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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 January 2017

Friday

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

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06 January 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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RUSSIA HACKING AN ACT OF WAR, SAYS US SENATOR

POLL CHIEF LIABLE FOR 'COMELEAK'

Commission on Elections Chair Andres Bautista is facing prosecution for what has been described as the country's worst breach of the government's database. Bautista rejects the charge, saying he only trusted the adviser IT experts.



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'Maybe it's time for her to go'

CHINA
Chinese weapons tested in sea drills

RUSSIA
Russia offers arms, friendship to PH

PRISON
110 still on the run after jailbreak

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SEA TURTLE DEPARED NOT TAGGED

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SEX GURU NAMED TO MTRCB

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PNP on full alert for Maute in Metro Manila

Leader of pro-IS group in Phi killed

DOH: Autopsy to help identify Emilyn's killer

STAB



BSP chief defends AMLC 'inaction'

Comeleak: Bautista faces criminal raps

Bautista hits probers: Facts were misappreciated

42 escapees from N. Cotabato jail recaptured




Manila Standard


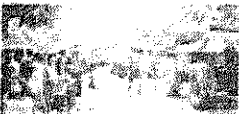
De Lima gets 6th case

China gives RP backing in key Asean lead role

PET OKs disposal of poll materials, despite Marcos Jr's pending case

Over 100 still on the loose in RP's biggest jailbreak

Tax houses not closed, says SDO

Tribune

Leila faces 6 complaints, 2nd case filed

Word war erupts between ex and current Daj chiefs

Whining Leila may end up in public probe - Sotto

China gives RP backing in key Asean lead role

PET OKs disposal of poll materials, despite Marcos Jr's pending case

Over 100 still on the loose in RP's biggest jailbreak

Fish drags Assoc into short-tenured waters

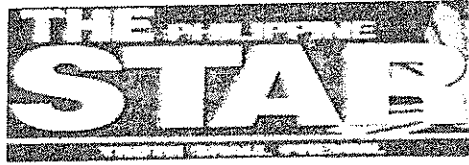



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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:23 AM	5:41 PM	12:10 AM	11:51 PM
NEW MOON	WAXING GIBBOSA	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
2:53 PM DEC 29	3:47 AM JAN 5	10:11 AM 0.04 Meter	2:26 AM 0.67 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JANUARY 06, 2017 | FRIDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUTON AND VISAYAS TROUGH OF A LOW PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING MINDANAO
(As of 3:00 AM - JAN 5, 2017)

LADAG CITY 21 - 32 °C
BAGUIO CITY 14 - 24 °C
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 19 - 28 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 21 - 28 °C
METRO MANILA 23 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU 25 - 31 °C
METRO DAVAO 24 - 30 °C

LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 29 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 31 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JAN 7 SAT	JAN 8 SUN	JAN 9 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JAN 7 SAT	JAN 8 SUN	JAN 9 MON
METRO MANILA	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 °C 28 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 30 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 °C 30 °C	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C
LADAG	22 °C 32 °C	22 °C 32 °C	23 °C 33 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	15 °C 24 °C	15 °C 24 °C	16 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	19 °C 28 °C	20 °C 29 °C	20 °C 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C
LEGAZPI	26 °C 29 °C	26 °C 29 °C	26 °C 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C

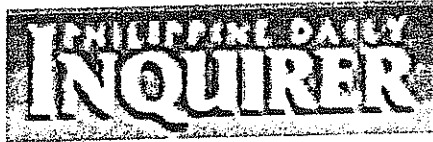
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Light rain

06 January 2017



Page: A1

Poll chief liable for 'Comeleak'

FROM A1

By Miguel R. Camus
@miguelrcamusINQ

What a difference one month makes.

In December, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Andres Bautista basked in the glow of an agency that was hailed globally as the Electoral Commission of the Year for the successful May 9, 2016, polls.

A month later, he was facing potential criminal prosecution over the March 2016 hacking of the Comelec website that has since been described as one of the worst breaches of a government-controlled database.

The National Privacy Commission said on Thursday that Bautista had committed "gross negligence" under the Data Privacy Act of 2012, or Republic Act No. 10173.

This came to light following an investigation of a "data breach" from March 20 to 27 last year. The breach exposed almost 77 million voter registration records. Sensitive information, such as voters' full names, addresses, passport details and birthdays were posted on online platforms and a website that has since been taken down.

So notorious was the event that it even has its own name: Comeleak.

Criminal prosecution

At a press briefing on Thursday, privacy commission officials, led by Commissioner Raymond Liboro and Deputy Commissioner Dondi Mapa, announced that evidence to aid in the criminal prosecution of Bautista had been turned over to the Department of Justice (DOJ), which was expected to pursue the case.

The officials were quick to note that the breach did not compromise, in any way, the May 9 elections.

"The Comelec, in fact, protected the vote. The question is, in its zeal to protect the vote, did it fail to protect the voter?" Mapa said.

No data protection officer

The privacy commission probe found that the Comelec indeed failed in this regard and its decision dated Dec. 28, 2016, detailed how the Comelec and Bautista violated several provisions of the Data Privacy Act.

The privacy commission was organized last year, and its implementing rules took effect in August 2016.

According to the findings, the Comelec did not even have basic data privacy principles, as

it had no existing policy covering data privacy and even lacked a data protection officer.

"What is clear is the lack of appreciation on the part of the Comelec chair that data protection is more than just implementing security measures, but must begin from the time of collection of personal data, to its subsequent use and processing up to its storage and destruction," the privacy commission said in its decision.

"Absent within the Comelec was any policy on how to hold, collect, classify and store information in a safe manner and according to the law," Liboro said. "We did not recommend the prosecution of Chair Bautista just because Comelec's data was breached."

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Mitigate risks

Liboro added that while no system was impregnable in case of an online attack, the measures outlined under the law could mitigate those risks.

The privacy commission said “with dismay” that “there was no officer who took responsibility for maintaining data privacy and protection, and for compliance with data privacy and protection laws.

“In the absence of such a data protection officer, it falls upon the head of the agency to ensure compliance,” the decision said.

The breach hit several databases, according to the privacy commission.

There was the voter database in the Precinct Finder web application with 75.3 million records, the database in the Post Finder with 1.38 million records, the iRehistro database with 139,301 records, the firearms ban database with 896,992 records (20,485 firearms’ serial numbers) and the Comelec personnel database, with 1,267 records.

