

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

19 February 2017

Sunday

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

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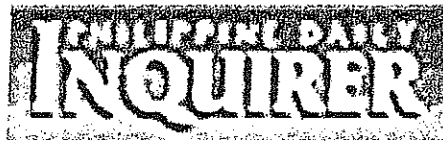
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 19, 2017 | SUNDAY

EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (As of 5:00 AM - Feb. 18, 2017)

CELEBES SEA

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:18 AM	6:02 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:19 PM	11:13 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
FEB 11 6:33 AM	FEB 18 6:33 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
8:25 AM 0.24 Meter	4:03 PM 0.67 Meter

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

	FEB 20	FEB 21	FEB 20	FEB 21	FEB 20	FEB 21		
METRO MANILA	23 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	20 - 27 °C	21 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 29 °C	23 - 30 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
LADAG	23 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	14 - 22 °C	15 - 23 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	24 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	<p>SAGOT KO, PARALA NIYO</p>		

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THE PHILIPPINE
STAR

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'Show of force' for life

Church leads protest vs drug killings, death penalty

By **EVELYN MACAIRAN**

It was a "show of force" when over 10,000 people joined a prayer rally yesterday dubbed "Walk for Life" to protest proposals to revive the death penalty and the mounting extrajudicial killings (EJKs) linked to the government's drug war.

Donning white shirts and carrying placards, the rallyists started to gather at the Quirino Grandstand inside Rizal Park in Manila as early as 4 a.m.

By 8 a.m., the crowd had grown significantly and began praying the rosary

together – something "unexpected," according to Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)-Episcopal Commission on the Laity chairman Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, considering the rally was "hastily" organized, done early in the morning and the participants came from around 15 dioceses nationwide.

"This only shows that they want to express themselves," Pabillo said, stressing those who joined were not forced to attend.

The message, he said, is "that the people are standing up for life and they are against these methods of death, such

as death penalty and EJK."

"So I hope that the government will listen to the people," Pabillo added.

At the same time, in Bacolod, the giant tarpaulins that the local diocese put up during the 2013 senatorial elections listing candidates of "Team *patay* (death)" and "Team *buhay* (life)" were back, this time, condemning the death penalty.

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“No, no, no *sa berdugo* (executioner)! Yes, yes, yes kay Kristo (Christ)!” was the message on a tarpaulin in front of the Bacolod San Sebastian Church yesterday, together with another tarpaulin bearing the biblical passage from John 10:10: “I came that they might have life and have it to the full.”

Like the rest of the Catholic dioceses nationwide, the Diocese of Bacolod has stepped up its drive against the proposed restoration of the death penalty, as the so-called super-majority in Congress seemed bent on pushing for its approval.

Bacolod church rector Fr. Felix Pasquin said criminal offenders need to be punished, but not by death.

They should be given a chance to reform and be rehabilitated, he said.

Pasquin called on the Negros lawmakers yesterday to support the Catholic Church’s position against the death penalty.

Filipinos inherently pro-life, pro-God

“This is standing up for the godly tradition that is truly Filipino because a real Filipino is pro-God, pro-life,” Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas,

president of the CBCP, said before the crowd gathered at Rizal Park yesterday. “This is mentioned in our Constitution. This means that if the Filipino people would break away from God and if the Filipino would not respect life, then he or she would be less of a Filipino because it is inherent in us as Filipinos to be pro-God and pro-life.”

When asked if he was hoping President Duterte would listen to the prayer rally’s message, the Catholic bishops’ leader said: “What I believe is that God will listen to our prayers. If God listens to our requests, what is there to fear?”

Villegas also called the “Walk for Life” prayer rally “Walk for God.”

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle also joined the rally, urging the faithful to use non-violent means to solve criminality amid a seemingly growing culture of violence.

The Cardinal said the “Walk for Life” rally was intended to “save lives, such as of pregnant women and the unborn child, those who are hungry,” and the youth on the street, who must be freed from the influence of illegal drugs, abuse, prostitution, pornography, gambling and other vices.

Calling war as also “anti-life,” Caloocan Bishop Pablo David added yesterday’s prayer rally was meant to campaign against environmental abuse, war in Mindanao and for the resumption of peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army (CPP-NPA).

The “Walk for Life” prayer rally was the first one organ-

ized by the Council of the Laity of the Philippines under

the Duterte government. Seven bishops, including Villegas,

attended the event.

– Gilbert Bayoran

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Duterte to PMA: Build nation worthy of the Filipinos

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

President Duterte has appealed to alumni of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) to help him build a nation “worthy of the Filipinos” and to mold Filipinos “worthy of their nation.”

“Let us together build a nation

worthy of the Filipinos, Filipinos worthy of their nation, *Pilipinong nararapat sa Pilipinas, Pilipinas na nararapat sa Pilipino,*” the President said at the end of his speech during the PMA homecoming at Fort General Gregorio del Pilar in Baguio City yesterday.

Duterte, now almost eight

months in office, explained anew his vision for the country, especially Mindanao, using as blueprint Davao City’s success under his leadership. Duterte is the first Mindanaoan to become president.

“Now, I believe what happened

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in Davao can really happen nationwide, but I need the help of each one, especially the military, not for social control but protection for the citizens from the lawless, the reckless and the selfish," the President said.

While admitting he is not known for righteousness, Duterte said he can consider himself a good leader who will usher the country to prosperity.

"While I never pretended to be a saint, I know that righteousness and discipline are the foundation of a nation. That is why what I desire for the Philippines is a prosperous society that includes everyone, a peaceful law-abiding citizenry, and people of different beliefs who choose to get along with one another," he said.

Adopted by PMA Dimasupil Class of 1967 and now the PMA Alumni Association Inc., Duterte said he is proud to be an adoptive member of the prestigious academy.

"That is why I appreciate the PMA. You have the template of discipline and civility. I ask that you continue this tradition and thank you for inviting me to be part of you," Duterte said.

