terror group Maute in Marawi City last May 23 that triggered martial law proclamation.

Solicitor General Jose Calica urged the Court to dismiss the appeals insisting that the attack of Maute Group was not just an act of terror, but was a clear rebellion and actually part of a plot to establish Islamic State in Mindanao.

Last July, the Supreme Court also dismissed the consolidated mandamus petitions urging the Senate and House to convene in joint session and review Proclamation 216.

The magistrates voted unanimously to dismiss the two petitions filed by two

Rene Saguisag and Wigberto seeking issuance of a writ would compel the Senate and Representatives to convene to review the declaration.

"Voting unanimously, the petitions on the ground that it not gravely abuse its discretion convening jointly upon the issuance of Proclamation N 2017) as Article VII, Sec. 18 such duty on Congress to convene (to convene and vote) b to instances where Congress revoke or extend any proclamation martial law or suspension of of the writ of habeas corpus decision.

Thirteen of them held that Court cannot compel Congress with the argument of the O Solicitor General that it has issue the mandamus due to the of powers of the judicial legislature as commander in

01 December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Supreme Court declares final its ruling upholding martial law in Mindanao

By REY G. PANALIGAN

The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday declared final its July 4 ruling on the constitutionality of President Duterte's imposition of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao. ►6

During its full-court session, 10 justices voted to dismiss the motions for reconsideration filed by the petitioners who had challenged the President's Proclamation No. 216 that was issued in response to the attacks by the Maute Group in Marawi City last May 23.

Dismissed were the motions filed by Rep. Edcel Lagman, local Mindanao leaders led by Lumad leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat, and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad.

Those who voted to dismiss the motions were Justices Presbitero J. Velasco Jr, Teresita J. Leonardo de Castro, Diosdado M. Peralta, Lucas P. Bersamin, Mariano C. del Castillo, Estela M. Perlas Bernabe, Samuel Martires, Noel J. Tijam, Andres Reyes Jr., and Alexander Gesmundo.

Justice Francis H. Jardeleza who had earlier voted on the legality of the martial declaration was on leave and did not indicate his vote.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno, Senior Justice Antonio T. Carpio, and Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa voted to partially grant the motions as they maintained their position that martial law should be limited only to certain areas in Mindanao.

Justice Marvic Mario Victor Leonen was the only magistrate who voted to grant the motions.

With the dismissal of the petitions, the SC reiterated its ruling that the President has the power to determine the scope of territorial application of martial law.

Earlier, the SC had unanimously voted to dismiss two petitions that wanted to compel Congress to convene in a joint session to tackle the validity of the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

The SC dismissed the petitions "on the ground that Congress did not gravely abuse its discretion in not convening jointly upon the President's issuance of Proclamation No. 216."

It ruled that Section 18, Article VII, of the Constitution "imposes no such duty on Congress to convene, such duty (to convene and vote) being limited to instances where Congress intends to revoke or extend any proclamation of martial law or suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus."

Congress had voted unanimously to extend the imposition of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao until the end of this year.

The Constitution empowers the President to declare martial law and suspend the writ of habeas corpus "in cases of invasion, rebellion or when public safety requires it."

It mandates the SC "to review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing."

It also provides that "Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President. Upon the initiative of the President, the Congress may, in the same manner, extend such proclamation or suspension for a period to be determined by the Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

December 2017



Page: 3

It's final: SC upholds legality of ML in Mindanao

By EDU PUNAY

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld with finality the legality of President Duterte's martial law declaration in Mindanao.

The justices voted 10-3-1 to affirm the high court's decision last July dismissing three consolidated petitions seeking to strike down Proclamation No. 216 for lack of necessary factual basis.

The SC dismissed the appeals filed by petitioners led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman for mootness and lack of merit.

The high court stood firm in its ruling that there was sufficient factual basis for the declaration of martial law in Mindanao and suspension

of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the region after the attacks of local terror group Maute last May in Marawi City.

