

Army Vision: By 2038, 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 February 2017

Monday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

06 FEBRUARY 2017

This collage features two newspaper front pages. On the left is the Manila Standard, with a main headline 'Reds deemed terrorists' and a sub-headline 'CSRP leader drops spurs origin of terror'. It includes a photograph of a group of people in red clothing. On the right is The Manila Times, with a main headline 'Duterte brands Reds 'terrorists'' and a sub-headline 'Corruption probes pay for full tale'. It includes a photograph of a man in a dark shirt.

This collage features two newspaper front pages. On the left is Business Insight, with a main headline 'PSA expansion hinges loan push' and a sub-headline 'Culture can still lead your life'. It includes a photograph of a man in a yellow shirt. On the right is Malaya, with a main headline 'GFP-NGP now a terrorist group: Duterte' and a sub-headline 'He is 'warrior in Cebu, blame Duterte for severe wounds''. It includes a photograph of a group of people.

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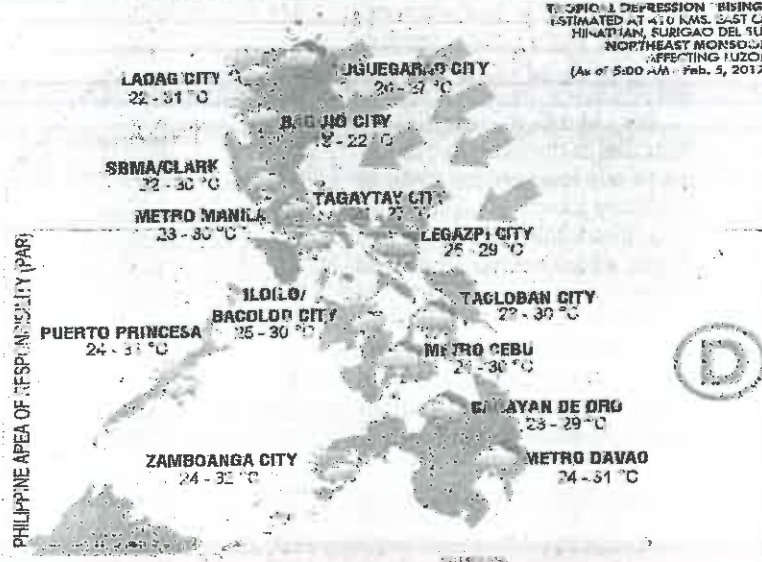
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 6, 2017 | MONDAY

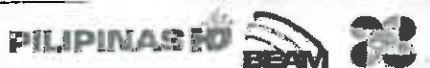


TROPICAL DEPRESSION "BISING" ESTIMATED AT 410 KMS. EAST OF HINATIHAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR, NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON (As of 5:00 AM - Feb. 5, 2017)

SUNRISE 6:23 AM	SUNSET 5:57 PM
MOONRISE 1:28 PM	MOONSET 1:36 AM
FIRST QUARTER FEB 12 10 PM	FULL MOON FEB 14 6:32 AM
LOW TIDE 1:00 AM 0.06 Meter	HIGH TIDE 5:41 PM 0.68 Meter

	FEB 6	FEB 7	FEB 8	FEB 9	FEB 10
METRO MANILA	22-29 °C	22-29 °C	20-26 °C	20-26 °C	22-29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21-26 °C	20-26 °C	25-28 °C	26-28 °C	23-29 °C
LADAG	21-30 °C	19-31 °C	25-31 °C	26-31 °C	24-31 °C
BAGUIO	13-22 °C	13-22 °C	25-29 °C	26-29 °C	24-33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	22-29 °C	21-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	
TAGAYTAY	20-26 °C	20-26 °C	25-28 °C	26-28 °C	23-29 °C
LEGAZPI	25-28 °C	26-28 °C	25-31 °C	26-31 °C	24-31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25-31 °C	26-31 °C	25-29 °C	26-29 °C	24-33 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-29 °C	26-29 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	
METRO CEBU	24-30 °C	24-30 °C			
TACLOBAN	22-29 °C	23-30 °C			
CAGAYAN DE ORO	23-29 °C	23-29 °C			
METRO DAVAO	24-31 °C	24-31 °C			
ZAMBOANGA	24-33 °C	24-32 °C			

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INQUIRER

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GOV'T, REDS URGED: DON'T ABANDON TALKS

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

- Peace advocates fear collapse of talks will again bring terror to the poor in the countryside
- Negotiations can proceed even without a ceasefire, according to two NDFP consultants

- President Duterte orders arrest of communist rebel negotiators once they arrive in Manila

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FROM A1

**By the Inquirer Staff
Team Inquirer**

Give peace another chance was the cry of various sectors after President Duterte scrapped peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Elders, retired professionals, church men and peace advocates from the Cordillera and Ilocos Valley have urged the government and the NDFP to agree on a bilateral ceasefire and to continue their talks, saying, "we have already seen so much bloodshed in our lifetime."

"We are afraid of innocent civilians being caught in the crossfire between the government and rebel forces," the network said in a statement. The conflict has killed at least 10,000 people since it began 47 years ago.

Sen Risa Hontiveros also voiced hope that the Duterte administration and the NDFP would continue to find reason-

able compromises to pursue peace, and "not succumb to violence."

The government and the NDFP discussed a bilateral ceasefire during the third round of talks in Rome last month. The communist New People's Army (NPA), however, announced that it would lift its ceasefire on Feb. 10 following disagreements on the release of 400 political prisoners. It also accused the government of moving troops into territories it held.

Mr. Duterte's declaration to end the peace talks came a few hours after he lifted his administration's six-month unilateral ceasefire.

He said he ended the ceasefire ahead of the scheduled lifting of the truce by the rebels because soldiers had died in NPA attacks.

Return of terror

A priest said the collapse of the talks would again bring terror to the poor in the countryside.

Fr. Pete Montallana appealed to the communist leadership and Mr. Duterte to work things out, saying clashes between govern-



President Duterte

ment forces and communist rebels had caused fear and hunger among Agta-Dumagat tribe in the Sierra Madre.

Msgr Meliton Oso, executive director of the Jaro Archdiocese Social Action Center, said the talks must continue "in order to thresh out differences and resolve the roots of the armed conflict until an agreement is reached."

Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto urged the two parties to pull back from the brink of reigniting the conflict.

"It is never too late to give

peace another chance. In the search for a settlement, one must never tire of negotiation-fatigue," he said in a statement.

For his part, Sen Panfilo Lacson said the President was not totally closing the door to peace talks with communist rebels, noting that Mr. Duterte said he would reopen it if there was "compelling reason" to do so.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate also urged Mr. Duterte to reconsider his decision to scuttle the talks.

Deal still possible

Signing a peace deal with the rebels was still possible, a Palace official said on Sunday.

A presidential communications assistant secretary, Marie Banaag, said the government panel, led by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, would still pursue "permanent peace and how to go about the parameters of going through a permanent ceasefire."

"Malacañang is still open to negotiations," Banaag said on state radio dzRB.

An Iloilo-based NDFP consultant, Maria Concepcion Araneta-Bocala, said her group was not

closing the door on the talks.

"We want the negotiations to continue even without a ceasefire because this has been done in the past and had not prevented the talks to advance," she said.

Lifting the ceasefire was not a reason to suspend the talks, said another NDFP consultant. Randy Malayao said that despite the absence of any ceasefire orders during the Ramos, Estrada, Arroyo and Aquino administrations, several important agreements and documents were signed.

At the closing ceremony of the talks in Rome on Jan. 25, Norway's special envoy Elisabeth Slattum said setbacks like clashes were expected.

"I have yet to witness a peace process where there have not ever been ups and downs, a peace process that has not been messy, where there haven't been any clashes on the ground or violations of ceasefire or publicly expressed frustration," Slattum said.

—REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS, CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, VINCENT CABREZA, VINCE F. NONATO, DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., NESTOR P. BURGOS AND KARLOS MANLUPIG INQ

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Foreign businessmen fear for their safety

By RICHMOND MERCURIO

Foreign businessmen in the country are beginning to doubt the ability of local authorities to ensure their safety, following reports that high-ranking police were behind the kidnap-slay of Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo at police headquarters in Camp Crame last October.

"We promote trade and investment between their respective countries and regions in both directions, but can only succeed in their mission if peace and order and safety can be guaranteed by the authorities," the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines said in a statement over the weekend.

"The kidripping and brutal killing of Jee Ick-joo puts these expected guarantees in question," the group stressed.

Members of the JFC – the American, Australian-New Zealand, European and Japanese chambers – said they fully support the concerns expressed by the Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines (KCCP) over the kidnapping and murder of Jee and, in general, "the safety of local and foreign businessmen and residents at large in the Philippines."

"We agree with the KCCP that the

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Foreign From Page 1

case has to be fully investigated, the people who did it or organized it be brought to justice fast and that the government clearly states its policy on peace and order and on the safety of local and foreign residents," the coalition of foreign business groups said.

The JFC pointed out, though, that it appreciates President Duterte's assurance that the people behind Jee's death would get the maximum punishment.

The Korean business community in the Philippines earlier called on the government to double its efforts in ensuring the safety of Korean nationals in the country, following reports on Jee's death.

"As an organization that protects the interest and promotes the Philippines as an investment hub for Korean businessmen, we are very shocked and saddened to hear one innocent Korean businessman became a victim of heinous crime committed by a group led by high ranking police officers, who were supposed to protect the safety and welfare of each individual here in the Philippines," the KCCP said.

According to the KCCP, the government of South Korea strongly protects the welfare of almost 50,000 overseas Filipino workers there and expects the Philippine government to do the same for

the 120,000 Koreans residing the country.

Full security in eastern MM

For its part, the Eastern Police District (EPD) has assured Koreans living in the eastern part of Metro Manila of full security against criminals.

EPD director Chief Supt. Romulo Sapitula gave the assurance in a dialogue over the weekend with Koreans living in the cities of Pasig, Marikina, Mandaluyong and San Juan.

Sapitula met with Korean community leaders Charlie Shin, Samuel Kang and Clone Kim to discuss security measures the EPD has been implementing to ensure the foreigners' safety while doing business and living in the eastern part of Metro Manila.

"We had a very conducive meeting," Sapitula told reporters yesterday. "We had a free-wheeling discussion on how to improve crime reporting and cooperation in solving crimes involving Korean nationals."

Accompanied by Pasig City police chief Senior Supt. Orlando Yebra Jr., Sapitula sought the dialogue with the Koreans following Jee's murder.

