

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



**TEAM ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

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

**27 February 2017**

**Monday**

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

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**24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:**

ISSUED AT : 5:00 PM 26 FEBRUARY 2017  
 VALID BEGINNING : 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast from 5PM today until 5PM tomorrow		Extended Weather Outlook Duration: 5PM until 5 PM of the following day			
	26 FEB		27 FEB	28 FEB	1 MAR	2 MAR
	Metro Manila	24 °C 31 °C	Light to Moderate; Northeast Manila Bay: Slight to Moderate	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C
Tuguegarao City	23 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong; Northeast	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 28 °C
Laoag City	24 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong; Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Baguio City	15 °C 23 °C	Moderate to Strong; Northeast	15 °C 23 °C	15 °C 23 °C	14 °C 22 °C	14 °C 22 °C
SBMA (Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)	23 °C 31 °C	Moderate; Northeast Subic Bay: Moderate	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 30 °C
Tagaytay City	20 °C 29 °C	Moderate; Northeast	20 °C 29 °C	20 °C 29 °C	19 °C 29 °C	19 °C 28 °C
Lipa City	23 °C 32 °C	Moderate; Northeast	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C
Legazpi City	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate to Strong; Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C
Puerto Princesa City	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate; Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C
Iloilo City / Bacolod City	25 °C 32 °C	Light to Moderate; Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C
Metro Cebu	24 °C 30 °C	Light to Moderate; Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 29 °C	25 °C 29 °C
Tacolban City	23 °C 30 °C	Moderate; East to Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	23 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Cagayan de Oro City	23 °C 28 °C	Light to Moderate; East to Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	23 °C 28 °C	23 °C 28 °C	24 °C 29 °C	24 °C 29 °C
Valencia City	18 °C 28 °C	Moderate; East to Northeast	18 °C 29 °C	18 °C 29 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C
Metro Davao	24 °C 30 °C	Moderate; East to Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C
Zamboanga City	23 °C 31 °C	Light to Moderate; East to Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C

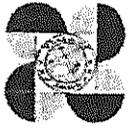
**LEGEND:**

	Clear Skies		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower and/ or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rains		Rains with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy Skies with Rainshower and/ or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rains / Rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower		Light Rains				

PREPARED BY:

END OF FORECAST

CHECKED BY:



**24- HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST**

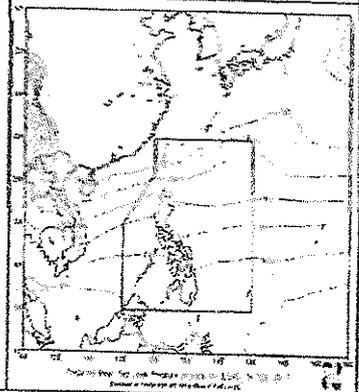
ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 26 FEBRUARY 2017

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

**SYNOPSIS:** Northeast Monsoon affecting Northern and Central Luzon. Easterlies affecting the Eastern section of Southern Luzon, of Visayas and of Mindanao.

**FORECAST:** Cloudy skies with light rains is expected over Cagayan Valley region. Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms is expected over Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao. Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rains prevail over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the Northeast will prevail over Luzon and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough. Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate coming from the East to Northeast with slight to moderate seas.



**PAGTAYA:** Maulap na kalangitan na may mahinang mga pag-ulan ang inaasahan sa rehiyon ng Cagayan Valley. Bahagyang maulap hanggang sa maulap na papawirin na may pulu-pulong mga pag-ulan o pagkidlat-pagkulog ang inaasahan sa Kabikulan, Kabisayaan at Mindanao. Bahagyang maulap hanggang sa maulap na kalangitan na may mahinang mga pag-ulan ang iiral sa Kamaynilaan at sa nalalabing bahagi ng Luzon.

Katamtaman hanggang sa malakas na hangin mula sa hilagang-silangan ang iiral sa Luzon at ang mga baybaying dagat nito ay magiging katamtaman hanggang sa maalon. Sa ibang dako, ang hangin ay magiging mahina hanggang sa katamtaman mula sa silangan hanggang sa hilagang-silangan na may banayad hanggang sa katamtamang pag-alon ng karagatan.

**EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 4:00 PM TODAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:**

<b>MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 1:50 PM TODAY ..... 30.9 °C		<b>MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 7:00 AM TODAY ..... 85 %	
<b>MINIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 6:00 AM TODAY ..... 24.2 °C		<b>MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 11:00 AM TODAY ..... 57 %	
<b>TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)</b>		<b>ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION OVER METRO MANILA</b>	
<b>HIGH TIDE TODAY:</b> 10:11 PM ..... 1.01 METER		<b>SUNSET/ SUNRISE</b>	<b>MOONRISE/ MOONSET &amp; ILLUMINATION</b>
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 5:45 AM ..... -0.08 METER		<b>SUNSET TODAY:</b> 6:03 PM	<b>MOONSET TODAY:</b> 5:48 PM
<b>HIGH TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 11:45 AM ..... 0.41 METER		<b>SUNRISE TOMORROW:</b> 6:14 AM	<b>MOONRISE TOMORROW:</b> 6:34 AM
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 3:34 PM ..... 0.23 METER		<b>SUNSET TOMORROW:</b> 6:04 PM	<b>ILLUMINATION TOMORROW:</b> 0 %

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUERIES, PLEASE CALL AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 927-1335 OR LOG ON TO WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH.

PREPARED BY: SFD

CHECKED BY: ADA

27 February 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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# YASAY: AMERICAN, PINOY OR STATELESS?

STORY BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

**Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. acquired US citizenship and took his oath as an American citizen in 1986, contrary to his claims he had never been an American citizen** **AB**

## FROM A1

By Juliet Labog-Javellana  
@julietlabj

While he declared before the Commission on Appointments (CA) that he had never been an American citizen, an affidavit executed by Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. showed that he acquired US citizenship and took his oath as an American citizen in 1986.

After supposedly giving up his US citizenship in 1993, Yasay failed to reacquire his Filipino citizenship, making his position as head of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and his previous seven-year stint at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) questionable.

Documents obtained by the Inquirer showed that Yasay formally renounced his US citizenship at the US Embassy in Manila on June 28, 2016, or just two days before President Duterte appointed him to the Cabinet.

At his CA confirmation hearing on Wednesday, Yasay said he had applied for naturalization but never legally acquired American citizenship.

"When I had applied for naturalization, at that time my application for naturalization was given due course. I was not qualified because at that time I already had plans to abandon my permanent residency in the US to return to the Philippines. This was in November 1986," Yasay said at the hearing.

"And in 1987 of January, a few months thereafter, I, in fact, abandoned my permanent residency in the US that rendered me under the laws not qualified to become a US citizen. On that basis, I have never acquired legal status as a US citizen and I have issued the necessary affidavits for this purpose, admitting my disqualification that I submitted early on to the American authorities," he said.

Mr. Duterte's spokesperson, Ernesto Abella, said Yasay's foreign citizenship was a non-issue as he had already explained the circumstances behind it. "He was never ever a US citizen," Abella said.

But Yasay's own documents stated that he was granted American citizenship and that

he took his oath as a US citizen.

### US citizenship renounced

In fact, Yasay personally appeared before Vice Consul Kristy L. Haller at the US Embassy in Manila on June 28 last year to formally renounce his US citizenship.

A certificate of loss of nationality of the United States was issued stating that Yasay "formally renounced his US citizenship before a consular officer at the US Embassy Manila" and that the "expatriating act was performed voluntarily with the intent to relinquish United States citizenship."

### Wife, kids US citizens

The certificate said Yasay "resided in the United States (from) February 1978 to Jan. 8, 1987." His wife and children are US citizens.

To support the renunciation, Yasay submitted an affidavit and a letter that he said he sent by registered mail to the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in 1993.

The affidavit, dated Feb. 23, 1993, stated: "That on Nov. 26, 1986, I was granted United States citizenship by the US District Court, District of New Jersey, under Petition No. 12831295."

He said he migrated to the United States in February 1978 under Alien Registration No. A36118516 to "flee the repressive regime of Marcos."

Soon after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown in 1986, Yasay said he visited the Philippines to witness the developments and to make a decision whether to return to his country of birth.