Unlike in his other public engagements, Duterte read the speech prepared for the occasion – without adding a single expletive.

In remarks on Friday before members of the PMA Class of 1967 at the Baguio Country Club, Duterte questioned the credibility of former Navy officer and now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

A member of PMA Class 1995, Trillanes has accused Duterte of amassing some P2 billion in illegal wealth.

Duterte was in a black leather jacket and black pants and wearing sunglasses when he arrived yesterday morning at the PMA grounds.

"So, let me bring you back to my vision for the nation. As a child immigrant from Visayas to Mindanao, we hoped for a better life in the so-called 'Land of Promise'," he said.

Duterte discussed various issues briefly, like threats from terror groups like the Abu Sayyaf as well as climate change.

"But now, it is threatened by climate change caused by man-made diseases like extractive industries. The rest of the nation is threatened by the widening gap between the rich and the poor, crime, corruption, criminality and illegal drugs," he said.

"In the past, our government verged on failure because those who were in the position to help deliberately made wrong decisions which favored only themselves," he said.

"That is why I promised during my first State of the Nation Address, I promise you a comfortable life. My administration is working to ensure that basic human services are available to all; food and health needs; water and sanitation; shelter; public safety; education and economic opportunities," he said.

"But we will always uphold the sanctity of the common good as the highest good. And always for the benefit of the next generation," he added.

He reiterated the need to stamp out the drug menace to save the coming generations from perdition.

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New Basilan task force chief assumes post

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The new chief of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade and Joint Task Force Basilan was installed yesterday.

Col. Cirilo Donato turned over the post to Col. Juvymax Uy during ceremonies held at Camp Luis Biel II in Barangay Tabiawan in Isabela City.

Uy was former chief of Task Force Zamboanga based in this city.

Donato was named deputy chief of the 1st Army Division based in Barangay Pulacan

in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said the reshuffle is aimed at intensifying security operations against militant groups.

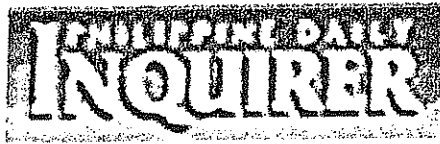
Joint Task Forces Basilan and Sulu lead military operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits and other militants in Mindanao.

"We have to sustain the gains of Basilan as a model in fighting terrorism," Uy said.

– Roel Pareño

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FRIENDLY COMPETITION

REBS, SOLDIERS 'SHOOT FOR PEACE'

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, MAGUINDANAO—Inside an Army headquarters here, soldiers and Moro rebels are firing their guns—not at each other, though.

They are taking part in a shooting competition organized by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process headed by Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process.

"It's a shoot for peace," said Dureza adding that allowing

soldiers and rebels to fire their guns in a friendly competition is a way to promote peace.

"You will see all of us there with a gun tucked on our sides," said Dureza, a gun enthusiast.

Aside from soldiers and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front, media men and other gun lovers joined the competition, touted to be the biggest shooting contest organized in Mindanao.

INQ

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14 injured soldiers at landmine explosion receive Wounded Personnel Medal from PRRD

From the Philippine Information Agency (Feb. 18): **14 injured soldiers at landmine explosion receive Wounded Personnel Medal from PRRD**

The 14 soldiers who were wounded in a landmine explosion during a pursuit and clearing operations against the armed rebel group, the New People's Army (NPA), were personally visited by President Rodrigo Duterte on February 17.

The president spoke with the soldiers, who are presently confined at the Camp Panacan Station Hospital (CPSH) of the Naval Station Felix Apolinario in Panacan.

During his hospital visit, the President awarded each soldier with the Wounded Personnel Medal, a recognition for putting their lives at risk for fighting the NPA.

They were also given cash assistance and cellular phones.

The wounded were identified as Cpl. Bel Jon D. Soratos; Cpl. Joe Mark O. Accad; Cpl. Allan R. Aguilar; Cpl. Abelardo Suela, Jr.; Cpl. Rey M. Danaytan; Pfc. Kevin Nuesca; Pfc. Paul John Aromin; Pfc. Dominic M. Alegado; Pfc. Marlon Soriano; Pfc. John L. Tecson; Pfc. Celso Oliveros Neri, Jr.; Pfc. Alvin S. Omagtang; Pvt. Noel M. Ramos and 2Lt. Harvey Kyl Escora.

Two soldiers were also killed during the said explosion, identified as Cpl. Michael Yadao and Pvt. Vilmel Damondon.

The explosion took place at Barangay Lamanan, Calinan District on February 16, where the soldiers were stationed as part of the Charlie and Alpha Companies and Scout Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Battalion.

Reports say the encounter occurred when members of the NPA Pulang Bagani Command 1 under alias Jinggoy and Pulang Bagani Command 2 under alias Lando attacked military troops in the second and third districts of the city on February 16.

Around 5:30 A.M., the rebels attacked a military detachment in Malabog, Paquibato District, during which one NPA rebel was killed.

~~Around noon time, the NPA also attacked civilian communities and burned down equipment at a pineapple plantation in Baguio District.~~

The Armed Forces of the Philippines believes the series of attacks perpetrated by the rebel group are retaliations for the death of their comrade in a recent encounter in the city's Paquibato District.

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NPA, army clash anew in Bukidnon

From the Sun Star-Cagayan de Oro (Feb 18): NPA, army clash anew in Bukidnon

A FIREFIGHT between the government troops and unidentified armed men believed to be communist rebels, ensued Friday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m. in Barangay Bulonay, Impasug-ong town, Bukidnon.

Captain Krisnen Peter Sarsagat, acting spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division (4ID), said the firefight lasted for some five minutes.

