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ARMY

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

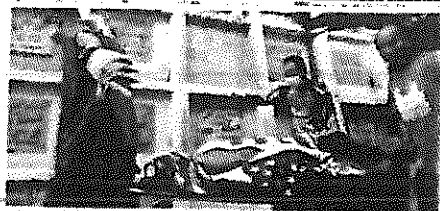
26 January 2017

Thursday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

26 January 2017



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FINAY HANGED IN KUWAIT FOR MURDER

DRUG LORD'S BANK ACCOUNTS FROZEN

• Police freeze bank accounts of drug lord's associates
• Police freeze bank accounts of drug lord's associates
• Police freeze bank accounts of drug lord's associates



IT'S BUSINESS VS. SURVIVAL
SAFETY FOR ALL
GOV'T MUST TAKE ACTION
MAKING SURE

INVESTIGATION
TRUMP PRIZES WORKERS OF FIVE GOVT AGENCIES
KOREAN CHAMBER WANTS JEE'S CASE SOLVED SOONEST
RESTORING LIFE BANK, BOND

Standard

UW hanged for murder

Noy camp taunts Du30



People only read headlines these
Andar tells media
Noy eyes suit vs Rod's Mamasapano report, DoI chief has 'star with
Democrat rank up, stable in corruption
no such thing as 'grand conspiracy' - PNP men
Edo allies to meet with Church, right groups, but justify violence

Business Insight

Malaysia

Slower growth seen this year

10%
50%
120%



Mamasapano case slept for 7 months

People only read headlines these
Andar tells media
Noy eyes suit vs Rod's Mamasapano report, DoI chief has 'star with
Democrat rank up, stable in corruption
no such thing as 'grand conspiracy' - PNP men
Edo allies to meet with Church, right groups, but justify violence

Tribune

Noy eyes suit vs Rod's Mamasapano report, DoI chief has 'star with



Senate to conduct parallel probe



no such thing as 'grand conspiracy' - PNP men

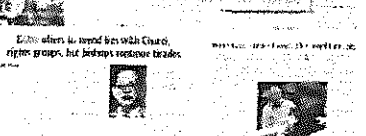


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Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Science and Technology
**PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND
 ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)**

WFS-02
 Rev.1/05-06-2016

Weather Division
 ISO 9001:2008 Certified
 Registry No. 01 100 1534769

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

ISSUED AT : 5:00 PM 25 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			
	25 JAN		26 JAN	27 JAN	28 JAN	29 JAN
	Metro Manila	23 °C 30 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong Northeast Manila Bay: Mod to Occ. Rough	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C
Tuguegarao City	20 °C 26 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast	20 °C 26 °C	21 °C 26 °C	21 °C 26 °C	20 °C 26 °C
Laog City	24 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C
Baguio City	14 °C 19 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast	13 °C 19 °C	13 °C 20 °C	12 °C 22 °C	12 °C 22 °C
SBMA(Olongapo)/ Clark Zone (Angeles City)	22 °C 28 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong Northeast Subic Bay: Mod to Occ. Rough	22 °C 28 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 30 °C
Tagaytay City	20 °C 27 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast	20 °C 27 °C	26 °C 26 °C	26 °C 27 °C	20 °C 27 °C
Lipa City	22 °C 28 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast	22 °C 28 °C	22 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Legazpi City	25 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	25 °C 28 °C	25 °C 28 °C	25 °C 28 °C	24 °C 27 °C
Puerto Princesa City	24 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C
Ilililo City / Eumard City	25 °C 28 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	25 °C 29 °C	25 °C 29 °C	25 °C 28 °C	25 °C 28 °C
Metro Cebu	26 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 29 °C
Tacloban City	24 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 29 °C	24 °C 28 °C	25 °C 28 °C	24 °C 28 °C
Cagayan de Oro City	24 °C 30 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Mod to Occ. Rough	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	25 °C 29 °C
Valencia City	19 °C 25 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast	18 °C 26 °C	19 °C 25 °C	19 °C 26 °C	19 °C 26 °C
Metro Davao	24 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	25 °C 28 °C	25 °C 28 °C
Zamboanga City	24 °C 31 °C	Moderate Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °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		Moderate to Heavy Rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower		Light Rains				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: SMRR

CHECKED BY: ADM

"Tracking the sky... Helping the country"
 WFOC BIR, Board Building Quezon City

Tel/Fax: 6329271541



24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

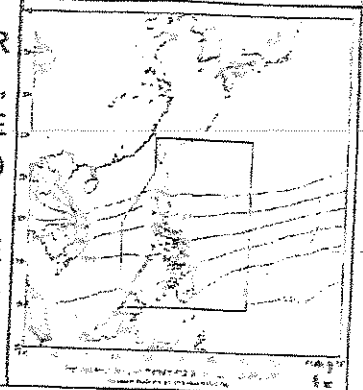
ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 25 JANUARY 2017

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

SYNOPSIS: NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT RAINS IS EXPECTED OVER LUZON, THE REGIONS OF EASTERN VISAYAS, CENTRAL VISAYAS, DAVAO AND CARAGA BECOMING MODERATE OVER THE PROVINCE OF AURORA. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED LIGHT RAINS WILL PREVAIL OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

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 MAHINANG MGA PAG-ULAN ANG INAASAHAN SA LUZON, SA MGA REHIYON NG SILANGANG KABISAYAAN, GITNANG KABISAYAAN, DAVAO AT CARAGA NA MAGIGING KATAMTAMANG ULAN SA LALAWIGAN NG AURORA. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MAHINANG MGA PAG-ULAN ANG IIRAL SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSANG.

