

Army Vision: By 2038, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

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NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 February 2017

Thursday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 9, 2017 | THURSDAY




LAOAG CITY 19 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 20 - 26 °C
BAGUIO CITY 12 - 21 °C
SBMA/CLARK 22 - 31 °C
METRO MANILA 22 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 24 - 25 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 30 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 30 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 30 °C
METRO CEBU 24 - 30 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 22 - 30 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 23 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO 24 - 32 °C

SUNRISE 6:22 AM
SUNSET 6:58 PM
MOONRISE 4:22 PM
MOONSET 4:32 AM
FIRST QUARTER FEB 4 12:44 PM
FULL MOON FEB 11 2:32 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH 4:23 AM 0.28 Meter
HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH 0:55 PM 1.11 Meter


Partly cloudy, in a line with rain showers
 Partly cloudy to at times early with rain showers and/or thunderstorm
 Clear sky with light showers and/or thin drizzle
 Light rain

	FEB 10	FEB 11	FEB 10	FEB 11	FEB 10	FEB 11		
METRO MANILA	22 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 28 °C	22 - 27 °C	TACLOBAN	23 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21 - 27 °C	21 - 27 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 28 °C	24 - 28 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 30 °C	24 - 28 °C
LAOAG	19 - 29 °C	20 - 29 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	12 - 21 °C	13 - 22 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	23 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	22 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU	24 - 29 °C	24 - 31 °C			

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SRGT. RO. PRODIA A301



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04 February 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

AFP: War won't be easy

20 NDF consultants placed under lookout order

By FRANCIS T. WANEFIELD,
ROCKY NAZARENO,
and JEFFREY G. DALICOR

The military yesterday said it is committed to defeat the New People's Army (NPA), vowing to cripple its military capability and infrastructure as well as its will to fight.

But Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippine-Public Affairs Office (AFP-PAO), said defeating the enemy won't be an easy task, especially if they are holding on to communities to survive. **►4**

"This is not going to be an easy one. It's not easy to fight your own people. It's not easy to fight the NPA rebels who are trying to hold on to communities," Arevalo said, following the order of President Duterte of an all-out war against the NPAs.

"But for all intents and purposes, if we are to attain a lasting peace, if we are to end this particular war that we have been fighting for more than four decades now then we have to defeat them and their capabilities and all other aspects of," he said.

Arevalo said when talking about an all-out war, it only means the military will use all available assets of the AFP to accomplish their mission of defeating the enemy.

"By all-out, however, we do not mean we are going to be indiscriminate in our conduct of operations," Arevalo said.

"Our operations will always and has always been focused and determined but we are not going to be indiscriminate," he added.

Asked if the military has set a timeline in defeating the enemy, Arevalo said there is none.

"We don't have any timeline given to ourselves and there is no timetable or timeframe that was given by the President," he said.

"We will be deliberate, focused, and surgical with our operations. Our intention is to defeat the enemy... to defeat the New People's Army, not only their

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structure, the support system if there is still remaining," Arevalo said.

"We will destroy the enemy's will to fight... we will encourage the surrender of most of their people who have already seen the light and are now wanting to be part of the mainstream citizens of our country," he said.

Arevalo said that now that government has declared an all-out war against communist rebels, the AFP's main focus will be in Northeastern Mindanao where the concentration of the CPP-NPA is located. Based on latest information, Arevalo said, the current strength of the communist guerrillas is 3,700.

"Our current concentration will be in Northeastern Mindanao. But there is no need to add additional troops at least as of today to augment our personnel currently operating there," Arevalo said.

"As we have said, we already have enough personnel, equipment and units in those areas that we are now operating and we are thus far successful as manifested by the recent number of surrenderees," he added.

Asked if there is a possibility that the CPP-NPA were able to recruit new members during the duration of the unilateral ceasefire and peace talks, Arevalo said they will not be surprised if that happened.

"We don't have an actual report on that but we are not, we will not be surprised if they conducted recruitment. That is probably the reason they are

angry if they see soldiers within communities because they will not have any opportunity to recruit and get public or mass base support," Arevalo said.

Safety of communities assured

Arevalo assured the people of their safety and there will be no "collateral damage" in their all-out war against communist rebels.

"We understand the apprehension of the people that is why we are telling them they should not be afraid of their soldiers because your soldiers are actually there to ensure that you will have, that you will be free from fear, that no one will be harassing your daily activities, that you will be safe in your communities," Arevalo said.

"We have been as we are always committed to surgical, deliberate planned operations. We will ensure that there will be no collateral damage in... at the most we can avoid it because that is exactly the reason or the principle behind a well-planned surgical and deliberate operations," he added.

Arevalo said these instructions of AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Año has been cascaded or disseminated even to their units in the field.

NDF shrugs off 'war'

As this developed, National Democratic Front (NDF) peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaoili brushed aside President Duterte's order for an all-out war against communist rebels, defiantly saying "we are used to these threats."

In a statement obtained by The Manila Bulletin yesterday, Agcaoili said it was not the first time that a president

had ordered such an offensive against the insurgency group, which has been in conflict with the government for 78 years.

"(Former) President Cory Aquino did it in 1987 after the Mendiola massacre. (Former President Joseph) Estrada did it, too, after signing the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement). We are used to these threats," he said.

Agcaoili expressed confidence that "the revolutionary movement will persist and continue the struggle for the national and social liberation of the Filipino people to bring about a just and lasting peace in the country."

Agcaoili, who is in Utrecht, The Netherlands, also acknowledged receiving through e-mail the formal letter of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, informing the NDF about the termination of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

"We intend to acknowledge it today (Wednesday) to enable the 30-day grace period to run," he said.

Agcaoili pointed out that he found it "odd" that Dureza's letter only informed the NDF peace panel about the "termination of the JASIG and not the peace negotiations."

"It is not like the written notice of termination sent by President Estrada before. But Dureza's notice will do in effectively terminating the peace negotiations," he said.

The acknowledgment effectively closes both the doors of the Philippine government (GRP) and the NDF, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA (CPP-NPA), on

what was the most successful round of talks spanning six presidents since the time of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Interestingly, Agcaoili's acknowledgment yesterday came on the 78th birthday of CPP founding chairman and NDF peace panel Chief Political Adviser Jose Maria Sison.

Lookout bulletin

Meanwhile Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre III placed NDF consultants Tirso Lagoras Alcantara, Ma Concepcion Araneta Boeala, Pedro Heyrona Codaste, Renanie Macatarrgay Gamara, Alan Valera Jazmines, Ernesto Epino Lorenzo, Ma Loida Tuzo Magpatoc, Alfredo Amparo Mapano, Ruben Abenir Saluta, Adelberto Albayulde Silva, Benito Enriquez Tiamzon, Wilma Austria Tiamzon, Ariel Mancao Arbitrario, Renato Maranga Baleros Sr., Kennedy Lao-ing Bangibang, Jaime Sevillano Doria Soledad, Rafael Baylasis, Alex Birondo, Winona Birondo, and Porferio Tuna under immigration lookout bulletin order (ILBO).

Once any of these persons are spotted, immigration officers were told by Aguirre to quickly inform the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Prosecutor General "to determine the appropriate course of action to be taken thereafter."

Aguirre also told the Prosecutor General that "if it should be found that there is probable cause to criminally charge the respondents in court, to immediately file the case and obtain warrants for their arrest."

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NPA: BRING IT ON

STORY BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

■ **Communist rebels say they will survive President Duterte's 'all-out war'**

■ **'Baseless propaganda,' says the military in dismissing rebels' claim of strength**

FROM A1

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@dtmallarijrINQ

■ **Militant groups urge peace negotiators to resume talks to preserve early gains**

A4

LUCENA CITY—Been there, done that.

Communist rebels on Wednesday said they had survived full-scale military offensives in the past and were confident they would overcome the "all-out war" declared by the government after talks to settle nearly 50 years of insurgency were terminated by President Duterte.

"That all-out-war order is nothing new to us. The rebel movement had already faced and successfully overcome them before," Cleo del Mundo, spokesperson for the New People's Army (NPA) Apolonio Mendoza Command in Quezon province, said in an online interview on Wednesday.

Del Mundo said the communist guerrillas, particularly in Quezon, had been preparing to face the renewed offensive over the past six months during a shaky truce between the government and the NPA. They had been on constant combat footing "against possible attacks by the enemies," she said.

In a statement late on Tuesday after the government terminated the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig), chief rebel negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said the administration of President Corazon Aquino was the first to declare an all-out war on the communist rebels.

"We are used to these threats," Agcaoili said in a statement. "The revolutionary movement will persist and continue the struggle for the national and social liberation of the Filipino people to bring about a just and lasting peace in the country."

The junking of the Jasig strips rebel negotiators and their staff of safe conduct, clearing the way for their arrest.

'Baseless propaganda'

Lt Gen Ferdinand Quidilla, chief of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) which includes Quezon province, dismissed the rebels' claim of strength and widespread influence as "baseless propaganda."

"We will hit them in all sides of their bases," Quidilla said. He cited recent Army assaults on guerrilla zones in Masbate, Sorsogon, Rizal and Occidental Mindoro provinces. At least one NPA fighter was killed in the Mindoro clash.

After the President terminated the government's unilateral ceasefire and called off the talks, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Tuesday announced an all-out war on the rebels through "surgical operations"—precise

attacks to avoid casualties among noncombatants.

Immediately after Mr. Duterte lifted the ceasefire last Friday, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año said the military "will go after the NPA, and we will hit them hard."

Mr. Duterte said the rebels made "impossible" demands and attacked and killed several soldiers during the truce.

The NPA's Del Mundo said Año had once belittled the NPA forces in Quezon where he had served as commander.

Año then claimed the rebels were so few "they could all fit in one tricycle," she said. "Now he is belittling the strength of the NPA in the entire country."

Mindanao

In Mindanao, a top Army commander said on Wednesday that operations against the NPA in his area resumed immediately after the President terminated the government ceasefire.

As a result, at least seven alleged NPA guerrillas had surrendered, said Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, commander of the 10th Infantry Division, which covers three regions, including the Davao provinces and southern Mindanao.

Solcom's Quidilla said the military offensives would be "within the bounds of the AFP rules of engagement, respect human rights and (international humanitarian law) at all times—meaning there should be no collateral damage."

"Our commander emphasized that in carrying out missions, we should not abuse our authority to maintain the trust and confidence of the AFP Commander in Chief and the Filipino people," Quidilla said, noting that Mr. Duterte enjoys widespread support.

Cause of armed conflict

Amid talk of renewed hostilities, militant youth leaders and a legal consultant for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) urged Mr. Duterte to resume the talks.

