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[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)

## OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

12 February 2017

Sunday

# NEWS HEADLINES

## 12 FEBRUARY 2017



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
WINNERS: Nothing like it being picked at the White House? WINNERS: Why is Lady Gaga being banned? Let her enjoy her album! WINNERS: Why is it that you're always 'Voluntarily' donating?

### APPEALS COURT REJECTS TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN

A federal appeals court has refused to reinstate US President Donald Trump's ban on travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations. But the court didn't let them over.

**NAME IN PROFILES**  
**TORN BETWEEN 2 LOVERS? YES, IT'S POSSIBLE - SURETY**

**ALL OUT WAR POLICY**  
**WAR VS FILIPINOS**

Trump One-China policy stays

Senators vote on probe of Duterte

Bobby not being a convicted thief

**5star** **PETRON** *Happy Valentine's Day* **FREE TREATY WITH CHOCOLATE ALBUM**



**MANILA BULLETIN**

### Horizontal destruction

As the magnitude 6.2 quake rages through the Manila region, the state of emergency is declared. It is expected that the damage will be extensive.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has received reports of a shipwreck in the Manila Bay area. The ship is believed to be carrying hazardous materials.

Senators have passed a resolution to support the Duterte administration's efforts to improve the country's infrastructure.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has announced that it will be implementing a new curriculum for the elementary schools.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has reported a significant increase in the number of drug-related cases in the Manila area.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has conducted a successful joint exercise with the United States Air Force.

The Philippine Navy (PN) has received a new batch of frigates from the United States.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has received a new batch of patrol boats from the United States.

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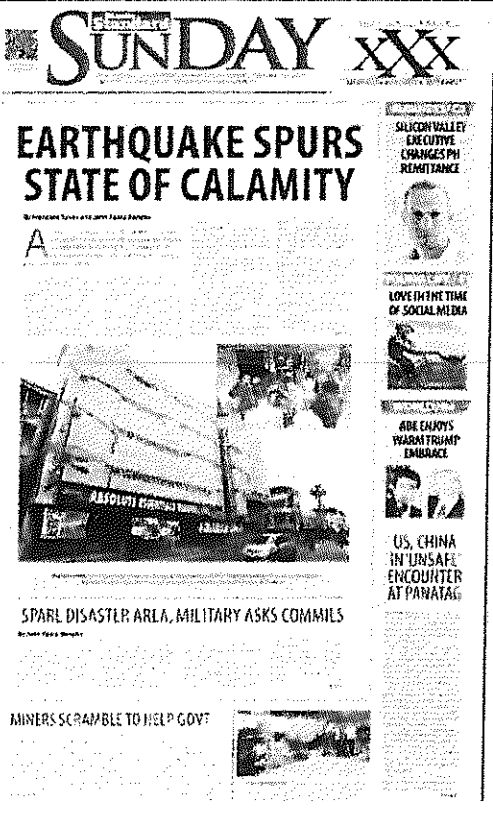
**STAR**

### Surigao quake kills 6

Each of the victims was 10 years old.

House of Representatives passes bill

Thousands of immigrants welcomed in 'Paratag'



**SUNDAY XXX**

### EARTHQUAKE SPURS STATE OF CALAMITY

As the magnitude 6.2 quake rages through the Manila region, the state of emergency is declared. It is expected that the damage will be extensive.

**SILICON VALLEY EXECUTIVE CHANGES PH REMITTANCE**

**LOVE IN THE TIME OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**ABE ENJOYS WARM TRUMP EMBRACE**

**US, CHINA IN 'UNSAFE' ENCOUNTER AT PARATAG**

### SPARK DISASTER ARLA, MILITARY ASKS COMMITTEES

Senators have passed a resolution to support the Duterte administration's efforts to improve the country's infrastructure.

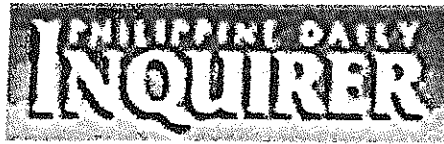
### MINERS SCRAMBLE TO HELP GOVT

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 12, 2017 | SUNDAY

TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF MINDANAO  
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS  
(AUG 5:00 AM - Feb. 11, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:21 AM	5:59 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
7:12 PM	7:05 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b>	<b>LAST QUARTER</b>
FEB 11 8:33 AM	FEB 9 1:33 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
3:31 PM 0.19 Meter	10:58 PM 1.04 Meter