The privacy commission said the database in the Precinct Finder contained complete names, birthdays, gender, civil status, address, birthplace, disabilities, voter ID, voter registration record numbers, among other information.

Passport, tax ID info

The Post Finder application had even more details, such as passport information, biometrics description, taxpayers’ identification numbers, mailing addresses, citizenship, names of spouses, voting history, profession, height, weight and physical identifying marks.

The privacy commission said “unknown actors” using different networks and IP addresses extracted contents from

the Comelec website, including information from voters’ databases, from March 20 to 27 last year.

On March 27, a group called Anonymous PH claimed to have defaced the homepage of the Comelec’s website. That same evening, a group called LulzSec.Pilipinas said it downloaded the entire Comelec website and extracted files totaling 320 gigabytes.

The files were then uploaded to file-sharing platforms. The Comelec got wind of the act when the information went viral online.

“These data are most likely in the hands of criminal elements, and may be used at any time in the near or far future for malicious ends,” the privacy commission said.

Corrective measures

The commission also ordered several “corrective measures” for the Comelec.

It ordered the Comelec to appoint a data protection officer within one month, conduct an agency-wide privacy impact assessment within two months, and create a privacy management program and breach management procedure in three months.

The commission also recommended that the DOJ open an investigation, under the Cyber-

crime Prevention Act, of its finding that one of the computers used in the Comelec data breach had an IP address registered with the National Bureau of Investigation.

In the same decision, the privacy commission said there was not enough evidence to recommend a criminal complaint against Comelec officials Christian Lim (commissioner), Al Parreño (commissioner), Jose Tolentino Jr. (executive director) and James Jimenez (director).

The commission said Section 26 of the Data Privacy Act detailed a prison term of three to six years and a fine of P500,000 to P4 million.

Section 36 added penalties for an offender who is also a public officer—disqualification from public office for a period equivalent to double the term of the criminal penalty.

Sought for comment, former Comelec Commissioner Gus Lagman, an IT expert, said the poll body should follow the privacy commission’s recommendations to protect the data of millions of voters.

“This is information we are talking about. This is just as important as money. They should really implement features so that those databases are not hacked and leaked,” Lagman said. —WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE M. AURELIO INQ

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1908
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Gov't ready to quell threats

PNP, AFP brace for retaliatory attacks from Muslim rebel groups during feast of Black Nazarene

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Security forces have been placed on full alert to quell threats from the

Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups who are now reportedly in Metro Manila, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno said yesterday.

He also warned of possible retaliatory attacks following the killing of Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, the leader of the Ansar Al-Khalifah Philippines

in Sarangani. "The group is somehow rumored to be connected to the ISIS group... Baka mag-retaliate, yun ang problema natin, yung retaliation. That's

why we have to double, triple our preparations sa security," he said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella confirmed that the intel- ►12

ligence community has warned of "possible disturbances" during the feast of the Black Nazarene.

Despite these threats, the celebration of the feast of the Black Nazarene will push through as scheduled on January 9, with Sueno assuring that police and military forces have been mobilized to ensure the safety of the devotees.

"I do not think the government will advise for the cancellation of this traditional practice which has long been done since how many years ago, so we will just try our best to really keep our people safe," Sueno said in a Palace press briefing.

"That is why we have the PNP (Philippine National Police), the military (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and other armed groups in our government to really help contain, or maintain peace and order," he added.

Abella likewise assured that several government agencies will "work together" to secure the religious celebration.

"They include the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of

the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Health and Manila City Department of Public Services which have all laid out their plans in conjunction, in cooperation, to keep the devotees of the Black Nazarene safe," Abella said.

"We are moving everything, lahat ng preparations ginagawa na natin. We are not leaving anything to chance... As long as we know that there is a threat, we consider it big already that's why our preparations our also big," Sueno said.

MPD 99.99 ready

"We are 99.99 percent ready. Yung .01 percent, ibinibigay ko na sa Panginoon," Chief Superintendent Joel Coronel, Manila Police District (MPD) director, said during the last of the series of press briefings for this year's Traslacion.

Over 4,000 policemen and 650 Army soldiers are set to be deployed to ensure the security of the devotees. Coronel said some will be deployed even before the procession for the pre-

Traslacion activities.

The AFP said it has already made arrangements with the PNP on how it can support the police in securing the feast of the Black Nazarene.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said that it will also continue to seek the assistance of the people in ensuring that the festivities will be shielded from any form of violence.

"So far we already have made initial arrangements with the PNP on how we will be able to help them in providing security to the devotees of the Black Nazarene and our Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, has already mentioned that the AFP is ready for this particular event," Arevalo said.

Despite the security threats, Sueno remains hopeful nothing untoward will happen during the religious activity in Metro Manila.

"God loves the Philippines so much," he said, believing the nation will be placed under Divine protection.

Intensified anti-criminality

Coronel said they will launch intensified anti-criminality operations within the vicinity of the procession - Intramuros, Ermita, Malate, Binondo, Sta Cruz, and Quiapo.

He added that while there is no liquor ban, there will be an aggressive police operation against those drinking in public.

"We would like to show the people that the procession is a solemn rite. It's a religious affair. 'Di natin papayagan na may mga lasing na nanggugulo like in previous years," he said. "We will start this tonight para mapakita natin na kung dadalo ay dapat mananalangin."

Permit to carry suspension

Director Oscar Albayalde, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director, said he has recommended the 48-hour suspension of the permit to carry firearms in the city of Manila to Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

The proposed suspension, he said, will start from 8 a.m. of January to 8 a.m. of January 10.

How Maguid was killed

Meanwhile, Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman of the Central Mindanao regional police, said Maguid was killed during an operation at 12:10 a.m. at the Angel Beach Resort in Barangay Kitagas, Kiamba, Sarangani after intelligence operatives confirmed his presence in the area.

But as security forces try to arrest four people whom they chanced upon inside the beach resort, Maguid reportedly ran toward the area where his guns were placed. It was then that he was shot.

"It is not certain at this point why they were there. All we know is that this

Maguid was very elusive, he is highly mobile," said Galgo.

Arrested during the operation were Matahata Dialawe, Ismael Sahak, and Morhaban Veloso. Two armalite rifles that include a Bushmaster, a hand grenade, passports, a black sweatshirt printed with Ansa Al-Khilafa Philippines, a car, and various documents were seized.

Authorities are hoping to get vital information on the documents seized as well as the content of the cellular phones confiscated from the area.