Shin told Sapitula the Koreans would cooperate and gladly forward information regarding crimes against Koreans to the police for speedy resolution.

The Koreans also requested Sapitula

for more frequent meetings to solve their security concerns before "it's too late."

"We established direct communication lines for easy access to each other, and cases involving

Koreans would be addressed immediately," Sapitula said.
- With Non Alquitran

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Gov't troops, NPAs clash in Iloilo village

By JENNIFER RENDON

ILOILO CITY – After a lull, government troops and the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels engaged in what could be their first reported clash this year.

The Army's 61st Infantry Battalion encountered some 14 suspected NPA rebels in a remote village in Lambunao, this city on Saturday.

No troops were killed or wounded but the rebels reportedly sustained two wounded fighters during the 20-minute firefight.

The skirmish occurred shortly after President Duterte scuttled the government's truce declaration with the communist rebels.

Lt Col. Leonardo Peña, commanding officer of the 61st Infantry Battalion said the troops encountered members of the Baloy Platoon of the NPA's Komiteng Rehiyon Panay-Central Front Committee.

Peña said they received reports that the rebels planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the area.

When the Army troops responded, they encountered the rebels near a bridge leading into the village.

Villagers said the NPA rebels retreated after two of their fighters were wounded.

Lt Col. Ericson Rosana, spokesman of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said they were alerted against possible NPA attacks in the region.

"With the suspension of the unilateral ceasefire, we could now conduct combat operations," he added.

Rosana also asked the people to help the government in its effort to bring peace to the Panay Island region.

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POLICE FILES

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Militar at NPA nagbabakbak sa Mindoro, ilang oras matapos suspendihin ang peace talks

NAGKABAKBAKAN agad ang tropa ng pamahalaan at rebelding komunista kahapon sa Mindoro province, ilang oras matapos ipaliyag ni President Rodrigo Duterte ang pagkansela ng gobyerno sa peacetalks sa Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Sa ulat ni Maj. Gen. Erick Parayno, kumander ng Philippine Army 2nd Division, isang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA), ang napatay sa bakbakan.

Ang sagupaan na nangyari sa hindi inihayag na lugar sa Mindoro province ay nagsimula alas-2:00 ng hapon.

Nakarekober ang tropa ng isang kalibre .45 pistol.

Nitong Sabado lamang ay sinususpendi ni Duterte ang peace talks sa grupong komunista.

Sinabi ng Presidente na hindi siya bibigay sa kahilingan ng NPA na palayain ang lahat ng political prisoners.

Ipinahayag niya ito matapos kanselahin ng gobyerno ang unilateral ceasefire sa CPP nung nakaraang Biyernes. Pero nang nagkansela ng ceasefire declaration ang CPP.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Soldier, driver hurt in blasts

A SOLDIER and the driver of a town mayor, who were part of a medical mission, were hurt in a roadside bomb explosion in Tuburan, Basilan last Saturday, the AFP Western Mindanao Command yesterday said.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Wesmincom information officer, said a first explosion forced the convoy to stop. While members of the explosives and ordnance

division (EOD) were inspecting the blast site, a second explosion then occurred a few meters away, hitting the unnamed Scout Ranger and the driver of Tuburan Mayor Dorie Kallahal.

Members of the EOD recovered at the blast sites improvised explosive device components, a handheld radio, two pieces 9-volt batteries, and 20 meters electric wire. — *Raymond Africa*

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2 hurt as IED explosions mar Basilan medical-dental mission

Philippine News Agency

Western Mindanao Command (WMC) units are now tracking down the armed lawless group who detonated two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during a medical-dental mission in Tuburan town, Basilan, wounding two persons, noontime Saturday.

The first blast took place around 12 noon, said WMC spokesperson Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay.

No one was injured in this explosion, she added.

However, this prompted the deployment of an explosive ordnance disposal team to check if there were other IEDs laid nearby.

As this unit was searching, another blast took place, this time wounding of the securing members of the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion and the driver of Tuburan Mayor Dorie Kallahal who was present in the area.

Subsequent searches eventually resulted in the recovery of two pieces of improvised electrical circuit, one "TVT" hand-held radio, two pieces of 9-volt batteries, 20 meters of electric wire, Petinglay added.

However, the two explosions failed to prevent the ongoing dental-medical mission which benefitted 500 residents of Tuburan town, she stressed.

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(Update) Basilan town mayor unscathed in roadside bombing; soldier, driver wounded

Philippine News Agency

Two people, including a soldier, were wounded while a town mayor was unscathed in a roadside bombing on Saturday in the municipality of Tuburan, Basilan province.

Senior Insp. Said Omar Ismael, Tuburan police chief, disclosed the incident occurred around 2:45 p.m. Saturday, in Sitio Sawiti, Barangay Calut (not Barnagay Duga-a as earlier reported), Tuburan, Basilan.

Ismael identified the wounded soldier as Cpl. Christian Ibarreta of the Army's 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion and Misuari Jamiri, the driver of Tuburan Mayor Durie Kallahal.

Jamiri was transported by speed boat from Basilan to this city for medical treatment.

Col. Cirilo Donato, Army's 104th Infantry Brigade commander, said Kallahal was unscathed since he disembarked before his vehicle tripped on an improvised explosive device fashioned out as a landmine.

The pick-up type vehicle of Kallahal was riddled with shrapnel holes and its left rear tire was blown off as a result of the roadside bomb explosion.

Ismael said that Kallahal accompanied by 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion troops went to Sitio Sawiti, Barangay Calut to inspect the blast site where a bomb exploded around 10:15 a.m. Saturday.

Ismael said no one was either killed or wounded in the 10:15 a.m. incident since the bomb exploded in a vacant lot.

At that time, Kallahal and the troops of the Army's 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion were conducting medical outreach mission in downtown Tuburan.

Both the military and police authorities said the roadside bombing was the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) since Kallahal is known to be fighting against the bandit group in his town.

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Army's 5th Special Forces names new commander

Manila Times

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: The new battalion commander of the Philippine Army's 5th Special Forces Battalion in Cotabato City assumed post and vowed to increase vigilance for a more peaceful city.

Lieutenant Col. Eros James Uri took over the command from Lieutenant Colonel Nasser Lidasan during a ceremony presided by Special Forces Regiment (Airborne) Commander Colonel Ramiro Manuel Rey.

Lidasan was reassigned to the 6th Infantry Kampilan Division headquarters in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

Uri, for his part, vowed to continue the thrust and programs implemented by his predecessor and assured that law and order will be maintained at all times.

The 5th Special Forces battalion secures the periphery of Cotabato City, to include part of the municipalities of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Kabuntalan, and Sultan Kudarat, all in Maguindanao.

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Solons doubt military equipped for drugs war

By Angie M. Rosales and Mario J. Mallari

Senators reiterated a warning to Malacanang in pursuing President Duterte's plan to include the military in the campaign against drugs citing the legal repercussion of the move.

"A re-training of the military is needed because law enforcement is not their job. If all the Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP) will be tapped for support, it can provide intelligence services but in operations like in serving search warrants, there might be problems there," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.

In a radio interview, Lacson emphasized that the provision in the

Constitution which allows the President to call out the military is only in situation in which they will be tasked to suppress lawless violence.

On illegal drugs law enforcement, this should be thoroughly reviewed by the legal adviser of Malacanang on what best should be done," he said on Duterte's plan to have a component of AFP be part of the war on drugs to be led now by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Lacson also proposed a meeting of Palace legal advisers and the NSC (National Security Council) at least on the level of the Executive branch to tackle Mr. Duterte's proposal.

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"If this is implemented, it might be questioned in the SC (Supreme Court)," said Lacson.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros shared the same view adding that the military's entry into the picture will only add to the already chaotic situation.

"I am wary that allowing the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to implement a flawed and abusive style of war on drugs will only subject it to the same fate as the PNP (Philippine National Police)," she said in a statement.

"May I remind the government that the military has a different mandate and orientation. It should not be dragged into civilian policing. While the military and the PNP are both 'legal bearers of arms', they have different roles and training," she said.

Hontiveros emphasized that the police force' role is law enforcement and apprehension of criminal offenders while the military is trained for combat duties.

"To blur these lines is not only dangerous, it is a throwback to Martial Law times. It is a nod to authoritarian leadership," she said, adding that such move will roll back whatever important gains in security reforms in the AFP.

A number of senators have already expressed concern over the President's plan to have the military take an active role in the operations of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in continuing with Oplan Tokhang, citing possible unconstitutionality of the move.

Hontiveros noted that the President's plan to let the PDEA lead the government's anti-drug campaign is not new as the agency has the mandate to push for efficient law enforcement in the fight against illegal drugs.

However, unless the government's current strategy to respond to the country's drug problem is radically overhauled and the country's security forces are thoroughly cleansed of scalawags, whether it is the PDEA or Philippine National Police (PNP), the anti-drug campaign will continue to be abusive and corrupt-prone.

Ping to Rody: 'Don't lose trust'

Lacson also expressed disappointment in hearing Duterte making statements that he has lost trust in the PNP or the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in the light of what happened to Korean businessman Jee Ick Joo.

"For me, the statement was not right, he should have not lost his confidence on constitutionally established institutions but you can change leadership of these institutions," he said.

"You may lose trust in the commander-in-chief, you may lose trust in the leadership of those institutions. But never say you lost trust in those institutions," he said.

Mr. Duterte was also cautioned by concerned police and military officers in tapping the AFP in the government's all-out war against illegal drugs - branding such move may even lead to more problems and abuses.

The officials, who requested anonymity, cited the military's lack of training in law enforcement, particularly on campaign against illegal drugs.

"We have to remember that the training of our soldiers is to search and destroy. They are not trained to conduct anti-illegal drug operations. So, that's really a big problem," a retired military general told The Tribune.

"Intentionally or unintentionally, abuses might be committed if we exposed AFP troops to the war on drugs," he added.

A ranking police official also expressed pessimism over the government's war on drugs without the PNP in the forefront.

"PDEA alone cannot pursue the war against drugs, while the AFP is not equipped to conduct anti-drug operations...the PNP is trained for this without it the campaign is bound

to fail," a Camp Crame-based security official said.

The sources stressed that training soldiers to conduct anti-drug operations will be a waste of time and money.

"Instead of tapping soldiers, the President should push harder for the cleansing of police ranks and pursue the war on drugs with the PNP at the forefront. While there are scalawags in the PNP, majority of our policemen are dedicated in their sworn duty which is to serve and protect," the second source said.

The President has tapped the AFP to join in the government's war on drugs after he ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to stop operating against illegal drugs.