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

	FEB 10	FEB 11	FEB 12	FEB 13	FEB 14	FEB 15
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	22-29 °C	22-29 °C	22-29 °C	22-29 °C	22-29 °C	22-29 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	18-25 °C	18-25 °C	18-25 °C	18-25 °C	18-25 °C	18-25 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	21-28 °C	20-26 °C	20-26 °C	20-26 °C	20-26 °C	20-26 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	11-20 °C	12-20 °C	12-20 °C	12-20 °C	12-20 °C	12-20 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	22-28 °C	22-28 °C	22-28 °C	22-28 °C	22-28 °C	22-28 °C
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	16-27 °C	16-27 °C	16-27 °C	16-27 °C	16-27 °C	16-27 °C
<b>LEGAZPI</b>	24-28 °C	24-28 °C	24-28 °C	24-28 °C	24-28 °C	24-28 °C
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	25-28 °C	25-28 °C	25-28 °C	25-28 °C	25-28 °C	25-28 °C
<b>METRO CEBU</b>	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C
<b>TACLOBAN</b>	22-28 °C	22-27 °C	22-27 °C	22-27 °C	22-27 °C	22-27 °C
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23-29 °C	23-28 °C	23-28 °C	23-28 °C	23-28 °C	23-28 °C
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	25-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	23-32 °C	23-32 °C	23-32 °C	23-32 °C	23-32 °C	23-32 °C

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13 February 2017

THE 1905-1986  
MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# NPA's want truce in Cagayan; kid warriors in Mindoro

By **LIEZLE BASA INIGO**  
and **JERRY J. ALCAYDE**

**T**UGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan/CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — As government forces called on New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Cagayan Valley region to put down their arms and show good faith in order to pursue the avenue to a formidable truce, the Philippine Army based in Oriental Mindoro accused the guerrillas of recruiting minors in their armed struggle.

In Tuguegarao City, NPA spokesman for the "Danilo Ben Command" of the NPA West Cagayan, Crispin Apolinario, aired on radio his group's proposal for a localized ceasefire in Sto. Niño, Cagayan province.

The Philippine Army's 5th Infantry Division based in the region said the NPA rebels should first show good faith and yield possession of their guns before the withdrawal of military troops from the area is considered.

"The NPA should show some goodwill and sincerity in their proposal for a ceasefire by surrendering firearms," said Col. Bartolome Bacarro, 2nd Brigade Commander under the 5th ID, about the situation in Sto. Niño where bloody encounters broke out last Wednesday.

Meanwhile in Oriental Mindoro, Col. Antonio G. Parlade, commander of 203rd Brigade (Bantay Kapayapaan), said it was learned that the slain NPA combatant earlier this month was a 15-year-old Mangyan from the Hanunuo tribe in Barangay Panaytayan, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

Parlade identified the minor only as "Junje" who was killed when government soldiers belonging to the 76th Infantry Battalion swooped down on the rebel's lair and clashed with 20 fully-armed guerrillas.

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Pahina. 6

## Kapitan, 3 pa dinukol ng NPA

Isang kapitan ng barangay at tatlong iba ang sapilitang dinukol ng mga pinaghihinalang miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa Agusan del Sur at Compostela Valley.

Ayon sa report sinabi ni Capt. Rhyan Batchar ng 10th Infantry Division nangyari ang unang insidente ng pagdukot sa mag-asawang biktima na si Brgy. Chairman Rene Carlos at may bahay nito na si Maribeth ng Brgy. Pangyan, Agusan del Sur noong February 5 sa Trento, Agusan del Sur.

Sinasabing kasama ng mag-asawang Carlos ang isang Brgy. Councilor at isang Brgy. Tanod ng sapilitang tangayin ng mga rebelde at armadong miyembro ng NPA.

Subalit hindi umano binihag ng mga NPA ang dalawang kasama ng mag-asawang Carlos at agad ang mga itong pinakawalan habang si Chairman Carlos at misis nito ay tuluyan binihag.

Kasunod nito February 8, ay sapilitan din dinukot at tinangay ng NPA ang isang mag-ama na nakilalang sina Jun Custodio at anak nitong si Marjun, sa Maco, Compostela Valley.

Ayon sa report ng militar pinamunuan umano ang nasabing grupo ng isang alyas 'Mokloy'.

Sinabi naman ni Brig. Gen. Macanog Alberto, commander ng 1001st Infantry Brigade, na dinudukot ng mga NPA ang mga civilians para umanong gawin human shields (NPA).

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IN THE P. M. 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Leyte clash

ORMOC CITY, Leyte (PNA)— Government troops exchanged gunfire with communist rebels in an upland village in Albuera, Leyte Friday afternoon. Col. Francisco Mendoza, Jr. commander of the Army's 802nd brigade based in Camp Jorge Downes here, said a platoon of soldiers engaged in a brief fire fight against six armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA). The soldiers were conducting a combat operation in the area at about 4 p.m. on Friday when they encountered the armed men, heading towards the hinterland San Pedro village, carrying food supply. The men allegedly opened fire at the soldiers. As government troops retaliated, the rebels scampered to various directions, leaving their items. There was no reported casualty from both camps following the exchange of gunfire that lasted five to 10 minutes. Mendoza said since the ceasefire has been lifted, combat operations will be held to ensure the safety of people. Recently, there were reported sightings of rebels in the area and nearby towns. Mendoza, however, guaranteed that they will safeguard communities against any threat.

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The  
**Standard**  
THE PHILIPPINE NEWS

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## SPARE DISASTER AREA, MILITARY ASKS COMMIES

**By John Paolo Bencito**

THE New People's Army on Saturday admitted that it had launched 30 operations against the military after calling off its unilateral ceasefire as it directed its armed militias for "heightened armed resistance" against the government's all-out war declaration

war of suppression of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] by launching tactical offensives against any legitimate military target," he added.