The student leaders also questioned the timing of the scrapping of the talks—just as the two sides were discussing an agreement on social and economic reforms aimed at resolving economic grievances and social inequalities—the main cause of the armed conflict.

Leaders of Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students (LFS), National Union of Students of the Philippines and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines said students would hold rallies on Friday to call on the government to return to the negotiating table and denounce "saboteurs" of the talks.

Anakbayan secretary gener-

al Einstein Recedes said that Mr. Duterte seemed to have succumbed to his emotions while being egged on by the United States, the military and the elite oligarchy.

Human rights violations

"All-out war will not address landlessness, unemployment and contractualization," Recedes said. "Human rights violations will only increase without resolving the roots of conflict."

"There is no fundamental change yet. You can't just make the NPA surrender," he added.

LFS national spokesperson JP Rosos said his group was "condemning the decision and pronouncements of the Duterte regime."

Rosos noted that Mr. Duterte scrapped the peace talks following a US state department statement that Washington still considered the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA as "foreign terrorist organizations."

Compelling reason

NDFP legal counsel Edre Olalia said the "compelling reason" that the President wanted to see in resuming the talks was evident.

"Identifying, addressing and resolving the roots of the armed conflict—stark penury, massive injustice, widespread landlessness, maldevelopment, foreign intervention, exploitation and oppression by the few versus the many he represents—are more than compelling reason to come back to the table," Olalia said.

The short-lived peace talks would also show that it had scored a lot of gains despite divergent views between the government and the communist rebels, he said.

Año on Wednesday said many NDFP consultants had gone underground, but he was confident that "the long arm of the law will always catch up with them."

"We will reduce their capacity to fight," he told reporters after he was confirmed as chief of staff by the Commission on Appointments.

Año also said that in lieu of the NDFP negotiations, the military may hold "localized peace talks" to give NPA fighters a chance to "go back to the mainstream."

—WITH REPORTS FROM VINCE F. NONATO, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, ALLAN NAWAL, KARLOS MANLUPIG AND ELDIE AGUIRRE INQ

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NPA official arrested in Bacolod

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

A HIGH-RANKING official of the New People's Army (NPA) on Tuesday was arrested by government forces in Bacolod City.

Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division (ID) spokesperson Lt. Col. Erickson Rosana identified the suspect

as Rowena Quilop alias "Thea," deputy secretary of the Regional Finance Bureau of the Komiteng Rehiyong-Negros (KR-N).

Quilop was arrested by police and military operatives in San Juan St., Bgy.10, Bacolod City

at 6:40 p.m. on Tuesday.

The suspect was apprehended based on a warrant of arrest for murder.

Quilop was brought to the Negros Occidental Provincial Police Office for proper disposition.

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February 2017

The Manila Times

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NPA officer linked to Army slay nabbed

A COMMUNITY organizer and alleged officer of the New People's Army (NPA) linked to the murder of an Army lieutenant in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental seven years ago was arrested by operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Tuesday night.

Army Capt. Eduardo Precioso, 303rd Infantry Brigade Civil Military Operations chief, said Rowena Quilop Navarro, allegedly a finance officer of the NPA, was nabbed on San Juan Street, Bacolod City.

Navarro's arrest was by virtue of an arrest warrant for murder issued by Cadiz Regional Trial Court Judge Renato Muñoz, for the killing of 1Lt. Archie Polenzo in March 2010.

Precioso said Navarro was also arrested in 2010 for arson but was released from jail after posting bail.

The suspect was again issued an arrest order for murder in 2011 but her lawyer, Archie Baribar, claimed the operatives nabbed the wrong person.

"The name specified in the arrest warrant is Rowena Navarro but the one they arrested is Rogina Navarro-Quilop," Baribar said adding it was "a case of illegal arrest."

But Precioso insisted that "Rowena and Rogina are one and the same person."

Clarissa Sinco-Lagatan, chairperson of human rights group Karapatan in Negros Occidental has confirmed they have a member by the name of Rowena Navarro- Quilop.

EUGENE Y. ADIONG

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09 February 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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HERO'S BURIAL – The coffin of Army Second Lieutenant Miguel Victor Alejo is carried on the shoulders of his comrades as he is laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City. Alejo was the first casualty recorded after the New People's Army (NPA) ended its unilateral ceasefire last February 1. (EPA)

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Page. 2



NELIA Alejo, mother of slain 2nd Lt. Miguel Victor Alejo, who, according to authorities, was killed by suspected members of the New People's Army, mourns during his burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City. (EPA)

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

2 NPA members surrender at start of AFP offensive in CARAGA

Lui Claudio



Two regular members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Agusan del Sur surrendered to the 3rd Special Forces Battalion based in Bayugan City on February 6, 2017. They brought with them 1 M16, 2 Garand, 1 carbine, 1 Light Anti-Tank Weapon and 2 IEDs.

Jerry Petelo alias Wawie and Rany Ayawon alias Dondon of the North Eastern Mindanao Regional Party Committee (NEMRC) of the NPA operating in Agusan Norte and Sur cited frustration in their leadership after their promised allowances were no longer given and fear of the incoming Army offensive as reasons for their surrender. They revealed that a lot of their NPA companions in their unit share the same sentiment after President Duterte lifted the unilateral ceasefire earlier declared. They said that a lot of them have already left their unit for good or are planning to surrender. Lieutenant Colonel Patrick De Villa and Bayugan City DILG Elba Belmonte received the rebels.

401st Brigade Commander Colonel Cristobal N Zaragoza assured the duo that they will be treated well and will be assisted in their return to the mainstream society per instruction of MGEN BENJAMIN MADRIGAL, the 4th ID Commander. LTGEN GUERRERO of the EASTMINCOM congratulated 401st Brigade especially CAPT JASPER BAYRANTE and CISNP ROMMEL VILLAMOR for ensuring the safety of the two (2) NPAs when they extricated from their main group.

The duo will be given their benefits under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) of the government and incentives for the firearms returned to start a new life.

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<http://www.update.ph>

315 Newly trained soldiers deploy in Central Mindanao

Gloria Seloza



6ID photo

Three hundred fifteen newly trained Army privates who were provided with best training have formally joined the Maguindanao-based 6th Infantry 'Kampilan' Division on February 4. This is as the government intensifies its campaign against terrorism and insurgency.

The new soldiers are members of Candidate Soldiers Class 416-2017 and Class 417-2017, the Kampilan Division said.

"They underwent a rigid Basic Military Training and Jungle Warfare Mountain Operations Course as well as training on war fighting competency, disaster response and rescue operations, explosive ordnance and reconnaissance agent, water search and rescue, and pekiti tersia kali," 6ID said.

They will be assigned to the different battalions of 6ID to boost the peace and development efforts of the command in Central Mindanao.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Año: AFP to play limited role in anti-drugs drive

BY JP LOPEZ

ARMEI Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said the military is coordinating with Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in line with President Duterte's order for the military to help in his government's anti-drug campaign.

Año said an executive order is being proposed to create an anti-drug agency committee which will supervise a task force to be created to enlist the AFP in the campaign.

The order, he said, will direct the retraining of soldiers who would be deployed in the task force. He, however, said he has yet to receive an order from President Duterte for the military to participate in police operations against the illegal drugs trade.

Año said the AFP's support would be limited to PDEA operations against big-time drug syndicates.

"The AFP will not be involved but only the task force in cases where drug syndi-

cates have armed groups," Año told the Commission on Appointments during his confirmation hearing.

Año said the AFP will provide troops that can support PDEA.

The CA yesterday confirmed the ad interim appointments of 30 senior military officers, including Año.

The police anti-drug operations "Oplan Tokhang" was suspended last week to give way to the cleansing of the PNP of rogue members. Duterte gave the PDEA the lead role in the campaign against illegal drugs.

Duterte earlier said he will issue an EO or a proclamation to allow the AFP to assist PDEA in its anti-drugs operations.

Also confirmed by the CA was Eduardo "Red" Kapunan, a former military officer accused in the kidnap-slay of labor leader Rolando Olalia and his driver Leonor Alalay, as ambassador to Myanmar.

However, the CA committee on foreign affairs, reset the confirmation hearing of Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. upon the request of the House bloc in the

panel, questioning among others his dual citizenship.

San Juan City Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said the House contingent to the CA asked the CA panel to reschedule Yasay's confirmation hearing due to "several reasons," including his reported US citizenship.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson explained that the House has the practice of preliminary vetting the nominee before they could decide. He said he scheduled the next hearing on Feb. 22.

Also confirmed by the CA were Bi-venido Tejano, ambassador to Papua New Guinea, and Abdulmaid Kiram Muin, ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; Evan Pumaren Garcia as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland; and Celia Anna Feria, ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, with concurrent jurisdiction over the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, and Republic of Angola.

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Año, 29 AFP officials, 5 envoys hurdle CA

By MARVIN SY

Thirty officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including AFP chief General Eduardo Año, and five ambassadors were confirmed yesterday by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

The CA has yet to hear the appointments of Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. and Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano owing to the House of Representatives' desire to conduct initial vetting on the two Cabinet members.

CA committee on foreign affairs chairman Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the House contingent moved to defer Yasay's confirmation hearing to Feb. 22.

San Juan City Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, CA vice chairman, said they wanted to hear what Yasay has to say about the issue of his citizenship.

"We want him to tell us that this is not true. I am no longer an American citizen although I was an American citizen at one time," Zamora said.

He said the question was previously raised to Yasay, but he has yet to respond to it.

CA overall chairman and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III downplayed the deferment of Yasay's confirmation hearing and speculations that this had something to do with the expected appointment of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as the next foreign secretary.

"We cannot, we should not assume when the executive gives us communication that the President has appointed somebody. We will not assume that he is temporary or just a filler," Pimentel said.

The President has stated on numerous occasions that Cayetano would be his foreign secretary once the one-year prohibition on appointments for candidates expires this May.

If ever Yasay is confirmed and stays on, Pimentel said that should not be a problem for Cayetano because he has two years left in the Senate.

While Yasay's confirmation hearing was deferred, the CA confirmed ambassadors Eduardo Kapunan Jr. to Myanmar, Bienvenido Tejano, Papua New Guinea with concurrent jurisdiction over Kiribati and Solomon Islands, Abdulmaid Kiram Muin, Timor Leste, Evan Garcia as permanent representative to the United Nations, and Ma. Ceia Feria Portugal with concurrent jurisdiction over Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Angola.

In a separate hearing, the promotion of Año to four-star general and the AFP's 48th chief was also confirmed.

Año, former chief of the AFP's intelligence service and Philippine Army, once hogged the headlines owing to his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of activist Jonas Burgos, who remains missing to this day.

