

Army Vision: By 2002, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

02 March 2017

Thursday

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

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The Manila Times

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PANAHON TV

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST MARCH 2, 2017 | THURSDAY

APPLICABLE TO THE BASIC REGION OF SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO WITH GREAT DISTANCE EFFECTS IN THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO - MARCH 1, 2017

SUNRISE 6:17 AM
SUNSET 6:01 PM
MOONRISE 6:53 AM
MOONSET 9:33 PM

NEW MOON MARCH 20, 2017
FIRST QUARTER MARCH 28, 2017

LOW TIDE 1:37 AM
HIGH TIDE 12:28 AM

LAOAG CITY 23-31 °C
FIGUEROA CITY 21-28 °C
LAGUNA CITY 19-23 °C
SBMA/CLARK 23-32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 20-29 °C
METRO MANILA 23-32 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 24-30 °C
ILOILO/BAKOLOD CITY 25-31 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 23-30 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25-32 °C
METRO CEBU 24-30 °C
LAGANIDE ORO 23-30 °C
ZARAGOZA CITY 24-32 °C
METRO DAVAO 24-33 °C

Area	City	Temp Range	Temp Range	Temp Range	Temp Range	Temp Range
METRO MANILA	MANILA	23-32 °C	25-32 °C	23-32 °C	14-23 °C	19-27 °C
	QUEZON CITY	23-32 °C	25-32 °C	23-32 °C	14-23 °C	19-27 °C
	METRO CEBU	24-31 °C	25-31 °C	25-31 °C	25-32 °C	24-32 °C
METRO DAVAO	DAVAO	24-33 °C	25-33 °C	25-33 °C	25-33 °C	24-32 °C
	BARAGAY	24-33 °C	25-33 °C	25-33 °C	25-33 °C	24-32 °C

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Page: 1

House OKs death penalty

By DELON PORCALLA

Stiff resistance put up by pro-life lawmakers failed to stop the House of Representatives from approving on second reading last night the measure restoring the death penalty, but only for drug offenses.

The approval of a controversial measure pushed by President Duterte came after the chamber agreed to drop plunder, among other crimes, from the list of offenses that will warrant capital punishment.

Approval on third reading of a House measure is a formality.

Support in the Senate for the revival of capital punishment is less certain.

"House Bill 4727 is hereby approved on second reading," House Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu said before banging the gavel at the plenary session, after moves for nominal voting by those opposed to the bill got "lost" several times.

Only 28 of the required 46 votes for nominal voting were mustered, comprising one-fifth of the 229

lawmakers who attended the session. A viva voce or voice vote was implemented instead, in which administration lawmakers beat their opponents.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali, sponsor of the measure and chairman of the House committee on justice, at one point declared an "omnibus rejection" following repeated pleas for amendments deleting the words "death penalty" from the measure.

Human rights lawyer Rep. Edcel Lagman, who leads the independent opposition bloc, wanted a page-by-page amendment and a chance to scrutinize every detail, line and provision of the bill, but he was consistently blocked by Umali.

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House

From Page 1

The Albay congressman even attempted to delete the usual 20-40-year life imprisonment to death and replace such with only a 12-year jail term of up to a maximum of 20 years in prison as minimum penalty, with reclusion perpetua as maximum penalty.

The scheduled plenary vote for the second reading approval of HB 4727 was derailed as anti-death penalty lawmakers – including House Deputy Speaker Rolando Andaya Jr. – introduced amendments to the measure like replacing its title, among others.

With Lagman in his group were congressmen from other parties, notably Reps. Lito Atienza and Tom Villarin of party-list groups Buhay and Akbayan, respectively, as well as Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza.

Villarin said he wanted the death penalty bill authored by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, which was co-authored by a majority of administration lawmakers, “re-filed” under the House dangerous drugs committee chaired by Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers.

“Now that the crimes have

been reduced to drug-related ones, shouldn’t the amended substitute bill be recommitted to the committee on dangerous drugs?” he asked, noting that their colleagues “deliberately – albeit irresponsibly – “watered down” the measure.

“How can we properly discuss the penalty if we won’t tackle the nature of the crimes?” Villarin pointed out.

Lagman said yesterday’s observance of Ash Wednesday was highlighted by the House’s approval of the measure. “The observance of Ash Wednesday must not be left unnoticed in the House because this day signifies repentance and grief.

“We agreed that the bill be limited to drug-related heinous crimes. We removed treason, plunder and rape,” Umali earlier told reporters in a chance interview.

This is the second time House members have decided to remove plunder from the bill.

“It will be a lot easier to present facts and figures re-imposing death penalty for drug-related heinous crimes... The whole point is we get a headway in the re-imposition of the death penalty,” he ex-

plained.