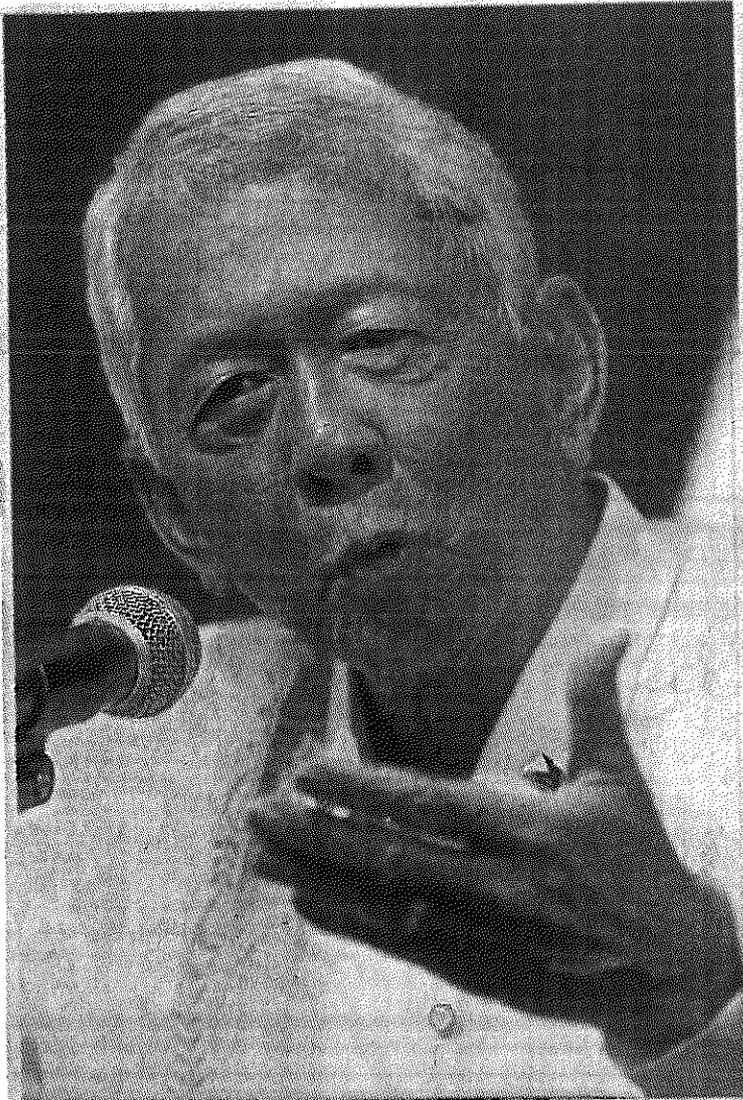
Very pleased with the restoration of freedom and democracy in the Philippines, Yasay said he decided to return for good.

"That, by the time I took my oath as a United States citizen on Nov. 24, 1986, I already finalized my plans to return to the Philippines and abandon my residency in the United States," he said in the affidavit.

He added that he abandoned his US residency on Jan. 8, 1987, and returned to the Philippines.

In both the affidavit and a transmittal letter to the district director of the INS, Yasay confessed he did not really intend to reside in the United States.

"I further make this final



Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr.

and irrevocable admission and confession to the effect that when I applied for and was granted US citizenship, I did not have the acquired intention to reside in the United States, thereby making me ineligible and disqualified for such citizenship," Yasay said in the letter to the INS. (In this letter, he stated the date of his US citizenship as Nov. 24, 1986, but in the affidavit, he wrote it as Nov. 26, 1986.)

There was no indication that the affidavit and letter were received by the US agencies. The affidavit was notarized by a certain Arturo Diaz.

#### **Improper renunciation**

While Yasay cited this affidavit as abandonment of his US citizenship, it was not the proper procedure for renunciation.

The US Immigration and Nationality Act requires a person wishing to renounce his or her US citizenship to appear before a US consular or diplomatic officer outside the United States and

He executed this instrument only last year shortly before his formal appointment to Mr. Duterte's Cabinet.

Another curious aspect of the Yasay citizenship is that between his acquisition and renunciation of his US citizenship, he was issued both Philippine passports and US visas.

A lawmaker privy to the pertinent documents said that after Yasay lost his Filipino citizenship in 1986, he has apparently not reacquired it as mandated by Philippine laws.

#### **Not Filipino citizen**

The lawmaker pointed out that assuming Yasay did renounce his US citizenship in 1993 through his affidavit, he did not automatically reacquire his Filipino citizenship.

To become a Filipino citizen again, Yasay needed to file and complete the procedures for naturalization as required under Commonwealth Act No. 93 and Republic Act No. 9225, or the dual citizenship law enacted

The dual citizenship law requires filing a petition for retention/reacquisition of Philippine citizenship in the Bureau of Immigration and taking an oath of allegiance to the Philippines.

The lawmaker said Yasay executed the affidavit and letter to US authorities in 1993 apparently to cover his tracks at the SEC.

Yasay was first appointed associate SEC commissioner in March 1993, a month after the date of the execution of his affidavit. He became SEC chair in 1995 and held the post until 2000.

"He wanted to cover his tracks. At the time he accepted the appointment as associate commissioner of the SEC, he knew he was an American citizen," the lawmaker said.

#### **Dual citizenship law**

The lawmaker said Yasay could have taken his oath as a Filipino when the dual citizenship law was enacted in 2003, but apparently he did not.

Under the new law, Yasay as a US citizen is required to take his oath of allegiance to the Philippines before he could serve in the Cabinet.

Elective and appointive government officials cannot be dual citizens. If they are, they are required to take an "oath declaring his intention to renounce absolutely and perpetually all faith and allegiance to the foreign authority, state or sovereignty of which he was a citizen or subject" and take an oath of allegiance to the Philippines before they could run for public office or hold government posts.

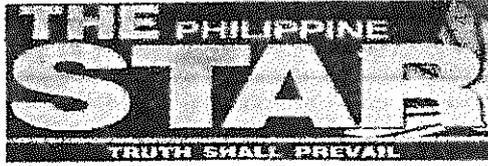
"I am sure he has not taken his oath as a Filipino citizen in 2003 because that would expose him as not being a Filipino citizen when he was at the SEC. He was caught in a web of legal complications," the lawmaker said.

The lawmaker pointed out that Yasay would be liable for usurpation of authority for being an alien during his SEC tenure.

Now that he has formally renounced his American citizenship, Yasay could be considered a "stateless" person holding office, ironically, as foreign secretary.

The Inquirer tried to reach Yasay through phone over the weekend. Text messages sent to him were left unanswered as of Sunday night. (INQ)

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## 2 rebels slain in Capiz clash

ILOILO – Two suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed in an encounter with Army troopers in Maayon, Capiz on Friday.

The bodies of Ian Borres and Lorendo Borres were recovered shortly after the firefight that erupted at around 3:40 p.m. in Barangay Jebaca, according to Lt./Col. Leonardo Peña, chief of the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (IB).

"The rebels were about to retreat when two of them were killed," Peña said.

The rebels, led by Romulo Gangoso alias Raegan, were reportedly engaged in extortion activities in the towns of Maayon, Cuartero, and Dumarao, all in Capiz, and in Lemery, Iloilo.

The troopers recovered three shotguns and a hand grenade from the scene of the firefight.

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division ordered its troops to be on alert at all times for possible retaliatory attacks.

Meanwhile, in Davao del Sur, troopers recovered firearms and improvised explosive devices from an NPA camp that they overran following a firefight on Saturday.

The Army's 39th IB said the rebels retreated after they ran out of ammunition during the encounter that occurred in Bansalan town.

The camp, located in Barangay Managa, had more than 40 tents that can accommodate at least 100 individuals, the Army said.

Villagers have complained to the military about a group of men engaging in extortion activities in their community – **Jennifer Rendon, John Unson**

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# 4 killed in Maguindanao shabu tiange raid

By JOSEPH JURELAG

**G**ENERAL SANTOS CITY – Anti-narcotics agents, backed by Army troops, swooped down on a suspected shabu tiange in Paglas, Maguindanao early morning Saturday which resulted in the killing of four suspects and wounding of two soldiers.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, 33rd Infantry Battalion commander (33rd IB), said combined elements of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PDEA-ARMM) and 33rd IB, were going to arrest Abdulatip Pandaliday, a notorious drug trafficker, when they met armed resistance from at least 15 men in Barangay Lipao, Datu Paglas.