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 30.4 °C

MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:
 5:00 AM TODAY 94 %

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE:
 6:00 AM TODAY 22.6 °C

MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:
 1:50 PM TODAY 53 %

TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY
 (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION
 OVER METRO MANILA

HIGH TIDE TODAY:
 8:22 PM 0.95 METER

SUNSET/SUNRISE

MOONRISE/MOONSET
 & ILLUMINATION

LOW TIDE TOMORROW:
 4:54 AM -0.14 METER

SUNSET TODAY:
 5:52 PM

MOONRISE TOMORROW:
 4:43 AM

SUNRISE TOMORROW:
 6:25 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW:
 1:25 PM

SUNSET TOMORROW:
 5:52 PM

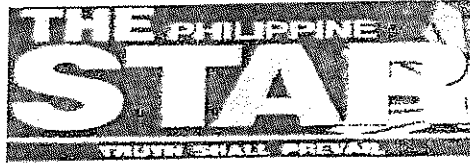
ILLUMINATION TOMORROW:
 6 %

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

PREPARED BY: SMRR

CHECKED BY: ADA

26 January 2017



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'Rody gov't fishing for alternative facts'

Mamasapano: Noy consults lawyers

By AUREA CALICA

The Duterte administration is contriving an "alternative commission" and using "alternative facts" in its effort to pin the blame on former president Benigno Aquino III for the Mamasapano raid, former presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said yesterday.

An "unshaken" Aquino, meanwhile, is preparing his legal defense against accusations raised by President Duterte on Tuesday that he should be held ultimately liable for the raid.

"There were a lot of points raised," Aquino told reporters after mass held at the tomb of his parents at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City yesterday to mark Corazon Aquino's birth anniversary. He was referring to Duterte's remarks before relatives of the 44 police commandos killed in an encounter with Muslim rebels in a cornfield in Mamasapano, Maguindanao exactly two years ago yesterday.

Lacierda denied Duterte's insinuation that Teresita Deles,

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Rody From Page 1

at the time the presidential adviser on the peace process, had asked Aquino to order the military to stand down just to save the peace talks with the MILF. Deles has herself denied the allegation a number of times.

Despite Duterte's tirades, the former president "looks unshaken because he knows someone's watching over him," Aurora Corazon "Pinky" Abellada, one of his sisters, said, referring to their mother, former president Corazon Aquino.

The Aquino family commemorated yesterday the 84th birth anniversary of Cory Aquino.

Benigno Aquino III was to meet with his legal counsels yesterday afternoon to craft a statement, scheduled for release today.

He said he and his legal team would double check facts as he admitted spending most of his time yesterday verifying the information mentioned by Duterte.

The Special Action Force (SAF) policemen were leaving Tukanalipao town after killing Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, when they encountered guerrillas belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

The former president said he was happy that the "press now bothers to get the other side" unlike during the martial law years.

In a meeting with the families of the slain SAF members at Malacñang on Tuesday, Duterte said he wanted his predecessor to answer questions about the Mamasapano operation which investigating bodies did not ask when Aquino was still in power.

Lacierda again denied Duterte's insinuation that then presidential adviser on the peace process Teresita Deles had asked Aquino to order the military to stand down just to save the peace talks with the MILF. Deles has herself denied the allegation a number of times.

Aquino's late mother had served the country as president from 1986 to 1992.

The Aquino matriarch died in 2009 of colon cancer. A civilian-led military uprising in February 1986 – now called EDSA people power – forced the dictator Ferdinand Marcos into exile and catapulted her to power.

Aquino also expressed confidence that the people would continue to remember what his parents had fought for that led to the EDSA revolution.

"From two years ago, he (Noynoy) already told us he could sleep well with the decisions he made," Abellada said.

From Manila Memorial Park, the Aquino family proceeded to a small Italian restaurant on Sucat Road for lunch. The restaurant's owner is the son of an Italian photographer who covered the 1986 EDSA people power revolution.

"The family was very serene, not at all in panic mode," a source said.

"The Aquino children always feel at peace when they pray at their parents' grave and there has never been a time when their mother Cory did not heed their prayers," the source added.

The former president had spoken many times about the Mamasapano incident while he was in office.

He had sought understanding and provided assistance to the families of the fallen policemen as he narrated how he had been left in the dark during the operation despite his strict orders to then suspended Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Alan Purisima and SAF commander Getulio Napeñas to coordinate with other police and military officials.

Aquino and the United States embassy had repeatedly denied any US role in the operation, contrary to Duterte's allegations, and stressed the charges against him filed before the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the incident were frivolous and absurd.

The ombudsman is still evaluat-

ing the charges against Aquino but has filed a case against Purisima and Napeñas for graft and usurpation of public functions.

Diversions

For some senators, President Duterte's playing up the Mamasapano debacle was his way of demonizing his predecessor and covering up controversies and scandals hounding his six-month administration.

"The Mamasapano Commission is just to divert attention from the blunders of his administration," Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said in a text message.

Sen. Leila de Lima said Duterte is using the issue to divert attention from the crises his current leadership is facing, "rather than to actually give justice to the SAF and Muslim civilian victims of that armed encounter."

"This appears to be the primary motivation of the President in continuously harping on the Mamasapano incident. It is to continuously demonize the past administration in order to cover up for his own lack of accomplishments and direction after six months into his term," De Lima said.

"Duterte is the least qualified in directing such a probe given his propensity for pre-judgment and to preempt the results of any investigation, as he himself has already declared the Mamasapano police action as a CIA operation," she said, referring to the US Central Intelligence Agency by its initials.

She said a further probe on the Mamasapano incident should be devoid of politics.

The ombudsman, she pointed out, is in the best position to investigate the issue.

Any other investigation initiated by the President "will always be doubted for his obvious bias against the past administration," De Lima stressed.

Senate President Pro Tempore Frank Drilon and Sen. Francisco Pangilinan said that while it was Duterte's prerogative to form the commission, the Mamasapano inci-

dent has been subjected to so many probes by various groups.