Classes, gov't work suspended

As this developed, Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada yesterday announced the suspension of classes in all levels in the city and work in local government offices on January 9 due to the feast of the Black Nazarene.

Work suspension in city government offices, however, does not cover those involved in the maintenance of peace and order, traffic enforcement, disaster and risk reduction management, health and sanitation, issuance of business permits, and collection of taxes.

Estrada said the suspension of work in the national government offices and in all private offices in Manila "is left to the discretion of their heads of office or management." (With reports from Aaron B. Recuenco, Francis T. Wakefield, Jaimie Rose Aberia, and Cris G. Odrónia)

06 January 2017

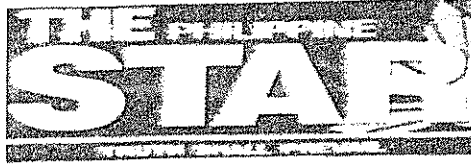
The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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ON THE CHASE. Villagers give way Thursday to enraged soldiers using an armored personnel carrier in their angry hunt for more than 100 escaped inmates in the wooded mountains of Kabacan in Cotabato following one of the country's biggest jailbreaks, with authorities saying 34 escapees had been rearrested. AFP

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AFP chief gets fourth star

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año is now a four-star general, the AFP announced yesterday.

AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Año's promotion was based on an ad interim appointment signed by President Duterte on Dec. 28.

He said Año received his fourth star in a simple ceremony at the Department of National Defense's Hall of Flags yesterday morning.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana led the ceremony, which was attended by Año's wife and their children.

Since the promotion was ad interim, the AFP chief will face the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

Año, a seasoned military intelligence officer and member of the Philippine Military Academy's "Matikas" Class of 1983, was named AFP chief last month. He replaced Gen. Ricardo Visaya who retired from the service.

"I am but a soldier just like you, a public servant dreaming of greater things for the military organization and a better nation. To all of you, I dedicate my term," he said during the turnover ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo on Dec. 7.

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06 January 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Armed Forces chief gets fourth star

BY VICTOR REYES

PRESIDENT Duterte has promoted AFP chief Eduardo Año to general nearly a month after he assumed command of the 120,000-strong military force.

AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Duterte signed the ad interim promotion of Año last December 28 or 21 days after he took office vice retired Gen. Ricardo Visaya.

Año's promotion full-fledged general was expected because the rank is reserved for the AFP chief.

Arevalo said Año wore his new rank during a donning of rank ceremony held at the Department of National Defense yesterday morning.

Año, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, was chief of the 80,000-strong Philippine Army.

See ARMED > Page B6

ARMED

Before that, he was commander of the Army's 10th Infantry Division in Compostela Valley.

Año is a well-rounded intel-

ligence and combat officer. He played a key role in the killing of notorious New People's Army commander Leonardo Pitao alias commander Parago, in Davao City in June 2015.

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BusinessMirror

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AÑO GETS FOURTH STAR



AÑO

THE top officer of the Armed Forces received his fourth star on Thursday, less than a month after assuming the position.

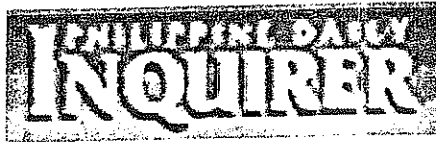
Defense Secretary Delfin A. Lorenzana pinned the fourth star on Gen. Eduardo Año, who was with his wife Jean Joselyn, during simple ceremony at the Department of National Defense office in Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Año's promotion to four-star general came less than a month after he succeeded Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya, who retired last December 7, to the post of Armed Forces chief of staff.

Prior to his assumption as Armed Forces chief of staff, Año was the commanding general of the 85,000-strong Army, where he got his third star.

He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Matikas" Class of 1983. He will retire in October this year. *Rene Acosta*

January 2017



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RUSSIA OFFERS ARMS, CLOSE FRIENDSHIP TO PH

Russia is ready to supply the Philippines with sophisticated weapons, including aircraft and submarines, and aims to become a close friend of the traditional US ally as it diversifies its foreign ties, Russia's ambassador said on Wednesday.

President Duterte has thrown the future of Philippine-US relations into question with angry outbursts against Washington and some scaling back of military ties while taking steps to boost ties with Beijing and Moscow.

Navy visit

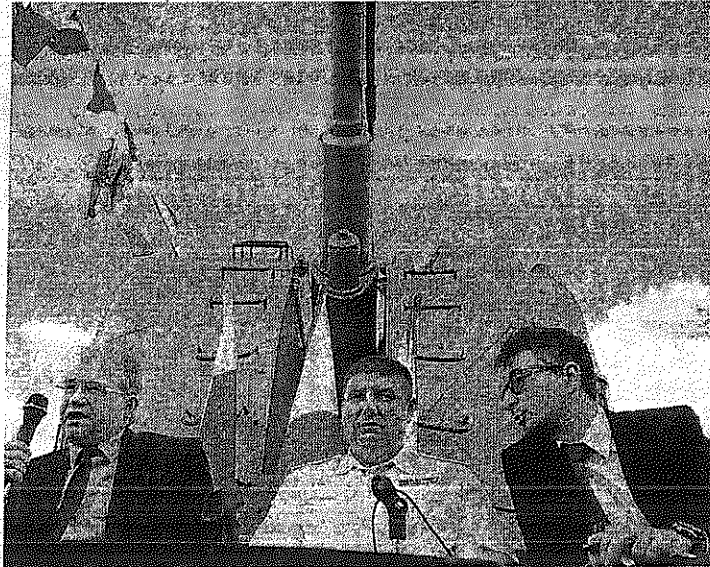
Illustrating the transformation of Philippine foreign relations since Mr. Duterte took office in June, two Russian warships are on a four-day visit to Manila this week, the first official Navy-to-Navy contact between the two countries.

Russian Ambassador, Igor Anatolyevich Khovaev took the opportunity to hold a news conference on board the antisubmarine vessel, Admiral Tributs.

He said he understood that the Philippines was intent on diversifying its foreign partners.

"It's not a choice between these partners and those ones. Diversification means preserving and keeping old traditional partners and getting new ones. So Russia is ready to become a new reliable partner and close friend of the Philippines," Khovaev said.

"We don't interfere in your relations with your traditional



PRESS BRIEFING Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Igor Anatolyevich Khovaev (left) and Rear Adm. Eduard Mikhailov (middle) meet journalists aboard the Admiral Tributs, an antisubmarine vessel, which docked at Pier 15 in South Harbor in Manila. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

partners and your traditional partners should respect the interest of the Philippines and Russia," he added.