12-12 at Senate?

At the Senate earlier yesterday, Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said that his latest count on the sense of his colleagues on the death penalty was at an even 12-12 in favor and against the proposals.

Sotto noted that there were more senators against the revival of the death penalty until the proponents managed to swing votes in their favor.

He said that some of the senators who were either against or undecided were now supporting the death penalty because of his proposal to limit the coverage to large-scale drug offenses or the major syndicates.

“Originally we couldn’t get 12. The reason why we have 12 now is because I insisted that we should limit it to drugs and high levels only,” Sotto said.

“By high level we are talking about the Colanggos, Jaybee Sebastian, Odicta, Espinosa and the like,” he added, referring to some high-profile drug lords. Sotto was among the proponents in the Senate of the revival of the death penalty.

The others were Sens. Manny Pacquiao, Panfilo Lacson

and Sherwin Gatchalian.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Sen. Richard Gordon, previously opposed to the revival of the death penalty, have lately been showing interest in hearing arguments supporting the measure.

The senators who have openly taken a stand against the death penalty were Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan, Leila de Lima, Paolo Berigno Aquino IV and Risa Hontiveros.

Aquino said he expects serious debates on the death penalty bills once these are presented in plenary.

"The minority will play an active role in the debates and we will make sure that counter perspectives are given a space in the Senate," Aquino said.

"Filipino lives are at stake here and most of these are the poor Filipinos who are usually at a disadvantage when they appear before the courts and in the eyes of the law," he added.

Aquino said the possible violation of the country's treaty obligations if the death penalty is reinstated is a matter that should be seriously taken into account during the debates.

At a forum in Makati City, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said committee chairmen and deputy speakers in the House of Representatives risk losing

their positions if they don't show support for President Duterte or for the revival of the death penalty.

He aired the warning as he marshalled support for the approval on third reading of the measure next week.

The specter of a reorganization at the House emerged days after Liberal Party senators in the so-called supermajority in the Senate were stripped of their committee chairmanships.

"If you can't support our leadership and specially if you can't support our President, I can take the liberty to replace the chairmen and deputy speakers," Alvarez said in Filipino at the weekly "Insider Exclusive" forum organized by dzRJ radio station.

He was replying to a question on whether a reorganization in the House is possible under his leadership.

Any decision of his to reorganize the leadership in the chamber, Alvarez stressed, is in pursuit of his mandate and that he is not being a dictator.

But he expressed confidence he does not have to resort to reshuffling the House leadership as committee chairmen and deputy speakers are likely to toe the administration line on the revival of the death penalty.

He added the chamber is likely to approve on third and final reading next week the measure re-imposing the death penalty.

The Speaker said Congress is "way ahead of schedule" on the measure.

Earlier yesterday, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit called on the House of Representatives to respect the legislative process in its handling of the death penalty measure.

"One of things that we were concerned about was also the fact that only nine interpellators were allowed to speak out of the 50 who have signed up," Dumpit, told **The STAR** yesterday.

"We have to take a look at the process here. I wish they were given due course to also express their issues about the measure," she added.

"It discriminates against the poor. We have serious issues about corruption not only in the courts, but also in other pillars of the justice system, particularly law enforcement. If we have a system that is imperfect, how can we have a perfect punishment of death for a process that is imperfect?" she added. – **Marvin Sy, Robertzon Ramirez, Janvic Mateo**

02 March 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

IRRIGATION CHIEF QUITS AMID WHIFF OF GRAFT

STORY BY LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

ational Irrigation Administrator Peter Laviña, President Duterte's former campaign manager, has resigned amid rumors that he had asked money from contractors

FROM A1

**By Leila B. Salaverria,
Rommel W. Domingo
and Tina G. Santos
@Team_Inquirer**

"Even a whiff, or a whisper, of corruption and you're out."

Rodrigo Duterte sounded that warning to government officials barely a week before he assumed the presidency in July last year.

On Wednesday, Malacañang announced that the head of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Peter Laviña, had "tendered his resignation amid attempts to vilify, discredit and malign him and to spare the President from any embarrassment due to these attempts."

"It is with deep regret that our office receives this news and wishes him well in his next endeavors," said the curt statement issued by Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, which was read by presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella at a news conference.

Last December, two associate commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration—Michael Robles and Al Argosino—were sacked amid an alleged P50-million bribery scandal. The two were fraternity brothers of the President at San Beda College of Law.

Abella was asked if the President referred to Laviña in a speech last week in which he said he had fired someone from Davao for supposedly asking for money—40 percent—from NIA contractors, according to one news report.