Those who voted in the majority to dismiss the appeals of petitioners were Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Samuel Martires, Noel Tijam, Andres Reyes Jr. and Alexander Gesmundo.

Associate Justice Francis Jardeleza, who earlier also voted for the legality of the martial law declaration, was on leave and did not leave his vote.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senior Associate Jus-

tice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa voted to partially grant the appeals and maintained their position that martial rule should be limited to some areas only.

Associate Justice Marvic Leonen again sided with petitioners and was the only magistrate who voted to grant their appeals.

The SC issued its final ruling as President Duterte was set to decide whether to extend the martial law declaration, which lapses by the end of the year.

The Court reiterated its finding that the power to determine the scope of territorial application of martial law belongs to the President and

that there is no constitutional provision that such emergency power should be implemented only in the place where actual rebellion exists.

The government had repeatedly said martial law was necessary to quell rebellion since Islamic State (IS)-inspired local rebel groups had taken up arms against the Philippine government to secede Mindanao from the republic and to deprive Duterte of his powers and prerogatives.

Petitioners filed motions for reconsideration, insisting that there was no sufficient factual basis to justify martial law implementation as several information cited in the proclamation were "false inaccurate and contrived."

28

01 December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 12

Couple killed, burned in feud with 'Mautes'

By **BONITA L. ERMAC**

ILIGAN CITY – A barangay councilor and his wife were shot dead, and their house later set on fire last December 1 by suspects later identified by the couple's children as members of the Maute clan in Barangay Matampay, in Marantao, Lanao del Sur.

Lanao del Sur Provincial Police Director Sr. Supt. John G. Guyguyon identified the victims as Ustadz Khalid Ditingki and his wife Santalia Ditingki.

Guyguyon said the Ditingkis were with their children inside their home when the suspects barged in and opened fire at the couple. The suspects then set the house on fire.

According to Guyguyon, the children were later able to identify their parents' assailants as Nabel S. Tomara, a security guard at the Mindanao State University (MSU) Marawi City campus; Morad Dayaan Maute, a 67-year-old retired security guard; and Roalden and Maunara Maute, residents of Baran-

gay Rapasun, Marawi City.

The suspects had other companions who remained unidentified but were said to be from Pantao Ragat in Lanao del Sur.

On December 2, Marantao police and the Lanao del Sur provincial police were able to arrest Tomara and Morad Maute in Barangay Rapasun, while the other suspects remained at-large.

Nabel and Morad were armed with .45-caliber pistols when they were arrested.

Guyguyon said the Mautes were actually relatives of the victims because the children were readily able to identify the suspects.

"May lumalabas na awayan tungkol sa lote (There seems to be an angle about feud over a piece of land), but we are still digging deeper and are not discounting investigation on other issues, and we'll see what's the involvement of the Maute, as they are also trying to see kung ano ang relationship sa gumawa dito sa Marawi (on what is the link to those who perpetrated the Marawi siege)," said Guyguyon.

29

06 December 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 17

7 Maute brothers confirmed dead

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: The chief of the Western Mindanao Command (WestMin-Com) has confirmed that all seven Maute brothers were killed by government troops who battled members of the Maute Group from May to October this year in Marawi City.

The Islamic State-linked Maute group seized several areas in the Islamic city on May 23, prompting President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., WestMin-Com chief, announced the killing of the Maute brothers during a meeting of the regional peace and order council (RPOC)

► Dead A8

in Cotabato City.

Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon, top leaders of the Maute group, were killed in a military assault on October 16. Abdullah Maute was believed killed in September.

Galvez said although all the Maute brothers are dead, the military continues its manhunt for Abu Dar, a senior Maute leader who remains at large.

Dar belongs to a Maranao tribe just like the Maute brothers. He was a member of the central leadership of the Maute terror group.

The Maute patriarch, Cayamora, who was arrested in Davao City in

June, died of an illness while in a police detention facility in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. Cayamora's first wife, Farhana, mother of the seven slain Maute brothers, was arrested by the police in Masiu town in Lanao del Sur in August. She is being detained on rebellion charges.