The Russian Navy visit comes less than a month after Mr. Duterte sent Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to Moscow to discuss arms deals after US Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin said he would block the sale of 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippines due to concern about a rising death toll in a war on drugs launched by Mr. Duterte after taking office in June.

Khovaev said Russia had a

range of weapons to offer.

"We are ready to supply small arms and light weapons, some airplanes, helicopters, submarines and many, many other weapons. Sophisticated weapons. Not the secondhand ones," Khovaev said.

"Russia has a lot to offer but everything will be done in full compliance with international law," he added.

Mr. Duterte has said China is also offering weapons to help the Philippines fight crime and illegal drugs, and that Beijing is "rushing" him on an arms deal.

Angry at Western criticism of human rights violations in his

war on drugs, Mr. Duterte has been talking about distancing the Philippines from the United States and forming a new alliance with China and Russia.

Military cooperation

Khovaev said it was too early to talk about the scope of military cooperation but, in a clear reference to the United States, said old allies should not worry.

"Your traditional partners should not be concerned about the military ties ... If they are concerned, it means they need to get rid of clichés," he said.

Rear Adm. Eduard Mikhailov, deputy commander of the Flotilla of the Russian Navy Pacific Fleet, said on Tuesday that Russia wanted to hold maritime exercises with the Philippines to help combat terrorism and piracy.

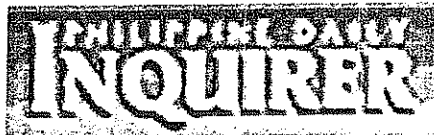
The United States and the Philippines have been holding naval exercises annually, but Mr. Duterte has decided to reduce the number of exercises and to move naval drills away from the disputed South China Sea to reassure China, which is suspicious of US military movements in the disputed waters.

—REUTERS



WATCH VIDEO: Russian ambassador urged Philippines to forge closer ties
<http://Inq.news/PhRussiaTies>

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BOOSTING BILATERAL RELATIONS

DUTERTE OPEN TO JOINT WAR EXERCISES WITH RUSSIA

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

Malacañang sees a boost in ties with Moscow with the goodwill visit of Russian warships to the country, and says President Duterte is open to joint military exercises with Russia.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the visit of the Russian vessels

would strengthen the friendship between the navies of the two countries.

"It is also an indication that our maritime cooperation can further be enhanced to enable diplomacy and camaraderie," Abella said.

The President is scheduled to visit one of the ships today.

The visit of the Russian warships comes after the Philippines scaled down its joint mili-

tary exercises with the United States amid waning ties.

Mr. Duterte has lashed out at the United States and threatened to terminate Manila's Visiting Forces Agreement with Washington after US President Barack Obama and US lawmakers criticized his brutal war on drugs.

The President has also said he wants all foreign troops out of the country.

Abella said Mr. Duterte dis-

approved only of the "permanent" stay of foreign troops in the Philippines.

"Joint exercises may be something that they consider," he added.

He also said joint military exercises between the Philippines and Russia would depend on the signing of a memorandum of understanding that would provide the framework for the terms of engagement. INQ

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Leader of pro-Isis terror group slain in Sarangani

Philippine security forces killed on Thursday the leader of a militant group that has carried out deadly attacks on civilians to win support from Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria, authorities said.

Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, founder and leader of Ansarul Khilafa Philippines, was tracked down and shot at a beach resort in Kiamba, Sarangani, shortly after midnight, while three “cohorts” were arrested, a police report said.

Ansarul Khilafa is one of

several violent Islamic militant groups in Mindanao, homeland of a large minority where a decades-old separatist rebellion has claimed more than 120,000 lives.

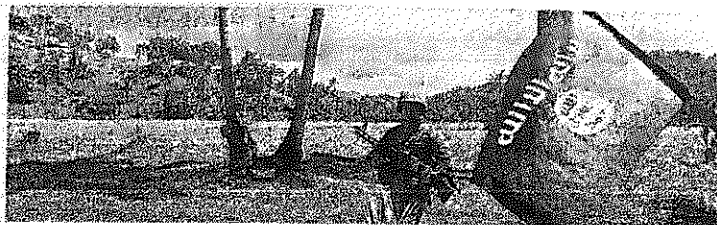
“He’s wanted for bombing incidents. They use improvised explosive devices, killing people at town festivals,” Chief Supt. Cedric Train, the regional police chief, told AFP.

“They fly the Isis flag in their camps. They want to be recognized by the Isis,” Train added, referring to the Islamic State

“They might retaliate so we have to double our preparations,” Sueno said, citing large Catholic religious festivals in the Philippines this month, including the Feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo on Monday.

Ansarul Khilafa was behind an attack that left two civilians dead in Mindanao in 2008 as well as a series of robberies and other crimes, according to Sidney Jones, director of the Indonesia-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

Maguid was arrested in 2009



Isis flag still flies in a captured terrorist camp. —JEFFREY MAITEM

group by one of its acronyms.

The military killed eight Ansarul Khilafa members in a clash in November 2015 at Maguid’s Mindanao hometown of Palimbang, Sulu.

but escaped eight months later, Jones said in a research paper published in October last year.

Train said the authorities had also been looking into Ansarul Khilafa’s role in a bombing in Davao, Mindanao’s largest city, in September last year that killed 15 people and injured dozens of others.

Maguid, who Train said was aged 32, appeared in a video circulated on social media networks last year with the leaders of other local militant groups pledging allegiance to Isis. —AFP

Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno warned of potential violent repercussions from the death of Maguid, more widely known by his nickname of Commander Tokboy.

06 January 2017



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Ex-NPA rebels get P101.6-M assistance

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

At least 1,573 former communist rebels received P101.67 million in assistance from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the past two years, Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno said yesterday.

Sueno said the assistance is under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP), a national reintegration program for New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

"The program has brought back former rebels and their families into the society as productive, peace-loving and law-abiding citizens," he said.

Sueno called on the rebels to be partners for change by supporting the peace negotiations with the Communist Party of

the Philippines-NPA-National Democratic Front.

"The President and the government genuinely wish to put an end to one of the world's longest running insurgencies. Let's talk and work together for a just and enduring peace this year and beyond," he said.

Under the DILG program, each rebel returnee is given P15,000 in mobilization expenses while their enrolment in the CLIP is being processed. Rebels also get livelihood assistance amounting to P50,000.