Mr. Duterte mentioned no name, Abella said. "So, let's leave it at that," he said.

Abused and maligned

Sonny Matula, president of the Federation of Free Workers, said Mr. Duterte, in a meeting with 20 labor leaders in Malacañang on Monday, mentioned that he had fired Laviña, a longtime aide when he was the Davao City mayor.

Laviña also served as Mr. Duterte's presidential campaign spokesperson last year.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF P



Peter Laviña

"It was during the free-flowing discussion that the President mentioned Pete Laviña's name as the person he had sacked," Matula said in a telephone interview.

Matula said the President recounted that he had learned that this person "could not resist temptation, that he was getting a certain percentage. That's why he said he talked to him and fired him. He said he could not tolerate this kind of activity."

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, Laviña announced that he had left the Duterte administration just three months after he was named to the top NIA post. He said his name had been "used, abused and maligned."

"Recently, there had been efforts to discredit me again. There are rumors circulating that I have asked money from NIA contractors. These are not true!" said Laviña, whose wife is an undersecretary in the Department of Agriculture.

Laviña said he decided to resign to spare Mr. Duterte embarrassment, especially now that attacks on the President are intensifying.

Rigged bidding denied

In a statement on Monday, Laviña denied as "baseless" a report that the NIA was repeatedly revising bidding requirements for the Balog-Balog Multipurpose (BBMP) dam project in Tarlac province to ensure that the preferred contractor or contractors would win.

"I have not received any report about the BBMP bidding or its results so there is no truth that a bidder had won the

contract for this project," Laviña said.

The BBMP project has a potential to generate 43.5 megawatt of hydropower, with the dam having a storage capacity of 560 million cubic meters. It is also expected to provide the upland communities with livelihood opportunities through fishery on at least 150 hectares in the 1,755-ha reservoir.

According to the bids and awards committee (BAC), only the consortium of ITP Construction Inc. and Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co. Ltd. submitted a tender before the deadline in January.

Only one other party—the consortium of Green Asia Construction and Development Corp. and Guandong No. 2 Hydropower Engineering Co. Ltd.—came to submit a bid, but did so past the deadline.

The BAC said there were other qualified bidders, but they later withdrew.

Incompetent contractors

Milagros Nopre, who headed the BAC secretariat, said the decision to continue the bidding process was based on section 36 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act).

"The bidding can proceed even with a lone bidder because there is no assurance that (this bidder) will be awarded with the contract," Nopre said.

"What if the lone bidder failed the postqualification evaluation? It is only then can we declare a failure of bidding and proceed to a rebidding," he added.

On Jan. 11, Laviña threatened to blacklist "incompetent contractors" and called for an inspection of all dams and irrigation infrastructure to check their structural integrity and safety in case of earthquakes and typhoons.

Back then, Laviña said there were some contractors who had started "courting" him for participation in future NIA projects, but that he had insisted on strict compliance with the rules and requirements of public bidding. INQ

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The Manila Times

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Army needs 14,000 new troops for 2017

THE Philippine Army needs a total of 13,910 new troops for 2017 to fill up various Army units throughout the country, a military official announced on Wednesday.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman, said the Army will be recruiting at least 349 officers (2nd Lieutenants); 8,892 soldiers for the special quota as approved by the President, 1,069 soldiers for the newly organized 54th Engineer Brigade, and 3,300 soldiers representing the annual quota replacement in the Army.

"Most number of new recruits will fill up the Army infantry, cavalry and artillery units. There are also recruits who will fill up the engineer, communication, logistics and other administrative functions of the Army," he added.

According to the official, out of the total number of recruits,

10 percent are allocated for female recruits and five percent for indigenous peoples.

Once a candidate soldier is recruited and he becomes a trainee, he will receive a gross income of P16,852.00.

If enlisted, the new private will receive a starting gross income of P23,204.06, plus allowances and benefits.

Hao said the Army will give priority to graduates of Military Science 43 and Advance Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), college graduates or those with 72 units and up in college, and high school graduates but possess technical and vocational skills needed by the Army.

An applicant, the Army spokesman added, must be a natural-born Filipino citizen, at least 16 to 23 years old on the date of appointment as candidate soldier, at least 5'0"

or 56 inches in height, single and without children, of good moral character, must pass the Philippine Army Aptitude Test Battery/Aimed Forces of the Philippines Service Aptitude Test; must pass pre-qualifying physical fitness test and physical medical examination; and must be physically and mentally fit for military training.

All interested applicants are advised to visit Army recruitment centers in Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila, Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City, and Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

Applicants are advised to bring with them identification cards, National Bureau of Investigation clearance and other documents.