"It must be said, however, that the Mamasapano incident was already subject of a number of investigations in the past by the PNP, the Senate, the House and the ombudsman," Drilon said.

Pangilinan said reopening investigation into the incident without new evidence would uncover nothing significant.

Probe to reopen?

Senators debated yesterday on whether or not to reopen the inquiry into the tragedy.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the justice committee, insisted on the holding of a new legislative investigation.

Sen. Grace Poe, who conducted the Senate inquiry into the incident as chair of the Senate public order committee in the previous Congress, said her panel has conducted a very exhaustive probe and expressed reluctance to reopen the investigation.

She said the ombudsman has essentially adopted the recommendation of the panel's committee report with the recent filing of charges against Purisima and Napeñas.

"Our report was based on testimonies given by all available living persons/witnesses then whose attendance the committee had the power

to require, and who were all involved or have knowledge of the Mamasapano police operation, as well as all relevant documents gathered after an exhaustive series of hearings," Poe said.

"Given the nature and inherent limitations of a legislative investigation, it is the prerogative of the President to create a commission for its reinvestigation that may hopefully add to what had been unearthed previously, given the greater powers of the executive and under much different political circumstances," she said.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III also told reporters he was not too keen on reopening the inquiry as the chamber has to focus on priority socio-economic bills.

Pimentel said the Senate is willing to turn over to the commission all documents and transcripts of the chamber's inquiry.

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara reminded Gordon of significant recommendations to the PNP based on the previous investigation.

Gordon's motion was referred to the Senate committee on public order now chaired by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson said he would review first the reports culled from the previous Senate investigation and from that of the PNP Board of Inquiry before making a decision. – **With Paolo Romero**

24 January 2017



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Gov't wants Joma out of US terror list

By **ROCKY NAZARENO**

ROME, Italy – The Philippine government (GPH) has committed to work for the delisting of National Democratic Front (NDF) chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison from the United

States terror watch list to enable him to meet with President Duterte.

GPH peace panel chairman Silvestre Bello III disclosed this Tuesday, stressing that this commitment will be included in a joint statement that the government and NDF will sign Wednesday afternoon at the close of the third

round of their peace talks at the Holiday Inn-Parco de Medici here.

Also expected to be signed Wednesday morning will be the ground rules that will govern the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER), which is considered the “heart and

soul” of the peace negotiations.

“It is important for Joma to be able to go to the Philippines in response to the President’s statement that he wants to meet Joma in any neutral country,” said Bello.

Sison accompanied the NDF peace panel for the talks here, delivering the

opening statement at the start of the third round of talks last January 19. However, he was rarely seen in the meetings and caucuses during the last six days as he is reportedly sick.

The US considers Sison a “person supporting terrorism” since August, 2002, together with the Com- ▶14

Gov't wants Joma out... ◀1

munist Party of the Philippines (CPP) which has been tagged as a "foreign terrorist organization." Bello made it clear the GPH will only "request and recommend" the delisting of Sison from the watch list.

He said the GPH peace panel will cite Sison's active participation in the ongoing peace process, an act that negates the character of a terrorist, when it makes representations with the US government to delist him.

However, Bello refused to "speculate" on the kind of response the GRP peace panel will get from the US government, considering that the country has a new leader in President Donald Trump, who has struck warm and cordial relations with Duterte in their initial talks prior to the former's inauguration as America's 45th president.

The incumbent Labor secretary also said both panels were hoping that the meeting between Duterte and Sison

will take place in the Philippines.

"(If Sison is delisted), he can join us anywhere. If that happens, siguro ang venue sa Philippines na (maybe the venue would already be in the Philippines)," Bello said.

And should that happen, it will not also be far-fetched that the next round of peace negotiations could also be held in the Philippines. The first two rounds were held in Oslo, Norway in August and October of last year.

"If it was possible, we would really prefer that the talks be held in the Philippines," Bello added.

Delisting eases tension

News of the GPH peace panel's offer to work for the delisting of Sison eased grinding tension between the two parties, Tuesday, as they scrambled to mend broken fences brought about by an encounter between government forces and New People's Army (NPA)

rebels in Makilala, North Cotabato, last Saturday. The clash reportedly resulted in the death of eight soldiers and a communist insurgent.

According to Bello, the GPH panel submitted a draft of its proposed joint bilateral ceasefire agreement to the NDF in a special meeting it asked Tuesday.

He also disclosed that the two parties have agreed to include the discussions on the bilateral ceasefire agreement on February 22 to 24 in Utrecht, The Netherlands, where they will be scheduled to witness the deposit of the documents bearing the real identity of NDF consultants and other participants to the peace process, who are carrying aliases or assumed names, with a Dutch bishop being tasked to hold the key to the safety deposit box.

The bishop was the same caretaker of a third key to a deposit box which contained the list in 2001.

Bello said they are hoping that the draft for the bilateral ceasefire agreement would be initialed by the two panels in Utrecht, and this could later be

the focal point in the meeting between Duterte and Sison.

"The two principals may sign it during the occasion of their meeting. That's the scenario we're thinking of," he added.

Bello also stated that he believes the NDF will continue to implement its own order of a unilateral ceasefire even after the communist group's peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaoli said Monday that "they were leaving it to revolutionary forces on the ground to withdraw" from the group's self-imposed truce.

Agcaoli had said that ground forces have grown impatient about the delivery of promised concessions from the government, such as the release of 392 political prisoners, and have complained of the growing presence of the military in the countryside.

"Hopefully, it will hold, otherwise what is the idea of having unilateral ceasefires," he stressed.

If at all, Bello said "incidents like (the Makilala encounter) underscore the need for a bilateral ceasefire agreement so that

there will be definition of terms."

"Because in the absence of any definition, you cannot complain. To whom will you complain? You can agree on what monitoring committee, or referee would handle complaints of violations, he explained.