Instead of pursuing the war on drugs, Duterte directed the PNP leadership to cleanse its ranks of scalawags.

The order came following the kidnap-slaying of South Korean businessman Jee Ick Joo, allegedly by active PNP personnel and NBI agents, led by SPO3 Ricky Sta. Isabel.

Immediately after the President made the order, PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa ordered all anti-illegal drug units of the PNP dissolved, particularly the Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) and activated the Counter Intelligence Task Force (CITF) to weed out rogue policemen.

Sta. Isabel and his immediate superior Supt. Raphael Dumlaog, who was also implicated in the kidnap-slaying of Jee, were assigned with AIDG.

Relatedly, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno admitted that there are indeed risks in tapping the military in the war against illegal drugs.

"That's not the job of the...it's really dangerous to involve the military because it's not their job," said Sueno in a broadcast interview yesterday.

"That is not their training, their's (training) are foreign invasion, rebellion but not policing common crimes," he added.

During a meeting of the government security cluster, Sueno said that there were suggestions to have military troops undergo training

and seminar to be actively involved in the campaign against illegal drugs.

"The training has already started. I think they have chosen those who will work with PDEA. In the meantime, our war on drugs continues," Sueno added.

The DILG chief also expressed full support to Dela Rosa's campaign to rid the PNP ranks of scalawags.

"Bato (Dela Rosa's nickname) is very sincere and committed in really cleansing (PNP ranks) because he was ashamed," Sueno said.

DILG's new tack

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is adopting a new approach in the war against illegal drugs -tapping peace and order councils down to barangay level and to the family to identify drug-free homes and place sticker on them while peacefully convince those affected to stop drugs.

In a broadcast interview, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno said that the DILG is adopting the campaign launched in Bohol where local government units' (LGUs) peace and order councils is taking the lead role in the campaign.

"We will continue the war on drugs but the focus now is not on the PNP (Philippine National Police) but on the peace and order councils," said Sueno.

"We will focus on the family, not really on the barangays but on the family which is the basic unit of society...what we do is to identify drug-free houses," he added.

Sueno explained that under new campaign stickers would be placed on drug-free houses while authorities, down to barangay level, would be convincing others who remain affected by illegal drugs to stop.

"We will appeal to them to stop, that they will qualify to drug-free homes," he said.

Peace and order councils, Sueno said, include barangay chairman, members of the barangay council, local police, barangay watchmen, representatives from the religious sector and other stakeholders.

If a barangay chairman is involved in the illegal drugs, noting that President Duterte has announced that his drug list included incumbent barangay leaders, Sueno said they will move the council up to the municipal level.

"We copied this from Bohol...there are so many initiatives from local government officials...we will no longer serve warrant because many are being killed when they resisted...we will help in convincing the community to be drug free," said Sueno.

The DILG chief branded President Duterte's move stopping the PNP's Oplan "Tokhang" as the right move.

Sueno said that Oplan "Tokhang" has been exploited by syndicates to benefit their own interest.

"We opened it (Tokhang) to everyone, so even the syndicates joined in the operation 'Tokhang' and while they were operating, they saw the opportunity to make money, so they used it for their personal benefits," explained Sueno.

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'Joining war on drugs blurs military's role'

By PAOLO ROMERO

President Duterte's recent directive to the Armed Forces (AFP) to join the government's war against illegal drugs is dangerously blurring the roles of the military and the police, Sen. Risa Hontiveros warned yesterday.

Hontiveros said Duterte's order to let the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) lead the government's anti-

drug campaign is not new and is "automatic," as PDEA has the mandate to push for efficient law enforcement in the fight against illegal drugs.

She said the government's plan to include the military will just add to the "already chaotic situation" and will roll back the important gains in security sector reforms in the AFP.

She said this could also lead to unnecessary clashes between the military and

PDEA.

She noted that while the military and PNP are both legal bearers of arms, they have different roles and training. The police force is for law enforcement and apprehension. The military is trained for combat duties.

"May I remind the government that the military has a different mandate and orientation. It should not be dragged into civilian polic-

ing," Hontiveros said.

"To blur these lines is not only dangerous, it is a throw-back to martial law times. It is a nod to authoritarian leadership," she added.

She expressed concern that allowing the Armed Forces to implement the same "flawed and abusive style of war on drugs will only subject it to the same fate as the PNP," referring to the rising cases of drug-related summary killings.

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AFP to launch rescue operations for 3 troops

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said yesterday that the lifting of the government ceasefire will enable them to mount combat rescue operations for three soldiers abducted by the New People's Army in Mindanao recently.

Yes (we have plans) for that," AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

"We are going to rescue them. We can now do that unlike before when there was an ongoing unilateral ceasefire declaration by the government and there was suspension of military operations by the AFP. We can now conduct combat operations against them," Arevalo said.

"And the first combat operation

that we can do against them is to launch a rescue operation for our rescued troops," according to Arevalo.

He also said that the three soldiers are not considered prisoners of war. Arevalo said that the three soldiers – Sgt. Solaiman Calocop and Private First Class Samuel Garay, both of the 39th Infantry Battalion based in Makilala, Cotabato, and Private First Class Erwin R. Salan of the 30th IB – were not hostile or aggressive when they were taken by the enemy.

"We refuse to call them prisoners of war because they are not belligerent. They are victims of kidnapping," Arevalo said. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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AFP calls for vigilance after attacks in Basilan province

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The military urged citizens to stay vigilant following the series of bombings and attacks in the restive province of Basilan, just several nautical miles south of Zamboanga City in southern Philippines.

Just over the weekend, two improvised bomb explosions injured a government soldier and a driver of Tuburan town Mayor Dorie Kallahal, according to the Western Mindanao Command.

It said the explosions occurred just as the military was conducting a humanitarian outreach mission.

It was unclear whether Abu Sayyaf rebels or other armed groups were involved in the attack.

Government soldiers also recovered a third improvised explosive in the area, said Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, an army spokeswoman. She said despite the bombings the medical mission pushed through which benefited over 500 villagers.

She said the local mayor was also present during the event and was unhurt from the bombings. Petinglay said the injured were rushed to hospital. She said the two bombs went off minutes apart

and also hit the mayor's pickup truck.

Major General Carlito Galvez, the regional military commander, also praised Kallahal who is actively involved in peace and development efforts in the town. He also appealed to villagers to stay vigilant following the twin bombings.

No individual or group claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Last week, a grenade explosion also tore a hole on the roof of an abandoned hospital building in Lamitan City also in Basilan, one of five provinces under the Muslim

autonomous region.

There were no reports of casualties and police said the attack could be the handiwork of Abu Sayyaf rebels. Lamitan had been attacked many times in the past by the Abu Sayyaf. The motive of the attack is still unknown, but rebels had previously targeted civilians in Basilan.

Basilan is a known stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, whose leaders have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. The Abu Sayyaf has been fighting for a separate Islamic state in the country. **AL JACINTO**

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Reds are 'terrorists'

Duterte issues order to 'use every single bullet' on rebels

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS
and GENALYN D. KABILING

President Duterte on Sunday vowed to "use every single bullet" against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) rebels, which he went on to tag as "terrorists" and "bandits."

"They can carry on with their attacks and we are prepared. Marami tayong assets, maraming eroplano, may mga jets na tayo (We have assets now: planes, we even have jets now)," he told the media after his visit to the wake of three soldiers in

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Reds are... ◀1

Camp Evangelista Chapel, 41D Patag, Cagayan de Oro. The soldiers were reportedly killed in brutal fashion last February 1 in Malaybalay, Bukidnon by NPA rebels.

"Hutda na ang bala hantod sa katapusan... mao man ilang gusto. Kung unsa ilang gibuhad sa sundalo sa gobyerno, buhaton pud nako (Use all the bullets until the last one because that's what they want. I'll be sure to repay them what they did to our soldiers)," he added.

However, he said he was leaving it to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to undertake a full offensive against the rebels.

"Well, I leave it to the military to do it, it's their job. I'll never interfere," he said.

Duterte also said he was now considering the CPP-NPA-NDF as a terrorist group, tagging them further as a group of bandits.

He then ordered the arrest of the CPP-NPA-NDF members, who will be returning from the third round of peace talks recently held in Rome, Italy, adding that the Geneva Convention protocols should no longer apply to them.

"Their leaders that I released that went to Oslo, sasabihan ko ang militar at ang immigration to be on the lookout. Arrestuhin niyo sila ulit (I will order the military and the immigration to be on the lookout and rearrest them)," Duterte told the kin of the slain soldiers.

Duterte had ordered that the release of 21 NDF consultants to the peace talks be expedited in August, 2016, in time for the first round of formal talks in Oslo, Norway.

"Di na sila umuwi, okay. Alam mo ba kung bakit? Ang pinaka ignominious na mangyayari sa isang tao yung mamatay sa ibang bayan. Yan ang pinakasakit na mangyari (They won't return? That's alright. The most ignominious thing to happen to a person is to die in another country)," he added.

Protected from re-arrest

But Fidel Agcaoili, chair of the NDFP negotiating panel, maintained that all 17 consultants released from detention last August 2016 were in the country already, are not hiding and are protected from re-arrest in accordance with the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

"These consultants have been put under the effective jurisdiction of Philippine courts because they were released only on bail and only for a six-month period. They have been required to secure court permission every time they went abroad to participate in the last three rounds of talks," he said.

"Their bail renewal is due this month and, as reflected in the Rome Joint Statement of 25 January 2017, both their lawyers and the GRP have agreed to cooperate in this regard,"

he added.

He also clarified that the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG), the third party facilitator in the peace talks, has been the one providing for the travel expenses and accommodation of the NDFP delegation in formal and informal peace talks since the beginning.

No all-out war

Despite the cancellation of the truce, Banaag belied speculations that the government is now launching an all-out war against the rebels. She said the troops have merely been directed to be on their guard against any rebel attacks.

"As the President has said, for those who are combatants, they have to be on their guard kasi wala naman ng ceasefire. But it doesn't mean to say that they have to hunt 'di ba," she said.

"Kumbaga it's not war per se, like you have to go hunt them. However, it's like the status before the declaration of the ceasefire," she added.

Presidential guidance

But Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said the President "has clearly spoken on the directions we all in government should take."

"Let's take guidance from these recent declarations," he said.

Dureza reiterated that achieving lasting peace was difficult, with "humps and bumps, and curves and detours along the way."

"What is important is we all stay the course," he added.

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the cancellation was "deeply disappointing as final and lasting peace has been one of the President's deepest aspirations for the nation."

Left-leaning Cabinet members

According to Banaag, Duterte had no intention of letting go of left-leaning members in his Cabinet despite the trouble in the peace process.

