

*Army Vision: By 2228, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



# **ARMY**

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

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

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

**22 January 2017**

**Sunday**

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

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**24- HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST**

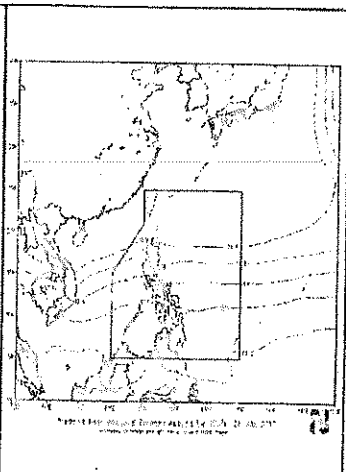
ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 21 JANUARY 2017

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

**SYNOPSIS: NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON.**

**FORECAST:** CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS IS EXPECTED OVER THE REGIONS OF EASTERN VISAYAS, CARAGA AND DAVAO. CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT RAINS WILL PREVAIL OVER CAGAYAN VALLEY AND BICOL REGION. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED LIGHT RAINS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF LUZON. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS WILL PREVAIL OVER THE REST OF VISAYAS AND OF MINDANAO.

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 INAASAHAN SA MGA REHIYON NG SILANGANG KABISAYAAN, CARAGA AT DAVAO. MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINANG MGA PAG-ULAN ANG IIRAL SA CAGAYAN VALLEY AT KABIKULAN. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MAHIHINANG MGA PAG-ULAN ANG MARARANASAN SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG LUZON. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG AND IIRAL SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG KABISAYAAN AT NG MINDANAO.

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:**

<b>MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 1:50 PM TODAY ..... 30.6 °C	<b>MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 6:00 AM TODAY ..... 86 %
<b>MINIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 6:00 AM TODAY ..... 20.5 °C	<b>MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 1:50 PM TODAY ..... 50 %
<b>TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)</b>	<b>ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION OVER METRO MANILA</b>
<b>HIGH TIDE TODAY:</b> 5:38 PM ..... 0.66 METER	<b>SUNSET/ SUNRISE</b>
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 2:07 AM ..... 0.25 METER	<b>SUNSET TODAY:</b> 5:50 PM
<b>HIGH TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 5:22 AM ..... 0.27 METER	<b>SUNRISE TOMORROW:</b> 6:25 AM
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 9:33 AM ..... 0.23 METER	<b>SUNSET TOMORROW:</b> 5:50 PM
	<b>MOONRISE/ MOONSET &amp; ILLUMINATION</b>
	<b>MOONRISE TOMORROW:</b> 1:27 AM
	<b>MOONSET TOMORROW:</b> 1:18 PM
	<b>ILLUMINATION TOMORROW:</b> 34 %

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUERIES, PLEASE CALL AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 927-1335 OR LOG ON TO [WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH](http://WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH).

PREPARED BY: LADC

CHECKED BY: CFP



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

ISSUED AT : 5:00 PM 21 JANUARY 2017  
 VALID BEGINNING : 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

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

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: LADC

CHECKED BY: CFP

22 January 2017

THE ARMY  
INQUIRER

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# TRUMP LEAVES WORLD IN JITTERS

STORY BY AP AND REUTERS

**Countries around the world greeted the inauguration of US President Donald Trump with caution and uncertainty after he promised an "America first" policy, but offered no specifics. Only Russia, accused of meddling in US elections, appears to be in a party mood.**

A4



## FROM A1

WASHINGTON—The world has reacted with caution at US President Donald Trump's inaugural speech, where he promised an "America first" policy, but appeared to offer no specifics about his country's place in the world.

There was trepidation in China and Japan, sorrow and anger in Mexico, cork-popping in Moscow and disappointment in Britain, among others.

The billionaire businessman and reality television star—the first president who had never held political office or high military rank—promised to stir a "new national pride" and protect America from the "ravages" of countries he says have stolen US jobs.

"This American carnage stops right here," Trump declared. In a warning to the world, he said, "From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this moment on, it's going to be America first."

Here are some of the global responses to Friday's historic event:

### Mexico

Perhaps no country was watching the speech more closely than Mexico. Trump has made disparaging remarks about immigrants who come to the US illegally and sought to pressure companies not to set up shop in Mexico by threatening a border tariff on goods manufactured there and exported to the US.

So Trump's talk of "protect(ing) our borders," "America first" and "buy American and hire American" had particular resonance in America's southern neighbor.

Ricardo Anaya Cortes, president of the conservative opposition National Action Party, called for "the unity of all Mexicans, unity in the face of this protectionist, demagogic and protectionist

speech we just heard."

The US is Mexico's largest commercial partner, buying some 80 percent of its \$532 billion in exports in 2015. It is the second-largest market for US exports.

"At least the word 'Mexico' was not heard in the speech. Nevertheless, one can expect the United States to launch a hyperprotectionist project," said Ilan Semo Groman, a researcher at Iberoamericana University.

If Trump truly moves to block or drive away US investment in Mexico, Semo said Mexico should focus its commercial efforts on other countries.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said his government would "establish a respectful" dialogue with Washington, but stressed that "na-



DAY ONE US President Donald Trump, flanked by Vice President Mike Pence and Staff Secretary Rob Porter, signs his first executive orders at the Oval Office in the White House on Friday.

—REUTERS

tional interest and the protection of Mexicans" remained top priorities going forward.