In fact, this was already included in the draft of the proposed joint ceasefire that the GPH submitted to the NDF Tuesday.

"The fact that (the NDF) agreed to discuss (the joint ceasefire agreement) is already a positive development in the process. It is a move forward, kahit wala pa yung (even if there is still no) agreement," Bello said.

Military backs peace process

Meanwhile, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año yesterday denied NDF allegations that security forces might be sabotaging the peace talks.

Ano stressed that the 125,000-strong military force continues to support the peace process and hopes that a peace agreement will soon be reached. (With a report from Francis T. Wakefield)

26 January 2017



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Military officers buck Medal of Valor for SAF 44

Awarding the Medal of Valor to all 44 police commandos killed in the encounter with Muslim rebels in Mamasapano, Maguindanao in 2015 would lessen the prestige of the highest military award, some military officers claimed yesterday.

The military officers, who asked not to be identified, called on President Duterte to exercise utmost care in handing out this honor to members of the uniformed services.

Meeting Duterte at Malacañang the other day, relatives of the 44 slain members of the police Special Action Force (SAF) requested the President to honor posthumously the policemen by declaring all of them as Medal of Valor awardees.

"We heard the commander-in-chief is contemplating on giving the Medal of Valor to all the fallen SAF 44. This is not right. The Medal of Valor is only awarded upon the recommendation by awards board forwarded for approval of the AFP chief and the secretary of national defense for endorsement to the President," one of the officers said.

In the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Medal of Valor is equivalent to the Medalyang Kagitingan.

By JAIME LAUDE

The AFP and PNP clashed over the raid, which the police did not coordinate with the military because the planners feared the operation would be compromised.

The SAF lamented the slow AFP response to calls by the trapped commandos for reinforcement.

Awardees are entitled to special benefits and other perks to include monthly remuneration of P75,000 on top of awardees' regular salaries or pensions.

These special benefits are given to the immediate family of the awardee if this is given posthumously.

Once the President approves the endorsement, the board will then determine by way of thorough deliberations who among the candidates fully satisfies the stringent criteria for the highest military award.

"Medal of Valor is not given wholesale. It is a singular act of exceptional courage and heroism above and beyond the call of duty displayed by a soldier that sets him apart from the rest of the troops," the official said.

He said that in the AFP history since its foundation in 1935, there are only 40

military valor awardees and giving the Medal of Valor or

Medalyang Kagitingan to all the fallen SAF 44 is not right.

– With Cecille Suerte Felipe

26 January 2017



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AFP denies ceasefire violations

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has denied claims by the National Democratic Front (NDF) that some soldiers are violating the unilateral ceasefire declaration of the government.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the reported clash in Makilala, North Cotabato on Jan. 21 was an "isolated case."

"The Army responded to the call of the police to confront a group of lawless men who commandeered a truck of Santos Land Development Co. with the intent to burn it," Año said.

"We are sincere in the peace talks and we will continue to support the peace negotiations until lasting peace is attained," he said.

Año said soldiers belonging to the 39th Infantry Battalion only knew that they clashed with New People's Army (NPA) rebels when the NDF issued a statement.

He said the incident was "unfortunate" even as he called on communist rebels to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The NDF should "restrain and control" the NPA from committing criminal activities, Año said.

– Michael Punongbayan

26 January 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Want Medal of Valor? Fight Abu Sayyaf, Año tells soldiers

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año told soldiers to volunteer in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf and other lawless groups if they want to get a Medal of Valor, the highest military decoration in combat.

A Valor recipient receives a lifetime P75,000 monthly gratuity on top his salary or pension. If the recipient dies, the gratuity will be received by the widow or widower.

There are 40 military personnel who have been awarded the MOV, 17 of them still alive. Of the living, six are still in the active military service – Brig. Generals Noel Buan and Custodio

Parcon; Colonels Cirilito Sobejana and Bartolome Bacarro; Lt. Col. Herbert Dilag; and Capt. Robert Salvador.

“If you want a Medal for Valor and you need the opportunity to earn it, volunteer and join the fight against the Abu Sayyaf Group and other terrorist groups,” Año said during last Tuesday’s visit to the headquarters of the military’s Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said Año’s invitation also serves as a challenge to soldiers amid the campaign to end the Abu Sayyaf, the Maute Group and the Bangsamoro

Islamic Freedom Fighters in six months.

Año asked the soldiers “to contribute in this national effort and AFP priority of ending the menace the terror groups sow in the hearts of our people.”

“We will not allow them foothold here in the Philippines... We cannot afford a protracted war,” said Año.

Asked why Año needs to invite soldiers to volunteer in the fight when he can just assign them, Arevalo said: “Yes, he can indeed issue orders... Just an order is sufficient. But there is no gesture better than volunteering in a worthy cause, in wholeheartedly committing oneself to a noble endeavor.”

26 January 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Año asks NDFP to control NPA

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday asked the National Democratic Front of the Philippines to stop the New People's Army from committing atrocities to prevent skirmishes between government troops and the communist rebels.

Año made the appeal after NDFP chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili accused the military of violating the government truce after Army soldiers engaged NPA rebels in a firefight in Makilala, North Cotabato over the weekend.

Agcaoili has threatened to lift the ceasefire the NDFP declared five months because of the fighting that left a rebel dead.

Año denied Agcaoili's allegation the Armed Forces violated the government truce, as he said the soldiers were merely responding to an atrocity committed by the NPA.

"The Army responded to the call of PNP to confront a group of lawless armed men who commandeered the truck of SLDC

(Santos Land Development Corporation) with the intent to burn it," said Año.

"The 39th IB (infantry battalion) troopers were not even sure if the perpetrators are NPA until after the encounter and the NDF issued a statement," added Año, referring to the Agcaoili's accusation.