"As to members of the Cabinet who may be inclined -- communist inclined or leftist inclined, they are open -- they are still part of the Cabinet and they have the confidence of the President," Banaag said.

Duterte had recalled the Philippine contingent from the peace talks, and asked the National Democratic Front's (NDF) consultants, who were earlier released to participate in the talks, to go back to the custody of the Philippine government.

In a press conference held at the tomb of President Duterte's mother Soling at the Roman Catholic Cemetery here, President Duterte said he has ordered the team from the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process (OPAPP) to "haul their tents and come home."

Duterte's frustration was confounded not only by the demands of the Left, which included the release en masse of around 400 political prisoners, but also by the allegedly brutal slay of three government troopers.

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Reds deemed terrorists

As talks fail, Du30 orders arrest of freed detainees

By Sandy Araneta and Lance Baconguis

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday declared the Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed wing, the New People's Army, and the umbrella organization, the National Democratic Front as terrorists and ordered detainees he had freed for peace talks rearrested.

"From now on, I will consider the CPP-NPA-NDF a terrorist group," Duterte said one day after ordering an end to peace talks with the communist rebels.

"I'm ashamed at the statements of these sons-of-bitches. Who do they think they are?" the President, a self-described leftist, said in Filipino.

"You give them all the leeway and they make you look stupid," he added.

In remarks at the wake of sol-

diers killed by the communist rebels in Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City, Duterte also ordered the military and the Bureau of Immigration to be on the lookout for NDF consultants that he had freed for peace talks, including CPP leaders Benito and Wilma

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FAILED GAB.
President Rodrigo Duterte declared the suspension of peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines — National Democratic Front after visiting the grave of his mother at the Davao Catholic Cemetery in Davao City on Feb. 4, 2017.

Reds...

From A1

Tiamzon.

"Arrest them all again," Duterte said.

The President was visiting the wake of three soldiers killed by NPA rebels on Wednesday last week, the same day that the communist group announced the termination of their unilateral ceasefire with the government.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reported on Friday that the three soldiers were killed by NPA rebels.

On the same day, Duterte lifted the government's unilateral ceasefire with the communist group.

Addressing soldiers and families in a mix of Bisaya, Tagalog, and English, the President tore into the CPP-NPA-NDF.

In calling off peace talks, Duterte condemned the insurgents for resuming hostilities, saying he was ready for a prolonged conflict.

"I told the soldiers to prepare for a long war. I said [peace] will not come during our generation," he said late Saturday.

The two sides separately declared ceasefires in August, and the informal arrangement largely held as they continued discussions in Rome.

The President said he was now ordering government negotiators to "fold their tents and return home from overseas talks with the

rebel leaders.

"I am not interested in talking to them [the rebel leaders]. I will refuse to talk about it anymore," he told reporters.

"We have been fighting for 50 years. If you want to extend it for another 50 years, so be it, we will be happy to accommodate you," he added.

His order came after the rebels announced an end to their five-month-old ceasefire last week, accusing Duterte's administration of treachery and human rights abuses.

The government responded by calling off its own unilateral ceasefire with the rebels.

Duterte also denounced the 4,000-strong communist NPA for killing four soldiers in attacks last week, saying one of the victims had been riddled with 76 bullets.

The communist insurgency in the poverty-stricken country, that began in 1968, is one of the longest running in the world and has claimed an estimated 30,000 lives, according to the military.

The NDF on Sunday said it was willing to continue peace talks, even as Duterte announced their cancellation.

"The NDF stands firm in its commitment to struggle for a just and lasting peace in the country in accordance with the national and democratic aspirations of the Filipino people," Fidel Agcaoili, NDF chief negotiator, said in a statement sent to reporters.

Agcaoili said that it has yet to

receive a formal notice from government peace panel headed by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III on the termination of peace negotiations with the communist rebels.

"The NDF hereby states that it is waiting for the formal notice from the GRP Negotiating Panel on its termination of the peace negotiations as mandated in the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) which defines the mode of termination," he added.

NDF peace panel spokesman Dan Borjal, on the other hand, accused the Armed Forces of the Philippines for violating its own ceasefire.

"The AFP took advantage of ceasefire for what they call clearing barangays of NPA influence in the guise of peace and development missions," he said.

In the same statement, Agcaoili said that all 17 NDF consultants who were granted release from detention last August 2016 by Duterte were "all in the Philippines and are not in hiding."

"Those who took part in the third round of formal talks in Rome, Italy from 19 to 25 January 2017 have returned to the country as of 31 January. They are all protected from rearrest in accordance with the Jasig," he said.

"These consultants have been put under the effective jurisdiction of courts because they were released only on bail and only for a

six-month period. They have been required to secure court permission every time they went abroad to participate in the last three rounds of talks. Their bail renewal is due this month and, as reflected in the Rome Joint Statement of 25 January 2017, both their lawyers and the GRP have agreed to cooperate in this regard," he added.

Agcaoili said the Norwegian government, as third party facilitator in the peace talks, has been covering the travel and accommodation expenses of the NDF delegation.

NDF legal counsel Krissy Conti scored Duterte for failing to appreciate the problem of political prisoners, whom he refused to release until an agreement was reached.

"Duterte yet betrays his misappreciation of the problem of political prisoners, branding them legitimate objects of enforcement of law and order, and calling on them to face charges in court," Conti said.

"Political prisoners may indeed carry criminal indictments, but the impetus for their arrest lies largely on political motives. Most of them are supporters, suspected rightly or wrongly, of rebel causes. It's a mix of the outspoken and the timid, the politicized and the 'collateral damage' but in common, they've been set apart by the state to generally answer for supposed crimes of the NPA, charged en masse and by alias," she added.

Conti maintained that the solution for the problem of political

prisoners is for Duterte to exercise political will to release them immediately.

"So it's a logical pitfall to pass them all off as common criminals, when the prosecutorial practice has since been to veer away from their politics. They've been grievously wronged upon arrest."

"It's an added insult to ask them to rely on a system they have sought to change, inside and outside the courtroom, to vindicate themselves," she added.

A military source said Sunday that intelligence agents have been alerted to keep track of 23 detainees, all identified as NDF consultants, who took part in the peace talks in Oslo and Rome.

Among them were Benito Tiamzon, chairman of the CPP and the NPA, and wife Wilma, CPP-NPA secretary-general, who were released Aug. 19, 2016.

Also included were Loisa Magpatoc, head of the Far South Mindanao command of the CPP-NPA; Reynante Gamara, alleged secretary of CPP's Metro Manila Regional Party Committee; Tirso Alcantara, spokesman of NDF Southern Tagalog region; Adelberto Silva, secretary-general of the CPP-NPA; Cochita Araneta Bocala, leader of CPP Panay Island Regional Party Committee; and Alan Jazmines, member of the CPP central committee and secretary general of the party. **With John Paolo Bencito, Francisco Tuyay, AFP**

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Duterte labels CPP-NPA-NDF a terror group

By ALEXIS ROMERO and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

A day after terminating the peace talks, President Duterte labeled communist rebels as terrorists and ordered the arrest of jailed leftist leaders who were allowed to join the negotiations.

Duterte said the rebels committed atrocities despite the goodwill gestures displayed by the government.

*"Nagmamagandang loob ka na nga. ipapahiya pa ako sa mga sdgot ng p**** in*** akula mo kung sino (You show goodwill and yet those sons of b***** who were acting as if they were somebody embarrass me with their answers)."* Duterte said during his visit to the wake of three soldiers yesterday in Cagayan de Oro City.

"You give them all the leeway and everything and you (respond to me with stupidity)...From now on I will consider the CPP-NPA-

NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front) a terrorist group," he added.

The NDF, the communist group's political arm, represents the CPP and its armed wing the NPA in the peace talks.

"I am asking the military and the immigration to be on the lookout. Arrest them again," he added.

"Do not ever return here or they will land in Muntinlupa," the President said.

Duterte disclosed that the government had to talk to the judiciary to facilitate the release of rebel leaders who are part of the communist negotiating panel.

"They were released on the condition that they will participate in Oslo talks. The only way to do that is to give them the right to bail. Actu-

ally, they are leaders. They're not qualified but we have to convince the judges," the President said.

"Despite the objections of the judiciary, nakiusap na lang kami (we just pleaded) so the talks will succeed because personally, I'm desperately trying to find a way to end this 50 years of war," he added. *"By the way that they behaved, they do not want it and so I will oblige."*

Duterte said the communist leaders are free to seek asylum in the Netherlands if they want to avoid arrest.

"You're wanted upon your arrival. I will arrest you and place you back in prison. OK? Now if you do not want to go back, you are fugitives, we cancel your passports and inform the international police for an international warrant," he said.

"Now if you want to seek asylum in the Netherlands. Go ahead. You know the most ignominious thing that can happen to a Filipino is to die in somebody else's country. You want that for yourself? I'll give it to you."

Security forces ready

With the peace talks now terminated, Duterte said security forces are ready for any rebel offensive.

"They can begin their attacks and we are prepared. I will use the assets We have airplanes, we have jets, I will use all of them. I leave it to the military to do its job, I will not interfere," the President said.

The government, however, is ready to accept NPA members who will surrender to live peaceful lives.

"I'm offering you peace. Just go down and I'll find money to place you in settlement and I'll proceed with the land reform." Duterte said.

Duterte, who considers himself a leftist, said the NPA members are just bandits and that the Geneva Convention does not apply to them.

The Geneva Conventions are rules that apply only in times of armed conflict and seek to protect people who

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are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities; these include the sick and wounded of armed forces on the field, wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, prisoners of war and civilians

Duterte said achieving peace with the communists does not seem to be possible within his generation.

On Saturday, Duterte announced that he is scrapping the peace talks with communist rebels and instructed government negotiators to "fold up the tents and come home."

He made the statement after the government and the communists lifted their respective unilateral ceasefires following a disagreement over the NDF's demand to free hundreds of people whom it claims to be political prisoners.

The NDF is demanding the release of about 400 prisoners, saying it is in line with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law signed in 1998.

Duterte has refused to yield to the demand, which he described as tantamount to granting amnesty. The government has so far freed 23 rebel leaders and has allowed some ranking NPA members to join the peace talks.

"We started with 18 and we came up with 23 leaders and now it's 400. If that's the case, we might as well surrender," the President said.

Duterte said the peace talks would remain canceled "unless there is a compelling reason that will benefit the interest of the nation."

The President lifted the ceasefire after NPA rebels killed three soldiers in Bukidnon and kidnapped two others last week.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the termination of the peace talks was disappointing.

