

Army Vision: By 2128, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

21 January 2017

Saturday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

21 January 2017

TRUMP TAKES OATH AMID UNCERTAINTY NEWS 11



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
 FROM THE FRONT OF THE LINE
 EDRA ZIPPER, LANE SNAGGED, IS CALLED OFF

BATO TOLD TO RESIGN OVER KOREAN'S SLAY

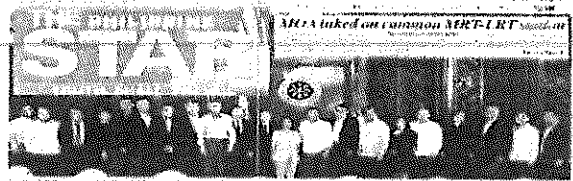
Special Adviser to the president told Dela Bata was a liability to President Duterte, whose war on drugs is in the spotlight with the kidnapping and murder of a Korean.

 Trump will fail, Soros predicts	 Westbrook won't start in All-Stars	 Sushmita Sen and sensibility	 Host of ghosts of Peta's 50 years
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 EL CHAPO EXTRADITED TO US	 BEAUTIES TELL OF BEATING THE ODDS	 REDS WARY AS TALKS RESUME IN ROME	 Wendell Pierce's 50th birthday
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PETRON BLAZE 100 EURO 5
 UNLEASH THE BLAZE WITHIN.

'If martial law looms, I'll keep quiet about it'



Tycoons vow to spur dev't of Mindanao

Special, not emergency powers OK for traffic

 Miss U bets repack food for expectant moms	 Body sends profound respect to pope	 Speaker urges: Name 'narco reps'
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PETRON BLAZE 100 EURO 5
THE COUNTRY'S 100 OCTANE GA

No need to force Speaker to ID 'narco-salons' for now - Nagrakes

Tribune

Solgen: DUJO's ML view only for 'extreme case'

SOUTH KOREAN GOVT WANTS JUSTICE FOR SLAIN FOREIGNER

DoJ orders raps on cops in Sokor bizman's slay

 DoJ orders raps on cops in Sokor bizman's slay	 Seatmates soon start of new Senate majority	 SD cards: Drop protest if proved wrong, Lenti lawyer dares Marcos
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 Obama warns Trump, tells supporters 'we'll be okay'	 The outside world's 'back' named Jose Bong	 Trump will fail, claims billionaire financier
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Within higher learning to companies, households

The Manila Times

Do Filipinos prefer gossip to knowledge?

TO SAVE THE PRESIDENT FROM EMBARRASSMENT

Speaker tells Bato to resign

 Speaker tells Bato to resign	 Palace calls for truce with Church
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 DOJ wants Mamasapano trial moved to Manila	 Globalization on our terms
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GRANDLOTTO 6/55 (SATURDAY, 21 JANUARY 2017) JACKPOT PRIZE!
P 107,000,000.00 Buy your TICKETS NOW!

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

ISSUED AT : 5:00 PM 20 JANUARY 2017
 VALID BEGINNING : 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast from 5 PM today until 5 PM tomorrow		Extended Weather Outlook Duration: 5 PM until 5 PM of the following day:			
	20 JAN		21 JAN	22 JAN	23 JAN	24 JAN
	Metro Manila	22 °C 30 °C	Moderate: Northeast Mamila Bay: Moderate	23 °C 31 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 29 °C
Tuguegarao City	20 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast	20 °C 30 °C	20 °C 29 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C
Laoag City	19 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	20 °C 30 °C	19 °C 29 °C	18 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C
Baguio City	13 °C 23 °C	Moderate: Northeast	13 °C 23 °C	13 °C 22 °C	12 °C 21 °C	13 °C 21 °C
SBMA(Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)	22 °C 30 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong: Northeast Subic Bay: Mod to Occ. Rough	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Tagaytay City	18 °C 26 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast	19 °C 27 °C	18 °C 26 °C	18 °C 26 °C	19 °C 27 °C
Lipa City	23 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast	23 °C 30 °C	22 °C 28 °C	22 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Legazpi City	24 °C 28 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	23 °C 27 °C	23 °C 25 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Puerto Princesa City	25 °C 31 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C
Iloilo City - Bacolod City	25 °C 28 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 29 °C	25 °C 29 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C
Metro Cebu	24 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 29 °C	23 °C 28 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C
Tacloban City	23 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 28 °C	22 °C 28 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Cagayan de Oro City	23 °C 29 °C	Moderate: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C
Valencia City	17 °C 28 °C	Moderate: Northeast	17 °C 27 °C	18 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 29 °C
Metro Davao	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C
Zamboanga City	23 °C 30 °C	Moderate: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	23 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °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: GBS

END OF FORECAST

CHECKED BY: JSC



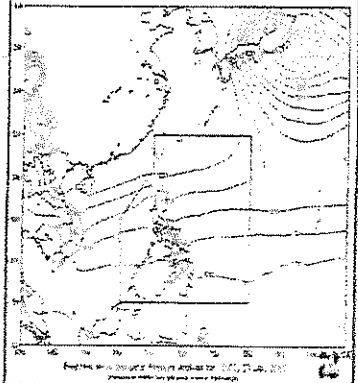
24- HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 20 JANUARY 2017

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

SYNOPSIS: TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTIONS OF SOUTHERN LUZON AND OF VISAYAS. NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON.

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS IS EXPECTED OVER VISAYAS, MINDANAO, BICOL REGION AND THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED LIGHT RAINS WILL PREVAIL OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF LUZON.



MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE NORTHEAST WILL PREVAIL OVER THE ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO WITH MODERATE TO ROUGH SEAS.

PAGTAYA: MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN AT PULU-PULONG PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG INAASAAN SA KABISAYAAN, MINDANAO, REHIYON NG KABIKULAN AT SA LALAWIGAN NG PALAWAN. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MAHIHINANG 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 BUONG KAPULUAN NA MAY KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MAALONG 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:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 1:50 PM TODAY 30.6 °C	MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 6:00 AM TODAY 89 %	
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 5:00 AM TODAY 21.2 °C	MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 2:00 PM TODAY 51 %	
TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)	ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION OVER METRO MANILA	
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 4:52 PM 0.58 METER	SUNSET/ SUNRISE	MOONRISE/ MOONSET & ILLUMINATION
LOW TIDE TODAY: 11:57 PM 0.36 METER	SUNSET TODAY: 5:49 PM	MOONRISE TOMORROW: 12:39 AM
HIGH TIDE TOMORROW: 3:23 AM 0.40 METER	SUNRISE TOMORROW: 6:25 AM	MOONSET TOMORROW: 12:37 PM
LOW TIDE TOMORROW: 9:39 AM 0.21 METER	SUNSET TOMORROW: 5:50 PM	ILLUMINATION TOMORROW: 43 %
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUERIES, PLEASE CALL AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 927-1335 OR LOG ON TO WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH.		

PREPARED BY: GSS

CHECKED BY: JSG

21 January 2017



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BATO TOLD TO RESIGN OVER KOREAN'S SLAY

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

Speaker Alvarez blasts police chief Dela Rosa as a liability to President Duterte, whose war on drugs is in the spotlight with the kidnapping and murder of a Korean

A2

Alvarez tells Bato: Resign

Duterte who, like Dela Rosa, hails from his southern bailiwick.