One of the operations carried out by the Communist Party of the Philippines' armed wing, was made last Feb. 1 where they killed three soldiers. The incident prompted Presi-

"Over the past 10 days, responding to orders to carry out active defense, NPA units carried out almost 30 military actions to defend the rights and welfare of the people primarily against AFP troops," NPA spokesman Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos said.

"No longer restricted by the active defense policy, the NPA, from hereon, must frustrate the all-out

dent Rodrigo Duterte to scrap the peace talks with the communists.

"NPA operations were launched exclusively against paramilitary groups and uniformed personnel conducting combat, intelligence and psywar operations within the territories of the revolutionary government. A case in point is the

*Turn to A2*





Feb. 1 encounter between the NPA and troops of the 8th IB which had been occupying Barangays Kibalabag and Manlog, 36 kilometers from the center of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon," Madlos said.

NDF senior adviser Luis Jalandoni earlier branded the incident as a "rubout," while the military described the incident as a complete "overkill."

Madlos said that included in the NPA's list of targets are active members of the AFP, Philippine National Police, AFP militiamen, police detachments and military camps.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines urged Saturday rebel forces not to attack soldiers who are tasked to bring aid to victims of the earthquake that hit Surigao del Norte province Friday night.

"We urge you not to attack our soldiers, or in any other way disrupt the AFP's rescue and rehabilitation activities for our people," AFP public affairs office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said

Saturday.

"Allow the soldiers every opportunity to help the victims of the earthquake."

Immediately after the magnitude-6.7 earthquake hit Surigao City, 4th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. immediately deployed his men to assist the victims of the quake and conduct damage assessment.

Meanwhile, 30th Infantry Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Rico Amaro also coordinated with the respective risk reduction and management offices of Surigao del Norte and Surigao City for disaster response operations.

"Troops, vehicles and the ambulance of the 30th Infantry Battalion were prepositioned for casualty evacuation and the evacuation of affected families," Arevalo added.

At about 7 a.m. Saturday, 402nd Infantry Brigade head Col. Franco Nemesio Gacal, proceeded to Surigao City for a disaster response emergency meeting at the provincial capitol of Surigao del Norte. **With PNA**

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## Army to undertake ₱200-M road concreting in Basilan

BY NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Department of Public Works and Highways of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DPWH-AMM) has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the 54th Engineering Brigade of the Philippine Army for the completion of unfinished 8.5 kilometers in the Basilan Transcentral Road Phase II projects, costing about ₱200 million.

ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman led the signing of the MOA for the swift implementation of the Basilan Transcentral Road Phase II projects at Camp Arnaldo Fernandez Jr., Friday morning.

DPWH-AMM Sec Don Mustapha Loong said that as part of the peace-building priorities of the region, the ARMM government has earmarked ₱199 million for the concreting of roads in Basilan.

The others who signed the MOA were Brig. Gen. Arnold F. Fernandez, brigade commander of the 54th Engineering Brigade; Loong, Lt. Col. Arnel F. Fernandez, commanding officer of the 54th Engineering Construction Battalion of the 54th Engineering Brigade; and Basilan Governor Jim S. Hataman-Saliman.

The road projects include the concreting of the five-kilometer Sampinit-Punoh-Mahadie Road in Sumisip town with an appropriation of ₱117 million, and the 3.5-kilometer Sampinit-Masola Road in Isabela City with an allocated budget of ₱82 million.

Loong said the roads form part of the Basilan Transcentral Road and were among the first roadways developed under Phase II of the Transcentral project. A total of ₱806.05 million was allocated for Phase II covering 34.3 kilometers.

The implementation of Phase I of the Transcentral project is currently on-going with a budget of ₱252 million, covering 21 kilometers.

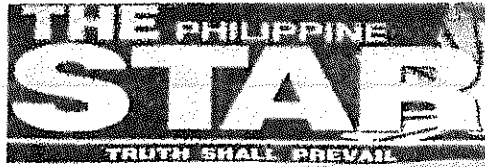
The allocation was sourced from the 2016 regular infrastructure budget of the region.

Loong added that the Basilan Transcentral Road project is one of the key connectivity projects of Hataman in Basilan, which aims to reduce the travel time between Sumisip and Isabela City, and between Maluso and Lamitan City.

The project connects the different towns located at the center of the province to the Basilan Circumferential Road, allowing a better logistics and people interconnectivity in Basilan, Loong said.

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## 'Don't attack soldiers on rescue missions'

By JAIME LAUDE

The military has appealed to the communist New People's Army (NPA) for a temporary truce to allow the troops to help out in search and rescue operations in Surigao del Norte following last Friday's devastating earthquake.

"We urge you not to attack our soldiers or in any other way disrupt the rescue and rehabilitation activities

for our people," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Public Affairs Office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

A powerful earthquake struck Surigao del Norte late Friday, particularly the capital Surigao City, killing at least six people and injuring more than 120 others.