Pandaliday, a former leader of the Moro Liberation Front, has been the target of anti-drug operations by PDEA since last year after he was tagged as one of the top drug pushers operating in

Maguindanao and nearby areas.

However, the raiding team failed to arrest Pandaliday, and other members of his armed group.

But the Army confirmed that four suspects were killed and two others were arrested, although their identities were withheld by PDEA-ARMM, pending follow-up and pursuit operations on Pandaliday.

The Army also did not give the names of the soldiers wounded in the raid.

The team seized about 150 grams of shabu worth P5 million, after the fierce gun battle that lasted for almost an hour.

Meanwhile PDEA operatives arrested an alleged drug pusher in a drug bust operation in this city.

PDEA-12 regional director Cesario Gil Castro identified the suspect as Rubenson Buaquina, 24, who yielded 10 grams of shabu with a street value of P75,000 in a drug bust in Barangay Bula.

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## 51 Reds surrender, 17 nabbed since ceasefire suspension

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

At least 50 New People's Army rebels have surrendered while 17 others were arrested almost a month after the government launched an all-out war against the NPA.

The NPA exodus is expected to continue as more rebels are sending surrender feelers to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said yesterday.

Apart from a program granted to rebel-returnees, their surrender is without condition, he said.

On Feb. 23, the AFP received 10 surrenderees and two more the following day.

Arevalo identified the two as Allan Mating, 19, who surrendered to the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion in Compostela Valley, and Arjay Bangue to the 73rd IB in Davao Occidental.

Since the lifting of the government's unilateral ceasefire on Feb. 4, the AFP

has conducted 36 small unit operations against the NPA rebels.

The encounters, which averaged at two per day, resulted in the arrest of 17 rebels.

Among those recently arrested was top rebel leader Ernesto Samarita, who was captured in Nasugbu, Batangas on Feb. 21.

Samarita and his group were tagged in extortion activities in Pico de Loro.

Arevalo said the AFP recovered 37 firearms since

the first day of the offensives.

Despite the ongoing operations, the AFP remains open to the possibility on the resumption of the peace talks.

Arevalo said the soldiers want peace and are hoping the NPA will comply with the conditions aimed toward putting an end to hostilities.

He expressed hope the recent spate of surrenders, arrests and neutralization of NPA rebels would result in the return of a majority of them to the folds of the law.

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## AFP: 51 NPAs surrender, 17 captured since Feb. 4

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) revealed yesterday that a total of 51 New People's Army (NPA) rebels have been captured while 17

others have surrendered barely three weeks after the government announced an all-out war on communist combatants.

In a statement, AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) Chief Ma- ►13

## AFP: 51 NPAs...

◀1

rine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, said the exodus is expected to continue with a lot more NPA rebels sending their surrender-feelers to the AFP.

"While we are preparing for the eventual laying down of arms by these NPA members, their surrenders are without conditions apart from the program afforded by Government to rebel-returnees," Arevalo said.

"In February 23 alone, the AFP received ten surrenderers from the NPA," he added.

Arevalo said two more rebels surrendered last Friday and were identified as Allan Mating, 19, who surrendered to the 25th Infantry Battalion in Compostela Valley while

Arjay Bangué surrendered with his M16 rifle to the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Davao Occidental.

### 36 operations

Arevalo said that since February 4, the AFP has already conducted 36 small unit operations against the NPA, averaging two encounters a day. During the same period, the AFP was able to apprehend 17 NPA members.

He said most recent of the arrests was the capture of top NPA leader Ernesto Samarita in Nasugbu, Batangas on February 21.

His group was responsible for the numerous atrocities and large scale extortions in Batangas.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

The AFP has also recovered a total of 37 high-powered and low-powered firearms from the NPAs since day one.

**Death toll: 14**

Meanwhile, the body count on the rebels' side is now at 14 following the latest encounter on Friday.

Arevalo said two NPA members were killed in the operation launched by elements of the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion in Maayon, Capiz. The troops also recovered two shotguns and two hand grenades from the NPAs.

Arevalo said on the government's side, the AFP has already recorded 37 casualties of which, seven were killed-in-action while 30 were wounded in operations launched against the NPAs.

The most recent operations were reported in Davao Oriental and Agusan Del Sur in February 24. A Private from the operating troops of the Army's 67th Infantry Battalion was wounded after an encounter with two NPA members in Barangay Campawan, Baganga, Davao Oriental.

Two other personnel, a Sergeant and a Private First Class were wounded in a firefight against 10 NPA rebels in Barangay Limot, Viruela, Agusan Del Sur.

Arevalo said the AFP is also on track with regard to its rescue operations aimed at freeing the NPA's captives.

**Kadamay hits gov't**

Meanwhile, urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) criticized President Duterte for his all-out war policy against

the communists saying it "has become virtually indistinct from the anti-drug war he had unleashed upon ascending to power at noon of June 30, 2016."

The group added that Duterte has also embarked on another war, this time against administration critics, his political rivals and activists.

Carlito Badion, Kadamay secretary general, said "Duterte is taking his cue from his newfound friend, Donald Trump."

"All-out war under Oplan Kapayapaan (OPK) is once again based and supported by counter-insurgency principles of the US. It echoes the same kind of tactics pursued in Latin America and in Mexico, where 100,000 people have perished in the past 10 years of the war against drugs and organized crime," Badion said. (With a report from Chito A. Chavez)

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The  
**Standard**  
DEFINING THE NEWS

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## 51 NPAs give up

THREE weeks after the government waged an 'all-out war' against the New People's Army, 51 members of the communist movement have surrendered to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, according to AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo.

"And the exodus is expected to continue with numerous others sending their surrender fillers to the military," said Arevalo.

"While we are preparing for the eventual laying down of arms by these NPA members, their surrenders are without conditions apart from the program accorded by government to rebel returnees.

On Feb. 23 alone, the AFP received 10 surrenderer from the NPA.

Two more rebels gave up on Feb. 24, 2017—Allan Matting, 19 years old, surrendered to the 25th Infantry Battalion in Compostela Valley while Arjay Bangué surrendered with his M16 rifle to the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Davao Occidental, Arevalo said.

Since Feb. 4, the AFP has already conducted 36 small unit operations against the NPA—averaging two encounters a day. During the same period, the AFP was able to capture 17 NPA members.

Most recent of the arrests was the capture of top NPA leader Ernesto Samarita in Nasugbu, Batangas on Feb. 21. His group was responsible for the numerous atrocities and large scale extortions in Pico de Loro, Batangas, Arevalo said.

The AFP has also recovered a total of 37 firearms from the NPAs since day one.

Meanwhile, the body count on the rebels' side reached 14 following the latest encounter on Friday. Two NPA members were killed in the operation launched by the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion in Maayon, Capiz. The troops also recovered two shotguns and two hand grenades from the NPAs.

"On the Government's side, the AFP has already recorded 37 casualties of which, seven were killed-in-action while 30 were wounded in operations launched against the NPAs," Arevalo disclosed.

The most recent operations were reported in Davao Oriental and Agusan Del Sur in Feb. 24. A Private from the Army's 67th Infantry Battalion was wounded after an encounter with two NPA members in Brgy. Campawan, Baganga, Davao Oriental. Two other personnel, a Sergeant and a Private First Class were wounded in a firefight against 10 NPA rebels in Brgy. Limot, Viruela, Agusan Del Sur.

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## More NPA rebels lay down arms, return to government

By Mario J. Mallari

At least 51 New People's Army (NPA) rebels have already surrendered to the government while 17 others have been apprehended since the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched its all-out war against the communist following President Duterte's suspension of the peace process.

Among the NPA surrenderees were three rebels in Ilocos Sur province who gave themselves voluntarily to the Army's 81st Infantry Battalion (IB), led by Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio Osias IV.

Osias identified the amazon as "Ka Lumen," who was a medical officer of the KLG (Kilusang Larangang Gerilya) Montes and yielding a .45 caliber pistol. The two others were "Ka Ren" and "Ka Fera," who both turned in a carbine and Garand rifle.

"True names of the said former rebels were withheld for security reasons pending the processing of their status," Osias said.