"President Duterte has declared the suspension of peace talks between (government) and CPP-NDF-NPA. He will likewise direct the Philippine delegation to return home," Abella said.

"This is deeply disappointing as final and lasting peace has been one of his deepest aspirations for the nation," he added.

Hours before Duterte called the rebels terrorists, Presidential Communications Assistant Secretary Ana Maria Banaag said the government remains open to talking peace with the rebels.

"The members of the peace panel would still talk about, you know, permanent peace and how to go about the parameters of going through a permanent ceasefire," Banaag told state-run radio station dzRB.

"It's really hard for them also to control their people on the ground. However... the peace panel will endeavor still to talk and negotiate for peace," she added.

Banaag said the President would not bar leftist officials from joining Cabinet meetings.

"Malacañang is open to all negotiations... they are still part of the Cabinet and they have the confidence of the President," she said.

Banaag also said the military would continue to join the fight against drugs despite the lifting of the ceasefire with the rebels.

Not giving up on peace

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said the government could not give up on peace but would have to follow Duterte's track in achieving this.

"If there is anyone who passionately dreams of - and works on - bringing about sustainable peace in the land, it is President Duterte. His judgment calls are directed towards this goal. At the moment, he has clearly spoken on the directions we all in government should take. Let's take guidance from these recent declarations," Dureza said.

"As I always say, the road to just and lasting peace is not easy to traverse. There are humps and bumps, and curbs and detours along the way. What is important is that we all stay the course," Dureza added.

A GMA News Online report quoted Dan Borjal, NDF spokesman, as saying that the NDF is still willing to continue the peace talks with the government.

The NDF believes that the peace talks can resume without a ceasefire agreement, Borjal added.

"In past administrations talks could be held even without ceasefire. Ten important agreements were signed then," Borjal said.

Duterte announced he was abandoning the peace talks while the communist leaders are still abroad for the negotiations. They were in Rome in January for the third round of the peace talks. The fourth round of the peace talks was set on Feb. 22 to 25 in the Netherlands.

Communist leaders like Jose Maria Sison, CPP founder, and Luis Jalandoni, who was NDF's long-time chief negotiator, have been living in self-exile in the Netherlands.

"I don't know if they will be granted asylum there but with the rebellion, if you are just a member, it's not a grave offense maybe. But the leaders, they should be in prison without bail," Duterte added.

At the same time, Duterte called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to conduct all-out offensive operations against the communist rebels.

He said he need not outline the directives to the military "because they know their jobs."

"If they (NPA) want to extend it for another 50 years, so be it. I will be happy to accommodate you," he added, stressing that he tried to walk the extra mile for peace.

Among the communist leaders who were released

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Securing the land.

from prison to join the peace talks were: Benito Tiamzon and wife Wilma; Concha Aranaeta Bocala, Adelberto Silva, Alfredo Mapano, Ernesto Lorenza, Tirso Alcantara, Eduardo Genelsa, Ariel Arbitrano, Runel Saluta, Jaime Soledad, Keneddy Bangibang, Pedro Codaste, Porferio Tuna and Alan Jazmines.

They are facing charges ranging from frustrated murder to murder in relation to NPA-initiated attacks during various timelines around the country. They were released on bail in August last year, barely a few months after Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

In a media interview after he marked the fifth death anniversary of his mother Soledad at a local cemetery in Davao City on Saturday night, the visibly dismayed Duterte also said he is no longer interested to deal with Sison.

The Philippine government has worked for the delisting of Sison and the NPA from the terror list of the United States.

"They can retire, all of them. For those who are released by the government, they should, on their own volition, return here and go back to prison or else I'll be forced to . . . I'm alerting the intelligence community to keep track of where they are now," Duterte said.

"Those who were released temporarily to talk with us in Oslo, they should come back and submit themselves to the jurisdiction of this government (where) they are still prisoners. Walang pardon, walang amnesty, wala lahat (No pardon, no amnesty, nothing)," Duterte added.

"For those serving sentence, they should serve out (their sentences)," he said.

When asked about Sison, Duterte said he sees no reason to talk with him. "I am not interested to listen to them for what they intend to do. For after all, they have been fighting the government."

Never too late

Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto said yesterday both sides must be pulled back from the brink of reigniting the conflict by "reconsidering incendiary statements issued during the past week and revoking directives issued."

"It is never too late to give peace another chance. In the search for a settlement, one must never tire of negotiation," Recto said.

"There is no constituency for war in this country. Parties must not engage in one that will make all of us collateral damages of their folly," he said.

He said as the lure of fighting beckons, it is perhaps time that both sides are reminded of lessons from the communist insurgency, which has lasted almost half a century, and reportedly killed nearly 50,000 people.

"One is for government to realize that guns alone will not defeat an insurgency with deeply rooted social causes. And rebels must explore the prospect that more concessions can be won on the negotiating table than on the battlefield," Recto said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said it appears that the NDF, the umbrella organization of all mainstream communist organizations in the country, has lost control of the CPP-NPA.

He said Duterte also withdrew the government ceasefire and suspended talks as a challenge to the CPP-NPA-NDF to get their act together.

Lacson also found the demand of the NDF to release all 400 political prisoners as tantamount to Duterte granting rebels amnesty.

- With Paolo Romero, Ben Serrano

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Malaya
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CPP-NPA-NDF now a terrorist group: Rody

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he is now considering the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) a "terrorist group."

He issued the statement a day after he scrapped peace negotiations with the communist group, and said communist leaders who his government had freed temporarily to take part in peace negotiations overseas would go back to jail.

Duterte called off a unilateral ceasefire on Friday, two days after the NPA did the same. He was incensed by the killings and abduction of government troops since the NPA announced the lifting of the ceasefire on Wednesday last week, and said the communists were asking too much in demanding the release of about 400 political prisoners even before a final peace agreement is signed.

"You give them all the leeway and you return to me a stupid... From now on, I will consider the CPP-NPA-NDF a terrorist group," he said at a wake at the 4th

Infantry Division headquarters in Cagayan de Oro yesterday, of three soldiers killed by the NPA.

During the visit to the 4th ID, Duterte said he is ordering military and immigration officials to be on the lookout for leaders of the CPP-NPA-NDF, especially those who have been issued temporary passes for the duration of the peace talks, and to have them arrested.

"I will alert the international police to arrest them where they are because they are wanted here. I'll cancel their passports. I don't know if they will be granted asylum there. But they are... they should be in prison without bail. For those serving sentence, they should serve out their sentence," he said.

Among those who were temporarily freed were CPP leaders Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria. They joined peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway and in Rome. Their whereabouts are unknown.

The government and communist peace panels were supposed to meet later this month to discuss a bilateral ceasefire.

Duterte said if the communist leaders

seek, and are granted, asylum, "they can rot there, for all I care."

Duterte said he thinks that it would be a terrible thing for a Filipino to die outside of the country and if he were in the communist leaders' shoes, he would hate it.

The President, in a media interview Saturday night at the Davao Catholic Cemetery in Davao City after visiting the grave of his mother Soledad, said he was scrapping the peace talks and ordering the Philippine government's peace negotiators who currently abroad to "fold their tents and come home."

"I am not ready to resume peace talks. As I have said, I would like to tell the Filipino people: peace with the communists might not come in this generation," he said.

Asked if means that he is scrapping the talks, Duterte said, "Yes, entirely."

Further asked if he has given up on the peace process, he said, "It is very clear to you, obviously."

The President said he is not interested in listening to or arguing with CPP founding

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BACK TO PRISON

DUTERTE ORDERS ARREST OF NDFP NEGOTIATORS

By Jigger J. Jerusalem
@jiggerjerusalemINQ

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— President Duterte on Sunday ordered the arrest of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace negotiators once they set foot in the country.

“Come home because you’re wanted and upon your arrival, I will arrest you and place you back in prison. If you don’t want to go back, you’re fugitives. I will cancel your passports and I will inform the international police for an international warrant (for you),” Mr. Duterte told reporters.

The NDFP on Sunday said all its consultants, who went to Rome for the third round of talks that ended on Jan. 25, were already in the country.

Mr. Duterte said he now considered the New People’s Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), a terrorist group. ‘INQ

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Pahina. 3

PDU30 sa CPP-NPA: Terorista kayo!

Matapos bisitahin ang burol ng tatlong sundalong pinatay ng New People's Army (NPA) kamakailan sa Bukidnon, galit na sinabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kahapon na isang teroristang grupo ang NPA at political arm nilang CPP/NDF

"From now on, I will consider the CPP-NPA-NDF a terrorist group," diin ni Pangulong Duterte sa harap ng mga pamilyang naulila.

Sa natuwang pagbisita ay ginawaran ng medalya at pagpupugay sina Cpl. Owen Yee, Pfc Pat Non at Pfc Niño Christopher Talabor, ang mga pinatay ng NPA sa Sitio Kaleb, Barangay Kibalabag, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon noong Pebrero 1.

Nauna nang ipinag-

utos ng Pangulo kamakailawa ang pagpapatigil ng peace talks ng gobyerno sa CPP/NPA/NDF.

Ipinahahanap na rin ng Pangulo ang mga peace negotiators ng NDF na pansamantalang pinalaya nito para ibalik sa kulungan.

"They are in the wanted list, so I will alert the International Police to arrest them where they are because they are in [the] wanted list. I'll cancel their passports," babala ni Duterte

Inihayag naman ni presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza na handa silang sundin ang direktiba ng Pangulo sa suspensyon ng peace talks pero umaasa pa rin siyang mabubuksan muli ang usapan sa tamang panahon. (Boyet Jadulco)

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Kin of slain soldiers await Duterte's visit

By CAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The families of three soldiers who were killed “in brutal fashion” by New People’s Army (NPA) rebels in Malaybalay, Bukidnon last February 1 are keenly awaiting the arrival of President Rodrigo R. Duterte so that they could seek justice.

Janice Non, wife of Corporal Pat Non, said she would ask justice from Duterte, who was set to visit the wake of the three soldiers last night here.

Non’s remains and that of Sgt. Own Yee and Corporal Niño Christopher

Talabor, are at the chapel of the Fourth Infantry Division in Camp Evangelista, Barangay Patag here.

“Sobrang brutal. Parang hindi na tao yung pumatay sa kanila (The killing was so brutal. It was not a human who killed them),” lamented Janice.

It was earlier reported that the three soldiers, who were unarmed and in civilian clothes at the time of the attack, sustained 76 gunshot wounds – a sordid detail that had Duterte calling off peace negotiations with the communist rebels Saturday night.