Sarsagat also said government troops were conducting combat (clearing) operations in the said barangay due to reported presence of the New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Sarsagat added that there were no injured or recorded casualties on the government side but in a news advisory from Ka Allan Janito, spokesman of the New People's Army's North Central Mindanao Regional Command, claimed that two government troopers were wounded while a red fighter was also wounded.

The army is still gathering more information to verify the claim.

"Nagkataon lang na nagkasugat lang gyud sila (It's a coincidence that they met) while our soldiers were conducting the operations, so may (there's a) retaliation talagang naganap (that happened)," Sarsagat added.

In a news advisory from Ka Allan Janito, spokesman of the New People's Army's North Central Mindanao Regional Command, claimed that two government troopers were wounded while a red fighter was also wounded.

It noted that the NPA squad under the Julito Tiro Command harassed the soldiers under the 8th Infantry Battalion.

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AFP, stakeholders plant trees to preserve the environment

From the Philippine Information Agency (Feb. 18): **AFP, stakeholders plant trees to preserve the environment**

The 1st Cavalry (1CAV) Squadron, Mechanized Infantry Division and 1st Field Artillery Battalion (1FAB), Army Artillery Regiment, Philippine Army, together with various stakeholders conducted a tree planting activity at the premises of Manlayag Elementary School, this municipality.

Barangay officials, teachers, students and employees of the Armed Forces and Police Mutual Benefit Association, Inc. (AFPMBAI) participated in planting 1,000 mahogany seedlings in the school compound.

Capt. Gabriel Lastimosa, civil-military operations' officer said the unit sought to engage stakeholders in environmental conservation activities through tree planting.

"With this activity, I wish to see more trees planted through the active involvement of the stakeholders.

Capt. Amedrodtin A. Guimbalanan, 1FAB acting CMO officer said as partner of the 1CAV in their civic action programs, they also sent troops to participate and support the tree planting.

"We want to show to the stakeholders that we do not only engage in war with the enemies, but we are actively involved in civic action programs like this, for us to bring the Army closer to the people," Guimbalanan explained.

"I would like to thank the 1CAV for conducting the tree planting activity in our barangay because these trees will provide shade and beauty to our landscape," Punong Barangay Cirilo Halang said.

Nelma Hachuela, an AFPMBAI employee said, "Mas maganda makatulong tayo sa mga activities katulad nito dahil naniniwala ako na ito ang pinakamagandang solusyon sa kinakaharap nating problema sa climate change. Nararamdaman na natin ang epekto ng global warming."

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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AFP commits to assist DENR in fight against illegal logging

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is joining the war against illegal logging in the region, according to 10th Infantry Division commanding official Maj. Gen. Rafael C. Valencia.

Valencia made the disclosure in his meeting with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional officials who paid a call on him at the 10ID's camp in Mawab, Compostela Valley.

"To curb illegal logging activities is one of the marching orders of our DENR Secretary Gina Lopez. We are very serious on this drive the reason why we are intensifying our campaign and to further strengthen our partnership with the AFP once again so we could solicit their support in battling illegal logging activities in this region," DENR XI regional director Ruth M. Tawantawan said.

Valencia expressed his full support, not only in curtailing illegal logging but also illegal mining activities, especially within the 10ID's area of responsibility.

He stressed that the AFP already has close coordination with the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau in Region 11.

One of the preventive measures that were discussed during the meeting in order to stop illegal logging activities was the establishment of DENR-AFP checkpoints in the area.

"Our focus will be in areas within Compostela Valley, particularly in Laak and some areas in Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental. We will jointly conduct IEC in each barangay to prevent cutting of banned species," Tawantawan stressed.

DENR-XI will also be conducting a refresher course on environmental laws and regulations as well as orientation on proper documentation in terms of apprehension of illegally-cut trees for the AFP personnel.

Prior to her meeting with the 10th ID, Tawantawan had a courtesy call with Lieutenant Gen. Rey Leonardo B. Guerrerro of the Eastern Mindanao Command in Panacan, Davao City, and discussed with him the different programs and projects of the DENR.

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The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

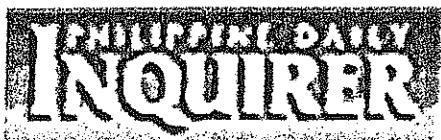
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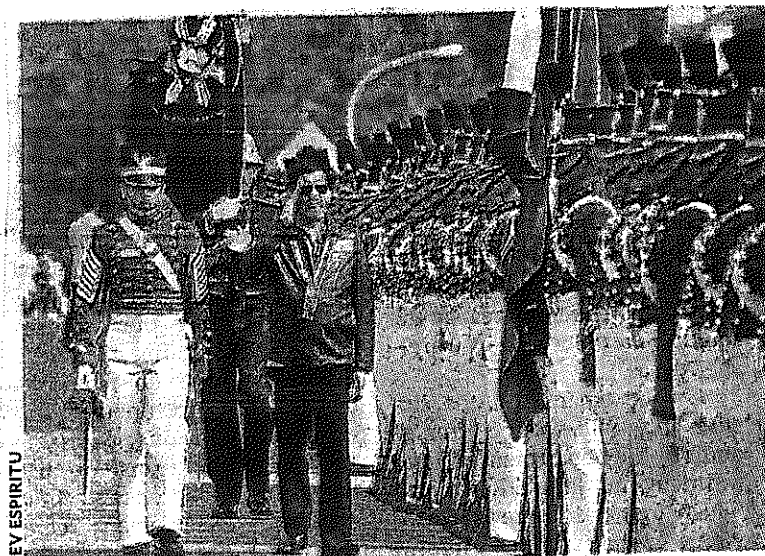
PURPLE HEART. President Rodrigo Duterte pins a Wounded Personnel Medal, the local equivalent of the US Purple Heart, on Corporal Rey Danatan, who is one of the soldiers hurt in encounters with the communist New People's Army. **Málagañang Photo**

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—EY ESPRITU

President Duterte troops the line during the PMA welcome honors.