Jee, a former executive of South Korean firm Hanjin, was taken in October in the guise of a drug raid and then strangled. His captors later extorted a P5-million ransom from his wife.

The alleged ringleader, policeman Ricky Sta Isabel, and another police officer are in custody while several others are at large. They have been indicted for kidnapping and murder.

Sta Isabel was formally arrested on Friday by the PNP's Anti-Kidnapping Group and transferred from the National Bureau of Investigation, where he had earlier surrendered, saying he feared for his life.

A ranking police official privy to the details of the case said Jee's car, a black Ford Explorer where the killing took place, was parked just outside the building of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) adjacent to that of the PNP's Public Information Office and Police Community Relations Group offices.

A justice department resolution said the suspects were all members of the AIDG, including Sta Isabel, SPO4 Roy Villagas and PO2 Christopher Baldovino.

The crime scene was also just a few steps away from the office of Dela Rosa and his official residence, the so-called White House, inside the police headquarters.

FROM A1

By DJ Yap and Julliane Love de Jesus @Team_Inquirer

Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa should immediately quit to save his boss from further embarrassment after damning details emerged that his officers were involved in the kidnapping and murder of Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo, House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said on Friday.

"The commission of a heinous crime right under his very nose is not only an insult but a clear indication that he has lost the respect of his people," Alvarez said.

Dela Rosa should save President Duterte "from further embarrassment and restore respect" to the PNP chief's office by quitting, Alvarez said.

PNP chief's boo-boos

"Dela Rosa should buckle down to work or better yet, give the job to someone else who is dead serious in leading the PNP in its multipronged war against

He noted that social media was "replete" with videos of Dela Rosa's "boo-boos," including one that showed him running "like a headless chicken" after a firecracker he was holding started to smoke.

"How can we believe the stern statements Dela Rosa had been making against criminals ... when he was the first to run in the slightest possibility of danger?" Alvarez asked.

Dela Rosa branded the quit call as "cruel" and dared Alvarez to "tell the President to fire me."

"Do they think I'm enjoying my work so they want me to resign?" he said. "That's too much. How cruel of them to say that I should resign."

Alvarez's call came as more details about Jee's abduction and murder surfaced, with the government facing mounting calls to formally apologize to Seoul. It was also the strongest statement coming from an ally of President

OF

The police official, who requested anonymity, said Jee was wrapped first with packaging tape before he was strangled by Sta. Isabel. Villegas said Sta. Isabel brought packaging tape and surgical gloves and ordered them to cover the head of the victim.

Among those relieved was Supt. Raphael Dumlao, Sta. Isabel's team leader at the AIDG.

The source said the incident might have happened around 10 p.m. of Oct. 18, 2016, after Jee was taken from his home in Angeles, Pampanga province, with a Filipino maid who was later freed. The Korean's remains were taken to a funeral home for cremation, where police subsequently recovered his golf set that was partly used to pay for his cremation.

Although there were secu-

rity cameras in the area, the official said they could not recover the footage since the killing happened almost three months ago and had been deleted from the files.

In a press briefing at Camp Crame on Friday, PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos explained that tapes in closed-circuit television cameras are overwritten by new recordings after every 30 days.

But Carlos said the PNP's Headquarters Support Service (HSS) would review the security procedures implemented inside the camp.

He noted the camp security did not thoroughly inspect the vehicle because Sta. Isabel, being a regular visitor at Crame, introduced himself to the guards when he entered the camp premises.

"We believe the HSS and the Base Police will take the necessary steps to have a stricter security measure in times like this when crime is happening inside the camp," he said.

Mounting calls

But the official said they had enough evidence to prove that the incident happened inside the police camp, adding that the PNP's Anti-Kidnapping Group had already submitted them to the justice department.

Calls for the government to apologize intensified on Friday, with Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III demanding a swift prosecution of rogue officers accused in the crime, the first high-profile case to test the credibility and effectiveness of government's antidrug war.

"It is saddening but infuriating! Enforce the law! The law is in place. Murder [is a] non-bailable crime," Pimentel said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief, called the kidnap-murder "probably the most unwelcome wake-up call" for Dela Rosa.

The PNP "should lose no time in addressing the issue by henceforth going hammer and tongs against all rogue cops who only care about their personal gains to the detriment of the entire police organization,"

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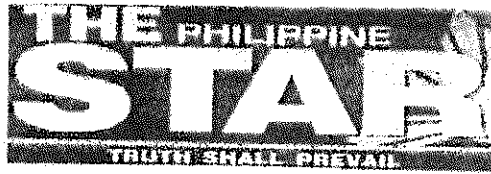
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PRIMARY SUSPECT SPO3 Ricky Sta. Isabel escorted out of the NBI for transfer to Camp Crame
—ALEXIS CORPUZ

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21 January 2017



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Trump promises 'great journey'

Worldwide protests greet President Trump

WASHINGTON – Donald Trump told Americans he would “make America great again” on a Twitter post hours before his inauguration as US president on Friday noon.

“The journey begins and I will be working and fighting very hard to make it a great journey for the American people. I have no doubt that we will, together, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!” Trump tweeted on Thursday as inauguration festivities began.

Trump slept at Trump Tower in New York City on Wednesday night before heading to Washington on Thursday, the

day before he is sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.

The property mogul also tweeted a quote from the Rev. Franklin Graham, who will take part in the inauguration ceremony.

“It wasn’t Donald Trump that divided this country, this country has been divided for a long time!” Stated today by Reverend

Turn to Page 10

Trump From Page 1

Franklin Graham," Trump wrote.

He also told Americans on Thursday night that he will "unify" the nation after a bruising election campaign, as he prepared for his inauguration the following day at the US Capitol.

"We're going to unify our country," Trump told a crowd of thousands in front of the Lincoln Memorial after a pre-inauguration concert. "We're going to do things that haven't been done for our country for many, many decades. It's going to change. I promise you."

Trump touched down on Thursday at Washington's Andrews Air Force Base, about 24 hours before he was to be sworn in. Trump traded his personally branded Boeing 757 for a US Air Force version of the same plane, following the custom of a first flight to the nation's capital aboard a military aircraft.

"It is going to be a very humbling and moving day for the president-elect, his family and mine," vice president-elect Mike Pence said at a briefing for reporters on Thursday. "We are ready to go to work. In fact, we can't wait to get to work for the American people."

Ebullient Trump supporters flocked to the nation's capital for the inaugural festivities, some wearing red hats emblazoned with his "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.

But in a sign of deep divisions Trump sowed during his combative campaign, dozens of Democratic lawmakers were boycotting the swearing-in ceremony on Capitol Hill.

While Trump came to power bucking convention, he was wrapping himself in the traditional pomp and pageantry that accompanies the peaceful transfer of power. The president-in-waiting will attend church with his family Friday morning, then meet President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama for tea at the White House. The Trumps and the Obamas will travel together in the presidential limousine for the short trip to the Capitol for the noon swearing-in ceremony.

Trump supporters started lining up at security checkpoints before dawn to take their places in the quadrennial rite of democracy.