### China

Chinese state-run nationalist tabloid, the Global Times, said the speech indicated that the US and China would inevitably face trade tensions. In a commentary on Saturday following Trump's inauguration, it said "dramatic changes" lay ahead for the US and the global economic order.

"Undoubtedly, the Trump administration will be igniting many 'fires' on its front door and around the world. Let's wait and see when it will be China's turn," it said.

The paper noted that Trump blamed foreign trade policies for failing to put "America first," and said trade tensions seemed "inevitable within the

four years ahead."

It said it expected that the Trump administration, in seeking to bring factories back to the US from China, will use the US government's relations with Taiwan as "merely a bargaining chip for them to put trade pressure on China."

Domestic broadcasters were barred from screening Trump's inaugural speech live, with authorities perhaps fearful it might contain more attacks on the country's Communist party leaders.

### Russia

At the Telegraph building not far from the Kremlin, a group of nationalist activists put on a party to celebrate the victory of the man who has come to be seen as the Kremlin's candidate, with champagne and traditional Russian pies for guests.

However, there were more journalists at the party than genuine Trump enthusiasts and there was a sense that the jubilation was a little artificial.

While there was no doubt that the Russian political establishment are cautiously optimistic about relations under Trump, modern Russia is a largely apolitical country, and there was little sense of genuine excitement among ordinary Russians.

"We are ready to do our share of the work in order to improve the relationship," Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Facebook on Friday.

The Army of Russia shops in central Moscow offered all Americans 10 percent off merchandise on inauguration day, while the occasional restaurant offered a Trump burger or other gimmick.

While there were continued denials about Russian meddling in the election, there was also a pride in Russia's central place in the dialogue. One man wore a T-shirt with "You've been hacked" inscribed on it.

### Japan

In Tokyo, residents expressed worries that the "America first" policy would usher in an era of populism and protectionism at the expense of the rest of the world.

Retiree Kuninobu Inoue, who lived in the US in the 1990s, is concerned about trade frictions between Japan and the US citing Trump's decision to withdraw from the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Protectionist policies such as the withdrawal from TPP and renegotiation of North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) will have a negative impact on the global economy including Japan's, added Akio Mimura, head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stressed the importance of the Asia-Pacific region as a source of growth but also tensions.

"In the 21st century, while

the Asia-Pacific region is the source of the global economic growth, the security environment of the region is becoming more severe," he said in his message.

### Others

Pakistan expressed concern that Trump might target it for allegedly harboring militant insurgents while South Korea said it was worried that Washington would ask it to shoulder a bigger share of expenses in US forces on its land as a deterrent against the reclusive North.

Many were disappointed that Trump did not mention Afghanistan, with some warning that if the US stopped helping Kabul it would again fall into the hands of terrorists.

Australians found Trump's speech "very divisive," with The Australian newspaper's Foreign Editor Greg Sheridan writing: "Trump answered one big question with his inauguration address: There is to be no transition from campaign Trump to presidential Trump."

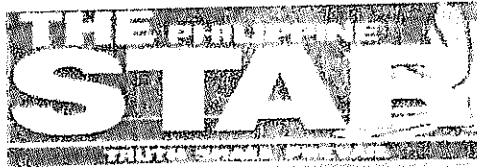
"And his inauguration address made it clear that he intends to govern just as he campaigned, taking swings at his opponents, extolling his populist mantras, speaking in the slightly weird argot of contemporary down market celebrity," he added.

Germany said it was preparing to shift its economic strategy toward Asia should the new US administration start a trade war with China, with vice chancellor Sigmar Gabriel warning of a "rough ride" hours after Trump was sworn in.

And British Prime Minister Theresa May did not send wishes to Trump before his swearing in, but opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn urged him to put the "misogyny and the racism" of his presidential campaign behind him.

Liberal Democrat leader, Tim Farron, branded Trump's trip to the presidency "the most divisive, vulgar and illiberal presidential campaign in memory." —REPORTS FROM AP AND REUTERS

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Page: 1

# Bato ready to resign

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

**Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa is willing to give up his post if President Duterte will ask him to do so.**

Dela Rosa issued the statement yesterday amid calls for his resignation following the killing of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-jo inside PNP headquarters at Camp Crame.

"Kung papayag ang Presidente, bababa ako (If the President will allow it, I will step down). Just wait and I will talk to the President," Dela Rosa told reporters during a shootfest at the Quezon City Police District headquarters at Camp Karingal.

Dela Rosa said he would personally ask the President if he was no longer satisfied with his performance.

He said there was no need for him to submit a resignation letter. "There is no need for such formality. I will just talk to him," Dela Rosa said.

On Friday, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, a staunch ally of Duterte, said the PNP chief should vacate his post to spare the President from further embarrassment.

Calls for Dela Rosa's resignation circulated on social media after he was spotted watching the Bryan Adams concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Thursday night amid the

Turn to Page 8

## Bato From Page 1

controversy that rocked the PNP.

Dela Rosa said skipping the concert would not bring back the Korean's life.

"The victim had been killed. Will the Korean come back to life if I decided not to watch the concert?" he said during the premiere night of a movie dedicated to the Special Action Force commandos who were killed in Mamasapano, Maguindanao in 2015.

He added that what's important is that the case has been solved with the arrest of



Sta. Isabel.

"What do they want me to do? For me to commit hara kiri? I would take my own life to make them happy?" Dela Rosa said.