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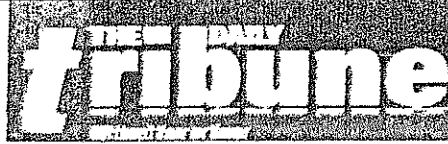
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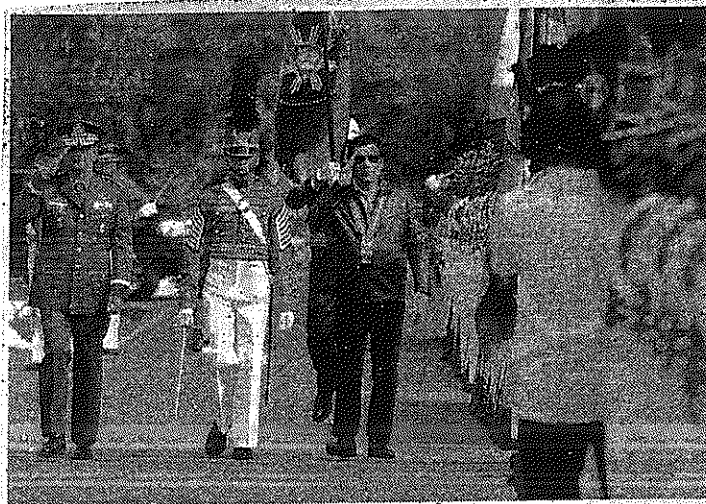
HAIL TO THE CHIEF. Top officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police greet President Rodrigo Duterte upon his arrival at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City to attend the annual homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy.

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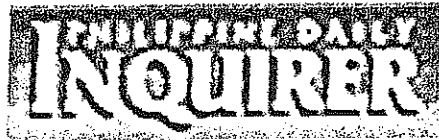


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Trooping the line President Duterte (third from left) troops the line of cadets with Philippine Military Academy Supt. Donato San Juan (left) during the arrival honors at the annual PMA homecoming celebration at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City yesterday.

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Duterte calls for stronger AFP support in war on drugs, terror

By Vincent Cabreza
and Kimberlie Quitasol
@Team Inquirer

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—President Duterte on Saturday called for stronger military support for his war on drugs and terrorism and his program to build a peaceful and prosperous nation.

In a speech before Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni, Mr. Duterte said that when he was Davao City mayor he “kept on harping” on peace and order because “if there is peace and order, businesses and everything else will follow.”

This could happen to the rest of the country as it did in Davao, he added.

“But I need the help of each one, especially the military, not for social control but [for the] protection of the citizens from the lawless, the reckless and the selfish,” he said.

He made the call a week before the country marked the 31st anniversary of the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who used the military to enforce iron rule.

“What I desire for the

Philippines is a prosperous country that includes everyone—a peace loving citizenry and people with different beliefs who chose to get along with one another,” he said.

He said government must serve the people “not just the interest of the few.”

In the past, our government verged on failure because those who were in the position to help deliberately made wrong decisions, which favored only themselves,” he said. “We will always uphold the sanctity of the common good as the highest good.”

Two main threats

He said military support was needed in battling two main threats—the “complex” problem of illegal drugs and terrorism from the Abu Sayyaf, which is engaged in ransom-kidnappings and in bringing the extremism of the Islamic State group into the Philippines from the Middle East.

The President’s appeal to the military comes not long after he sidelined the police from the war on drugs and blasted the corruption in the Philippine National Police.

The President said he had

directed government forces to continue “to intensify operations using all available assets and resources” against militants. He added that it was “the only way to secure Mindanao.”

‘Land of Promise’

But he said Mindanao, the “Land of Promise” where his family had migrated from the Visayas, “is threatened by climate change caused by man-made diseases like extractive industries,” referring to some mining operations that wreck the environment.

“The rest of the nation,” he added, “is threatened by the widening gap between the rich and the poor, crime, corruption, criminality and illegal drugs.”

The President is an adopted member of PMA Class of 1967. He was formally adopted as an honorary alumnus of the country’s premier military academy, which he held up as a model for the nation.

“While I never pretended to be a saint, I note that righteousness and discipline are the foundations of a nation. That is why I appreciate the PMA. You have the template of discipline and civility,” he said.

In response to the President’s call, the PMA Alumni Association Inc. issued a manifesto supporting his “initiatives, advocacies and decisions in the war against corruption—and criminality in general, most particularly against illegal drugs, heinous crimes and terrorism, [and] for his pursuit for lasting peace.”

“We call on the Filipino citizens to support the President and other leaders in the governing of the country toward attaining lasting peace and economic prosperity,” said the statement, which was read by association chair Anselmo Avenido Jr.

The President has been cultivating close ties with the military, visiting many military camps around the country in his first months in office, promising troops medical and combat equipment and increased benefits.

He had also explained to the troops his decision to initiate peace talks with communist insurgents, which he did not touch on in his speech.

He had also condoled with families of slain soldiers, and visited the wounded in hospitals. —WITH A REPORT FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

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'Double honor' for Duterte at PMA

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte said he is "doubly honored" to be adopted by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. more than two decades after he became an honorary member of PMA Class of 1967.

"I am an adopted 'Dimasupil' Class of 1967, that is already honor enough but to be formally adopted by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni is a double honor," Duterte said in his speech before PMA alumni at the PMA Grandstand in Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City yesterday.

He said the latest honor was "because of my long and harmonious relationship with PMA alumni (and) not about political consideration." He thanked the alumni association "for clarifying that."

Duterte said he is just as happy doing his work as public servant.

"The work I do, I do in the service of the people," he said. "And somehow, I also feel at home here at PMA because of its mission to train and develop graduates with character and skill."

Although he is not a soldier, Duterte said he is aware of the demands of being one. It requires inner strength, a choice to

live by courage and principle, he pointed out.

He said, "My own life has been molded by the principle of love of country, compassion for the poor and needy and pride in being a Filipino."