"I'm here for history," said Kevin Puchalski, a 24-year-old construction worker who drove from Philadelphia to attend the swearing-in. "This is the first president that I voted for that won."

His big hope: Trump builds that promised wall on the US-Mexican border. "Keep the illegals out," he said.

Aides said Trump had been personally invested in crafting his inaugural address, a relatively brief 20-minute speech that is expected to center on his vision for what it means to be an American.

Spokesman Sean Spicer said the address would be "less of an agenda and more of a philosophical document."

Trump has pledged to upend Obama's major domestic and national security policies, including repealing his signature health care law and building a wall along the US-Mexico border. But he's offered few details of how he plans to accomplish his agenda, often sending contradictory signals.

With rain a possibility, the National Park Service announced that it was easing its "no umbrella" policy for Friday, allowing collapsible umbrellas along the parade route and on the National Mall.

The nation's soon-to-be president joked about the chance of a downpour. "That's OK," Trump told campaign donors at an event Thursday night, "because people will realize it's my real hair."

"Might be a mess, but they're going to see that it's my real hair," he said.

Protests from Sydney to Addis Ababa

Trump faces protests in Washington during his inauguration, and in cities from Toronto to Sydney, Addis Ababa, the Philippines and Dublin over his politics which critics say are divisive and dangerous.

The protest in London was organized by the campaign group also called "Bridges not Walls," in reference to Trump's pledge to build a wall on the Mexican border.

"We won't let the politics



Protesters stage a rally in front of the US embassy in Manila yesterday.

of hate peddled by the likes of Donald Trump take hold," Nona Hurkmans of Bridges not Walls said in a statement.

Trump opponents have been angered by his comments during the campaign about women, illegal immigrants and Muslims and his pledges to scrap the Obamacare health reform and build a wall on the Mexican border.

The Republican's supporters admire his experience in business, including as a real estate developer and reality television star, and view him as an outsider who will take a fresh approach to politics.

For some in the protest in London, Trump's victory a little over four months after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union symbolizes a rise of populism across the West.

"For me it's about not just the inauguration of Trump, but about the rise of right wing populism across Western Europe and the US, and Trump's inauguration is a celebration of that," said Jac St. John, 26, a doctoral student from London, who unfurled one of the banners.

In London, a banner reading "Build bridges not walls" was draped across London's Tower Bridge on Friday as part of a series of protests across the world aimed at expressing displeasure at the inauguration of Trump as US president.

Protesters on the drawbridge, with its two Gothic-style towers, held up pink letters reading "Act now!" soon after sunrise, while others unfurled the banner over the railings and a speedboat with a black flag reading "build

bridges not walls" raced down the River Thames.

Beside the British parliament, protesters draped banners saying "Migrants welcome here" and "Migration is older than language" over Westminster bridge. Other protests are planned in London, other British cities and across the world on Friday.

Julie Chasin, a 42-year-old teacher originally from New York who has lived in London for a decade, said she joined the protest to hold up one of the pink letters on Tower Bridge as she was concerned about the Trump presidency.

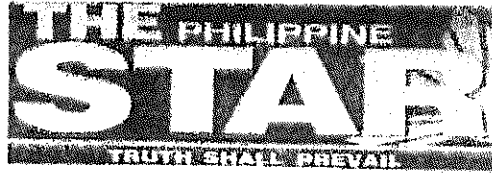
"Yes Donald Trump is president, but he still needs to protect everybody's rights," said Chasin, a Democrat who said she worked on Hillary's campaign in North Carolina.

"It's scary. I hope he's kept in check. I hope everyone who is telling me not to worry, and saying that we have a strong system of checks and balances, I hope that it's true," Chasin said.

Trump was expected to stay in Washington overnight ahead of Friday's inauguration. The Senate will vote on confirming at least two of Trump's Cabinet secretaries on Friday afternoon, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on Thursday.

They include retired Marine Corps general James Mattis, who has been nominated to lead the Defense Department, and retired Marine Corps general John Kelly, who will lead the Homeland Security Department. - Reuters, AP

21 January 2017



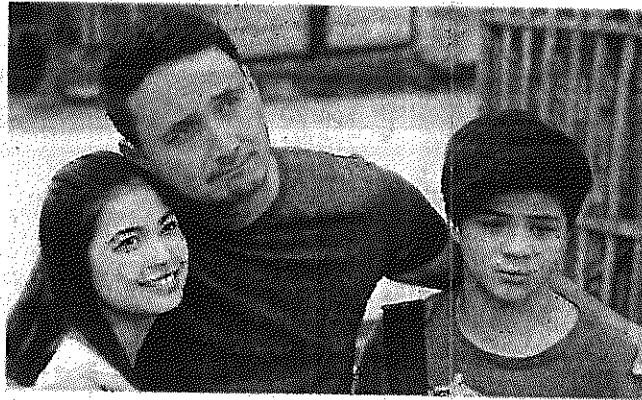
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Soldier serves as mom & dad in *MMK*

After playing a vengeful husband in the recently-concluded primetime series *Magpahanggang Wakas*, John Estrada returns to the television to portray a soldier fighting his toughest battle in life — being both a father and a mother to his children — in tonight's episode of ABS-CBN's *Maalaala Mo Kaya* (*MMK*).

Recho (John) is a brave, hard-working soldier serving in the Philippine Army and a benevolent father to his two children, Angelique (Jane de Leon) and Lorenz (Bugoy Cariño). Even though it is hard for him to juggle his duties as a soldier and as the head of his family, he tries his best to be there for his children.

His life suddenly changes, however, when his marriage falls apart and he becomes a single father to his young girl and boy. How will Recho balance his military life and domestic



John Estrada (center) with Jane de Leon and Bugoy Cariño

life? Can he handle being both a dad and a mom to his children?

Joining the episode are Jerome Ponce, Rochelle Barrameda, Marilyn Villamayor, Ronnie Quizon, Erin Ocampo, Jomari Angeles, Manuel Chua, Marco Masa, Miel Espinoza and Alex Castro. It was directed by Frasco Mortiz and written by Arah Badayos and Akeem del Rosario. *MMK* is led by Star Creatives COO Malou Santos.

Don't miss *MMK* Saturdays on ABS-CBN or ABS-CBN HD (Sky-Cable Channel 167). Catch its latest episodes on iwanto.com.ph or skyondemand.com.ph for Sky subscribers.

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Military closely monitoring ISIS threats – spokesman

By Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) seconded the warning aired by a top official of the United States military about the risk of Islamic State attacks in the Philippines — stressing that such threat is constantly monitored by security officials.

Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said that the 125,000-strong military is proactively addressing the threat of terrorism in the country.

The same risk, Padilla said, prompted the AFP to focus on combating local terrorist groups, particularly in southern Philippines.

Currently, there are 51 military battalions operating against the Abu Sayyaf, Maute Group, the Ansar Al-Khilafa Philippines (AKP) — which have pledged allegiance with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and other terror groups, in Mindanao.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año has given the troops six months to significantly defeat the Abu Sayyaf.

“This looming threat is not unknown to the AFP and is continuously monitored. It is also the reason why we have prioritized addressing the threat posed by local terrorist groups and extremists particularly those that have openly pledge allegiance to the Daesh in the country,” Padilla said.