Almalou Yee, widow of Yee, said that she will also ask Duterte to give justice to the death of her husband.

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Ex-sundalo tinaga ang umawat na brgy. tanod sa Ilocos Norte

LAOAG CITY – Nagtamo ng malubhang sugat sa ulo ang isang barangay tanod matapos tagain ng isang dating sundalo sa Barangay 8 sa bayan ng Sanat, Ilocos Norte.

Ang biktima ay si Angel Quising, tanod sa nasabing barangay, habang ang suspek ay si John dela Cruz, dating sundalo at residente rin sa parehong lugar.

Ayon kay Police S/Insp. Roldan Sintos, hepe sa Sanat, sinasaktan ng suspek ang kanyang asawa kaya umawat ang barangay tanod ngunit isang taga ang inabot nito sa suspek.

Danil dito, nagtamo ng malalim na sugat sa ulo at bibig ang biktima at sa ngayon ay patuloy na inoobserbahan sa Governor Roque Ablan Senior Memorial Hospital sa Laoag City.

Inihahanda na rin ng mga otoridad ang kasong isasampa laban kay dela Cruz.

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The Manila Times

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EVEN WITH TALKS, NPA RAIDED SY'S PICO DE LORO IN NASUGBU

Communist negotiators have no control of the NPA. So what for the peace talks?

BY RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO
Columnist

PRESIDENT Duterte announced in the past two days the virtual end of his peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (masked as the National Democratic Front), mainly because the communists' armed groups have continued to attack government forces, and he

cannot allow the Republic's soldiers and officers to be killed with impunity.

Duterte even actually played down a recent attack by the communists which demonstrate their thinking, that they can do whatever they like in the land, even while their negotiators enjoy European tourist sites in Oslo and Rome, when they take a break from their "grueling" talks.

> Tiglao A4

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Strangely unreported by mainstream media, to the credit of Henry Sy's PR experts, but reported only by several tabloids and, very briefly in just several seconds, by two TV stations, the communist New People's Army, raided January 29 the security headquarters of the tycoon's posh Pico de Loro Resort in Hamilo Coast in Nasugbu, Batangas, a favorite of Manila's elite partly as it is just two hours away from Tagaytay City.

A platoon (roughly 30) of heavily armed NPA managed to enter the area and disarm the resort's three dozen security as the rebels fooled the guards at the entrance by wearing military uniforms, and pretending to escort a comely female officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The rebels ransacked the security office building and torched the staff house. They took with them the security detachment's 16 shotguns, four M-16 rifles, three handguns as well as several laptops, handheld radios and cell phones. The NPA commandeered a silver Toyota Hi-Ace and three Mercedes-Benz cars, which they used to even ride through the resort and flee through the back gate.

Sources said the raid was a warning to Sy and his resort to pay an extortion amount of P500,000 monthly euphemistically called "revolutionary taxes," which the NPA two months ago had demanded but which the magnate's executives ignored. Sy's people, however allegedly asked the police to keep the NPA raid under wraps, since the incident would frighten and drive away potential buyers of the high-end lots and condominium units at the Pico de Loro resort.

Making a fool out of Duterte

A source claimed that the NPA raid, other than the NPA's ambush of an Army detachment in Davao del Sur February 1 that killed a lieutenant just months after he graduated from the Philippine Military Academy, convinced Duterte that the peace talks with the NDF were useless, and that the communists were just making a fool out of him.

Duterte also claimed it was impossible for him to release the 400



**RIGOBERTO
TIGLAO**

"political detainees" the communists demanded. Indeed, "political" their motive may be, but it was to topple the Republic. The military would probably revolt if Duterte ordered their release: Many of these "political detainees" were NPA regulars, who had killed government soldiers in ambushes. It would also be tantamount to returning to the field the communists' cadres corps captured over so many years.

To be fair, though, the communist negotiators, even the party's founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison and its recent chairman, Benito Tiamzon, actually do not have control over the local communist party organizations and the NPA, especially in the countryside.

The communists practically have become similar to the Mafia organization in the US in the 1930s, its leadership a collective of peers—mainly of regional commanders—headed by a boss they agree to recognize, who was Tiamzon for nearly a decade.

Tiamzon had relied on Sison, whose role since the 1970s has been as the communists' writer par excellence and demagogue, to churn out documents that portrayed a unified party led by its chairman, "Armando Liwanag," in reality merely the personification of the collective decision of the group of regional leaders.

Aggregation of organizations

Since the 1980s, the communists had been essentially an aggregation of regional organizations plus two "centers," its "legal struggle" group that directs its party-list congressmen, and the NDF negotiators in the Netherlands who idolize Sison.

The local party leaders have reluctantly recognized the Sison group, despite his absence from the Philippines for nearly 30 years—a generation—because of the international funding from socialist groups he

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CH

has been raising his prestige as party founding chairman, and the author of the only party books published.

The strongest regional organizations had been the Manila-Rizal organization, especially when it was headed by the fiery, vociferously anti-Sison Popoy Lagman; the one in Southern Luzon built up by the late Roger Rosal; the Visayas organization that had been headed by the de facto chairman Tiamzon; and that in Mindanao headed by Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos and strengthened by veteran communists still not publicly known (which therefore I prefer not to disclose.)

Led by cadres who practically have led their entire lives in armed struggle and in the underground—who therefore have scanty knowledge of contemporary society—the regional organizations have little interest in the peace talks, as they enjoy their de facto fiefdoms in the guerrilla areas they control. However, they support such talks since their experience has been—since the Cory Aquino presidency—that the military leaves them alone, allowing them to expand and raise more funds through "revolutionary taxes" whenever there are ongoing peace talks.

The military has been averse to wiping out the NPA and all Presidents since Cory Aquino undertook "peace talks" with them. Never in fact has there been a President who has ordered the military to wipe out the insurgency—as had been done in most Southeast Asian countries.

For the military, there is the negative lesson in the case of retired Gen. Jovito Palparan. He took every effort to wipe out the NPA in his area of jurisdiction in Luzon, but today suffers the ignominy of being labeled a "butcher," thanks to the communists' vast propaganda machine, and facing charges of human-rights abuses.

Moreover, Armed Forces generals, who are given regional commands when they are already in their 50s; prefer to "keep the peace" in their areas of jurisdiction, as fights with the NPA could get out of control and that would endanger their quiet retirement when they reach 56. There is also the fear that the communists would retaliate against them when they retire, and lose their

bodyguards.

Decentralized communists

The Philippine communist organization actually had been a decentralized one, since its founding, despite Sison's success in portraying it as being led tightly by an "Amado Guerrero," his *nom de guerre*. After its establishment in 1968, it was the NPA commander Dante who had been revered as the real revolutionary leader, who was starting to develop the kind of legendary status revolutions require to inspire the masses to revolt.

When Dante and Sison were captured in 1976, the party consisted of powerful factions led by such nearly charismatic communist leaders as NPA veteran Rolly Kintanar who led the Mindanao insurgency that made even Davao City nearly a Red base, Popoy Lagman who headed the Manila-Rizal organization and commanded the dreaded Alex Boncayao urban guerrillas (and deadly assassins), and Ka Roger of the Southern Luzon regional party.

After their assassinations, their successors have maintained the quasi-autonomy of their regional organizations, and therefore do not simply follow orders from the NDF negotiators, whom they don't even, really respect as these figures have spent more than three decades abroad moving from one European capital to another while they have suffered terribly in mosquito-infested jungles in the country.

This then is essentially the problem that has emerged every time there have been peace talks since the Cory regime.

There is no real central communist leadership to deal with. The people that various administrations have talked to for a peace settlement have not been in command of the NPA. They just do whatever they want, still fervently believing in the myth of the people's army eventually surrounding the cities, as Mao Zedong's army did a long time ago in a land far, far away.

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land.

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The Manila Times

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Keep talking, please

NOBODY wins when peace negotiations collapse—not the rebels, not the government and most especially, not the people. It is vital for both the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front to maintain the peace table, and find ways to regain common objectives to keep moving it forward.

The Philippines has one of the longest insurgency problems in Asia. It has kept many villages frozen in time, with hardly any new



**POLICY
WINK**

**TOOTS
OPLE**

business coming their way. Most of these conflict affected zones are agrarian communities, scarred with injustices passed on from generation to generation.

Their economic liberation can only come from one source:

genuine peace.

With the election of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, hope soared on the peace front. He personally knew Joma Sison. The founders of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were his friends. Every extemporaneous speech delivered the same refrain—he abhors conflict and would do everything possible to bring about genuine peace on the negotiating table radiating outwards to every rebel stronghold.

Over the weekend, President

Duterte announced that the Philippine government was terminating the peace talks with the communist rebels. "I am not interested in arguing with them," the President told the media. He lamented that peace with the CPP/NPA/NDF may be impossible to obtain within this generation.

This is truly unfortunate because both parties were, initially, making the right moves.

Within his first six months in office, President Duterte had appointed nominees from the NDF as mem-

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■ OPLE FROM A4

Keep talking, please

bers of his Cabinet, namely, Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano and Labor Undersecretary Joel Maglungso. The chair of the government peace panel with the NDF, former congressman Silvestre Bello III is the current Secretary of Labor and Employment.

This was a bold move that even the most conservative Filipinos lauded for its audacity. Why not give those who have been criticizing every administration from Marcos to Aquino a chance to serve? So far, these Cabinet appointees have demonstrated their willingness to be good allies of the President and the very poor.

With the scuttling of the talks, will these appointees give up their

positions? I hope not. For the streets are where noise is made but let's face it, how many effigies can really take the place of a private conversation with the President? I believe that the presence of these NDF-nominated officials in the Cabinet would continue to enrich high-level discussions about anti-poverty programs, especially in the countryside.

The NDF is an organization steeped in the art of propaganda. They wouldn't have lasted this long had they not been persistent, if not excellent, in selling their ideology, and connecting to enough voters, especially in the hinterlands, to land seats in Congress. Now they are faced with a President who is just as good, if not bolder, in strategic and tactical communications.

In the current propaganda war, the President is winning, hands down. For one, the decision to lift the ceasefire last Wednesday did not even come from CPP founder and chief peace negotiator Joma Sison. It emanated from a certain Jorge "Ka-Oris" Madlos, a spokesman of the National Operations Command of the New People's Army. The failure of President Duterte to release all political prisoners was given as the main reason for the NPA's lifting of the ceasefire, which shall commence on February 10, according to "Ka-Oris."