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30 generals, 5 envoys ok'd

THE Commission on Appointments on Wednesday confirmed General Eduardo Año as the 48th chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and 29 other generals and senior officers

Following Año's confirmation, the CA also appointed to the rank of Major General the following: Herminigildo Francisco Aquino,

Enrique Reyes, Joselito Reyes, Jon Aying, Rhoderick Parayno, Robert Arevalo, Danilo Pamonag and Paul Atal.

Those who were appointed to the rank of Brigadier General were Jose Antonio Carlos Motril, Emmanuel Joaquin Guina, Edmund Dante Janda, Bicervenide

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Datuin, Gavin Edjawan, Samuel Gotico, Isidro Purisima, Ernesto Ravina Jr., Earl Baliao, Roy Devesa, Roseller Murillo, Custodio Parcon Jr., Simplicio Lumantas Jr., Gilbert Gapay, Jesus

Manangquil Jr. and Peter Suchiangco.

Also promoted were Narciso Vingson as Vice Admiral and Rene Medina as Rear Admiral, Rommel Jason Galang and Erick Kagaon as Commodore and Amador Magdamit as Colonel, Judge Advocate General Service.

Meanwhile, five ambassadors were also confirmed by the CA without any

objections from its members.

They are Evan Pumaren Garcia-Permanent representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland; Celia Anna Mallari Feria- Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Portuguese Republic; Eduardo Kapunan Jr.,-Ambassador extraordinary

and plenipotentiary to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Bienvenido Villamor Tejano-Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the independent state of Papua New Guinea and Abdulmaid Kiram Muin-Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. **PNA**

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CA confirms Año

By PAUL M. GUTIERREZ

THE powerful Commission on Appointments yesterday confirmed the 4TH star and designation of former Philippine Army commanding general, Gen. Eduardo M. Año, as the 48th chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

On questions by lawmakers prior to his confirmation at the committee level of the CA Committee on National Defense, the "highly-recommended" military official, as described by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, said the AFP would abide by the pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte to go "all-out" against the communist New People's Army (NPA).

President Duterte had earlier announced the government's withdrawal from the peace talks and for the AFP to launch an offensive against the NPA, citing the

latter's tactical offensives that killed at least five soldiers in a one-week period.

In a talk with this writer, however, Año expressed his frustration and "regret" over the ceasefire's collapse, saying like most Filipinos, he is also personally committed to seeing the success of the peace talks.

"Antagal na ng problemang ito, talagang dapat matuldukan na. We are even willing to accommodate them into the ranks of the Philippine Army at the end of the day if that is what it would take to ensure lasting peace for our country," he told this writer.

Well-respected as an intelligence officer, Año has been credited for the arrest, over the years, of all top-ranking communist leaders in the country, including Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chairman, Benito Tiamzon, and his wife, Wilma.

Records show that all



AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año with National Press Club president and People's Tonight reporter Paul M. Gutierrez.

the members of the National Democratic Front peace panel, except those in self-exile abroad, have been arrested by the military mostly on the basis of intelligence operations supervised by Año.

Año noted that even while the NPA's unilateral ceasefire declaration was still in effect beginning in August 2016, the military have recorded a total of 55 incidents allegedly perpe-

trated by local NPA groups with 49 of those incidents occurring in Mindanao.

On his appointment to the position last December 2016, Pres. Duterte's original directive is for the AFP to focus its attention to the elimination of terrorists and bandit groups operating in Mindanao where Año also first served as a platoon leader after his graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1983.

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Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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AFP: Better-equipped soldiers will defeat NPA

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces is confident it will be able to defeat the communist New People's Army which has been fighting government for nearly 50 years.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said the 125,000-strong military establishment is now in a better position to address the communist insurgency because its men are better equipped.

"We are confident we are going to win this time, defeat

them," said Arevalo of the NPA which now has about 3,700 members from a peak strength of about 25,000 men in the 80s.

"At present, our Armed Forces is better equipped. We have more modern equipment and we are now in a better position to fight the enemies of the state," Arevalo also said.

The military has received modern equipment like M4 rifles, helicopters, and armored personnel vehicles under its

See AFP > Page B6

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

AFP

ongoing modernization program which started about two decades ago.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced an all-out war against the NPA on Tuesday, days after President Duterte ordered the termination of peace negotiations and a unilateral ceasefire with the communists.

Duterte's declarations came after a series of NPA attacks that left six soldiers dead and three others abducted while the communists are supposed to be observing their own ceasefire.

Arevalo said the military is aiming for the "tactical defeat" of the NPA, which means degrading the group's capability to fight government, neutralization of its members, and destruction of its supply and support system.

Arevalo also said the military now has a better blueprint to address insurgency, referring to the Development Support and Security Plan "Kapayapaan," which was unveiled last month.

He said DSSP Kapayapaan clearly shows the role of local government units and the private sector in addressing insurgency, particularly its root causes, including poverty and lack of basic services.

"As long as the reasons why they (NPA members) continue to rebel are there and there is no progress and development, insurgency will remain," said Arevalo.

Former Bayan Muna Rep Neri Colmenares rejected the claim of AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año that consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in the peace negotiations with the government are not entitled to 30-day grace period after the collapse of the peace talks.

Colmenares made the statement after Año said NDFP negotiators could not invoke the 30-day grace period under the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

He said those who were not in jail and were invited to join in the peace process are covered by JASIG and therefore enjoy the 30-day grace period. "If the talks fail, then they have a 30-day period to go back to the mountains or go

into hiding," he said

However, those who are out on bail to participate in the process could be re-arrested immediately after the collapse of the talks. He said the validity of their temporary liberty ceased after President Duterte suspended the peace talks.

"The order is for us to arrest NDF personalities who were released on bail," Año said.

But Colmenares said these NDF personalities who are out on bail were also covered by JASIG and should also enjoy 30-day grace period.

"If the peace negotiations were held in the mountains and suddenly the talks collapsed, ibig bang sabihin na putukan agad? Of course not," he said.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said with the cancellation of the peace negotiations, the consultants' provisional liberty "automatically ceased," hence they can now be arrested by state security forces and recommitted to their detention facilities.

The Department of Justice issued an immigration look-out bulletin order for 20 NDFP consultants Tuesday night after government issued a notice to the NDFP terminating the JASIG.

A look-out bulletin order is different from a court-issued hold departure order as the former directs the Bureau of Immigration only to be on the lookout for the subject and to verify the status of a case against the subject person and not to restrict an individual from leaving the country.

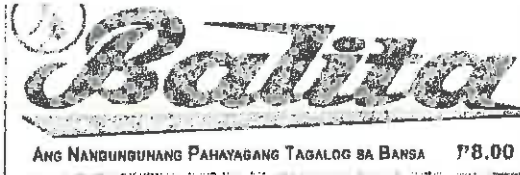
Subject of the order are Tirso Lagoras Alcantara, Ma. Concepcion Araneta Bocala, Pedro Heyrona Codaste, Renante Macatangay Gamara, Alan Valera Jazmines, Ernesto Epino Lorenzo, Ma. Loida Tuzo Magpatoc, Alfredo Amparo Mapano, Ruben Abenir Saluta, Adelberto Albayulde Silva, Benito Enriquez Tiamson, Wilma Austria Tiamzon, Ariel Mancao Arbitrario, Renato Maranga Baleros Sr., Kennedy Lao-ing Bangibang alias Gabriel Bangibang, Jaime Servillano Doria Soledad, Rafael Baylosis, Alex Birondo, Winona Birondo and Porferio Dianco Tuna. - *With JP Lopez, Ashzel Hachero and Raymond Africa*

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Ginang sugatan sa pagsabog, sunog sa kampo

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City
– Grabeng nasugatan ang asawa ng company commander ng Ammo Company sa Camp Aquino matapos sumabog at masunog ang Building 2 sa loob ng kampo Martes ng gabi.

Inilalat ni SPO1 Aldrin Dayag kay Tarlac police Supt. Bayani Razalan na ang nasugatan ay si Florilee Bohol, 32,

maybahay ni Capt. Armand Bohol.

Dinala si Bohol sa Camp Aquino Servillano Hospital dakong 10:40 ng gabi Sinabi naman ni T/Sgt Romito Orbigo ng AMMO Company na nakarinig siya ng pagsabog at pagkalat ng apoy sa Enlisted Personnel Barracks.

Kaagad rumesponde ang mga

bumbero ng Bureau of Fire Protection mula sa Tarlac City, Chinese Fire Volunteer Brigade

Naapula ang apoy dakong 12:00 ng madaling araw

Hindi pa matukoy ang pinagmulan ng pagsabog na nagdulot ng sunog

Leandro Alborote

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INQUIRER

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REGIONS BRIEFS

Nolcom to PNP, BFP: Look into camp blast

CLARK FREEPORT—The military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) has asked the Philippine National Police and Bureau of Fire Prevention to investigate an explosion inside its headquarters in Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac City on Tuesday night. The blast injured Florelia Bohol, wife of an Army captain, who was hit by a glass shard, according to Lt. Col. Leopoldo Acerden, group commander of Nolcom's Civil Relations Service. In a statement, Lt. Col. Alan Macatingrao, chief of the public information office of Nolcom, did not say what caused the explosion. The blast started a fire at the old enlisted personnel barracks at 10:30 p.m., he said. It took an hour to control the fire. "[Nolcom] assures residents of Tarlac City that despite the incident, [the city] remains safe," Macatingrao said. —TONETTE OREJAS AND GABRIEL CARDINOZA

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Pahina. 2

Ammunition depot, sumabog

Pinaniniwalaang milyong halaga ng ari-arian ang nilamon ng apoy makaraang sumabog at nasunog ang ammunition depot ng AFP-Northern Luzon Command sa Camp Servillano Aquino sa Barangay San Miguel, Tarlac City, Tarlac noong Martes ng gabi

Ayon sa hepe ng AFP-Public Affairs Office na si Col. Edgard Arevalo, nartala

ang insidente dakong alas-11 ng gabi sa Building 2 ng Army Support Command's Armaments Battalion. Sa imbestigasyon naman ng pulisya, ang pagsabog ay nagmula sa barracks ng mga sundalo kung saan nasugatan ang misis ni Captain Bohol na tumatayong kumander ng Ammunition Company.

Naapula naman ang su-

nog dakong alas-12 ng hatinggabi matapos rumesponde ang Bureau of Fire Protection at Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade ng Tarlac City.

Kasabay nito, agad namang pinabulaanan ni Arevalo ang kumalat na espekulasyon sa social media partikular na sa facebook na kagagawan ng mga terorista ang pagsabog. (*Joy Cantos*)

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Duterte okays return of ROTC program

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has approved the return of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program for Grades 11 and 12 students in public and private schools, Malacañang said Wednesday.