"Former rebels get psychosocial support together with their families and communities through healing and reconciliation initiatives," Sueno said.

A local government unit or the Philippine National Police gets P7,000 in reintegration assistance to help defray the board and lodging of each rebel in their custody.

"It covers other incidental expenses that may be incurred while processing requirements such as birth certificates and identification cards which are needed to get a certificate from the Joint Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police Intelligence Committee that an individual is a member of the NPA and eligible for enrolment in the

CLIP," Sueno said.

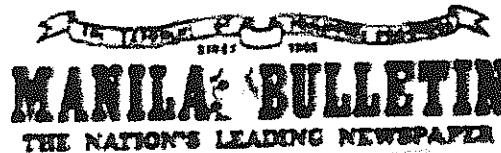
Rebels also get incentives for each firearm that they surrender. More than 90 firearms were turned over to the government last year.

Rebel returnees can also avail themselves of the services of a halfway house or a temporary residence while their enrolment to the CLIP is being processed.

A halfway house was constructed in Mati City, Davao Oriental recently under the Payapa at Masaganang Pamanangan program of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Former rebels are also eligible for PhilHealth coverage and other assistance such as capacity-building, skills training and legal assistance.

06 January 2017



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Duterte open to joint military drills with Russia

President Duterte is willing to allow joint military exercises between the Philippines and Russia to enhance maritime cooperation but will not sanction any permanent stay of foreign troops in the country. ►4

Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella issued the statement on the eve of the President's visit to the two Russian warships currently docked at Manila harbor for a weeklong goodwill tour.

"The President has said before that he is open to joint military exercises with Russia," Abella said in a Palace press conference.

"The goodwill visit by the Russian Navy will contribute to the strengthening of friendship with the Philippine Navy. It also is an indication that our maritime cooperation can further be enhanced to enable diplomacy and camaraderie," Abella added.

Abella, however, explained the President remains opposed to any permanent stationing of foreign soldiers in the country. "As far as we understand it, he was referencing permanent stay but joint exercises may be something that could be considered," he added.

He said a memorandum of agreement must still be signed between the Philippines and Russia to establish the framework on the future military exercises.

On Wednesday, Russia's ambassador to the Philippines Igor Khovaev said his country was not interested in military ties but is willing to help supply arms. He added that military drills between the two countries could be an opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other.

"This relationship is potentially

very significant given the fact that the Philippines was, for a very long time, the anchor of the US military presence in the region," said Alexey Muraviev, a Russian defense specialist at Curtin University in Perth, Australia. It also fits with Russia's strategy of deepening its engagement with countries in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, he said.

"In conversation with the Secretary of the National Defense, he said that all of these things will be dependent on the signing of an MOU which was initiated in 2014 and this will provide the framework regarding the terms of engagement from military to military, visiting students, cultural exchanges, and joint military exercises," Abella said.

The President, meantime, is scheduled to emerge from his holiday hiatus to visit the Russian anti-submarine destroyer anchored in Manila on Friday. This visit is the President's first official activity for the new year.

After a string of television interviews late December, Duterte had not scheduled any public engagement since the start of the New Year.

Explaining the President's absence, Abella said Duterte has been staying in his hometown Davao City for some "personal time."

"He's being spending quiet time, personal time," he said. I think he's in Davao. He'll be flying, he'll be coming soon. I think he's visiting the Russian ship," he said. (Genalyn D. Kabiling)

January 2017

The Manila Times

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MILF executes 3 men by musketry

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels who are negotiating a final peace deal with Manila executed three men found guilty of murder in Lanao del Sur, one of five provinces under the Muslim autonomous region.

A video clip of the execution was recorded by a rebel on his cell phone and eventually posted on Facebook. It showed the trio, identified only by their first names or aliases – Patrol, Sabar and Udi – blindfolded and separately tied to bamboo poles, while rebels aimed their automatic rifles and shot them.

A senior rebel leader, Abdullah Macapaar,

► **Executes A2**

but eventually expired from bullet wounds in the chest. Dozens of rebels witnessed the execution.

The 10-minute clip was posted by a person named Abu Haneef Tabarusaw. It was unknown when the execution took place and where, but comments left by those who watched the video claimed the firing squad occurred in the town of Balindong after the trio had been found guilty by a rebel court and sentenced to die by musketry.

The death sentence was handed down to prevent a clan war be-

tween the families of the men and their victims. Clan war is not uncommon in the Muslim region.

One comment read: *"Ang kasalanan po ng mga namatay ay nakapatay po ng tao. Dahil hindi sila napatawad ng pamilya ng pinatay nila ay kamatayan-in po ang kabayaran. Ang isa po dun (ay) para maiwasan lumala pa ang rido [The offense of those executed was murder. Because they were not forgiven by the families of those they killed, death is also the price. One of them was executed to prevent a clan war from escalating]."*

It was not the first time the MILF executed criminals found guilty by their Shariah or Islamic court. The rebel group publicly hanged three men in the restive region in the past.

There was no immediate statement from authorities. The clip has gone viral after it was shared on Facebook on January 3.

The MILF, which is fighting for a Muslim homeland in the troubled South, signed an interim peace deal with the previous Aquino government in 2014.

AL JACINTO

January 2017



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Islamic terrorist groups targeting Black Nazarene procession – Sueno

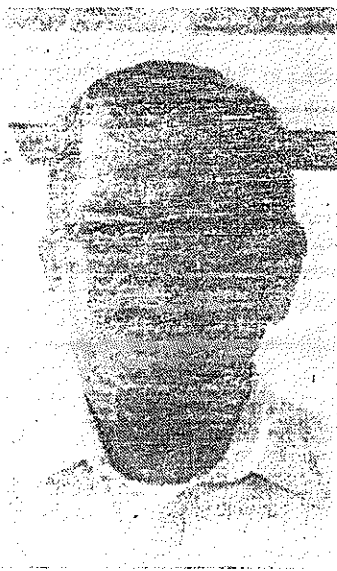
By Ted Tuvera and Mario J. Velazquez

A top government official yesterday dismissed a serious terrorist threat targeting the annual Black Nazarene procession in Manila which will likely be attended by some 5 million people.

Saying the country is now on a "nationwide red alert" by order of the Interior and Local Government (ILG) Secretary Ismael Sueno said Mindanao-based Islamic terrorist groups allegedly funded by an international network are likely to wreak havoc on January 9, Monday, during one of the major religious events in Metro Manila.