Osias branded the surrender of the three NPA rebels as clear indication of dwindling ideology in the communist ranks. He stressed that receiving the former rebels is fulfilling than engaging and killing fellow Filipinos who are victims of false belief.

"We will continue to welcome those who are realizing that the communist ideology is a failure," Osias added.

Duterte has terminated the peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) on February 4, and as a result, Defense

Secretary Delfin Lorenzana immediately ordered the AFP to carry out an all-out war against the rebels.

Since then, Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP-Public Affairs Office chief, said that a total of 51 NPA rebels voluntarily surrendered.

Arevalo said that the military has already conducted 36 "small unit operations" against the NPA on an average of two encounters a day.

During the same period, he said the AFP was able to apprehend 17 rebels.

Most recent of the arrests was the capture of top NPA leader Ernesto Samarita in Nasugbu, Batangas on February 21.

Also, the military has recovered a total of 37 high powered and low powered firearms.

Arevalo said that at least 14 rebels have been killed following the latest encounter on Friday in Maayon, Capiz wherein two NPA members were killed.

On the other hand, the military has recorded 37 casualties, seven of whom, were killed in action while 30 were wounded.

Despite the ongoing operations against the NPA, Arevalo said the military remains open to the possibility of resuming the peace negotiations.

"More than anyone, it is our soldiers who want peace. This is why the AFP hopes the NPA will heed our Government's call and comply with the conditions that shall bring the situation conducive to peace negotiations and towards permanently ending the hostilities that mar this more than 4 decades of insurgency," Arevalo said.

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The Manila Times

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# NPA rebels willing to talk peace with Sara Duterte

BY AL JACINTO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** Communist rebels on Sunday said they are open to holding peace talks with presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and even offered to temporarily suspend offensives to allow peaceful negotiations.

"To pursue lasting peace and advance the welfare of the masses, the NPA open to hold talks with Sara Duterte," Rigoberto Sanchez, a spokesman for the communist group, said.

Sanchez added that the gesture was in response to Duterte's offer of peace talks with the rebels.

"The Regional Operations Command of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao reciprocates the gesture made by Davao City Mayor Sara Z. Duterte by suspending for a few hours the NPA operations and ordering any NPA camp in NDF territories in Davao City and nearby areas to host the talks with her at a mutually agreed time and date," he said.

NDF is the National Democratic

Front of the Philippines, an umbrella group counting the NPA as one of its members.

Sanchez said they recognize Duterte's willingness to talk to the NPA as a group, not to individuals, amid growing public clamor to resume the peace negotiations and achieve substantial gains in the peace process.

President Rodrigo Duterte suspended the peace talks with the NPA after the rebels ended their unilateral truce in January and resumed attacks on military and police targets after the government failed to release over 400 political detainees, mostly leaders of the communist group.

The President subsequently ordered an all-out war against the rebels.

"The NPA would gladly discuss any matter that she [Sara] would like to take up with the revolutionary movement, the duties and responsibilities of the people's democratic government, the role of the NPA, the ongoing all-out war of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the peace negotiations," Sanchez said.

The rebel spokesman accused the military of being corrupt and reminded the mayor how it sabotaged the peace talks.

"Mayor Sara must know by now that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is a corrupt, wily and mercenary organization that makes a mockery of the peace process and continuously sabotages her father's and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines' efforts at peace every chance it gets," Sanchez said.

"Furthermore, we are optimistic that Mayor Sara would judiciously discern the realities of the civil war, not merely through the statistics of Armed Forces of the Philippines' casualties and its civilian victims, but by seeing the imperative to address the roots of the armed conflict. Certainly, the heavy burden being borne every single

day by Filipinos because of the continued exploitation of the oligarchs and US imperialism prods the masses and the revolutionary forces to wage and advance the people's war."

"The NPA in southern Mindanao is looking forward to a substantial discussion with Mayor Duterte on the common ground of advancing the welfare of the masses, especially in Davao City. In the same manner that she expresses her willingness to meet for the sake of peace, the NPA advances the people's war and adheres to the victories of the negotiations to ensure that peace will be just and lasting," Sanchez said.

There was no immediate statement from the President or from any of the members of the government peace panel headed by Jesus Dureza.

Just recently, rebels detonated a roadside bomb in Davao City and killed 2 soldiers and injured over a dozen more in a village near Lama-man in Calinan district.

Two rebels were also killed in an ensuing gunbattle.

The NPA has been fighting for the establishment of a communist state in the Philippines for almost half a century.

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## **Aleman na bihag ng Abu Sayyaf pinugutan na**

**PINUGUTAN** na ng ulo ng Abu Sayyaf Group ang bihag nito na German National kahapon.

Ayon sa inisyal na impormasyon ng Radyo Inquirer, pinugutan ng grupo ni Abu Sayyaf Sub leader na si Muammar Askali alyas Abu Rami ang biktimang si Juergen Gustav Kantner.

Nabatid na naganap ang pamumugot ng ulo sa Sitio Talibang, Brgy. Buanza, Indanan, Sulu.

Ito ayon sa source ay dahil sa kabiguan na magbayad ng ransom ang pamilya nito kapalit ng kanyang kalayaan.

Matatandaang humihiling ng P30 milyong ransom ang Abu Sayyaf para sa kalayaan ng Aleman.

Binigyan ng bandidong grupo ng hanggang alas-3:00 ng hapon kahapon ang mga kinauukulan upang ibigay ang naturang pera.

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## 2 sundalo sugatan sa drug ops

**SUGATAN** ang dalawang sundalo sa anti-illegal drugs operation na kanilang inilunsad sa Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, Sabado ng umaga.

Ayon kay Army Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, ang commander ng 33rd Infantry Battalion, kanila mismong pinangunahan ang naturang operasyon kasama ang mga tauhan ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PDEA-ARMM) laban sa drug personality na si Abdulatip Pandaliday, alyas "Kumander Grass Cutter" sa Barangay Lipao na dati nang sumuko sa Oplan Tokhang.

Pasado alas-4 ng madaling araw nang salakayin ng mga awtoridad ang dalawang bodega na nasa gitna ng sagingan kung saan umano nagpalipat-lipat ang suspek.

Nakatunog umano ang suspek sa operasyon ng militar kaya't agad pinakompronta nito sa kanyang mga tauhan hanggang mauwi sa may labing limang minutong palitan ng putok. Sinasabi pa sa ulat na pawang armado ng malalakas na uri ng armas ang grupo ni Kumander Grass Cutter kaya't nakatakas ito kasama ang mga tauhan.

Nakarekober ang pulisya sa loob ng pinagkukutaan ng grupo ng nasa P500,000 halaga ng hinihinalang shabu, cash at isang M16 armalite rifle.

JEFF GALLOS

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## 82 NPAs neutralized in all-out war: AFP

THE military yesterday said 82 New People's Army rebels have been "neutralized" – either killed or arrested, or have surrendered – since February 4 when President Duterte lifted a government ceasefire and terminated peace talks with the communists.

Of the 82, 14 were killed, 17 arrested, and the rest surrendered, said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces public affairs office.

Arevalo also said 37 high-powered and low-powered firearms were recovered by government forces during the military's "all-out war" against the insurgents.

As of February 25, there have been 36 armed engagements, or an average of nearly two encounters a day. The latest encounter was last Friday in Maayon town in Capiz, where two NPA rebels died.

During the all-out war, seven soldiers were killed, 30 others wounded, and four abducted by the NPA. Two policemen were kidnapped with the soldiers.

– *Victor Reyes*

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## 51 NPA rebels give up, 17 nabbed in 3 weeks

**FIFTY-ONE** members of New People's Army (NPA) surrendered while 17 others were arrested in three weeks since the government launched a massive campaign against the rebels.

This was announced yesterday by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo.

"Barely three weeks since the government waged an 'all-out war' against terrorist New People's Army (NPA), 51 of their members surrendered to the AFP," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the AFP is expecting that more rebels will surrender on the coming days as others are already sending surrender fillers to the AFP.

He stressed that the surrender of the rebels are unconditional and they get no incentive but for help in returning to productive civilian life.

Arevalo said on February 23 alone, the AFP received 10 surrender feelers from the NPA rebels.

He said on February 24, two more rebels decided to return to the folds of the law.