Año asked the NDFP to "restrain and control the NPA to stop committing criminal activities like extortion and arson."

The government and the NDFP have just concluded the third round of peace talks in Rome.

The two sides agreed to separately discuss the bilateral ceasefire when the panels meet in February in the Netherlands.

The meeting for the bilateral ceasefire will be held in Utrecht on February 22 or 24, said government chief peace negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Bello said the Makilala incident should push both panels to pursue a bilateral ceasefire to direct complaints on violations and prompt fact-finding and investi-

gation by a third party monitor.

A bilateral ceasefire can be reached and signed on or before the 4th round of negotiations set in April in Oslo, Norway according to both panels.

The two panels also agreed that the government side would recommend to President Duterte the de-listing of Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Maria "Joma" Sison from the list of international terrorists to pave the way for his return to the Philippines.

Duterte and Sison, who has long been on self-exile in the Netherlands, earlier agreed to meet in any neutral Asian country once the latter is de-listed from the list of international terrorists.

Bello said there is basis for the US to remove the CPP and the NPA from the list since its political umbrella, the NDF, and Sison are now involved in peace negotiations with the Philippine government. If the de-listing happens, Bello said Sison can join the panels in succeeding talks anywhere outside Europe.

24 January 2017



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AFP denies peace talks sabotage move

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday denied the allegation by the National Democratic Front (NDF) that they are sabotaging the ongoing peace talks.

AFP chief General Eduardo Año said there was no truth in the allegation and the AFP is sincerely supporting the peace talks.

"That's not true. We are sincere in the peace talks and we will continue to support the peace negotiation until the permanent and long lasting peace is attained," Año said.

The allegation was made by the NDF following an encounter in Makilala, North Cotabato between government forces and the rebels that resulted in the killing of one rebel and recovery of

three automatic rifles last week.

The NDF claimed that the military deliberately attacked the NPA guerrillas in the area.

"What happened in Makilala is an isolated case. The Army responded to the call of the PNP to confront a group of lawless armed men who commandeered the truck of SLDC with the intent to burn it," the AFP chief explained.

He said the Army went to the area to respond to the call of the Philippine National Police to confront a group of lawless armed men who had taken a truck to burn it.

Año said the responding soldiers were not even sure if the perpetrators were NPA until after the encounter and the NDF issued a statement.



"We hope that the NDF will stop the NPA from committing criminal activities like extortion and arson," he added.

The AFP chief said the military and the PNP will continue to enforce the law and protect the people in the rural communities despite the incident.

Me January 2017



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Phl seeks removal of Sison from US terrorist list

The Philippines wants US President Donald Trump to remove exiled leader of Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Jose Maria Sison from its terrorist list to enable him to come home for peace talks, government negotiators said yesterday.

Communist-led rebels have waged an insurgency against the government for nearly five decades and at least 40,000 people have been killed.

But talks on ending the war have been revived under President Duterte who came to power last year, calling for peace efforts in the interests of economic development.

Sison, founder and leader of the CPP, has lived in the Netherlands for three decades. He was put on a US terrorist list in 2002,

which prevents him from traveling.

Government chief peace negotiator Silvestre Bello said Trump would be asked to remove Sison from the list.

"The government of the Philippines will recommend to the president the delisting of Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Sison from the list of international terrorists to pave the way for his Philippine homecoming without being arrested," Bello and his team said in a statement.

Duterte and Sison have agreed to meet in any neutral Asian country once Sison has been removed from the list. But Bello said the talks could be held in the Philippines.

– Reuters, Rodel Clapano, Edith Regalado

26 January 2017

POLICE FILES

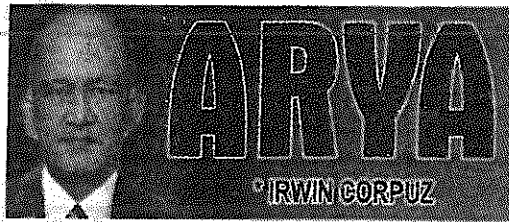
Page. 4

IBIG bang sabihin nito ay kulang pa ang inilaang budget na P137.2 bilyon para sa pagkilos ng DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE para maprotektahan dapat ang buong teritoryo ng ating bansa laban sa lahat ng uri ng kriminalidad, dahil nalulusutan pa rin sila ng mga bandidong ABU SAYYAF kung saan base sa naging paghahayag kamakailan ni PHILIPPINE DEFENSE MINISTER DELFIN LORENZANA sa kaniyang naging pananalumpati sa SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE SHERPA MEETING sa SINGAPORE nitong January 23 ng kasalukuyang taon?

Ang puwersa ng ating mga kasundaluhan ay nariyan ang PHILIPPINE ARMY, PHILIPPINE MARINES, PHILIPPINE AIRFORCE at ang PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD na kung magiging mas aktibo sa kanilang mga pagkilos, pagmamanman at pagsusuri sa buong kapaligiran ay hindi magagawang makalusot ng sinasabing napakaliit na puwersa ng ABU SAYYAF sa kanilang mga panghohostage lalo na ng mga foreigner na kanilang pinagkakakitaan dahil sa ransom money.

Dagdag pa sa puwersang nagsisilbing bantay laban sa anumang uri ng mga kriminalidad ay ang PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE na ang pondong inilaan sa naturang ahensiya para sa taong 2017 ay P110 bilyon., na halos saanmang panig ng ating bansa ay may mga nakatalagang pulis na magiging katuwang ng ating mga kasundaluhan., pero bakit nakakalusot pa rin ang pangho-hostage ng ABU SAYYAF at nakakakuha pa sila ng ransom money?