Disaster and rescue officials had appealed for help as they continued to search for survivors.

However, the NPA, which

**Turn to Page 7**

## Don't

From Page 1

has guerrillas operating in Surigao del Norte and the nearby province of Surigao del Sur in the Caraga region, ordered its members to con-

tinue operations against the government.

The NPA went on the offensive after announcing the end of a self-declared ceasefire earlier this month.

The government then dropped its ceasefire decla-

ration with the rebels, and President Duterte scuttled the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA.

Duterte ordered the military to prepare "for the inevitable conflict" with the NPA.

following the termination of peace negotiations.

Skirmishes between government troops and the NPA erupted across the country starting last week after Duterte announced all-out war against the communist

rebels.

Late last month, NPA rebels kidnapped a soldier in Alegria town in Surigao del Norte.

Three policemen were also snatched by the rebels during a raid at a police station in

Malimono town in July last year.

"Allow the soldiers every opportunity to help the victims of the earthquake," Arevalo said, addressing the NPA rebels in the region.

**Turn to Page 8**

## Don't From Page 7

The troops who were earlier ordered to run after the NPA have been diverted to humanitarian and disaster response operations in the quake-stricken provinces, Arevalo said.

However, Jorge Madlos, alias "Ka Oris," the titular head and spokesman of the NPA in Northern Mindanao, issued an order to continue the offensive against government troops nationwide.

He said the NPA fighters are no longer restricted by its active defense policy and are now ready to take on the AFP in all-out war.

"Starting today, the unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire is now completely terminated. All NPA commands and territorial units, as well as people's militia and self defense units, can now take full initiative to defend the people and advance their interests, especially in the face of the declaration of all-out war of the Duterte regime," Madlos said in a statement.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año has alerted the troops deployed for humanitarian and disaster operations to be on alert for possible NPA attacks.

"Continue to carry out your duties and be ready to embark on the task of assisting local and national governments. But be on the look out for those who might be out to sabotage your rescue and rehabilitation efforts," Año told the troops.

Last Friday's tremor prompted Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division covering the Caraga and Northern Mindanao areas, to mobilize the troops for search

and rescue operations in Surigao City.

Military trucks were also used to transport much needed supplies for the earthquake victims.

The quake left a significant number of buildings and infrastructure damaged.

Roads in the city had visible cracks and a bridge connecting the towns of San Francisco and Malimono collapsed.

Rescue teams were checking for possible casualties in several villages in the city.

The city's airport was temporarily closed due to deep cracks in the runway, while a major port in Lipata district in the city was briefly closed.

The Surigao provinces suffered power outage due to the tremor.

"Other casualties are yet to be confirmed. We have initial reports of casualties but in order not to duplicate accounting we are withholding this," Arevalo said.

Lt. Col. Rico Amaro, commander of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion whose unit has operational jurisdiction over the Surigao provinces, is closely coordinating the Army's disaster response with the local government units.

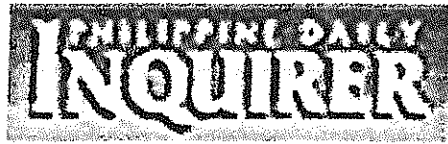
A crisis meeting was held yesterday at the provincial capital between city disaster officials and the military led Col. Franco Nemesio Gacal, commander of the 402nd Brigade.

Additional troops are now on standby in the event of a manpower shortfall in other quake-devastated areas.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said they will provide additional manpower to assist in search and rescue operations in Surigao City.

– With Emmanuel Tupas

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## Toward a sociology of peace

People are puzzled by President Duterte's abrupt turnabout in his quest for an enduring peaceful resolution of the decades-old communist insurgency. I suspect that at some point he felt he was being taken for a fool, or short-changed, by a movement whose friendship he had avidly cultivated, and whose aspirations he thought he shared.

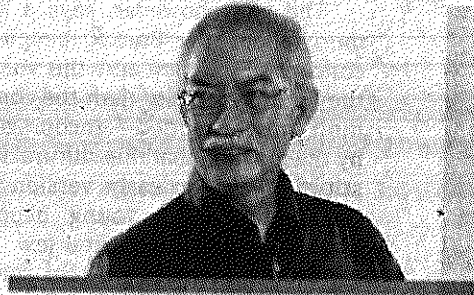
Since we're approaching Valentine's Day, I hope I may be forgiven if I borrow some motifs from the sociology of love in order to develop some insights for a sociology of peace. I think we're dealing here with two modes of loving whose incompatibility has been overshadowed by the ardor of initial affection.

In his book "Postmodern Ethics," the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman wrote about two types of lovers who try to deal with the instability of the emotions and the uncertainties of the social world. The strategies they adopt, Bauman says, are akin to those that governments use in order to protect the value of their currency in periods of uncertainty. They will either try to "fix" the exchange rate, or to "float" it.