They may also visit the Army website at www.army.mil.ph for further details.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

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Army to recruit 13.9K men

THE Philippine Army (PA) will recruit a total of 13,910 additional forces to fill up various units throughout the country for 2017.

This was confirmed yesterday by Army Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Colonel Benjamin L. Hao.

Philippine Army commander Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda said the recruitment will be done to fill up the table of organization and to replace those who will retire from the service.

Hao said the Army will be needing 349 officers for the rank of 2nd Lieuten-

ant, 8,892 soldiers for the special quota as approved by the President, 1,069 soldiers for the newly organized 54th Engineer Brigade and 3,600 soldiers for the annual quota replacement in the Army.

He said of the number of forces to be recruited, 10 percent will be allocated for females while other five percent will be intended for indigenous peoples.

Hao explained that the recruited forces will become a trainee and once they become a candidate soldier they will receive a starting gross income of P23,204 and other allowances and benefits. **Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanco**

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

Army starts 120th anniversary celebration

Lui Claudio



FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – The Philippine Army formally starts today the celebration of its 120th founding anniversary with a media fellowship under the theme, “Serving the people. Securing the land.”

The Army anniversary activities will focus on its history, transformation, and celebration.

The Army history activities include:

- Open house of the Philippine Army Museum from Mar. 13 to 22
- Commemoration of the Tejeros Convention in Cavite on Mar. 15
- Wreathlaying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on Mar. 17
- Tribute to the Former Army Commanding Generals on Mar. 17

The Army transformation-related programs include:

- Regional Annual Administrative Tactical Inspection on Mar. 12
- Static Display and Exhibit in the Bonifacio Global City from Mar. 18 to 19
- Army Senior Leaders Conference on Mar. 20

The Army celebration activities include:

- Army field anniversary celebration in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao from Mar. 7 to 15
- Army sports fest from Mar. 11 to 18
- Army Ball / Fellowship Dinner on Mar. 21
- Parade and Review on Mar. 22

“For 120 years, your Army has always been there to serve the people, secure our land,” said Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda, the Army Commanding General. “This is part of our commitment to become a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.”

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

Army to recruit 13k soldiers for 2017

Lui Claudio



FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – The Philippine Army will recruit a total of 13,910 new troops for 2017 to fill-up various Army units throughout the country.

The distribution of said recruitment is as follows: 349 officers (2nd Lieutenant); 8,892 soldiers for the special quota as approved by the President; 1,069 soldiers for the newly organized 54th Engineer Brigade; and the 3,600 soldiers representing the annual quota replacement in the Army.

Most number of new recruits will fill-up the Army infantry, cavalry, and artillery units. There are also recruits who will fill-up the engineer, communication, logistics, and other administrative functions of the Army.

Out of the total number of recruits, 10 percent is allocated for female recruits while five percent from the indigenous peoples.

Once recruited and becomes a trainee, the candidate soldier will receive a gross income of P16,852.00. If enlisted, the new Private will receive a starting gross income of P23,204.00 plus a number of allowances and benefits.

The Philippine Army will prioritize its recruitment in the following order:

- graduates of Military Science 43 and Advance ROTC,
- college graduates;
- those with 72 units and up in college;
- or high school graduates but possess technical and vocational skills needed by the Philippine Army.

An applicant must be:

- a natural born Filipino citizen;
- at least 18 to 23 years old on the date of appointment as candidate soldier;
- at least 5'0" or 60 inches in height;
- single and without child;
- of good moral character;
- passed the Philippine Army Aptitude Test Battery / Armed Forces of the Philippines Service Aptitude Test;
- passed the pre-qualifying physical fitness test and physical medical exam;
- and must be physically and mentally fit for military training.

All interested applicants are advised to visit any Army Recruitment Centers located nationwide — Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila; Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City; and Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

Applicants are also advised to bring with them identification cards, NBI clearance, and other pertinent documents.

They may also visit the Philippine Army website at www.army.mil.ph for further details

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<http://www.update.ph>

Philippine Army to recruit 13,910 troops this year

PNA

The Philippine Army will recruit 13,910 new soldiers this year to fill up various units, its spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao said Wednesday. He said the distribution of the recruitment will be 349 officers (2nd lieutenant); 8,892 soldiers for the special quota as approved by the President; 1,069 soldiers for the newly organized 54th Engineer Brigade; and 3,600 soldiers representing the annual quota replacement in the Army.

Hao said most of the new recruits will fill up the Army infantry, cavalry and artillery units, while others will fill up the engineering, communication, logistics, and other administrative functions of the Army.

Of the total number of recruits, 10 percent will be allocated for female recruits, and 5 percent will come from Indigenous Peoples.

Once a candidate soldier is recruited and becomes a trainee, he or she will receive a gross monthly income of PHP16,852.