"But hara kiri would hurt. Maybe if he goes with me, those who said that I should resign, let's do it together," he added.

When asked if his statement was in reply to Alvarez and other critics' call for him to quit, Dela Rosa said, "Yes. I will accommodate them."

"I don't know why the kill-

ing is being directed to me personally. We have several levels of command but still I'm not avoiding it because I'm the top PNP official," he said.

Three police officers have been linked to the kidnapping and murder of Jee.

Senior Police Officer 3 Ricky Sta. Isabel is considered the prime suspect as he allegedly strangled Jee at Camp Crame.

Sta. Isabel tagged his team leader at the PNP Anti-Illegal Drug Group, Supt. Rafael Dumlao III, as the one who ordered him to bring Jee's remains to a funeral parlor in Caloocan City.

Dela Rosa placed Dumlao under restrictive custody and reassigned him to the Headquarters Support Service on Friday.

The third policeman, Senior Police Officer 4 Roy Villegas, is also in the custody of the PNP.

The PNP took custody of Sta. Isabel from the National Bureau of Investigation after a warrant for his arrest was issued by the Angeles City Regional Trial Court Branch 58 for kidnapping for ransom with homicide.

Dela Rosa, based on the information that he received, said Sta. Isabel threatened to

pull down with him all the police officials involved in Jee's killing.

"He was threatening Dumlao and his fellow officers," Dela Rosa said.

"He is trying to make it appear that he is the least guilty," he added.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno said heads would roll as a result of Jee's killing.

Sueno vowed that all policemen involved in the murder would be held accountable for the crime.

### Birthday wish

The PNP chief said he has

one wish for his birthday - that all rogue policemen would reform.

"My wish is for the Lord to clear the minds of these policemen involved in syndicates," Dela Rosa said.

He turned 55 yesterday.

Dela Rosa expressed hope that police officers involved in drug deals and other illegal activities would mend their ways.

"I hope the Lord would reconstruct their brains," he said.

Dela Rosa said the controversy would not deter him from leading the government's war on drugs.

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### New 6th ID chief assumes post

Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega is the new commander of the 6th Infantry Division (ID) based in Maguindanao.

Dela Vega replaced Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez who was named chief of the Western Mindanao Command.

The change of command ceremony was presided by Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda at Camp Siongco on Thursday.

Dela Vega is a former commandant of the General Staff College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He served as commander of the 603rd Infantry Brigade, a unit of the 6th ID, before he was named assistant division commander.

He was also a former commander of Task Force Sulu based in Jolo.

– Michael Punongbayan, John Unson

22 January 2017



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## 27 arrested armed men indicted in Marawi City

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

**MARAWI CITY** – Twenty-seven armed men arrested by government troops at a military check point two days ago were indicted before the city prosecutor's officer on Thursday.

Col. Joselito Pastrana, head of the Army's 65th Infantry Battalion, said his men collared the 27 suspects aboard four vehicles while in possession of assorted high-powered firearms on the border of Barangays Matampay and Mipaga here on Tuesday.

He said that the soldiers collared the suspects after receiving information from a concerned citizen.

The leader of the group, Alim Abdulaziz Aminodin, claimed to be a field leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Pastrana said.

Seized from the suspects were high-

powered firearms including an M-60 machine gun, a Barrett rifle, an M-14 rifle, an M-1 Garand rifle, an M16 Bushmaster and several handguns, the Army official said.

The firearms were turned over to the Philippine National Police for ballistics tests, while the suspects were brought to the city police office, which subjected the suspects to inquest at the prosecutors' office Thursday.

Pastrana said Aminodin admitted gathering his men for a travel to Lanao del Norte to rescue his daughter, who was allegedly kidnapped by a rebel commander in Lanao del Norte.

Brig. Gen. Roseller Murillo, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade based here, said the identities of the armed men were being ascertained to determine whether they were indeed MNLF members or associated with terror groups like the Maute group.

22 January 2017

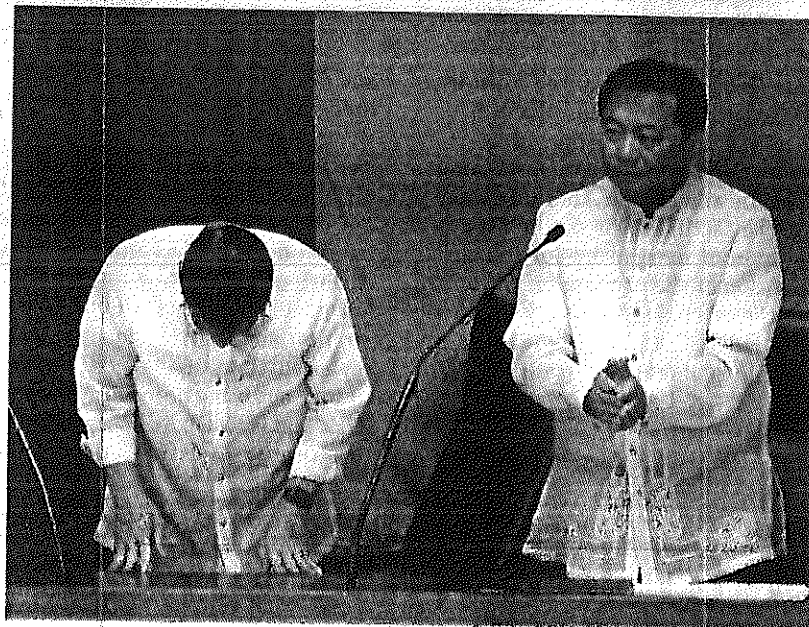
**BusinessMirror**

Page. A1

# EMPTY THREAT?

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ & RENE ACOSTA

**T**HE leader of the House of Representatives has assured the public that President Duterte will not push through with his recent pronouncement that he will declare martial law.