"Abu Dar can likely assume the leadership of the Maute terror group," Galvez told members of the RPOC, headed by Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujiv Hataman.

Mayor Dimnatang Pansar of Butig, hometown of the Maute clan, corroborated the announcement of Galvez,

saying he also received reports confirming that all seven Maute siblings, who started the trouble in Marawi City, are dead.

"Many of their leaders were killed during the conflict in Marawi City," Pansar said.

Pansar, president of the League of Mayors in Lanao del Sur, said the bigger challenge now for the government is the rebuilding of Butig and Marawi City.

RPOC members have agreed to help the "good Mautes" who were forced to go underground rejoin society.

"We will not treat them as special people. We can only help them return

to their communities but subject to coordination with the police and the military," Hataman said.

ARMM Vice Governor Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman said many of the Mautes not connected to the terror group have been ostracized.

Hataman has called on all 39 municipal peace and order councils in Lanao del Sur to help the police and military prevent recruitment of Maranaos by local IS-inspired blocs.

"There must be strong semblance of government in the municipalities. War is destructive. We have to prevent conflicts within our level first before we let the military come in. Our presence in the municipalities will help a lot," he said.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

30

06 December 2017

Pahina. 2

Noche Buena package sa Marawi soldiers

BILANG Pamaskong handog sa mga tauhan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines partikular na ang mga nasugatang sundalo na sumabak sa Marawi siege, naghahandog ng Noche Buena package ang isang grupo ng mga designer at artists kahapon ng umaga sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Personal na iniabot ni Jovylyn Salinas, Movement of Designers and Artists representative, kay Lt.Col. Glenn A. Dela Rosa, OIC Relief Operation ng AFP, ang mga Noche Buena package at isang tseke na naglalaman ng halagang P100,000 bilang tulong sa mga nasugatang sundalo gayundin sa pamilya ng mga nasawing miyembro ng AFP sa isinagawang "turnover ceremony" sa Civil Relations Service AFP Multi-Purpose Hall kahapon.

Nagpasalamat naman si Dela Rosa sa pamunuan ng MODA dahil malaking tulong umano ang kanilang iniabot sa mga sugatang sundalo na sumabak sa Marawi laban sa mga Maute ISIS na kasalukuyang ginagamot sa AFP Medical Center, V. Luna, Quezon City.

Bukod sa mga sugatang sundalo, bibigyan din ang mga pamilyang naiwan ng mga nasawing sundalo ng pinansiyal na tulong mula sa inihandog na P100,000 ng MODA sa AFP.

JAY REYES



PERSONAL na iniabot ni Ms. Jean Salinas, board member ng Movement of Designers and Artists kay Lt.Col. Glenn Dela Rosa, OIC Relief Operation at kinatawan ni Major General Ronnie S. Evangelista, commander ng Civil Relation Service of AFP sa Camp Aguinaldo Quezon City, ang noche buena package at tseke sa isinagawang "turnover ceremony" sa Civil Relations Service AFP Multi-Purpose Hall kahapon. CRISMON HERAMIS

31

December 2017

Pahina. 3

Teroristang grupo na ang NPA

IDINEKLARA na ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte na teroristang grupo ang New People's Army (NPA). Isang proklamasyon ang inilabas ng Presidente at binasa kahapon ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque.

Tinupad ni Duterte ang sinabi noong nakaraang linggo makaraang itermimate na ang peace talks sa Communist Party of the Philippines. Ang pag-terminate sa peace talks ay nakasaad sa Proclamation No. 360. Wala na umanong peace talks. Hindi naman sinabi kahapon kung magdedeklara ng ceasefire ang gobyerno ngayong Christmas season.

Asahan na ang sunud-sunod na engkuwentro ng mga sundalo at NPA ngayong pormal nang tinawag na terorista ang grupo. Noong isang araw, sinabi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na mamili ang NPA: sumuko o mamatay? Ibig sabihin, preparado na ang mga sundalo sa pakikipaggiyera sa NPA. Wala nang atrasan at magkakaubusan.