If enlisted, the new private will receive a starting gross monthly income of PHP23,204 plus a number of allowances and benefits.

Hao said the Army will prioritize its recruitment in the following order — graduates of Military Science and Advanced ROTC; college graduates or those who completed at least 72 units in college; and high school graduates who possess technical and vocational skills needed by the Army.

All interested applicants are advised to visit any of the Army Recruitment Centers in Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila; Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City; and Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

President Duterte on Tuesday said the military currently does not have enough soldiers to sustain war against terrorist groups. "Sabi sustain a war that you have another fresh groups after the other one. They have to rest and we cannot continue a cycle because there's nothing to – We don't have the number of soldiers."



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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

NPA's Shout for Peace talk Resumption while continuing terror actions: A double-edged sword

Lui Claudio



CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan de Oro City— Almost a month ago since the President ordered the scrapping of peace talks with the National Democratic Front after the very horrible massacre took place in Bukidnon as a group of NPAs brutally killed the three unarmed and in civilian attire soldiers, the NPAs continued to undertake terroristic attacks targeting legitimate business entities and civilian communities contrary to their clamor for the resumption of peace talks.

Series of economic sabotage activities and extortion activities by the said terror group are still occurring in the Caraga and Northern Mindanao regions.

For the month of February alone, a total of 4 burning incidents took place in the two regions including one landmine planting inside a proposed site for the hydroelectric power plant in Bukidnon, two kidnapping incidents, and killing of innocent civilians were recorded.

The most recent burning incident happened today, Feb 28, 2017 in Brgy Bit-os, an outskirt community of Butuan City when the NPA torched one backhoe that is used for the development projects in the said area and another in Brgy Sta Cruz, Rosario town of Agusan del Sur when another NPA group burned down a container van-carrying prime mover after the owner refused to give-in to their extortion demand. The NPAs did their terror act near a school that shocked the young students who witnessed the incident.

Moreover, we can still recall the recent attack on Army troops coming from a relief distribution mission in earthquake-stricken areas of Surigao del Norte together with a benevolent NGO reflects the duplicity of the NPAs who violated their own declaration that they will not attack the soldiers on mercy and compassion mission.

"These are the reasons why the AFP has declared an all-out-war against this terror group. They demand peace but their actions speak otherwise. We cannot let them (NPAs) roam around and lord over the lives of our peace-loving people. Our role is to protect our people and secure their communities from these terrorists," said MGen Benjamin R Madrigal Jr., 4ID Commander.

Yesterday, Feb 27, 2017, two encounters took place in Misamis Oriental and Surigao del Norte. Troops were able to hit their respective target NPA groups and managed to push them away from the communities they (NPA) have been extorting.

One soldier died and one slightly wounded in a fierce fight. Civilians in the area have reported seeing the NPAs carrying their own casualties exiting the encounter areas.

At around 10:30am today, troops under the 30IB, who were pursuing the NPAs they have encountered earlier in Malimono town of Surigao del Norte, have recovered one M16 rifle with fully loaded magazine, one fully-loaded magazine for AK47, one unexploded Improvised Explosive Device (IED), subversive documents, and extortion letters along the NPA withdrawal route.

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"As you can see, the recent encounters in the area are the result of our deliberate and careful planning of the operations. These have been made possible by the timely information given by the concerned civilians who are already fed-up with the lies and deceit of these terror group. However, the death of our soldier will never be forgotten especially by the people to whom he dedicated his life and service. He has offered the ultimate sacrifice so that people in this part of the country may live in peace." MGen Madrigal added.

"The fact that we are hitting them on all fronts and keeping them on the run encourages us to push further and continue to press the fight until such time that they will cease to continue their terroristic activities in the area," Madrigal concluded.

President Duterte has underlined that there should be a compelling reason to return to the negotiating table. The NPA must show their sincerity on ending all kinds of violence in the area such as economic sabotage, extortion activities, terrorizing and killing people.

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<http://www.update.ph>

108 New Army Privates deployed to line battalions

Joel Dizon

108 New Philippine Army privates who completed the Candidate Soldier (CS) 'Manliyab' Class 422-2016 were sent off to the line battalions under 10th Infantry Division.

The send off ceremony was conducted at the 10ID Grandstand February 28.

"10ID commander Major General Rafael C Valencia, the Guest of Honor and Speaker of the ceremony reminded the Army privates that soldiers are 'agents of persons in authority', as such, soldiers are also 'agents of the President in securing our country'," 10ID said.

Major General Valencia said that soldiers should respect the persons in authority which includes the local government officials of provinces, municipalities and barangays.