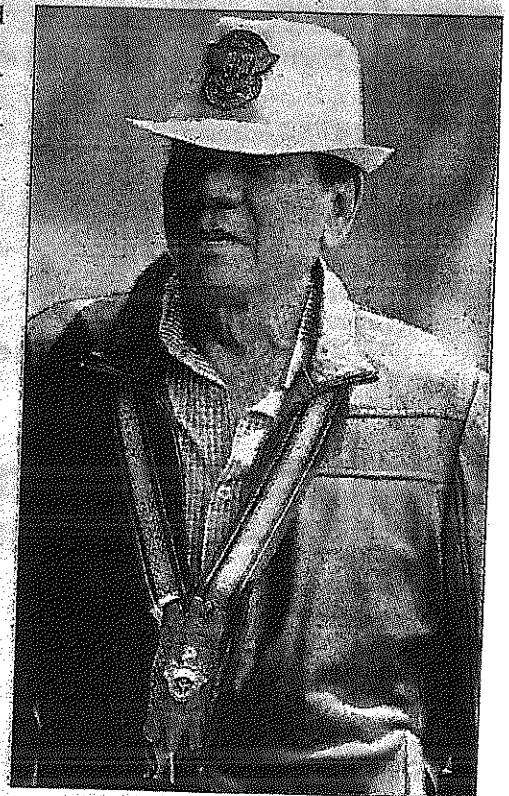
On Friday at the Baguio Country Club, Duterte extolled cadets and alumni for their deep commitment to serve.

"I am confident therefore that our mistakes who are holding key positions in the public and private sectors will deliver what is expected of them and more," Duterte said.

"We are now in the process of modernizing the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police so that they may perform their mandates effectively," he added.

In the same event, Duterte said he has directed law enforcement agencies "to be relentlessly pursuing those who would do harm to our people and the country, including criminal organizations, drug syndicates and terrorists."

"So, no matter where our journey in life led us the last 50 years, our shared love and sacred duty to serve our motherland will always bond us together as members of the 'Dimasupil' Class of 1967," Duterte said.



President Duterte wears Class 1967 hat during the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming at Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City yesterday.

KPTZ/JOHN RODAL/EP

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AFP, PNP ordered to intensify operations vs Abus, IS

In a bid to underscore his administration's fight against extremists in southern Philippines, President Duterte has ordered government forces to use all available resources to go after the two factions of the Abu Sayyaf that have showed allegiance to the Islamic State (IS).

Duterte said he has given the directive to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the

bid to save Mindanao from extremism.

"I have directed AFP and PNP to continuously contain the IS threat, to intensify operations using all available assets and resources. This is the only way to secure Mindanao," Duterte told the alumni gathering of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in Baguio City yesterday.

Duterte also referred to Mindanao as the "Land of Promise" which he hopes to

develop during his term.

Duterte said the Abu Sayyaf has been holed up in Sulu and Basilan where their leaders continue to wreak havoc.

"The Sulu-based ASG is focused on kidnap-for-ransom. The Basilan-based ASG under Hapilon remains focused on assimilating the IS violence," he said.

"As I predicted, IS would find its way to the Philippines. The ASG leader Hapilon, the overall leader of the

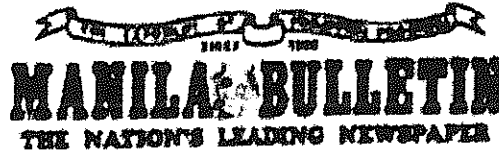
IS Philippines, however, has been severely wounded in an encounter with the military," Duterte said.

In his previous speeches, Duterte warned of the threat of the IS which has been working for a caliphate all over the world.

He cited the IS as a major problem, which also needs government attention in addition to the ongoing fight against illegal drugs and graft and corruption.

– Christina Mendez

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State prosecutors seek cancellation of bail of top NDF peace negotiators

BY CRIS G. ODRONIA

State prosecutors are asking the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Manila to cancel the bail of top peace consultants of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and issue warrants of arrest against them.

The prosecution, in its omnibus motion filed last February 9, asked the

Manila RTC Branch 32 to cancel the bail posted by spouses Wilma and Benito Tiamzon, Rafael Baylosis, Saturnino Ocampo, Randall Echanis and Adelberto Silva.

In effect, the motion seeks to revive the issuance of warrants of arrest against them as well as revoke their authority to travel as they face multiple murder charges in connection with the

discovery of a mass grave in Leyte in 2006.

The court issued an order on Aug. 12, 2016, allowing the Tiamzon couple, Baylosis, Ocampo, Echanis and Silva to travel to Oslo, Norway and the Netherlands for the peace talks.

However, the prosecution cited President Rodrigo Duterte's termination of the peace negotiations between

the government and the communist rebels following the withdrawal of the unilateral ceasefire of both parties in, urging the court to cancel the bail of the accused.

"It is public knowledge that the peace talks were terminated by President Rodrigo Duterte due to repeated violations by the NDF-CPP-NPA of its own unilateral ceasefire," the motion stated.

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MILF stops recruitment of 'child warriors'

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) stopped yesterday the recruitment of children after they released

youths associated with the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) and Bangsamoro Islamic Women's Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB).

It is part of a series of cer-

emonies that will eventually disengage around 1,858 children who were formally or informally associated with the armed wing of the MILF.

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MILF From Page 1

The United Nations, through its children's agency UNICEF, facilitated this process in line with the UN-MILF Action Plan on addressing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in Mindanao.

The UN-MILF Action Plan, signed in 2009 and extended in 2013, signifies the commitment of the rebel group to end the recruitment and use of children.

The training initiatives for the BIAF and communities living in core MILF base command areas were the requirement to understand and accept the questionable recruitment and use of children.