To "fix" one's love is to treat it as a "duty," a necessary shield against future fluctuations. This strategy, Bauman writes, basically entails agreeing that "whatever happens to their emotions, partners will go on benefiting from love's gifts: the other partner's concern, care, responsibility. An effort to reach the state in which one can go on receiving without giving more, or giving no more than the established pattern demands." (Interestingly, Bauman doesn't say how lovers of this type behave when they realize that their partner is taking advantage of them.)

To "float" one's love, on the other hand, is to treat it as a reciprocal relationship. Here's how Bauman describes it: "The strategy of 'cutting one's losses', of 'not throwing good money after bad', of giving up trying, and looking elsewhere for another try once the gains seem to have fallen below the level of expenses needed to secure them." In short, love's value is not fixed; it rises and falls depending on what both partners actually bring into it.

Which type of lover does President



### PUBLIC LIVES

RANDY DAVID

Duterte resemble? On the question of peace with the communist rebels, I frankly think he began as a partner who viewed the forging of a peace agreement with the Left as an act of duty, a commitment, and a responsibility. That's why he went out of his way, just before the 2016 presidential election, to chat via Skype with exiled former Communist Party of the Philippines leader Jose Maria Sison, to tell him how much he looked forward to restarting the peace talks and ending the war with the communist forces. He did so knowing this could be used to smear him as a communist candidate.

Again, right after the election, he went out on a limb when he announced that he was offering the communist movement three seats in the Cabinet. This was unprecedented and highly unexpected. I suspect even the Left was at first unsure what to make of it. That the President would actually make these appointments ahead of any peace agreement appeared as a reckless expenditure of political capital.

But, these moves had the positive effect of speeding up the peace talks, the one bright spot in a political landscape dominated by the daily killings in the barbaric war on drugs. Mr. Duterte's obsession with the drug menace seemed to be matched only by his strong determination to conclude a peace agreement with the communist rebels.

He demonstrated this yet again when he announced a unilateral ceasefire and released top leaders of the underground from prison to enable them to travel and participate in the

peace talks abroad. The National Democratic Front gleefully welcomed these initiatives even as it manifested a more calibrated response to Mr. Duterte's show of goodwill. It was obvious that it didn't want to be rushed into calling for a ceasefire among its ranks. This makes one wonder to what extent the political leadership of the CPP-NDF speaks for its regional armed commands.

Be that as it may, last Feb. 1, the Mindanao command of the New People's Army declared the lifting of its own ceasefire, to take effect 10 days later. But, for reasons that have not been explained, its forces decided to mount offensive strikes against government forces days ahead of Feb. 10, in what appears to be a planned ambush, they killed three soldiers in Bukidnon, including a young officer who had just graduated from the Philippine Military Academy. This was followed by the abduction of policemen in other parts of the country.

Some have suggested that certain elements are staging these events to sabotage the negotiations. Others suspect that the rebels are using the resumption of hostilities to exert pressure for the release of more than 400 members of the movement from government detention.

Mr. Duterte's reaction came as swiftly and as unexpectedly as his unilateral declaration of a ceasefire. In a span of three days, he called for an all-out war against the rebels whom he now labels as terrorists, and ordered the immediate arrest of the same top communist leaders he had released just months earlier. He has not only terminated the peace talks, he has also canceled the existing Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantee that had protected participants in the peace talks from arrest and reprisal.

Joma Sison once characterized Mr. Duterte's angry moves as the behavior of a "thug." If true, I would say this is the behavior of a thug who expected that there would be honor among thugs. All this makes one wonder which type of peace partner is preferable: one who sees peace as an inflexible act of duty, or one who approaches it as a game of strategic calculation.

public.lives@gmail.com

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**Editorial EDITORIAL Editorial**

## **Mga rebeldeng susuko, may cash at livelihood assistance na; baril na isu-surrender, bayad pa!**

**K**AHIT nagdeklara na ng all-out war sa mga rebelde, iba pa rin talaga kung kusa na lamang susuko ang mga ito kaysa magkasagupaan pa, hindi ba?

At isa pa, maganda rin namang mabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga rebelde na gusto nang magbagong buhay o magbalik-loob sa gobyerno.

Kaya ang AFP binibigyan sila ng pagkakataong gawin ito, sa katunayan nga ay idinaan pa nila sa leaflets ang pagpapasuko sa mga ito.

Gamit ang helicopter, ipinakalat at itinapon nila ang may 12,500 leaflets sa himpapawid ng Davao Oriental.

Namigay din ang mga sundalong nasa lupa ng leaflets sa mga residente.

Napili anila ang Davao Oriental dahil sa ilang engkuwentrong naganap dito kamakailan at ilang rebelde na rin ang sumuko sa mga awtoridad.

Ang panawagan sa mga rebeldeng gustong sumuko, makipag-usap lamang sa pinakamalapit na sundalo o opisyal ng barangay dahil nakahanda umano ang mga ito na magbigay ng tulong para makapamuhay nang maayos.

Dahil pagkatapos ng validation process, pagkakalooban ang mga ito ng cash at livelihood assistance at tatapatan din ng pera ang bawat armas na maisusuko nila.

Hindi na rin lugi sa parte ng mga rebelde, hindi ba?