He reiterated his reminder for the new soldiers to take care of their family, finances, career, and chose their future partners in life wisely.

10ID is operating under the command of Armed Forces of the Philippines Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM). EASTMINCOM conducts Conventional and Unconventional Warfare, and Anti-Guerrilla Operations.

It also conducts Peace and Development Outreach in Communities to enlighten the people about NPA Propaganda Units' deception and exploitations.

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Gov't troops recover another M16 Rifle in Batangas

Lui Claudio



Another M16 Rifle was recovered by the government troops in a follow-up operation conducted today, March 1, 2017, at the encounter site in Brgy. Lumaniag, Lian, Batangas.

Said operation was conducted by the troops of 730th Combat Group, Philippine Airforce under the operational control of 202nd Bde, 2nd Division, in response to information that engaged terrorists last February 27, 2017, hid their firearms at a grassy area near the encounter site.

It can be recalled that one armed member of the New People's Army (NPA) was killed and three high-powered firearms were recovered by the government troops at Brgy Lumañag, Lian, Batangas last February 27, 2017.

According to MGen Rhoderick Parayno, Commander, 2nd Infantry Division, the troops are still conducting reconnaissance to check if there are still other firearms, ammunition, and explosives left in the area.

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

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AFP: Eventually, Sayyaf's luck will run out

By JAIME LAUDE

Combined security forces now running after the Abu Sayyaf are confident that the bandits will eventually run out of luck and pay for the beheading of German hostage Juergen Kantner.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said he expects contact between government troops and the bandits anytime.

"There's an ongoing operation and we expect positive results anytime," he said.

Año said the troops are more determined to go after the Abu Sayyaf after they beheaded Kantner last Sunday.

Kantner and his companion

Sabine Merz were taken captive in November on their 53-foot yacht near Sabah, eastern Malaysia, and brought to Jolo, Sulu.

Merz was shot dead when she tried to resist the militants.

On Sunday, the bandits beheaded Kantner after the deadline for the P30-million ransom demand had lapsed.

Año earlier said the troops were close to rescuing Kantner and other hostages were it not for the firefight that broke out with the Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

Año said the troops were working on an intelligence report that located Kantner and his captors in a remote village in Indanan, Sulu a day before the beheading.

Año said the German captive was immediately spirited out of the area by gunmen led by Abu Rami, while the rest of bandits led by Radulan Sahiron engaged government troops in a firefight.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the bandits were just lucky to slip off during the firefight with government troops.

"It will be soon when they will run out of luck. Our troops will in the end prevail over this force of evil," Arevalo said.

He said the AFP has the best commanders and soldiers with only one mission – to destroy the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the remaining hostages.

The government has de-

ployed thousands of troops in the Abu Sayyaf strongholds of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo islands, yet despite air and ground offensives, the bandit group's piracy and kidnappings continue unabated.

The bandits are entrenched in local communities, complicating operations by a military that is wary of incurring civilian casualties.

Mindanao lawmakers said the Abu Sayyaf strongholds had become smaller, forcing the bandits to escape to the mainland.

Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman said some of the bandits are going to the Lanao provinces to escape the military

offensive against them.

"The engagement between the military and the local officials has been very effective so the natural tendency for the bandits is to go out and escape," she said.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Ansa-ruddin Adiong said the Abu Sayyaf are not Muslims.

He said kidnapping and beheading their captives are anti-Islam and barbaric.

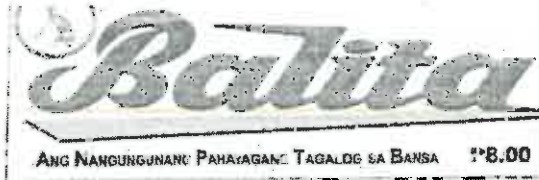
"These acts of terrorism are not in accordance with Islamic religion or way of life to which we, as representatives of our people here in the Philippines, belong. We are making this statement lest the rest of the country and the world would perceive our people to consent

to, encourage or support such brutal barbaric acts done not only to a foreigner but to any innocent person," Adiong told a news conference on behalf of the Muslim lawmakers led by House Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sema and Reps. Ruby Sahali of Tawi-Tawi, Munir Arbison of Sulu and Mauvag Papandayan of Lanao del Sur.

"We call on all Muslims to pray to Allah so that the Bangsamoro homeland will be protected from the effects of these evil acts of terrorism. We are also requesting our non-Muslim brothers and sisters to pray for us as we lead our people in attaining peace in our homeland," they added.

– With Delon Port

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Kabiguan kay Kantner inamin ng AFP

Inamin kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman na si Air Force Brigadier General Restituto Padilla na ang pagpugot ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa German na si Juergen Gustav Kantner ay isang nakapanlilit na karanasan para sa militar.