"The Cabinet has approved the Mandatory ROTC Program in grades 11 and 12," Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

He said the Cabinet approved the return of the ROTC program after the Defense Department recommended it and Duterte consented.

The ROTC was made optional in 2002 after the death of Mark Chua, a University of Santo Tomas student who was allegedly slain by course officers after he exposed their mismanagement of ROTC funds.

Abella said an amendment to Republic Act 7077 or the "Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act" will be forwarded to Congress and will be certified as urgent by Duterte.

"In his 2016 State of the Nation Address, the President made a policy pronouncement to strengthen the ROTC program to instill love of country and good citizenship among the youth, and to make it once again mandatory," Abella said.

An Army official earlier said the country's reserve force went down drastically when the National Service Training Program Law was passed in 2001. **John Paolo Bencito**

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President wants revived ROTC free from corruption

President Duterte has ordered authorities to ensure that the proposed revival of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in schools would be free from corruption and other irregularities.

The President issued the directive after endorsing a bill reviving the military training program for Grades 11 and 12 students during a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang last Tuesday.

"It was abolished because of the corruption that prevailed during the 90s. That's why the President want-

ed to sure there will be no corruption this time," Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said in a Filipino during a radio interview.

Andanar said the President approved the recommendation of the Department of National Defense on bringing back the ROTC program "with conditions." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines assured yesterday that measures will be put in place to prevent hazing, sexual harassment, and corruption in the ROTC once it is

implemented for Grades 11 and 12.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military will strictly implement the Anti-Hazing Law to prevent hazing in the ROTC in addition to the strict measures currently implemented by the AFP.

He said as part of President Duterte's instructions, tactical officers in-charge of the ROTC training should have no record of abuse, hazing, or corruption. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling and Francis T. Wakefield)**

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The Manila Times

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Militants slam ROTC in Senior High School

A left-leaning student group on Wednesday denounced the return of a mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Course (ROTC) for Senior High School (Grades 11 and 12) students.

"The students stood up against the ROTC program. Through protests and collective actions, mandatory ROTC was removed from college. We have voiced opposition against the proposals of reviving it in college. But even President [Rodrigo] Duterte had the gall to approve the program in Grades 11 and 12. This is unacceptable. It is an insult to the victims of the violent program and the students who fought against it," JP Rosos, national spokesman for the League of Filipino Students (LFS), said in a statement after Duterte on Tuesday approved the ROTC's return.

"The ROTC is bankrupt to its core. It instills fear and blind obedience stemming from its fascist and corrupt nature. It must never be revived," Rosos added.

He said it is foolish to think that ROTC through the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) can teach nationalism.

"The ROTC through the AFP can never instill genuine love for the country. The AFP is the same institution that celebrates the incursions and violations of our national sovereignty committed by US imperialism and its allies. It is even the first one to defend the port visits and military exercises of US troops in Philippine territory. Worse, the AFP proudly defended the basing of US forces inside our country through EDCA [Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement] and other lopsided agreements. What love for the country can the AFP teach when they are the ones who welcome the re-occupation of foreign entities in the Philippines?" Rosos added.

According to him, the ROTC holds an abusive and violent history.

He pointed out that the core of the program relies on physical, verbal and psychological abuse.

"The ROTC is far from instill-

ing discipline. Through abuse and violence, it instills fear and blind obedience, not any sort of discipline," Rosos said, adding that the program has always led to countless infringement of student rights.

He recalled the case of Mark Welson Chua from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

Chua was killed after he exposed corruption in the ROTC at the university.

Rosos added the case of two female students from the state-run Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 2014.

He narrated that these students suffered hazing and corporal punishment from their officers.

Rosos cited video of student cadets from the University of Mindanao-Tagum who were being punched repeatedly in the chest and stomach.

"Several cases are being reported that student cadets are being violated and abused by their officials. This is not discipline, just plain violence and abuse of power. The ROTC is nothing but fascist machinery that needs to be taken down," he said.

Through the ROTC, according to him, military troops are allowed to enter universities and colleges violating the LFS-DND [Department of National Defense] Accord.

He said some military personnel also go as far as basing themselves in schools that violates various international humanitarian laws.

"It is also foolish to think that such violent and abusive program will be able to teach discipline and love for the country. It is impossible," Rosos added.

"If the government really wants to teach love for the country and instill patriotism, then the government should give more time in discussing the history of the Filipino people and our struggle for national liberation. Also, a fascist program like the ROTC can never teach critical thinking to our students—a necessary skill needed for the patriotic spirit to flourish among the youth," he said. **NEIL A. ALCOBER**

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Rody: Reds went overboard

With the military of the Philippines launching an all-out war against communist rebels, President Duterte said they "went

Militants hit all-out war vs Reds

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Duterte yesterday revealed his disappointment with the Communist Party overboard" Duterte has ended the government's Turn to Page 1

Rody From Page 1

ceasefire with communist rebels after six months and ordered troops to get ready to resume fighting after the guerrillas lifted their own truce and killed soldiers in fresh attacks.

Duterte made the decision two days after the NPA abandoned their own ceasefire, citing the government's refusal to release more political detainees and accusing the military of encroaching into their rural strongholds.

Duterte said the rebels made unreasonable and excessive demands that prompted him to also drop the government's ceasefire declaration and scuttle the peace talks.

"I terminated the ceasefire talks because they went overboard," Duterte told the gathering at the 115th founding anniversary of the Bureau of Customs yesterday.

Duterte revealed his sentiments anew while he directed Customs chief Nicanor Faeldon to pursue the bureau's campaign

against corruption and lauded the increase in revenue collection.

Duterte said he needed the additional revenues to acquire more equipment for the military to fight the NPA, fund the campaign against illegal drugs and to thwart the threat of Islamic groups in Mindanao.

"There's a war going on in Central Mindanao. So that's the bigger problem. I would need money to buy the equipment and the things that they would need to keep this country in order," he said.

Malacañang said the disconnect between leaders of the CPP and the National Democratic Front (NDF) apparently led to the breakdown of the peace talks.

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Martin Andanar cited the miscommunication between the rebel leaders in terminating their unilateral ceasefire during the duration of the peace negotiations.

"They lifted the ceasefire from the ground, the CPP-NPA-NDF. But then again, we were astounded why the talks

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HUNT FOR REBEL LEADERS

RODY URGED: BE PATIENT, TOLERANT FOR PEACE

By **Tarra Quismundo**
@TarraINQ

Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Wednesday called on President Duterte to be more patient and tolerant in working for peace as the military and police intensified the hunt for rebel leaders who took part in the peace negotiations.

Pangilinan said the President's decision to terminate the talks with communist rebels early in his term was "rash and impulsive."

The government on Tuesday announced an all-out war against the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA), after Mr. Duterte lifted the government's ceasefire and ended talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) that had shown some promise of success at the start of his term. The rebels will end their own truce on Friday.

"This communist insurgency, which has resulted in the killing of Filipino by fellow Filipino, has been going on for nearly half a century. He has been President for just six months," Pangilinan said.

"Giving up on peace and

declaring all-out war just six months into his presidency, I believe, with due respect, is being rash and impulsive," he said.

"We need greater patience and understanding rather than anger and the ease to resort to violence and more killings," he added.

As the military started hunting down NPA rebels, a nationwide alliance of peace advocates added its voice to calls for the revival of the talks.

Like Pangilinan, the Citizens Alliance for Just Peace (CAJP) asked for more sobriety from the government and the rebels.

"Scuttling the peace talks would bring monumental disappointment for those striving to build a just and enduring peace in our land," said the group, which is composed of institutions, Church groups and activists advocating for peace.

CAJP said the gains achieved in the talks were in peril and the threat of widespread violence had heightened after the declaration of war on the rebels.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año said many of the NDFP consultants, including alleged CPP

chair Benito Tiamzon and his wife, Wilma, had gone underground but they would eventually be captured.

"Do they really want to spend the rest of their lives hiding like rats?" Año said. "It's their choice if they want to go into hiding again but the long arm of the law will always catch up with them."

The military did not waste time and immediately launched operations against the rebels in Mindanao, even before Mr. Duterte announced he was terminating the talks.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, the commander of the 10th Infantry Division, said he had dispatched Army units to hunt down the rebels as soon as Mr. Duterte terminated the government's unilateral ceasefire.

Valencia also said his men were now trying to locate NDFP advisers and negotiators, who had been released from detention to participate in the talks. "They should better turn themselves in," he said —WITH REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, ALLAN NAWAL, KARLOS MANLUPIG, ELDIE AGUIRRE, CYNTHIA D. BALANA, JIGGER JERUSALEM, CARLA P. GOMEZ AND GIL CABACUNGAN INQ

AFP...

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Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig).

Senator Francis Pangilinan said President Duterte was being “rash and impulsive” in cancelling peace talks after only six months.

“It is crucial that the administration take a broader view of the challenges and demands of peace negotiations. We need greater patience and understanding rather than anger and the ease to resort to violence and more killings,” Pangilinan said.

On Wednesday, the Justice department put 20 NDF consultants under an immigration lookout bulletin order.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II issued a memorandum order to Immigration Chief Jaime Morente, and Prosecutor General Victor Sepulveda after a Cabinet meeting in Malacananang.

Aguirre ordered both Morente and Sepulveda to coordinate with National Bureau of Investigation Director Dante Gierran for the information about the people subject of the lookout bulletin order, including known

aliases, date and place of birth, copy of passport and latest photo.

People covered by a lookout bulletin order must get Justice department clearance before leaving the country.

The Office of the Solicitor General, meanwhile, said it would file a manifestation and motion with the Supreme Court and regional trial courts where the cases of the NDF consultants are pending, for a recommitment order.

Solicitor General Jose C. Calida pointed out that the Supreme Court resolution dated Aug. 2, 2016 imposed conditions for the provisional liberty of the NDF consultants, which were adopted by the concerned RTCs.

He said one of the conditions is that once their participation ceases or the peace negotiations are terminated, their respective bonds shall be deemed automatically canceled.

“Supreme Court decisions form part of the law of the land. Hence, the Resolution dated Aug. 2, 2016 supersedes the defunct 1995 Jasig agreement between the parties which has become moot and academic,” Calida said in a statement.

With Lance Baconguis and F. Pearl A. Gajunera

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Killing of 3 soldiers justified, says NDF

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY - The National Democratic Front has stated that the attack on three personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is part of its "active defense" and was therefore "legitimate."

This was reiterated by Ka Allan Juanito, North Central Mindanao Regional Command (NCOM) spokesperson of the New People's Army (NPA) regarding the Feb. 1 incident which killed Corporal Pat O. Non, Corporal Nino Christopher Talabor, and Sergeant Owen Yee of the 8th Infantry Battalion.