Inaasahan naman ito ni Duterte noon pa kaya ang sabi niya sa mga sundalo ay maging preparado ang mga sundalo sa lahat ng oras sapagkat magkakaroon ng matinding labanan. Kaya gusto niyang palakasin ang military. Gagastusan daw niya nang malaki. Hindi raw siya papayag na maging mahina ang mga sundalo sa pagkakataong ito.

Sumiklab ang galit si Duterte sa NPA na nagbunga sa pag-terminate ng peace talks nang tandingan ang mga pulis sa Talakad, Bukidnon noong Nobyembre 10 na ikinamatay ng isang pulis at apat na buwang sanggol. Hindi na raw siya naniniwala sa NPA na ipinaglalaman ng mga ito ang maliliit at inaaping mamamayan. Lousy statement na umano ito ng NPA.

Bukod sa pang-aambus na ikinamamatay ng mga walang suwang na bata, notorious na rin ang NPA sa panghihingi ng revolutionary tax sa mga establishment gaya ng bus company. At ang hindi nakakapagbigay, sinunog ang mga bus at iba pang heavy equipment. Ayon sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) mula Enero hanggang Nobyembre 2017, umabot na sa P2 bilyon ang halaga ng mga sinunog ng NPA.

Gawain ito ng terorista. Pinapatay nila ang pinagkukunan ng ikabubuhay. Dahil sa gawaing ito, marami ang nakararanas ng gutom. Taliwas ito sa kanilang sinasabi na sila ay tagapagtanggol ng mamamayan. Kung tagapagtanggol, dapat bang sunugin ang pinagkukunan ng ikabubuhay? Tama lang ang label na terorista sa kanila.



Larry Goy '17
12.6.17

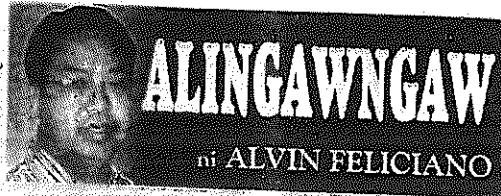
32

RONNIE M. HALOS • Editor

06 December 2017

Pahina. 4

DUTERTE HINDI KAYANG PAIKUTIN NG KALIWA



MALINAW na tapos na ang maliligayang araw ng CPP-NPA sa administrasyong Duterte.

Napuno na kasi ang salop ng pinuno ng bansa dahil sa kawalang sinseridad ng CPP-NPA-NDF sa pakikipag-usap sa pamahalaan.

Ang gusto kasi ng mga komunista at ngayon ay teroristang grupo ay magpatuloy ang kanilang paghahasik ng lagim sa bansa sa kabila ng tigil-putukan na idineklara ng pamahalaan.

Mag-uusap sa Netherlands pero sa kanyunang ay patuloy ang pag-atake ng NPA sa ating mga kapulisan at kasundaluhan na malinaw na isang paglabag at pambabastos sa usapang pangkapayaan.

Tiwala ang nawala sa parte ng punong lider

ng gobyerno na tugma lamang sa inasal ng mga

terorista kaya tama lamang na tapusin na ang 50 taong labanan na ang talunan ay taumbayan.

Dapat na ring panagutin ang mga lider ng CPP-NPA-NDF sa kani-

lang mga kasalanan sa bayan dahil marami-rami na ring nagbuwis ng buhay na mga inosenteng sibilyan. Pagtuldok ng paghahasik ng karahasan ng CPP-NPA ang

gusto ni Digong at diyang 100% na kakampi niya ang mamamayan.

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Lahat ng itinalagang gabinete ni Pangulong Duterte ay puro masisipag.

Hindi maitatangging napakabilis ng mga proyektong isinasagawa kung ikukumpara sa kahit sinong rehimen na nagdaan maliban lamang

kay Marcos.