“The threat of terrorism is a

matter continuously addressed proactively by the security sector,” he added.

On Thursday, Adm. Harry Harris, commander of the US Pacific Command, warned of increasing terrorist threats in Asia as ISIS fighters are now returning to their home countries.

Harris said that as ISIS loses territory in the Middle East, radicalized fighters from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines where they are likely to target their native countries.

The warning follows a similar warning from a Jakarta-based think tank in October, which said the main danger lies in the strife-torn southern Philippines where a handful of Islamic extremists from the ASG, the Maute Group and AKP, have sworn allegiance to IS.

Southeast Asia — parts of which have long struggled with Islamic militancy — suffered its first IS attack in January last year when extremists launched a deadly suicide bombing and gun assault in Jakarta, leaving four attackers and four civilians dead.

IS-linked militants also killed 20 hostages in a restaurant in Bangladesh last year in one of the deadliest such incidents in the country.

In Davao City, 14 people were killed while about 70 others were wounded after the Maute group planted bombs at a night market

last September.

The AFP has called on the public to remain vigilant to thwart any attempt from the terrorists to disrupt peace.

“This is also the basis for our call on the public to always remain vigilant, alert and observant of their environment. By working together, we heightened our security posture and become better prepared to meet this security challenge,” Padilla said.

Late last year, an improvised explosive device was recovered near the US Embassy in Manila. Authorities tagged the Maute group as behind the bombing try, prompting security forces to arrest seven suspects.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that the Philippines is in constant coordination with its Asean neighbors to counter the growing threats from terrorist groups.

Lorenzana cited the signing last July of the Trilateral Defense Cooperation with Malaysia and Indonesia to strengthen joint efforts in fighting terrorism, piracy and other crimes committed along the three countries maritime areas.

“Since these threats cross borders, we are closely working with our counterparts in the Asean to monitor and address these threats,” Lorenzana said.

“That is why, as early as July last year, we have already signed a Trilateral Defense Cooperation

Agreement with Malaysia and Indonesia to strengthen our joint efforts in fighting terrorism, piracy and other crimes and strengthen security measures in our common maritime areas,” he added.

The defense chief said that the agreement also reaffirms the continued efforts in enhancing existing cooperation among the three countries by strengthening mutual cooperation and collaboration among its militaries to address the growing non-traditional security challenges in the region.

Lorenzana assured that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is monitoring any possible terror threats.

“The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has long standing instructions to intensify its intelligence gathering and counter terrorism operations,” he said.

“We have also intensified our operations in the southern Philippines by strengthening our naval and air assets in support of our anti-terrorism drive. We have also instituted changes in the AFP leadership, placing people with extensive experience in the Central and Western Mindanao areas,” he added.

Earlier, the AFP installed Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez as commander of the AFP’s Western Mindanao Command or Wesmincom which is the primary unit tasked to defeat the terrorists in southern Philippines.

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AFP confirms ISIS threats

By JUN I. LEGASPI

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) seconded the warning aired by a top official of the United States military about the risk of Islamic State attacks in the Philippines, stressing that such threat is constantly monitored by security officials.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., said that the military is pro-actively addressing the threat of terrorism in the country.

The same risk, Padilla said, prompted the AFP to focus on combating local terrorist groups, particularly in southern Philippines.

Padilla said currently, there are 51 military battalions operating against

the Abu Sayyaf, Maute group, the Ansar Al-Khilafa Philippines (AKP), -- which have pledged allegiance with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and other terror groups, in Mindanao.

"This looming threat is not unknown to the AFP and is continuously monitored. It is also the reason why we have prioritized addressing the threat posed by local terrorist groups and extremists particularly those that have openly pledge allegiance to the Daesh terrorists in the country," said Padilla.

"The threat of terrorism is a matter continuously addressed proactively by the security sector," he added.

On Thursday, Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of the US Pacific Command, warned of increasing terrorist threats in Asia as ISIS fighters

are now returning to their home countries.

Harris said that as ISIS loses territory in the Middle East, radicalized fighters from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are likely to target their native countries.

The warning follows a similar warning from a Jakarta-based think tank in October, which said the main danger lies in the strife-torn southern Philippines where a handful of Islamic extremists from the ASG, the Maute group and AKP, have sworn allegiance to IS.

Southeast Asia -- parts of which have long struggled with Islamic militancy -- suffered its first IS attack in January last year when extremists launched a deadly suicide bombing and gun assault in Jakarta, leaving four attackers and four civilians dead.

IS-linked militants also killed 20 hostages in a restaurant in Bangladesh last year in one of the deadliest such incidents in the country.

The AFP has called on the public to remain vigilant to thwart any attempt from the terrorists to disrupt peace.

"This is also the basis

for our call on the public to always remain vigilant, alert and observant of their environment. By working together, we heightened our security posture and become better prepared to meet this security challenge," said Padilla.

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2 PINOYS HELD BY ABU SAYYAF RESCUED, BUT 3 INDONESIANS ABDUCTED

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Military authorities on Friday said soldiers had rescued two Filipino kidnap victims held by Abu Sayyaf bandits on Thursday.

But the good news was overshadowed when Western Mindanao Command chief Maj.

Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. also reported that three Indonesians had been abducted on the same day off Sulu.

The Indonesians were among the six crew of a Sandakan-registered fishing vessel who were initially reported

missing after an attack by armed men in the sea borders of the Philippines and Malaysia.

The three were identified as Hamdan Bin Salim, Subandu Bin Sattu and Sudarling Samansung based on the list provided by the Indonesian Police At-

taché, according to Lt. Colonel Raphael Alano, the acting Westmincom spokesperson.

Galvez said those rescued on Thursday were Esteban Janamjam, 49, of General Santos City; and Dulce Almers, 50, of Apo Beach in Santa Cruz,

Davao del Sur.

"They were rescued in Indanan, Sulu. They were in captivity for two months," Galvez said.

He said Janamjam and Almers were abducted on Oct. 26 while fishing off Pangutaran Island in Sulu. —JULIE ALIPALA INQ

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Trillanes: Noynoy administration OK'd AFP, PNP pay hike

By MARVIN SY

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV called on the Duterte administration to stop taking credit for the increase in the salaries of the military and policemen, claiming this was due to Executive Order 201 issued by former president Benigno Aquino III on Feb. 19, 2016.

He alleged that the pay increase enjoyed by members of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines this year represents the second tranche of that order.

The first tranche was for civilian personnel and the allowances of soldiers, like the provisional allowance, officers' allowance and hazard pay. The mid-year bonus was also included and sourced from the 2016 national budget.

"President Duterte has nothing to do with this. His promise to double the salaries of soldiers and policemen remains an unfulfilled promise," Trillanes said yesterday.

"Our military and police personnel should be aware that their allowances, together with the salaries of all government employees, have significantly increased since 2016, and will con-

tinue to increase until 2019," he added.

The second tranche kicked in last Jan. 1 while the third and fourth tranches would be implemented in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

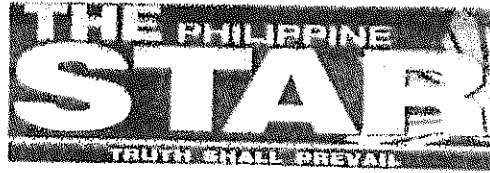
Under the second tranche, the military, police and other uniformed personnel would receive an increase in their monthly provisional allowance ranging from P547 to P35,260 per month. The officers' allowance would range from P3,000 to P18,000.