The NPA spokesperson claimed that the three were not unarmed and had been conducting reconnaissance operations against the rebels despite the ongoing peace talks between the government and the NDFP/Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in Oslo, Norway and Rome, Italy.

"The allegation that the three were arrested and killed after was therefore not true. That they were unarmed was also not true.

As a matter of fact, three .45 pistols were seized from them," the statement said.

The NDFP also denied that the NPA took away the subsistence allowance of the soldiers.

"The wallets of Sgt. Yee and Cpl. Talabor were never taken. Only the wallet with an ID card and documents of Cpl. Non was retrieved," the statement said.

The NPA also belied the claim of the 8th IB that the presence of the soldiers were for a socio-civic project.

"For the whole duration of their stay, not even a single sack of cement was being delivered by them to the said barrios."

According to the NPA, their fighters positioned alongside the road were forced to open fire when two of the troopers pulled out their pistols.

The NDF claims the 8th IB troops began their encampment on October 26 in Brgy. Kibalabag and on November 24 in Brgy. Manalag.

"Until this day, they have

not pulled-out from these two barangays," the statement said.

There were no "social services" to speak of, added the rebels.

"In fact, they are spreading decadent influence to the peace-loving residents like drinking sprees, gambling and pornography," it said.

Meanwhile, the rebels denied "desecrating" the cadavers of the fallen soldiers.

"Since their bodies were not immediately retrieved for more than 24 hours, their bodies must have decomposed due to the changing weather conditions," the statement said.

The NPA reminded the government that it had already released most of its prisoners of war as a confidence building measure.

"To the families, relatives and friends of the fallen soldiers, we offer our sincere condolences. This incident happened while the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the GRP are going on," added the statement.

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Pahina. 2

NDF CONSULTANTS SUMUKO KAYOI!-AFP

Nagbabala at nanawagan si Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief General Eduardo Año sa mga political consultants ng National Democratic Front na sumuko at bumalik sa kostudiya ng gobyerno upang hindi magmistulang daga at magtago na lamang habambuhay.

Ayon kay Año na may natanggap siyang reports na nagtago na ang mga consultants ng

NDP matapos kanselahin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang usapang pangkapayapaan.

Nagtungo kahapon si Año sa Senado na sumalang sa kumpirmasyon ng makapangyarihang Commission on Appointments.

Nakalaya lamang ang mga political consultants ng NDF matapos magpiyansa dahil sa isinulong na peace talks ng gobyerno pero kinan-

sela na ito ni Pangulong Duterte noong nakaraang Linggo at unawag pa niyang mga komunista ang Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

Ipinag-utos din ng Pangulo ang pag-aresto sa mga lider ng makakaliwang grupo at nagdeklara na rin ito ng all out war laban sa CPP-NPA.

Sinabi naman ni Año na kabilang na umano sa mga nagtatango sa ngayon sina Wilma at Benito Tiamzon na nakalaya lamang dahil nakilahok sila sa naunsiyaming peace talks.

Nakatitiyak naman si Año na muling mahuhuli ng gobyerno ang mga nagtatagong lider ng makakaliwang grupo. **Malou Escudero-**

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Court orders release of labor leader arrested with NDF consultant

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – A labor leader, who was arrested with National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant Ariel Arbitrario, was ordered released by a Tagum City court judge, who said that there was no evidence showing that he was a member of the New People's Army (NPA).

Roderick Mamuyac was ordered released by Tagum City Regional Trial Court Judge Virginia Ang, who dismissed a case of multiple murder leveled against him by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Mamuyac had earlier been tagged as an NPA liaison officer by the AFP and PNP-CIDG after he was arrested together with Arbitrario Monday at a checkpoint in Sirawan, Toril.

But Ang did not find any evidence to show that Mamuyac was, indeed, a

member of the NPA.

Meanwhile, Arbitrario has been returned to jail after submitting the necessary court documents showing a commitment order, according to human rights group Karapatan.

Arbitrario is now back in Compostela Valley while awaiting the results of his trial, which was suspended because he was allowed to join the NDF peace panel as a consultant in talks with the Philippine Government (GRP).

The negotiations between the GRP and NDF have since collapsed with President Rodrigo Duterte declaring Tuesday an all-out war against the communist group.

Carlo Olalo, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in the Southern Mindanao Region (KMU-SMR), expressed concern that with Duterte's declaration of an all-out war, the AFP will start to go after legal democratic mass organizations, like labor groups.

"This is a fact we know all too well. Labor organizations and unions have been target of attacks by the military in the past under previous administrations. We have a standing complaint against the Republic of the Philippines with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in relation to military-insti-

gated attacks on unions, unionists and workers in the region," said Olalo.

"The case of Mamuyac is another testament that the AFP is only concocting fallacious charges against leaders and members of progressive organizations in a bid to suppress the latter", Olalo said.

Aside from the arrest of Mamuyac, the labor group bared that their regional office was burglarized by unidentified men last Saturday, and that they observed several men still lurking in the vicinity of its office appearing to be monitoring the premises and the group's staff.



RESTIVE ATMOSPHERE -- Militant group Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) stage a protest in front of the Davao City Police Office Wednesday to condemn the arrest of National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant Arnel Arbitrario last February 5. (Keith Bacongco)

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Pahina. 2

CPP/NDF offc'ls nag-'TNT' na

Sumuko sa batas o mistulang mga dagang magtago habambuhay!

Ito ang babala kahapon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año laban sa may 20 consultants ng National Democratic Front (NDF) na nagsipagtago at namundok na umano kasunod ng utos ni Pangulong Duterte na arestuhin na ang mga ito.

"The order of the President is very clear, they have already terminated the peace negotiations... For those who are in jail or are given temporary bail, it follows that their bail were already invalid or canceled so the order is for us to arrest NDF personalities who were

Nina JOY CANTOS, MALOU ESCUDERO at RUDY ANDAL

released on bail," paha-yag ni Año na nangakong gagawin nila ang lahat upang maaresto ang mga nagsisipagtagong NDF consultants.

Sinabi ni Año na paliit ng paliit ang mundo ng mga NDF consultant kaya makabubuting magsisuko na ang mga ito sa batas.

"Do they really want to spend the rest of their lives hiding like rats? Matagal na tong giyera na 'eto dapat ti-nake advantage at binigay na ng seryoso yung ongoing peace negotiations. It's their choice if they want to go in hiding again but the long arm of the law will always catch up to them."

pagbibigay din ng Chief of Staff

Sinabi naman ni Año na kabilang umano sa mga nagtatago sa ngayon ang mag-asawang Wilma at Benito Tiamzon na nakalaya lamang dahil nakilahok sila naunsiyaming peace talks.

Kabilang din sa mga target ng pag-aresto ang mga matataas na lider ng CPP-NPA-NDF na sina Vic Ladlad, Afelberto Silva, Alfonso Jasminez, Alfredo Mapano, Loida Magpatoc, Pedro Cudaste, Ruben Saluta, Ernest Lorenzo,

Porferio Tuna, Renante Gamara, Tirso Alcantara at iba pa.

Nabatid na kinansela na rin ng pamahalaan ang Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) upang mapabilis ang pag-aresto sa mga ito.

Sinabi ni Presidential Peace Adviser Sec. Jesus Dureza, nabigyan na nila ng notice ng kanselasyon sa JASIG sina NDF chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison at Fidel Agcaoli, ang chairman ng rebel negotiating panel.

Ang JASIG ay pinir-

mahan ng GRP peace panel at CPP/NPA/NDF noong Pebrero 1995 kung saan nakasulat ang termination ay maaring gawin matapos ang 30 araw kapag naibigay na ang notice.

Ito rin ang nagbibigay garantiya sa pagtiyak ng kaligtasan at walang magaganap na pag-aresto sa mga negosyador, consultants at iba pang miyembro ng NDF.

Samantala, nagpakalat na ng trackers team ang AFP na makakatuwang ng PNP operatives upang tugisin at arestuhin ang NDF consultants.

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Militants hit Rody's all-out war vs Reds

By ELIZABETH MARCELO

Militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) yesterday denounced President Duterte's declaration of an all-out war against the communist New People's Army (NPA).

In a press statement, Bayan said Duterte's termination of the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), as well as his subsequent declaration of an all-out-war against the NPA, would only aggravate human rights abuses against the locals, especially in Mindanao.

"Only the fascists, imperialists and local oligarchs are rejoicing over these grim developments. Meanwhile, it

will be the people who will carry the brunt and suffer the effects of increased military operations," the group said.

They said that as early as yesterday, when the all-out-war was declared by the President, there were already reports of "attacks and harassment" against non-combatants and leaders of legal mass movements.

"It is an established fact that no all-out war approach, not even during the height of the US-backed Marcos dictatorship, has ever succeeded. The root causes of the armed conflict cannot be solved by intensified military operations," Bayan said.

On Tuesday, the government peace panel served a formal notice to the NDF that the government, upon the order of Duterte, is terminating

the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee (JASIG) as well as the safe conduct passes for NDF members, including those acting as consultants in the peace talks.

Prior to the termination of the JASIG, which the government and the NDF signed in 1995, both sides had lifted the unilateral ceasefire that they declared last year ahead of the resumption of the peace talks.

The NPA lifted the unilateral ceasefire that the rebels declared after Duterte rejected the NDF demand to release 400 political detainees.

Duterte also lifted the government's ceasefire after the NPA launched offensives against the military.

Duterte also branded the CPP-NPA-NDF as a "terrorist group" and ordered the arrest of their rebel leaders.

Bayan said that despite these recent "grim developments," the peace talks between the two parties must resume.

"Even without a ceasefire, it is important for the talks to continue for the benefit of the people. Now more than ever, agreements on socio-economic, political and constitutional reforms are needed," Bayan said.

Pamalakaya said the all-out war declaration would only perpetuate impunity allegedly being committed by government authorities.

"The government's immoral and insane all-out war can never be a key to achieve lasting peace and order in this land but it will generate more human rights violations against innocent civilians committed by the state forces with impunity," Pamalakaya chair-

man Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

The group also called on Duterte to stop his "series of tantrums" and reconsider the cancellation of the JASIG as well as the peace talks.

"President Duterte gradually takes the path of fascism. This is a clear neglect to the just demands of the Filipino people who expect genuine change under President Duterte through social, economic and political reforms," Hicap said.

Resume peace talks

Sen. Francis Pangilinan appealed yesterday to President Duterte to resume peace talks and withdraw his declaration of war against the NPA.

Pangilinan said the communist insurgency, which has resulted in the killing of Fili-

pinos by fellow Filipinos, has been going on for nearly half a century while Duterte has been President for just six months.