They were identified as Allan Mating,

19, who surrendered to the 25th Infantry Battalion in Compostela Valley, and Arjay Bangué, who surrendered to the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Davao Occidental bringing with him his M16 rifle.

The PAO chief also reported that since the all-out war started in February, the AFP already conducted 36 small unit operations against the NPA with an average of two encounters a day that resulted in the arrest of 17 rebels.

Among those arrested were NPA leader Ernesto Samarita who is accused of committing atrocities and large scale extortion in Pico de Loro, Batangas.

The AFP has also recovered a total of 37 high-powered and low-caliber firearms from the NPAs since day one.

In three weeks of operations, 14 rebels were killed while the government sustained 37 casualties, 7 of them killed while 30 wounded in action.

The AFP is also focused on rescuing six individuals abducted by the rebels including Pfc Erwin Salan, Sgt Solaiman Calocop, and Pfc Samuel Garay, CAFGU member Rene Doller; and two police personnel.

**Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca**

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## 2 sundalo sugatan, 2 arestado sa drug raid

Sugatan ang dalawang sundalo, kabilang ang isang tinyente, sa drug raid na ikinasa ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), katuwang ang Philippine Army, sa Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, kahapon.

Ayon sa report ni Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander ng 33rd Infantry Brigade, dakong 7:46 ng umaga nang ikasa ng mga awtoridad ang pagsalakay.

Nakilala ang mga nasugatan na sina 1Lt. Marc Fernandez at PFC Chester Masicampo, kapwa ng Bravo Company ng 33rd Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army.

Ayon kay Cabunoc, nagsagawa ng drug raid ang PDEA-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), katuwang ang militar nang sumiklab ang engkuwentro sa Barangay Lipao, Datu Paglas.

Tumagal ng isang oras ang

sagupaan, at napilitan lang na umatras ang mga suspek nang dumating ang karagdagang puwersa ng sundalo at pulis.

Naaresto ang dalawa sa mga suspek, at nakumpiska sa mga ito ang isang M16 armalite rifle at 80 gramo ng shabu.

Patuloy namang tinutugis ng mga awtoridad ang mga kasamahan ng dalawang nadakip.

**Fer Taboy**

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# AFP intensifies operations vs Abus to rescue hostages

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines will continue its operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) despite the terrorist organization's threat to behead its elderly German hostage if a P30-million ransom is not paid.

AFP spokesperson Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla said "focused military operations" against the Abu Sayyaf will continue and the government will not give in to the group's ransom demand for captive Juergen Kantner.

"Focused military operations have been continuing in an unrelenting manner. There will be no pause. We put a pre-

mium on lives now in danger. The Armed Forces will pursue the enemy and dictate the terms, not the other way around," Padilla said.

"We will not be cowed by the demands of evil individuals and groups who continue to perpetuate practices contrary to Islam," he added.

A video earlier circulated online shows Kantner urging the German government to pay for his ransom or the bandits would behead him by 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The bandits kidnapped Kantner in November while his yacht "Rockall" was cruising in waters off Sulu. The bandits killed his companion, 56-year-

old Sabine Merz.

In 2008, Kantner and Merz were also held captive in Somalia for 52 days and were released reportedly after a six-figure ransom was paid.

A spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command (WMC) said they were "exerting all effort" to rescue the 71-year-old German tourist.

"With deadline or no deadline, the WMC troops are exerting all effort and means in order to go after the terrorist group Abu Sayaff and to rescue all kidnap victims, foreign and local," Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay said.

"The recent successes of the troops that resulted to the capture of two ASG members in

Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, two weeks ago and the killing of eight ASG members after an encounter in Capual, Sulu, last Feb. 7, indicate that the terrorist group have been badly reeling from these series of setbacks due to the government troops' operations and no longer have safe established encampments for them to hide their victims," she said.

"The timeline given may be due to the shortness of their funds and the need for them to establish new hiding areas," she said.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., WMC chief, said government troops were working with local government units' forces to rescue Kantner. INQ

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TOUGH BALANCING ACT

## GRUMBLINGS IN THE MILITARY BARED AS DUTERTE WOOS REDS

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkoDizonINQ

President Duterte's alliance with the communist leaders has caused "grumblings" within the Armed Forces of the Philippines, but the discontent was not enough for the military to oust its Commander in Chief, a former rebel officer-turned-party-list congressman said on Sunday.

While clarifying that he does not speak for the military, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano said "the AFP knows Mr. Duterte's relationship with the Left."

Alejano said the President had given several concessions to the Communist Party of the Philippines to revive the stalled peace talks, including the release of several high profile communist leaders.

He also noted that throughout the peace talks, Mr. Duterte had been trying to win the military over. It was an "unusual

courtship" by the President himself, that includes promises of higher salaries and pension hikes to raffling off firearms at several military camp visits.

"The President is confused over his (strategy) because he wants to please everybody, but you can't do that," Alejano said.

Alejano warned that while there was no ouster moves against the President, "there is always a breaking point," referring to issues that could still come out against Mr. Duterte aside from allegations of corruption and human rights violations.

"I told myself before I will never join any attempt to overthrow the President but I ended up joining two because the situation had become untenable," he said.

Alejano, then a Marine junior officer, along with now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, led nearly 300 officers and men in two coup attempts in 2003 and 2007. INQ

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# Sayyaf beheads German

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – The Abu Sayyaf has reportedly executed German captive Juergen Gustav Kantner after the deadline the group imposed for the ransom payment lapsed yesterday.

Reports received by the military and police showed the bandit group led by its sub-leader Muamar Askali, alias Abu Ram, beheaded Kantner at about 3:30 p.m. in Barangay Buanza, Indanan, Sulu.

Last Saturday, the military launched air strikes against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu as the deadline approached for the group to behead its German captive.

The Philippine Air Force 3rd Air Division utilized MC520 attack helicopters and pounded about 40 to 60 Abu Sayyaf militants with rockets.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command, said ground commander Col. Cirilito Sobejana confirmed that the air strikes were directed against the bandits encamped in the mountains of Patikul, Sulu.

The Abu Sayyaf demanded P30 million in ransom for the release of Kantner, whom they seized in November.



German hostage Juergen Gustav Kantner holds a flag declaring 'This is my last hour' in a photo tweeted on Dec. 29, 2016 by user @TerrorEvents.

Government forces searched for Kantner's remains yesterday. Without the remains, the military and police said that while they received the report about Kantner's beheading, they could not yet officially confirm it.

Petinglay said they were validating the information.

A naval officer said they received a similar report, but they too were verifying it.

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## Sayyaf From Page 1

chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said he has not received any feedback from the Sulu provincial police about Kantner's beheading.

Dela Rosa, who was here yesterday for the 80th Charter Day celebration of Zamboanga City and inauguration of the new city police office, returned to Manila last night.

Sobejana also reported that ground troops were conducting clearing operations on the bombarded site to determine extent of casualties.

The group warned they would behead the 70-year-old Kantner if the P30-million ransom was not delivered before 3 p.m. yesterday.

However, the military declared yesterday that intense

ground operations would continue against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We will not be cowed by the demands of evil individuals and groups who continue to perpetuate practices contrary to Islam," the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said in a statement yesterday.

"We put a premium on lives now in danger. The Armed Forces will pursue the enemy and dictate the terms, not the other way around. The operations are not only aimed at rescuing hostages but also to significantly degrade enemy capabilities," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

– With Michael Punongbayan, Alexis Romero

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# AFP relentless in bid to rescue German hostage from ASG

FRANCIS I. WAKEFIELD

**T**he Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Sunday said that focused military operations have been relentless as part of efforts to rescue German Jurgen Kantner from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Kantner remains in the hands of suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits who threatened to execute him by beheading if ransom is not paid for his release.

In a two-minute, 19-second video, a frail Kantner was seen appealing to German and Philippine authorities to help facilitate the payment of P30 million or else he will be beheaded by 3 p.m. February 26.

In a statement, AFP Spokesman Air Force Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, said there will be no pause in the military's operation as it has now put a premium on hostages' lives that are now in danger.

"The Armed Forces will pursue the enemy and dictate the terms, not the other way around. The operations are not only aimed at rescuing hostages but also to significantly degrade enemy capabilities," Padilla said.

"We will not be cowed by the demands of evil individuals and groups who continue to perpetuate practices contrary to Islam," he added.