PRESIDENT Duterte bows after delivering his first State of the Nation Address on July 25, 2016, as Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez applauds. Alvarez assured the public that Duterte will not push through with his recent pronouncement that he will declare martial law. "I know him personally, and I sincerely believe he will not declare martial law," he said. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, an administration ally, issued the assurance after Duterte, for the second time in a span of six months, said he will declare martial law if the drug situation in the country worsens.

"I know him personally, and I sincerely believe he will not declare martial law," Alvarez said.

Article VII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution has laid down very strict requirements before martial law can be declared by the President. The provision is clear: Martial law can only be declared in cases of invasion or rebellion, and only when public safety demands.

Moreover, Alvarez said Duterte, as a lawyer, is well aware of the legal requirements, as well as limitations, regarding such a declaration.

"That is why, I believe all the apprehension about the prospect of declaration of martial law is largely unfounded," Alvarez added.

### **Exasperated**

NATIONAL Police chief Director General Ronald M. de la Rosa said he believed that the Commander

in Chief was forced to reissue his statement about martial law in exasperation over the prevailing crime and security situation, highlighted by the illegal-drugs problem and the plague of terrorism in the South.

"By all means, we will support the President if he declares martial law. So long as I am the chief of the PNP, I will do everything so that it will not be abused," dela Rosa said in a news briefing earlier this week.

"He [Duterte] said it because of frustration, apparently because of the situation—in anger—but I doubt if he would do it. But if ever he will do that option, that option is left to the Chief Executive, and we will support him," the top police officer added.

### **Clapping**

AT Camp Aguinaldo, reactions from soldiers, however, vary.

"Let them do the clapping, let them have the limelight, and we will silently work doing our fair share," one senior officer said, referring to dela Rosa's readily

CONTINUED ON A2



# Empty threat?

CONTINUED FROM A1

available offer of support to the iron-fisted rule and the military's ongoing campaign against terrorism in Mindanao.

As Duterte has declared, if he has to put the country under martial rule, terrorism—or the activities perpetrated by the different terror groups like the Maute, Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Ansar al Khilafa Philippines and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters—and the need to decimate these groups have to be the primary reasons.

The President has brought the issue of martial law as a stronger or the toughest measure in dealing with terrorism, first, even before the bombing in Davao City in September last year, which killed 15 people and wounded at least 70 others.

Duterte had talked about the harsh enforcement of the law in response to the successive beheadings of two Canadian kidnap victims by the ASG.

## Presidential prerogative

PUTTING the country under martial law is purely a decision of the Executive department, the military believed, and as an institution directly under and led by no less than the Commander in Chief, it will follow.

"It's a political decision," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto C. Padilla said early this week.

"He [Duterte] also mentioned that if he needs and if he has to, he

may recourse [for] an action in order to save or help our country. So it is a decision that will be entirely by our political leader based on the route of information and the circumstances that he will face. So we cannot [second] guess him and we cannot know whatever it is that he may have right now that we may not even know," he added.

Pressed further and even on their recommendation, Padilla stuck to their line that the declaration of martial law is solely a political decision, but added, "right now, we are not recommending any kind of military martial rule, if you may call it that."

"Right now, we are able to operate and catch all the people who have been perpetrating violence, and we are operating within the bounds of law. So currently, we are able to accomplish our mission without the complexity of needing to have any kind of special rule applied," he added.

## Consistent

THE House Speaker said he believes the recent pronouncement of Duterte on the possible declaration of martial law is consistent with the Chief Executive's style of issuing dramatic statements to stress his message.

"That statement merely shows President Duterte's resolve to end the scourge of illegal drugs in the country," Alvarez said.

He added that even if his critics take the President seriously, it

is far-fetched for him to declare martial law, because the administration is clearly gaining headway in its war against illegal drugs.

"*Alam mo nagtataka talaga ako bakit gustong-gusto nating pag-usapan 'yung martial law. Gusto ba talaga natin ng martial law? Kasi sa tingin ko naman 'yung statement nung Presidente, ang liwa-liwanag naman: If. Parang kanta lang 'yan: If a picture paints a thousand words...na imposibleng mangyari, malayong mangyari. So huwag na nating pag-usapan. Unless interesado tayong magkaroon ng martial law, di pag-usapan natin,*" he said.

"*Sinabi niyang if, 'di ba? Maybe it was done out of frustration. 'Yung pag, if kasi andaming ano, malayo pang mangyari 'yan, eh,*" he added.

## Preconditions

FOR his part, party-list Rep. Tomasito S. Villarín of Akbayan, a member of the minority bloc, asked Duterte to stop issuing threats about declaring martial law.

"It would not help the public to see through his policies. The police are saying they have been successful in the war against drugs, [so] what drives him to repeatedly raise that threat?" Villarín said.

Under the Constitution, within 48 hours from the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the President shall submit a report in person or in writing to Congress.

Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its

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**PRESIDENT Duterte salutes the troops with Armed Forces Chief Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya before boarding his flight for a three-day official visit to Japan at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City on October 25, 2016. AP/BULLIF MARQUEZ**

members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President. Upon the initiative of the President, Congress may, in the same manner, extend such proclamation or suspension for a period to be determined by Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it.

Congress, if not in session, shall, within 24 hours following such proclamation or suspension,

convene in accordance with its rules without any need of a call.

The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within 30 days from its filing.

#### Review

MEANWHILE, Deputy Speaker

and National Unity Party Rep. Frdenil H. Castro of Capiz assured the public that Congress will exercise its power to review the declaration of martial law.

"The President was right when he said no one can stop him from declaring martial law anytime he wishes to declare it. But the declaration on martial law will be reviewed thoroughly by Congress to find out if such declaration has basis and is in accordance with the Constitution," Castro said.

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**PRESIDENT Duterte gestures with a fist bump, as he poses with Philippine troops during his visit to the Philippine Army's Camp Mateo Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, on August 24, 2016. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP**

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# DOJ working for transfer of Mamasapano case to Manila

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

Five days before the second anniversary of the Mamasapano massacre, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is working for the transfer of the case from Cotabato to Manila, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said yesterday.

Aguirre explained the DOJ filed the request for a change of venue “for the security of the witnesses and the possibility that the court might be subject to pressure” in deciding the complex crime of direct assault with murder against 88 respondents from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

The Cotabato court has not yet decided if there is probable cause for the issuance of warrants of arrest.

In December 2016, prosecutors were asked to submit additional evidence, including birth certificates of the respondents, in order to establish their identity.

“The problem was solved already. Certified copies of birth certificates have been submitted to the court,” Aguirre said.

President Duterte earlier said that he would like to know the truth behind the Mamasapano incident that led to the death of 44 members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF).

On Jan. 25, 2015, the PNP-SAF went to Barangay Tukanalipao in Mamasapano, Maguindanao to capture or kill Malaysian terrorist and bomb-maker Zulkifli Bin Hir, alias Marwan, and other terrorists hiding in the remote area.

After the PNP-SAF killed Marwan, they were attacked by the MILF and BIFF members despite the ongoing peace talks between the government and MILF.

## Military support withheld due to peace talks

A retired senior military official admitted yesterday that while the PNP-SAF were under attack by the MILF and BIFF in Tukanalipao, the much-needed military support was withheld so as not to jeopardize the ongoing peace talks.

The retired military official was com-

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scuring the land.

menting on Duterte's question as to why the SAF troopers did not get close-air support or immediate military reinforcement at the height of the fighting.

"Had attack helicopters or Air Force planes been deployed to provide close-air support, scores of MILF rebels as well as civilians could have died and this could have resulted in the collapse of peace talks between the Aquino government and the MILF," the official explained.

"Had attack helicopters or OV-10 bombers or the SF260 planes been deployed to just to conduct persuasion flights, the carnage could have been avoided," the official added.

He also claimed that former president Benigno Aquino III was in Zamboanga City almost the whole day on Jan. 25, 2015 and was monitoring the situation on the ground in Barangay Tukanalipao.

"As commander-in-chief, Aquino could have just ordered the deployment of air assets but apparently withheld this action because it might derail the peace talks," the official said.

The official also said that in many major operations forwarded to him for clearance, Aquino was very meticulous and even involved himself in the planning. - With Jaime Laude



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**POLICE FILES**

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**NAKAHANDA** umano ang liderato ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na dumalo kung ipatawag muli upang magbigay linaw sa pumalpak na operasyon ng kapulisan laban sa Indonesian bomber na si Zulkifli Binkir alyas Marwan sa Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Ito ay mayroong kaugnayan sa plano ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na muling buksan ang pag-iimbestiga sa sablay na anti-terrorist operation ng PNP na nagresulta pagkasawi ng 44 miyembro ng Special Action Force (SAF).

Nagkaroon kasi nang engkuwentro sa mga sumunod na pangyayari laban sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front at Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters at iba pang armadong grupo sa lugar.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo, inihayag ni AFP spokesperson Brig/Gen Restituto Padilla na maghihintay lamang sila sa pormal na abiso mula kay Pangulong Duterte kung muli silang makikibahagi sa isasagawang imbestigasyon.

Sinabi ni Padilla na kung ito ang ikalilinaw ng husto ng SAF-44 killing contro-

## **AFP suportado si Duterte na paimbestigahan uli ang SAF-44 massacre**

versy ay nakahanda sila na ibigay ang kanilang suportata.

Magugunitang napatay man daw si Marwan subalit kalbaryo naman ang sinapit nila nang sumaklolo ang MILF at BIFF at magbuwis ng buhay ang maraming SAF troopers.

Una nang pinaplano ni Duterte na ipatawag ang mga magulang at maybahay ng 44 SAF troopers

sa mga susunod na araw lalo pa't gugunitain ng PNP ang pangalawang taon na sinapit ng kanilang puwersa.

Napag-alaman na nagpapasahan ng obligasyon at kapalpakan ang kapulisan, militar at MILF nang isinailalim ang mga ito sa Congressional inquiry ilang araw nang maganap ang masaker noong Enero 25, 2015.

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## DND chief: AFP a step ahead of IS

By JAIME LAUDE

The return to the country of local Islamic militants from the Middle East who intend to continue with their terroristic activities is expected, security officials said yesterday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the country's security forces, in close coordination with counterparts in the Asia-Pacific region, are closely monitoring the activities of suspected terrorists coming from the Middle East to thwart any of their terror plans.