"Giving up on peace and declaring all-out war just six months into his Presidency, I believe, with due respect, is being rash and impulsive," the senator said.

"It is crucial that the administration take a broader view of the challenges and demands of peace negotiations. We need greater patience and understanding rather than anger and the ease to resort to violence and more killings," he said.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chairman of the committee on national defense and security, called for maintaining "coordination" between the NDF and the government.

– With Mayen Jaymalin, Paolo Romero, Romina Cabrera

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Pahina. 2



Nanawagan ang mga pari at civilian group na Citizen's Alliance for Just Peace kahapon upang pumagitna at maipagpatuloy ang naudlot na peace talks ng gobyerno at ng CPP/NPA/NDP. (Mike Taboy)

CPP/NPA dedma sa 'all out war' ni Digong

Dedma ang Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) sa 'all out war' ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte pagkatapos ang magkabilaang pagbawi sa unilateral ceasefire.

Kinumpirma rin kahapon ni National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili na natanggap na nila ang written notice mula kay Peace Adviser Sec. Jesus Dureza hinggil sa termination ng Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

Smab ni Agcaoili na hindi na ito bago para sa CPP/NPA dahil ilang pangulo na rin ang nagdeklara ng all out war sa kanilang hukbo mula pa kina dating Pangulong Joseph Estrada kaya nabuo ang Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) at dating Pangulong Corason Aquino noong 1987 kung saan naganap ang Mendiola Massacre.

Bagama't wala umanong nakalagay sa written notice patungkol sa pormal na pagbawi sa peace talks, igmitt

ni Agcaoili na itinuturing nilang pahayag na rin ito ng gobyerno ng pag-terminate sa peace negotiations.

Security cluster pulungin na!

Hiniling ni House committee on national defense and security senior vice chairman Ruffy Biazon, hindi malayong sumiklab ang giyera dahil bukod sa pag-terminate sa peace talks ay binawi na rin ng Pangulo ang Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

Kailangang mayroon nang malinaw na programa ang security clusters kung papaano tutugunan ang mga problemang ito sa lalong inadaling panahon, para maprotektahan ang interes ng mamamayan.

'Back channeling'

Pabor si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na idaan sa 'back channeling talks' ang pakikipagnegosasyon ng pamahalaan sa CPP-NPA-National Democratic Front (NDF). (Jun Tadios/Bernard Taguinod/Betchai Julian)

February 2017



Pahina. 2

Lider ng NPA rebs, arestado

Isa pang lider ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang nasakote ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng pulisya at militar sa inilatag na operasyon sa Bacolod City, Negros Occidental noong Martes ng gabi.

Kinilala ni Lt. Col. Erickson Rosana, spokesman ng Army's 3rd Infantry Division ang suspek na si Rowena Navarro Quilop na gumagamit

ng alyas Ka Jhea, deputy secretary, regional finance bureau ng Komiteng Rehiyong Negros ng CPP-NPA-NDF.

Bandang alas – 6:40 ng gabi nang masakote ng mga awtoridad ang suspek sa bisinidad ng San Juan Street sa Barangay 10.

Ayon sa opisyal, si Quilop ay inaresto sa bisa ng warrant of arrest sa kasong murder na inisyu ng Regional Trial Court

Branch 60 sa Cadiz City.

Nasamsam sa suspek ang mga personal na gamit at mga subersibong dokumento ng kilusan.

Kasalukuyang isinailalim sa tactical interrogation ang suspek na nasa himpilan ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) 16 sa Camp Alfredo Montelibano Sr. sa Negros Occidental. (Joy Santos)

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All out war vs NPA won't be easy – AFP

The Armed Forces of the Philippines admitted yesterday that the all out war against the New People's Army would not be easy.

Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP-Public Affairs Office, in a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, said defeating the enemy won't be an easy task especially if they are holding on to communities to survive.

"This is not going to be an easy one. It's not easy to fight your own people. It's not easy to fight the NPA rebels who are trying to hold on communities," Arevalo said.

"But for all intents and purposes, if we are to attain a lasting peace, if

we are to end this particular war that we have been fighting for more than four decades now, then we have to defeat them and their capabilities and all other aspects of," he said.

Arevalo said now that government has declared an all-out war against communist rebels, the AFP's main focus will be in Northeastern Mindanao where the concentration of the CPP-NPA is located.

"Our current concentration will be in Northeastern Mindanao. But there is no need to add additional troops at least as of today to augment our personnel currently operating there," Arevalo said. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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ASG death toll adds up

The relentless attack of the Philippine Marine troops on one of Abu Sayyaf leader's group has resulted to added casualties on the side of the bandits.

AFP WesMinCom Public Affairs Office chief Army Captain Jo-Ann D. Petinglay revealed that three more ASG members fighting under sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya were killed after five bandits were neutralized by government troops.

Petinglay said among the Abu Sayyaf members killed were identified as Karra Kinod, Asbiali Ijiram, Bari Rabah, and Hassan Angkong, all of whom have standing warrants of arrest.

Recovered from the outlaws were two Grenade rifles; 145 rounds of 7.62 live ammunition; 12 rounds of 5.56 live ammunition; six assorted suspenders with magazine pouch;

assorted camouflage; and digital uniforms.

The AFP earlier said that five ASG bandits were killed while another was captured during the initial firefight.

Petinglay said the AFP's Joint Task Force Sulu continues to scour the area in pursuit on the evading Abu Sayyaf members.

Naval blockade and maritime security patrol off the waters of Capual Island are also continuously being conducted.

"Military operations are currently being intensified to contain the Abu Sayyaf Group and facilitate the possible rescue of hostages in the hinterlands of Sulu," said Major General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., the Commander of the Western Mindanao Command. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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3 more Sayyaf killed in military clashes

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Government troops hunting down Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists had killed three more gunmen in fighting on Capual Island off the southern Philippine province of Sulu, officials announced on Wednesday.

Army Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, a spokeswoman for the Western Mindanao Command, said a total of eight rebels were killed in the fighting since February 7.

She added that the bodies of all slain rebels had been recovered by soldiers and that four of the gunmen have been identified as Karra Kinod, Abiali Ijiram, Bari Rabah and Hassan Angkong.

The casualties were followers of

Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Alhabsi Misaya, who managed to escape from military operations.

"Pursuit [operations] launched by Marine troops against the group of Misaya resulted in another round of armed confrontation, increasing the number of enemy casualties to eight," Petinglay said, adding that military forces also recovered eight automatic rifles and two grenade launchers, including munition and camouflage uniforms from the island.

Petinglay said soldiers continue to search for Misaya and other leaders of the Abu Sayyaf who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

"The Joint Task Force Sulu

continues to conduct scouring and pursuit on the evading Abu Sayyaf members. Naval blockade and maritime security patrol off the waters of Capual Island are continuously being conducted," she added.

Major General Carlito Galvez, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, has ordered security forces to rescue some two dozen Abu Sayyaf hostages, mostly Asian sailors seized from Basilan province and in Sabah in Malaysia last year.

"Military operations are currently being intensified to contain the Abu Sayyaf Group and facilitate the possible rescue of hostages in the hinterlands of Sulu," he said. **AL JACINTO**

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3 more Abus killed in sustained offensives by AFP in Sulu

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three more bodies of Abu Sayyaf members were discovered yesterday, as casualties of the bandit group rose to eight in sustained offensives by Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS), the Armed Forces of the Philippines - Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) reported.

WestMinCom Spokesman Army Capt Jo-Ann Petinglay said hot pursuit

operations launched by Marine troops against the group of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-leader Alhabsi Misaya in the hinterlands of Sitio Talok Talok, Capual, Sulu resulted in another round of armed confrontations that increased the number of enemy casualties to eight.

Misaya is a sub-leader of the ASG based in Indanan, Sulu with more or less 40 followers.

Petinglay said among those ASG members killed were Karra Kinod, Asbiali Ijiram, Bari Rabah and Hassan Angkong, all of whom have standing

warrants of arrest.

The soldiers also recovered two grenade rifles; 145 rounds of 7.62 live ammunition; 12 rounds of 5.56 live ammunition; six assorted suspenders with magazine pouch; assorted camouflage; and uniforms with digitized print.

JTFS continues to conduct scouring and pursuit operations on the fleeing ASG members.

Naval blockades and maritime security patrols are now on standby in the waters off Capual Island.

“Military operations are currently

being intensified to contain the ASG and facilitate the possible rescue of hostages in the hinterlands of Sulu,” said WestMinCom Commander Maj. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr.

Last Tuesday, five members of the ASG were killed, while another was captured by government forces in a 20-minute encounter in Sitio Talok Talok, Capual, Sulu.

Petinglay said while the ASG casualties have been mounting, the government has recorded none from among its ranks.

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4 more Sayyaf men slain in Sulu clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Four more Abu Sayyaf bandits have been killed in a clash with Marine soldiers on an island in Sulu on Tuesday.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the bandits shot it out with soldiers who launched pursuit operations following an encounter in Sitio Talok Talok on Capual island that left five bandits dead also on Tuesday.

Petinglay said the fatalities - Karra Kinod, Asbiali Ijiram, Bari Kabah and Hassan Angkong - all have standing arrest warrants.

Soldiers recovered guns, ammunition and military uniform from the fatalities, Petinglay said.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Westmincom chief, said they would continue to intensify their operations to prevent the bandits from committing atrocities as well as rescue their remaining hostages.

- Roel Pareño

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PULSE FILES

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8 ASG tudies sa sagupaan sa militar sa Sulu

UMAKYAI na sa walong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group ang nasawi sa patuloy na inilulunsad na operatyon ng militar laban sa mga bandido sa Sulu.

Apa sa walong nasawing mga bandido ay nakilalang sina Karra Kinod, Asbiali Ijram, Bar, Rabah at Hassan Angkong, na pawang may-roong mga warrant of arrest.

Ayon kay Captain Jo-ann D Petinglay, spokesman ng Western Mindanao Com-

mand, muling nakasagupang mga elemento ng Philippine Marine ang grupo ni Alhabs Misaya sa patuloy na pagtugis sa mga bandido sa Capua, Sulu.

Ang engkwentro ay tumagal ng ilang minuto na nagresulta ng pagkasawi sa ilang sa mga bandido.

Inaalam pa ng mga otoridad ang pagkakakilalan ng mga nasawing bandido.

Narekober ng mga sundalo sa pinangyarihan ng engkwentro ang dalawang gre-

nade rifles; 145 ng mga bala ng 7.62; 12 bala ng 5.56; anim na iba't ibang suspenders at magazine pouch, camouflaje, at digital uniforms.