Inilabas ni Padilla ang kanyang pahayag nang totohanin ng Abu Sayyaf ang bantang pupugutan ang 70 taong gulang na si Kantner kapeg nabigo ang Philippine at German authorities na ibigay ang P30-milyon ransom na hinihingi ng mga bandido.

"It is humbling to admit that we failed to rescue this foreigner in time and so with the other kidnap victims since this issue is no simple matter," sabi ni Padilla.

"We are not giving excuses but the conditions we face are complex. The problem on the ground is deeply rooted and goes back a long way in our history. This is why we have been pushing for a holistic approach that requires targeting systemic issues that

are economic, cultural, social, political, etc," sabi ni Padilla.

Ipinahayag ni Padilla na ang solusyong militar ay hindi kasagutan kundi ang mas komprehensibong pamamaraan na bahagi lamang ang militar.

Idinagdag niya na ang pagpugot kay Kantner ay lalo pang magbibigay ng motibasyon sa kanyang mga tauhan upang pagbutihin ang paggapi sa kalaban.

Sinabi ni Padilla na simula noong Nobyembre 2016, o nang dukutin si Kantner, 15 sundalo na ang napapatay at mahigit 100 ang nasugatan sa pagsisikap na maihugas ang Aleman at ang iba pang mga bihag.

Ayon naman kay AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, isinugo na nila ang pinakamahuhusay nilang commanders at mga sundalo, airmen, sailors at marines upang tugisin ang mga Abu Sayyaf.

Francis T. Wakefield

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'NO EXCUSES'

GERMAN'S BEHEADING A 'HUMBLING' SETBACK—AFP

By **Cynthia D. Balana**
@cynchdbINQ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said Wednesday it was "humbled" by its failure to rescue German hostage Juergen Kantner, the latest hostage beheaded the Abu Sayyaf group while in captivity in the jungles of southern Sulu province.

"It is humbling to admit that we failed to rescue this foreigner in time and so with the other kidnap victims since this issue is no simple matter," military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said, three days after Kantner was killed.

"We are not giving excuses but the conditions we face are complex. The problem on the ground is deeply rooted and goes back a long way in our history," he said.

Padilla said Kantner's death has motivated their men to work doubly hard against the terror group, but he declined to discuss "operational matters" further. He also called on the local government to help in securing the remaining hostages, which the government has placed at 27 foreigners and locals.

He said 15 soldiers have already died and 100 others wounded since late last year.

INQ

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JOINT FORCES
– Philippine
Drug
Enforcement
Agency (PDEA)
Director
General
Isidro Lapena
and Armed
Forces of the
Philippines
(AFP) Chief
of Staff Gen.
Eduardo Ano
formalize an
agreement
yesterday that
will allow the
military deploy
reinforcements
in high risk
drug operations
and bolster
the Duterte
administration's
campaign
against illegal
drugs.
(Romeo
Ranoco)

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LAW OF EVIDENCE. Marines dig Tuesday an unmarked ground in a forested area in Indanan town in Sulu as they look for the body of German national Jorgen Kartner, allegedly beheaded by Muslim bandits, after a tip off from military informants. President Rodrigo Duterte has apologized for failing to save the elderly German hostage. **AFP**

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Navy's Morales tries to pull away in Ronda

ILOILO CITY—Navy-Standard Insurance's Jan Paul Morales tries to put a distance between himself and teammate Rudy Roque as the LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2017 resumes today with the Individual Time Trial Stage 12 in Guimaras.

Morales, 31, is currently atop the heap with an aggregate time of 37 hours, 25 minutes and 56 seconds, or about two minutes ahead of fellow Navyman Rudy Roque, who has a total time of 37:28:11.

A strong finish in today's 40-km ITT could very well seal the deal for Morales.

"If I do good in the ITT, I think I will win this," said Morales, who is seeking to become the first-ever back-to-back winner of this annual cycle race considered the biggest in the country, in Filipino.

The 25-year-old Roque, for his part, said he will be more than contented just finishing second behind Morales.

"I always dream of becoming champion of a race as big as this but finishing second will also be enough for me," said Roque, whose best finish here was a ninth-place effort in the inaugural Stage 6 years ago.

The last three stages have turned into a two-man race between Morales and Roque as the next best rider, Kinetix Lab-Army's Cris Joven, is a little over 11 minutes off the pace with a time of 37:37:03.

Go for Gold's Bryant Sepnio is at No. 4 with 37:41:33 while RC Cola-NCR's Lionel Dimasno is at No. 5 with 37:46:05.