"Children affected by armed conflict are some of the most vulnerable children in the world. We need not look far, right here in the Philippines children are affected by armed conflict in different ways. They can be recruited as soldiers and engaged in direct com-

bat, or as aides with seriously harmful consequences threatening their life and well-being. Let children be children let them play, go to school and live healthy and happy," said UNICEF Philippine representative Lotta Sylwander.

One of the children, Fatimah (not her real name), 16, was forced to leave her home because of conflict.

"I don't like it when people fight because children like me get caught in the middle. We get scared when we have to flee. I hope that war will stop so that our communities can live in peace and quiet," Fatimah said.

The release of children associated with MILF allows them to receive appropriate support from government and development partners to enjoy all their rights to health, education and protection.

The MILF is also bound to institute safeguards through its command structure to regularly monitor and screen troops to prevent children from associating or re-associating.

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MILF AGREES TO END RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN

CAMP DARAPANAN, Sultan Kudarat—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Saturday released children associated with the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Women's Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB), ending the recruitment and use of children within their ranks.

The move is part of a series of ceremonies that will eventually disengage around 1,858 children who were formally or informally associated with the armed wing of the MILF.

The United Nations, through its children's agency Unicef, facilitated this process in line with the UN-MILF Action Plan on addressing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in Mindanao.

The UN-MILF Action Plan, signed in 2009 and extended in 2013, signifies the commitment of the MILF to end the recruitment and use of children within their ranks. The progress achieved to date is the result of the commitment and action by the MILF at the highest levels, as well

as by front and base commanders. The systematic sensitisation, awareness raising and training initiatives for the BIAF and communities living in core MILF base command areas were essential pre-requisites to achieve a level of understanding and acceptance on the issue of recruitment and use of children.

"Children affected by armed conflict are some of the most vulnerable children in the world. We need not look far, right here in the Philippines children are affected by armed con-

flict in different ways. They can be recruited as soldiers and engaged in direct combat, or as aides with seriously harmful consequences threatening their life and well-being. Let children be children—let them play, go to school and live healthy and happy," Unicef Philippines Representative Lotta Sylwander said.

Fatimah (not her real name), 16 years old, was forced to leave her home because of conflict. She helped out her community by washing the dishes, cooking and cleaning.

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The Standard

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GOVT TO USE 'ALL RESOURCES' AGAINST ABU SAYYAF GROUP

By John Paolo Bencito

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday told security forces to use all government resources to protect Mindanao from the Abu Sayyaf Group, which he said has been destroying the peace in the country's south.

In a speech before alumni of the Philippine Military Academy during their homecoming here, the President said that both the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police have been directed to continuously contain the ASG threat "through intensified operations using all available assets and resources."

"The Sulu-based ASG is focused on kidnap-for-ransom. The Basilan-based ASG under [Isnlon] Hapilon remains focused on assimilating the IS violence today," Duterte said.

Duterte said that recent reports suggesting that Abu Sayyaf's top leader, Isnlon Hapilon leading the Southeast Asian caliphate of the jihadist group Islamic State, would wreck his efforts for a peaceful country.

"Intensified military efforts is the only way to secure Mindanao," the president said.

At least eight Abu Sayyaf members were killed in a military assault in Sulu last week, while intelligence reports said Hapilon was severely wounded after an offensive in Lanao del Sur.

Only recently, security officials said the homegrown terrorist groups had been uniting and evolving into just one group called Dawlatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masrik or DIWM, and had chosen Isnlon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf as their sole leader in their aggressive efforts to be recognized by the ISIS.

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The Manila Times

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Subdue ISIS-linked groups, AFP ordered

BAGUIO CITY. President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday ordered government forces to contain adherents of the jihadist militant group Islamic State (IS) in the country.

In remarks during the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni homecoming in Fort del Pilar, Duterte said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have been pursuing two factions of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which is being linked to IS through its leader Isnilon Hapilon.

"I have directed the AFP and PNP to continuously contain the [IS] threat, to intensify operations using

all available assets and resources. This is the only way to secure Mindanao," Duterte said.

"The Sulu-based ASG is focused on kidnap for ransom. The Basilan-based ASG under Hapilon remains focused on assimilating the IS-violent trait. As I predicted, IS would find its way to the Philippines," he added.

Duterte said Hapilon was "severely injured" after a military air assault operation in Butig, Lanao del Sur last January.

The operation came after the President named Hapilon as the "top honcho" of IS in the Philippines.

The President called on the support of government forces "not for social control but protection [of] the citizens from the lawless, the reckless and the selfish."

"While I never pretended to be a saint, I know that righteousness and discipline are the foundation of the nation. That is why what I desire for the Philippines is a prosperous society that includes everyone - a peaceful law-abiding citizenry and people of different beliefs who choose to get along with one another," Duterte said.

'Successful' drug war

Duterte also said his administration's war on drugs turned out to become "successful" after the military's help in the anti-narcotics campaign.

"Little did I know that the drug problem was more complex until tens of thousands of drug users started turning themselves in," Duterte said.

In February, the President tasked the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to take over the campaign, with the coordination of the AFP.

Duterte banned the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation from carrying out his anti-drug crackdown because of supposed corruption in the two law enforcement agencies.

The PMA alumni association expressed support to the Duterte administration.

"We affirm our unwavering support to President Duterte for his initiatives and advocacies most particularly on illegal drugs, heinous crimes, and terrorism and his efforts on lasting peace," the alumni association said in a manifesto of support read during the homecoming.

PMA alumni also urged government officials and personnel and the public to support the President. **CATHERINE S. VALENTE**

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The Manila Times

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Police, soldiers to train in Moscow

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

BAGUIO CITY: President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday said he would send members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to Russia after it offered to train Filipino security forces.

Duterte said Russian officials led by Moscow's Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev made the offer during a meeting in Davao City on Thursday.

"Yesterday, the Russian delegation, they talked to me. And we discussed so many matters and they want to train our soldiers also and initially last night, I committed to

send 10 PNP members and 10 members of the Armed Forces," Duterte said in remarks before alumni of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1967 on Friday night.