Trillanes raised his point in reaction to a statement issued last week by Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief, expressing the military personnel's gratitude to Duterte for granting the increase in their compensation.

Duterte ordered the pay increase during the 3rd quarter last year and has promised a doubling of pay before his six-year term ends.

But during the congressional deliberations on the 2017 national budget last year, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno admitted that there were no funds to carry out the promised increases in one lump sum.

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Ex-military officer drowns

A retired general who once led the campaign against Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Maguindanao drowned in Batangas on Wednesday.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo showed that former Marine Brig. Gen. Cesario Atienza, 61, was swimming in Batangas Bay in Barangay Sta. Clara Ilaya in Batangas City when the accident occurred.

Atienza was declared dead on arrival at the Golden Gate General Hospital.

Atienza, who served as 2nd Marine Brigade and deputy commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command, was a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Philippine Soldiers or TOPs award of the Metrobank Foundation.

– Jaime Laude

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MNLF men released

At least 28 members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who were arrested at a military checkpoint in Marawi City on Tuesday were released on Thursday night "upon the intercession of the Office of the President."

Emmanuel Fontanilla, MNLF spokesman, said the armed men were in a convoy of four vehicles on their way to Saguiran, Lanao del Norte when they were intercepted in Barangay Matampay.

The soldiers seized a machine gun, assorted rifles, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and ammunition from the group.

Fontanilla said they coordinated with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process for the release of their men.

– Perseus Echeminada

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REDS WARY AS PEACE TALKS RESUME IN ROME

By Karlos Manlupig
@kmanlupigINO

ROME—Philippine government and communist rebel negotiators resumed peace talks here on Thursday, with the insurgents saying they supported President Duterte's plan for a shift to the federal system but warning that alleged government violations of a human rights accord might prompt them to terminate a monthslong ceasefire.

Government officials led by Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. and guerrilla leaders shook hands in a show of unity at a hotel in the Italian capital before resuming the negotiations, which both sides acknowledged would be tough.

Special envoy Elisabeth Slattum from Norway, which has been brokering the talks, also attended.

The venue was shifted from the Norwegian capital, Oslo, which Philippine officials said would be too cold.

Durable negotiated truce

"Although there are still unresolved issues, with regard to commitments to releases of political prisoners, commitments on a bilateral ceasefire, which will both be subjects of discussion during the round of talks, we commend the parties for doing exactly that, for working together," Slattum said.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said the government panel would seek to turn separate ceasefires declared by President Duterte and the guerrillas in August into a more durable negotiated truce.

But his rebel counterpart, Fidel Agcaoili, was less optimistic, saying "the prospect for

forging a bilateral ceasefire agreement has grown dim."

Agcaoili said the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the umbrella group of the local communist movement, had raised a number of complaints, including alleged government breaches of a 1998 accord on respecting human rights and another pact on the safety of guerrilla consultants.

He said the complaints, including the failure to release nearly 400 detainees the rebels consider political prisoners, made extending a five-month ceasefire "untenable."

The guerrillas also expressed concern over Mr. Duterte's brutal crackdown on illegal drugs, which has left more than 6,000 suspects dead, and his decision to allow the burial of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani in November.

'Brutal, reckless'

Agcaoili said innocent people had been killed in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs "due to brutal, reckless and indiscriminate methods employed by the police in its antidrug operations."

He said Mr. Duterte should shift his priority to solving the larger problem of poverty through social and economic reforms, which are the main focus of this week's round of talks.

The insurgents have accused the military of violating a ceasefire by occupying schools, village halls and other civilian areas and conducting illegal searches, interrogations and surveillance of suspected rebel supporters.

The military has denied the accusations.

The rebels said they supported the shift to a federal system, although NDFP consultant Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said implementing socioeconomic and political reforms was crucial to their support.

"The NDFP is willing to maintain its alliance with the [government] and the Duterte administration in particular by cooperating in the founding of a Federal Republic of the Philippines, the creation of a parliamentary system and the making of a new Constitution," Sison said, adding that the Rome talks offered an opportunity for the examination of both the strengths and ills of a unitary and federal forms of government.

"A federal system of government is not necessarily good or better than [the unitary system], especially when it carries over from an already rotten unitary form of state certain malignancies and does not have constitutional guarantees against the penchant of the oligarchy for puppetry, dictatorship, graft and corruption, dynasty-building and warlordism," he said.

Political reforms

Sison said the negotiators were making headway in the discussions on social and economic reforms.

He said the negotiators had already "fleshed out" a "common outline" of social and economic reforms and the two sides could reach agreement on how to accelerate unification of their drafts before they moved to a fourth round of talks.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ

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Reds divided over peace talks issues

By Francisco Tuyay

THE communist movement is again racked with divisions with at least three factions seeking to prevail in the ongoing peace talks in Rome, reliable sources told the Manila Standard.

The sources said Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. "Joma" Sison and NDF chief Luis Jalandoni are at logger-head against spouses Benito and Wilma Tiamzon and a separate group of NPA top leader Jorge "Ka Onis" Madlos.

"It appears that they are not united on some key issues," said the source who is privy to ongoing debates in communist movement. *Next page*

Reds...

From A1

"Joma and Jalandoni really want to make a negotiated political settlement with the Duterte government, but the Tiamzons are only making use of the peace talks for the release of all political prisoners. Madlos, on the other hand, wants the armed struggle to topple the government by violent means," he added.

The sources noted that there is even growing criticism of the Tiamzons who supposedly flew business class on an Emirates flight to Rome on Jan.

14 while other members of their negotiating panel got economy seats for the 3rd rounds of peace talks with the Duterte administration.

"The Tiamzon couple boarded business class on EK 335 flight. The other members of the NDF negotiating panel got economy tickets on board Royal Dutch Airlines (KL 808) flight," one of the sources said.

The peace talks resumed early this week between the communists and government led by chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III in tandem with Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Secretary Jesus Dureza.

Bello, also Secretary of the Depart-

ment of Labor and Employment, and his team has high hopes the ongoing talks would be successful despite recurring disagreements on some major issues.

As a good start, the government looks forward to the signing of a bilateral ceasefire agreement that will supersede the existing unilateral ceasefire declared in August 2016 by both sides.

But, in Rome, Norwegian Special Envoy Elisabeth Slattum said members of both panels have shown great willingness, dedication and courage to work for peace in the Philippines.

Seeing the draft documents of the third round-of-talks agenda of both pan-

els, Slattum said GRP and the NDFP are ambitious and want a better future for the Filipinos. Based on the drafts, Slattum is positive both panels are a few steps closer to achieving a common goal of a just and lasting peace.

She also cited a few achievements of the peace talks from the first round. In just a few months, Slattum said, the parties already made history with each side's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire, the release of 19 NDFP consultants that boost the peace talks and the reaffirmation of the previous agreements to accelerate a final peace agreement.