Nitong nakaraang December, ang 2 Indonesian



MAY 25 HOSTAGES ANG MGA ABU SAYYAF?

na kabilang sa 7 crew sa lumubog na tugboat sa Southern Philippines noong June ng nakaraang taon ay napalaya makaraang mabigay ng ransom na P20 milyon sa grupo ng ABU SAYYAF na sinasabing nakipag-alyansa na rin sa ISLAMIC STATE (ISIS) group.

May ulat din nitong nagdaang taon na ang nahostage na NORWEGIAN ay napalaya makaraang mabigyan ng ransom money ang mga bandido na ito naman ay ikina-kaila ng PHILIPPINE at NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

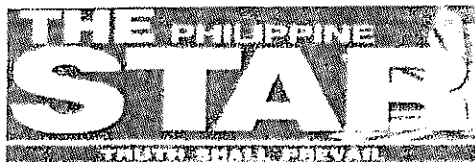
Isang katanungan dito ay paanong nakalulusot ang ransom money mula sa nagbigay ng ransom at kung sino ang middle man o messenger o ang nagdala ng ransom money papunta sa mga bandido? Kung pangkaraniwang mamamayan lang ang gagawa nito ay hindi makakalusot sa mga awtoridad., na ang tanging makagagawa lamang niyan ay ang mga 'expert' mula sa mga government o yung mga pinagkakatiwalaan o nagsisilbing asset ng mga law enforcers ang makagagawa lang para mailusot ang ransom money mula sa mga kidnapper.

Hindi kaya ginagawang 'milking cow' ng mga umaak-tong negotiator ang nakokomisyon sa ransom money ng mga bandido., hehehe e sensiya na po at minsan ay ganiyan kalikot ang pananaw ng ARYA., dahil kung tutuusin e mismong ang militar na rin ang nagsasabing maliit na grupo lang ang ABU SAYYAF e bakit hindi matiris? Marami rin daw mga ordinaryong sibilyan ang madadamay kapag binomba ng militar ang kuta ng mga bandido... e nasaan na mga modernong equipment at mga armas ng militar para mapulbos ang mga bandido sa ating bansa?

Kung sadyang sinsero ang ating mga law enforcers e wala dapat nakalulusot na mga criminal syndicate., pero namamayagpag pa rin ang criminal syndicate na ang dapat unahin ay ang paglansag nang mga criminal syndicate mula mismo sa organisasyon ng mga law enforcers., kung saan kahit sangkaterba na ang mga nagrereklamo laban sa ilang mga negosyante ay walang aksiyon ang gobyerno dahil ang mga involve ay mga maiimpluwensiya sa ating gobyerno! KAILAN KAYA MATATAMASA NG SAMBAYANAN ANG TUNAY NA KALAYAAN... KALAYAAN MULA SA MGA MAPAGSAMANTALA AT MANUNUBANG PERSONALIDAD???

Kung kayo po ay may suliranin o puna sa maling gawain ng ilan nating mga government officials o anumang reaksiyon lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay bukas po ang espasyo para sa inyong mga nais ipaabot., mag-email lamang po sa aryakolum@yahoo.com o magtex sa 09334089090

26 January 2017



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First Person

By ALEX MAGNO

Mamasapano

The ghosts from a massacre would not go away. What happened in that small village two years ago remains an open wound. Superior numbers and superior arms wiped out 44 of our best troopers. They were sent to the jaws of death and then abandoned.

The previous administration tried very hard to appease the troopers' angry kin. They were offered financial assistance and housing units. Orphaned children were offered scholarships. Former president Noynoy Aquino dragged himself to make an appearance at the wake for the slain troopers, there to come face to face with the cold gaze of relatives and soldiers alike.

There is something that all the financial assistance offered could not buy, something that all the alligator tears could not bring closure to. It is an unquantifiable, sometimes imponderable, thing. It is called "justice."

SAF 44 kin continue to nurse a feeling justice has not been served. The full story has not been disclosed. Accountability has not been exacted. Responsibility has not been pinned. There can be no closure yet.

The sentiment appears to be shared by President Rodrigo Duterte. Last Tuesday, the President convened the relatives and addressed the massacre. He announced the formation of a commission to reopen the books on this case. Neither the official version issued by the previous administration nor the Senate report on the matter sufficiently tells all.

By convening a high-level commission, compared to the Agrava Commission that received testimony about the assassination of Senator Benigno Aquino in 1983, Duterte basically suggests a cover-up happened. This could have serious political repercussions.

Duterte proceeds from a special vantage point looking at the events through that fateful day two years ago. He was coincidentally in Zamboanga City that day and was summoned by former president Noynoy Aquino to the room from where they monitored the carnage in progress.

Although excluded from the most secretive conversations between Aquino and then DILG secretary Mar Roxas, Duterte had the opportunity to closely observe the behavior of the two. After some time observing the indecisiveness of the duo, Duterte could not take any more of it any longer. He asked Aquino to be excused.



The last straw, by Duterte's account, was when Aquino asked a general what he would do if he were in his situation. By that moment, it had become an entirely academic question. Most if not all of the SAF 44 were already dead.

The President asks some hard questions that remain unresolved despite the previous reports on what happened.

Duterte describes the Mamasapano mission as a "CIA operation." This explains the presence of American operatives in the vicinity while the raid was in progress. Terrorist Marwan's finger, cut off to prove he was killed, ended up in American hands. Nevertheless, we do not know exactly what happened to the large reward money the US put up for Marwan's head.

Duterte questions the decision to deploy the SAF instead of AFP combat units to undertake the mission. This mission was undertaken in very hostile territory and hostile terrain. The police were lightly armed, enjoyed no air and artillery cover and no proximate support units.

It is ironic that the mission was codenamed "Oplan Exodus." The unit assigned to undertake the mission was not able to exit the area.

While the carnage was in progress, Duterte faults Aquino for listening to his peace adviser instead of the military. Ging Deles was apparently worried about the implications for the peace talks of bringing in the armed forces. This is the reason, he says, why the military was not quickly deployed to rescue the pinned-down SAF unit.