"We have to connect not only because of the weapons but the critical mass of information that we can share with them. We cannot afford to just wait for something out of this generosity," he added.

The Russian officials' recent trip underlines Moscow's intent to capitalize on a radical recalibration

of foreign policy under Duterte, who resents the Philippines' dependence on the United States. Duterte has made strong overtures towards China and Russia.

In Friday's remarks, the President repeated his tirades against the US, accusing it of coercing the Philippines by threatening to withhold aid.

"The Russians said that I'm the only one who said something about the President of America and the American policy itself.

They (Americans) forced me to do it. Every time they mentioned the assistance, it looked like we were beggars if there's none (aid). That's why I exploded. So that you know what's in my heart," he said.

He told PMA alumni holding key positions in the public and private sectors to deliver what is expected of them and more.

"We are now in the process of modernizing the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police so that they may

perform their mandates effectively. I have instructed our law enforcement agencies to be relentless in pursuing those who would do harm to our people and the country, including criminal organizations, drug syndicates and terrorists," Duterte said.

The President said the support of the military and police was "without limit," which was why he had vowed to give them everything they needed, including a 100-percent hike in their salaries by the end of the year.

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Rody orders AFP, PNP to contain IS threat

By Ted Tuvera

BAGUIO CITY – President Duterte yesterday exhorted the military to maximize all its resources to prevent the influence and operations of the international terrorist network Islamic State (IS) in the country.

In his speech here at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), the Commander in Chief emphasized the need for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to secure Mindanao, through tougher purging of Islamic radicals.

"I have directed AFP and PNP to continuously contain the IS threat, to intensify operations using all available assets and resources. This is the only way to secure Mindanao," Duterte said.

The President also took note of the differences within the ranks of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) which, he said, has been ideologically penetrated by the IS dream of establishing a one world caliphate.

"The Sulu-based ASG is focused

on kidnap-for-ransom. The Basilan-based ASG under (Ismilon) Hapilon remains focused on assimilating the IS violent today," he explained.

"As I predicted, IS would find its way to the Philippines," Duterte stressed.

Moreover, the President took note of the AFP's achievement in injuring IS ideolog Hapilon.

"The ASG leader Hapilon, the overall leader of the ISIS Philippines, however, has been severely wounded in an encounter with the military," he said.

What worries the President is their use of improvised explosive devices in the past that makes communities vulnerable to devastating attacks.

These groups, he said, are too dangerous, prompting him to order full military operation, especially in Lanao area, to prevent them from carrying out bombing campaigns.

Relatively, Duterte made no mention of the threat by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army despite recently calling them "terrorists."

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Pahina. 2

ABANTE

PDU30 SA AFP: TULONG!

Ni Aries Cano

Maraming banta ngayon sa bansa kaya kailangan ang tulong ng lahat, lalo na ng mga sundalo. Ito ang buod ng mensahe kahapon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alumni Homecoming.

Unang binanggit ng Pangulo ang diumano'y napakalawak palang problema ng illegal drugs at ikalawa ay ang pagpasok na umano ng international terror group na ISIS o Iraq-Syria Islamic State sa bansa.

"I need the help of each one, especially the military, not for social control but protection to citizens from the lawless, reckless, and selfish," bahagi ng tatampati ni Pangulong Duterte.

"There are threats facing the nation, first is illegal drugs. Little did I know that the drug problem was more complex until tens of thousands of drug users started turning themselves in," dagdag pa nito.

Ibinida rin ng Pangulo ang ginawang pagtutulungan ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at AFP sa giyera kontra illegal na droga-kaya naging matagumpay.

Ang Abu Sayyaf Group naman, anang Pangulo, ay patuloy ang paghahasik ng lagim sa pamamagitan ng walang puknat na pagdukot habang ang Basilan-based ASG sa ilalim ni Isnilon Hapilon ay nagpapatuloy sa kanilang Islamic State-related activities.

Sinabi pa ng Pangulo na nagbigay siya ng direktiba sa AFP at PNP na tutukan ang banta ng ISIS upang maisalba ang Mindanao sa mas matinding kaguluhan.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017

Tempo

AFP sets sights on illegal loggers

YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY - The Armed Forces of the Philippines is all set to augment the all-out battle of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against illegal logging.

Major General Rafael C. Valencia, commanding officials of the AFP's 10th Infantry Division said they have already pinpointed areas where there is a critical need in guarding its environment.

Valencia expressed his full support not only in curtailing, not only illegal logging but also illegal mining activities especially within their area of responsibility stress-

ing that he has close coordination with the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau-XI.

One of the preventive measures that were discussed during their meeting with DENR XI regional director Ruth M. Tawantawan is the establishment of DENR-AFP checkpoints in the area.

"Our focus will be in areas within Compostela Valley Province particularly in Laak and some areas in Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental. We will jointly conduct IEC in each barangay to prevent cutting of banned species," said Tawantawan.

DENR-XI will also be conducting a refresher course on environmental laws and regulations as well as orientation on proper documentation in terms of apprehension of illegally-cut trees for the AFP personnel.

Prior to her meeting with the 10th ID, Tawantawan had a courtesy call with Lieutenant General Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero of the Eastern Mindanao Command in Panacan, Davao City and discussed to him the different Programs and Projects of the DENR. They are also eyeing to solicit EASTMIN-COM's support in the implementation of these programs especially in the campaign against illegal logging activities in the region.

Aside from the military, Tawantawan also urged all the employees of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Compostela Valley Province to help out in intensifying all the campaigns of the Department especially that there are reports that Comval Province has a high rate of illegal logging activities.

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Uphold discipline, civility, PMA told

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City – President Duterte yesterday told the Philippine Military Academy during its alumni homecoming here to continue upholding the values of the institution.