What is urgent is for the social protection and anti-poverty programs of our government to take root and flourish in old and new conflict-affected areas. Let us prepare

for the bloodbath to follow, and cut the ropes of social and political injustice that have made peace a rare commodity in the countryside. If the NDF and its parallel units are not prepared to give up the ideological battle in favor of genuine peace, then so be it.

Government must not be seen as giving up the war to end injustice.

Emotions are high, and wounds run deep, as both sides bury their dead. Somehow, both parties must find their way back to the peace table. The people are tired of violence and the disruption that comes with it. We cannot be a country constantly weighed down and interrupted by bursts of gunfire between our own citizens for an ideology that no one new really needs to kill or die for.

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MEDYO MEDIA
FERNAN G. EMBERGA

LABAN, BAWI SA CEASEFIRE

TULOY ang labanan sa pagitan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at mga rebeldeng komunista. Ito’y maiapos bawiin ng magkabilang panig ang kanilang idineklarang unilateral ceasefire habang nagaganap ang peace talks sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Republika ng Pilipinas (GRP) at ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Tumpak mga kamedyo! Mistulang “laban-bawi” game show sa telebisyon ang nangyari. Binawi kasi ang tigil-putukan kaya’t tuloy ang labanan o bakbakan sa pagitan ng New People’s Army (NPA) at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Unang inanunsyo ng tagapagsalita ng CPP-NPA na si Jorge Madlos alyas Ka Oris nitong Miyerkoles na tinatapos na nila ang idineklarang unilateral ceasefire ng central committee ng Communist Party of the Philippines noong August 28, 2016. Epektibo ito sa Pebrero 10, Biyernes ng hatinggabi.

Sa kanyang pahayag, inirason ni Ka Oris sa pag-terminate sa unilateral ceasefire ang patuloy na paglabag ng AFP sa idineklarang tigil putukan ng GRP dahil sa walang humpay na operasyon at umano’y pagpasok ng militar sa mga teritoryo ng “people’s democratic government.” “The August 28, 2016 unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire issued by the Central Committee of the CPP and the National Operations Command of the New People’s Army are hereby terminated,” saad ni Ka Oris.

Idinahilan pa ng grupong rebelde ang kabiguan ng Philippine government na tuparin ang obligasyon nitong bigyan ng amnestiya at palayain ang lahat ng bilanggong pulitikal sa ilalim ng Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHHL) at Joint Agreement on Safety and Immu-

nity Guarantees (JASIG).

Nitong Biyernes, inanunsyo na rin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na inutusan na niya nung Huwebes ng gabi si AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año na taldukan wa ang idineklarang unilateral ceasefire ng gobyerno para sa mga rebeldeng komunista epektibo kinagabihan ng Biyernes, February 3. “Kaya kagabi I decided, I called General Año and said, m-lift ko ‘yung ceasefire tonight. Wala ng ceasefire.” wika ng pangulo sa isang talumpati sa North Cotabato.

Giit ng pangulo, gumawa na siya ng daan para iabot ang kapayapaan sa mga rebeldeng komunista ngunit nagdulot pa rin daw ito sa pagkamatay ng maraming sundalo. “So I really would like to express my sadness. We cannot have a peaceful generation. There will be always be a fight. I’m here for six years. Siguro kung malasin, less than. But to me, mahirapan na tayo.” saad pa niya.

Kaugnay nito, inutusan ni Duterte ang AFP na maghanda nang sumabak muli sa giyera: “Take your position and be alert. Go back to your camps, clean your rifles and be ready to fight.”

Kahit naglalabanan ang mga tropa ng pamahalaan at mga rebeldeng komunista dahil sa pag-atras sa tigil-putukan, tuloy pa rin naman raw ang peace talks sa pagitan ng GRP at NDFP—na kapwa naman raw suportado ng AFP at NPA. Sinabi ni NDFP Senior Adviser Father Luis Jalandoni na tuloy ang negosasyon para sa bilateral ceasefire sa muling pagpupulong ng dalawang lupon sa ikapat na round ng peace talks sa Abril sa Oslo, Norway. “Patuloy po ‘yung peace talks. Sa buwan na ito, patuloy ‘yung informal talks tungkol sa bilateral ceasefire,” giit ni Jalandoni.

Nagkasundo aniya ang GRP at NDF panels sa third round ng peace talks sa Rome, Italy na isagawa ang fourth round ng pag-uusap sa Oslo, Norway sa Abril. “Tingin namin, patuloy ‘yung pag-uusap para makamit ‘yung socio-economic reforms gaya ng land reforms at national industrialization pati political reforms para maabot ang end of hostilities,” diin ni Jalandoni.

Harinawa’y hindi nga makaapekto sa pag-usad ng peace process ang suspensyon ng tigil putukan na nauna na ring binawi at sinuspende ni Duterte noong Agosto bago nagsimula ang second round ng peace talks sa Oslo noong Oktubre. Maaari rin naman raw kasing mag-usap habang may nagagaganap na bakbakan. At kahit na ang pangunahing agenda na pinag-uusapan ay ang pagbuo ng bilateral ceasefire agreement at pagtatapos ng hostilities.

Edi wow!

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CYCLING TOUR

ROQUE, NAVY RETAIN OVERALL LEAD; MORALES

RULES STAGE 2

By June Navarro
@junavINQ

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—After two high-velocity races on flat roadways, Rudy Roque of Navy-Standard Insurance is bracing for the real challenge in the LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2017.

“Hopefully, I could hold on to the lead in the next two stages,” said Roque after keeping the red jersey, Ronda’s symbol of overall leadership.

Jan Paul Morales, a heavy fa-

vorite who also rides for Navy, ruled Sunday’s second stage held mostly on the famed cobblestone streets of this town.

Roque placed second in the 50-kilometer criterium race after checking in with the same clocking as Morales—one hour, 11 minutes and 44 seconds—to retain the general classification lead.

Cris Joven of Kinetix Lab-Philippine Army came in third along with Jaybop Pagnanawon of Bike Extreme, Roel Quitoy of Team Mindanao and Army’s

Ronnilan Quita, also in 1:11:44

“The course was rough and we tried our best to avoid a crash,” said Morales, who ruled two of three legs of the Ronda last year. “My teammates and I made sure that we stay in front throughout the race.”

Roque and the Navymen will be looking to protect their advantage both in the team and individual GC on Wednesday.

The 14-stage cycling Tour takes a two-day respite before negotiating a punishing terrain

on the hilly Bataan National Park in Stage 3 (137 kilometers).

“This will be our first big test,” said Roque, a national team track rider from Bataan.

Overall, the 25-year-old Roque leads teammate and Stage 1 winner Ronald Lomotos by 20 seconds in the race supported by MVP Sports Foundation.

Fellow Navyman Archie Cardana remained third (41 seconds behind), Ismael Grospe Jr. of Go For Gold lay fourth (2:28) and Pagnanawon stayed in fifth spot (3:41).

Navy Standard Insurance is well ahead in the team GC with a 9:17 gap over Go For Gold while Kinetix Lab-Philippine Army is 13:17 back.

The cyclists went through the torturous one-kilometer stretch on the cobblestones of Calle Crisologo several times in the 2.7 km route, inspired by the “Hell of the North,” a gruelling stage in the Tour de France from Paris to Roubaix, near the Belgian frontier. INQ

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ONLINE NEWS 06 FEBRUARY 2017

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

AFP to comply with human rights rules during anti-NPA operations

Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Feb. 5 (PNA) -- Despite the government decision to lift its ceasefire Friday, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año assured the public it will comply with human rights regulations in the conduct of its operations.

In the same vein, he disclosed that all military units have human rights offices, in all command levels, to ensure that their troops comply with the above-mentioned rules.

"Our soldiers will not violate any human rights and we will observe the rule of law, (and any military personnel accused of such violations) will be made to answer (their) charges," Año stressed.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier ordered the lifting of the government ceasefire in wake of unprovoked New People's Army (NPA) attacks which left six troopers dead and three others abducted last week.

"We have enough forces, we will assess everything before we will make any troop movement or any adjustment," the AFP chief earlier said.

Año added that he has been in contact with all military commanders in Eastern Mindanao and that all of the latter are now aware of what they need to do.

"They know already what to do because when we (had) our command conference early last month (part of the contingency planning is what the military will do in case peace negotiations fail or should the NPA decide to withdraw their ceasefire," he added.

Año also placed the number of NPA combatants in the entire country at 3,700 with half of them operating in Eastern Mindanao.

He said that this is the reason why the AFP is focusing on community development programs in the countryside, especially those with Indigenous Peoples, so that the rebels will be denied additional recruits.

And with the lifting of the government ceasefire, the AFP chief said that they can now plan rescue operations aimed at recovery three of the soldiers abducted in Surigao Del Norte and Sultan Kudarat early this week.

"Before (unilateral ceasefire) has prevented us from conducting rescue operations, now we plan and conduct operations," Año said. (PNA)

BNB/PFN

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Military calls for vigilance anew over Abu Sayyaf bombings

Roel Pareño



At least six bombings believed to be perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan occurred last week. Philstar.com/File

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The military urged local officials to intensify their vigilance against bombing strikes staged by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, reiterated his call following the latest bombing that hit the vehicle of Tuburan Mayor Dorie Kallahai Saturday.

Kallahai survived the bombing explosion but his driver and a scout ranger trooper were injured from the blast that hit around 2:45 p.m. at Sitio Sawiti in Barangay Calut.

The blast happened minutes after the first explosion occurred at the nearby village which prompted the local official and the soldiers to respond and verify the attack.

Galvez said the bombing attacks was aimed at disrupting the medical services provided by the local government and the soldiers.

"The local community must stay cautious and intensify its vigilance against suspicious activity because the lawless elements are just waiting for time to stage atrocities that will affect the peace initiatives of the government," Galvez said.

At least six bombings believed to be perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan occurred last week.

The military and police authorities were not discounting the possible diversionary attack by the Abu Sayyaf Group after one of its senior leaders, Isnilon Hapilon, got injured in an airstrike launched by government forces in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

The military launched the attack after Hapilon, a designated Islamic State-inspired militant group leader, was monitored in the area with the Maute group.

JK

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Rescue ops ilulunsad sa mga binihag na sundalo

Bombo Anne Soberano



Tiniyak ng pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na gagawa sila ng paraan para ma rescue nila ang kanilang mga kasamahan na bihag ngayon ng rebeldeng New Peoples Army (NPA).

Ayon kay AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo na ang paglulunsad nila ng rescue operations ay siyang magiging sentro ng kanilang ilulunsad na combat operations laban sa rebeldeng NPA.