This much was long-suspected but not fully addressed by the Senate report. Aquino, for his part, denies he issued any stand-down order to the military units in the vicinity.

The other lapses have been tackled. Aquino's decision to allow then PNP chief Alan Purisima to handle the operation despite being suspended from his post was clearly wrong. On top of that, Aquino and Purisima decided to keep the PNP leadership as well as the AFP out of the loop. That was clearly disastrous.

One phrase stands out from the testimonies we heard about what happened at Mamasapano: "time on target." What that meant, in plain language, was that both the military units and police forces in the vicinity of the mission were informed of what was going on only after the raiding team was deep into the badly conceived mission.

"Time on target" put a spotlight on Gen. Purisima's suspiciousness for his colleagues in the military. Aquino, as commander in chief of both the police and military, should not have encouraged Purisima's attitude towards his colleagues. Nor should have allowed the inter-service distrust to shape the way the dangerous operation was conceived.

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But he did. Some liability should accrue from that. Some might be content the Mamasapano incident, initially described by Mar Roxas as a "mis-encounter" with MILF forces, merely underscores the utter incompetence of the previous administration. But there should be a price paid even by the incompetent.

Others take the lapses a lot more seriously. The former president, they think, lied to his people by concealing important details and mischaracterizing his actual role in this tragic police operation. Long after the dead troopers were buried, Aquino continued to talk about "alternative truths" about Mamasapano. The whole confused effort at mischaracterizing what happened amounts to betrayal of public trust.

Is there a need for a commission to reinvestigate what happened? There probably is, to avert the truth itself from being buried in the aftermath.

★

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ONLINE NEWS

25 JANUARY 2017

'AFP sincere in talks, NDF should restrain NPA'

From Rappler (Jan 25): 'AFP sincere in talks, NDF should restrain NPA'

Armed Forces chief General Eduardo Año says the North Cotabato encounter underscores the urgency to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement



ROAD TO PEACE. In this file photo, President Rodrigo Duterte talks to AFP chief General Eduardo Año in Malacañang. File photo courtesy of Malacañang

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief General Eduardo Año reiterated the sincerity of the military in supporting the peace talks with communist rebels as his alleged record of human rights violations is raised.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), which represents the rebels in talks with the government, accused soldiers of sabotaging the talks following the death of a New People's Army (NPA) combatant in a clash with the military over the weekend, the first firefight to disrupt a 5-month-old ceasefire declared separately by both sides.

"We are sincere in the peace talks and we will continue to support the peace negotiation until the permanent and long-lasting peace is attained," Año told Rappler on Tuesday, January 24, when asked to comment on the NDF statement.

The NDF said they've been observing similar tactics against the communist rebels and political activists during the Arroyo administration. The statement noted that the same people are at the helm, singling out Año and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. (READ: [Rebel hunter Año is new AFP chief](#))

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The NDF threatened that the North Cotabato clash could be the "last straw" that will force the revolutionary organization to withdraw its unilateral indefinite ceasefire declaration.

'Restrain the NPA'

Año called on the NDF to restrain its combatants.

"We hope that the NDF would restrain and control the NPA to stop committing criminal activities like extortion and arson. The PNP and the AFP will continue to enforce the law and protect the people in the communities," Año said.

The AFP chief claimed the troops did not know they encountered communist rebels until after the firefight, when the NPA itself issued a statement.

"The army responded to the call of PNP (Philippine National Police) to confront a group of lawless armed men who commandeered the truck of SLDC (Santos Land Development Corporation) with the intent to burn it," Año said.

"The 39th Infantry Battalion troopers were not even sure if the perpetrators are NPA until after the encounter and the NDF issued a statement," he added.

It's a claim dismissed by the NDF, which maintained that the military operation in North Cotabato was meant to hunt down the rebels.

Urgent: Bilateral ceasefire

Año echoed government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III in saying that the incident underscores the urgency of signing a bilateral ceasefire deal that will impose common rules for the military and the NPA to avoid misencounters.

"This is really unfortunate, but we [ask] the other side to work with us in finding the peaceful solution to this conflict, the first step of which is forging a bilateral ceasefire agreement," Año said.

The government raised hopes the deal would be signed before the panels end their 3rd round of talks in Rome. But Bello acknowledged in an interview on Tuesday, January 24, that both sides now need more time.

"They have some strong positions, but they are open. In fact, they are talking of a possible initialing – instead of signing – a bilateral ceasefire deal," Bello said in an interview in Rome posted on the Facebook page of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/159393-general-ano-military-ndf-peace-talks>

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ISAFP defends Marcelino against illegal drug charges

Posted by Lui Claudio on January 25, 2017 at 11:43 AM

The camp of Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino yesterday defended that he had been conducting intelligence operations when he was caught with his Chinese companion, Yan Yi Shou in Manila last year.

Public Attorney's Office Chief Persida Acosta proved Marcelino's assertion of innocence by presenting a certification from Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

The certification signed by ISAFP Chief Brig. Gen. Ronald Villanueva confirms that Marcelino was conducting surveillance operations against drug syndicates when they were arrested.

Acosta presented the certification to Judge Daniel Villanueva of Manila City Regional Trial Court, Branch 49.