"On the *trastok*, the threat, as you know, is the Maute Group and maybe the Abu Sayyaf, but mainly the Maute Group. They are connected with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria," Sueno told reporters at a press briefing in Malacañang.

"The threat here, especially with a big event like this in Manila, we are receiving intelligence reports that they are also being



SUENO

he added.

Sueno also confirmed sensitive intelligence details that elements of the Maute Group – which made noise last November after occupying Bangui town in Lanao del Sur – have already reached Metro Manila.

Moreover, Sueno said apart from homegrown militants,

intelligence reports said external threats from ISIS targeting the country are also being monitored.

"*Ang mga teroristang natin hansi* [ISIS, ISIS sa abroad 'yan, hindi unang 'yan local," he said, adding Islamic terrorists operating in the Philippines are already being handicapped by no less than the local ISIS itself.

"So kung ISIS related to ISIS, we are sure *ang* funding *nila* is coming from the outside," Sueno claimed, adding however that as of now they do not have information of their financing scheme yet.

The Interior secretary also pointed out the Islamic militants could now be agitated and launch a retaliation plan following the death yesterday of a certain ranking leader of another ISIS-linked group in Mindanao.

Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, alias Commander Tokboy, is the leader of ISIS-allied group Ansar Khalifa which was neutralized in an operation led by state security forces yesterday morning somewhere in Sarangani province.

"Baka magretaliante, *iyon ang*

problema natin 'yung retaliation. That's why you have to double, triple our preparations *sa* security," Sueno stressed.

But despite the alarming terror threat, Sueno said they could not compel the Catholic Church to cancel the traditional event, adding discouraging the faithful devotees will be a futile measure.

"I do not think that the government will advise the cancellation of this traditional practice which has long been done since years ago," the DILG chief said.

"*Maski na i-discourage natin*, but it's their faith *eh*. Most of the devotees strongly believe that if they go there God will protect them," Sueno, who said he almost became a Catholic priest during his youth, added.

Malacañang, for its part, said all concerned government agencies are instructed to prepare for any disastrous occurrence during the *traslacion*.

"Although sources in the intelligence community have warned of possible disturbances during the Feast of the Black

Nazarene on Monday, several government agencies will be working together to secure the celebration of the Feast of the Black Nazarene on January 9," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella told reporters.

"They include: The Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Health and Manila City Department of Public Services which have all laid out their plans in conjunction and cooperation to keep the devotees of the Black Nazarene safe," he added.

Meanwhile, while dismissing any direct threat against the Feast of the Black Nazarene, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is ready to deploy land, air and sea assets to ensure public safety and security during the procession.

At a press briefing, Col. Edgard Arevalo, public affairs office chief of the AFP, said as far as the military is concerned there is no information stating specific threat against the Black Nazarene feast.

Arevalo, however, stressed the

military, acting in support to the Philippine National Police (PNP), is not taking any chances in ensuring security during the event which is expected to draw millions of devotees.

"As far as we are concerned, there is no direct information on the threat against the activity," Arevalo said.

According to Arevalo, the military's Joint Task Force-National Capital Region will be actively supporting efforts of the National Capital Region Police Office to ensure public order and safety during the *traslacion* of the Black Nazarene which traditionally takes more than 20 hours.

"We have sufficient forces...if necessary, we are ready to deploy land, air and sea assets," Arevalo said.

Earlier, Arevalo had said authorities were not discounting the possibility that the feast would be targeted by terrorist groups.

The Maute Group was tagged in the September bombing at a night market in Davao City that killed 14 people and wounded about 70 others.

06 January 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Leader of local terror group killed

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

A LEADER of a local terrorist group which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was killed yesterday in a police operation in a beach resort in Barangay Kitagas, Kiamba, Sarangani province.

Killed was Mohammad Jaafar Maguid alias Tokboy, leader of the Ansar Al-Khalifa Philippines (AKP)-SOCSARGEN, who has a P300,000 reward for his capture.

AKP has links to the Maute group which planted an improvised explosive device near the US Embassy in Manila last November and which has also pledged allegiance to the ISIS.

A military intelligence officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Maguid was trained by foreign terrorists from the Southeast Asian regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah on bombing and bomb-making.

Asked how many members the AKP has, the source said: "It's hard to determine because its members are also members of the Maute group and BIFF (Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters). Many of its members are remnants of the 105th Base Command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front," he said.

The 105th Base Command was blamed for atrocities in Central Mindanao in 2008. Its

LEADER

leader, now deceased Ameril Umbra Kato, bolted the MILF and formed the BIFF in 2011.

Police said operatives spotted Maguid, a woman companion, and two bodyguards aboard a red Toyota Wigo and tailed them until they reached the Angel Beach Resort.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Suan, deputy regional director for operations of the Police Regional Office 12, said the operatives inched their way to Maguid's group who were then occupying an open nipa hut near the beach front.

Maguid resisted arrest and

was shot dead.

His three companions did not resist arrest. They were later identified as Matahata Dialawe Arboleda, Ismael Sahak alias Mael and Morhaban Veloso alias Bugoy.

Recovered from the group were two AR-15 Armalite rifles, a hand grenade, 18 magazines for short firearms, eight long magazines, two bandoliers, and assorted documents.

Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman of PRO 12, said Maguid uses the aliases Tokboy Magid, Tikboy Maguid, Madz and Abu Gaib. Maguid was involved in killing, robbery/hold-up, harass-

ment, and extortion incidents, among others, in Sarangani province, General Santos City and Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.

He has a warrant of arrest for two counts of murder, destructive arson, arson robbery with violence and/or intimidation of person, and murder with criminal cases 3043-08, 3044-08, 3045-08, 3046-08, 3047-08, 3048-08, and 144381-TG issued by RTC Branch 38 of Alabel, Sarangani and RTC NCJR, Branch 271 of Pasig, City.

The Armed Forces said Maguid's killing is a "big blow" to the group.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of

the AFP public affairs office, said Maguid is a known bomber.

"Alias Tokboy is known in their circle as a bomb-maker. He also had an opportunity to train bomb-makers," said Arevalo, adding that Maguid is behind a bombing in General Santos City.