Wala namang masama sa aksiyong ito ng AFP sa katunayan nga, kapuri-puri ang pamamaraan nila ng pagpapasuko sa mga rebelde at ang kahandaan nilang tumulong para makabalik sa normal na pamumuhay ang mga ito.

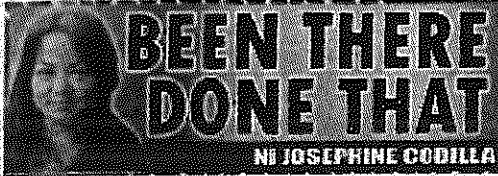
Ang sa atin lang, sana, hingin na rin nilang kapalit sa mga ito ang mga nalalaman nila at nang mapabilis na rin ang laban natin kontra rebelde.

Panahon na rin naman para wakasan na natin ang napakatagal nang alitan sa pagitan ng pamahalaan at ng mga rebelde.

12 February 2017



Pahina. 4



NI JOSEPHINE CODILLA

YESTERDAY, 11 February 2017, a new commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu was installed, Medal of Valor (MOV) awardee Col. Cirilito E. Sobejana, a member of PMA Class 1987.

Find out why the spirits and morale of the troops in Sulu are soaring high in anticipation of their new commander who is a recipient of the highest award in the military "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of

duty during an encounter with about 150 Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang members at Sifio Caro, Barangay Lower Kapayawan, Isabela, Basilan on 13 January 1995."

A Scout Ranger citation reads:

"When task Group Panther received reports on the enemy concentration, it immediately dispatched one platoon under Captain Sobejana to check the area. Observing the position of the enemy, he sighted about 20 armed ene-

mies loitering near a cluster of houses

"After assessing the situation, he directed his men to attack.

"Alerted to the ensuing firefight, several Abu Sayyaf groups from nearby areas arrived to reinforce their comrades, cutting the troops from the supporting section.

"As the battle raged, firepower and numerical superiority of the enemy became apparent as members of the First Scout Ranger Company incurred casualties.

"After two hours of continuous firefight, Captain Sobejana was hit in the lower right arm

as he went for the radio of a fallen soldier.

"Bravely holding his ground, he sustained a second bullet wound that almost severed his right arm. Still, he controlled all fire directions to best defend their position and repulse the encircling enemy.

"Even as a third bullet shattered his rifle, he never lost composure, though in pain.

"He repeatedly maneuvered around, exposing himself to enemy fire to direct the battle and operate the radio.

"After almost four hours of intense fighting, armored reinforcements from Task Group

Panther and the 4th Scout Ranger Company secured the area and evacuated the wounded.

"Reports placed the enemy casualties at 30 killed and confirmed number of wounded.

"By this gallantry, Captain Sobejana distinguished himself in combat, in keeping with the finest traditions of Filipino soldiery."

Colonel Sobejana is a member of Scout Ranger Class 109 and Special Forces Operation Course Class 45-88 and is, thus, "SF na, Ranger pa," or vice versa, depending on one's orientation.

## ONLINE NEWS 12 FEBRUARY 2017

[www.interaksyon.com](http://www.interaksyon.com)

### 2 soldiers seized by NPA in Sultan Kudarat held as 'POWs', in good condition - police

By: Philippine News Agency

February 10, 2017 1:31 PM



[InterAksyon.com](http://InterAksyon.com)

The online news portal of TV5

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines -- The two Army soldiers seized last week by the New People's Army in a hinterland village of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat are reportedly in good condition and being held as "prisoners of war," the town's chief of police said Friday.

Senior Inspector Bernard Francia said this was the information relayed in a letter from the NPA's Far South Mindanao Region Revolutionary Committee received Thursday by the town's crisis management committee.

"They gave assurance that the two soldiers in their custody will not be hurt or killed," he said.

Sergeant Solaiman Calocop and Private 1st Class Samuel Garay of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion were seized on February 2 by around 20 guerrillas of the NPA's Front 72 in Purok 7, Barangay Telafas who stopped them as they made their way back to their detachment on a motorcycle.

Francia said the NPA wrote that the two are being investigated for possible abuses even as he stressed that they have no information they have been involved in any incidents.

He called the designation of the two as POWs a positive development that could pave the way for negotiations for their release.

"Right now, the crisis management committee is still waiting for a response (from the NPA) regarding the proposed negotiations," he said. The crisis committee, headed by Columbio Mayor Amir Musali, earlier sent feelers to the rebels.

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Francia said they are hoping the rebels will reciprocate the efforts of the 39th IB and the local government who spent more than P500,000 to save the life of a rebel who was seriously wounded in a clash last year.

Wwounded in the spine, the police chief aid the rebel is now able to walk.

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **ASG leader at 1 tauhan, patay sa operasyon ng militar sa Tawi-Tawi**

Posted By: Bombo Marilyn Delos Santos: February 11, 2017 | 12:55 AM

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Napatay ang isang kilalang lider ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at isang tauhan nito sa operasyon ng militar sa magkahiwalay na barangay sa munisipyo ng Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Ayon kay Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., ang commander ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), napatay ang ASG leader na si Ninok Sappari dakong alas-9:30 gabi ng Huwebes sa may Barangay Nalil.