In a separate statement, the AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) said that, with or without a deadline, government forces will do everything they can to hunt down the bandits and rescue the German national and other hostages.

"With deadline or no deadline, the Western Mindanao Command troops are exerting all effort and means in order to go after the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf and to rescue all kidnap victims, foreign and local," said WestMinCom commander Army Major General Carlito Galvez Jr.

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The National Newspaper

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# Military verifying report Abu beheaded German

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Abu Sayyaf's deadline for authorities to pay P30 million for its German captive lapsed at 3 p.m. yesterday, without word on whether the group made good on its threat to behead Juergen Kantner if it does not get the ransom demanded. Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said the military received an "unconfirmed report" that Kantner was beheaded.

"But we are still validating this report. Our operating units on the ground are still on the 'search and rescue' mode. Pending confirmation, we defer from making any further comments," he said.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity at past 7 p.m., said troops received unverified information that the beheading pushed through in Indanan town. Another source said Kantner was beheaded in Indanan town at 3:30 p.m. "but we have yet to see the body."

The beheading was supposedly done by the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Muamar Askali alias Abu Rami.

President Duterte last August said he wants the Abu Sayyaf destroyed. The military's new timeframe for destroying the Abu Sayyaf is within the first half of the year. The Abu Sayyaf has around 300 to 400 members, mostly based in Sulu. The other area of operation of the Abu Sayyaf is Basilan.

Hours before the deadline for Kantner lapsed, military officials said troops in Sulu continued to pursue the group which is holding 26 other foreign and local hostages.

"There is an ongoing operation in the area," said AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año

Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza said, "Making last minute appeal to spare innocent and helpless victim."

The 70-year-old Kantner, in a video that was uploaded on the internet about two weeks ago, appealed for his life and said he would be beheaded by 3 p.m. of Febru-

ary 26 if Philippine and German authorities would not pay the P30-million ransom demand.

Government and military officials have been reiterating the government's no-ransom policy.

A source said government forces were "closing in" on the Abu Sayyaf prior to the deadline.

Kantner and his wife, Sabine Merz, were seized in November off Sabah after the Abu Sayyaf intercepted their yacht. Their boat was later found off Sulu with Merz' body, with gunshot wounds, inside.

The most recent beheading victims of Abu Sayyaf include Canadians John Ridstel and Robert Hall, two of the four hostages the Abu Sayyaf seized from a posh resort on Samal island in Davao del Norte in September 2015.

Ridstel and Hall were beheaded in April and June last year, respectively, in Sulu for failure of authorities to pay ransom before the deadline.

Their severed heads were found in Jolo town, hours after their beheading. – *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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DEFINING THE NEWS

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# SAYYAF BEHEADS GERMAN HOSTAGE IN SULU

By Francisco Tuyay

ABU Sayyaf bandits beheaded a German hostage, 70-year-old Jurgen Kantner, after the deadline for his family to pay a P30-million ransom passed on Sunday.

Initial reports reaching military authorities said Kantner, who spent three months in captivity in the jungles of Sulu, was beheaded somewhere in Indanan, Sulu at about 3:30 p.m., 30 minutes after the deadline lapsed.

"He [German hostage] was beheaded somewhere in Jolo but his decapitated body could not be located yet," a military source said.

Another source relayed similar reports that Kantner had been beheaded.

"We received the same information. However, we are currently validating it. I have just concluded a meeting with local officials of Indanan, where the beheading took place," the source said.

Last year, the Abu Sayyaf made good on their threat to behead two Canadian captives—Robert Hall and John Ridsdel, after their families failed to come up with the huge ransom the bandits demanded.

In September 2015, the bandit group abducted Ridsdel and Hall, along with Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Mari-tes Flor at the Island Garden City of Samal, Sekkingstad and

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## Sayyaf...

From A1

Maritess Flor who were held for months were freed after their ransom was paid.

The fate of Kantner remained uncertain in the early hours Sunday before the two-week deadline given by his Abu Sayyaf captors lapsed. Security forces launched massive search.

At press time, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla gave no word of Kantner's fate.

"The AFP through its area command, the Western Mindanao Command has not received any information regarding the possibility that the hostage was beheaded," Padilla said.

Kantner along with his part-

ner Sabine Merz were taken by the ASG while they were sailing off the coast of Sabah on board their 50-footer yacht in November last year.

The ASG, in its last video footage released in February, showed Kantner surrounded by heavily armed bandits, one of whom held a bladed weapon to the victim's neck.

Kantner, in a kneeling position with a bolo at the back of his head, appealed to his family and his government in German to save him.

On Saturday, the military conducted a series of air strikes on suspected ASG positions somewhere in Patikul, Sulu, where the group holding the German hostages was sighted.

However, there were no re-

ports of the immediate effects of the air offensive by rocket-firing MG-520 attack helicopters and Huey choppers.

Reports said the bandits are still holding 27 local and foreign hostages in the island provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

On Thursday, heavily armed believed to be Abu Sayyaf bandits forcibly took six sailors from the Vietnamese flag ship *m/v Giang Hai 05* after they intercepted the vessel, which was cruising 17 nautical miles off Pearl Bank in Tawi-Tawi last Sunday.

The six crewmen as Buy Xuan Vien, the ship captain; Do Huu Nghia, Chiefmate; Bui Trung Duc, 3rd mate; Nguyin Huu Trong, 2nd Engineer; Tran Viet Van, sailor; and Nguyen Quang Huy, oiler, are missing.

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## 51 NPA na sumuko, 17 arestado sa all-out war ng AFP

UMABOT na sa 51 mga miyembro ng New Peoples Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa pamahalaan habang 17 ang naaresto, simula ng ilunsad ng militar ang all out war laban sa rebeldeng grupo tatlong linggo na ang nakakalipas.

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo na marami pang mga rebeldeng NPA ang inaasahang susuko sa darating na mga araw lalo na at patuloy sila sa pagtanggap ng surrender fillers.

“While we are preparing for the eventual laying down of arms by these NPA members, their surrenders are without con-

ditions apart from the program afforded by Government to rebel returnees,” pahayag ni Arevalo.

Noong February 23 nasa 10 NPA ang sumuko sa militar.

Dalawa pang rebelde ang sumuko noong February 24 kabilang ang 19-anyos na si Allan Mating na boluntaryong sumuko sa 25th Infantry Battalion sa Compostella Valley habang si Arjay Bague ay sumuko kasama ang kaniyang M16 rifle sa 73rd Infantry Battalion sa Davao Occidental.

Nasa 36 kabuuang small unit operations ang inilun-

sad ng AFP laban sa NPA na naging dahilan sa pagka-aresto sa 17 miyembro ng rebeldeng grupo kabilang sa inaresto ang top NPA leader na si Ernesto Samarita sa Nasugbu, Batangas.

Ang grupo ni Samarita ay sangkot sa iba't ibang atosidad at large scale extortions sa Pico de Loro, Batangas.

Kinumpirma ni Arevalo na nasa 37 High-Powered at Low-Powered firearms ang narekober ng militar mula sa NPA.

Nasa 14 na mga rebeldeng NPA ang nasawi sa engkwentro.

Sa panig naman ng gobyerno, pitong sundalo ang nasawi habang 30 ang sugatan.

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Pahina. 3

### **AFP nagkukumahog sa pagsagip sa ASG victims**

SINIGURO kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na ang lahat ng "effort" ay kanilang ginagawa upang sagipin ang ilan pang natitirang mga bihag ng teroristang Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) para mabawasan ang kapabilidad nito.

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson Brig. General Restituto Padilla, ang mas pinaigting na operasyon laban sa ASG ay nagpapatuloy sa kabila ng bantang pagpugot kay German kidnap victim Juergen Kantner.

Sa panig naman ni Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) chief Major General Carlito Galvez, nakafocus sila nang maige sa military operations para masagip ang lahat ng mga bihag ng bandidong grupo.

May deadline man o wala sa banta sa buhay, ang buong pwersa umano ng Wesmincom ay patuloy na tutugis sa lahat ng miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf at maging sa rescue effort para sa mga bihag nito.

Una rito ay nagbarita na ang bandido na pupugutin ang ulo ng Aleman araw ng Linggo (kahapon), alas-3 ng hapon.

Kinidnap ng ASG sa Sabah si Kantner nitong buwan ng Nobyembre ng nakaraang taon.