Patuloy ang pagtugis ng mga sundalo laban sa mga tumatakas na mga bandido habang patuloy naman ang isinasagawang Naval Blockade at maritime security patrol sa katubigan ng Capua Island upang hindi makatakas ang mga bandido.

(Mark Obleda)

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Asst. Dir. for Public Affairs, Training & Budget - 113.00

8 pang Abu Sayyaf patay sa Sulu

Tumaas ang bilang ng namatay sa pangkat ng Abu Sayyaf sa pagpapatuloy ng labanan sa pagitan ng grupo at militar sa Sulu.

Siabi ni Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), na walong Abu Sayyaf ang napatay sa pagsalakay

ng Marine Special Operations Group Martes ng umaga sa Barangay Capual sa bayan ng Omar.

Nakasamsam din ang militar ng walong high-powered na baril kabilang ang apat na M16 at apat na M14 rifle.

Patuloy ang pagtugis ng Marines

sa pangkat ni Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya, na nagresulta sa pangalawang engkuwentro kung saan tatlong Abu Sayyaf ang napatay.

Pinatindi ng militar ang opensiba laban sa Abu Sayyaf upang maisalba ang halos 27 natitirang kidnap victim ng grupo.

Fer Taboy

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CHANGE OF HEART - 'Ka Junie' recounts his life as a New People's Army (NPA) rebel operating in Davao Oriental, as he is presented to media by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Davao City after his surrender Wednesday. (Keith Bacongco)

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UNANIMOUSLY CONFIRMED. Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, thanks members of the powerful Commission on Appointments shortly after his interim appointment as the military chief along with 29 newly promoted generals and senior officers in Wednesday's plenary session at the Senate in Pasay City. *By Acasio*

09 February 2017



Pahina. 5



P-Digong, inaprubahan na ang ROTC para sa mga kabataan

LAKING-TUWA natin nang ating malaman ang desisyon kamakailan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na aprubahan ang pagpapanumbalik sa mandato ng Reserved Officers Training Course (ROTC) program sa mga mag-aaral na nasa antas 11 at 12 sa parehong pribado at pampublikong paaralan sa buong bansa.

Sesertipikahan bilang isang “urgent bill” ng pangulo ang pagpapanumbalik sa ROTC at agad itong isusumite sa Kamara at Senado. Dahil dito, kumpiyansa tayong maisasabatas na ang ating nilikhang panukalang-batas noong nakaraang taon na Senate Bill No. 200 o ang pagpapatupad ng ROTC program sa hayskul. Dito ay magsasanay ang lahat nang naka-enroll na nag-aaral sa mga kolehiyo, unibersidad, teknikal at bokasyunal na mga paaralan.

Napagkasunduan ng gabinete ng pangulo na amyendahan ang Republic Act 7077 o “An act providing for the development, administration, organization, training, maintenance and utilization of the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines and for other purposes” para maging mandatory ang ROTC sa lahat ng mga nasa sekondaryang paaralan.

Naniniwala tayo na ang pagtatalaga ng ROTC program para sa mga estudyante ng high school ay may malaking papel na gagampanan sa paghubog at pagpaparami ng reserba ng hukbo ng mga militar para sa ating bansa. Sa pamamagitan nito ay maituturo at maipamamahagi natin sa kanila ang pagkakaroon ng malasakit at pagmamahal sa bansa, paggalang sa human rights at paninilbihan sa publiko nang may kusang-loob at walang pag-aalinlangan.

Sa Senate Bill No. 200, military training ang para sa kalalakhian habang civic training naman ang nakalaan para sa mga babaeng estudyante kung saan sila ay magsasanay sa serbisyong pampubliko na may kaugnayan sa operasyong pangkaligtasan at pangmedikal.

Ang hindi lang kabilang sa panukalang-batas na ito ay mga miyembro ng Armed Forces of the

Philippines (AFP) at ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at ang mga may kapansanang pampisikal at sikolohikal

Nakatutuwang malaman na kaisa natin si Pangulong Duterte sa layuning maipamahagi sa mga kabataang Pilipino ang pagiging makabayan at ang dedikasyon sa paglilingkod.

Sa pamamagitan ng tamang mandato ng mga taong nasa pamahalaan, matutulungan natin silang matuto at bigyan ng importansiya ang pagkakaroon ng hangarin sa pusong manilbihan sa ating kapwa at sa ating bayan.

Ating tandaan na ang magandang kinabukasan ng Pilipinas ay nakasalalay sa integridad at prinsipyo ng ating mga kabataan, na siyang susunod na mamumuno sa ating bansa. At sa tulong ng ganitong uri ng programa, matutulungan natin sila na maging mga responsableng mamamayan at lider sa hinaharap kapag dumating na ang panahon na nasa kanila na ang bola sa pagpapatakbo ng ating lipunan.

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INQUIRER

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Gov't can easily win vs NPA

Now that the government has declared an "all-out war" against the New People's Army (NPA) after the termination of the peace talks, it can easily win the war against the NPA.

How? By winning the hearts and minds of indigenous peoples who will deprive NPA guerrillas their refuge in the mountains.

The government can form armed groups among tribes—like the Mandaya, Bagobo, Manobo, B'laan in Mindanao and the Agta, Aeta and Igorot in Luzon, and the Tagbanua in the Visayas—to fight the NPAs.

The Army Special Forces can train these tribes to fight the NPAs.

If these options are not possible for one reason or another, the government can deploy spies among selected members of a tribe.

Or it can pay handsome rewards to informers for the capture or death of NPA leaders.

Excellent intelligence can be achieved if military intelligence funds are used for their intended purpose: espionage.

Hand in hand with placing spies among indigenous tribes, the government may increase its fleet of helicopters which can swiftly transport troops to places where the NPAs are camped.

Most important of all, it should keep troop morale high by making soldiers aware that if they are wounded in combat



ON TARGET

RAMON TULFO

they will immediately be airlifted to the nearest military hospitals.

Several years from now, the urban blight in Manila will be solved when a "city within a city" rises at the reclamation project on Manila Bay.

The multibillion-peso reclamation project on 407.42 hectares off North Harbor will have skyscrapers, shopping malls, residential condominiums, sports and recreational facilities and universities on the Tondo foreshore area.

The "city within a city," which is at the other end of Manila Bay from SM Mall of Asia, will have its own water taxi service.

It's considered the biggest and most advanced project on Manila Bay.

Manila Mayor Erap has approved the project which was signed by the Philippine Recla-

mation Authority and UAA Kinming Development Corp.

UAA is owned by a Hong Kong-based developer, Xu Ming Liang, also known to his Filipino friends as Jose Kho.

Kho and his children Kitson and Luis had an audience with President Digong in Malacañang recently and they volunteered to build a P750-million drug rehabilitation center in Bukidnon.

The most modern CT-scan was inaugurated on Monday at Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC).

The P100-million CT-scan determines what ails a patient within seconds after the scanning.

Called "Revolution CT," it is the first of its kind in the country.

"The scanning time has been narrowed down. For example, previously, it's five minutes. Now it has narrowed down to one minute. So scanning time has been shortened, which means that radiation exposure of the patient is also decreased," said Dr. Cesar Co, CGHMC radiologist.

But what's more significant about Revolution CT is that the fee for scanning has not changed.

"The benefit is for the patient, especially the poor ones. We don't charge a higher price [than before]," said philanthropist James Dy, CGHMC president. INQ

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

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www.interaksyon.com/national

CA confirms AFP chief Año, 29 other officers, 5 envoys

By: Ernie Reyes, InterAksyon.com
February 8, 2017 2:56 PM



AFP chief of staff Eduardo M. Año at his confirmation Wednesday (Feb. 8, 2017). JAMIN VERDE, INTERAKSYON.COM

MANILA – The Commission on Appointments on Wednesday confirmed General Eduardo M. Año as 48th chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a day after the Cabinet decided to support President Duterte's call to resume all-out war against communist rebels whom he now considers "terrorists" and "bandits."

Año, reputedly one of the best veterans in counterinsurgency and military intelligence, was former Army chief and head of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP).

His swift confirmation was in contrast to his stumble before the CA a few years ago, when his promotion was snagged by allegations of involvement in the April 2007 abduction of activist-farmer Jonas Burgos, who remains missing.

Año has denied participation in the abduction, and the Department of Justice cleared him of criminal raps when Jonas' mother Edita T. Burgos filed a complaint.

The CA also confirmed the interim appointments of 29 general and flag and senior officers of AFP, including five ambassadorial posts.

Año headed the operating arm of the Intelligence Group of the Philippine Army when armed men and a woman barged inside a mall in Quezon City and abducted Burgos on April 28, 2007.

He was the 57th commanding general of the Philippine Army before his appointment as the chief of staff of AFP, in December last year.

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Aside from Año, others confirmed by CA are:

1. B/Gen. Jose Antonio Carlos B. Motril
2. B/Gen. Emmanuel Joaquin B. Guina (Reserved)
3. B/Gen. Edmund Dante E. Janda
4. Major Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino
5. B/Gen. Gavin D. Edjawan
6. B/Gen. Samuel G. Gotico
7. B/Gen/. Isidro L. Purisima
8. B/Gen. Ernesto V. Ravina , Jr.
9. Rear Admiral Rene V. Medina
10. Major Gen. Enrique C. Reyes
11. Major Gen. Joselito M. Reyes
12. B/Gen. Earl D.. Baliao
13. B/Gen. Roy T. Devesa
14. B/Gen. Roseller G. Murillo
15. Major Gen. John N. Aying
16. B/Gen. Bienvenido R. Datuin, Jr.
17. Major Gen. Rhoderick M. Parayno
18. Colonel Amador A. Magdamit, Jr. (Judge Advocate General)
19. Commodore Erick A. Kagaoan
20. B/Gen. Custodio J. Parcon, Jr.
21. B/Gen. Simplicio A. Lumantas, Jr
22. B/Gen. Gilbert I. Gapay
23. B/Gen. Jesus A. Manangquil, Jr.

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24. B/Gen. Peter C. Suchianco (Reserved)

25. Major General Robert M. Arevalo

26. Major General Danilo G. Pamonag

27. Vice Admiral Narciso A. Vingson, Jr.

28. Major General Paul T. Atal

29. Commodore Rommel Jason L. Galang

Meanwhile, the CA also approved the nomination of five officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA):

1. Eduardo Eco Kapunan Jr. as Ambassador to Republic of the Union of Myanmar
2. Bienvenido Villamor Tejano as Ambassador to Papua New Guinea
3. Abdulmaid Kiram Muin as Ambassador to Republic of Timor-Leste
4. Evan Pumaren Garcia as Permanent Representative of the Philippines to United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland
5. Celia Anna Mallari Feria as Ambassador to Portuguese Republic

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AFP guardedly optimistic of beating NPA threat

Philippine News Agency

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday expressed guarded optimism that this time -- after more than 50 years -- it finally has what it takes to defeat the rebel threat.

AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said this time, the military has a more clearer blueprint or program on what approach to defeat the insurgency problem in its newly-activated Development Support and Security Plan (DSSP) "Kapayapaan" which has four strategic concepts:

- Sustained military operation to defeat the foreign and local terrorist organizations;
- Contribute to the promotion of peace;
- Active support to law enforcement in war against drugs; and
- Contribute to nation building.

Under DSSP "Kapayapaan", the local governments and good governance, private sector will play a major role in defeating the rebel threat as it through them that development will be coursed down to countryside, thus ensuring the trickling down of economic progress.

"No matter how long or prolonged our combat operations against them, as long as the rebels don't have the means to improve their livelihood, insurgency will remain. Now if we can get the local government units and good governance and private sector support, the AFP will be willing to provide the security component, so that the seeds of growth and development for nation well-being (can be planted)," Arevalo said in Filipino.

~~Aside from the socio-civic component, the AFP is now more equipped with better weapons to fight the rebel and other threats.~~

"We are now in a better position to fight the enemies of the State, we will employ elite units from the Army, Navy, Marines and the Philippine Air Force in the conduct of a surgical focused, deliberate and intelligence-driven combat-civil operations," he added.

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<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news>

Over 1,000 new NPA rebels recruited during ceasefire –military

By MARLLY ROME BONDOC, GMA News

The New People's Army (NPA) had taken advantage of the ceasefire related to the peace talks to recruit over 1,000 new members, a military official said Wednesday.

"They really took advantage of the peace talks. About 1,000 plus were probably recruited during the six months na hindi tayo nagkakaroon ng combat operations against the New People's Army," said Lt. Col. Ernesto Garcia of the military's Civil Relations Service during a roundtable discussion in Quezon City.

"Ginamit nila ito (ceasefire) just to strengthen their ranks," he added.

Both the government and the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), had declared ceasefire in connection with the peace negotiations. However, NPA attacks on soldiers prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to lift the ceasefire and, subsequently, cancel the negotiations.

Citing military records, Garcia said there were about 3,700 armed NPA rebels before the peace talks.

"Ayon sa dating numero natin before sa peace talks, 3,700. According 'yan sa mga revelations ng mga surrendered o captured na mga NPA din," he said.

"But as of now, may lumalabas na there are more than that dahil from the start of the negotiations, nag-recruit sila (NPA). They used the peace talks to recruit more new blood sa kanilang organization," Garcia added. Following the cancellation of the peace talks, the government said it is observing an "all-out war" against the NPA.

Garcia said the all-out war would be "selective" to allay fears of possible human rights violations.

"We will only be targeting the NPA or the armed elements, para mawala yung agam-agam na baka may human rights violations o kung ano pa man dahil nagdaan na tayo diyan noong Martial law," Garcia said. —
KBK, GMA News

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<http://www.update.ph>

Know why President Duterte wants mandatory ROTC

PNA

President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the recommendation of the Department of National Defense (DND) to revive mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program "to instill love of country and good citizenship among the youth."

Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said President Duterte gave go signal for endorsement in Congress of a bill amending Republic Act No. 7077 which mandates the "institutionalization, development, training and organization" of basic ROTC in Grades 11 and 12 during last Tuesday's cabinet meeting.

Abella said the mandatory ROTC program will cover public and private senior high schools.

"In his 2016 State of the Nation Address, the President made a policy pronouncement to strengthen the ROTC program to instill love of country and good citizenship among the youth, and to make it once again mandatory," Abella said in a text message to Palace reporters on Wednesday.

He said it will be submitted to Congress for deliberations and hopefully, for approval.

ROTC is now just one of the three components of the National Service Training Program, a civic education and defense preparedness program for Filipino college students.

A hazing incident involving the death of Mark Welson Chua of the University of Sto. Tomas and corruption have prompted the government to stop the mandatory implementation of ROTC program in 2001.

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<http://www.update.ph>

Mandatory ROTC to instill patriotism to Filipino youth

Gloria Seloza

"Instituting a mandatory ROTC program for senior high schools students is a great way to shore up our military's reserve corps while instilling the fundamental ideals of patriotism and public service in the youth. I am definitely willing to sponsor this bill when it is forwarded to the Senate," Senator Win Gatchalian said after President Duterte approved the return of mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program which will be in Senior High School grades 11 and 12.

President Duterte certified as urgent the legislation of the return of mandatory ROTC program.

Moreover, Gatchalian also urged the President to certify as urgent Senate Bill No. 200, which seeks to revive the mandatory ROTC program in post-secondary educational institutions.

SB200 would require students enrolled in colleges, universities, and technical and vocational schools to complete a two-year ROTC program before graduation.

"The future of this country will depend on the character and virtue of our future leaders. Mandatory ROTC programs at the secondary and tertiary levels will help ensure that the youth of today will lead the Philippines with honor, selflessness, and love of country in the future," said Gatchalian.

<http://cnnphilippines.com>

Military to send elite units against communist terrorists

Ruben Santos

Elite units from the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, Marines Corps, and the Philippine Air Force will be the ones leading the offensives against the armed components of communist in the Philippines, now being considered as terrorists. This was revealed by Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo to radio dzBB on February 7.

"Sila ang mangunguna sa tatawagain nating combat, intelligence and civil military operations," Colonel Arevalo said.

He said that artillery will be used only for "well-identified military target."

"Well, when you talk about all-out-war, it means that we are going to make use of all available assets of our AFP to accomplish our mission, by 'all-out-war', however we do not mean that we are going to be indiscriminate in our conduct of operations, our operations will always and has always been focused and determined but we are not going to be indiscriminate," Colonel Arevalo said in a separate press briefing.

He added that the military offensive will be well planned, surgical in approach and deliberate as it's intention to defeat the NPA not only militarily but also through their infrastructure and support systems, and destroy their will to fight.

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Pres. Duterte gives go signal for revival of basic ROTC -- Palace

Philippine News Agency

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

PNP to coordinate with PAF to fly scalawag cops to Basilan

Philippine News Agency

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is set to coordinate with the Philippine Air Force (PAF) for the transport of police scalawags to Basilan province.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday scolded the 228 erring policemen from the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), who are facing various offenses and violations of the law, and gave them 15 days to prepare to "move out".

President Duterte gave them a two-year "tour of duty" in Basilan to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits.

NCRPO chief Director Oscar Albayalde said they will immediately coordinate with the PAF pursuant to the directive of the President to transfer the police scalawags to Basilan.

He said their PNP provincial and regional directors would allot funds if ever the erring policemen need to personally appear for the cases they are facing in courts in Metro Manila.

Albayalde, however, admitted that many of the erring policemen prefer to just resign from the service than be transferred to Basilan.

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Palace welcomes leftist Cabinet members' decision to stay

Philippine News Agency

Malacanang welcomed on Wednesday the decision of three "left-leaning" members of the Cabinet to stay and to serve the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the Palace is pleased that Department of Social Welfare and Development Sec. Judy Taguiwalo, Department of Agrarian Reform Sec. Rafael Mariano and National Anti-Poverty Commission Lead Convenor Sec. Liza Maza decided to stay despite the scrapping of peace talks with Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP).

"The President chose them as his alter egos because he believes in their capacity to serve and deliver sustainable basic social services to the Filipino people," Abella said in a press statement.

Abella said the three leftist Cabinet members still enjoy the trust and confidence of President Duterte.

"We assure everyone that the government shall continue to pursue genuine socio-economic reforms to alleviate poverty and promote a just and lasting peace," Abella said.

"The Duterte administration remains fully committed to the task of uniting our people and working with all sectors to achieve peace and inclusive development during its term," he added.

Last Tuesday, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar said the three "left-leaning" Cabinet members have not been barred from attending Cabinet meetings.

Andanar said the three Cabinet members have been working effectively in their respective government positions.

Last weekend, President Duterte announced the scrapping of the peace talks with the communist rebels following the brutal killing of three soldiers in Bukidnon.

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<http://cnnphilippines.com>

Gov't in 'all-out war' vs. NPA

By Eimor P. Santos, CNN Philippines



(File photo) Government troops are on the hunt for thousands of NPA rebels, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana says

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) — The government is waging an "all-out war" against armed communist rebels, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Tuesday.

"Yes, it is an all-out war because they are already considered by the President as terrorist[s]," Lorenzana said in a press briefing in Malacañang.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday said he now considers the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), together with its sub-groups, the New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front (NDF), as a terrorist group.

Lorenzana, however, clarified that the military is only going after the NPA, the armed unit of the CPP which has waged a 48-year-old insurgency.

An "all-out war" means the government will use all available assets of the Armed Forces to accomplish its mission, AFP spokesman Col. Edgardo Arevalo said in a separate press briefing.

"Our intention is to defeat the enemy, to defeat the New People's Army," Arevalo said.

The communist rebels' "peace-loving supporters" will remain unharmed, Lorenzana said.

The Armed Forces promised to secure civilians amid heightened military operations.

"We will ensure there will be no collateral damage at the most that we could avoid it," Arevalo said.

The NPA has yet to release a statement on the government's "all-out war," but it has earlier admitted initiating 20 offensives against government forces last week, and capturing at least three soldiers.

NPA rebels nabbed, surrendered

The government has deployed enough troops to hunt down an estimated 5,000 NPA rebels in the country, Lorenzana said.

According to the Armed Forces, military operations against the NPA has so far been "successful," four days after Duterte lifted the government's unilateral ceasefire declaration on Friday night.

At least two NPA rebels have been arrested while seven have surrendered to authorities as of Tuesday afternoon, the AFP said in a statement. Authorities recovered high-powered firearms and an improvised explosive device from the rebels.

Another rebel was killed in Davao City on Monday. Police said the rebel resisted arrest. One other rebel was slain in Occidental Mindoro on Sunday, authorities said.

The government is urging communist rebels to turn themselves in.

Lorenzana said the NPA is no different from the Abu Sayyaf group, another terrorist group that the Armed Forces of the Philippines are trying to topple. Both groups abduct people and extort money, he said.

The Armed Forces said NPA rebels killed three soldiers in Bukidnon on February 1, despite earlier declaring that their unilateral ceasefire will end on February 10. Lorenzana said this is the "last straw" that led to Duterte's withdrawal from the peace talks on Sunday.

The fourth round of peace talks under the Duterte administration was supposed to resume in Oslo, Norway on April 2-6. It is the NDF that represents rebels in peace negotiations, since the NPA has been outlawed through Republic Act 1700.

The NDF has said it is hoping to continue with the peace talks.

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