For the third round, Slattum hoped both panels would reach consensus on

the socioeconomic, political and constitutional agenda items to address the root causes of the conflict.

Amid unresolved issues on releases and the bilateral ceasefire, Slattum urged them to jointly solve problems and work together for a common goal.

Slattum reminded that a peace process is not a zero sum game where there is one winner and one loser.

"A successful peace process is when both parties come out on the winning side," she said, adding, however, that either side may not perfectly content of the outcomes because some decisions they have to make will not be popular. **With PNA**

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PH eyes permanent ceasefire deal as talks with Reds open

ROME - The Philippines expressed hope Thursday of securing a permanent ceasefire deal with communist rebels waging one of Asia's longest insurgencies, as peace talks resumed in Italy.

The communists have been waging a "national democratic revolution" since 1968 to overthrow a capitalist system that has created one of Asia's biggest rich-poor divides and claimed 30,000 lives, ac-

ording to the military.

A new round of negotiations began in Rome on Thursday, with the government's chief negotiator Silvestre Bello saying long-standing contentious issues could be "hurdled".

"I am one with President (Rodrigo) Duterte's optimism that in this round of talks, we are able to finalize and approve the joint ceasefire agreement," Bello said at the opening of the talks.

"There are reasons to

hope we can hurdle the task."

Duterte, 71, said it was his "dream" to secure a lasting peace deal within his six-year term.

After assuming office in June last year, the self-styled socialist launched the peace process and appointed three communists to his cabinet.

Both sides agreed to a temporary ceasefire during talks in Norway last August.

The government said

then it was aiming for a final peace deal within 12 months.

However the communists said this week they would need at least two more years after negotiators agreed on a series of economic and political reforms before even beginning "serious discussions" on a final peace pact.

On Thursday, the communists' chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili pointed out "serious obstacles" in the

talks as he reiterated the rebels' demand that nearly 400 jailed guerillas be released.

Duterte last year released 18 top leaders to kickstart the peace process but had refused to free the rest, calling them his "aces" in a "poker game".

"It is a matter of justice and an obligation of the (government)," Agcaoili said.

"Neither should the political prisoners be treated

as trump cards to extract concessions from the (communists). Such conduct is bound to further erode mutual trust and confidence."

In the week-long talks in Rome, negotiators will discuss some of the toughest and most complicated issues involving political, economic and constitutional reforms at the heart of the communists' grievances.

Despite the challenges, the communists understand



Bello

their best chance for securing most of their goals is during the presidency of Duterte, who has pivoted the nation's foreign policy away from the United States towards China.

AFF

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FEARING FOR HIS LIFE

SUSPECT WANTS TO BE STATE WITNESS

By **Gil C. Cabacungan**
@gcbacunganINQ

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said on Friday that the police officer named as the key suspect in the abduction and murder of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo has applied to turn state witness, saying he feared for his life under the custody of the Philippine National Police.

Aguirre said no decision had yet been made on the petition of SPO3 Ricky Sta Isabel, who had been staying at the National Bureau of Investigation until he was transferred to PNP headquarters on Friday. He is accused of leading a team

of rogue officers who kidnapped Jee and then strangled him in October last year, and later extorted ransom from his wife.

He said Public Attorney's Office (PAO) Chief Persida Acosta had moved to file a motion in court to appeal for Sta Isabel's return to the NBI.

"The wife made a formal request for PAO lawyers. He (Sta Isabel) has no lawyer because his private lawyer withdrew due to death threats," Aguirre said. He said the PAO lawyers would just review what Sta Isabel had initially provided to his previous lawyer.

"It's obvious that he wants to stay with the NBI. He fears

somebody else and it's not the NBI," Aguirre said.

Since Sta Isabel and the other suspects did not submit affidavits, their only option was to seek a reinvestigation to submit their statements before the Department of Justice (DOJ) handed down its resolution.

Acosta said the PAO would file a motion seeking Sta Isabel's return to NBI custody for "security reasons." But it was too early to declare whether Sta Isabel would be made a state witness because the DOJ-NBI was still investigating the case and Sta Isabel's culpability in Jee's kidnapping and murder. INQ

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The Manila Times

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AMBULANCE FOR MARINES Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) General Manager Alexander F. Balutan (4th from left) hands over the symbolic key of a brand new ambulance from the PCSO Ambulance Donation Program to Maj Gen Andre M. Costales Jr. AFP (5th from left) Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps during a simple ceremony held at the PCSO head office in Mandaluyong City, on Friday. With them are (from left to right) Manuel Fraginal Sr., Executive Assistant VI at the PCSO Office of the General Manager; Raymondo Liwag, PCSO Chief of Staff; and Edwin Mackay, consultant for branch operations; Philippine Navy Chief Surgeon Col. Jocelyn Turla, Marine Corps Surgeon Lt. Col. Reynaldo Capuz, and Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations Lt. Col. Joseph Dominic Conta. PCSO PHOTO BY JOSEPH MUEGO

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At Ground Level

By SATUR C. OCAMPO



Rekindling optimism over GRP-NDFP peace talks

Negotiate in a non-adversarial way. Resolve differences and overcome obstacles. Focus on the substantial agenda of social, economic and political reforms that address the root causes of the armed conflict and thus move decisively forward to a just and lasting peace.

Invoking these vital principles, the two panels in the revived GRP-NDFP peace talks under the Duterte government rekindled optimism at the opening of the third round of formal negotiations now ongoing in Rome.

To recall: the talks took off with high expectations in August. But as they advanced in the second round in October, reservations emerged over unfulfilled promises by the GRP, which spawned frustrations in the NDFF ranks toward the end of 2016, threatening to erode mutual trust and confidence.

The cause of frustration was the backtracking of President Duterte, after receiving adverse advice from members of his Cabinet, from his May 2016 offer to issue a general amnesty proclamation (to be concurred in by Congress) for the release of about 400 political prisoners. He has pressed for a bilateral ceasefire agreement in lieu of the reciprocal unilateral ceasefire declarations of the two sides beginning on Aug. 27, 2016.

In Rome, the tone for non-adversarial negotiations was set by Jose Ma. Sison, NDFF chief political consultant. He cited his phone conversation with President Duterte in December wherein they agreed to take "earnest steps" to ensure the success of the peace talks, including a face-to-face meeting in a neutral venue after the Rome round.

Reiterating gratefulness for Duterte's release of 19 NDFF consultants in August that enabled them to participate directly in the peace talks, Sison said the President's action was essentially in compliance with two previously signed agreements: the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). He added that the NDFF continues to expect the release of hundreds of political detainees, also in compliance with the CARHRIHL. (This accord mandates the GRP to review all cases of political prisoners and to "immediately release" those found to have been arrested, detained, charged and convicted of common crimes contrary to the Hernandez "political offense" doctrine, upheld several times by the Supreme Court.)

mga Bayani, Sison expressed the NDFF's concern on the adverse consequence on the victims' compensation. However, President Duterte has responded positively to the appeal by SELDA (the organization of former political detainees that initiated the Hawaii class suit) for his intercession in speeding up the processing of applications, and the payment of compensation, of 75,000 HR violation claimants under RA 10368 passed in 2013.