"Since these threats are cross border in nature, we are closely working with our counterparts in the Asia-Pacific region to monitor and address these threats," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana gave the assurance following the warning of Admiral Harry Harris, commander of the United States Pacific Command (USPA-

COM), that jihadists fighting alongside Islamic State (IS) extremists are now heading home to their respective countries as they are steadily losing ground in Iraq and Syria.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military already knew of Harris' warning.

"This looming threat is not unknown to us 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 pledged their allegiance to IS," Padilla said.

Padilla pointed out the threat of terrorism is a matter that should be dealt with not only by security forces but by the general public as well.

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MYSTERY IN SOUTHERN WATERS

### 3 INDONESIA FISHERMEN MISSING; PIRACY EYED

Three Indonesian fishermen have gone missing in waters off the southern Philippines, Manila said on Saturday, an area that has seen repeated kidnappings for ransom by Islamist militants.

Authorities said the three Indonesians went missing on Wednesday in waters bordering the Philippines and Malaysia but the circumstances of their disappearance were still unknown.

"They are missing but we don't have confirmation yet on who took them and where they

were taken," regional military commander Major General Carlito Galvez told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"Because of that, we do not consider them kidnap victims yet," he said. Malaysia's Bernama news agency reported that the missing Indonesians' boat had been found crewless with its engine running.

The Philippine-based Islamist militant group Abu Sayyaf began kidnapping sailors in waters between Malaysia, Indonesia and the

Philippines last year, taking several dozen hostages and attacking cargo ships.

The spike in abductions sparked Indonesian warnings that the region could become the "next Somalia" and pushed the three neighbors to pledge coordinated patrols.

The International Maritime Bureau said this month the number of maritime kidnappings hit a 10-year high in 2016, with waters off the southern Philippines becoming increasingly dangerous. —AFP

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## THREE INDONESIA FISHermen MISSING

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Abu Sayyaf are based on remote and mountainous southern Philippine islands. Their leaders pledge allegiance to the Islamic State group, but analysts say they are more focused on lucrative kidnappings.

AFP

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# Flood-trapped families rescued

BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

**S**HARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and disaster response teams from Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces on Friday rescued 60 people, among them pregnant women and children, who were trapped by rising flood waters in a roadside village.

The floodwaters reached the national highway linking the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato, particularly between Datu Montawal town in Maguindanao and Kabacan of North Cotabato, submerging houses and communities.

Some 6,000 displaced families were forced to camp at the roadside with their valuables while helplessly watching their homes being engulfed by floodwaters.

Jovito Sacafuri of the North Cotabato Emergency Response Team said they evacuated the residents to safer grounds from their houses in Barangay Malabuaya, Kabacan

as flood waters rose.

Myrta Jo Henry, spokesperson of the Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team (HEART-ARMM) said they rescued 10 families trapped by floodwaters at Sitio Baytunina in Barangay Butig, Datu Montawal.

Henry said about 2,000 families in Datu Montawal were moved to the sides of the national highway in Barangay Bulit and Pagagawan after the water level rose to neck-high on Thursday night.

Badria Sulayman, a resident of Malabuaya in Kabacan, said it was the first time she experienced such

a sudden rise of flood waters here. She has been a resident of the agricultural town for several years.

"The water reached up to our neck, luckily the soldiers and men in orange uniforms arrived," Sulayman said, referring to the rescue team.

Henry, speaking for HEART-ARMM, said the floods affected some 16,145 families in eight municipalities of Lanao del Sur and more than 8,000 families in two flood-prone areas in Maguindanao.

She said the floods affected several villages in two Maguindanao towns – 11 in Datu Montawal with 2,658 affected families and four in Pagalungan with 4,295 families.

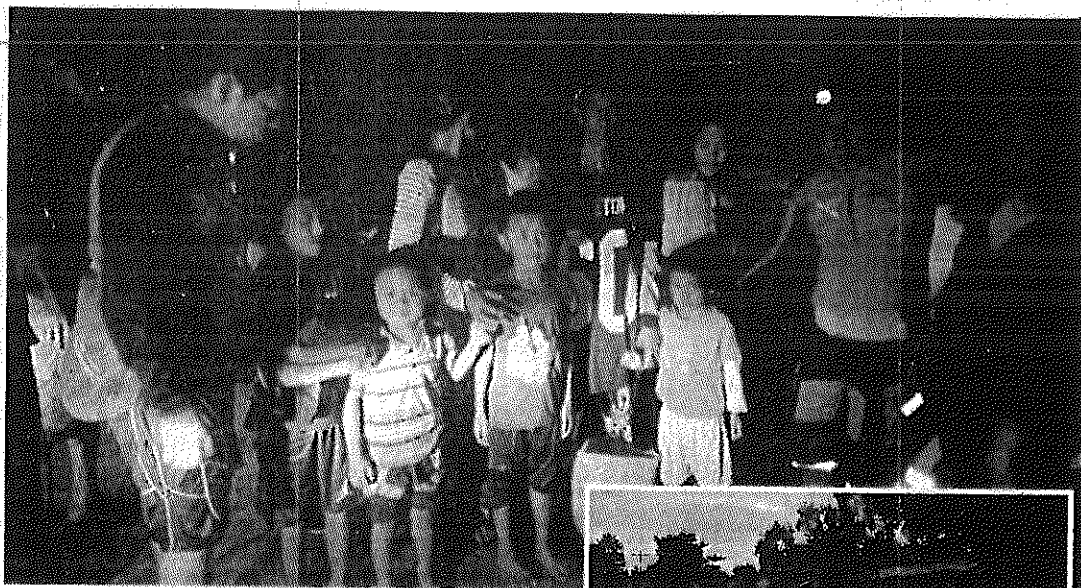
She said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD-ARMM) has been conducting relief operations and they are expecting more aid to come into the stricken areas.