Malinaw ang instruction ni Pangulong Digong sa lahat at iyan ay magtrabaho nang magtrabaho para sa bayan.

Masipag ang Pangulo, dapat masisipag din ang kanyang mga tao.

06 December 2017



Pahina. 5

TIGIL-PUTUKAN SA PASKO - IMEE

NANAWAGAN si Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos sa pamahalaan na magdeklara ito ng tigil-putukan sa Disyembre 24 at 25 kahit tapos na ang pag-uusap ng pamahalaan at ng komunistang grupo ni Jose Ma. Sison tungo sa pangmatagalang pangkapayapaan sa Pilipinas.

Ang layunin ni Imee ay upang huwag namang maipit ang mga ordinaryong tao sa pag-atake at kontra-atake ng New People's Army sa Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police habang ipinagdiriwang ang kapanganakan ni Kristo.

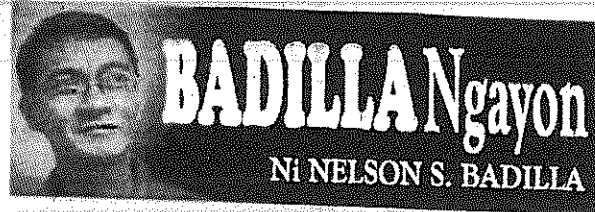
Ang pagdiriwang ng Pasko sa Pilipinas ay bahagi na ng kultura nating mga Filipino, sapagkat layo ay bansang Katolika simula nang sakupin ito ng Espanya noong ika-16 na siglo.

Bilang bansang Katolika, tayo ay lubos na kumikilala sa mga aral ng Katolisismo, kabilang ang Disyembre 25 bilang araw ng kapanganakan ni Hesukristo.

Kaya, nararapat lamang na magdeklara ang pamahalaan ng tigil-putukan sa bisperas ng Pasko at mismong Pasko tulad ng sinasabi ni Imee Marcos.

Huwag nang intindihin ng administrasyong Duterte kung hindi magdedeklara ang Communist Party of the Philippines ng sarili nitong tigil-putukan upang ang kanyang NPA ay hindi maglunsad ng mga pag-atake sa mga armadong pwersa ng pamahalaan.

Ang mahalaga, nagbigay-araan ang gobyerno sa katahimikang hangad ng mamamayang Filipino.



Si Sison na lamang ang magpaliwanag sa mamamayang Filipino kung bakit binabastos ng CPP at NPA ang sagradong kahulugan ng kapanganakan ni Hesukristo.

Ang mahalaga ay ang pagpapakita ng administrasyong Duterte ng pagkilala at paggalang sa pagkakasilang ni Hesukristo.

Ang mahalaga ay ang pagbibigay-galang ng Pangulo sa kagustuhan ng mga Filipino na ipagdiwang ang Pasko nang masaya, maluwalhati, at walang nagaganap na barilan sa kapwa Filipino.

Kaya, napakahusay at na-

pakamakatao ng panawagan ni Imee Marcos sa Pangulo, sapagkat ang nasa isip ng pinuno ng mga Ilokano ay ang mga Filipino na naghahangad ng masaya at matiwasay na pagdiriwang ng kapanganakan ni Hesukristo.

Mas mainam kung susugan ng iba pang opisyal ng mga pamahalaang lokal itong panawagan ni Imee sa administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte upang lalong lumakas ang panawagang bumalik muna ang sundalo at pulis sa kani-kanilang kampo at dalawang araw na huwag makipagsagupaan sa mga armadong Maoista.

34

ONLINE NEWS

06 DECEMBER 2017

www.pna.gov.p

500 Marawi families to get new homes before Christmas: DPWH

By Ferdinand Patinio December 5, 2017, 8:42 pm

MANILA -- Some 500 families displaced by the Marawi City siege would be moving in the transition shelters before Christmas, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on Tuesday.

According to DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, the construction of resettlement area in Barangay Sagonsongan is on schedule, thus, they expect the initial number of beneficiaries to be in their new transition homes before December 25.