Positively assessing the progress on the substantive agenda, Sison pointed out that the reciprocal working committees on social and economic reforms can make "significant headway" in the Rome talks towards unifying their respective drafts of a Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) and setting bilateral draft meetings before the fourth round of formal talks. If the meetings progress well, the CASER may be readied for

He likewise pointed out that reciprocal working groups on political and constitutional reforms (CAPC) have exchanged their initial drafts a comprehensive agreement "ahead schedule." These drafts can be enriched and polished while the CASER is being negotiated. Once the CASER is signed, he added, the formal negotiation of the CAPCR may be completed in three months.

The advantage for the Filipino people of the two reform agreements being completed and signed by the panels and approved by the principals (GRP president and the NDFF chair) within two years, Sison explained, is these can be implemented in the remaining four years of President Duterte's term. If implemented to the satisfaction of the people, these accords shall lay full basis for forging a Comprehensive Agreement on the End of Hostilities and Disposition of forces by 2021-22. Thereafter a mutual amnesty can be issued for the benefit of both sides' leaders, officers and troops.

The GRP panel head, Silvestre B. III exuded hope that the two parties will hurdle the tasks set to be accomplished. He urged consideration for President Duterte's wish that a bilateral ceasefire agreement be finalized and approved in the third round of negotiations. I watch how this issue can be resolved.

Norway's Ambassador Elizabet Slattum, the third-party facilitator of the peace talks, responded with elation. Thumbing-up the panels' preparatory work and show of amity and optimism at the opening ceremonies, she said

“It’s important that at every round, the two panels review and require compliance with already existing agreements,” Sison emphasized. In August, the panels reaffirmed the CARHRIHL, the JASIG and 10 other previously signed agreements. The two accords are much more potent legal aces for the NDFP vis-a-vis Duterte’s claim that keeping the political prisoners in jail constitutes his ace in the peace negotiations; the latter even evokes a bad taste of injustice.

Besides the provision against filing trumped-up common-crime charges rather than rebellion or related political offenses, the CARHRIHL also binds the GRP to take the necessary steps towards enabling the victims of human rights violations under the Marcos dictatorship to receive monetary compensation that they won in a class suit filed in Hawaii in 1986. In view of Duterte’s having caused the political rehabilitation of Marcos by burying his remains at the Libingan ng

“We commend the parties for doing exactly that: working together, despite disagreements, frustrations and outside pressure, showing courage, striving for progress on the substantive agenda items, with special focus on CASER in this round.”

Describing the peace negotiations as “joint problem-solving, working together towards a common goal,” she added: “If the peace talks fall apart, both parties lose, everybody loses.” She was seconded by the Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Erik Forner, who came to the Rome talks. “To overcome differences and to make lasting peace is not easy,” he remarked, but expressed confidence in the two parties’ commitment to move forward in the negotiations.

* * *

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★

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

ONLINE NEWS

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73rd IB has new commander

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jan 20):

Maj. Gen. Rafael C Valencia, Commander 10th Infantry Division presided the turn-over of command ceremony of the Battalion Commander of 73rd Infantry Battalion on Thursday (Jan. 19, 2017), held at Headquarters 73IB, Barangay Felis, Malita, Davao Occidental.

Lt. Col. Marion T Angcao assumed as the new commanding officer of 73IB while the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Felix Ronnie B. Babac will assume as chief of operations in the Division of Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom), Panacan, Davao City.

During the ceremony, Lt. Babac received various recognition from different stakeholders for his outstanding accomplishment in his area of operations.

To cap his stint as battalion commander, he was selected by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Incorporated (PMAAAI) to be the Cavalier Awardee (PMA Outstanding Alumni) for army operations for the year 2016 which will be awarded during the PMA Alumni Homecoming at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City on February 18, 2017.

It can be remembered that Lt. Babac was credited for dismantling Guerilla Front 75 in 2015 after a fierce encounter of his troops against the rebels on February 15, 2015 in Alabel, Sarangani Province and massive surrender of rebels in 2015.

He also shared 17 times 73IB success story to various members of Philippine Army around the country.

The said activity was attended by sub-unit Commanders, elected and former officials of Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental and Sarangani Province, partners, different stakeholders and Chief Offices Head of LGUs. (73IB)

<http://news.pia.gov.ph>

Negros Occidental provincial gov't, Army hold assessment, review of program for former rebels

From the Philippine News Agency (Jan 20):

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and the Philippine Army conducted on Friday a review and assessment of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) for former rebels.

The activity, held at the Capitol Social Hall here, was attended by about 40 former rebels from different towns and cities in the province benefiting from the program that seeks to provide psycho-social and socio-economic security and guide them to become productive members of the society.

Major General Jon Aying, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said the assessment included a participative survey and discussions among the former rebels.

The results will determine the program's impact, effectivity, and sustainability, he added.

Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Ma. Lina Sanogal, who is also the action officer of Provincial Peace Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

Integration and Development Unit, said the presence of the participants was a positive indicator.

Sanogal gave an orientation on the programs and projects of the provincial government designed to benefit the former rebels, help the community, and protect the environment.

For his part, Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr. expressed his appreciation to the former rebels for their participation.

"The provincial government is always here for you, ready to help you," the governor said.

He also urged them to send their children to school since the educated have more opportunities.

After the activity, the participants received food packs, canned goods, water containers, and other household items.

The CLIP was initially spearheaded by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as part of the government's peace and development efforts.

The CLIP implementation is in partnership with the local government units, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and civil society organizations.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph>

Soldiers are peace keepers, social workers

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jan 20):

Soldiers are peace builders, people's protectors and social workers.

Public Affairs Office head Lt. Col. Ericson Rosana of the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division said that the roles of the division's soldiers are focused more on the civil military operations.

"We are now giving emphasis on roles of the soldiers here as peace builders, people's protectors and social workers based on our Development Support and Security Plan-Kapayapaan," he said.

During the meeting of the Capiz Association of Government Public Information Officers, Rosana explained that the Armed Forces of the Philippines' DSSP-Kapayapaan which covers the period from 2017 to 2022 replaced their previous 6-year Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan that expired in December 31, 2016."

Rosana also said that the core of the DSSP "Kapayapaan" are on the neutralization of terrorists and extremist groups, peace process with the New People's Army for bilateral peace talk, support operation to law enforcement especially against illegal drugs and criminality, and contribution to nation building.

He also stressed that four of the 10 provinces in 3ID's area of coverage, namely in Regions 6, 7 and 18, are still being worked out to make these villages insurgency-free within this year.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph>

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

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

Army rescues flood-affected residents in Caraga

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jan 20):

As the tail end of a cold front brought floodings in several municipalities in Caraga region and caused displacement of local residents, the Fourth Infantry Division (4ID) of Philippine Army along with its infantry battalions in the provinces has taken the action and rescued the communities from risks and harm.

Major General Benjamin Madrigal Jr., commanding general of the 4ID, Philippine Army, has assured the general public that the army will protect the lives of the people and ensure their safety at all times, especially during calamity/emergency.

"The Philippine Army is committed to serve and protect the people of the land. In times of calamity/disaster, we will never hesitate to extend help and assistance to the communities. We take pro-active measures to safeguard the lives of the people and keep them safe," stressed Madrigal.