"He is also considered a notorious extortionist so this is a big blow to the AKP group," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said the military supported the operation that led to the killing of Maguid and arrest of his three cohorts. The PNP and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency led the operation. – *With Victor Reyes*

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ONLINE NEWS 06 JANUARY 2016

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ASEAN 2017 eyes framework on South China Sea code of conduct

From Rappler (Jan 5): [ASEAN 2017 eyes framework on South China Sea code of conduct](#)

On the year the Philippines chairs ASEAN, the bloc aims to finish the framework of a legally-binding document governing settlement of disputes in the South China Sea



ASEAN'S CHALLENGE: President Rodrigo Duterte accepts the chairmanship of the ASEAN in 2017 during the 2016 ASEAN Summit held in Laos. Photo from PPD.

On the year the Philippines chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the bloc aims to complete a draft framework on its South China Sea Code of Conduct with China.

"One of our main goals this year, in cooperation with China, not only Philippines, but ASEAN and China, is to try and arrive at a framework for the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea by the end of the year, that will be one of our main priorities," said Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Enrique Manalo on Thursday, January 5.

The Code of Conduct is a long-awaited binding agreement between ASEAN members and China on how overlapping claims in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) can be managed. ASEAN countries claiming parts of the South China Sea are the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei.

In past ASEAN summits, the Philippines has pushed for the completion of a Code of Conduct. But for over a decade, ASEAN and China have depended on the non-binding Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, signed in 2002 which encouraged the peaceful settlement of disputes and affirmed commitment to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, among others.

China has been perceived to be blocking efforts for the completion of the Code of Conduct.

'No need' to discuss Hague ruling

It remains to be seen if the Philippines, as chair of ASEAN, will push for a discussion on the historic case won by the Philippines against China given President Rodrigo Duterte's strategy not to bring up the ruling any time soon.

The ruling by an international court recognized the Philippines' claim over the South China Sea and nullified China's.

"There's no need to really discuss the Hague ruling because it already exists. It's already a part of the law, so it's there and the focus will be of course on – I think the priority now is to try and get a Code of Conduct," said Manalo.

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

China continues to disregard the ruling, insisting it is not violating international law by building islands and putting up military structures inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Manalo admitted the Philippines faces a "major challenge" in completing a framework agreed to by China and the rest of ASEAN.

~~The Philippines' ASEAN chairmanship comes at a time when its leader is on friendlier terms with China.~~

Duterte's state visit to Beijing last October led to the "full recovery" of ties between the two countries.

The President has chosen not to "flaunt" the Hague ruling that so angers China, preferring to focus on economic cooperation with the Asian giant.

<http://www.rappler.com/world/specials/southeast-asia/asean-journey/157474-asean-2017-framework-code-conduct-south-china-sea>

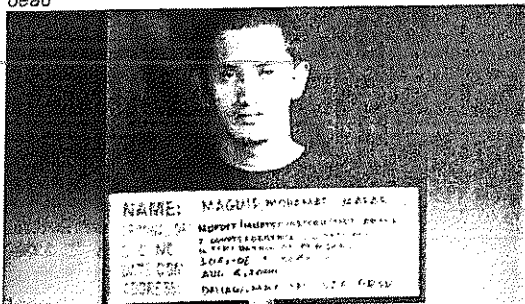
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Top leader of pro-ISIS PH terror group killed (Photo)

From Rappler (Jan 5): Top leader of pro-ISIS PH terror group killed
(UPDATED) National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr confirms that Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, leader of the Ansar Khalifa Philippines, is dead



SLAIN TERROR LEADER. Authorities circulate this mug shot of Mohammad Jaafar Maguid in Sarangani province in 2010 after he escaped from his jail cell. File photo from the Sarangani Information Office

The top leader of a local terrorist group that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS) was killed in Sarangani in the early hours of Thursday, January 5, a major success for the country's counter-terrorism campaign.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr confirmed to Rappler the death of Mohammad Jaafar Maguid or "Tokboy" of the Ansar Khalifa Philippines (AKP), which is among the groups responsible for terrorist attacks in southern Mindanao.

"Yes. It was an inter-agency operation led by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) and police," Esperon said in a text message to Rappler.

The AKP pledged allegiance to ISIS in a YouTube video in 2015 although security officials claim it has no direct links with the foreign terrorist organization. (READ: ISIS' global ambitions and plans for Southeast Asia)

But AKP has established links with Indonesian terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

"Tokboy was trained by key JI leaders, including Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, better known as Marwan, the high profile target of the Mamasapano tragedy that derailed the peace talks," wrote Rappler executive editor Maria Ressa. (READ: Marwan's ties that bind: From family to global terrorism)

"AKP under Tokboy has a direct link to Indonesian groups, especially MIT, Mujahidin Indonesia Timur, led by an Indonesian who trained in the Philippines, Santoso," Ressa added.

AKP is also believed to be behind threats against the November 2015 APEC Summit in Manila, which was spread by ISIS propaganda sites.

Maguid was able to escape previous operations to hunt him down. On Thursday, he and his companions were intercepted on board a red Toyota Wigo in the vicinity of Angel Beach Resort in Barangay Kitaqas of Kiamba town, according to an initial report obtained by Rappler.

Maguid was reportedly killed on the spot while 3 other AKP members were arrested: Matahata Dialawe Arboleda, Ismael Sahak, and Morhaban Veloso.

Maguid is believed to be a former commander of the notorious 105th Base Command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Sarangani police arrested Maguid in August 2009 for charges of murder, arson, and robbery with violence. He escaped the provincial jail in March 2010.

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www.inquirer.net

Sueno: MILF not involved in Cotabato jail attack

By: Nestor Corrales - Reporter / @NCCorralesINQ

INQUIRER.net / 06:52 PM January 05, 2017



Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno. Presidential Photo

Interior Secretary Ismael "Mike" Sueno on Thursday absolved the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) of any involvement on the Cotabato jail attack, which led to the escape of more than 158 inmates.

In a Palace briefing, Sueno said MILF Commander Sammy Al-Mansour and Vice Chairman Ghadzali Jaafar both denied the group's involvement in the attack.

"We are doing our own investigation but me, I personally believe the words of General Sammy Almanzor and Vice Chairman Ghadzali Jaafar," Sueno said, adding that he already talked to the two rebel leaders.

"So I have to tell you frankly, we are not involved," Sueno said, quoting Al-Mansour.

The Cabinet official said the MILF assured him they would capture escapees who enter their territory.

Malacañang had earlier said the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines were "working closely to capture the escapees."