Malaki ang paniniwala ni Galvez na maliit na ang pinagtaguang lugar ng ASG kayat madali na silang matunton at puksain.

**JEFF GALLOS**

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**KUMPIYANSANG MAILIGTAS ANG GERMAN HOSTAGE**

# Abu Sayyaf 'di tinatantanan ng militar

**NI FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

Inihayag kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pagpapatuloy ng walang tigil na operasyon ng militar laban sa Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) upang mailigtas ang bihag nitong German na si Jurgen Kantner.

Matatandaang nagbanta ang Abu Sayyaf na pupugutan si Kantner bandang 3:00 ng hapon kahapon, Pebrero 26, kapag hindi nabayaran ang hinihingi ng grupo na P30 milyon ransom kapalit ng pagpapalaya rito.

Saisinapublikong dalawang minuto at 19-segundong video makikita ang nanghihinang si Kantner, 70, habang nagmamakaawa sa mga awtoridad sa Germany at sa Pilipinas na tumulong sa pagkalap ng P30 milyon ransom, na kung hindi babayaran ay papatayin siya ng mga bandido bandang 3:00 ng hapon ng Pebrero 26, 2017.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni AFP Spokesman Air Force Brigadier General Restituto Padilla na hundi nila titigilan ang kanilang opensiba dahil mahalagang kaagad na mailigtas ang mga bihag, partikular na si Kantner.

Sa hiwalay na pahayag, sinabi naman ng AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) na may deadline man o wala ay ginagawa

ng militar ang lahat upang tugisin at durugin ang mga bandido at iligtas ang mga bihag.

Sa mga naunang press briefing sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, nagpahayag ng kumpiyansa si AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief

Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo na mailigtas ng militar si Kantner, sa pagpupursige na rin ng Army at ng AFP Joint Task Force Sulu.

Sa kasalukuyan, bihag pa rin ng Abu Sayyaf ang 33 katao, 26 sa mga ito ay dayuhan, ayon kay Arevalo.

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## AFP ignores Abu ransom demand, continues ops

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

**"WE will not be cowed by the demands of evil individuals and groups who continue to perpetuate practices contrary to Islam."**

This was the reaction of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. General Restituto Padilla on the deadline issued by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) to the government to produce ransom for the life of German kidnap victim Juergen Kantner.

Padilla said the focused military operations of the AFP have been continuing in an unrelenting manner and there will be no pause as they put a premium on lives that is in danger.

He said the AFP will pursue the enemy and dictate the terms and not the other way around.

"The operations are not only aimed at rescuing hostages but also to significantly degrade enemy capabilities," he said.

The statement was made in response to the 3 p.m. deadline on Sunday issued by the ASG for the payment of P30 million ransom in exchange for the life of the German victim.

It can be recalled that Kantner and his wife Sabine Merz were sailing on Malaysian waters when they were kidnapped on November 5 last year.

Merz was killed by the bandits.

On the part of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) they said that their troops are exerting all efforts and means to go after the terrorist group and rescue all kidnap victims, foreign and local.

They said the terrorist group have been bad-

ly reeling from a series of setbacks due to the government troops' operations and no longer have safe established encampments for them to hide their victims, adding that they issued the deadline due to the shortness of their funds and the need for them to establish new hiding areas.

It can be recalled that two weeks ago government forces arrested two ASG members in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi and last February 7, 2016, eight Abu rebels were killed in an encounter in Capual, Sulu. Westmincom com-

mander Major General Galvez called on local government units and the communities to join hands in addressing the problem brought about by the ASG.

"Our troops are continuously conducting focused military operations to rescue the remaining hostages," He said.

"We are calling for the people of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi for renewed cooperation in order to stop the un-Islamic and barbaric activities of the Abu Sayyaf particularly on the kidnapping of innocent civilians," he added.

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# AFP SLAMS ABU RANSOM DEMAND

**By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca**

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## No destabilization plot but some soldiers unhappy — Alejano

A FORMER mutineer-turned progressive party-list lawmaker bared yesterday the supposed frustrations and grumblings by some members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines due to the failed promise of President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte to double the salary of soldiers and his "closeness" with the communists which could lead to rebellion.

In the wake of the supposed destabilization plot against the Duterte administration, Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano, a former Marine Captain who is one of the Oakwood Mutineers, warned the President not to drag into politics the professional soldiers' institution which is loyal to the Constitution.

Alejano said the growing demoralization in the AFP could reach the "breaking point," as he rejected that there was an ongoing destabilization plot.

"There are frustrations and grumblings [in the military]," Alejano, a member of the Magnificent 7 or the so-called Genuine Opposition, told Rowena Salvacion's radio morning program Buena Manong Balita over dzBB as he clarified that he cannot speak for the entire military.

"Until the fundamental issues of our country are not being resolved,

there comes a time that there will be rebellion. Because when I was a young official, I promised that I would not join them but I found myself getting involved in the rebellion against the previous (Arroyo) administration," Alejano explained, referring to the mutiny that their group staged against then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a Deputy Speaker and three-term Pampanga lawmaker.

Alejano said President Duterte's big challenge

now is to address the issues of salary hike, and pension hike in the AFP as well as the peace talks with the communist rebels.

"I don't wish that we will reach the breaking point, that we will have a security problem in our country. I just hope the administration won't orchestrate things to justify the declaration of Martial Law," Alejano said.

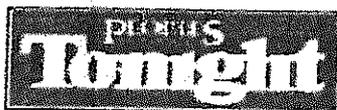
Alejano also said that "the AFP should not allow itself to be used to justify the Martial Law."

President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III vehemently denied that the opposition Liberal Party (LP) which he used to head has something to do with the reported destabilization plot against the government, explaining he even offered his hand to help President Duterte.

Alejano expressed firm belief that the military will remain apolitical and professional and faithful to their duty to protect the sovereign nation and the Constitution. **RPP**

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## Soldiers grumbling?

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**Ryan Ponce Pacpaco**

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THE PHILIPPINE ARMY  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 'AFP will always be part of EDSA commemoration'

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday assured that the military will continue to play a major part in the commemoration of the EDSA People Power Revolution, not only during ceremonial activities but likewise in absorbing the lessons of unity, nationalism, patriotism and fortitude.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Colonel Edgard A. Arevalo made the remark as the nation commemorated the 31st anniversary of the bloodless revolt.

Last Saturday, AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año and Former Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita led the wreath-laying ceremony at the EDSA People Power Monument.

Arevalo said that to ensure the

safety and security of the EDSA anniversary activities, the AFP through the Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) earlier activated the Joint Task Group EDSA (JTG EDSA) responsible for security operations during the national celebration.

"The Joint Task Group EDSA was composed of about 200 security personnel from the JTF-NCR and Major Services. The task group actively coordinated with the NCRPO and MMDA to cover the security aspect of the ceremonies and ensure the safety of our people who joined in the commemoration," Arevalo said.

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## Phi should adhere to UNCLOS - Del Rosario

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines must be firm in adhering to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the ruling handed down by an arbitral tribunal, which invalidated China's claim to the South China Sea, former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario said over the weekend.

Del Rosario said the Philippines' chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a unique opportunity to show the country's resolve and focus on the principle of centrality and the chair's ability to propose the agenda.

"Our proposed agenda should have included an open discussion on the outcome of the arbitral tribunal, which effectively addresses a lawful approach to ASEAN's most crucial security concern in the region," Del Rosario told **The STAR**.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr has said the ASEAN is fast-tracking the framework of the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea.

Del Rosario emphasized that the development of a COC framework, with the Philippines as chair and pushing for its completion, would be "an exercise in futility if the tribunal outcome is not factored in and it is not recognized as being a most important component of the framework."

"The Philippines should be asserting effective leadership as chair of ASEAN," Del Rosario said. "We have an opportunity which we should not

forgo. By seizing this opportunity, we can be confident that we will not be short-changing the many generations to come, who should be benefiting from our proactive leadership."

Del Rosario warned there would be contradicting forces acting on the content and speed of completion of the framework, noting it already took at least a decade and a half to craft the COC.

He noted that with the use of proxies, China had continued to delay its forward movement.

China, he said, assumed a delaying strategy as it needed more time to complete its unlawful expansion agenda in the South China Sea.