MGen. Madrigal also underlined that despite heavy rains and floods, the different battalions in the provinces have actively responded to the flood-affected communities and saved lives of hundreds of individuals.

It can be recalled that on Thursday, the personnel of Charlie company 23rd Infantry Battalion led by commanding officer 2Lt Roel Maglalang, together with Esperanza, Agusan del Sur vice mayor Eric Rey Siohan, Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (MLGOO) Eugene Seraspe, Search and Rescue Agusan del Sur (SARAS) personnel Jeffrey Austriro and municipal administrator Michelle Templado conducted disaster visitation at Barangay Hawilian and assisted the flood-affected families and ensured their safety.

On the same date, the group also led the conduct of evacuation of the flood-affected populace of barangay Batohon, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur as the floodwaters continue to rise and may risk the lives of the residents.

On Jan. 19, 2017, the same team also helped motorists in their transportation thru pump boats as the Agusan River overflowed at Batohon-Hawilian, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur road going to Las Nieves of Agusan del Norte, which was not then passable by light vehicles.

Also, in response to the alarming rise of water level in La Paz and Loreto, Agusan del Sur due to continuous rains, the 401st Brigade under the command of Col. Cristobal Zaragoza has deployed a team with response vehicle at the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC); emplaced an officer from 26IB to municipal DRRMCs; deployed a platoon in Loreto area for ready response operations; deployed another officer that leads section of 26 Infantry Brigade with vehicle in La Paz area for disaster response operation.

Meanwhile, the Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battallion deployed one team with officer and vehicle at RDRRMC for coordination and monitoring.

The 30IB commanding officer Lt. Col. Rico Amaro also attended the Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) meeting with other members of the PDRRMC/CDRRMC of Surigao City; conducted visitation and monitoring of the weather condition at PDRRMC Office in Surigao del Norte.

One squad led by 1Lt Ken Enciso has assisted the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), as well as the MDRRMO of Surigao del Norte in the repacking of relief goods.

With all these, the good commander also recognized the active collaboration of the different government agencies and concerned citizens to address the calamity that affects the communities in Caraga region.

He also reiterated that the Philippine Army would continue to give its best as they do their duties and responsibilities for the Filipino people.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph>

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

Trillanes: Duterte has nothing to do with military, police allowance increase

January 20, 2017-www.update.ph

"Our military and police personnel should be aware that their allowances, together with the salaries of all government employees, have significantly increased since 2016, and will continue to increase until 2019," Senator Antonio Trillanes IV said in a released statement. "This increase is actualized by EO (Executive Order) 201 signed by the previous administration. President Duterte has nothing to do with this. His promise to double the salaries of soldiers and policemen remains an unfulfilled promise," the Senator added.

Under the said executive order, the second tranche of increase in military and uniformed personnel's (MUP) monthly Provisional Allowance, Hazard Pay, Officer's Allowance; and salary of civilian government workers will be effective January 2017.

The first tranche of increase was implemented January 2016, third and fourth tranches will be implemented January 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Under the second tranche of increase, the monthly provisional allowance of a Private/Police Officer 1 will be raised from 342 to 700, from 4,092 to 8,661 for a First Lieutenant/Inspector, and 14,214 to 35,260 for the 4 Star General.

Hazard Pay will be 540 from 390.

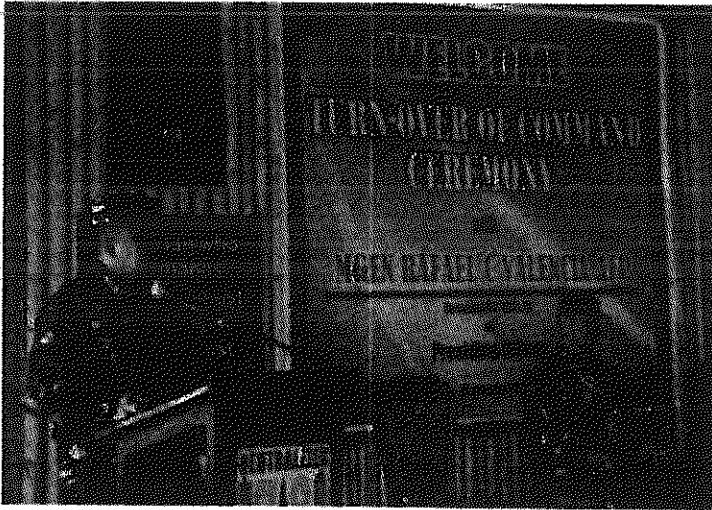
While the Officers' Allowance of a Captain/Senior Inspector will be raised from 1,000 to 3,000. For a 4 Star General allowance will be 18,000 from 9,000.

Meanwhile, President Duterte with his Executive Order No. 3, signed on September 2016, raised the Combat Duty Pay to fixed rate of 3,000 per month and Combat Incentive Pay to 300 per day but not over 3,000 per month.

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

LTC Angcao itinalagang Commander ng 73IB

Posted by **Lui Claudio** on January 20, 2017 at 3:04 PM-www.dwdd.com



Pinangunahan ni Major General Rafael C Valencia, Commander ng 10th Infantry Division ang "Change of Command Ceremony" ng 73rd Infantry Battalion (73IB) kahapon, ika-19 ng Enero 2017, sa Brgy Felis, Malita, Davao Occidental.

Itinalaga bilang bagong Commander ng 73IB si Lt. Col Marion T Angcao habang si Lt. Col. Felix Ronnie B Babac ay inilagay na Chief, Operation Division ng Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) sa Davao City.

Kinilala naman sa naturang okasyon ang dedikasyon sa serbisyo ni LTC BABAC, kung saan napili siya ng Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Incorporated (PMAAAI) na CAVALIER AWARDEE (PMA Outstanding Alumni) para sa army operations sa taong 2016.

Matatandaang si LTC BABAC ang nanguna sa pagkawasak ng Guerilla Front 75 noong 2015 matapos ang naging engkwentro ng mga sundalo sa mga rebelde noong ika-15 ng Pebrero 2015 sa Alabel, Saranggani na nagbunsod sa sunud-sunod na pagsuko ng mga rebelde.

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Dalawang Filipino Hostage ng ASG, nasagip sa Sulu

Posted by **Lui Claudio** on January 20, 2017 at 10:02 AM

Nasagip na ang dalawang Filipinong hostage ng Abu Sayyaf kahapon ng umaga sa Indanan, Sulu.

Nakipag-ugnayan ang Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS) sa Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) at kinilala ang mga pinalayang hostages na sina Dolcesimo Alimires at Esteban Janamjanm.

Sa pangunguna ni Lt. Col. Arnel Baccay ng Air Intelligence Service Group at ni Lt. Col. Yusop Hassan ng Joint Intelligence Task Force Sulu, ay nai-rescue ang mga hostages sa Barangay Tagbak, Indanan.

Agad namang dinala sa JTFS headquarters sa Camp Teodulfo Bautista ang mga biktima.

Inamin ng mga biktima na may kasama silang dalawang escort mula sa ASG at ihahatid sila sa panigbagong area sa Parang, Sulu nang biglang dumating ang tropa ng gobyerno.

Agad namang tumakas ang dalawang escort matapos nilang matunugang may presensya ng government forces sa lugar. **-EPJA**