"The construction of the houses is on going. They have already completed the construction of (some of) the houses," he said in an interview.

Villar recently visited the areas that were damaged by the war between government forces and the Maute group, which lasted for five months.

The Duterte administration is eyeing 4,000 "bakwit" families to benefit from building the transition area.

"But an initial batch of houses by December, before Christmas, would be available. The target is 500 houses before Christmas," the DPWH chief added.

He said that the local government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) would be the ones that would identify the first 500 families that would occupy the newly-built houses.

Earlier, Villar reported that post conflict needs assessment (PCNA) team has entered the area to conduct assessment on the extent of the damage on the infrastructure in the war-torn city.

"Continuous data is coming in, we would be able to assess," he said. (PNA)

30

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Duterte formally declares CPP-NPA as terror group

By Jose Cielito Reganit December 5, 2017, 8:32 pm

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte has signed a proclamation formally designating the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) as a terrorist organization.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque made the announcement during a press conference in Malacañang.

The Palace spokesperson said the President signed the proclamation pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10168 or the Human Security Act.

Roque said that under the law, affiliate revolutionary groups of the CPP-NPA would now also be considered terrorists groups, and anyone proven to be financing these groups would be held liable.

Citing the pertinent provisions of RA 10168, Roque said that a designated person is "any person or entity designated or identified as a terrorist, as one who finances terrorism or a terrorist organization or group under the applicable United Nations Security Council resolution or by another jurisdiction or supranational jurisdiction and pursuant to the proclamation which implements the Human Security Act."

"Take note that the domestic statute and the UN Security Council prohibits the giving of funds to terrorist organizations, this will enable law enforcement agencies to run after individuals who will, in any way, provide financial support to the NPA now that it has been described as a terrorist organization," Roque said.

In his proclamation, Duterte directed the Department of Foreign Affairs "to publish the foregoing designation of CPP-NPA and other designated persons, organizations, in accordance with Sections 3 and 15 of RA 10168 and its implementing rules and regulations."

The proclamation was issued two weeks after the Philippine government terminated peace talks with the CPP-NPA after a series of violent attacks that the President said is against humanitarian law.

Meanwhile, Roque said that due to the proclamation, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea has already issued a memorandum to Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II to immediately file the necessary application for the declaration of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization with the appropriate regional trial court (RTC).

He said this is because a proper petition must be filed by the DOJ in court to classify the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group under the Human Security Act for the group to be considered as such under domestic laws and under relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

"This is not just in relation to Philippine domestic law but also in relation to a UN Security Council resolution intended to curtail financing of terrorist organizations," Roque said. **(PNA)**

37

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Lorenzana mum on martial law, Guerrero extension

By Priam Nepomuceno December 5, 2017, 5:03 pm

MANILA -- Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana refused to comment on the possible extension of martial law in Mindanao and Gen. Rey Leonard Guerrero's term as Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff.

"I cannot talk about that, we already submitted our recommendation (on the extension of martial law in Mindanao) yesterday (Monday)," Lorenzana said on the sidelines of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Yearend Meeting, held at the AFP Commissioned Officers' Club in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City Tuesday.

When asked on the contents of their recommendations, the DND chief replied, "*Hindi ko sasabihin sa inyo kasi bahala na ang Malacanang na mag-announce kung ano yun.* (I will not share that with you anymore. It is up to Malacanang to announce what that recommendation is.)"

Martial law was declared in Mindanao on May 23 following the series of attacks conducted by Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

The Congress, voting jointly -- 261 against 18 -- affirmed the need to extend Proclamation No. 216 extending martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus until Dec. 31 as initiated by President Rodrigo Duterte.

When queried on whether he recommended the extension of Guerrero as AFP chief, Lorenzana also declined to comment on the matter.

"I cannot talk about that," he added.

Guerrero succeeded Gen. Eduardo Año last Oct. 26. He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984.

He is expected to retire on December 17. **(PNA)**

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