On Tuesday night, a two-hour long firefight ensued between prison guards and more than 100 armed men who stormed the North Cotabato District Jail, allowing 158 inmates to escape. *TVJ*

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Leader of group sympathetic to Islamic State killed

Associated Press / 11:12 AM January 05, 2017

Philippine police say they have killed a leader of suspected sympathizers of the Islamic State group and apprehended three others in a clash after the men resisted arrest at a beach resort in the south.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Suan said Jaafar Maguid, leader of a small armed group called Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines, died in Thursday's shootout in southern Sarangani Province. Three of his followers were arrested.

Suan said the shooting happened after police went to check reports from civilians about the presence of armed men.

A number of other Islamic groups in the southern Philippines, including Abu Sayyaf, have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, but the military says there has been no sign of a direct collaboration between Filipino gunmen and militants in Syria and Iraq.

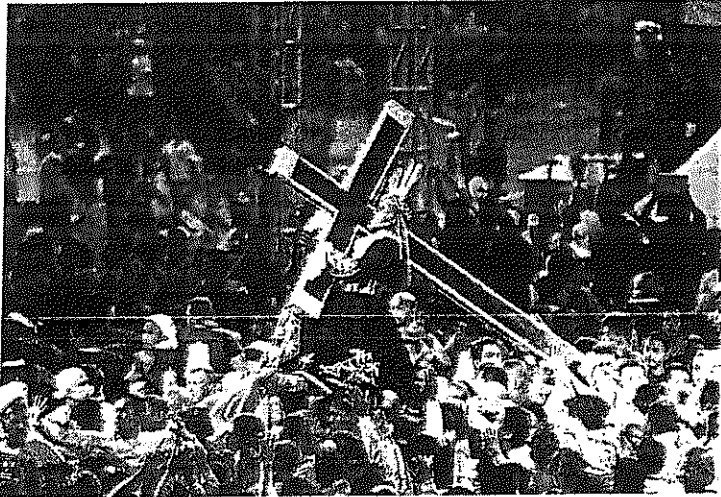
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NO THREATS BUT SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT

AFP bans drone flights over Black Nazarene procession

By: Tina G. Santos - Reporter / @santostinaINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 12:38 AM January 05, 2017



BIGGEST RELIGIOUS EVENT Millions of devotees and tourists are expected to join the country's biggest religious event. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO / NINO JESUS ORBETA

To ensure security, drone flights over the route of the Black Nazarene procession in Manila on Jan. 9 will not be allowed, the military said on Wednesday.

As in previous years, cell phone signals will be jammed throughout a swath of the city expected to be packed with millions of devotees and tourists during the Philippines' biggest religious event. Lt. Col. Llewellyn Binasoy of the Armed Forces of the Philippines told reporters at Quiapo Church, the shrine of the Black Nazarene.

The AFP is helping the Philippine National Police in securing the Feast of the Black Nazarene, highlighted by the traslacion, or the procession that carries the black wooden statue of Jesus Christ carrying a cross from Luneta Park to Quiapo Church.

"We support the PNP to ensure that this will be a meaningful, solemn and significant occasion for our people, especially the devotees," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office.

Millions of barefoot devotees take part in the painfully slow procession from the park to the church, which takes at least an entire day.

The procession set a record in 2012, taking 22 hours. Last year, it took 20 hours.

The National Capital Region Police Office said there were no threats to the procession, but security would be tight.

"We would like to give this fair warning to everyone that part of the security measures is the no-fly zone during the procession," Binasoy said.

"We also ask the media and the public not to have their drones in the air," he added.

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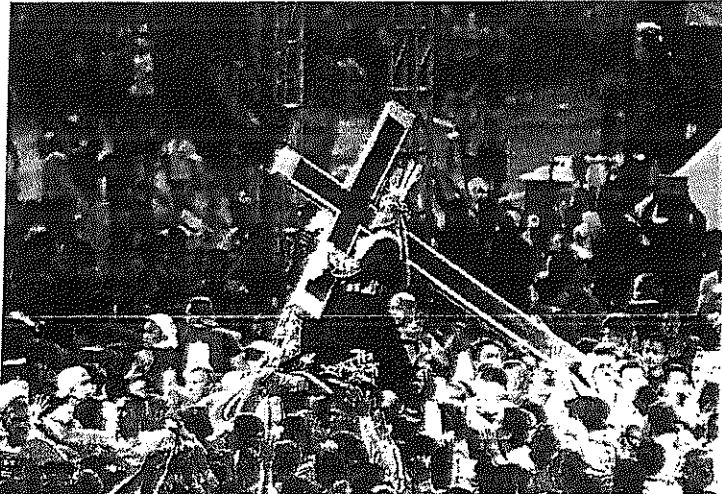
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News organizations usually use drones to take aerial pictures of crowds.

Binasoy appealed for public understanding of the need to jam cell phone signals. "That is part of the security preparations," he said.

Cell phones can be used to detonate bombs, as shown by last week's attack during a town fiesta in Hilongos, Leyte province.

"Last year, it was implemented. That's why the same thing and dissemination are being undertaken [this year]," Binasoy said.

Manila's Department of Public Services Director Lilybelle Borromeo called on devotees not to throw their trash on the streets.

No trash bins will be placed in the vicinity of Quirino Grandstand, where the procession will start, to prevent bomb scares, according to Dr. Virgilio Martin of the Manila Health Office.

No jumping into the river

Procession organizers called on devotees not to jump into the Pasig River when the carriage of the Black Nazarene passes over Jones Bridge.

Manila health coordinator Malou Geralde warned devotees that jumping into the murky waters of the river may be dangerous to their health.

"The water is toxic. It's not healthy," Geralde said.

The Philippine Coast Guard said motorboats would be stationed near the bridge to watch for jumpers.

Jumpers will be investigated, the Coast Guard said.

The Bureau of Fire Protection will deploy fire trucks, ambulances, rescue trucks and personnel for the procession.

K-9 units will also be deployed by the military.

The Manila health office will also deploy medical teams at Quirino Grandstand on a 12-hour shift starting Jan. 8.

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will extend the operating hours of the Pasig Ferry to give devotees an alternative mode of transportation during the feast.

The first trip, from Guadalupe to Escolta, will leave at 5:30 a.m. and the last trip, from Escolta to Guadalupe, will depart at 7 p.m.

For devotees from the provinces, the MMDA will offer a 20-percent discount on accommodations at its Gwapotel inn on Bonifacio Drive in Port Area. —*WITH REPORTS FROM CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND ERIKA SAULER*

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