Nasawi rin ang isa niyang tauhan na si Mahdi Abdurahman sa unang operasyon na isinagawa sa loob ng Alhari Beach Resort sa Barangay Pahut.

Una rito ay nakatanggap umano ng impormasyon ang militar na pansamantalang nanunuluyan sa hotel ng nasabing resort ang dalawang napatay na terorista habang naghahanap ng target nilang dududkutin.

Dito ay nakatakas pa si Sappari papunta sa bulubunduking bahagi ng lugar at nakita umano siya ng mga residente na duguan na habang tumatakbo palayo.

Sa pursuit operation ng mga sundalo ay napatay din nila si Sappari sa Barangay Nalil.

Inihayag ni Galvez na ang matagumpay na operasyon sa Tawi-Tawi ay bahagi pa rin ng pinaigting kampanya ng militar laban sa mga terorista.

"All available forces are being deployed to pursue and neutralize the Abu Sayyaf Group. These recent operations have caused setbacks, casualties and losses on the terrorist group. We will not stop until we get them all or until they decide to return to the folds of the law and surrender," ang pahayag ni Galvez.

Ang pag-neutralize sa naturang ASG leader at tauhan nito ay isa sa itinuturing na malaking accomplishment ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa Western Mindanao.

Si Saffari ay kinikilalang lider umano ng notorious group ng ASG Lucky 9 na kumikilos din sa lalawigan ng Sulu at nangunguna sa mga insidente ng pagpatay sa mga sundalo.

Kilala rin ang kanilang grupo sa mga serye ng kidnapping sa Tawi-Tawi at Sulu area kabilang na ang mga dayuhang tripulante na dinudukot sa mga karagatan.

Naka-alerto naman ngayon ang militar sa posibleng retaliation na gagawin ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf sa pagkamatay ng kanilang lider.

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[www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

## NPA planned to raid Philex Mining, says Army official

By Artemio Dumlao (philstar.com) | Updated February 11, 2017 - 3:21pm



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

LA TRINIDAD, Philippines – Thursday's rebel attack could have been more damaging than mere torching of two Volvo trucks, the military said.

Brig. Gen. Roy Deveza, commander of the Philippine Army's 503rd Infantry Brigade said there was a prior tip that members of the New People's Army (NPA) were planning to raid and ransack Philex Mining Corporation's Padcal mines in Itogon.

Rebels however may have changed plans on the last minute Thursday morning "when they sensed movement of law enforcers even before they executed (such plan)," the military official said.

Four male rebels and a female guerilla flagged down two Volvo trucks, filled with gold ore concentrates at Sitio Pakak, Barangay Ampucao, some five kilometers away from the firm's main gates, while enroute to Poro Point in San Fernando City, La Union 7:40 a.m. Thursday.

Drivers and escorts were ordered to disembark from the trucks by the rebels and set the vehicles on fire before fleeing towards the mountains.

Up to now, Philex Mines has not issued any official statement on the incident, even as unconfirmed reports said that it received a demand letter from rebels asking for revolutionary taxes.

### Caught rebels face raps

The three suspected NPA rebels, who police had accused as among those who participated in the Philex Mines attack, are now facing criminal cases before the Benguet prosecutors' office.

Benguet police filed arson, robbery and illegal possession of ammunition against Sarah Abellon, Promencio Cortez and Marciano Sagun on Friday.

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Military and police intelligence agents are tagging Abellon as secretary of the Sub-Regional Military Area Command (SMAC) of the CPP-NPA in charge with extortion activities on big projects, while Cortez who accordingly carries a P4.8-million reward for his arrest is also a high-ranking rebel official.

Benguet policemen raided on Thursday night a transient house along Tiptop, Ambuclao Road in Beckel, La Trinidad allegedly rented by Abellon, Cortez and Sagun. They seized personal belongings, several gadgets, assorted ammunitions and P850,000 cash believed to be revolutionary tax collection of Abellon.

The almost a million cash, according to authorities, are also being used as NPA's operational fund to carry out atrocities in the area.

The Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA) however condemned the arrest of Abellon, who according to them is a board of director of the non-government organization Rural Development Center-Katinnulong Dagiti Umili ti Amianan a Luzon (RDC-Kaduami). The group, now demanding for Abellon's release, claimed that his arrest was illegal.

Meanwhile, government forces are still pursuing the main body of the insurgents who were able to escape via Itogon mountains, by splitting up to different directions in Tuba and Itogon, Benguet, the Cordillera police said.

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **Viral statement re: ASG at NPA presence sa Baguio, 'di galing sa amin – PMA**

Posted By: Bombo Radyo Baguio: February 11, 2017 | 3:04 AM

BAGUIO CITY – Nilinaw ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) na wala silang inilabas na anumang mensahe na kumakalat sa social media kaugnay sa presensiya ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at New People's Army (NPA) sa Baguio at La Trinidad, Benguet.

Ayon kay PMA information officer Lt. Col. Reynaldo Balido Jr., walang inilabas ang akademya na statement at hindi galing sa kanila ang kumakalat na mensahe sa social media.