"Now that China has virtually completed its unlawful agenda, including militarization, it may take a new position of acceding to advance the framework, as long as it does not adversely affect what it has developed in the South China Sea," Del Rosario said.

"If we are not careful, the framework may even be used to preserve China's unlawful expansion gains, and should it arise, we must prevent this from happening," he added.

The country's former top diplomat stressed that the Philippines must make every effort to tell the whole world that advocating a rules-based regime is what the country is and what it does.

With the Philippines' victory at The Hague, Del Rosario said, the country must determine what its options are toward advancing national interest.

As the architect of the Philippine foreign policy, Presi-



Del Rosario

dent Duterte has decided to manifest the softest diplomacy possible toward China by offering, among other considerations, to shelve any discussions on the tribunal outcome.

China's cold and calculated response to this was to proceed in further militarizing the reclaimed islands.

Yasay said on Tuesday the ASEAN had expressed concern over recent developments and militarization in the South China Sea, with China's installation of weapon systems.

Since diplomacy is about reciprocity, Del Rosario said, the government's response has raised questions on whether to revisit the foreign policy strategy.

"We must not accept the position that China's completion of its unlawful expansion agenda must be considered as a fait accompli that renders us helpless," Del Rosario said.

"According to the ruling based on UNCLOS, what China has done in the South China Sea is unlawful. It behooves us, therefore, to start from there,

and not end there."

Del Rosario said various foreign officials had discussed their sentiments and reaction to the Philippines' shelving of the arbitral outcome.

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## Can the military solve the country's woes?

**R**eports hogging the headlines in recent days have become very alarming. Drugs, terrorism, criminality continue to put a damper on the efforts for peace and stability. The rush of reactions and heated debates may make it doubly hard for government to reverse the trend.

The cause of these problems originates from the action or inaction of law enforcement, revenue generation and politically oriented institutions. The tendency has always been to overreact, focusing on the effect of the real problems, hence, creating only a vicious cycle. Because of this knee-jerk reaction, the truth is that the causal problems remain neglected, unattended and unaddressed.

The President has exercised to the fullest his forceful resolve, combat leadership and sincerity. He has also intimated on some occasions the possibility of the imposition of martial law as well as the revival of the Philippine Constabulary for that game-changing impact.

The questions that need to be answered are two-fold: What are the root causes of these concerns and what are the options available for immediate implementation? To my mind, lack of self-discipline and inadequate exercise of leadership by our leaders, especially in the second and third echelons in the bureaucratic hierarchy, are the two culprits.

### Breakdown of discipline

From this vantage point, the signs are clear: We have, in our midst, a breakdown of discipline. Some government agencies are the breeding grounds of inefficiency, graft and mediocrity.

According to the late Dr. Raul de Guzman, former dean of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, "Lack of self-discipline comes from lax enforcement of rules and regulations, wide latitude in the interpretation of these laws, cultural and historical background."

Wide democratic space is also a factor. We envy the growing economics within our region, especially South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and China. These countries are founded on a strong national discipline and manifest leadership exercised by their heads of state.

### Weak governance

The other essential factor of weak governance is the lack of leadership qualities in those in charge, and these qualities are essential to a strong and sound government machinery.

Very few of these people are achievers. Many are prone to compromise. Mercy-tocracy and mediocrity are encouraged by the lackluster standards.

Some other indicators of weak leadership are lack of initiative, selective and withheld imposition of punishment to erring officials, selective and delayed enforcement of the justice system, and lackadaisical obedience to the duly constituted authority.

These two—lack of self-discipline and weak leadership—are the root causes of our present misfortune and neglect.

Under these scenarios of gloom and desperation, can the military be resorted to as an option in order to enhance good performance and effect a change for good? Definitely yes, but at what cost?

If the military is an option, the factor of extra power is introduced into the situation. If this then is a possibility, it is important to understand the culture and mindset of the military.

The determinants of power are "expertise, personal attraction, effort, and legitimacy." According to the book *Gaining Power and Influence* by Whetton et al, "The presidency by virtue of the constitution is vested with the legitimacy to exercise the power to govern."

The President has projected a high level of personal power because of his charisma. In spite of these power bases, however, the results of the campaigns, especially on drugs, criminality, and terrorism, have not met expectations or seen much



# MAPPING THE FUTURE

JAIMES DE LOS SANTOS



**For the soldier, mission accomplishment and welfare of the men are first, all others are secondary.**

### progress

Political objectives are accomplished with dispatch and with corresponding results if the implementor possesses the wherewithal and coercive inducement to turn the table to his advantage.

It is axiomatic that the military is the only force that can neutralize the physical and psychological force against the enemies of the state that threaten security and stability.

To use the military, either through the imposition of martial law or on a limited scale, requires a deep understanding of its nature and character.

The military is in a class of its own. It is founded on unique and rich traditions, which enable a skills set that allows it to perform its role in society—consistent with the cycle of wars, conflicts, and peace

that characterizes the historical development of a nation.

Many have negative impressions about the military mind, arising mostly from a distorted perception advanced by victims of martial law. The better, beneficial side has been overly downplayed.

Military mindset is founded on absolute obedience. Obedience to command, obedience to a duly constituted authority. By the nature of its character, it is intrinsically strict in focus and best employed where there is a clear direction.

This mindset is reflected in a hierarchical organization steeped in the principles of chain of command and command responsibility. An order is hardly or rarely affected by emotional and attitudinal response.

For the soldier, mission accomplishment and welfare of the men are first, all others are secondary.

This mental framework works best in wars, extreme emergencies and serious conflict situations. This mindset projects confidence, positive mental attitude and competitive spirit, leading to victory in war and conflict.

### Transformation

The various stakeholders of society have made a considerable transformation since the martial law days. While baby boomers monopolized the political and social environment before, today, it is the millennials who have great influence on the pulse of the nation.

Advanced digital and information technology has revolutionized systems and processes, thus impacting on social and cultural changes.

The vehement objections to the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos sent a strong signal that millennials are a force to reckon with.

The disparity of mindsets between the military and the civilian sectors offers a balanced and diverse view that is essential to an enlightened, working environment. The military possesses a reservoir of

managerial and leadership capabilities that can become value multipliers to create a responsible citizenry. Success is predicated on excellent leadership.

### Excellent leadership

Excellent leadership produces exemplary performance. Leadership is a warrior's art—the root of all forms of leadership adopted by different professions and discipline. It is the only form of leadership that can make a difference under extreme conflict and crisis situations.

Limited and defined military participation in a civil government is most appropriate, a cost-effective utilization of a national investment. It must be directly and explicitly involved in areas relating to extreme emergencies, conflict resolutions, disaster and relief operations, forest protection, internal and external defense and law enforcement.

The military's involvement must be explicitly prescribed through a presidential directive.

Furthermore, it is in the best interest of the nation if the military is given responsibilities in industries relating to public utilities, such as electricity and water supply. Service is not permanent, but contingent on national security priorities. These small but critical tokens of involvement in selected government machineries can impact on values of self-discipline and leadership that can infect civilian counterparts.

The high regard of the President, in both his explicit and implicit statements about the importance of the military to the success of his administration, is very reassuring.

The basic military infrastructure that made our country a force to reckon with in the community and among our immediate neighbors in the past is being reintegrated and harnessed once more. Singapore, Israel and other independent nations maintain mandatory military service for their citizens. In the US and other NATO countries, many active military

officials occupy positions of major responsibility within the echelons of government.

In addition, strengthening the reservist component that can serve the government and critical industries on a rotation basis is a system that is implemented in advanced democracies, including the US, Canada and many European Union nations.

Formed troops, which serve in peacekeeping and combat missions abroad, consist of both regular and reserve components. The reserve components come from the rank and file of private companies consisting of engineers, doctors, logisticians, medical specialists, scientists, etc.

There is much to be gained from tapping the military organization and the many talents of men and women in uniform.

The President has made his intentions clear, and it is now time to take action. These inputs are intended to help get the ball rolling.

Mr. President, we are with you. Strike while the iron is hot. INQ



The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. The author, who is a member of the MAP national issues committee, is formerly 42nd Commanding General of the Philippine Army and 1st Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor. At present, he is a part-time professorial lecturer at UP Diliman and director of Graduate Studies at the Manuel L. Quezon University.

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