Ilocos Sur's Ryan Serapio and Navy's Daniel Ven Carino and skipper Lloyd Lucien Reynante resurfaced in the Top 10 at Nos. 6, 7 and 8 with 37:47:16, 37:48:28 and 37:48:43, respectively.

Navy's Ronald Lamotos and Kinetix Lab-Army's Reynaldo Navarro completed the Top 10 with 37:48:45 and 37:49:49.

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<http://www.inquirer.net/>

AFP 'humbly' admits failure in rescuing German hostage

Frances Mangosing



Juergen Kantner in Abu Sayyaf video

The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Wednesday expressed regret that it was not able to rescue beheaded German captive of the Abu Sayyaf Juergen Kantner.

"It is humbling to admit that we failed to rescue this foreigner in time and so with the other KVs (kidnap victims) since this issue is no simple matter," AFP spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said.

Padilla said they were not giving excuses but explained that the conditions that they face are complex.

"The problem on the ground is deeply rooted and goes back a long way in our history," he said.

At the same time, he revealed that they have lost 15 soldiers since November while conducting operations against the Abu Sayyaf, whose leaders have pledged alliance to the Islamic State.

Padilla refused to discuss operational details on their current operations but assured the public that they are doing their best "to effect the degradation of this evil groups capability significantly and rescue the victims."

Kantner was abducted in November 2016 while he and his female companion were cruising in the waters of Sabah. They were previously abducted by Somali pirates and held hostage for almost two months in 2008 before they were freed. **JE**

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

NPA Terrorizes School in Agusan del Sur

Lui Claudio



CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City – Members of the communist terrorist New People's Army (NPA) terrorized students of the Sta. Cruz Elementary School in Rosario Agusan del Sur after burning a prime mover near the vicinity, Tuesday, February 28.

Reports from the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade disclosed that the NPAs flagged down and burned the truck at the national road, just 300 meters away from the school.

The prime mover was drawing a container van of bananas from Sumifru Corporation. It came from Tagbina town and was bound for Davao. Its batteries and tires were partially burned.

"Worried parents rushed to the school to fetch their children upon learning of the incident. They condemned the NPA upon seeing their kids trembling in fear. They vowed to report to us the presence of the NPA next time," reports Colonel Cristobal N Zaragoza, Commander of 401Bde.

Col Zaragoza also suspects that the NPAs deliberately planned to perpetrate the crime near the school to slow down responding government forces.

"This incident only underscores the NPA's clear disregard for human life. They endanger the lives of innocent civilians, even children just to attain their ends of bleeding money from private companies," AFP Public Affairs Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said.

"Rest assured that our operations to frustrate the ends of the NPA will continue. And they will be deliberate, focused, surgical, and intelligence driven to ensure the safety of our people, especially children," Colonel Arevalo concludes.

<http://www.philstar.com/>

Muslim solons condemn beheading of German captive

(philstar.com) | Updated March 1, 2017 - 3:40pm



In this undated image made from militant video and released by SITE Intel Group on Feb. 24, 2017, shows German hostage Jürgen Gustav Kantner at an undisclosed location. Abu Sayyaf extremists in the Philippines have released a video of the beheading of Kantner. The first video circulated Monday, Feb. 27, by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors militant activities, is the first sign that the radical militants proceeded with their threat to kill Kantner in the southern Philippines after a Sunday ransom deadline lapsed. (SITE Intel Group via AP)

MANILA, Philippines — Muslim members in the House of Representatives including officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao condemned the beheading of a German national by the Abu Sayyaf Group.

The group, tagged as a terror organization by the United States, recently released a video showing the beheading of 70-year-old Jürgen Gustav Kantner by a masked militant with a curved knife.

"These acts of terrorism are not in accordance with Islamic region or way of life to which we as representatives of our people here in the Philippines belong," the Muslim lawmakers said in a statement released Wednesday. The lawmakers stressed that the Muslim community does not consent to, encourage or support "brutal barbaric acts" done to any innocent person.

"We hope that as we band together to make this condemnation, our people will be spared from unfair generalization or unfounded discrimination," the statement read.

The lawmakers called on all Muslims to pray so that the Bangsamoro region will be protected from the effects of terrorism.

Kantner was kidnapped almost two months ago while he and his partner, Sabine Merz, were cruising through the Philippines in their yacht.

Merz was killed when she tried to fight back with a shotgun. Villagers later found her body on the yacht off Lapanan Island in Sulu.

The Abu Sayyaf earlier threatened to execute Kantner if the P30 million ransom was not paid. The Philippine government, however, has a no-ransom policy as the money given to the militants could be used to fund further criminal activities.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has condemned the "abominable act, which shows once again how inhumane and without conscience these terrorist act." — Patricia Lourdes Viray

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