About 22,000 families in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur have been affected by floods brought about by heavy rains since Monday.

The sudden rise of flood waters



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**RESCUED** Shown are some of the children and elderly evacuated from their submerged village as flood waters continue to rise, reaching the national highway in Barangay Bulit, Datu Montawal, Maguindanao. PHOTO COURTESY OF HEART-ARMM



was attributed to heavy rains in Bukidnon causing the Pulangi river to overflow, flooding the low-lying communities.

As observed in the past, flood waters from North Cotabato,

Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat flow toward the heavily silted Liguasan marshland through the Rio Grande de Mindanao before exiting to the Moro Gulf.

Meanwhile, residents near the Malitubog and Maridagao rivers in North Cotabato were also warned and put on standby for possible evacuation as flood waters continued to rise.

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## 'Trapped' families in N. Cotabato, Maguindanao floods rescued

DATU MONTAWAL, Maguindanao – Government forces and disaster workers in North Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces on Friday night rescued about 60 persons, including minors, women and pregnant mothers, after they were trapped in a roadside village as floodwaters continued to rise.

Floodwaters beside the national highway linking Maguindanao and North Cotabato, particularly between Datu Montawal and Kabacan, reached the main highway, submerging communities near the Malitubog and Maridagao rivers in North Cotabato.

Displaced families, numbering about 6,000, have sought refuge at the roadside with their valuables, watching helplessly as flood inundated their homes.

North Cotabato disaster workers and soldiers hauled residents trapped in their houses in Barangay Malabuaya, Kabacan to safer grounds.

"The water suddenly rose, *mahina lang man ang ulan kahapon* (rain wasn't even heavy at that time)," said one of the

affected residents.

Soldiers and rescue workers from the Office of Civil Defense in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (OCD-ARMM) and the Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team (HEART-ARMM) meanwhile rescued trapped residents in Barangay Butig, Datu Montawal, Maguindanao on Friday night, according to Myrna Jo Henry of HEART-ARMM.

"About 10 families were rescued from Sitio Baytunina as of last night," she said.

Badria Sulayman, a resident of Malabuaya, Kabacan, said it was the first time she experienced a sudden rise in floodwaters.

"The water reached as high as our necks! Lucky enough, the soldiers and men in orange uniform arrived," she said in the vernacular.

"We rescued children, elders and pregnant women, *mabilis ang pag-akyat ng tubig kasi* (there was a quick rise in floodwaters)," said Jovito Sacafuri of the North Cotabato Emergency Response Team.

Residents beside the Malitubog

and Maridagao rivers were also alerted for possible evacuation as floodwaters continued to rise.

No casualty has so far been reported.

Residents said starting Thursday morning, the Kabacan river swelled and submerged low-lying areas in Kabacan town and in adjacent Datu Montawal and Pagalungan in Maguindanao.

The Pulangi River in Bukidnon, which feeds the Kabacan river, also overflowed Wednesday.

"We are the catch-basin of floodwaters here. Every time a heavy downpour occurs in Bukidnon, communities in Maguindanao receive the waters through the Pulangi and Kabacan rivers," she said, recalling events in the past.

Floodwaters from these rivers flow toward the Liguasan marshland in mainland Maguindanao before exiting to the Moro Gulf via the Rio Grande de Mindanao.

Since the 200,000-hectare marshland is heavily silted, floods would always submerge communities surrounding it. PNA

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## PH govt, NDF lauded for peace talk efforts

THE Philippines government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) were lauded by the Norwegian government for their strong commitment to pursue the peace talks as the negotiations moves to the more challenging and substantial part.

Speaking at the opening of the third round of talks at the Holiday Inn in Rome, Italy on Thursday, facilitator and 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 agenda items, Slattum said both panels are ambitious and want a better future for the Filipinos. Based on the drafts, the Norwegian official is positive that both panels are few steps closer to achieving the common goal of just and lasting peace.

Slattum cited few achievements of the peace talks. In just a few months, she said, the parties already made history with each side's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire; the release of 19 NDF 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 socio-economic, and political and constitutional agenda items to address the root causes of the conflict.

### QC mayor joins panel

Mayor Herbert Bautista of Quezon city attended the opening ceremony of the third round of formal talks as one of the Philippine government panel advisers and observers.

In his opening remarks, the Philippine government Negotiating Panel Chairperson and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III acknowledged Bautista as first among all government panel advisers and observers.

"Let me also mention, Your Excellencies, we have with us our two able advisers, in the person of Mayor Bautista and, of course, another adviser... [Angeles City] Mayor Ed Paminuan," Bello said, addressing Slattum and Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Erik Forner.

Appointed as adviser for local government concerns last August for his experience as long-time Quezon City executive, Bautista is also a national security expert who was recently promoted to Colonel in the Reserve Command of the Philippine Army. Bautista is a member of the Philippine government panel's Reciprocal Working Committee on Socio-Economic Reforms, the most substantive agenda in the peace

negotiations.