Duterte said he is proud to be an adopted member of the PMA Dimasupil Class of 1967 because despite his flaws, the PMA continues on its mission to train and develop graduates with character and skill.

"That is why I appreciate the PMA. You have the template of discipline and civility. I ask that you continue this tradition and thank you for inviting me to be part of you," he said.

Duterte became an adopted member of the PMA Dimasupil

Class of 1967 in 1994. He became an honorary member of the PMA Alumni Association Inc. on December 14, 2016.

He officially became an honorary member of the PMAAAI yesterday.

"I am an adopted Dimasupil Class of 1967. That is already an honor enough but to be formally adopted by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni is a double honor in my case," Duterte said.

Duterte added that his long and harmonious relationship with PMAAAI is anything but politics and is still uncomfortable receiving awards and recognition for doing the things he is supposed to do. **(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**

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

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www.pna.gov.ph

PMAAAI recognizes 12 cavaliers in 118th homecoming

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 18): PMAAAI recognizes 12 cavaliers in 118th homecoming

Twelve Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni were recognized in the 118th PMA Alumni Homecoming on Saturday for their outstanding performances.

The Cavalier Awardees are Cavalier (cav) Jose Lopus, Class '65 for Alumni Affairs; Cav Vicente C. Pangantihon, Class '68 for Special Field; Cav Mario A. Avenido, Class '81 for Private Enterprise; Cav Galileo Gerard R. Kintanar, Class '85 for Command and Administration; Cav Guillermo A. Molina, Jr II, Class '86 for Staff Functions; Cav Roberto B. Fajardo, Class '87 for Police Operations; Cav Siegfred B. Mison, Class '87 for Public Administration; Cav Ernesto O. Baldovino, Class '91 for Naval Operations; Cav Fermin M. Caranga, Class '92 for Air Operations; Cav Felix Ronnie B. Babac, Class '93 for Army Operations; Cav Joseph M. Coyne, Class '94 for Coast Guard Operations; and Cav Reynir S. Nirza, Class '02 for Special Operations.

Teresita Pangantihon, wife of Special Field Cavalier Awardee Vicente Pangantihon, received the plaque on his behalf.

Pangantihon passed away on June 24, 2016 at the age of 73 and left behind his advocacy that only thru education and literacy can ignorance and poverty be eradicated.

Pangantihon has devoted his literacy talents to the upliftment of the impoverished sectors of society throughout his life, especially among the indigenous tribes.

It was his personal belief that insurgency is a result of dysfunctions in society, and cannot be solved with guns and bullets.

He was the author and publisher of many articles on historical heritage and cultures of indigenous and cultural minorities, and had published three books namely: Kinaray-a English Dictionary and Thinking Aloud in 2014 and Karay-a Rice Tradition Revisited in 2009.

Pangantihon also had helped defray educational expenses of indigent students using his personal funds and as a lawyer, had extended free legal assistance to the poor in the barrios.

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

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

www.tribune.net

Defense chief: NPA rebels are people's true enemies

From the Daily Tribune (Feb 18): Defense chief: NPA rebels are people's true enemies

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday branded the New People's Army (NPA) as the true enemies of the people as he called to public to rise up against the communist group's oppression and terror tactics.

This, as four — two government troops and two rebels, were killed while 10 other soldiers were wounded following a clash with NPA rebels in Davao City on Thursday afternoon.

In a statement, Lorenzana said that while the Duterte administration is very much committed to attaining lasting peace in the country, the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF), continued to sow chaos and violence.

"They rely on treachery and guile to trick the innocent into joining their misguided cause, and killing those who oppose them," Lorenzana said.

"I am one with the President in condemning the atrocities committed by the NPA, and in rightfully labeling them as terrorists.

I call on the Filipino people to rise up against these criminals and terrorists," he added.

At around 4:20 p.m. on Thursday, elements of the Army's 3rd Infantry Battalion (IB), aboard five military trucks, encountered members of the NPA's Pulang Bagani Command-1 of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee along the boundary of barangays Lacson Iamanan in Calinan District, Davao City.

As a result, two soldiers were killed in action while 10 others were wounded.

On the other hand, two NPA rebels were also killed and their bodies were recovered in the encounter site.

Lorenzana urged the public to deny the communist of refuge to their communities and coordinate with government authorities.

"We must intensify our fight against all forms of oppression and exploitation but we must open our eyes wide to see who our real enemies are. We must frustrate them at every turn by denying them foothold in our communities and by reporting all illegal and criminal activities to the proper authorities," Lorenzana said.

"This fight our fight — the fight of every Filipino — and we will not stop until our country is free of those who want to rule through terror and oppression," he added.

Peace negotiations between the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF were suspended indefinitely by Duterte after the both panels failed to come up with a bilateral ceasefire agreement during the last round of talks in Rome.

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

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

The communist group insisted on the release of 400 political prisoners which Duterte rejected and subsequently called off the talks when the NPA launched series of atrocities in various parts of the country while a unilateral ceasefire was in effect.

Relatedly, the CPP yesterday branded as "highly dubious" military claims that NPA rebels ambushed a convoy of government forces and members of a private organization involved in relief operations in earthquake-stricken Surigao del Norte province.

"The reports coming from the AFP are highly dubious. The spokesmen of the AFP are weaving such false reports to deceive the public and disparage the NPA which had earlier unilaterally declared a ceasefire in the areas which were hardest hit by the February 10 earthquake," the CPP said.

"The AFP wishes to discredit the NPA by making it appear that it is preventing relief operations in the revolutionary areas," it added.

The CPP, instead turned the tables against the military, claiming the masses in the disaster areas are gravely concerned that the AFP is exploiting relief operations for counterinsurgency aims.

"The military offers to escort relief operations in order to allow its armed units entry into the areas and establish its oppressive presence in the midst of civilian communities to conduct intelligence and psywar operations," the CPP said.

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