Paliwanag pa niya, kasunod ng pagbawi sa ceasefire at pagdeklara ng all our war laban sa komunistang rebelde ay isinailalim sa red alert ang Armed Forces of the Philippines maging ang PMA.

Iginiit ng opisyal na ang pagsunog sa dalawang truck ng kompanya ng minahan sa Itogon, Benguet, ay naltaon lamang habang naka-red alert ang mga ito.

Dagdag pa niya, tuwing naka-red alert ang mga ito ay standard operating procedure o SOP ng akademya ang pagbabawal sa pagpasok ng mga turista roon.

Kung maaalala, kabilang sa pinaghahandaan ng akademya ay ang nalalapit na PMA Alumni Homecoming sa susunod na linggo.

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[www.rappler.com](http://www.rappler.com)

## PH military keeps eye on ISIS-linked groups amid NPA clashes

'We have specific units that would address these specific threats. We got everything covered,' says Armed Forces chief General Eduardo Año

[Carmela Fonbuena](#)

[@carmela Fonbuena](#)

Published 10:03 AM, February 11, 2017



CONFIRMATION. AFP chief General Eduardo Año gets the nod of the Commission on Appointments on February 8, 2017. Photo by Camille Elemia/Rappler

MANILA, Philippines – Armed Forces chief General Eduardo Año said the "destruction" of local groups with links to the international terrorist organization Islamic State (ISIS) will remain the priority of the military.

This, despite the expected resurgence of fighting with communist rebels, after the termination of a ceasefire. "We have specific units that would address these specific threats. We have a strategy that we'll follow.

Covered *natin lahat* (We got everything covered.) Of course, our main priority is the destruction of the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Maute Group," Año said in an interview after his confirmation hearing at the Senate this week.

"Secondly is, of course, we're back on war with the CPP/NPA. We have enough forces to confront the NPA," Año added.

President Rodrigo Duterte ordered focused attacks on groups linked with ISIS, fearing the spread of extremist ideology in the Philippines.

The military said the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon has joined the Maute Group in Central Mindanao upon orders of the ISIS leadership in the Middle East to find a suitable area to establish a caliphate in Mindanao.

Operations against the local terrorists in Central Mindanao saw the deployment, for the first time, of the air force's brand new FA-50 fighter jets.

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### **Reviving Año's strategy vs the NPA**

The military has resumed its war against the communist New People's Army (NPA) after the 5-month-old ceasefire collapsed.

Duterte also scrapped the talks although various camps are hopeful negotiations may still be revived. Año said they will continue the military strategy adopted during his term as Army chief.

"We will reduce their capacity to fight and their will to fight. *Ang ginagawa namin* (What we were doing) before the ceasefire last year, we continue it now, but with more vigor," he said.

Año vowed there will be no collateral damage.

### **War on drugs, West Philippine Sea**

President Rodrigo Duterte also sought military involvement in his controversial war on drugs and suggested the revival of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) as a 4th service under the military.

Año said only a small group of soldiers are involved in operations against the illegal drug trade, which remains the main function of the police. He said he doesn't expect the proposed revival of the PC to happen during his term because "it has to undergo legislation."

The security sector is also watching developments in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea). Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was quoted as saying he fears the Chinese will build on Scarborough Shoal despite warmer relations between the two countries.

"Right now there is no construction going on. There is no reclamation going on in Scarborough. We monitor some presence of Chinese Coast Guard ships but there is no alarming development," Año said.—

Rappler.com

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

### **Westmincom downplays NPA capability to create havoc**

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Feb. 11 (PNA) -- The military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) has downplayed the capability of the New People's Army (NPA) rebels to create havoc here in the Western Mindanao area.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief, on Saturday said the strength of the NPA in the region was only capable to do a "platoon-size" formation, of which the number of people ranged from 15 to 30 fighters.

Galvez said the NPA rebels had influence in only few of the barangays in the region.

The presence of the NPA rebels is only concentrated in the three Zamboanga provinces.

"We are now in the process of conducting operations (against the NPA rebels)," Galvez said as he assured the public that the threat posed by the NPAs was not as serious as that in Davao and Caraga regions.

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He assured that the public had nothing to worry since there were troops designated to address the threats posed by the NPAs as well as by other groups like the Abu Sayyaf bandits and Maute terror group.

There are four Army brigades--101st, 102nd, 103rd, and 104th--and one Marine Brigade that are under the command of Westmincom. These are complimented by elite units of the Scout Rangers and Special Forces.

Earlier, Lt. Col. Virgilio Hamos Jr., Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion commander, disclosed that seven of the 26 municipalities in Zamboanga del Sur were known to be NPA-influenced areas.

These are the municipalities of San Miguel, Lapuyan, Bayog, Lakewood, Midsalip, Dumingag and Josefina.

Previously, Hamos said there were 12 towns in Zamboanga del Sur known to be NPA-influence places but reduced to seven as brought about by continuous military offensive against them. (PNA)

RMA/NYP/TPGJR

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