"I wish to contribute to addressing the root causes of the armed conflict in our country and hope to bring local government and community-based solutions for the achievement of a just and lasting peace for the Filipino people," Bautista said.

### For a common goal

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

Slattum reminded both panels 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 be perfectly content of the outcomes because some decisions they have to make will not be popular.

"Both sides make painful consensus along the way. Both sides need a great deal of courage," she pointed out. "Much is at stake for both parties," she said.

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This is why, Slattum said, the peace process needs the patience, support and involvement of the Filipino people.

She said it is not easy to negotiate peace; thus, most attempts failed miserably around the world. Most, she said, find it easier to continue with war rather than to continue working and sacrificing for peace.

Slattum, however, noted that once a peace negotiation is successful, the reward is immeasurable and for the long-term—the winner is the Filipino people.

Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Erik Forner also looks forward to a fruitful and constructive talks in the third round.

Forner emphasized the importance of dialogue and negotiations as essential parts of the process even in circumstances of armed conflict and strong disagreement. Norway, he said, recognizes that stable and lasting peace require political processes and negotiated solutions.

While overcoming differences and to make a lasting peace is not easy as the conflict already caused lives and human sufferings in 48 years in the Philippines, Forner, said the commitment demonstrated by both panels to do more is already an assurance that the peace process will move forward.

He said they are aware of the differences to overcome within the next few days when substantial items are pushed on the table. But, he said, "we will manage our expectations, yet we are rest assured that all of you will do your very best to move the process forward."

**NEIL A. ALCOBER**

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## GRP, MILF panel chairs set foot again in Camp Abubakar

After almost 17 years, leaders of the peace panels of the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) came together to show their support for peace and their commitment for development in Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao province.

In April 2000, the government launched an all-out-offensive to capture the MILF stronghold. This prompted mass evacuations of civilians in the area.

Three months after, Camp Abubakar was captured, forcing MILF forces to retreat to a base in Bulok near the Liguasan Marsh. Most of the structures in

Camp Abubakar were destroyed after days of heavy artillery bombardment.

"This is very symbolic that, after almost 17 years after the all-out war, both panels came together here to show their support for peace and their commitment for development," World Bank representative

Matthew Stephens said during the turnover of a P2.35-million Level II Water System, 120 cattle-dispersal livelihood project for women; and the completion ceremony of 70 basic literacy learners of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) under the Mindanao Trust Fund's (MTF)

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## GRP, MILF panel chairs set foot again in Camp Abubakar

From page 1

camps transformation program in Camp Abubakar.

Government Implementing Panel for the Bangsamoro Peace Accords chairman Irene Santiago also reminisced that it was almost 17 years ago when she first set foot in Camp Abubakar, along with eight other woman peace advocates to meet the late MILF chairman Salamat Hashim and try to persuade the MILF, as well as the Estrada government, to prevent the bloody all-out war in 2000 from happening.

"I think it was April, of course, you will remember because you were the most affected here," Santiago said.

"It was different then. We passed roads with big rocks. It was not yet cemented."

In 2001 up to 2004, Santiago became a member of the peace panel negotiating with the MILF.

"I am not new with your struggle, I have been with you since

1977," Santiago said as she expressed her joy upon seeing many women graduating from the ALS as she has been organizing Muslim women and serving Muslim communities all over Mindanao since 1977.

It is also the first time for MILF Implementing Panel chairman Mohagher Iqbal to set foot again in Camp Abubakar since the 2000 war.

"This is my first time to come here for almost 17 years. The last time was on 24 April 2000 when we had a briefing with the late chairman Salamat Hashim," Iqbal recalled.

The government implementing panel chair further emphasized the need to transform former MILF camps into normal, productive communities.

"I have just asked a graduate here on what she wants to be and she answered me she wants to be a teacher, but when I asked again if she wanted to become a lawyer she answered me 'yes'," Santiago said, sharing her conversation with

one of the women ALS graduates.

"That is the reason we came here: to give you equal opportunities to dream as high as the others. That is what we mean by normal – to dream what you really want to reach and not to think that it is hard because you are living in Moro communities."

She urged the community never to lose hope, saying that if there is hope, there will be peace.

Iqbal, for his part, called on the community to "take ownership" and treasure the projects because development needs intervention from the people themselves, citing verses from the Holy Qur'an:

"Allah (SWT) does not change the conditions of the people unless they change what is in their hearts... Man shall have nothing than what he strives for."

"The government has been helping so much, we cannot deny that, but it cannot be complete if we do not help ourselves," he said.

As part of the confidence-building measures enumerated in

the Annex on Normalization of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), the government and MILF agreed to undertake necessary measures for the transformation of the six previously acknowledged MILF camps, namely: Camps Abubakar-as-Siddique, Omar, Rajamuda, Badre, Bushra, and Bilal.

The Joint Task Forces on Camps Transformation, with representatives from both the GRP and MILF, coordinate and facilitate development programs for these camps.

The MTF is a multi-donor grant facility established in 2005 to consolidate international development assistance for the socio-economic recovery of conflict-affected communities in Mindanao.

It funds programs and projects that promote economic opportunity, provide access to basic services, and build social cohesion to help create stable and secure communities. The facility is administered by the World Bank. **PNA**