Sinabi ni Arevalo na ngayon magagawa na ng militar ang paglunsad ng operasyon laban sa rebeldeng grupo ngayong inalis na ang unilateral ceasefire.

Paliwanag ni Arevalo na tali ang kanilang kamay nuong panahon epektibo pa ang ceasefire at may suspension of military operations ang AFP.

"We can now conduct combat operations against them. And the first combat operation that we can do against them is to launch a rescue operation para dun sa ating mga sundalo," wika ni Arevalo.

Sa kabilang dako, una ng inihayag ni AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Ano na alam na ng mga military commanders sa field ang kanilang gagawin lalo na ngayon inalis na ang ceasefire at SOMO.

"We will hit them hard!" pahayag ni AFP Chief of Staff.

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

President Duterte scraps peace talks with NDFP; asks all NDFP delegation to return home

Philippine News Agency

President Rodrigo Duterte is asking all the Philippine delegation to the peace negotiations to "fold up the tents and come home" as he is pulling out government from the talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

This came after the President lifted the government's unilateral ceasefire with the communist revolutionaries in response to the New People's Army's (NPA) decision to terminate talks effective Feb. 10.

In an interview during his visit to the tomb of his mother on Saturday night, Duterte said, "I am not ready to resume peace talks. As I have said...I'd like to tell the Filipino people peace with communists might not come in this generation."

The next peace talks Duterte said could come after his term "if there is one". "Peace talks will remain cancelled unless there is a compelling reason that will benefit the interest of the nation," he said.

When asked what will happen to his campaign promise, Duterte said he has tried everything and even walked the extra mile by releasing their leaders to pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

But the President noted he was being pressed to release all 400 political prisoners. "I have tried everything...I walk the extra mile...release prisoners...release the leaders so they can go to Oslo to talk...now they want 400+ prisoners who fought the government under a rebellion kind."

The President reiterated that releasing all political prisoners can be done only after a successful talk.

"Di ka mag release sa prisohan (You can't release from the prison) at the beginning. So what's there to talk about? Kung i-release ko lahat sila (If I will release them all) why bother to talk. I told soldiers to go home to your camps, clean your guns and prepare for long struggle."

It may be recalled that the Duterte administration released 21 political prisoners, who are members and consultants of the NDFP, before the start of the peace talks in Oslo in August. This is the most number ever released in the history of the peace process.

The President's order to pull out from the talks is the 16th disruption so far recorded in the history of the peace negotiations between the GRP and the NDFP.

Throwback

Since 2001, the formal peace negotiations was stalled after the NDFP withdrew from the negotiating table on account of the renewed inclusion of the Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Maria Sison and the CPP-NPA in the US terrorist list. During the Rome talks last month, both sides agreed for the GRP peace panel to recommend to the President to request the US government to de-list Sison from the list.

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Talks resumed in 2004 but broke down again in 2005 when NDFP called for the ouster of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In February 2011, both parties agreed to complete the talks but the NDFP suspended talks in June of the same year on the issue of prisoner release. There was also the failure on the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) verification.

Another disruption was when the NDFP reportedly backtracked from their commitments and insisted on their demand that the government release their 14 priority consultants, who are all facing criminal charges in various courts, before formal peace negotiations are resumed.

Although there had been informal talks through the facilitation of the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG) as third party facilitator, these were stymied by prejudicial questions, impediments and preconditions raised at the negotiating table.

Following his election in May, Duterte promised to release all their leaders to open the talks again with the reds.

True to his promise, in June before his inauguration, Duterte sent a government team composed of Jesus Dureza and Silvestre Bello III, both were later appointed as Presidential Peace Adviser and Labor Secretary and GRP panel chair, to Oslo to initially discuss with NDFP Chief Consultant Jose Maria Sison and NDFP chair Luis Jalandoni.

In that talk, both sides agreed to resume the talks, accelerate the process for negotiations and reconstitution of the JASIG, among others.

During his inauguration in July, Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire before the formal peace talks started in August although this was lifted shortly after an attack of government forces in Compostela Valley. The President restored the unilateral ceasefire before the start of the formal talks in August, last year.

On Aug. 22, the first round of formal peace talks resumed in Oslo. It was also in the first round that the NDFP declared on Aug. 26 its own unilateral ceasefire that the NPA is terminating effective Feb. 10.

At the third round on Jan. 19 – 26 in Rome, significant milestones were sealed by the both sides: the signing of the supplemental guidelines for the Joint Monitoring Committee on the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) that will govern the process of filing complaints for human rights violation of both sides; the signing of the ground rules for GRP and NDFP committee work on the socio-economic reforms; signing of completed drafts on Political and Constitutional Reforms; and their commitment to move the talks forward despite some setbacks.

Forward

The GRP and NDFP ceasefire committees are supposed to meet on February 22 in Utrecht, Netherlands to discuss the GRP draft proposal for a bilateral ceasefire and the depositing of the list of names of NDFP consultants using aliases.

The fourth round of talks is supposed to take place April back in Oslo.

During the Saturday night interview, Duterte said he is no longer interested. He added, "I am not interested arguing with them.

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Duterte tags CPP-NPA-NDF as terrorists

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated February 5, 2017 - 6:53pm



This photo shows members of the New People's Army in the hinterlands of Davao during the anniversary celebration of the Communist Party of the Philippines. AP/File

MANILA, Philippines — A day after terminating the peace talks, President Rodrigo Duterte labeled communist rebels as terrorists and ordered the arrest of jailed leftist leaders who were allowed to join the negotiations.

Duterte said the rebels committed atrocities despite the goodwill gestures displayed by the government.

"Nagmamagandang loob ka na nga, ipapahiya pa ako sa mga sagot ng p***** in*** akala mo kung sino (You showed goodwill and yet those sons of b***** who were acting as if they were somebody embarrass me with their answers)," Duterte said during his visit to the wake of three soldiers Sunday in Cagayan de Oro.

"You give them all the leeway and everything and you (respond to me with stupidity)...From now on I will consider the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines–New People's Army–National Democratic Front) a terrorist group," he added.

The NDF represents the CPP and its armed wing the NPA in the peace talks.

"Their leaders from Oslo, I am asking the military and the immigration to be on the lookout. Arrest them **again**," he added.

Duterte, who considers himself a leftist, said the NPA members are just bandits and that the Geneva Convention does not apply to them.

He said that the communists have been waging an armed struggle for 50 years and that achieving peace with them does not seem to be possible within his generation

On Saturday, Duterte announced that he is terminating the peace talks with communist rebels and instructed government negotiators to "fold up the tents and come home."

He made the statement after the government and the communists lifted their respective unilateral ceasefires following a disagreement over the NDF's demand to free hundreds of people whom it claims to be political prisoners.

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The NDF is demanding the release of about 400 prisoners, saying it is in line with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law signed in 1998.

Duterte has refused to yield to the demand, which he described as tantamount to granting amnesty. The government has so far freed 23 rebel leaders and has allowed some ranking NPA members to join the peace talks.

"We started with 18 and we came up with 23 leaders and now it's 400. If that's the case, we might as well surrender," the president said.

Duterte said the peace talks would remain canceled "unless there is a compelling reason that will benefit the interest of the nation."

The president lifted the ceasefire after NPA rebels killed three troopers in Bukidnon and kidnapped two others last week.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the termination of the peace talks was disappointing.

"President Rodrigo Duterte has declared the suspension of Peace Talks between (government) and CPP-NDF-NPA. He will likewise direct the Philippine delegation to return home," Abella said.

"This is deeply disappointing as final and lasting peace has been one of his deepest aspirations for the nation," he added.

Hours before Duterte called the rebels terrorists, Presidential Communications Assistant Secretary Ana Maria Banaag said the government remains open to talking peace with the rebels.

"The members of the peace panel would still talk about, you know, permanent peace and how to go about the parameters of going through a permanent ceasefire," Banaag told state-run radio station dzRB.

"It's really hard for them also to control their people on the ground. However, we will endeavor — the peace panel will endeavor still to talk and negotiate for peace," she added.

Banaag said the president would not bar leftist officials from joining Cabinet meetings.

"Malacañang is open to all negotiations and as to members of the Cabinet who may be inclined — communist inclined or leftist inclined, they are open — they are still part of the Cabinet and they have the confidence of the President," she said.

Banaag said the military would continue to join the fight against drugs despite the lifting of the ceasefire with the rebels.

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Duterte orders lifting of ceasefire with CPP-NPA

Philippine Information Agency

President Rodrigo Duterte announced on Friday, January 3, that he has lifted the government's unilateral ceasefire with Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

"Kagabi I decided, I called General [Eduardo] Año and said, ni-lift ko 'yung ceasefire tonight. Wala ng ceasefire," President Duterte said in his speech during his visit to M'Lang, Cotabato, for the launching of the M'lang Solar Powered irrigation System (MSPSIS).

The communist groups have demanded the release of 400 political prisoners, which the President denied. Duterte also said that he had lost a number of soldiers in the hands of the rebel groups despite the truce.

"I really tried but the demands are just too huge that it is impossible to meet or even work out a compromise," he said.

"So I really would like to express my sadness. We cannot have a peaceful generation. There will always be fight," he added.

The President stressed that his decision to release the leaders of communist groups and to resume peace talks with them showed his sincerity and eagerness to end communist insurgency in the country.

However, he said that releasing 400 political prisoners could not be possible since the decision would not only come from him.

"Unreasonable demands...I would have wanted very much, talagang gusto ko --- it's about 50 years in the making. But let it not be said that I did not try. So I guess that peace with the communists cannot be realized during our generation. Maybe years from now," he said.

"Therefore I'm asking the soldiers, 'Go back to your camps clean your rifles and be ready to fight.' I am sorry but that is how it is," the President said.

From M'Lang, the President proceeded to Kidapawan City to visit the wake of PO2 Jerome Ruefa who was killed from a pursuit operation in M'lang, Cotabato.

He also visited the wounded police personnel from the same pursuit operation: PO1 Angelito Edep and PO2 Joselex Avena who are confined at Kidapawan Medical Specialists Hospital.

He then went back to Davao City to visit the wake of 2Lt. Miguel Victor Alejo at St. Peter Chapel & Funeral Homes in Panacan.

The 26-year-old junior officer from the 67th Army Infantry Battalion was killed in an encounter with members of NPA last Wednesday in Barangay Lambog, Manay, Davao Oriental.

Alejo was with a team composed of police and army soldiers dispatched to respond to reports regarding NPA rebels extorting money in Barangay Rizal.

The troops were waylaid as they were heading for the village, leading to the death of Alejo and the wounding of army Private Jocno Sumatin. (PND)

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