Marcelino and Shou were caught in a drug buy-bust operation by operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

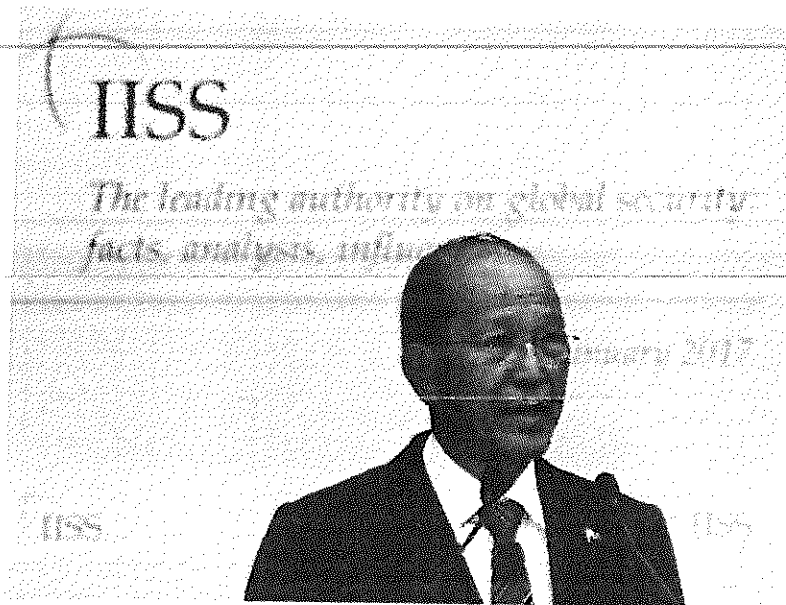
www.dwdd.com

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P20M ransom paid for Indonesians freed by Abu Sayyaf-Lorenzana

From InterAksyon (Jan 25): P20M ransom paid for Indonesians freed by Abu Sayyaf- Lorenzana



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana addresses the Fullerton Forum at the Shangri-La Dialogue Sherpa Meeting, organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in Singapore. (photo by Roslan Rahman, AFP)

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana admitted early this week that the companies which employed two recently freed Indonesians had paid a ransom of P20 million (\$400,000).

He did not identify the captives but the military said two Indonesian hostages were freed last month by militants from the Abu Sayyaf, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. The two were among seven crewmen seized from a tugboat off the southern Philippines in June.

Speaking at a security forum in Singapore, Lorenzana said 25 hostages are still being held by militants in the southern Philippines but urged that no ransom be paid for their release.

He also said President Rodrigo Duterte has been under pressure to declare martial law in at least three southern islands where jihadists operate, but he did not think there was a need.

Security analysts had said ransom had also been paid for the release by the Abu Sayyaf last year of a Norwegian hostage, although the Philippine and Norwegian governments denied it.

Lorenzana told the Fullerton Forum organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies that the 25 kidnap victims are still being kept in Jolo, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, which is known to behead its victims if ransoms are not paid.

The group decapitated a Malaysian in 2015 and two Canadians last year.

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Lorenzana said the army's chief difficulty in hunting the militants was the presence of civilians in communities where they operate, who also benefit from the ransom money.

"It seems that the whole of the community are into it, not everybody but a major part of the community are benefitting from the ransom," he said.

The government is trying to "convince the companies and the families not to pay ransom because every time they pay ransom they make the kidnappers stronger," he said.

"They have more money to distribute to the communities and they have more money to procure all the gadgets that they need -- cellphones, firearms and even materials to manufacture improvised explosive devices."

Lorenzana said the government's strategy against militants was a "holistic approach" -- introducing development projects and providing "incentives for the people to go fishing rather than go kidnapping."

He claimed many Filipinos wanted the president to declare martial law over South Tawi Tawi, Jolo and Basilan islands. But this would be "very controversial" and Duterte was not considering the idea.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/136515/p20m-ransom-paid-for-indonesians-freed-by-abu-sayyaf-lorenzana>

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AFP to acquire PHP23.7-M worth of spares, component for unscheduled maintenance of FA-50PHs

From the Philippine News Agency (Jan 25): **AFP to acquire PHP23.7-M worth of spares, component for unscheduled maintenance of FA-50PHs**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is allocating some PHP23,706,000 for the acquisition of spare parts and components needed for the unscheduled maintenance of one of its four Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI)-made FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" jet fighters.

Pre-bid conference is scheduled on Jan. 26, at 9 a.m. at the Philippine Air Force Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

While bid opening is on Feb. 8, at 9 a.m. at the same venue.

The PAF currently has four FA-50PHs in its inventory. Another eight are scheduled to be delivered this year and the next.

The 12-plane order from KAI is worth PHP18.9 billion.

The FA-50PHs has a top speed of Mach 1.5 or one and a half times the speed of sound and is capable of being fitted air-to-air missiles, including the AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air and heat-seeking missiles aside from light automatic cannons.

It will act as the country's interim fighter until the Philippines get enough experience of operating fast jet assets and money to fund the acquisition of more capable fighter aircraft.

The FA-50PH design is largely derived from the F-16 "Fighting Falcon", and they have many similarities: use of a single engine, speed, size, cost, and the range of weapons.

KAI's previous engineering experience in license-producing the KF-16 was a starting point for the development of the FA-50PHs.

The aircraft can carry two pilots in tandem seating. The high-mounted canopy developed by Hankuk Fiber is applied with stretched acrylic, providing the pilots with good visibility, and has been tested to offer the canopy with ballistic protection against four-pound objects impacting at 400 knots.

The altitude limit is 14,600 meters (48,000 feet), and airframe is designed to last 8,000 hours of service.

There are seven internal fuel tanks with capacity of 2,655 liters (701 US gallons), five in the fuselage and two in the wings.

An additional 1,710 liters (452 US gallons) of fuel can be carried in the three external fuel tanks.

Trainer variants have a paint scheme of white and red, and aerobatic variants white, black, and yellow.

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The FA-50PHs uses a single General Electric F404-102 turbofan engine license-produced by Samsung Techwin, upgraded with a full authority digital engine control system jointly developed by General Electric and KAI.

The engine consists of three-staged fans, seven axial stage arrangement, and an afterburner.

Its engine produces a maximum of 78.7 kN (17,700 lbf) of thrust with afterburner.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&nd=958107>

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